



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
RECEIVES NEA BIG READ GRANT**

The City of Los Angeles to Read and Celebrate
The Round House
by
Louise Erdrich

LOS ANGELES, CA – The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs received an award of \$15,000 to host the NEA Big Read again this year. A national initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, the NEA Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book. The Department of Cultural Affairs is one of 84 organizations to receive an NEA Big Read grant and will host community reading programs between September 2020 and June 2021. Louise Erdrich’s ***The Round House*** is this year’s selection, and related activities will take place throughout the year.

“The Department of Cultural Affairs, along with our Big Read partners will continue to provide critical distance learning and dynamic programming to the public through online festivals, film screenings, virtual galleries, to ensure all readers have access to the literary arts,” says Danielle Brazell, General Manager of the Department of Cultural Affairs. “Louise Erdrich’s novel presents an opportunity for Angelenos to connect and dialogue about its themes of identity, and justice, and coming of age during this time of social change.”

“The Los Angeles Public Library is proud once again to support the NEA Big Read, and we are excited for this year’s selection of *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich. The Big Read allows our creative librarians to connect the featured book, as well as its subject matter, to their communities and further enrich the experience of reading the book.”

“We have become even more aware this year of the important ways the arts help us connect with others, and how they bring meaning, joy, and comfort to our lives,” said Mary Anne Carter, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. “Bringing the NEA Big Read to the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs will provide opportunities for deep discussion and ways to help us better understand one another.”



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"We are honored to continue our partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts on this incredible program," said Torrie Allen, president & CEO of Arts Midwest. "For more than 14 years, this national effort has invested in communities as they gather to discuss the stories and ideas that connect us to one another. We are especially inspired by the projects and organizations that are finding new, virtual ways of creating those connections with their communities and are thrilled to support them at this critical time."

About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles's vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA's residents and visitors, and ensure LA's varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA's mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grantmaking, public art, community arts, performing arts, and strategic marketing, development, design, and digital research. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit culturela.org or follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/culturela](https://www.facebook.com/culturela), Instagram [@culture_la](https://www.instagram.com/culture_la), and Twitter [@culture_la](https://twitter.com/culture_la).

About the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit arts.gov to learn more.



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About Arts Midwest

Arts Midwest promotes creativity, nurtures cultural leadership, and engages people in meaningful arts experiences, bringing vitality to Midwest communities and enriching people’s lives. Based in Minneapolis, Arts Midwest connects the arts to audiences throughout the nine-state region of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. One of six non-profit regional arts organizations in the United States, Arts Midwest’s history spans more than 35 years. For more information, please visit artsmidwest.org.

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