June 16, 2020

Dear Friends of the Library,

Due to COVID-19, all libraries have been closed to the general public including all volunteers and Friends groups since March 13. The Los Angeles Public Library embraced this challenge and has done incredible work in continuing to serve Angelenos and remain connected to our patrons. We hope you have participated in our virtual programming and of course enjoyed the countless digital resources we have continued to provide during this time.

While we have spent three months Safer at Home, we are ready to begin our next phase. Our staff will begin to return in a limited capacity on June 16 to prepare for the Library to Go pickup service. Starting the week of June 22, patrons will be able to retrieve books on hold at 13 select locations. Our libraries will remain closed to the public, and Volunteers and Friends will not be allowed in libraries at this time. Friends with branch library bookstores are not allowed to open. Additionally, Friends groups are not permitted to conduct used book sales until further notice. LAPL is not currently accepting book donations. Since we are still in the planning stages, there is no official date to begin offering these services.

LAPL will begin to reopen our Central Library and branches in phases established by our Administration as follows:

- **Phase 1** - (Current Phase) Staff in the building; no public in buildings (Starts June 16 in 13 hub libraries)
- **Phase 2** - Limited public in buildings with strong social distancing measures; limited services.
- **Phase 3** - Expanded services in buildings; continued social distancing.
- **Phase 4** - End of health order; full services and programming.

Though these phases have been established, a complete timeline and specifications have not been set. These phases are subject to change based on City and County guidance and requirements. We will keep you informed as to when you will be able to resume your normal volunteer roles as more details become available.

We understand that as a dedicated Friend of the Library you remain eager to contribute your time and volunteer at LAPL during this time of social distancing. We so appreciate...
your commitment to lifelong learning, and to that end, we have introduced a new volunteering opportunity at LAPL - Virtual Volunteering. Virtual volunteers utilize computers and software to interact with patrons via an agreed upon platform, e.g. Google Hangouts or Zoom. The engagement is interactive and includes pre-approved activities with the goal of enhancing patrons’ skills, knowledge and abilities. Currently, we are accepting virtual volunteers as Book Discussion Leaders and Library Program Aides. If virtual volunteering is something that interests you, please contact your Senior Librarian or the Volunteer Engagement Office at volunteer@lapl.org for more information on how you can get involved.

As always, we thank you for your time and contribution to LAPL and to people of the city of Los Angeles.

Best,

Jené Brown
Principal Librarian
Engagement and Outreach Department