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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Downey City Library to Host 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Beyond the Book Festival**

**Downey, CA, September 11, 2023:**

Downey City Library is hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Beyond the Book Festival on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Beyond the Book is Downey City Library's celebration of local artists, writers, makers, crafters, musicians and the creative explorers who give rise to the community's DIY spirit.

The event begins at 12:00 p.m. with music provided by the local Los Angeles chapter of Chulita Vinyl Club (CVC), a group of DJs made up of women who strictly play off of vinyl records. CVC will play sets throughout the event, leading to a live performance by local jazz ensemble, The Neighborhood Orchestra, at 5:00 p.m. to close out the event. Catch both groups on the Main Stage just outside of the Library's main entrance.

The all-ages event will feature a number of activities for attendees to do, including origami demonstrations, a caricature artist, crafts in the Children's area and hands-on interactive activity sessions in the Library's makerspace - the Workshop. The Downey City Library will also play host to over two dozen local community organizations, makers and crafters showcasing their unique talents, selling their products and sharing resources.

The Library will host four discussion panels that afternoon, curated around the idea of finding or creating community and identity through various mediums. The discussions kick-off with independent book publisher Lil' Libros and their panel "We are the New Storytellers", which features Lil' Libros authors and illustrators sharing about their Latino/Latinx identities and experiences and how they bring it to life in their work. Another panel discussion is led by The L.A. Project, a street photography collective of skilled photographers who aim to capture and tell the stories of the streets of Los Angeles. They will display their work and talk about their experiences as urban photographers. The third panel discussion will feature owners of three local, independent book stores - MiJa Books, IBookPark, and Con Todo Press - sharing their experiences opening independent bookstores, why indie bookstores continue to be relevant and the importance of children's books. Lastly, local poets Vickie Vertiz and Olga Garcia will host a

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poetry reading session, titled “Why We Write” with students from WriteGirl, a National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award-winner providing creative writing and mentoring services for more than 700 teen girls, youth and young adults annually.

The event will also feature a live performance by The Bob Baker Marionette Theatre of their special, seasonal show, the Halloween Spooktacular, at 4:30 p.m. in the Children’s area of the Library. Food trucks will be on-hand throughout the event while you enjoy live tunes, learn about community resources and enjoy this FREE event with the family.

To learn more about Beyond the Book, please visit: [downeylibrary.org/beyond-the-book](http://downeylibrary.org/beyond-the-book).

**About Downey City Library**

Downey City Library is a public library in Southeast Los Angeles County committed to bringing the community together in support of lifelong learning, and the development of creative and critical thinking.

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