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Jeffrey Yoo Warren holds a mask from a community memory workshop he hosted in Washington, D.C., last year.

## Innovator in Residence Revives 1914 Chinatown

The artist and educator will speak about his immersive 3D reconstruction next week.

**BY SAHAR KAZMI**

The full moon casts silvery light over Empire Street in Providence, Rhode Island. Gentle rain taps the pavement, and clouds of evening fog float above the rooftops. It is 1914 in Chinatown, vibrantly reconstructed by Jeffrey Yoo Warren in an immersive 3D model.

For the past year, the Library's 2023–24 innovator in residence has worked with staff members and collections to build a virtual re-creation of Providence's once-bustling Chinatown. Next Tuesday, Yoo Warren will lead an online tour of the neighborhood.

As part of his project, "Seeing Lost Enclaves: Relational Reconstructions of Erased Historic Neighborhoods of Color," Yoo Warren has also developed an open source "relational reconstruction" toolkit to share his methodology and inspire the public to reconstruct other community spaces with Library materials.

"As a Korean American, I want my work to honor and encourage a deeper understanding of these communities and what their stories mean today," Yoo Warren, an artist and educator, said.

He conducted substantial research

**INNOVATOR, CONTINUED ON 7**

# NOTICES

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## DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Amy McAllister at [amcallister@loc.gov](mailto:amcallister@loc.gov).

Faiza Aziem  
Christine J. Back

Chenille Lowrance  
William Mahannah

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## MOVING ON: NEW PAY PERIOD POSTED

The Moving On column formerly published in the Gazette is now accessible on the [intranet site of the Office of Communications](#). A new report for pay period 17 was added to the site this week. Moving On is a compilation of personnel changes at the Library as reported by the National Finance Center.

Questions? Submit them to [AskHCD@loc.gov](mailto:AskHCD@loc.gov).

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## SIGN UP FOR A FLU VACCINE

The Library is offering seasonal influenza vaccinations by appointment to all Library employees, contractors and on-site volunteers as well as Architect of the Capitol and U.S. Capitol Police employees.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that individuals age 65 and older receive a high-dose or adjuvanted (“boosted”) flu vaccine. The Health Services Division (HSD) has a limited supply. To request one, choose an “adjuvanted (boosted) vaccine” appointment.

Sign up for appointments using the links below.

[Madison Hall](#)

Sept. 26–28, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Oct. 3–6, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

[Taylor Street Annex](#)

Sept. 19, 10 a.m. to noon

Questions? Contact HSD at [healthservices@loc.gov](mailto:healthservices@loc.gov) or (202) 707-8035.

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## TRANSIT SUBSIDY RECERTIFICATION REQUIRED

The annual transit recertification period is underway. Completed applications must be received by the Human Capital Directorate (HCD) through the transit subsidy request (TSR) system by Sept. 28.

All transit subsidy participants must recertify to continue to receive benefits. New applicants and re-enrollees who fail to submit completed applications by Sept. 28 will be withdrawn from the transit subsidy program.

Access the TSR system through HCD’s [Human Capital Services Portal](#).

Questions? Access AskHCD on the [staff intranet](#).

# GAZETTE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

[loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette)

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### MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library’s central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

### ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at [loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette).

### GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

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### GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the Sept. 29 Gazette is Wednesday, Sept. 20.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

To promote events through the Library’s online calendar ([www.loc.gov/loc/events](http://www.loc.gov/loc/events)) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to [calendar@loc.gov](mailto:calendar@loc.gov) by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

# Fall Events to Showcase Standout Books and Literature

BY WENDI A. MALONEY

Presidential historian Douglas Brinkley joined Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden onstage in the Coolidge Auditorium on Sept. 7 to preview “Books That Shaped America,” a prime-time C-SPAN series to launch next week.

It was the first event in a fall lineup put together by the Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement highlighting books and literature – along with some literary-related fun.

The C-SPAN series showcases 10 iconic American books inspired by a list of 100 the Library curated a decade ago. C-SPAN broadcast Brinkley and Hayden’s Coolidge conversation live.

“In many ways, you can’t think about America without reading it,” Brinkley said of “Common Sense” by Thomas Paine, which kicks off the series on Sept. 18. The 47-page pamphlet published at the beginning of the American Revolution encourages Americans to break away from Great Britain.

“It’s electrifying to read now because Payne writes with such grace,” Brinkley said. “And he’s a provocateur, and he has the ability to get your emotions to rise.”

Other books in the series include the “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave” (Oct. 9). Douglass was a “brilliant intellectual” and “one of the true sustainable heroes of America’s past,” Brinkley said.

Willa Cather’s “My Antonia” (Oct. 30) is “the best-written novel in American history,” according to some, Brinkley said, and he called Zora Neale Hurston, author of “Their Eyes Were Watching God” (Nov. 6), “a full-bore intellectual of great merit.”

“Free to Choose: A Personal Statement” (Nov. 13) by economist Milton Friedman and his wife, Rose, merits a place on the list because Friedman had “a massive career



Shawn Miller

**Historian Douglas Brinkley previews C-SPAN’s new “Books That Shaped America” series on Sept. 7 with Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden.**

that has mattered if you want to understand the conservative movement of today,” Brinkley said.

Civil rights leader Cesar Chavez (“The Words of Cesar Chavez,” Nov. 20) and Dolores Huerta, his National Farm Workers Association co-founder, are important “as figures to explain the Latino, and particularly Mexican American, story in our country,” Brinkley said.

[View the entire conversation here.](#)

Next week, on [Sept. 21](#), Iceland’s prime minister, Katrín Jakobsdóttir, will talk about her new thriller, “Reykjavik.” A specialist in Icelandic literature, she co-wrote the book with bestselling author Ragnar Jónasson, who will also speak.

Like many fall literary events, the conversation takes place during the Thursday evening Live at the Library series. Exceptions are Saturday programs for families.

On [Oct. 7](#), Meg Medina, the national ambassador for young people’s literature, will host 20-minute sessions with small groups of children and families.

On Oct. 12, Rachel Brem and Christy Teal, both doctors, will dis-

cuss their new book about breast cancer care. On [Oct. 19](#), authors and friends Ann Patchett (“Tom Lake”) and Kate DiCamillo (“The Puppets of Spelhorst”) will pair up.

A fun-filled day and night will salute the mystery genre. “Can You Solve It? Mystery Family Day” (Oct. 21) will feature a scavenger hunt and middle grade and young adult programming. Then, prolific mystery author Louise Penny will headline “Pick Your Poison: Mystery Night” ([Oct. 26](#)), an evening including another scavenger hunt, a mystery novel panel about murder and an improv troupe performance.

The series concludes on Nov. 16 with two events featuring well-known public intellectuals. Simon Schama will speak with writer and public health leader Atul Gawande about Schama’s new cultural history of pandemics and vaccines, preceded by a talk by Marjorie Gerber (“Shakespeare in Bloomsbury”) honoring the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s first folio.

More details are available, or will soon be forthcoming, on the [Library’s events calendar](#). ■

# Library Announces 2023 Literacy Awards

Three organizations working to expand literacy and promote reading will be awarded the 2023 Library of Congress Literacy Awards, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced on Sept. 8. Top prizes are being awarded to the News Literacy Project, Downtown Boxing Gym and Worldreader.

The Literacy Awards program, sponsored by David M. Rubenstein since 2013, honors organizations that provide exemplary, innovative and replicable strategies to combat illiteracy.

“Literacy is a pathway to an individual’s happiness, health and well-being,” said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. “The Library of Congress is proud to honor and celebrate the achievements of these extraordinary organizations.”

Prizes and recipients are as follows.

The **News Literacy Project** of Washington, D.C., will receive the David M. Rubenstein Prize (\$150,000). Founded in 2008, the project advances news literacy in American society, creating better informed, more engaged and more empowered individuals.

The organization’s expansive interpretation of literacy skills and its robust approach to helping people navigate and analyze media messages comes at a critical time. Through partnerships with schools and more than 55,000 educators and journalists, the project provides resources to help students across the country develop media literacy skills, and its resources are also available free to the public.

**Downtown Boxing Gym** of Detroit will receive the American Prize (\$50,000). The gym is a free, out-of-school-time program that seeks to improve academic outcomes for high-need youth. Through its unique approach – mentoring and literacy intervention offered through a boxing gym – the organization improves young people’s motivation and confidence in reading.



Courtesy of the News Literacy Project

**Students participate in the News Literacy Project, winner of the 2023 David M. Rubenstein Prize.**

The gym builds strong relationships with its participants and their families through one-on-one support, tutoring, daily homework help, athletics and a customized enrichment curriculum. Books and program materials align with community interests, experiences, cultures and backgrounds, and students participate in academic goal setting, mentor their peers, advocate for themselves and have a voice in what they learn.

**Worldreader** of Seattle will receive the International Prize (\$50,000). The organization provides mobile reading technology to advance literacy among more than 21 million readers in numerous countries.

Worldreader assists parents and caregivers, preschool workers, schoolteachers and local partners with access to reading materials, training and data on outcomes. These efforts support early childhood development among children in under-resourced communities and in settings of conflict or crisis. Worldreader provides local and culturally relevant digital materials that address socioemotional learning, gender sensitivity and

cultural and political awareness.

The Literacy Awards program is honoring 15 additional organizations for implementing highly successful practices in literacy programming. These honorees, recipients of \$5,000 each, are Ako Aotearoa’s Manako Program (Wellington, New Zealand); Book Love Foundation (North Conway, New Hampshire); BookSpring (Austin, Texas); Building Tomorrow (Indianapolis, Indiana); Compassion Books (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam); Dominican Literacy Center (Aurora, Illinois); Get Lit - Words Ignite’s Uni(verse) program, (Los Angeles); Open Book Foundation (Washington, D.C.); Pakistan Alliance for Girls Education (Islamabad); Promoting Equality in African Schools (London); Queens Borough Public Library (Queens, New York); Rio Grande Valley Literacy Center (Pharr, Texas); Virginia Children’s Book Festival (Keysville, Virginia); WISE Zambia (Phoenix); and Yayasan Sulinama’s Collaboration with INOVASI (Ambon, Indonesia).

For more information on the awards and previous winners, visit the [Literacy Awards webpage](#). ■



### Ariel Segal

*Ariel Segal is a digital conversion technician in the Digital Collections Management and Services Division (DCMS).*

#### **Tell us about your background.**

I grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland, and went to Montgomery Blair High School. I did my undergraduate and graduate work at the University of Maryland.

I have a master's degree in library science and a master's in history with a specialization in the history of science. I processed the papers of historian of science Stephen G. Brush and later assisted him with the publication of his book "Making 20th Century Science: How Theories Became Knowledge."

Before I came to the Library, I worked on contracts at federal libraries and archives, most notably a project surveying born-digital material at the Smithsonian.

#### **What brought you to the Library, and what do you do?**

When my Smithsonian contract ended, I handed out resumes at a digital cultural heritage meetup group. I was researching newspapers at the Library for a freelance job in 2016 when I received an

email saying one of the resumes had made its way to the Library, and Library staff were interested in interviewing me for a temporary federal job.

I responded that I was right next door. Within a few months, I was collaborating on the update of the web presentation of George Washington's papers!

I got a permanent job as a digital conversion technician the next year. I digitize and process books, manuscripts and other library material.

During the pandemic, the Digitization Services Section of DCMS where I work was realigned with the Digital Scan Center. I have learned to use the center's scanning devices over the past two years, and the projects I have engaged in have become increasingly sophisticated. I am excited to see where the future will lead as we expand our digitization capacity and projects.

#### **What are some of your standout projects?**

I helped put some of the presidential papers online, ensuring that the digitized content was consistent with the papers' finding aid descriptions. I also helped transcribe the George S. Patton war diaries. I made presentations about the project for the Library's Archives Forum and also during a panel I chaired at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives conference last fall.

The projects that stand out most to me, though, are those I have a personal connection to or those for which I can use my specialized skills to facilitate their completion.

When I was a temporary worker, I helped prepare the papers of Leonard Bernstein for digitization for the commemoration of his 100th birthday. This was particularly meaningful, as my grandfather was a fan of Bernstein and took photos at one of his concerts.

Without question, the completion of the digitization of the Library's Hebrew manuscripts has been one of the supreme highlights

of my career. This work involved the careful digitization of over 200 Hebrew manuscripts, which date from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. My skills at reading Hebrew were crucial to the completion of the project. It turned out that some of the most recent manuscripts were authored by a rabbi who was my good friend's wife's great-grandfather!

#### **What do you enjoy doing outside of work?**

I like to walk in nature – hiking a nearby stream valley park was important to maintaining calm and balance during the pandemic.

I am also involved extensively in Judaic studies in my home community. The synergy between my work on the Hebrew manuscripts with my study of similar texts was a great experience, aligning my life and my work.

I also like to listen to science fiction podcasts. Finally, I love to travel.

I recently visited Prague and Jerusalem and made sure to go to the national libraries in both cities. The Czech National Library has a gorgeous baroque hall, like something out of high fantasy, and the National Library of Israel is about to move into a new state-of-the-art building.

#### **What is something your co-workers may not know about you?**

My late dog was probably an American mutt, but the rescue organization claimed that she was a Czech spotted dog, a very rare breed. I joined a Facebook group dedicated to these dogs, made friends and followed many of the dogs' lives. It was a thrill to meet four of those dogs and their owners in Prague this June! ■

## CALENDAR

### 19 TUESDAY

**Virtual Tour:** “Seeing Lost Enclaves: A Virtual Tour of Providence’s Historic Chinatown” by Jeffrey Yoo Warren, innovator in residence. 4 p.m., [online](#). Contact: [jame@loc.gov](mailto:jame@loc.gov).

### 20 WEDNESDAY

**Webinar:** “Illustrating Civil War Medicine” explores the topic through Library collections. 3 p.m., [online](#). Contact: 7-8000.

**Lecture:** Literary critic Kerri Arsenault explores how historical newspaper collections can unlock knowledge about the environmental crisis. 4 p.m., [online](#). Contact: 7-8000.

**Panel Discussion:** Specialists discuss Mangyan scripts and literary heritage of indigenous communities of Mindoro, Philippines. 6:30 p.m., [online](#). Contact: [jkueh@loc.gov](mailto:jkueh@loc.gov).

### 21 THURSDAY

**Book Talk:** Iceland’s prime minister, Katrín Jakobsdóttir, discusses her new thriller, “Reykjavik,” with her co-author, bestselling writer Ragnar Jónasson. 5 p.m., Members Room. Contact: 7-8000.

**Concert:** Alejandro Brittes Quartet celebrates music from Brazil and Argentina. 7 p.m., Coolidge Auditorium. Contact: 7-8000.

Request ADA accommodations for events five business days in advance at 7-6362 or [ADA@loc.gov](mailto:ADA@loc.gov).

See [www.loc.gov/events](http://www.loc.gov/events)

## HCD SERVICES PORTAL

In the new hybrid workplace, the [Human Capital Directorate \(HCD\) services portal](#) is there to help. Ask questions of HCD professionals; submit documents related to benefits, retirement and payroll matters; and track requests.

## NEWS



Xander Harcourt

Xander Harcourt (center), president of the LC Chorale, with chorale members in the Coolidge Auditorium’s green room.

## Come Sing with the LC Chorale!

BY HOPE O’KEEFFE

The LC Chorale, one of the oldest employee choruses in the country, celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2023. The chorale gives public concerts in December and June, appears at the Library’s holiday celebration in December and sings at other special events, like the opening for the 2014 Gershwin Prize concert honoring Billy Joel.

2023 is a rebuilding year for the chorale: After hosting concerts online during the pandemic, it returned to the Coolidge Auditorium last June and is recruiting new members.

All who want to sing are welcome – there are no auditions and no requirement to read music. You don’t have to be a Library employee to join, and contractors, retirees and volunteers are especially welcome.

“It is a terrific way to meet colleagues from other areas of the Library and people who just love to sing,” said Xander Harcourt of the Copyright Office, the cho-

rale’s newly elected president.

The chorale holds weekly in-person rehearsals on Wednesdays at noon in the Pickford Theater, accompanied by pianist Carrie Ferguson of the Copyright Office. There is a limited option for online participation.

The main work for this December’s concert is Schubert’s Mass in G, an approachable masterpiece that John Saint Amour of the Copyright Office, the chorale’s director, is excited to put on the Coolidge stage. The chorale will also learn a few seasonal tunes to fill out the concert and to perform at the Library’s annual holiday event.

Harcourt says it best: “Being part of the chorale has been a key factor in my job quality, mental health and positive outlook. I really look forward to working for and singing with the group. It’s one of the highlights of my week.”

For more information, contact Harcourt at [xhar@loc.gov](mailto:xhar@loc.gov). Or, just stop by the Pickford on Wednesday and join in singing! ■

## INNOVATOR, CONTINUED FROM 1

in the Library's collections of photographs, maps, films and audio recordings. But he describes his Chinatown reconstruction as intentionally imaginative as well as authentic. His process, he says, is "focused on memory, remembrance and personal relationships to these histories. It is not a work of formal archiving."

With details from the Library's [Sanborn fire insurance maps](#), Yoo Warren traced building footprints to create a scale reference of the area he planned to reconstruct. Next, he used a digital modeling program and information about the buildings' heights to organize the streetscape onto 3D space.

By shifting image perspectives, Yoo Warren then mapped archival photographs of these buildings onto the 3D model surfaces. In some cases, multiple photos were stitched together to capture finer details like building facades, windows and balconies.

Free photo repositories provided a variety of textures to add a sense of richness to the space. Masonry, tile roofing and concrete sidewalks play off the grains and colors of the archival photos and offer the scene a more lived-in quality.

"We start to get a feeling for the neighborhood through its textures and visual language," Yoo Warren said. "It's at this point that I sometimes feel I'm crafting a space for someone."

As Yoo Warren explains in his relational reconstruction toolkit, this research and modeling are only the first aspects of creatively rebuilding an ancestral space. Atmospheric elements like weather, lighting and soundscapes help re-contextualize the history of a neighborhood.

Like Providence's Chinatown, of which almost no trace remains today, erased neighborhoods exist across America. For Yoo Warren, relational reconstruction provides an avenue to evoke a different kind of space – something nourishing and even poetic.

Ambient elements can read more like memories, he says. Contrasts between the grey light of an evening sky and the warm glow of a streetlamp or building lobby help create an ethereal mood. It's neither reality nor a picture of it. It's speculative, but familiar.

"Visitors have remarked that they felt physically warmer coming inside out of the virtual rain," he said.

Readers of the relational reconstruction toolkit will find inspiration from artists like Alicia Renee Ball, who offers guidance on adding emotion and depth to a digital environment with elements like snow or dancing fireflies.

Artist Ann Chen adds expertise on the transportive value of ambient sound. With clues from archival materials, such as photos of merchant stalls or roadway traffic, Chen describes how creators can incorporate similar sound effects in a virtual reconstruction.

Yoo Warren's Chinatown, for example, features a backdrop of falling rain, which becomes quieter when visitors step inside a building.

Such small inflections help tell the story of a place.

Because many ancestral stories of people of color are difficult to find in the archives, Yoo Warren believes a critical aspect of "Seeing Lost Enclaves" is about unearthing these histories "through in-between glimpses ... the unsaid and the hidden away."

Library staff members are invited to join Yoo Warren as he presents his work and leads the public on a virtual visit to Providence Chinatown on Sept. 19 at 4 p.m. Find event informa-

tion at [labs.loc.gov/events](https://labs.loc.gov/events).

As he enters the second year of his residency with the Library, Yoo Warren will work with artist and educator Dri Chiu Tattersfield to reconstruct the historical Chinese vegetable gardens of Portland, Oregon. This Chinese American farming community provided vegetables to Portland residents for decades and served as a site of protests against anti-Chinese violence and legislation in the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

In addition to its historical importance, the re-creation of this agrarian neighborhood presents a unique technical challenge to deepen Yoo Warren's relational reconstruction methods on a different landscape.

"Jeff's work synthesizing pieces of an archive into a holistic sense of place for Asian American communities is a powerful way of re-contextualizing their meaning," Jaime Mears, senior innovation specialist in LC Labs, said. "We're looking forward to taking these methods and the Library's resources on the road next year. This is the fun part!"

Yoo Warren will also embark on a national tour of former Chinatown sites next year, hosting workshops in Portland; Riverside, California; Terrace, Utah; and elsewhere.

Find the "Seeing Lost Enclaves" toolkit and more information about Yoo Warren's work and upcoming tour on the [LC Labs website](#).

Staff can also join Yoo Warren virtually on the first Tuesday of every month at 3:30 p.m. for updates and discussion. To sign up, email Mears at [jame@loc.gov](mailto:jame@loc.gov) or visit [Confluence](#) for Zoom information. ■

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## OIG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

Report suspected illegal activities, waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in Library of Congress administration and operations to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). A link to all Library regulations is available on the [staff intranet](#).

To make a report, contact OIG via the online form [here](#) or report by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.