

**LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD REPORT**

August 27, 2026

To: Board of Library Commissioners
From: John F. Szabo, City Librarian
Subject: **ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT FROM THE BLACK IMAGE CENTER FOR THE OCTAVIA LAB**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT The Board of Library Commissioners adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That a gift to the Octavia Lab at the Central Library by the Black Image Center of \$1,250 be accepted and deposited in Trust Fund 831, Account 384; and;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to Astrid Kayembe of the Black Image Center for their generous support for the Octavia Lab.

FINDINGS:

1. The Black Image Center is an arts non-profit and co-working space for hundreds of local creatives working to uplift stories, cultivate community, and build visual arts skills and economic empowerment for Black image-makers.
2. The Black Image Center received an IMLS grant to fund various free programs around personal archiving and family histories. With this grant, they organized several programs, including a free community digitization day.
3. Astrid Kayembe of the Black Image Center connected with the Octavia Lab and Special Collections staff to learn more about our memory lab activities, DIYML equipment, and to conduct workshops in our space. Black Image Center staff also participated in an oral history workshop at the Central Library.
4. The Black Image Center hosted three programs in the Octavia Lab, including a workshop conducted by artist Da'Shaunae Marisa entitled "Rooted in Memory: Floral Photograph Collage & Archive Exploration" in the Octavia Lab on April 22, 2026.
5. Astrid Kayembe sent a \$1,250 donation on behalf of the Black Image Center to support the work of the Octavia Lab in acknowledgement of the Library's efforts in promoting personal archiving to the public.

6. A letter of thanks should be sent to:

Black Image Center
c/o Astrid Kayembe
3209 La Cienega Ave
Culver City, CA 90232

Prepared by: Selena Terrazas, Customer Service Manager
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