



CITY OF CERRITOS



February 2026

Cerritos Library News

Your Cerritos Digital Newsletter

The City of Cerritos welcomes you to our digital edition of the "Cerritos Library News!" We're pleased to present information about upcoming activities at the Cerritos Library.

To print this newsletter, download the PDF first (icon located on lower right side below the newsletter) and select printing options from your browser.

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Presidents' Day Holiday Closure

The Library will be
closed Monday, Feb. 16
in observance of
Presidents' Day.

Programs: *Registration Required*

Registration programs require advance registration and space is limited

For more information call [\(562\) 916-1388](tel:(562)916-1388), unless otherwise noted.

Storytimes

Cerritos Library's 30 to 45 minute storytimes, incorporating stories and audience participation, will be held in the Little Theater. Only children registered for storytime may be brought to the program. Space is limited to 40 participants. For children ages 5 and younger.

Thu	2/12	11AM	5 & younger	Little Theater	#16455
Thu	2/19	11AM	5 & younger	Little Theater	#16456
Thu	2/26	11AM	5 & younger	Little Theater	#16457
Thu	3/5	11AM	5 & younger	Little Theater	#16458

Hoopla Overview

Hoopla is a digital borrowing service that gives library users access to audiobooks, e-books, music, movies, magazines and TV shows. Representatives from Hoopla will provide an overview of the platform and share tips on how to get the most out of the application. Space is limited to 25 participants.

Thu	2/12	12:00PM	Ages 18+	Hi-Tech Lab	#16464
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Candy Heart Beaded Bracelet & Heart Letters

Celebrate Valentine's Day by creating a candy heart-themed bracelet and a personalized, heart-shaped letter. All materials will be provided. Space is limited to 15 participants.

Thu	2/12	4-5PM	Ages 7-12	Art Studio	#16459
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Lunar New Year Card Craft

Children will decorate and create a pop-up Lunar New Year greeting card. Limited to 20 participants.

Fri	2/13	3:30-4:30PM	Ages 7-12	Art Studio	#16465
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Beadable Pen Program

Join us for a creative workshop in which you'll customize a pen with beads and charms. All materials will be provided. Space is limited to 12 participants.

Tue	2/24	4-5PM	Ages 13-17	Teen Studio	#16460
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Crafting Connections

Whitney High School student Tamanna Kurra will lead Crafting Connections, a 5-week art workshop that provides students with a space to explore hands-on projects fostering creativity, confidence, and self-expression. Students will participate in a variety of crafts and art-related projects. Space is limited to 20 participants.

Thu	2/26-3/26	4-5PM	Ages 8-13	Art Studio	#16461
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Stay & Play Program

Join us as we move to music, play with toys, and make new friends! Space is limited to 15 participants.

Fri	2/27	11AM-12PM	Ages 2-4	Little Theater	#16462
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Writing Class for Kids

Join us as Whitney High School student Terrance Liu guides participants in strengthening their informative writing skills through guided essays and interactive lessons. Students will learn to analyze prompts and passages, brainstorm effectively, and organize their ideas clearly. Space is limited to 10 participants.

Fri	3/6-3/27	5-6PM	Ages 8-12	Hi-Tech Lab	#16463
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Programs: *Drop-In*

Drop-in programs do not require advance registration and space is limited

For more information call **(562) 916-1388**, unless otherwise noted.

African American History Month Lecture Series

Please join the Cerritos Library as we celebrate African American History Month with a special lecture series featuring Dr. Keith Claybrook, Jr., Associate Professor, Department of Africana Studies at California State University, Long Beach; Dr. Alice Nicholas, Africologist and Assistant Professor, Department of Africana Studies at California State University, Long Beach; and Dr. Natalie Sartin, Department Chair of Black/Africana Studies at Cerritos College. These lectures will explore the rich history of Black History commemorations in the United States and emphasize the importance of preserving the traditions of observance, remembrance, and education for future generations.

Preserving the Past, Transforming the Present, and Building the Future: One Hundred Years of Committed Black History Commemorations

This presentation honors the centennial of the inaugural weeklong observance of Black History Week, launched in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History now known as the Association for African American Life and History (ASALH). In this first panel discussion, speakers will explore the historical and cultural significance of commemorations in Black history and underscore the urgency of preserving these traditions of observance, remembrance, and learning for future generations. The presentation will also include a brief introduction to the subsequent Black History Month presentations in February at the Cerritos Library. Presented by Dr. M. Keith Claybrook, Jr., Dr. Alice Nicholas, and Dr. Natalie Sartin.

Thu	2/5	6-7PM	Ages 13+	Skyline Room	Drop-in
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“Cultural Workers: Black Poets, Word, Sound, and Power”

This presentation explores the significance of Black poets as the artistic complement to movements for civil rights and social justice, as well as commemorations of Black history, culture, and excellence. During this presentation, attendees will critically examine the words of selected Black poets representing various moments in Black history, and discuss Black poets as the voice of the people, the truth-tellers, and the social barometers who inspire revolutionary change. The presentation will be led by Dr. Alice Nicholas.

Mon	2/9	6-7PM	Ages 13+	Skyline Room	Drop-in
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“Our North Star: Safeguarding the Enduring Legacy of Black Publishers”

Beginning in the early nineteenth century, Black publications including newspapers, journals, and other media, have served as essential tools for the Black community to access and disseminate information, promote political and social engagement, affirm cultural identity and representation, correct historical inaccuracies, and tell their own stories. This presentation will explore the enduring legacy of Black publishers in preserving history, empowering communities, and addressing the evolving needs of the Black community. The presentation will be led by Dr. Natalie Sartin.

Thu	2/19	6-7PM	Ages 13+	Skyline Room	Drop-in
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Festivals, Commemorations, and the Continued Struggle for Freedom

This presentation examines festivals and commemorations as essential parts of the broader Black freedom struggle. It explores how they inform, inspire, and empower communities to continue the fight for human respect and dignity as well as to struggle to increase the quality of life and material conditions for Black people and humanity. Participants will examine Black History Month commemorations, community festivals, family reunions, Juneteenth celebrations, and Kwanzaa as key elements in the continued struggle for freedom. This presentation will be led by Dr. M. Keith Claybrook, Jr.

Thu	2/26	6-7PM	Ages 13+	Skyline Room	Drop-in
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Chinese Folk and Classical Dance

Students of all ages from Ling's Dance Academy will perform a selection of award-winning Chinese folk and classical dances. The academy is highly regarded within the Chinese dance community for its regular performances and its students' achievements in regional and national competitions.

Fri	2/6	7:30PM	All Ages	Skyline Room	Drop-in
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Arts and Crafts for Kids

A free hands-on Valentines Day craft will be held for kids ages 2-12. This craft will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes.

Fri	2/13	11AM-12PM	Ages 2-12	Art Studio	Drop-in
Fri	2/13	5-6PM	Ages 2-12	Art Studio	Drop-in

Book Club for Adults

The Book Club for Adults will meet for a book discussion. Participants will discuss the book "James" by Percival Everett. For more information, please call (562) 916-1342.

Wed	2/18	11AM	Ages 18+	Board Room	Drop-in
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Anime Film: "My Hero Academia: Heroes Rising" (2019)

In this animated feature, students from Class 1-A put their hero skills to use on the peaceful island of Nabu, only to face a sudden attack from a formidable villain known as Nine. This film is **rated PG-13** and has a running time of **104 minutes**. Japanese snacks will be provided while supplies last.

Wed	2/18	3:45PM	Ages 13-17	Skyline Room	Drop-in
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Night at the Movies "You Only Live Twice" (1967)

Theo Siegel will discuss the making of "You Only Live Twice," starring Sean Connery, followed by a screening of the film. This film is **rated PG** with a running time of **117 minutes**.

Wed	2/18	6PM	Ages 18+	Skyline Room	Drop-in
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Meet Children's Author Tamika Burgess

Born to parents who migrated from Panama, Tamika Burgess has always taken a particular interest in writing themes that explore her Black Latina identity. Because of her passion for sharing knowledge about her culture, Tamika writes novels featuring Black Panamanian main characters. Join us for a discussion of "Sincerely Sicily" and "Danilo Was Here."

Fri	2/20	3:45PM	All Ages	Little Theater	Drop-in
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Friends of the Cerritos Library Book Sale

Saturday, February 21 | 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



The Friends of the Cerritos Library will hold a one-day book sale inside the library from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 21. A great selection of fiction and nonfiction books, plus books in foreign languages and multimedia items will be available at bargain prices. Come early for the best selection.

Family Coloring Afternoon

Relax, socialize, and explore your creativity in a tranquil setting. A selection of spring coloring sheets and art materials will be available for all ages, while supplies last. Space is limited.

Sat	2/21	2-3PM	All Ages	Art Studio	Drop-in
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Meet Prominent African American Authors

The Orange County Chapter of the Links, Incorporated, in collaboration with the Cerritos Library, is pleased to host a special event featuring prominent African American authors, including an engaging panel discussion and book signing. The event will feature authors Denise Nicholas, Denise Billings, Rita Gordon, and Landi Maduro. The event is free and open to the public, and light refreshments will be provided. *Please note the program begins at 2 p.m., not 11 a.m. as originally posted.*

Sun	2/22	2PM	All Ages	Skyline Room	Drop-in
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Poetry Writing Workshop

Learn to express yourself through poetry in a workshop led by poet Mike the Poet. Mike the Poet will be joined by students from Verbum Dei High School, who will help lead this interactive workshop. Together, they will guide participants in creating original poetry inspired by Langston Hughes, the Harlem Renaissance, and the Black Arts Movement. No prior poetry experience is necessary. Notebooks and writing utensils will be provided, but participants are welcome to bring their own materials.

Mon	2/23	6PM	Ages 13+	Skyline Room	Drop-in
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Super Smash Bros. Tournament

Join us for an exciting Super Smash Bros. Tournament filled with fast-paced, friendly competition. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a first-timer, everyone is welcome to test their skills. Don't miss this chance to demonstrate your skills, connect with fellow gamers, and enjoy a great time at the library! Snacks will be provided while supplies last.

Tue	2/24	4:30PM	Ages 13-17	Hi-Tech Lab	Drop-in
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Register at cerritos.gov/register | (562) 916-1388

African Americans in Automotive History

Join us for a special presentation by a representative from the Petersen Automotive Museum, which will highlight the contributions and impact of African Americans in the automotive industry.

Tue	2/24	6PM	All Ages	Skyline Room	Drop-in
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Southern and Soul Food Demonstration with Georgia's Restaurant

Learn the magic behind soul food through a Southern cuisine and soul food demonstration led by staff from Georgia's Restaurant. Georgia's Restaurant serves Southern cuisine in Anaheim and Long Beach, reimagining and redefining the public's perception of Southern soul food.

Wed	2/25	6PM	All Ages	Skyline Room	Drop-in
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Making Space for Joy: Curating Asian Pacific American History at the Smithsonian

What goes on behind the scenes at the world's largest museum? Join curator Theodore S. Gonzalves for an engaging talk that pulls back the curtain on curatorial work at the Smithsonian Institution—and on how objects, stories, and communities shape what we remember as history. Gonzalves discusses his award-winning book—*Smithsonian Asian Pacific American History, Art, and Culture in 101 Objects*—that rethinks Asian Pacific American history through everyday things like sports, art, popular culture, and play. The program wraps up with a lively look at the book's chapter focused on "Joy," where surfing, skateboarding, baseball, toys, and humor reveal how joy has always been part of Asian Pacific American life—even in times of struggle. This talk invites audiences to see history in a new way and to consider how creativity, play, and joy help us imagine more expansive futures. Participants will have an opportunity to purchase Dr. Theodore Gonzalves's book and have it signed following his presentation. The *Making History, Making Change* Lecture Series is organized by Smithsonian Affiliations as part of the Smithsonian's Our Shared Future: 250. It is supported in part by the Dreier Family, Johanna and Ken Kim Family, Vaishali Shah Chadha and Family, and Michael Vu & Meridel Bulle-Vu.

[Learn more on the Smithsonian Affiliations website.](#)

Thu	3/19	6PM	All Ages	Skyline Room	Drop-in
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Share an Object that Represents Your Family's Joy

The Cerritos Library invites community members to participate in *The Joy of My Family, City, and Country* exhibition by loaning a personal object that symbolizes joy, family heritage, cultural identity, or pride in the City of Cerritos or the United States. Objects may measure up to 15" tall by 19" wide. The exhibition will be on display from March 2–31, 2026, and will accompany a special presentation by Dr. Theodore S. Gonzalves at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 19 in the Skyline Room. Dr. Gonzalves is a curator at the National Museum of American History and editor of *Smithsonian Asian Pacific American History, Art, and Culture in 101 Objects*. His presentation and the exhibition are presented with support from the Smithsonian Institution as part of the national *Making History, Making Change* Lecture Series, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The Cerritos Library is proud to be a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate. If you would like to propose an object for display, please contact Librarian I Pedro Orellana at (562) 916-1342 by Wednesday, February 11, 2026. Space is limited, and submissions will be reviewed on a first come, first served basis. Join us in celebrating the joy, stories, and culture that make Cerritos a vibrant community.

Writers Festival Presented by the Friends of the Cerritos Library

The Friends of the Cerritos Library's third annual Writers Festival will be presented from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, in the Library's Skyline Room. The event features a high tea experience, and an author panel discussion followed by a book signing. Registration is \$65 for members of the Friends of the Cerritos Library and \$75 for non-members. Featured authors will be announced soon. Registration for members of the Friends begins on Sunday, February 15, and registration for non-members opens on Sunday, March 1. Guests can register online with [eventbrite](#) or by mailing a check to **Friends of the City of Cerritos Library, P.O. Box 3876 Cerritos, CA 90703**. Payments submitted by check should include a note of the guests' names and phone number or email address. Proceeds from this event will support the Friends of the Cerritos Library's mission to promote the library in the community and raise funds for library programs and services. For more information, please contact the Friends President Shiva Bhatt at (562) 714-4480 or email ShivaBhatt@gmail.com.



Exhibition

An Entourage of Abstract Art

Erik Johnathan Powers presents an exhibit of abstract acrylic paintings on canvas. His work explores color, pattern, and texture to evoke emotion and spark the viewer's imagination. A graduate of California State University, Long Beach, Powers creates art in a variety of mediums and draws inspiration from the intricate details found in abstract composition. On display in the library's main lobby through February.



Registration Dates

Online Registration

Visit cerritos.gov/register

Browse classes and register with



Mon	2/2	11AM	Resident registration begins
Mon	2/9	11AM	Non-Resident registration begins

Online Registration Tips

To check the availability or to register for classes, please visit cerritos.gov/register. You will not receive confirmation by mail for classes registered online.

For additional information, please call the Library Reservation Desk at [\(562\) 916-1388](tel:(562)916-1388). Computers at the Cerritos Library may be used to access RACER.

Phone Registration

Call [\(562\) 916-1388](tel:(562)916-1388)

Tue	2/3	11AM	Resident registration begins
Mon	2/9	11AM	Non-Resident registration begins

Walk-In Registration

Mon	2/2	11AM	Resident registration begins
Mon	2/9	11AM	Non-Resident registration begins

For More Information

Visit library.cerritos.gov or call the Cerritos Library at [\(562\) 916-1350](tel:(562)916-1350).



Register at cerritos.gov/register | [\(562\) 916-1388](tel:(562)916-1388)

Cerritos Library News

February 2026

Produced by
Cerritos Library

**Communications
and Marketing Division**



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CERRITOS**

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Library Hours

Monday-Friday

11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Saturday

11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sunday

Closed

Library Closures

Mon., Feb. 16 in observance of Presidents' Day