

# Pathways at the Los Angeles Public Library



## Service Delivery for People Leaving Correctional Facilities

Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Services Conference, 2014

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# Pathways at the Los Angeles Public Library



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## Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL)

73 Libraries

Service area of 469 square miles, City of Los Angeles

Over 6 million items in holdings

Anyone with proof of California residence can obtain a library card



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## Innovation Leadership Program

### Goals:

Attract and inspire recent library school graduates (Residents) to public librarianship

Develop strong executive leadership skills in LAPL middle managers (Fellows)

Funded through grants received by the Library Foundation of Los Angeles (LFLA), administered jointly between LFLA and LAPL

First year of program (January 2013- January 2014) completed rotations to branches and departments, traveled to library systems throughout United States

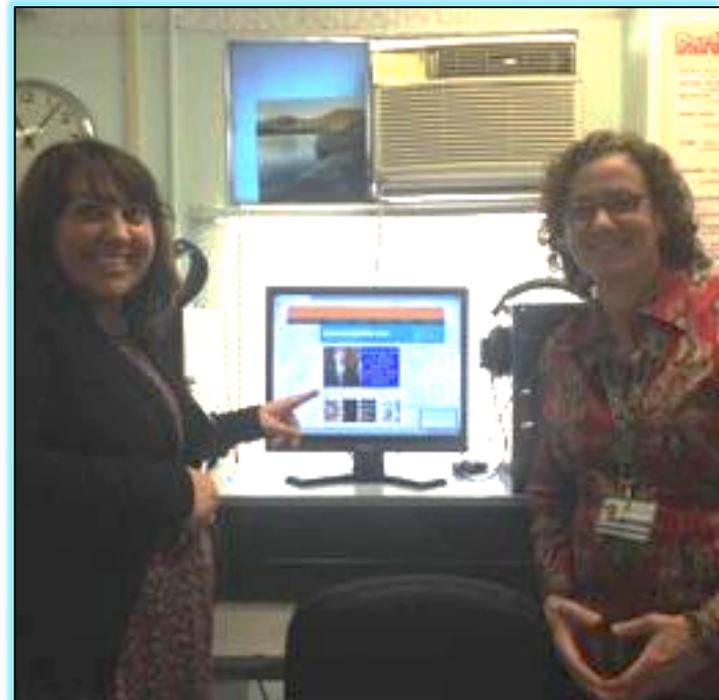
Second year planned, developed and implemented project proposal. \$6,000 program budget.



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The opposite of poverty is not wealth, it is justice.

- Bryan Stevenson of the Equal Justice Initiative  
“We need to talk about injustice,”  
Ted Talk, February 2012.



*How could we “innovate” to make our libraries more accessible and more just?*



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## Planning Pathways

Other library systems had correctional/post correctional programming, why couldn't LAPL?

State/local changes to prison and jail terms resulting in large release and need for reentry services

Started connecting with potential partners in community- contacted over 8 groups, settled on two, they informed proposal

- STAR- Federal program, supports individuals with substance abuse issues
- EPIC- Based in Weingart Center on Skid Row



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## Structure of Pilot and Delivery of Service

### External

Weave library initiatives and celebrations into visits

Conduct tours of Central Library

Sign up for library cards

Provide programming- writing workshop

New/stronger partnerships- LARRP, Law Library

Brochure- reentry focused, people first language



### Internal

Collected 1,090 books from staff to share project info, get needed books

Staff awareness campaign, workshop

Collection development/refreshing

Constant communication with managers, administration

Not a new “initiative,” new way of providing good service and understanding barriers



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## What we've learned (to date)

40 Library cards made/accounts brought to good standing

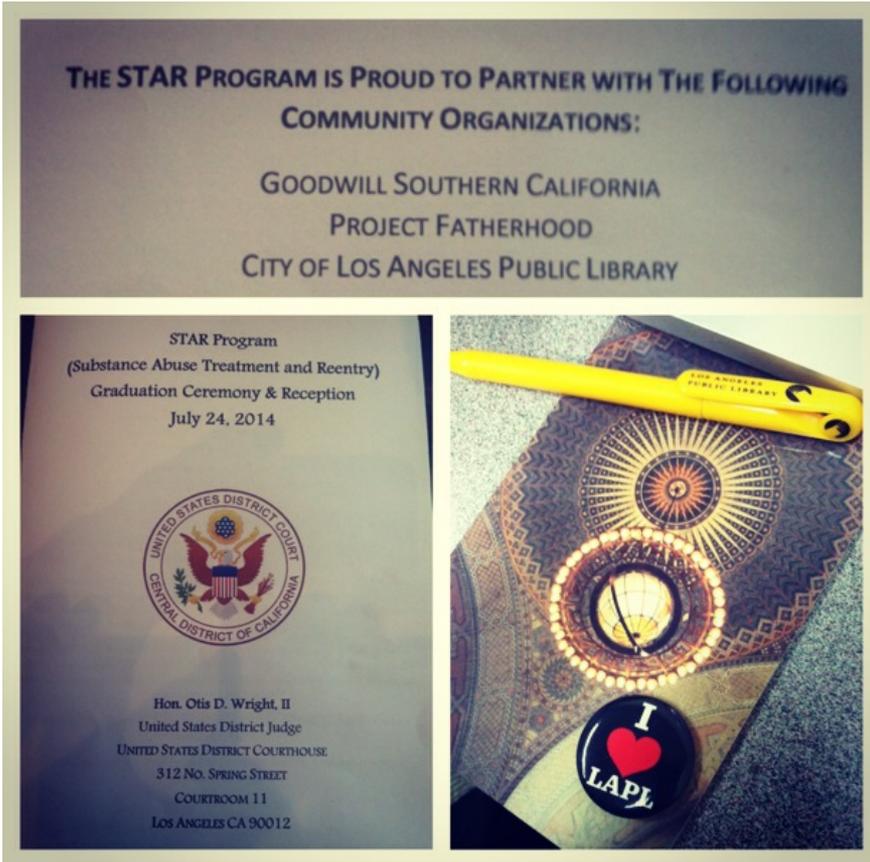
Over 200 individuals exposed to library programming

2 individuals enrolling in Adult Literacy Programming

Stronger community partnerships, library is wanted at the table for reentry related conversations

Clarify assumptions/concerns staff had about working with individuals leaving correctional facilities

Better understanding of barriers we make or people perceive are in place limiting their access



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## Considerations for the Future

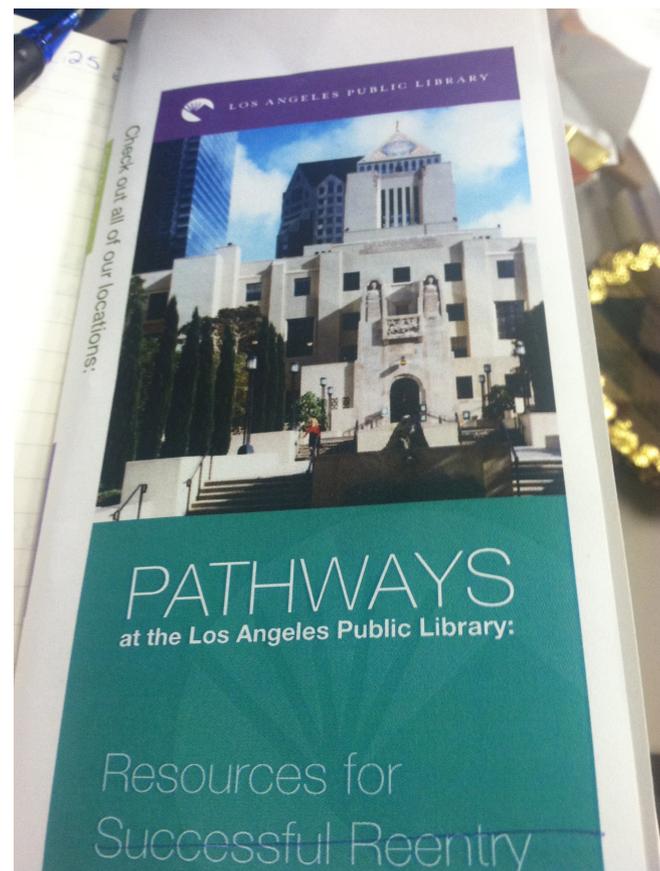
Continue work with embedded practices to build trust, respect

Continue partnerships with LARRP

Create stronger partnerships with California Department of Corrections Library Services, as well as LA County facilities

Shifting more programming focus to youth in juvenile facilities

More resources and programs for families effected by incarceration



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## Discussion/Questions

Questions for us?

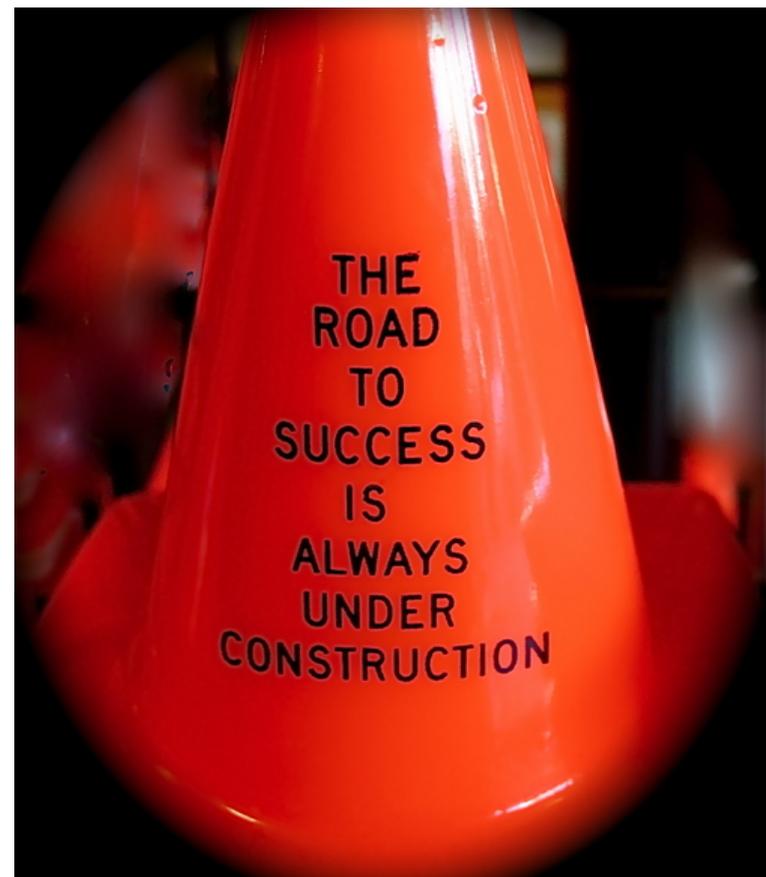
What do you do in your systems for people leaving correctional facilities?

What would you like to do for people leaving facilities?

How do you make your spaces (more) welcoming?

How do you/could you make your services and spaces more accessible and, ideally, just?

How do you train/support/inform staff about “sticky” situations or “touchy” subjects?



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**Thank you!**

**Please feel free to contact us at:**

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