



**AMERICAN
CENTER**
FOR ART
& CULTURE

Press release

Monday, December 12, 2022

The American Center for Art & Culture
makes a historic gift to the American Library in Paris
to expand cultural activities and exchanges.





SALE OF THE *HÔTEL PARTICULIER*

The American Center for Art & Culture, a leading cultural institution in Paris, France, offering a multidisciplinary program of exhibitions, events and educational outreach, begins marketing its *hôtel particulier* located at 34 Avenue de New York in the sixteenth arrondissement of Paris this week, through Propriétés Parisiennes Sotheby's International Realty and CBRE.

Formerly known as the Mona Bismarck American Center, the American Center was established in 1986, thanks to the estate bequeathed by the American philanthropist, Countess Mona von Bismarck, with a mission to support a broad Franco-American friendship through its diverse cultural offerings.



American Center for Art & Culture
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GIFT TO THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS

It is in this spirit that the American Center's leadership has decided to donate the proceeds from the sale of its property to a close institutional ally and non-profit organization: the **American Library in Paris**.

The American Library in Paris, founded in 1920, is the largest English-language lending library on the European continent, with a collection of 100,000 print books, an extensive American periodical archive, and digital resources. It hosts over three hundred cultural programs each year, including talks with leading American thinkers, such as Viet Thanh Nguyen, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Jacqueline Woodson, and Richard Russo, at its location close to the Eiffel Tower in the seventh arrondissement.

For decades, these two institutions have carried out common missions and shared core values. They have both served as anchors for the cultural and artistic community of expatriates and Americanophiles in Paris.

The gift of the building sale proceeds will be realized after the marketing and completion of the sale and regulatory processes, and is notably contingent on the approval of the New York State Office of the Attorney General. This gift will have a strong impact for the American Library in Paris with immense anticipated benefits for the Parisian cultural landscape.



Viet Thanh Nguyen and Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, with Alice McCrum, on 21 September 2022, in partnership with Festival America.
© American Library in Paris



UNWINDING OF THE AMERICAN CENTER'S ACTIVITIES

The American Center will then cease operations (subject to the approval of the Office of the New York Attorney General) and two of its Trustees will join the American Library's Board of Trustees.

SETTING THE STAGE FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES WITH SUPPORT FROM THE GOULD FOUNDATION

The timeframe required for the transaction will provide a window of opportunity for the American Library to prepare for future activities and experiment with new possibilities. The Florence Gould Foundation has extended a **\$250,000 grant to the American Library** for the transition period leading up to the donation of the proceeds of the sale to the American Library. Pilot programs will provide a taste of future programming.

IN CONCLUSION

Anne-Hélène Monsellato, Vice-Chair of the American Center, says, "With the sale of the property and this gift to the American Library, we are very enthusiastic about the prospect of a new cycle of high-quality, multidisciplinary cultural exchange that will contribute to enriching the dialogue between France and the United States."

ARTS AND LETTERS IN PARIS

The leadership of both institutions believe that this gift will reinforce their shared mission and values in promoting the American tradition, and will allow the American Center's mission to continue through the future activities of the American Library.



Website: www.americancenterparis.org
<https://americanlibraryinparis.org>



Media contact: Heymann Associés
www.heymann-associes.com

Sarah Heymann et Chloé Braems
chloe@heymann-associes.com
M.+33 (0)6 31 80 14 97