



The
American
Library
in Paris

Announcing: *On the Road*, a pop-up library tour

For immediate release

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PARIS - The American Library in Paris announces the launch of a new cultural outreach program with the support of the US Embassy in France dubbed *On the Road*, after the popular book by Jack Kerouac.

Over the summer and fall of 2022, American Library staff will go “on the road” on a library pop-up tour. They will travel to locations throughout the Ile de France and Hauts de France regions in partnership with libraries, museums, and centers for higher learning. The traveling librarians will bring library activities and tools for people of all ages both in urban and rural areas.

At the June 27 inauguration event, the French patron of *On the Road*, author Rachid Santaki presided and organized a *dictée* with guests and journalists. Santaki is known as the founder of “*La dictée géante*.”

On the Road begins Friday, July 1 in the Hauts de France Region at the Bibliothèque de l'Agglomération de Saint-Omer (Pas-de-Calais), kicking off with a public discussion in French about disinformation with American journalist Cole Stangler. The Saturday sessions will include archival exhibits, bilingual Story Hours, and hands-on demonstrations of digital resources.

Each two-day tour stop of *On the Road* will feature different American authors discussing a broad range of current issues with local public audiences on topics ranging from shared democratic values to climate change. Library Director Audrey Chapuis explains, “One of the goals of the program is to extend the reach of the Library to new audiences, and beyond that to create a shared sense of community among diverse participants. Everyone is welcome.”

Mark Toner, Minister Counselor for Public Diplomacy at the U.S. Embassy in Paris highlights: “The Embassy is extremely proud of the strong ties we have with the American Library, and we are delighted to support this program which fosters inter-cultural experiences and showcases the innovative ways libraries are serving their communities in both France and the United States.”

Calendar of Events

Saint-Omer: July 1-2

Le Blanc-Mesnil: July 8-9

Savigny-le-Temple: July 21-22

Evry-Courcouronnes: September 28-29

Lille: November 7-8

Amiens: November 25-26

Airion: December 8-9

Blérancourt: Fall

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