

Press Release Paris, September 17, 2024

The American Library in Paris Unveils Bold Strategic Plan to Enhance Cultural Outreach and Community Impact, Supported by a Historic Gift

The American Library in Paris is proud to announce the launch of its new three-year strategic plan, *Vision 2027*, following the receipt of a historic gift from The American Center for Art and Culture. The plan centers on four key streams of action: *Illuminate*, *Champion*, *Empower*, and *Ignite*—each aimed at honoring the legacy and mission of the American Center and deepening the Library’s connection with its local and global communities, fostering greater engagement, and expanding access to its services through cross-disciplinary initiatives and cultural exchange.

“As the American Library approaches its 105th anniversary, it’s the perfect time to celebrate a new chapter for our beloved institution,” said Audrey Chapuis, Executive Director of the Library. “With *Vision 2027*, we will broaden the scope of our programming, expand information access, and offer direct support to writers and artists through new cultural fellowships.”



ILLUMINATE: Bringing History to Light: The *Illuminate* stream aims to make history more accessible and engaging through the expansion of the Library’s successful [History Tours](#), the introduction of new physical and digital exhibits, and the digitization of its institutional archives. This stream highlights the intersection of historical research with modern cultural perspectives.

CHAMPION: Fostering Cultural Dialogues: With *Champion*, the Library will broaden its cultural programming by growing its [Cultural Fellowships](#), hosting multidisciplinary events, and extending partnerships with leading cultural institutions in France. These programs will encourage creative and intellectual exchanges across literature and the arts, attracting a wide audience of thinkers, creators, and scholars. Jill Le Grand, Chair of the Board of Trustees, noted, “A transformative gift from the American Center for Art and Culture

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acquiring key digital resources that are important to American history in Paris. Plans also include developing a librarian exchange program to facilitate international collaboration and expanding the [Young Authors Fiction Festival](#) to support the next generation of writers.

Since 2022, a \$250,000 bridge grant from the Florence Gould Foundation has supported the Library in the development of pilot programs that have directly informed the Vision 2027 strategic plan. “We are looking to build a stronger, more engaged community, one that can inspire and support creativity, culture, and learning for years to come,” added Chapuis.

The American Library is committed to continuing its tradition of cultural excellence and innovation as it enters its next century of service to the Parisian and international communities, inviting all to join in this exciting new chapter. The Library is also pleased to welcome Jean-Hubert Martin and H el ene Huret as new members of the Board of Trustees.

About the American Library in Paris

Established in 1920, the American Library in Paris is the largest English-language lending library on the European continent. With its diverse programming, extensive collection, and commitment to fostering learning and cultural exchange, the Library promotes knowledge, inspires lifelong learning, and nurtures a sense of community. For more information, contact the Communications Department. Email: communications@americanlibraryinparis.org

About the legacy of the American Center for Art and Culture

The American Center for Art and Culture, formerly known as the Mona Bismarck American Center, was founded in 1986 to promote Franco-American cultural exchange. In December 2022, the Center announced it would be winding down its activities, including the sale of its h otel particulier in Paris, with the proceeds donated to the American Library in Paris. This historic gift will allow the Library to honor the American Center’s mission by continuing to foster cultural dialogue between France and the United States.

Press contact

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will allow us to build upon the Library’s legacy as a hub of connection and discovery, enabling us to reach an even wider audience via partnerships with cultural institutions and make an even greater impact with enriching, multidisciplinary events.”

EMPOWER: Building Bridges of Knowledge: The *Empower* stream focuses on increasing access to the Library’s educational, artistic, and cultural resources, building on its outreach program [On the Road](#) to reach underserved communities in and out of Paris. A new courier service will ensure that members across Paris can access its resources more easily, extending cross-cultural educational opportunities and fostering knowledge-sharing between diverse communities.

IGNITE: Igniting Curiosity, Fueling Creativity: Through the *Ignite* stream, the Library will nurture a culture of lifelong learning and creativity by increasing access to its most popular print and digital titles and by

