

Press Release
September 24, 2025

The
American
Library
in Paris

The American Library in Paris Announces 2025 – 2026 Board of Trustees Cycle

Four incoming trustees bring their expertise in investment, legal affairs, digital publishing, and heritage.



The American Library in Paris has confirmed its Board of Trustees for the June 2025 – June 2026 cycle and welcomed four new members: Robert Levitt, Catherine Castro, William R. Kelly, and Maja Thomas.

In line with its Articles of Incorporation, the Board of Trustees sets policy and provides strategic direction for the Library. Trustees meet several times a year, and dedicated committees—Finance, Library Affairs, and Development—convene separately to channel their expertise and advance priority initiatives. As the Board turns the page on a new cycle, the Library extends its gratitude to outgoing trustees Cedric Sellin, Whitney Gore, Ashley Maddox, and Enrique Martinez for their dedicated service.

INTRODUCING THE NEW TRUSTEES

CATHERINE CASTRO is a partner at De Gaulle Fleurance & Associés, where she specializes in real estate law with over 25 years of expertise in complex transactions, including commercial leases and international property developments. Born in Manosque, Provence, she holds a law degree from Université Paris-Sud XI and began her career at Arthur Andersen before joining De Gaulle Fleurance over 18 years ago. Catherine serves as an independent director of Revalorem, a company working with reintegrated workers to recycle materials. A mother of three young sons, she is passionate about promoting literature, open-mindedness and cross-cultural exchange.

WILLIAM R. KELLY (BILL) is the founder and chief executive of Eaton Energy Partners, a developer and investor in renewable energy companies. Previously, he cofounded Rolls-Royce Power Ventures in the UK and was its chief executive. He has held executive positions with major international engineering, construction and energy companies and is a non-executive director of several renewable energy companies with activities in England and Panama. He was vice-chairman of The American Library in Paris (2015-

2024) and is a board member of the American Friends of the Salzburg Easter Festival. Bill is married to Maria Richter and between them they have five children and eight grandchildren. They live between Paris, Panama, and New York. Bill and Maria are opera and classical music lovers.

ROBERT LEVITT is Founder and CIO of Levitt Capital Management, a French-AMF licensed investment advisory firm serving U.S. citizens across Europe, with over 40 years in portfolio and hedge fund management. His extensive nonprofit board experience includes overseeing endowed assets and leading investment committees for cultural institutions such as the Boca Raton Museum of Art Foundation and Jewish Federation of Palm Beach. A dedicated medieval historian with a strong academic network in France, Robert holds master's degrees from Université de Lyon II and is pursuing doctoral studies at Université de Perpignan. He co-founded Via Nissa to preserve and promote Côte d'Azur heritage, and serves as Deputy Chair of Democrats Abroad Global's Taxation Task Force.

MAJA THOMAS is Chief Innovation Officer at Hachette Livre, leading digital transformation initiatives across international publishing markets. In her current role, she champions new technologies including generative AI, machine learning, and blockchain to transform publishing processes. Over her decades-long career, she has pioneered the creation of profitable ebook and audiobook businesses, transforming legacy publishers into 21st-century content companies. A six-time Grammy Award winner as producer and director, she has worked with bestselling authors and celebrities. With a longstanding interest in Paris's literary expatriate history, Maja is passionate about enhancing library access through digital innovation to strengthen the global community of English-language readers.

"Welcoming Robert, Catherine, Bill, and Maja marks an exciting moment for the Library. Their proven expertise and deep commitment to our mission align perfectly with the bold objectives of Vision 2027. With their additional wisdom, work, and wealth of experience, I'm confident the full Board of Trustees will be wonderful stewards of this great institution, seizing the opportunities ahead and strengthening our service to the Library's global community."

-Jill Le Grand, Chair of the Board of Trustees

About the American Library in Paris

The American Library in Paris is the largest English-language lending Library on the European continent, with a print collection of over 100,000 volumes. Since its establishment in 1920, the Library has been a meeting place for internationals and locals alike seeking to broaden their horizons and nurture their imagination. Every year, hundreds of events, lectures, and workshops bring together leaders in literature, arts, politics, and philosophy at the Library. Through its fellowships and social impact programs, the Library also supports emerging artists and young writers in their creative pursuits.

Press contact

Communications Department

communications@americanlibraryinparis.org