



AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS **ANNUAL REPORT**

American Library in Paris
Est. 1920



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*Editor: Alexandra Fernández Coego; Graphic Design: Alfonso Sjogreen.
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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear Reader,

In this 2025 Annual Report, you will find a record defined by momentum and generosity.

A year after the launch of our strategic plan *Vision 2027*, our four pillars of action—Illuminate, Champion, Empower, and Ignite—are already bearing fruit.

We launched our first campaign to recover lost treasures from our past and welcomed cherished figures from our history in visits that breathed new life into our archive. True to our enduring commitment to being a home for the thoughtful and curious, we refined our events program and drew ever-fuller houses.

Our digital collections expanded significantly, allowing members to access our shelves wherever they are and whenever they wish. Our Children's and Teens' programs and volunteer-led initiatives continued to nurture a lifelong love of books that reaches far beyond reading.

Beyond the numbers and the advancement of our strategic goals, this report also captures something of the daily life of the Library in 2025: from the unexpected way our Visiting Fellow R.O. Kwon struck luck with her research in Paris, to what our readers' most-borrowed books tell us about the mood of the times.

2025 was also a year of extraordinary generosity. At a moment that reminded many of the fragility of cultural institutions, our community responded with remarkable confidence. Philanthropic support—the guarantor of our independence—grew by 10%, and our volunteers gave thousands of hours across every area of the organization.

As the Library marked its 105th birthday, we are deeply grateful for the trust placed in us by every member, donor, volunteer, trustee, and staff member. The pages ahead have never felt more full of promise.

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS BOOK AWARD

THE 2025 JURY
Adam Shatz (Chair)
Ruth Reichl
Claire Messud

Sue Prideaux, winner of the 2025 Book Award © Augusta Sagnelli



Wild Thing: A Life of Paul Gauguin by Sue Prideaux was the winner of the 2025 American Library in Paris Book Award.

“
Sue Prideaux’s vibrant and rich biography of Gauguin is an extraordinary achievement: rigorously researched; magisterial in its command of the subject; at once an engrossing narrative and a reappraisal of an artist whom, it turns out, we knew far less well than we imagined.”

THE 2025 BOOK AWARD JURY



Book Award Coordinator Claire Hargreaves, Assistant Director Abigail Altman, Book Award 2025 Winner Sue Prideaux, Executive Director Audrey Chapuis, and Head of Finance Nathalie Cousin. © Augusta Sagnelli.

Wild Thing: A Life of Paul Gauguin was the winner of the 2025 American Library in Paris Book Award. In this powerfully illuminating biography, Sue Prideaux explores the many worlds Gauguin inhabited, from his early childhood in Peru to his last years in Tahiti, and the adventure of his art. Following its win at the Book Award, Prideaux’s original portrait of Gauguin was named one of the best books of the year by *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Vogue*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Library supporters gathered at the George C. Marshall Center on 7 November for the ceremony of this thirteenth edition of the American Library in Paris Book Award. Prideaux was presented with one of two Book Award Special Editions of the winning title, hand-bound in leather by the atelier Bourgogne Reliure. As is tradition, the second copy joined the Library’s Special Collections in a lasting tribute to the craft of bookmaking and literary excellence.

ABOUT THE BOOK AWARD

The American Library in Paris Book Award celebrates works of literature, both fiction and nonfiction, that draw on France as a timeless source of inspiration. Created in 2013, the Book Award builds on the Library’s century-long tradition of bringing France, its culture, and its history into dialogue with the wider world. It is open to books in all genres, originally published in English.

We thank the prize’s generous patrons and the Advisory Screening Panel, who read all 48 submissions and selected the longlist and shortlist.

The Book Award is supported by a grant from the Florence Gould Foundation, which will sustain the prize for many years to come. Special thanks to W. W. Norton & Company for donating some copies of the winning title.

SHORTLIST

Creation Lake: A Novel
Rachel Kushner

Wild Thing: A Life of Paul Gauguin
Sue Prideaux

A Complicated Passion: The Life and Work of Agnès Varda
Carrie Rickey

Gertrude Stein: An Afterlife
Francesca Wade

LONGLIST

Isola: A Novel
Allegra Goodman

Paris Undercover: A Wartime Story of Courage, Friendship, and Betrayal
Matthew Goodman

The Elements of Marie Curie: How the Glow of Radium Lit a Path for Women in Science
Dava Sobel

The Art Spy: The Extraordinary Untold Tale of WWII Resistance Hero Rose Valland
Michelle Young

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS PATRONS

Mary Duncan, Peter and Jeanne Fellowes, Dan and Laura Huehn, Suzanne Justen, Ann and Don Morrison, Maja Thomas, and Usha Viswanathan

THANKS TO THE ADVISORY SCREENING PANEL

Abigail Altman, Mathilde Augé, Carly Bisek, Pamela Combastet, Mike Duffy, Claire Hargreaves, Aimee Kelley, Adele Kudish, Brian Manning, Ann Morrison, Sylvi Stein, and Usha Viswanathan



1. Sue Prideaux with her one-of-a-kind Book Award Special Edition of *Wild Thing: A Life of Paul Gauguin*
2. Its twin edition has joined the Library's Special Collections along with previous winners
3. Visiting Fellow R.O. Kwon and Programs Coordinator Emma Schumann
- 4-5. The ceremony at the George C. Marshall Center
6. Henley Johnson
7. Jean Coyner, Marguerite Le Roy, and Leslie de Galbert
8. Trustees Audrey Rohan and Nathalie Hobbs, Executive Director Audrey Chapuis, and Trustee William Kelly
9. Guests perusing the evening program
10. Book Award Patron Suzanne Justen
11. Chief of Staff Maisie Fieschi, Communications Lead Alexandra Fernández Coego, and Advisory Council Chair Ishtar Méjanès

Photos © Augusta Sagnelli



ILLUMINATE

MAKING HISTORY ACCESSIBLE AND ENGAGING FOR EVERYONE

Board of Trustees Chair Jill Le Grand at the Library's Open House.

BRINGING OUR HISTORY TO THE PRESENT

Now in their third year, our **History Tours** have become a fixture of the Library's public programming. Most Friday mornings at 10 rue du Général Camou, docent Mayanne Wright leads visitors through more than a century of institutional history: from the millions of books sent to Europe during World War I that seeded our collection, to the legendary American and French writers who championed the Library and browsed our stacks. In 2025, 37 tours welcomed 450 participants, a testament to the enduring curiosity that the Library's history inspires.

The **1920s** edition of the Tour remained especially popular throughout the year, drawing audiences eager to explore the dazzling early decade of the Library, and building momentum ahead of the Library's second edition of Les Années Folles, an evening of jazz and literature celebrating our 1920s heritage.

THE LIBRARY AS A LIVING ARCHIVE

Among the most meaningful visits to the Library were those from former staff and their families, whose memories brought our institutional history to life in ways no document can fully capture. A **descendant of World War II staff members** Helen Fickweiler and Peter Oustinoff came to the Library, arriving, by happy coincidence, on the same day as one of Professor Oustinoff's former students.

A group of staff members from the 1960s-70s also paid a visit, helped identify colleagues in archival photographs, and shared vivid recollections of the Library's swinging years.

RECOVERING OUR TREASURES

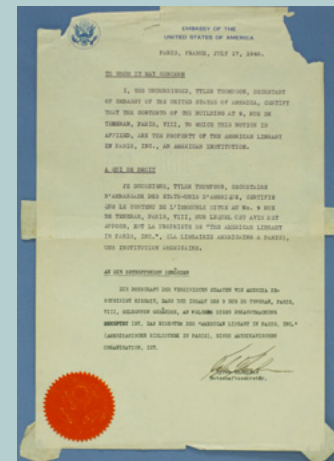
Tucked behind the Members' Lounge lies a physical archive of rare documents, photographs, and volumes. The Library has accumulated an extraordinary legacy but, inevitably, lost pieces of it along the way. Items that once belonged to our collections have scattered: plaques removed from walls, first editions tragically weeded from shelves, archives dispersed across time and circumstance.

In 2025, the Library launched ***Treasures from the Archives***, a collective campaign to identify, acquire, and restore objects with a direct connection to our story. Supporters across the Library's network directed their contributions toward specific items, ensuring that objects at risk of being lost are instead preserved, restored, and made available to all.

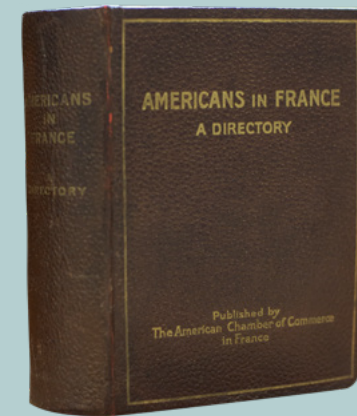
The inaugural campaign launched at our December 2025 Open House and was met with immediate generosity, with every item fully funded.

TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES

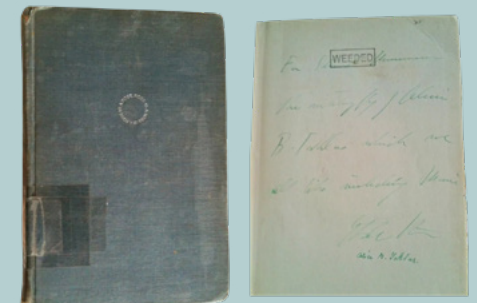
Once conserved, each item will take its place in our Special Collections and be accessible to scholars, researchers, and any members with a curiosity about books and history.



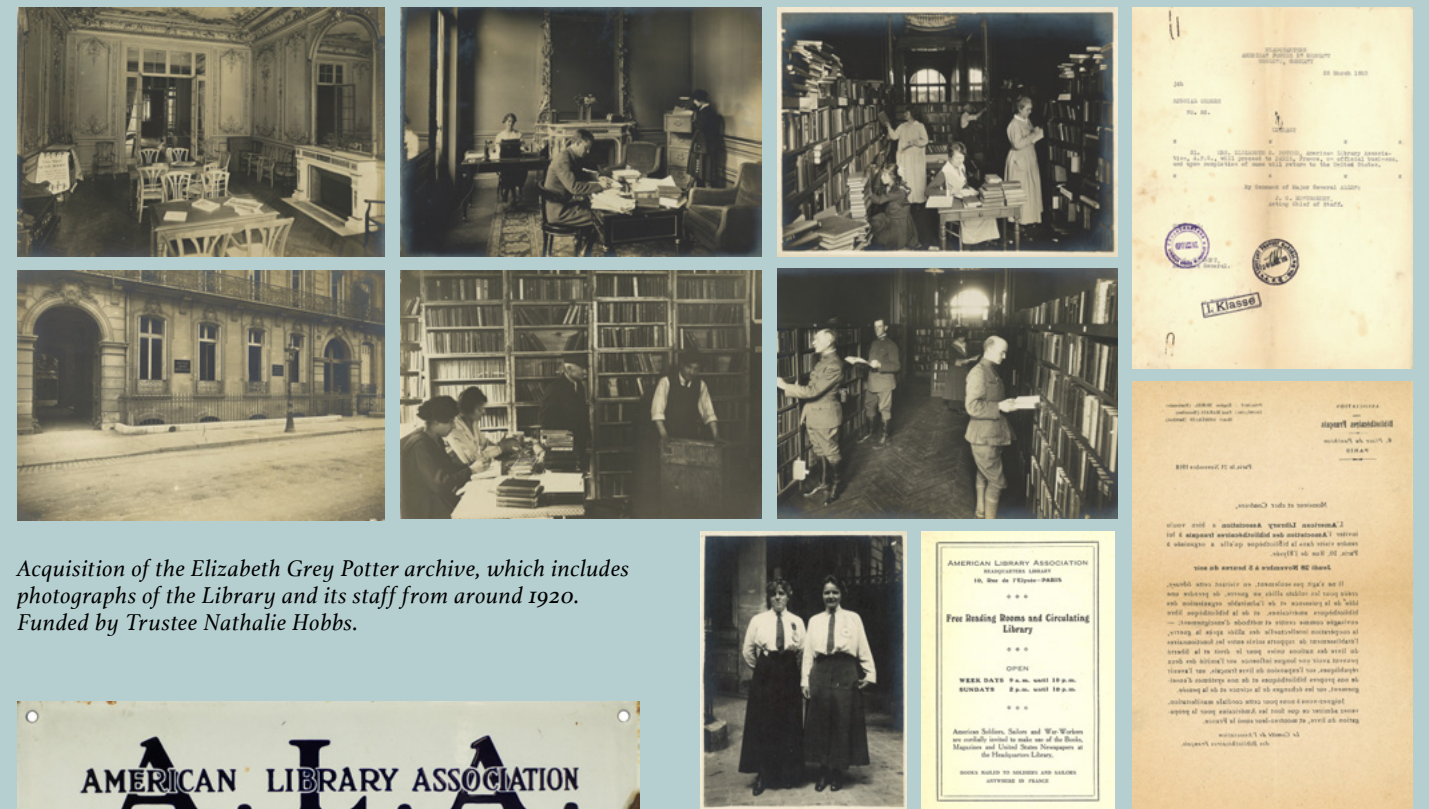
Conservation and framing of the U.S. Embassy July 1940 door notice that marked the Library as an American, not French, institution, thus helping protect it during the Occupation. Funded by Trustee Laura Wenke.



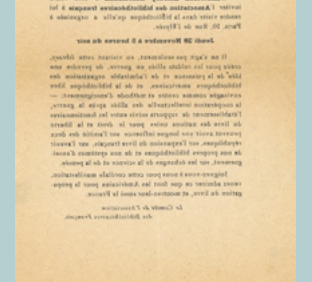
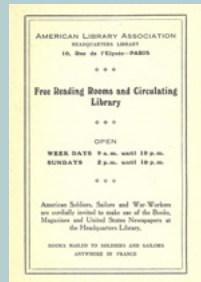
Acquisition and preservation of *Americans in France: A Directory*, Vol. 1 (1925) a rare and fragile directory of Americans businesses and residents, including hundreds of journalists, writers, and artists. Funded by Lisa Hines and former Director Robert Grattan.



Acquisition of a signed first edition of *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas* that originally been in the collection of the Library's long-closed Nantes branch. Funded with gifts from Trustee Maja Thomas in honor of Susan Batton, Lorna and Gerald Newman, and contributions from Marcelline Dormont, Teresa Taylor, and Robert Tomlinson.



Acquisition of the Elizabeth Grey Potter archive, which includes photographs of the Library and its staff from around 1920. Funded by Trustee Nathalie Hobbs.



Acquisition of a War Service Library plaque, the World War I book program that helped seed the American Library in Paris. Funded by Board of Trustees Vice Chair Steven Gerber.



Curator of Cultural Programs Rachel Donadio with filmmakers Ken Burns, David McMahon, and Sarah Burns at Cinéma Le Champ.



FINDING NEW WAYS OF SEEING, TOGETHER

Spring 2025 marked the return of *Ways of Seeing*, our series exploring how literature and visual art inspire each other. The Library welcomed a constellation of cultural luminaries in sold-out events: Maira Kalman, whose whimsical *New Yorker* covers and picture books have captivated readers for decades; Ken Burns, whose landmark documentary *The Civil War* set a new standard for historical storytelling; Michael Pollan, author of the celebrated *The Omnivore's Dilemma*; and Pulitzer winner Jhumpa Lahiri.



Our flagship program
Evenings with an
Author, sponsored by
GRoW @ Annenberg
continued hosting

exceptional voices across the worlds of politics, art, and culture, including Sam Tanenhaus on *Buckley* and the rise of modern conservatism, Jean Strouse on John Singer Sargent and his friendship with Henry James, and a rare behind-the-scenes window into one of France's most storied literary prizes, the Prix Médicis.

A CURATED CALENDAR

This year marked a deliberate shift toward a more intentional events program, following the creation of the role of Curator of Cultural Programs in late 2024. Under the direction of writer and journalist Rachel Donadio, the season offered a **curated calendar** of 46 events, drawing steadily fuller houses as average attendance climbed from 43 to 59 people per event.



JANUARY

Rachel Kushner on *Creation Lake*
Meghan O'Rourke on *The Invisible Kingdom*
Claire Messud on *This Strange Eventful History*
Crafting Personal Narratives with Melissa Febos
Maylis de Kerangal on *Canoes and Eastbound*

FEBRUARY

Rebuilding Notre-Dame: A Panel
An Alternative History of Paris with Justinien Tribillon
and Aaron Peck
Wheatley at 250: Celebrating the Legacy of America's First Published
African-American Poet

MARCH

Poverty, by America with Matthew Desmond and Lauren Collins
Ken Burns, Sarah Burns, and David McMahon
on Leonardo da Vinci
Seeking Pleasure in a Dying World with Visiting Fellow
C Pam Zhang and Ayşegül Savaş

APRIL

4. Ways of Seeing with Jhumpa Lahiri
Writing Characters from Family with Scholar of Note Sheila Kohler
The Crisis of Culture with Olivier Roy
The End Of Enlightenment with Visiting Fellow David A. Bell
Ways of Seeing with Maira Kalman

MAY

2. Ways of Seeing with Michael Pollan
Joan Didion and the Myths of Hollywood with Alissa Wilkinson
and Joanna Scutts
1. Meredith Whittaker, President of Signal
Jeremy Eichler on Music, Memory, and the Second World War

JUNE

Americans in Paris with Debra Bricker Balken and Éric de Chassey
David Chaffetz on *Raiders, Rulers, and Traders*
Adventures in the Louvre with Elaine Sciolino
3. Unexpected Endings with B.J. Novak

SEPTEMBER

The Art of Seeing with Thomas Schlessner and Alexandra Suich Bass
Ukraine's Past, Present, and Future: A Panel
How To Write About Africa: Celebrating the Legacy
of Binyavanga Wainaina
The Poetry of Becoming: Lessons in Looking with Scholar of Note
Lilly Dancyger
Sam Tanenhaus on William F. Buckley, Jr.

OCTOBER

Inside the CIA with Tim Weiner and Pierre Haski
Berthe Weill and the Parisian Avant-Garde with Curators
Lynn Gumpert and Sophie Eloy
Art Without Borders with Visiting Fellow R. O. Kwon and artist
Chloé Quenum
Stirring the Pot: Paris Dining Today

NOVEMBER

John Singer Sargent and Henry James: Painting and Prose
in a Gilded Age
Celebrating the Prix Médicis with Pascale Roze,
Marie Darrieussecq, and Anne Garréta
An Evening with Cultural Fellow Molly Ringwald
[Friends of the Library] The Englishman Who Created Parisian Haute
Couture with Stephen Clarke

DECEMBER

Open House at the Library – Discover, Celebrate, Support!
2025: The Year in Review: A Panel

5. *The Library* welcomed award-winning author Percival Everett and
French presenter Augustin Trapenard for the filming of an episode of
La Grande Librairie, France's premier prime-time literary program.

2025–26 VISITING FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS OF NOTE

The Visiting Fellowship Program at the American Library in Paris supports writers, thinkers, and scholars across disciplines who advance dialogue, creativity, and cross-cultural understanding.

Each year, Fellows and Scholars pursue their projects in Paris while contributing to the Library's cultural life through public talks and workshops.

OPENING NEW DOORS

In 2025, the Fellowship substantially **expanded the Library's cultural network** in Paris, opening doors for Fellows to access new research opportunities, forge meaningful institutional connections, and immerse themselves in the city's intellectual and creative communities.

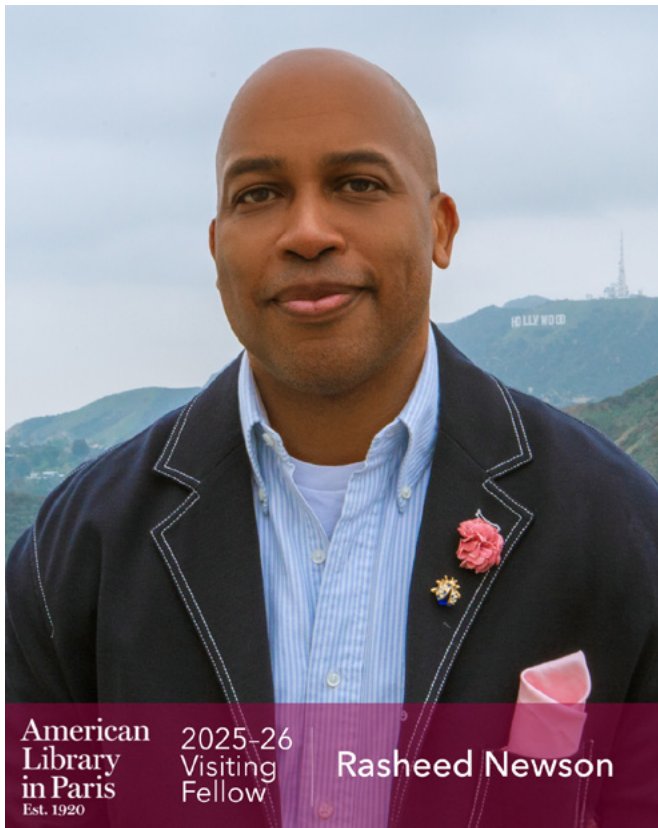
Fellows engaged with an exceptionally diverse range of institutions including La Galerie Dior, the Musée Yves Saint Laurent, and the Musée de la Légion d'Honneur; the Bibliothèque nationale de France and the Conservatoire national des Arts et Métiers; UNESCO, the International Council of Museums, and Interpol; and major art market venues such as Hôtel Drouot, Art Basel Paris, and AsiaNOW Art Festival.

ANNOUNCING THE NAMED DE GROOT FELLOWSHIP



Since its inception, the Visiting Fellowship has been made possible by the generous support of The de Groot Foundation.

In November 2025, the Library announced the establishment of the **named de Groot Visiting Fellowship Program**, a testament to Clydetta and Charles de Groot's faith in the Library's mission and the power of literature to bridge cultures. The de Groot Visiting Fellowship Program will annually fund two Visiting Fellows and three Scholars of Note, enabling recipients to immerse themselves in the Library's vibrant intellectual community.



American Library in Paris Est. 1920 2025-26 Visiting Fellow Rasheed Newson

2025–26 VISITING FELLOWS

R. O. Kwon is the author of the nationally bestselling novels *The Incendiaries* and *Exhibit*. At the Library, Kwon worked on her third novel, which is about a Korean-American woman who plans a heist of historically significant art. While the Library strives to go above and beyond to open research doors for Fellows, we had nothing to do with the Louvre heist that took place during Kwon's Fellowship.

Rasheed Newson is the author of the national bestseller *My Government Means to Kill Me*, a Lambda Literary finalist for Gay Fiction. At the Library, Newson explored our extensive archives of fashion magazines to do research for a novel about a gay, African-American male runway model who becomes a brief international sensation during Paris Fashion Week in 1992.

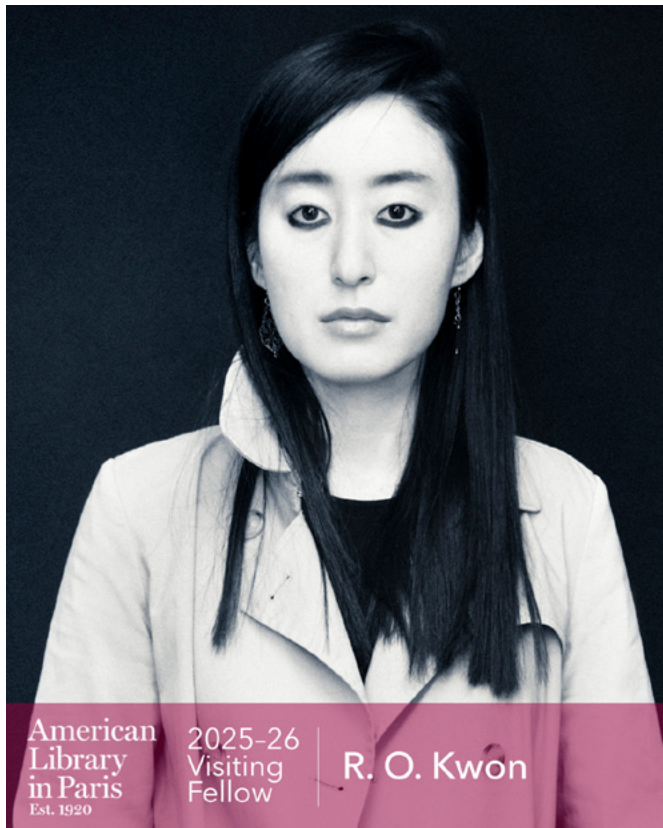
2025–26 SCHOLARS OF NOTE

The Scholar of Note distinction honors individuals whose applications to the Visiting Fellowship program stand out for their exceptional merit.

Lilly Dancyger is the author of *First Love: Essays on Friendship*, and *Negative Space*. At the Library, Dancyger worked on a book-length three-part essay about ballet as an art form and a physical practice, chronic pain, and the mind/body connection.

Dr. Eve L. Ewing is the award-winning author of *Original Sins: The (Mis)education of Black and Native Children and the Construction of American Racism*. At the Library, Ewing worked on a collection of essays about the joy and craft of bread.

Brenda Withers is a playwright, theater artist, and founding member of the Harbor Stage Company on Cape Cod. At the Library, Withers worked on the libretto for an original, Broadway-bound musical about the life of Julia Child.



American Library in Paris Est. 1920 2025-26 Visiting Fellow R. O. Kwon

2025 CULTURAL FELLOWS

During their Cultural Fellowship, the Library offers a stipend, accomodation, private office space, and unlimited access to the American Library's vast collections of books, digital resources, periodicals, and archives.



American Library in Paris Est. 1920 2025 Cultural Fellow Maira Kalman

Renowned artist, writer, and illustrator Maira Kalman was in residence at the Library in Spring 2025. Kalman is best known for her iconic *New Yorker* covers. On 30 April, the Library hosted Ways of Seeing with Maira Kalman at Maison de la Poésie to a sold-out crowd of 165 attendees, where Kalman shared insights into her singular career spanning illustration, storytelling, and design.



"Having a dedicated place where I go for an extended period of time was truly transformative for my process."

*Molly Ringwald,
Fall 2025 Cultural Fellow*



American Library in Paris Est. 1920 2025 Cultural Fellow Molly Ringwald

Celebrated actress, author, and translator Molly Ringwald was in residence at the Library in June 2025, where she worked on her next book about her years living in Paris. From her starring roles on screen to her literary work as an essayist and translator from French, Ringwald has built a career defined by reinvention and creative curiosity. On 18 November, Ringwald returned to the Library for an intimate conversation with *New Yorker* staff writer Lauren Collins.





EMPOWER

BUILDING BRIDGES OF KNOWLEDGE

AN IMPROVED RESEARCH SUITE

A major milestone was achieved in January with the **upgrade of EBSCOhost**, one of our online research platform, which gives members free access to a vast collection of e-books, magazine articles, and peer-reviewed journals. The redesigned platform features a sleeker interface, personalizable dashboards, and enhanced citation tools, making it easier than ever to navigate.

ART LOVERS, REJOICE!

In April, our members gained access to **Artstor**, a digital library of over two million high-quality images of artworks and artefacts from leading museums and archives worldwide. More than 40 exhibit catalogs from the American Center for Art and Culture were added to our Special Collection, with 70 books on American art and artists added to our circulating collection.

GROWTH THROUGH EXCHANGE

In March, the Library participated in two events organized by French public libraries to mark the **centennial of France's first children's library**, an initiative in which we played a founding role. Our Children's & Teens' team Celeste Rhoads and Laurine

Collardeau represented the Library at a bilingual French-English storytime at Médiathèque Françoise Sagan. Assistant Director Abigail Altman and Library Docent Mayanne Wright presented at "Ouvrir sur le monde," a symposium exploring the legacy of children's libraries in France.

In August, we welcomed back Leslie Burger, founder of Library Development Solutions and former President of the American Library Association. Burger began visiting and advising us in 2008. With two decades of institutional knowledge under her belt, Burger conducted a **comprehensive assessment of the Library's Front of House** operations and exchanged with our staff on their current challenges and goals.

A PORTABLE LIBRARY

In 2025, our members took their love of the Library wherever they went. Digital loans on OverDrive's Libby app hit 10,000 on 21 May, a full six weeks earlier than the year before, and **e-source logins climbed from 14,000 to nearly 18,000**. In total, our members borrowed 3,688 eBooks and 2,649 audiobooks, and it was a particularly great year for avid listeners: our audiobook collection leapt from 313 to 1,114 titles.

THE LIBRARY IN NUMBERS

2025 was a year of big changes for our collections. Over the summer, we rolled up our sleeves and did a serious and thoughtful weeding of our print books, trimming down from over 100,000 to 99,076 volumes to make space for fresh titles.

LIBRARY SERVICES

179,919

Print check-outs

99,076

Print books and other holdings

967

Average daily transactions

418

Average daily visits

OUR MEMBERS

5,149

Average active members

105

Nationalities represented

OUR COLLECTIONS ONLINE

46,985

eBooks

1,114

Audiobooks

17,748

e-source log-ins

12,298

e-magazines available online

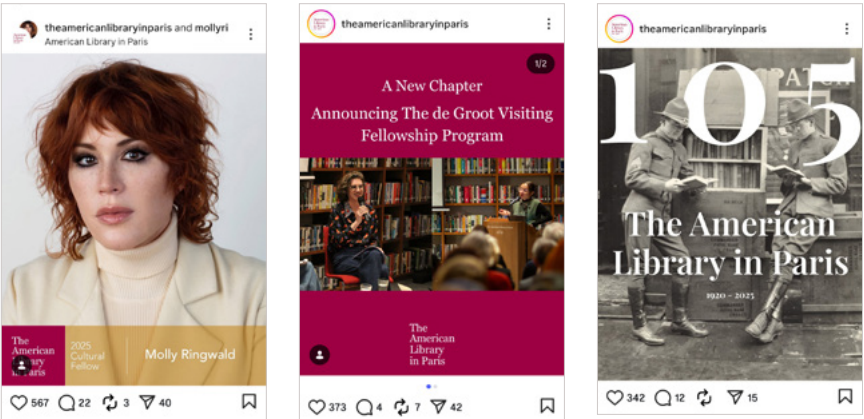
ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Aside from browsing and borrowing from our online collections, members tuned in to rewatch their favorite events on YouTube and steal a "behind-the-stacks" look at library life on our social media. On Instagram, our community grew from 9,947 to 11,912 followers. Our follower's favorite content ranged from a cinematic look at our Book Award Special Editions, to the Summer Reading Challenge recommendations—ideal for those looking for the perfect read in between dips in the Seine.

In 2025, our e-Libris newsletter maintained an average open rate of approximately 54%, more than double the nonprofit sector benchmark of 25%. The most-read edition was that of July, introducing the 2025–26 Visiting Fellows and Scholars of Note. Over the course of the year, the newsletter served as a meaningful fundraising channel, raising more than €13,000 in total, with the year-end appeal alone generating €6,450.



Our most-watched YouTube video was the recording of Ways of Seeing with Jhumpa Lahiri, with 10,000 views.



Our most-liked Instagram posts of 2025.

146,698

YouTube views

11,912

Instagram followers (up 19% on 2024)

54%

e-Libris average open rate (nearly twice the non-profit sector benchmark of ~25%)

TOP ADULT PRINT TITLES

Intermezzo
Sally Rooney

We Solve Murders
Richard Osman

James
Percival Everett

Tom Lake
Ann Patchett

Demon Copperhead
Barbara Kingsolver

TOP ADULT EBOOKS

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Mark Twain

The God of the Woods
Liz Moore

Dream Count
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Careless People
Sarah Wynn-Williams

Flashlight
Susan Choi

TOP ADULT AUDIOBOOKS

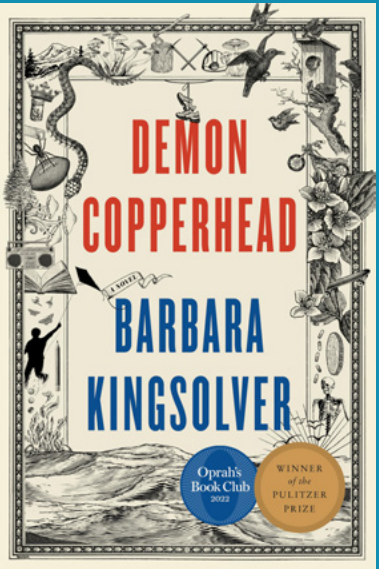
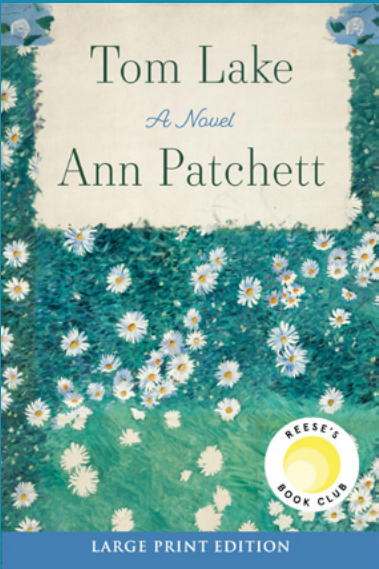
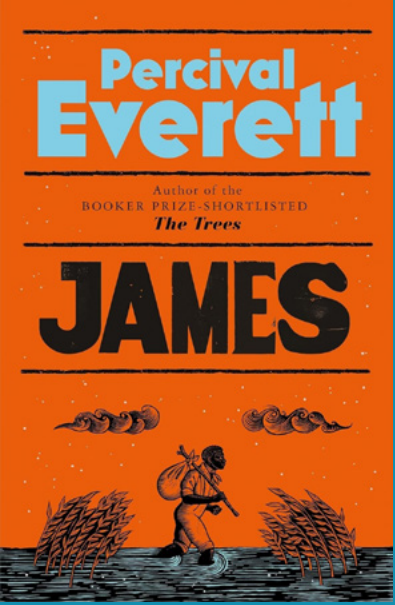
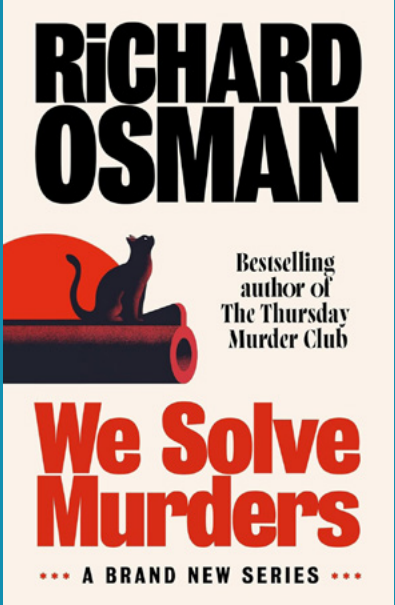
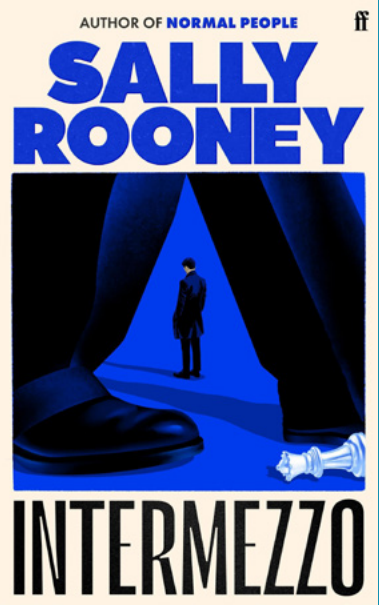
Pride and Prejudice
Jane Austen

Everything Is Tuberculosis
John Green

Careless People
Sarah Wynn-Williams

Great Beautiful Life
Emily Henry

A Tale of Two Cities
Charles Dickens



If there is something Paris lends itself to it's longingly gazing out windows and going down historical rabbit holes. Our adult readers' top genres in 2025 were Literary Fiction, followed by Historical Fiction, Mystery/Thriller, and Fantasy.

Top Circulating Early Readers' Titles

There is a Bird on Your Head (Elephant and Piggie) by Mo Willems
The Princess in Black by Shannon Hale
Fuzzy Yellow Ducklings: Fold-Out Fun by Matthew Van Fleet
Peppa Pig: My Daddy based on the TV series *Peppa Pig*
The Baddies by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler



Top Circulating Young Adult Titles

Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins
A Court of Thorns and Roses by Sarah J. Maas
One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus
Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan
The Cruel Prince by Holly Black



Top Circulating Children's Titles

Dog Man: Big Jim Begins by Dav Pilkey
Raina Telgemeier graphic novels (*Guts*, *Sisters*, *Drama*, *Smile*, *Ghosts*, *The Baby-Sitters Club* series)
Captain Underpants and the Terrifying Return of Professor Tippy Tinkletrousers by Dav Pilkey
The Bad Guys by Aaron Blabey
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: No Brainer by Jeff Kinney



Teen Clubs

Teen Writing Group
A space for aspiring writers to share ideas, get feedback, and work on technique.

Master Shot Film Club
A club to connect with other aspiring filmmakers, and work on high-quality short films.

Youth Leadership Program
An opportunity for teens to develop their public speaking skills, in partnership with Toastmasters.

Teen Advisory Group
A group to allow teens a greater voice at the Library and meet other bookworms.

FROM CAMPUS TO OUR STACKS

The Library welcomed a **wide range of academic communities** through its doors in 2025. Through the year, 83 students from the Paris College of Art, Parsons, the University of Kent, ACCENT, Paris Accueil, the Architectural Institute of Paris, and the University of London in Paris took part in tailored orientations.

In 2025, we fostered **55 institutional partnerships with local schools, universities, and cultural organizations**. These collaborations remain one of the most tangible ways the Library extends its mission beyond its walls, offering each group a chance to engage with our collection, our archives, and our place in the cultural life of Paris.

Accent - Global Learning
American Association of Women in Europe (AAWE)
American Church
American Embassy
American School of Paris
American University of Paris
AIA (Association Internationale des Anciens de l'OECE et de l'OCDE; International Association of Former OEEC and OECD Staff)
Architectural Institute Paris
Australian Embassy
Bilingual International School of Paris
Bilingual Montessori School of Paris
British Council
British Embassy
Camille See Collège et Lycée
Columbia University
Columbia Institute for Ideas & Imagination
Eclosia School
École Alsacienne
École Jeannine Manuel
École Jeannine Manuel, Parents of Alumni
École Massillon
EIB Étoile Lycée
EIB Grenelle
Ellipse Montessori Academy
Eurécole
Grandchêne Section Internationale
ICS Paris
Institut de La Tour
Institut Supérieur de Gestion
International School of Paris
Istituto Marangoni School of Fashion

Kingsworth School
Lennen Bilingual School
Lycée International American Section
Marymount International School
Message Paris
New York University
Notre Dame International High School
OECD/ALORA
Open Sky International School
Paris College of Art
Le Petit Cours du Rocher
Sainte-Marie de Neuilly
Schiller University
Boy and Girl Scouts
Sorbonne: Département des Langues, Faculté des Sciences et Ingénierie
Stanford University
Union School Paris
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IGNITE

INSPIRING LOVE FOR LEARNING

2025 Young Authors Fiction Festival celebration. © Augusta Sagnelli

LOVE BEYOND BOOKS

In 2025, the Library ran **208 programs** for kids and teens. In total, 5,147 young readers, aged 0 to 18, filled the Children’s Library and the Teen Mezzanine for storytimes, workshops, and activities every week of the year. Programming included scavenger hunts, movie nights, mending workshops, and pie tastings to nurture a love for books and libraries that goes beyond reading.

A highlight of 2025 was the panel **Why We Love Mythology**, an interactive discussion for children, teens, and adults on the power of myth and folklore. Our Social Impact Fellow Julia Paré was joined by Dr. Anne Chassagnol and authors Tom Pollock, Shana Targosz, and Tracey Baptiste, to discuss their process and inspiration when making new books out of fairy tales, Roman and Greek mythology, and Caribbean folklore.

YOUNG AUTHORS FICTION FESTIVAL 2025

The Young Authors Fiction Festival (YAFF) is open to young writers from Kindergarten/*Grande Section* through 12th Grade/*Terminale* who write in English. In 2025, we received **1,095 stories** from students enrolled in over 100 schools throughout France.

The winning and finalist entries were compiled in two YAFF Celebration Booklets which joined the Library’s collection. The selection included standout stories like the funny and sharp “Lulu and Me” by Flore Vigoreux, and Isabella Peterson’s suspenseful “The Six Hours Before Neil Dies.” A warm thank you to all participating schools, to Association EBN for their generous donation, and to the British Council for their continued support of the Festival.



SPOOKTACULAR FUN

On 25 October, the **Halloween Extravaganza** celebrations invited children of all ages, teens, and families to spend a day of ghostly fun at the Library. As is tradition, trick-or-treaters toured our neighborhood and its businesses, then returned with their loot for an afternoon of spooky crafts and chilling adventures. Come the night, the adults joined in the fun with an after-hours party, sipping on their Gin-Eyre cocktails while getting their fortunes read and playing board games. A costume contest saw a wide range of entries, from timeless characters to topical cultural moments (cue the Mona Lisa in a sticky situation below.)

NEW BOARD GAME COLLECTION

The Library expanded its **board game collection**, now housing 84 games and puzzles to suit every type of player, from strategists and wordsmiths to young players and party gamers. Classics such as Chess and Scrabble now sit alongside modern favorites like Unstable Unicorns and Skyjo, all housed in the new Board Games Nook in the Members’ Lounge. The Library organised three Board Game sessions in 2025, welcoming a combined 66 participants. These afternoons became a lively addition to our program of community events and offered a competitive but friendly setting for fun in good company.

A Louvre heist at the evening Halloween costume party © Emil Hernon



The Library offers a rich variety of programs for young audiences, including Story Hour, Toddler Time, Saturday Series, and Workshops for ages 8–12 for children, as well as Weekend Workshops, Instructional Sessions, Friday Teen Nights, and College-Bound Information Sessions for teens. Special events and all-ages programs round out our offerings, ensuring there is something for everyone in the community.

CHILDREN’S AND TEENS’ EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Silly Ghosts
- Cool Costumes
- Indigenous People
- Black History Scavenger Hunt
- The View From The Stage
- Your Summer Travel Journal
- Creating Poetry with Adrienne Eberhard
- Winter Wonderland: A New Year’s Celebration
- Dance, Sing, Jump: A Family Dance Party!
- Mock Caldecott Celebration
- Summer Reading Cup
- The 13th Annual Literary Reaping
- Making and Mending with Ella Springer
- Music Together with Stacey Pavesi Debré
- Why We Love Mythology with Julia Paré, Tracey Baptiste, Anne Chassagnol, Tom Pollock, and Shana Targosz
- Thanksgiving Pie Tasting
- The Joy of Reading Picture Books with Bruce Handy
- Heure du Conte Bilingue at Bibliothèque Germaine Tillion
- Heure du Conte Bilingue at Médiathèque François Sagan
- Fairy-Tales: A Writing Workshop with Noah Weisz
- Writing Historical Fiction: A Writing Workshop with Amy Plum
- Write Against the Machine: Making the Most of AI Tools with Amber Auer
- Romance Writing with Amy Plum
- Cookie Bake-Off
- Writing From Life with Charlene Allen
- Classic Movie Night
- Escape the Library
- Flash Fiction with Jane Mobille
- Rock Quiz Nite with Rock U.
- Finding the Best Fit University with Ashley Miller
- U.S. University Admissions: What to Do and When with Kazz Regelman
- Study Hacks for Teens: Managing School and Life with Ashley Miller



Photos from top to bottom: Halloween Extravaganza at the Library © Krystal Kenney; Our Assistant Librarian Laurine Collardeau with the prized Summer Reading Cup award; Social Impact Fellow Julia Paré led A View from the Stage, a workshop exploring Greek theater; kids in the Children’s and Teens’ Library.

THE VOLUNTEERS WHO POWER THE LIBRARY
Among other duties, volunteers are responsible for shelving the Library’s collection and **play a vital role in key events throughout the year**, from our Halloween celebrations to the Book Award ceremony.

Our volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds: students seeking hands-on experience, working professionals looking for meaningful engagement, newcomers to Paris eager to join a vibrant community, and retirees contributing their time and expertise to a cause they value.

In 2025, the Library benefited from the dedication of 141 individual volunteers, who contributed a total of 6,134 hours—equivalent to 3.7 full-time staff members.

141
Volunteers

6,134 = 3,7
Volunteer hours representing full-time staff members



Our volunteer Bill Huff honored at the 2026 Annual Gala © Krystal Kenney



VOLUNTEERS

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Marcela Garces
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Shaan Patel
Annette Rodrigues
Ilya Rosenbaum
Vivien Scholtes
Lily Thébaut
Kodak Tondro
Tuesday Tondro

Evenings with an Author, Sponsored by GRoW @ Annenberg

Aryan Agarwal
Maria Alas
Charles Babu
Anthony Bassil
Marylou Baudrand
Precious Brown
Fernanda Brun
Chris Chapman
Juana Gomez
John Gridley
Nathalie Hobbs
Bill Huff
Stephanie Jarr
Mary Stacy Keith-Reibell
Wendy Laughton
Bryan Liu
Emily Lundquist

Clare Mattok
Francisco Mendez
Paige Miller
Alli Mofor
Margaret Morris
Aye Myat Nyein
Caoimhe O’Broin
June Paver
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Hannah Peteril
Janine Quigley
Nandita Srinivasan
Savin Sunny
Tara Traye
Avighna Vengadassalam
Kate Woodman

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Ali Al-Dhobee
Inbal Alon
Amber Auer
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Hayley Baldwin
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Clarence Tokley
Willow Webb
Carol Weinfeld
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GATHERING AROUND THE PAGE

The Library’s volunteer-led Book Groups provide members with a welcoming space to explore a diverse range of titles, from prize-winning new releases and celebrated classics to lesser-known works that might otherwise have gone undiscovered, all while fostering lively discussion and a shared love of reading.

Strangers in a Strange Land
Led by Mary Harries Magnusson

Mystery Book Group
Led by Maureen Paget and Barbara Grasset

Memoir Book Group
Led by Leslie de Galbert and Clydette de Groot

Pandora’s Box: Contemporary Anglophone Literature Unpacked
Led by Rodrigo Sebastian

Prize-Winning American and British Plays
Led by Hilary Kaiser

The Reading Journalers
Led by Suzie Lust

Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman: Feminism at a Crossroads
Led by Victoria Robert

Explorations at the Limits of our Knowledge
Led by Maurice Lanman and Laurie Calvet

Origins of Tragedy: Ancient Greek Plays
Led by Mary Spencer

Choose Your Own Adventure
Led by Amber Haggerty

Queer Womanhood: Fiction and Memoir
Led by Madison Haussy

The Art of Writing: Paris Where the Heart Is
Led by Precious Brown

Contemporary French Fiction
Led by Helen Stanton

War and Peace: A Year-Long Slow Reading
Led by Anubha Momin

Writer’s Book Club: Discussing Our Fictions
Led by Peter Villani and Chama El Bousserghini

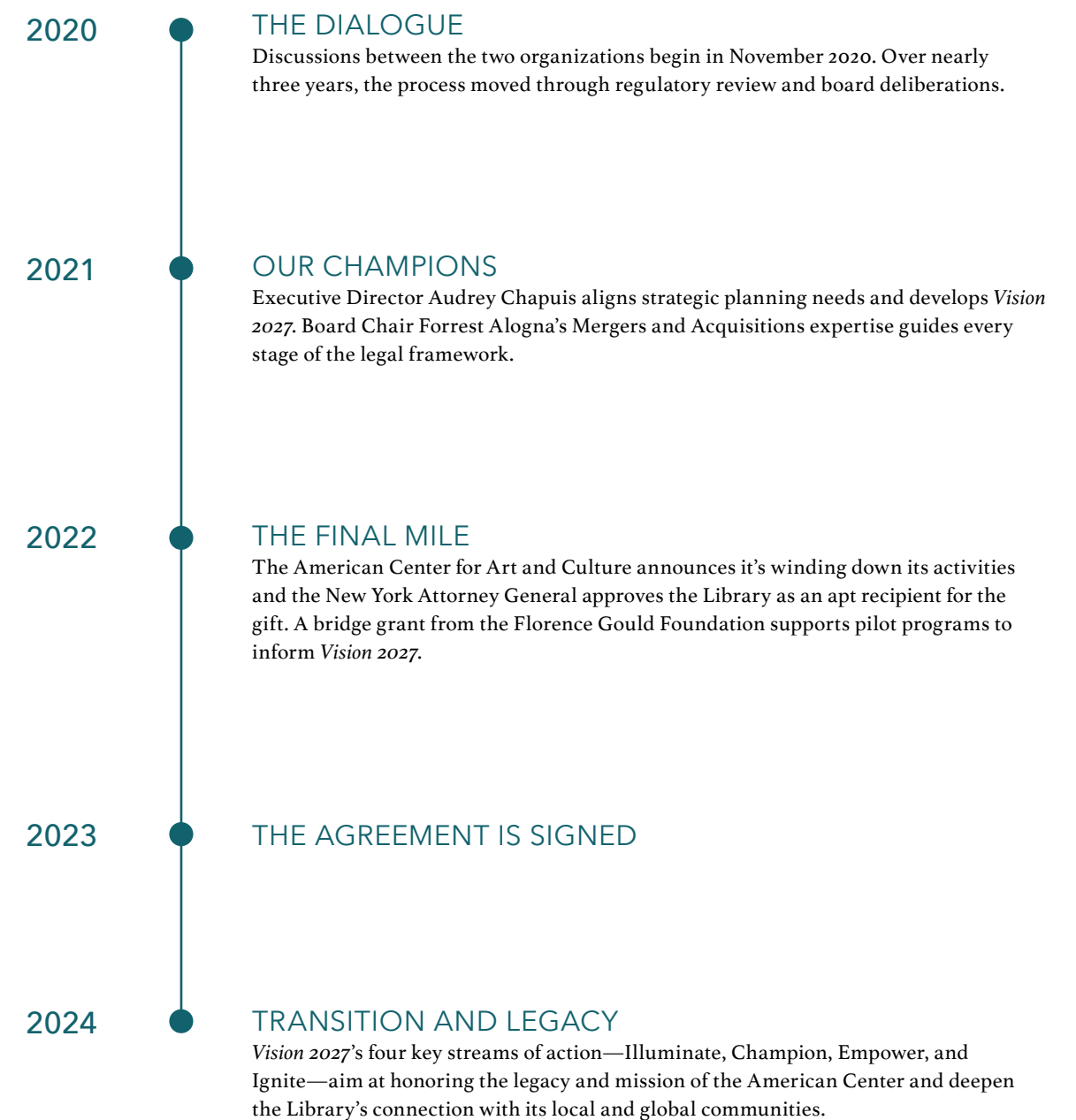
America Today
Led by Pamela Combastet and Beth Wintersteen

VISION 2027 IN ACTION

Vision 2027 is our commitment to ensuring the Library remains as vital in the future as it has been over the past century. It sets out a clear path: to make our collections and programs more accessible, to support learning across generations, and to champion writers, readers, and thinkers in Paris and beyond.

THE STORY OF A TRANSFORMATIVE GIFT

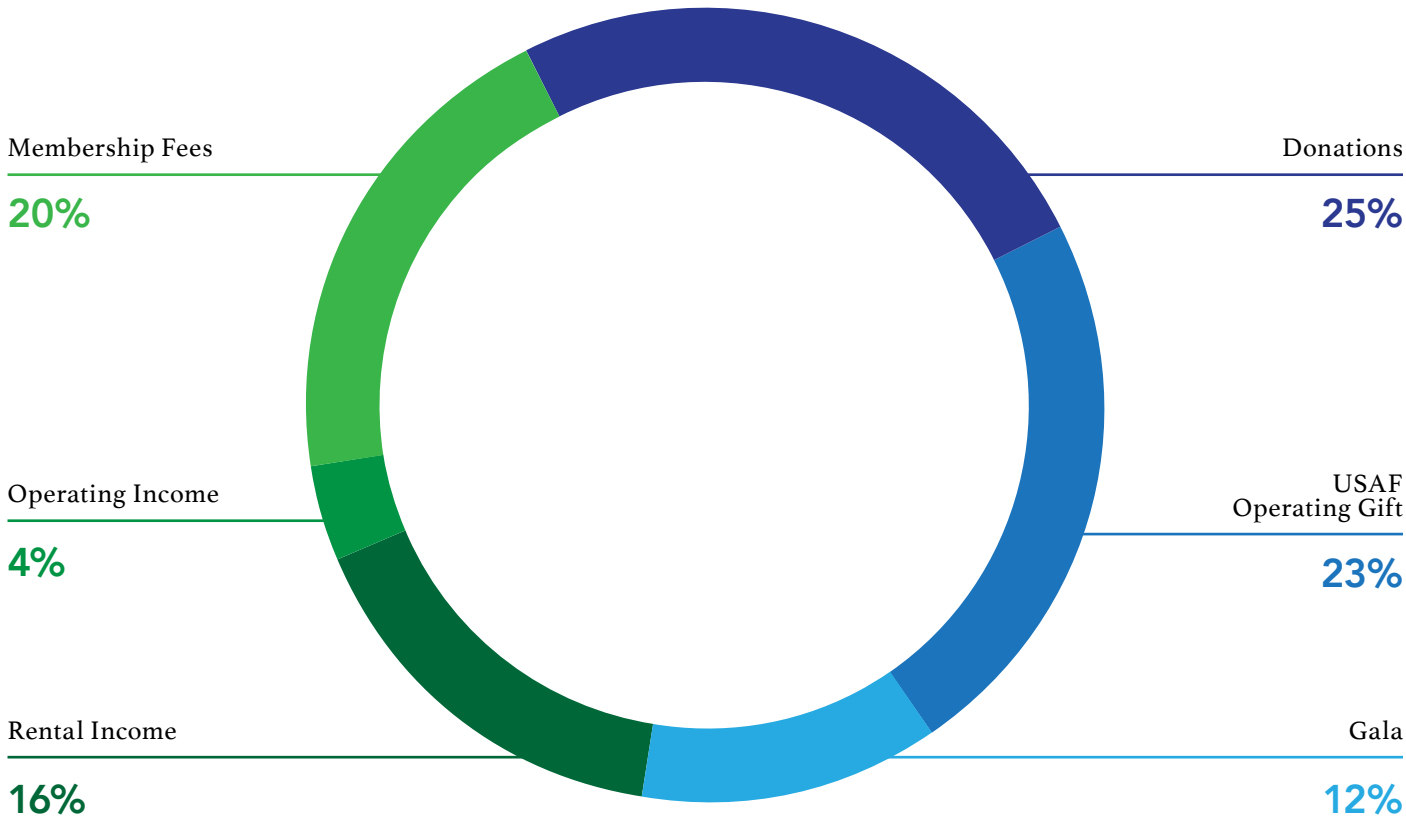
When the American Center for Art and Culture announced in December 2022 that it would wind down its activities, the question of where its legacy would land was one of real consequence. The net proceeds from the sale of its *hôtel particulier* were to serve a compatible cultural mission, and the American Library in Paris was the answer.



FINANCIAL DATA

Sources: Audited annual financial statements of the American Library in Paris, Inc. These statements, as well as those from the American Library in Paris USA Foundation, are available upon request.

AMERICAN LIBRARY IN PARIS, INC. 2025 INCOME BREAKDOWN



STATEMENT OF 2025 INCOME AND EXPENSES

REVENUES			EXPENSES		
	2024	2025		2024	2025
Membership Fees	€418,406	€435,155	Payroll	€1,020,202	€1,029,390
Operating Income	€127,213	€85,050	Building, Tax	€244,380	€238,553
Rental Income	€336,311	€357,704	Depreciation	€179,699	€177,863
USAF Operating Gift ⁽⁴⁾	€180,000	€525,000	Professional Services	€190,243	€375,227
Gala	€276,500	€256,365	Books and Periodicals	€145,596	€148,834
Other Donations	€509,100	€562,241	Programs and Development	€217,148	€251,259
Other Income ⁽¹⁾	€123,608	€66,558	Office Expenses	€108,416	€113,693
Total	€1,971,138	€2,288,073	Other ⁽¹⁾	€41,761	€136,211
	\$2,226,006	\$2,583,921	Total ⁽²⁾	€2,147,445	€2,471,030
				\$2,425,110	\$2,790,534

⁽¹⁾ Mostly accounting impact of foreign exchange translation. Amount not included in pie chart.
⁽²⁾ 61% of total expenditures were allocated to program-based services
⁽³⁾ The average exchange rate for 2025 was 1.1293 U.S.\$ for 1€
⁽⁴⁾ The American Library in Paris USA Foundation—a separately incorporated U.S. entity—advances the Library’s mission by stewarding endowed and designated funds for long-term impact. Built over time through the generosity of our donors and capital campaigns, the endowment reached \$38M at year-end 2025, thanks in part to a transformative gift from the American Center for Art and Culture in 2024. This support fuels new and expanded programming, while core operations continue to rely on the ongoing generosity of our community.



GIVING

Advisory Council member Mary Mackay.

A LIBRARY BUILT ON TRUST, SUSTAINED BY LOYALTY

For more than a century, the Library has been shaped by philanthropy, sustained by readers, and devoted to curiosity, literature, and the free exchange of ideas. Last year, its role as an independent American library felt more necessary than ever. As such, donors gave not only to support our work, but to affirm the values the Library has long embodied.

The Library raised €778,396 in 2025, up 10.7% on 2024, outpacing charitable giving in France, where it rose just 1.9% in 2024.⁽¹⁾

Our donors' commitment tells a story of confidence. Since 2016, sixteen donors gave without interruption across the full decade, contributing a combined €1.3 million. A further 110 donors are currently on an active streak of five years or more, representing €3.47 million in lifetime giving.

As throughout much of the Library's history, donations from individual U.S. citizens remained central to that support. Yet the community sustaining the Library continues to stretch across borders, reflecting a place that is American in origin, Parisian in setting, and international in spirit.

110 donors on an active streak of 5 years or more

€3.47 million
in lifetime giving

⁽¹⁾ 2025 figures not yet available.

+10.7%

Year-on-year growth

€778,396

Total raised in 2025, including special gifts

16

Donors who gave every single year for the past 10 years

110

Donors who gave every single year for the past 5 years

€109,427

Fall Appeal — up 55% on 2024

630

Total donors in 2025

12+

Nationalities represented

Development Coordinator Maria Bodmer at the Library's Open House, December 2025.



GALA 2025



The Library's Annual Gala is a celebration of all that the Library stands for: a century-strong tradition of free inquiry, cultural exchange, and community rooted in curiosity.

Top: Honoree Erik Larson being interviewed by France 24's Erin Ogunkeye. Bottom: Trustee Steven Gerber. © Krystal Kenney



On 4 June, the Annual Gala Dinner brought together 235 friends and special guests at the Automobile Club for an unforgettable evening in honor of bestselling author Erik Larson and in support of the Library.

In conversation with France 24's Erin Ogunkeye, Larson charted his writing journey "from the dark country of no ideas" to the completed page. This year's Gala embraced the spirit of internationalism and innovation, inspired by Larson's *The Devil in the White City* and the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. A dramatic reading of Larson's masterpiece brought the era to life, each table name paid homage to a different historic pavilion, and our guests played the part of eccentric pioneers in an animated invention game.

The Gala is the Library's single largest source of annual gifts, and a major driving force behind our efforts to expand access to knowledge, inspire creative expression, and strengthen the sense of belonging that defines our community.

To the sponsors, donors, speakers, and guests: thank you. Your support ensures the continuation of the Library's legacy in Paris and beyond.



2025 GALA SPONSORS

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Ishtar Méjanès
Luis Roth and Jennifer Dalrymple
Mary Lee and Ed Turner
Marshall and Deborah Wais
Laura and Mark Yockey

Top: Gala Table sponsors enjoyed exclusive access to the rooftop of the Automobile Club overlooking Place de la Concorde. Bottom: USAF Board Member Marshall and Deborah Wais. © Krystal Kenney





1. Christine Gleason, Erik Larson, and former Director Charles Trueheart
2. Mary Lee Turner and Jane Greenman
3. Trustee Andrew Plump and Elaine Sciolino
4. Ajiri Aki and Patrick Chapuis
5. Trustee Maja Thomas, Marie Armande de Sparre, and Michel Monsaingeon
6. The Automobile Club's Bibliothèque Clément-Bayard
7. Jade Vu Henry and Philippe Paré
8. Elizabeth Lasdon, Trustee Audrey Rohan and Gordon Golding
9. Library member Eli Shanker giving a dramatic reading
10. Trustee Laura Wenke
11. Erin Ogunkeye and Book Award Chair John Burnham Schwartz

Photos © Krystal Kenney



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Clydette and Charles de Groot	Ishtar Méjanès

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Kathryn Portle	John and Francie Plough Seder
Charlotte Puckette	Howard and Catherine Shinker
Susan Rappaport	Nicole Siezien
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Anne-Sophie Renauld	J.B. Stigwood
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IN MEMORIAM

PHILIPPE LABRO

Philippe Labro, member of our Writers Council, passed away in June 2025. He was the author of 17 books of fiction and nonfiction, directed motion pictures, composed popular lyrics, wrote for magazines and newspapers, and served as a radio and television executive. In 2010, he became Commander of the Légion d’Honneur.

ELIZABETH VENANT

Elizabeth Venant passed away in May 2025. She was an avid reader, gardener, and published many poetry books and journalistic articles during her career. At the Library, she’ll be remembered as a friend and valued member of the Memoir Book Group.

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Assistant Librarian — Adult Services
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a June–June calendar. The above
represents the Board of Trustees
from June 2025 to June 2026.*

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