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JEFFERSON BRANCH LIBRARY  
VASSIE D. WRIGHT MEMORIAL

2211 West Jefferson Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California



Vassie D. Wright

Celebrating a Refurbished and Improved Library  
DEDICATION CEREMONIES

Thursday, June 6, 1985

9:30 A.M.



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

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# Highlights Of The Jefferson Branch Library History 1912-1985

## 1912-13

The Jefferson Branch Library began as a station in a drug store at 2100 W. Jefferson St.

## 1915

As a result of a petition from the community, led by a local realtor, Fred E. Strong, to the Library Board for more permanent library services, a sub-branch was opened in November, 1915, in a rented store in a new building at 2065 W. Jefferson St.

## 1920

In response to heavy usage of the library by the residents, the branch was promoted at the close of the fiscal year 1919/20 from a sub-branch to the group called "rented branches." Staff and service hours were increased.

## 1922

The Library Board secured a lot at 2211 W. Jefferson St., one block west of the rented store location. C. E. Norenberg, architect, designed a building of modified Spanish style, frame construction, with stucco exterior.

## 1923

The new building was presented to the community during the first week of November, 1923.

## 1928-29

The rapid growth of the branch was not anticipated when the building was planned. After five years in the new building, the book stock had increased by almost 150%, exceeding the planned book capacity. Jefferson became one of the ten busiest branch libraries in the City.

## 1930's

Depression years saw a reduction in staff and funds to buy books, accompanied by large increases in usage. Changes in the ethnic makeup of the community took place during this period. By 1936, the pattern was well established; Caucasians, Blacks, Japanese and small percentages of other groups, e.g. Jewish, Mexican and Russian.

## 1945

Our Authors Study Club was organized February 14, 1945, by Vassie D. Wright.

## 1949

The Branch Librarian reported that "according to a recent issue of the Negro newspaper, **The Tribune**, the Jefferson district has the second largest Negro population in Los Angeles."

In February, Our Authors Study Club, led by Vassie D. Wright sponsored the first city-wide National Negro History Week.

## 1950-83

The community underwent many changes.

Throughout this period, the library served the residents with a variety of materials, including foreign language books and recordings.

## 1983

On October 16, the branch closed due to damage caused by an arson fire.

## 1984

On May 22, the Board of Library Commissioners adopted a resolution to rename the branch:

Los Angeles Public Library  
Jefferson Branch  
Vassie D. Wright Memorial

## 1985

On February 14, in honor of Black History Month, the Board of Library Commissioners passed a resolution honoring Vassie D. Wright for her many contributions to the community and announcing the branch would reopen bearing her name.

Extensive repair and renovation work was completed. The new building now features a lowered ceiling and improved lighting, carpeting throughout the facility, and air conditioning. Security measures, including wrought iron grills on windows and an intrusion alarm have been installed.

## Summer Hours:

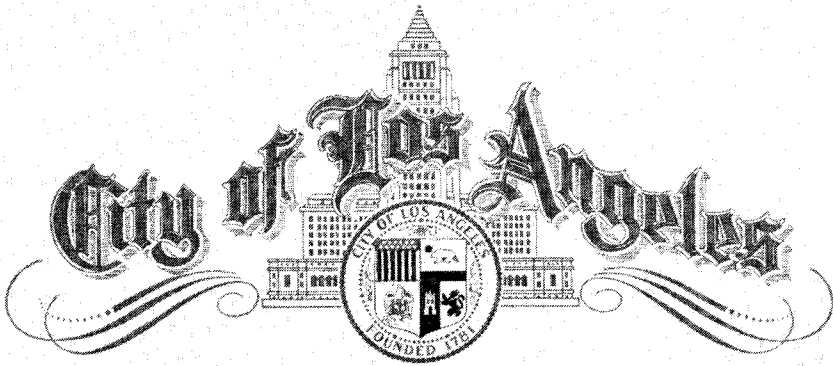
Monday - Thursday 12 noon - 5:30 p.m.;  
Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

## Location:

2211 Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018

## Branch Staff:

Branch Librarian: Frances Moriwaki  
Children's Librarian: Jannie L. Tracer  
Young Adult Librarian: Dhiren Dave  
Support Staff: Lyle E. Adams  
Renee M. Cooper  
Jane Shepard  
Gerald Turner  
Marilyn R. Willis




## R E S O L U T I O N


- WHEREAS, Vassie Davis Wright was the Founder-President of "Our Authors Study Club," the Los Angeles branch of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which has been credited with promoting revolutionary changes in the projection of Black contributions in American history and their inclusion in text books on both a state and national level; and
- WHEREAS, under her leadership the first city-wide Negro History Week celebrations were initiated in February, 1949, an observance which has grown to become Black History Month; and
- WHEREAS, Mrs. Wright initiated the first classes in Black History in the Los Angeles Adult schools at Dorsey and Manual Arts evening schools; and
- WHEREAS, she was a life member of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, and a member of the National Council of Negro Women, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, the Second Baptist Church, and the YWCA; and
- WHEREAS, during her lifetime, Mrs. Wright was an inspiration and a tireless advocate of understanding, tolerance and learning which will continue to enrich life in our community for generations to come:
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners recognizes the many contributions made by this remarkable woman and as a tangible expression of appreciation from the City of Los Angeles adopts as the name of its branch library at 2211 West Jefferson Boulevard the JEFFERSON BRANCH LIBRARY - VASSIE D. WRIGHT MEMORIAL.

February 14, 1985



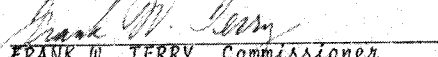
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