

Quality and Productivity Commission Honors Departments for Improving Services to Women Veterans



Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, CEO Sachi A. Hamai, Quality and Productivity Commission Chair Rodney C. Gibson present a Top Ten PQA honor to Ruth Wong, Military and Veterans Affairs; Sheryl Spiller, DPSS; Dr. Marvin J. Southard, Mental Health; Lisa M. Garrett, Human Resources; Yolanda De Ramus, Public Library; and BOS Fifth District representatives, for the Women’s Veterans Program.

The Women’s Veterans Program, an effective collaboration between the Departments of Military and Veterans Affairs, Public Social Services, Mental Health, Human Resources, Public Library, and the Board of Supervisors Fifth District, received a Top Ten Productivity and Quality Award (PQA) at the 29th annual recognition ceremony, held in October at the Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The program included a series of monthly seminars facilitated by subject matter experts, who focused on issues specific to women veterans.

In addition, County departments used social media and worked closely with other government agencies and community organizations to connect women veterans directly with a wide range of services, including housing, healthcare, and Social Security benefits.

<p>Calendar of Events.....2 Library Hosts Chinese Delegation.....3 Rancho Los Amigos Helps War Veterans.....4 Preventing Kitchen Fires.....5</p>	<p>HIGHLIGHTS Volume 47 Issue 11</p>	<p>L.A. County Holiday Celebration.....6 Adopt-A-Family Program.....7 Snow/Fireworks/Boat Parade.....8 Retirees/Rideshare L.A. County.....9</p>
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Calendar of Events

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

(323) 857-6010

www.lacma.org

Through January 10 – AKTION! Art and Revolution in Germany, 1918-19

Through February 7 – The Magic Medium

Through February 21 – Diana Thater: The Sympathetic Imagination

Through March 20 – Frank Gehry

Through July 4 – Vitality of New Forms

Center Theatre Group

(213) 628-2772

www.centertheatregroup.org

Ahmanson Theatre

December 8 through January 17 – The Bridges of Madison County

Kirk Douglas Theatre

Through December 20 – Straight White Men

Mark Taper Forum

December 2 through January 10 – The Christians

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Through November 28 – Moby Dick

December 11 – Ukulele Christmas Orchestra Americana Edition

Through December 13 – Norma

Grand Park

www.grandparkla.org

(213) 972-8080

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday – Lunchtime Lunch Trucks

Every Wednesday and Friday – Lunchtime Yoga

November 29 through December 26 – Light Up the Holidays

Walt Disney Concert Hall

www.hollywoodbowl.com

(323) 850-2000

November 27 through November 29 – Dudamel & Bolle

December 1 – Chamber Music

December 3 through December 6 – Dudamel & Shaham

Visit <http://hr.lacounty.gov> for information on employment opportunities with the County of Los Angeles



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Check out the DIGEST at

<http://dhrdcap.co.la.ca.us/jic/digest/>



health talk



by *Christopher Metchnikoff, M.D.*
Physician Specialist, Internal Medicine
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

Influenza Season is Here!

Here’s how influenza (also called “the flu”) can hurt your family:

Influenza can make you, your children, or your parents really sick.

Influenza usually comes on suddenly. Symptoms can include high fever, chills, headaches, exhaustion, sore throat, cough, and all-over body aches. Some people say, “It felt like a truck hit me!” Symptoms can also be mild. Regardless, when influenza strikes your family, the result is lost time from work and school.

Influenza spreads easily from person to person.

An infected person can spread influenza when they cough, sneeze, or just talk near others. They can also spread it by touching or sneezing on an object that someone else touches later. And, an infected person doesn’t have to feel sick to be contagious: they can spread influenza to others when they feel well – before their symptoms have even begun.

Influenza and its complications can be so serious that they can put you, your children, or your parents in the hospital – or lead to death.

Each year, more than 200,000 people are hospitalized in the U.S. from influenza and its complications. Between 3,000 and 50,000 die – which shows how unpredictable influenza can be! The people most likely to be hospitalized and die are infants, young children, older adults, and people of all ages who have conditions such as heart or lung disease. But remember, it’s not only the youngest, oldest, or sickest who die: every year influenza kills people who were otherwise healthy!

Influenza can be a very serious disease for you, your family, and friends – but you can all be protected by getting vaccinated.

There’s no substitute for yearly vaccination in protecting the people you love from influenza. Either type of influenza vaccine (the “shot” or nasal spray) will help keep you and your loved

ones safe from a potentially deadly disease. Get vaccinated every year, and make sure your children and your parents are vaccinated, too.

Don’t take chances with your family’s health! Please talk to your health care provider for more information, including who should and should not receive the flu vaccine.

Where can I learn more about the flu vaccine?

For more information, you can call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Immunization Information Hotline at these numbers:

- (800) 232-2522 (English)
- (800) 232-0233 (Spanish)

Where can I get vaccinated?

If you have health insurance, your best source for vaccination is your regular clinic or provider office. Flu vaccinations are also available in community settings such as pharmacies and some community clinics. The Department of Public Health is also offering flu vaccinations at no-cost at its public health centers and community vaccination events throughout Los Angeles County. Please visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/flu/FluLocatorMain.htm> for more information.

County Library Hosts Chinese Delegation from Shanghai

For the third year in a row, the Public Library hosted a special delegation of Library Administrators from the People’s Republic of China. This year, attendees hailed from Shanghai and toured the beautiful Pico Rivera Library.

“The primary goal of the Chinese delegation was to view first-hand how we deliver library services to communities throughout the County of Los Angeles,” said Yolanda De Ramus, Chief Deputy County Librarian. “China has a tradition of library services provided from a large, central location. The notion of small, community-centered libraries is novel and very appealing to them. Most jurisdictions in China offer library services out of large, urban centers that simply aren’t readily accessible to people living in outlying areas. So the delegation was especially interested in our staffing models, collection development protocols and strategic planning methods.”

SHANGHAI

continued on page 10

Rancho Los Amigos Will Help War Veterans Waiting Too Long for VA Services

by Supervisor Don Knabe as appeared in Long Beach Press Telegram

For more than 125 years, Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center has treated patients with life-changing illnesses and injuries. In that multi-generational span, the hospital has responded to an array of social and health trends with innovative solutions and compassionate care.

From the polio epidemic of the 1950s to the wave of strokes brought about by harmful lifestyle trends like smoking, to the gunshot victims of gang wars that paralyzed or severely maimed youth throughout Los Angeles County, Rancho Los Amigos, the jewel of the County of Los Angeles' health care system, has given thousands of patients a new start.

Now, it is time for Rancho Los Amigos to serve the health needs of another population that reflects a contemporary tragedy: wounded U.S. soldiers from the post 9/11 wars who cannot obtain timely medical care.

The Veteran's Administration is struggling with its patient load. Soldiers who suffer from the physical and mental effects of serving on the front lines are seeking answers from public officials.

We have the answer sitting in our laps. It is time we provided a way forward.

In August, H.R. 3230, the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, was signed into law by President Obama.

This bill, strongly supported by the Board of Supervisors, appropriated a total of \$15 billion to expand and improve VA-funded healthcare services. It also allows veterans to obtain health care from certain non-Veteran Affairs providers, including Rancho Los Amigos, if they cannot be scheduled for an appointment at a VA facility within a wait-time goal of 30 days.

But getting legislation signed often looks like the end of the road when it's only the beginning of a journey of implementation.

The new law represents a breakthrough, but many who rely on the VA for health care remain unaware that they may go to Rancho Los Amigos for rehabilitative care. The public and private providers involved in this process must work together to educate veterans about their choices in order to meet the demand. Their delays in doing so can no longer be tolerated.

I salute the VA for responding to criticism and seeking to expand its capacity to provide service. Rancho



Artist's rendition courtesy of the Department of Public Works.

Los Amigos is not looking to compete with the VA; it merely wants to give veterans the choice of Rancho Los Amigos for rehabilitative medical care when they cannot obtain those services through the VA system in a timely manner.

This summer, I joined hospital leaders, patients and families to break ground on "Rancho Rising 2020," a \$418 million renovation of Rancho Los Amigos that will help the hospital become a recognized leader in the application of world-class neuroscience and rehabilitation.

As both patients and medical staff at Rancho Los Amigos know, the hospital's technological advancements in rehabilitative medicine have outpaced these long-awaited physical renovations, which will secure Rancho Los Amigos' future as a top-ranked hospital for Los Angeles County residents including those among us who gave the most — our brave, wounded veterans.

The soldiers and sailors who fought for our country in Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan deserve the best care we can possibly give them. If the VA can't meet that obligation, we've got the capacity, we've got the skill and we've got the will.

The new legislation creates an opening, and by working together at the county and federal levels, we will seize this opportunity to significantly expand veterans' access to care.

WeTip
WELFARE FRAUD
1 (800) 87-FRAUD

Working for You

Department of Public Health

Healthy Men

The Department of Public Health encourages men to improve their health by adopting a healthier lifestyle and by making better use of medical care. Studies show that men are less



likely than women to have routine health screenings. Screening tests can detect potential health problems before symptoms begin and

early treatment can save lives. Public Health encourages all men to take charge of their health by taking the following steps:

See your primary care provider

Your physician is your partner in health. It is important that you see your primary care provider, not only when you feel ill, but also when you are well, to discuss preventive health such as vaccinations, screening tests, and a healthy lifestyle. During your visit, explain how you feel, provide details, and answer questions honestly. The information you provide will help your provider assess your health care needs. Furthermore, take time to ask questions, especially if you don't understand or need clarification.

Get recommended health screenings

Ask your doctor which screening tests you need and how often you need them. Recommendations will depend on your age, general health, family history, and behaviors, such as smoking. Enter your age and gender at myhealthfinder to find out which tests you should consider. The website also explains screening tests and why they are important.

Get recommended vaccinations

Shots aren't just for kids! Get your flu shot every year and ask your provider which other vaccinations are recommended. Go to <http://www2a.cdc.gov/nip/adultimmsched/> and take the quiz to find out which vaccines you may need, and print the results to discuss with your provider.

Have a healthy lifestyle

- Eat a **healthy diet** and decrease alcohol use
- Be **physically active**
- **Quit** tobacco use
- Avoid drowsy driving by getting **enough sleep**
- Reduce your **risk** of sexually transmitted diseases
- Avoid prolonged exposure to the **sun**
- Reduce **stress**

Remember to make your health a priority.

Prevent Kitchen Fires This Holiday Season

Fire Department

Did you know Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires? According to the National Fire Protection Association, home fires involving cooking equipment occur more often on Thanksgiving Day than any other day of the year.



L.A. County firefighters remind everyone to practice kitchen safety this holiday season.

Fires are more likely to start in the kitchen than in any other room in the home. Two common causes of home fires are unattended cooking and failing to clean appliances.

Leaving stove tops unattended while cooking is the cause of 34 percent of home fires and 50 percent of home fire deaths.

Another contributing factor to home fires is failing to clean appliances. According to National Fire Incident Reporting Systems data, 17 percent of home fires involve dirty ovens or rotisseries. In addition, it's important to clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.

All these home fires can be easily avoided. Here are some tips to follow for a safe holiday season in the kitchen:

- Never leave cooking food unattended.
- Avoid wearing loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you must leave the kitchen—even for a short period of time—turn the stove off.
- Keep anything that can catch on fire, such as paper or plastic, pot holders, oven mitts, or wooden utensils, bags, food packaging, and towels or curtains, away from your stove top, oven and any other appliance in the kitchen that generates heat.

KITCHEN SAFETY
continued on page 6

KITCHEN SAFETY

continued from page 5

- If you are simmering, baking, boiling or roasting food, check it regularly. Remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind yourself that the stove or oven is on.
- Clean cooking surfaces on a regular basis to prevent grease buildup.
- Keep the floor clear so that you don't trip over kids, toys or any miscellaneous items.
- Always check the kitchen before going to bed or leaving the home to make sure all stoves, ovens and small appliances are turned off.

Following these simple tips in the kitchen can make a difference in your safety this holiday season.

L.A. County Holiday Celebration

'Tis the season for this Emmy Award-winning L.A. Tradition



Shin Dance Company

Photos: Gennia Cui/L.A. County Arts Commission



L.A. County Holiday Celebration at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

Celebrate the season like a true Angeleno! There is no better way to experience L.A.'s rich cultural diversity than by watching the Emmy Award-winning **L.A. County Holiday Celebration**. Now in its 56th year, the Holiday Celebration is the County's largest holiday program. Produced by the Arts Commission and sponsored by the Board of Supervisors, this free holiday show takes place at The Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and is simulcast live on PBS SoCal. Choirs, music groups and dance companies from around the County take to the stage, creating a one-of-a-kind holiday experience that has become a beloved L.A. tradition.

Highlights for this year's show include the Grammy-nominated, all-female ensemble **Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles** with "El Gallo," a witty original song that breaks gender stereotypes; choral music ensemble **Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers**; and **Invertigo Dance Theatre** with a remixed version of "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies." Performers new to the program include Korean-American indie folk-rock band **Run River North**; **Mostly Kosher**,

performing their rendition of the Hanukkah song *Ma'oz Tzur* (Rock of Ages); Brazilian dance music band **MôForró** with a medley of holiday songs in the style of Brazilian *forró*; and **San Gabriel Valley Children's Chorus**, who will perform traditional holiday music from Taiwan.

The Holiday Celebration takes place on Thursday, December 24, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and is broadcast live on PBS SoCal, with live streaming on pbssocal.org. For an artist line-up and information for the live event, please visit <http://lacountyarts.org/holiday.html>.

Don't miss this holiday tradition! If you cannot make it to the live version of the show, PBS SoCal rebroadcasts the Holiday Celebration on December 24 from 9 p.m. to midnight and again on Christmas day at noon.



Share Your Heart Share Your Home

*Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent
Department of Children and Family Services*

As we approach the holidays, many of us reflect back on all we are grateful for in our lives. At the top of our list is most likely our family. It is hard to imagine a holiday without the comfort, warmth, and maybe even the slight chaos that makes our family gatherings so special. For some of our children in foster care, the holidays are a dreaded reminder that they are without their families. Separated from their birth family and sometimes even their siblings, the holidays can bring up many negative emotions for our children. As we give thanks for the families we have this November, please take the time to reflect on the children in foster care. We can make a difference, one heart at a time.



Photo: Rachel Murray Framingheddu

This beautiful picture of **Avianna** age 13, **Apples** age 9, and **Daniel** age 7, shows a tightly knit and loving sibling set. You can see the love they have for one another shining in their eyes. What you don't know from this picture is that these close knit siblings are all in separate foster homes and have no contact with their birth family. These children want so badly to be reunited together and all agree that the best thing that could happen to them is to be adopted by a loving, patient and dedicated family. These children will benefit from a home with lots of stability and boundaries, as they were raised in an environment where the family moved around often and they were unable to attend school. Since entering foster care a few years ago, they have made great academic progress and now just need a family to reunite them. These children have learned how to take care of themselves and do what they need to do to survive early in life, but all three agree they would rather have a family who can take care of them and let them just be kids. With the right family in their corner, these kids have so much potential. They all exude contagious laughter and energy, have huge giving hearts and a loyalty and love beyond compare for each other and those they care about. These kids will truly bring so much to any family. So this Thanksgiving, as you sit down with your families, please take a moment to think about these beautiful kids. Share their picture and their story with friends and family and together bring these kids back together again! Call (888) 811-1121 to learn more about adopting them today!

It's the Season of Giving

DPSS Launches 2015 Adopt-A-Family Program



For over 30 years, the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) has brought holiday joy to families experiencing a severe hardship or crisis. The winter holidays are often a difficult time for many, especially for those

facing severe financial hardships, who are ill, senior citizens, or those without a family.

The DPSS Adopt-A-Family Program successfully matches needy individuals and families with sponsors from community agencies, corporations and fellow County Departments. This long-standing DPSS holiday tradition

reflects the dedicated and caring service DPSS provides to those in need.

In 2014, 908 families comprised of 2,356 children were matched with 614 sponsors. Our corporate sponsors include Disney, CBS Studios, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, GAP, BJ's Restaurant, Hilton Hotels, Banana Republic, TOMS, Northrop Grumman, Beverly Hills Peninsula Hotel, Shaun White Enterprises, Macy's, Microsoft, and many more.

For more information about the DPSS Adopt-A-Family Program, please visit our website at <http://www.ladpss.org/dpss/vs/adopt.cfm> or follow us at <https://twitter.com/#!/toyloanla>.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF BEACHES AND HARBORS



Marina del Rey

SNOW WONDER

Synthetic Ice Rink

Burton Chace Park

Face Painting

13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey

Saturday, December 12, 2015
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

REAL Snow!

After Snow Wonder, stay in the park to view a spectacular five-minute fireworks show at 5:55 p.m., which will kick off the 53rd Annual Marina del Rey Holiday Boat Parade from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the main channel.

Sledding

Schedule of Events

Snacks

Fireworks Show
MdR Holiday Boat Parade

5:55 p.m.
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Arts & Crafts



For more information, please contact (310) 305-9595 or visit marinadelrey.lacounty.gov.

Retirees

Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after their many years of service to the County of Los Angeles:

45+ Years

PUBLIC WORKS: Debra Holmes
TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: William Cohen

40+ Years

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES: Elizabeth G. Lopez
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Luvirda F. Carter, Brenda Du Brey, Frederick Ross
HEALTH SERVICES: Antonio Campos, Albert Mateik
INTERNAL SERVICES: Rosalie Locey
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Brenda J. Dean, Norma J. Sherlock, Gwendolyn Venters-Taylor
TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Frank J. Baca

35+ Years

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Lynda J. Hargrave
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Patricia A. Williams
HEALTH SERVICES: Len Ingram, Neysa R. Neal, Ing-Hsiung Pan, Thomasine B. Pope, Manuel V. Portillo
MENTAL HEALTH: Gale K. Reynolds
FIRE: Luke Claus
PUBLIC DEFENDER: Jack T. Weedon
PUBLIC HEALTH: Maria Stella G. Carrion, Sheila Isaac, Ana M. Leiva
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Martha De Leon, Bernice Lett, John J. Livengood
PUBLIC WORKS: Michael Catello, George Sanchez
SHERIFF:

30+ Years

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Jose Guerrero
FIRE: Rosemarie Sanchez
HEALTH SERVICES: Vimonrat Valinluck
INTERNAL SERVICES: Francisco Garcia
PUBLIC HEALTH: Rosalinda Flores, Loren Lieb, Susan Montenegro
PUBLIC WORKS: Glenda Medlock
SHERIFF: Shawn W. Brownell, Joe M. Grasso, Gary S. Honings, Mark A. Johnston, Belishia E. McGowan, Bruce Nance, Michael J. Rothans, Gregory J. Saunders, Sheila L. Smith

SUPERIOR COURT: Isabel Hunt, Debra McCullough

25+ Years

ASSESSOR: Cristina S. Catipon, Mary Lam
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Joel Bellman
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Patricia A. Candy
CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES: Jackie Sweeney
HEALTH SERVICES: Patricia A. Gray-Eseigbe, Mildred Hill, Melchor Ilada, Luz A. Isidro, Daniel R. Lawson, Jr., Angelina Masinsin, Concepcion Panganiban, Parminder K. Ryatt
LACERA: Reynaldo M. Sare, Jr.
PROBATION: Blanca E. Andrade, James E. Mathews
PUBLIC HEALTH: Sonya K. Barnett
PUBLIC LIBRARY: Herminia A. Lopez
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Jung S. Chang, Kathy J. Elam, Karen A. Garris, Jennie Hernandez, Sahag K. Ketefian, Rosita Ling, Eduardo Munoz, Norma Ormazabal
SHERIFF: Robert P. Boese, Jr., Rowena W. Daniels, Jeffrey D. Farris, Rhonda L. Faulkner, Juanita M. Martinez, Ruben R. Munoz, Julia K. Ross, Rocky R. Sapien, Kevin L. Schlecht, Anthony P. Smith
SUPERIOR COURT: Peggy A. Mitchell
TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Edwina M. Walker

Rideshare L.A. County!

from the CEO/Office of Workplace Programs

Ridesharing is a good way to save money and time. If you wanted to try ridesharing this year, but didn't know where to find the resources, then finding a ridematch may be for you. All it takes is a visit to www.ridematch.info to sign up. The free service will match you with commuters who live in your area and travel to work near you. When you rideshare, you reduce solo commutes to work and your carbon footprint which helps the environment. You can also use www.go511.com for local resources to find a ridematch to carpool, vanpool, or to ride the bus or rail.

Take pride and share the ride.



Small Business Concierge

A Boon for L.A. County Entrepreneurs

Starting a small business can be a difficult and daunting task. In a frantic and competitive marketplace like Southern California, sometimes a budding entrepreneur with an idea for a business may not know where to seek help.

The County has the one answer a prospective business owner needs: the Small Business Concierge.

Part of the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, the Small Business Concierge is a new service designed solely to help Los Angeles County entrepreneurs open small businesses. Assistance from the Small Business Concierge is free and effective.

“The County of Los Angeles is invested in promoting small business and economic development. The Small Business Concierge plays a major role in this,” said Consumer and Business Affairs Director Brian J. Stiger. “It’s a one-stop shop for prospective business owners to receive assistance with issues that involve starting a business in L.A. County. Contact the Small Business Concierge and we’ll help you navigate the process to open your business.”

The Small Business Concierge can help new business owners put their ideas into action. From developing a business plan to obtaining licensing and permitting, the Small Business Concierge has the answers necessary to give business owners their best chance for success.

“Opening a business is a complex and difficult process. We do everything we can to provide the necessary information and help required to maximize a prospective business owner’s chances of opening a successful small business,” said Wason Fu, who heads up the Small Business Concierge program.

The Small Business Concierge can provide information and counseling on many topics, including:

- Legal structures and requirements
- Researching and choosing business names

- Getting a Tax Identification Number
- Finding funding
- Retaining a labor force
- Training and educational programs, and much more.

“The Small Business Concierge is a single point of contact for prospective business owners to navigate the County process, as opposed to the multitude of County departments a business owner would previously have to interact with.” said Fu. “When you call the Concierge service, the information you need is right there for you and we can give you an overall picture of what to do to get your business started.”

Contact the Small Business Concierge by calling toll-free (844) 432-4900, or emailing concierge@dcba.lacounty.gov.

For more information about the Small Business Concierge and more Small Business Services provided by the County of Los Angeles, visit the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs website at <http://dcba.lacounty.gov>.

SHANGHAI
continued from page 3



Pico Rivera Library provided a stunning backdrop for the visit. Its terra cotta hue blends in beautifully with the drought-resistant flora planted throughout the library’s exterior. At the entrance, visitors walk through a canopy of photovoltaic solar panels, which were instrumental in garnering a Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) Silver Rating for Pico Rivera Library.

“Previous delegations came from Beijing in 2013 and Southern China in 2014. But formal visits are just one way of how we keep up diplomatic relations with our Chinese counterparts,” added De Ramus. “Since 2014, we’ve collaborated with the Guangzhou Library on a bookmark art exchange and contest. The sheer volume of submissions was impressive and their artwork was just as amazing. Ultimately, we selected 80 winners and displayed their bookmarks at sites throughout our County Public Library system.”