



Librarians Use 3-D Printers to Make Face Shields for Hospital Staff

Los Angeles, April 1, 2020—Librarians at the Los Angeles Public Library’s Octavia Lab, a digital media makerspace in the Central Library, yesterday began 3-D printing face shields for use by L.A. County and UCLA Hospitals. In partnership with Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI), Octavia Lab staff are producing the headband and bottom piece of the face shield model that has been approved by both hospitals. LACI will fabricate the plastic shields.

As Los Angeles responds to the COVID-19 pandemic and faces a growing need for personal protective equipment (PPE), the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) wanted to use its resources to help however possible. In order to maintain a sterile and clean environment, a limited number of trained staff will be in the Octavia Lab assembling the shields. Due to the high heat used during printing, the face shields will be sterile upon printing and then bagged for distribution.

“This innovative, out-of-the-box thinking exemplifies both our library staff’s commitment to serve and the spirit of the Octavia Lab, where our motto is ‘Creativity Within Reach.’ I am thrilled that our staff has established this partnership,” said City Librarian John F. Szabo. “We so appreciate all of the health care workers who continue to serve, and we are happy to do our small part to help keep them safe.”

Although library buildings are closed, LAPL is still open online. Angelenos can read books, magazines and comics; watch movies and TV shows; take classes or learn a language—all from home. Patrons can stay updated by visiting lapl.org or following along on social media (@lapubliclibrary).

A recipient of the nation’s highest honor for library service—the National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest and most diverse urban population of any library in the nation. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, collection of more than 6 million books and state-of-the-art technology accessible at lapl.org provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for lifelong learning.

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