

The Brand Library Docent Tour: A 'Home Beautiful' Revealed



Valerie Taylor, Ph.D. in Art History and Brand Associates Board Member, leads a tour of Brand Library

WHEN ASKED TO LEAD DOCENT TOURS of the Brand Mansion, I was immediately interested in learning more about the original residence of Leslie Coombs Brand and his wife Mary Louise. Why does the residence have the look and style of Indo-Saracen architecture? How did the home transform over the years to become the art and music library that I relied on for teaching art history courses at Santa Monica and Pasadena City colleges, set in a bucolic park and gateway to our local wilderness?

Since January 2024, I've been leading tours of a place that nourishes the forces that I hold dear: nature, art, music, friendship and a generative means of contributing to the quality of life of our community. I have met visitors of all ages and places (300 at this point), from as far away as Japan and Hawaii, as well as from the West Side — and even just a few streets away!

On Saturday mornings, we gather to travel back in time through the material restoration of the home, explore local history, share what this place has meant to Glendale folks over the years, and to ask questions, including how to join

THE CALENDAR for the free tours is posted on Brand Library's website at brandlibrary.org/visit — and the 2026 schedule is on page 4 of this newsletter.

RSVPs are required. RSVP by email to info@brandlibrary.org or call (818) 548-2051. Tours are limited to 25 people. Meet at the top of the stairs on the west side of the building and wear comfortable shoes.

Tours are generously sponsored and organized by Brand Associates.

the Brand Associates! We cannot take for granted the benefits of this venue. For example, in the early process of finding ways to manage and fund the library and public park, which was gifted to Glendale in the will of L.C. Brand, the City Council evaluated plans for turning this green space into a golf course or an outdoor concert venue such as the Hollywood Bowl or the Greek Theater, surrounded by requisite parking lots and crowds.

When the home was completed, a 1907 lavish picture book published by Leslie Brand entitled, *Miradero: The Country Home of L.C. Brand, Los Angeles County, California*, offers visual evidence of Brand's self-made, material success and good taste. Yet, when Brand first bought property in the Glendale area, it was advertised in the Los Angeles Directory as a fruit-raising settlement in Burbank township, Los Angeles County. It had a population of 550, and the only telephone and telegraph service was at Tropic, an adjacent townsite two miles away. There were no gas or electric lights, and the city only had three blocks of cement sidewalks. It had no high school or library.

My tour focuses on how Leslie Coombs Brand, known as the 'Father of Glendale,' would change all of this in a short span of time. Today, his vision for transforming Miradero into a public library has created a thriving cultural complex available to all. We are the beneficiaries and custodians of this gift. I invite you to join me to explore the living legacy of this, 'Home Beautiful.'

—Valerie Taylor



TWO NEW PROGRAMS!

We are excited to introduce **HYPER SOCAL**, an initiative conceived by GLAC Exhibition Coordinator, Stephanie Sherwood. The goal of Hyper SoCal is to share audiences, grow awareness of the diverse range of art venues in the region, create a hub for locals and visitors to find “off the beaten path” art spaces, and celebrate the work of the incredible nonprofit, community-based, and municipally-run art spaces in Southern California that are often overlooked.

With her strong background in



municipal and community-based arts organizations, Stephanie has led the way in community engagement and partnership development for the gallery. The initiative provides visitors with an interactive map of partner institutions across Southern California enabling the public to discover new locations to connect with contemporary art. Thanks to her leadership and vision, Hyper

SoCal already has over 40 partner institutions in anticipation of its official launch in January 2026.

Engage and Learn with Art Interactive

We are delighted to announce a new program that allows attendees to learn about a local artist and then dive deeper with a hands-on activity. **ART INTERACTIVE** highlights a guest artist’s story and creative process, and how they connect with others. After a brief presentation, the guest artist will lead an activity to further explore their unique artistic approach.

Admission is free, but registration is required. These programs are for adults and teens 13+. Check the monthly calendar at brandlibrary.org for future dates.

OUR HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Brand Associates and the staff at Brand celebrated the season with a festive performance by Los Rebeldes Románticos in the Brand Library Recital Hall on Saturday, December 6. The ensemble performed a heartwarming repertoire of romantic bolero ballads, lively cumbias, and traditional holiday songs cherished across Latin America.



Board member Valerie Taylor talks with attendees about the many wonderful programs at Brand made possible by the Associates. She and Board member (and Membership Chair) Tina Demirdjian handed out brochures and buttons specially made for the occasion.



Tina Demirdjian spoke to the concert audience about Brand Associates, promoting membership, soliciting donations and talking about ARTful Conversations, the program she and Valerie Taylor present. For more information on ARTful Conversations and other programs at Brand, visit brandlibrary.org/programs

Art

THE GALLERY AT BRAND The Associates supports four to six exhibitions each year in Brand's beautiful art gallery. Our popular Annual National Juried Exhibition of Works on Paper is a favorite of artists and art lovers alike.

ON VIEW / UPCOMING

- **Crossings, open through January 3, 2026**
- **Neighborhood Ecology, January 31 – May 9, 2026**

Info: brandlibrary.org/gallery



Dance

THE DANCE SERIES Our acclaimed Dance Series includes original works performed by Southern California's top dance ensembles. The works are often site-specific and performed to interact with the unique architecture or exhibitions inside and outside of the library.

SERIES COMPRISED OF FOUR EVENTS ON CONSECUTIVE SATURDAY AFTERNOONS IN LATE SPRING

Info: brandlibrary.org/dance-series



Susan Greenberg, clarinetist Michele Zukovsky, and pianist Pierre Tang performed on Saturday, November 8

Music

THE BRAND ASSOCIATES MUSIC SERIES Offering indoor concerts in the Winter and Spring, this series features renowned, award-winning artists performing a variety of classical and contemporary compositions.

THE SPRING 2026 CONCERT SCHEDULE WILL BE ANNOUNCED SOON. ALL CONCERTS ARE AT 2PM SATURDAYS IN THE RECITAL HALL AT BRAND

Info: brandlibrary.org/music-series

THE SUMMER MUSIC SERIES Presented outdoors on Friday evenings from July through August, this relaxed, open-air venue includes an exciting and eclectic array of musical performers.

ARTISTS TO BE ANNOUNCED NEXT SPRING

Info: brandlibrary.org/summer-music-series

Film



THE REEL ART FILM SERIES Offered periodically throughout the year, the Reel Art Film Series presents films that focus on important visual and performing arts and artists. Evenings include post-screening Q&A sessions with experts in the field.

2026 FILMS TO BE ANNOUNCED

Info: brandlibrary.org/programs



Poetry

ARTful CONVERSATIONS This innovative program educates attendees about Gallery exhibitions and then guides them to engage and reflect on their experience through writing poetry.

UPCOMING EVENTS (ALL ON TUESDAYS, 6:00-7:30 PM)

■ **March 3, April 7, 2026**

Info: brandlibrary.org/programs

Family Activities

The **MUSIC ANIMATED** and **MAKE IT!** programs give children of all ages a chance to express themselves with hands-on crafts and music making.

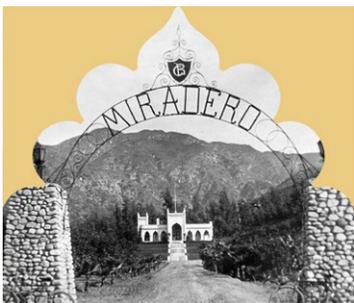
CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR INFO ON UPCOMING EVENTS IN BOTH OF THESE SERIES

Info: brandlibrary.org/programs



USC Kazan Taiko (from Spring 2025)

And more!



DOCENT TOURS Art Historian Dr. Valerie Taylor, a Brand Associates board member, presents the fascinating story of the Brand family and *Miradero*, the historic family home that is now Brand Library. *RSVP is mandatory!*

THE 2026 SCHEDULE OF TOURS - ALL BEGIN AT 9:30 AM AT BRAND

■ **March 14, March 28, June 27, October 3, October 10, and December 5**

Info brandlibrary.org/programs#docent-tours

ART TALK TUESDAY is a monthly conversation that invites contemporary artists to discuss their work and the issues surrounding it, followed by a moderated Q&A with Brand staff member, artist and writer Jennifer Remenchik.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

Info: brandlibrary.org/programs

Please let us know if you find the publication helpful, and if you have suggestions for topics we might address. Thank you for your interest in the cultural activities at Brand, and for your support of Brand Associates.

Summer Music Series concert



Join us!

HELP US continue with our tradition of engaging programming — *offered free to everyone* — by supporting the Associates financially. You can make a monthly or one-time donation or become a member of the Associates and contribute annually. Whatever you choose to do, we hope you will join us for all the wonderful events that Brand Library & Art Center has to offer.

**Support the Arts at Brand.
Support Brand Associates.**



Use the QR code above to go directly to our Donation page



Use the QR code above to go directly to our Membership page

Or simply visit associatesofbrand.org
We value your support!

STAY CONNECTED WITH US



facebook.com/brandassociates



instagram.com/associatesofbrand



youtube.com/@brandassociates7898

associatesofbrand.org