

## REDONDO BEACH

# Multilingualism to be celebrated at library event

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Celebrate the many languages spoken throughout the Redondo Beach community this weekend in honor of International Mother Language Day.

The event, “International Mother Language Day: Stories, Art & Community,” will reflect the city’s linguistic diversity through reading aloud and art activities that attendees can participate in, the Redondo Beach Library announced recently. The event will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Redondo Beach Main Library.

In Redondo Beach, thousands of residents speak languages other than English at home, including Spanish, Bengali, Korean, Japanese, Chinese and many more, according to organizers.

International Mother Language Day was adopted in 1999 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to preserve endangered languages and bring awareness to the importance of linguistic diversity. Multilingual and multicultural societies exist through their languages, according to UNESCO, which transmit and preserve traditional knowledge and cultures in a sustainable way.

Local author-illustrators Mirelle Ortega and Natasha Khan Kazi will lead the event, during which there will be an interactive story time, art activities, and more for children and families of all ages.

“Language is one of the first ways children understand who they are and where they come from,” Khan Kazi, a Redondo Beach author, said in the release. “This program explores how the words we grow up with shape our stories, our creativity and the way we see the world.”

The event will also underscore the importance of attending library programs, the release said, which strengthen public libraries as inclusive community spaces through literacy, the arts and cultural connections.



International Mother Language Day: Stories, Art & Community will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Redondo Beach Main Library. It celebrates multilingualism in Redondo Beach and the preservation of endangered languages. **BRITTANY MURRAY — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER**