



City of  
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News from: **Oakland Public Library**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Author Luis J. Rodriguez to Make Special Appearance at César E. Chávez Branch Library**

**Oakland, CA** – As a special treat on Día de los Muertos, author Luis J. Rodriguez will make a presentation at the Oakland Public Library’s César E. Chávez Branch, 3001 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 271. Mr. Rodriguez will read from and sign copies of his new memoir, *It Calls You Back: An Odyssey thru Love, Addiction, Revolutions & Healing*, on Tuesday, November 1, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Rodriguez is an award-winning, celebrated author of 14 books in memoir, fiction, nonfiction, children’s literature, and poetry. Best known for his memoir of gang life, *Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.*, Rodriguez continues his story with this new book. The event is co-presented by Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ; pronounced “courage”) and the Oakland Public Library.

*It Calls You Back* opens with Rodriguez’s final stint in jail as a teenager and follows his struggle to kick heroin, renounce his former life, and search for meaningful work. He describes with heartbreaking honesty his challenges as a father and his difficulty leaving his rages and addictions completely behind. Even as he breaks with “la vida loca” and begins to discover success as a writer and an activist, Rodriguez finds that his past – the crimes, the drugs, the things he’d seen and done – has a way of calling him back.

Of Rodriguez’s writing, Sandra Cisneros, best-selling author of *Caramelo* and *The House on Mango Street*, has said: “Rodriguez’s life story is astonishing... It takes a heart broken open by a lifetime of sorrows to write with this wisdom and compassion. It takes a visionary to use this knowledge in service to those the world despises—troubled youth, the homeless, the incarcerated, the poor, the migrant—to be called back for those you love.”

For additional information, please call the César E. Chávez Branch at 510-535-5620, or visit the Oakland Public Library online, at [www.oaklandlibrary.org](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org).

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