

Juneteenth Recognition and Celebration



It's About Freedom, It's About New Hope, It's About Change

Metro African American Trailblazers and Pioneers In The Spotlight



On October 25, 2001, in an unusual motion joined by all members present, the MTA Board unanimously voted to rename the MTA Library in memory of Dorothy Gray. Well who was Dorothy Gray?

Dorothy was a former LACMTA employee, who served as Metro's Library Services Manager for 13 years before passing in 2001.

She started her career in transportation at Southern California Regional Transportation Department (SCRTD) in August 1988 as librarian, after having worked as a legislative analyst in city government beginning in the 70's. When Gray joined the old RTD, she inherited shelves of disheveled papers. She quickly began organizing, computerizing and expanding the library and the collection of transit memorabilia. Under her guidance, the library became a federal repository for transportation manuscripts and documents.

When the MTA built its current headquarters near Union Station, she arranged a prime spot on the 15th floor for her more than 300,000 volumes and an archive that tells the city's history in yellowed deeds and bus tokens. Few MTA research projects began without quizzing the librarian.

Her office at the MTA served as Parisian salon, front porch, or confessional, depending on her mood. Newcomers were surprised to discover that their loquacious host was the transit authority's main librarian. Everybody else knew she lived to defy stereotypes. "This was an intellectual, spicy lady," says colleague DA McClain. "She reshaped what a librarian looks like and acts like."

Dorothy Gray...A Trailblazer in the field of Library Science; we remember her contributions to Metro and salute her pioneering spirit.