

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

MAY 14, 2009

A Regular meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library, 630 West Fifth Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071, convening at 11:04 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT:	PRESIDENT	TYREE WIEDER
	VICE PRESIDENT	JULIE A. MENDOZA
	COMMISSIONER	ROBERT A. CHICK
	COMMISSIONER	MARSHA HIRANO-NAKANISHI
	COMMISSIONER	RITA WALTERS

EXCUSED

ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: Kris Morita, Interim City Librarian; Dov Lesel, City Attorney's Office; Roy Stone, President, Librarian's Guild; and staff.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – 4/29/09

MOVED by Commissioner Chick, seconded by Commissioner Walters, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting held April 29, 2009, be approved as corrected on Page 8, Book Drop Policy, to reflect a uniform policy when **materials (books, DVD's, etc)** are considered overdue at drop boxes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS

WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION: NONE

CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

MOVED by Vice President Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Chick and unanimously carried that the following resolutions be adopted:

Recommended Acceptance of Gifts

Commissioner Chick inquired about the process used to purchase books for “Hot off the Press”. Elizabeth Hoage, Assistant Director of Branches, responded she and the Adult Services Coordinator select prospective best sellers from a list provided by the book wholesaler Bro-Dart. Books are ordered at least three months in advance of the publication date so they are available to the patrons at the same time they are released to the general public. (see page 6 for follow-up items requested by Commissioners Mendoza and Walters relative to donations)

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-21 (C-13)

RESOLVED, That the following contributions to the “Hot of the Press” program for 2009/2010 be accepted from the following donors:

- \$6,000 From the Friends of the Encino-Tarzana Branch Library
- \$6,000 From the Friends of the Platt Library
- \$3,000 From the Friends of the Los Feliz Library
- \$3,000 From the Friends of the Mar Vista Library
- \$3,000 From the Friends of the Westchester-Loyola Village Library
- \$3,000 From the Friends of the Will & Ariel Durant Library

FURTHER RESOLVED, That thank you letters be sent to the donors expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners for their generous financial contribution to the Los Angeles Public Library.

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LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-22 (C-14)

RESOLVED that the donation of \$4,000 from Moxie Pictures, Inc. to the El Sereno Branch Library be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that a letter be sent to Mr. Doug McClintock, Moxie Pictures, Inc., acknowledging the donation and expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL TO TERMINATE
CONTRACT NO. 744 WITH MAKHANI, INC.

The Interim City Librarian recommended that this report be withdrawn because payments for March, April and May had been received.

WITHDRAWN - DISCUSSION TO AMEND CONTRACT NO. 744 TO BE AGENDAED JULY 2009.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE 1998
LIBRARY BOND PROGRAM BUDGET REVISIONS

WITHDRAWN – TO BE AGENDAED JUNE 2009

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE
FINAL DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PLAN
OF THE PUBLIC ART PROJECT FOR THE
WILL AND ARIEL DURANT BRANCH LIBRARY

Julianna Cheng, Director of Facilities, reported that staff is working to expend all line items for the 1998 Library Bond Program, including public art line items. She is recommending an additional art project in the children's area at the Will and Ariel Durant Branch, which was built in 2004 as part of the Bond program. She said the Friends of the Will and Ariel Durant Branch Library are enthusiastically supportive of the proposal. Ms. Cheng introduced the artist, Nancy Braver, who would be presenting the site-specific artwork.

Nancy Braver stated that the Branch is an L-shared facility with the children's area located at the far end of the building. She commented the art project consists of six translucent wall-mounted floral sculpture pieces that will be created from translucent acrylic. The brightly colored sculptures will interact with both the natural and artificial lights in the space. Ms. Braver noted these distinctive pieces will be visible from the reference area and will invite the children to explore the library as they move through the long spacious reading area.

MOVED by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Commissioner Hirano-Nakanishi and unanimously carried that the following resolution be adopted:

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-23 (C-15)

WHEREAS, the Will and Ariel Durant Branch Library is a 12,500 s.f. L-shape facility built as part of the 1998 Library Bond Program and opened on January 12, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the original public art project by Meg Cranston is located in the entrance of the lobby. The Children's Area is located at the far end of the building. An additional public art project will help energize that area and draw children to the room; and

WHEREAS, artist Nancy Braver, selected by the Department of Cultural Affairs, proposes six translucent wall-mounted sculptures to be installed in the Children's Area. The abstract floral pieces will be created from translucent acrylics and will consist of 3 one-foot in diameters circles that are flat against the wall and 3 two feet in diameter floral shapes; and

WHEREAS, the public art project was approved by the Cultural Affairs Commission on April 16, 2009, and funds are available from the 1998 Library Bond Program:

RESOLVED that the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves the Final Design Development Plans for the Public Art Project by artist Nancy Braver for the Will and Ariel Durant Branch Library.

RECOMMENDED RECEIVE AND FILE
STATUS REPORT RE EARLY LEARNING
WITH FAMILIES (ELF) PROGRAM

Ilene Abramson, Director of Children Services, reported that on February 21, 2008, the Library Commission approved acceptance of a \$5,000 grant from the California State Library to implement a pilot ELF program at the Watts and Echo Park Branches. The program has expanded to include eight more branches. These libraries were chosen in part because of their proximity to Literacy Centers, community need and they represent a broad cross section of the Los Angeles area.

Ms. Abramson advised that the ELF program is designed to enhance library service to families and caregivers with very young children by providing comfortable, attractive and welcoming children's area filled with board books, educational toys, and information to parents. Within the last three months, over 3,364 babies, young children and their caregivers have participated in the early literacy programs.

The Interim City Librarian mentioned LAPL has submitted an application to the California State Library for an ELF grant of \$200,000 for expansion of the program.

During the discussion, Commissioners inquired about specific use for the grant money. Ms. Abramson responded funding is used for equipment, resources, materials, staff training and potentially for programs such as visits by children authors from the community to encourage the library's role as community family spaces.

BOARD ACTION:

By unanimous consent, the Board received and filed the status report on the ELF program.

**ORAL REPORT RE
FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010 BUDGET**

Interim City Librarian presented information on two documents submitted by the Mayor and Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA). In a letter dated May 12, 2009, the Mayor requested the City Council to declare a fiscal emergency. Referencing the letter, she advised the City is facing a deficit of \$529 million in 2009/10 and possible \$1 billion deficit in 2010/11. The City Administrative Officer is being requested to talk to the City's labor representatives to discuss the impact of a mandatory plan requiring up to 26 furlough days for civilian employees next fiscal year or one furlough day per pay period, which equates to a 10% salary reduction. The letter cited this program alone does not resolve the deficit and the City should start a targeted layoff program, which would lead to a layoff of 1,000 employees. Ms. Morita indicated there would be a meeting tomorrow with the Mayor and the general managers where more information would be presented about targeted layoffs.

Further, she went on to review the CLA report dated May 13, 2009, noting the report underscores this is the worst economic recession in 70 years, and there has been a plunge in general fund revenues of \$300 million. Additionally, there will be a need to reduce the City's workforce and permanently reduce the payroll as the City enters into the 2009/10 fiscal year. Personnel costs represent more than 80% of the City's budget and the only way to reduce these costs are to lessen the number of employees or decrease the amount being paid to employees. Ms. Morita continued referencing the report indicating salary reductions and increased contributions to the pension are subject to union negotiations so actions of the City Council are very limited including freezing all hiring, and laying off and furloughing employees. Without furloughs, the total layoff requirement would likely exceed 3,000.

The Interim City Librarian advised the CLA report, which was approved by the Budget and Finance Committee by a 3-2 vote, in addition to a proposed restoration of \$500,000 to the library's budget is scheduled for discussion and approval by the City Council on Monday, May 18.

Commissioner Hirano-Nakanishi acknowledged possible impact to the City's budget depending on actions by the State.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

COMMISSIONERS'S COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS
AND REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING:

Donation-Related Follow Up

Questions for discussion in August 2009 Board Meeting pertaining to gifts received by the Los Angeles Public Library:

1. How are distribution of gifts to branches monitored and is there a record kept?
2. How do we monitor the ability for different neighborhoods and Friends groups to raise funds, including those branches whose Friends groups are non-existent or not as active; how do they get funds for similar purposes or the same purposes?

Letter to the Friends of the Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch

Commissioner Mendoza stated the letter sent to the Friends of the Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch from Patricia Kiefer, Assistant City Librarian, in response to their requests at the meeting of April 29, 2009 was respectful, thoughtful and well crafted.

Upcoming Board Meeting

The President announced that the next meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners would be held Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Central Library.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

ATTEST: _____

Tyree Wieder
President

Gladys L. Senac
Board Executive Assistant

Date to be approved:

May 28, 2009