

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

October 14, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held via teleconference at 11:05 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. Roll Call:

Present:	Vice-President Commissioner Commissioner	Kathryn Eidmann Arianne Edmonds Josefa Salinas
Absent:	President Commissioner	Bích Ngọc Cao Dale Franzen

Also present via teleconference: City Librarian John F. Szabo; Asst. City Librarian Susan Broman; Deputy City Attorney Basia Jankowski; Library staff and members of the public.

2. Opening Remarks: None.

3. Approval of the Minutes: There were no minutes submitted for approval.

**4. Public Comments on Matters
Within the Board's Jurisdiction:** None.

**5. City Librarian's Comments
and Announcements:** City Librarian John F. Szabo reported the following:

- **Career Online High School (COHS) Fall 2021 Graduation Ceremony** will be held on October 15 for nearly 70 students. There are 607 graduates of this program and 435 more students are currently enrolled. The COHS program is supported by LAPL staff, philanthropic funds through the Library Foundation of Los Angeles and by the State Library of California. The Los Angeles Public Library was the first library in the nation to offer this program.
- **Book Spine Poetry:** During the Major League Baseball playoffs, the Los Angeles Public Library and San Francisco Public Library engaged in a fierce battle of book spine poetry -- poetry written by stacking book titles to convey a short pithy message. Social Media Librarians have been going back and forth with each game. The most posts were received after the Dodgers lost the first game, with the titles such as *This Burns My Heart*, *Digging in*, *Refined by Fire*, *The Game is Never Over*, and *No More Mr. Nice Guy*.

- **Vaccination Clinics:** Library staff continue working with the LA County Health Department and LA Fire Department to offer vaccination clinics at various library locations to reach populations in local communities where needed most. Over 650 COVID vaccines have been delivered as well as COVID Testing.
- **Zine Collection:** The Los Angeles Public Library has been a leader in developing zine collections, offering zine-making workshops, and helping other libraries develop their collections. The goal of making zines is to promote diversity, creativity and activism. The Library's Zine Collection was recently highlighted in KCET's Artbound.
- **LA MADE Programming** is celebrating creative voices in Los Angeles in a variety of areas and disciplines, among them are "LA Made: Dr. Jose Hernandez: Soaring to New Heights," featuring the story of Dr. Hernandez, a migrant worker who became a NASA Astronaut. In June, the Library presented "LA Made: A Conversation Between Hanif Abdurraqib and Courtney." Hanif Abdurraqib, music critic, essayist and poet, was recently named a 2021 MacArthur Fellow.
- **"Life on a String: The Yale Puppeteers and the Turnabout Theater" Exhibit:** This exhibit, which is not only about puppeteering, but also an important piece of the LGBTQ history in Los Angeles, was featured on the cover of *LA Blade* in both the print and online edition. The exhibit is available online and in person at the Central Library with audio tour.
- **October is Filipino American Heritage Month:** The Library is offering a variety of programs; book displays highlighting some of the photographs from Shades of LA Photo Collection; and a blog post titled, "Shades of LA: The Filipino American Experience" based on decades of oral histories told to the library that are part of the Collection.

6. City Librarian's Reports:

Discussion Item(s)

a. **Recommendation to Adopt Findings to Continue Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to AB 361**

Determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3 (e)(3) that, while the state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, this legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

City Librarian John F. Szabo stated that this item was recommended by Deputy City Attorney Basia Jankowski, who is the Library's General Counsel. He noted that if the Board adopts the findings pursuant to AB 361 in regard to teleconferencing, then the Board would be able to continue to meet via teleconference. He reported that AB 361 provides a 30-day period allowing for

teleconference meetings if state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing. If adopted by the Board at today's meeting, this item has to be on the agenda of a future Board within 30 days to renew its findings.

Deputy City Attorney Basia Jankowski reported that this law was recently signed by the governor. She said that during COVID, the regular Brown Act rules on teleconferencing were suspended. Now based on AB361, the Board can make a motion to accept the findings and continue to teleconference from locations without having to disclose those locations and be open to the public.

Discussion

Commissioners Edmonds and Salinas asked whether special meetings will have to be held to ensure that the Board renews the findings within 30 days.

Ms. Jankowski replied that a special meeting could be held for that purpose.

Mr. Szabo noted that Ms. Jankowski had also advised having this item on the agenda at every meeting to make sure the Board stays within the timeline.

Commissioner Salinas stated that there has been greater participation from the public during teleconferencing and she would like the public to be able to continue to participate and it has also resulted in fewer absences from the members.

Commissioner Edmonds asked how long would the Board have to continue renewing the findings. Ms. Jankowski replied that AB 361 expires on January 1, 2024; however, AB 361 could be amended in the future and there might be other laws in the State Legislature to amend the Brown Act, specifically provisions relating to teleconferencing.

Vice President Eidmann stated that the Board does like the greater public participation and supports any legislative efforts to make more permanent changes so that teleconferencing can be an element of meetings going forward. She then asked for a motion to adopt the findings.

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Commissioner Edmonds to adopt the motion. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Edmonds, Eidmann, and Salinas). Noes: 0. Absent: 2 (Cao and Franzen).

BOARD ACTION

That the Board determines in accordance with AB 361 Section 3 (e)(3) that this legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state official continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

7. Presentation: Neighborhood Science Program

Vivienne Byrd, librarian from the Exploration and Creativity Department, provided an overview of the Neighborhood Science Program. The Los Angeles Public Library piloted the program in 2018 with two Library Services and Technology Act grants to make STEAM programs more purposeful and relevant to real world experience, and to foster sustainable conservation and foster environmental STEAM interest.

Ms. Byrd said that the Neighborhood Science Program offers a powerful way to merge science, technology, engineering, arts, and math learning with community and civic engagement. The Library's Neighborhood Science Program supports 10 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the Library partners with a variety of institutions such as NASA, the Environmental Protection Agency, Mayor's Office of Sustainability, LA Sanitation and Environment Department, and the Greater Los Angeles Vector Control District.

Ms. Byrd stated that since the pandemic, the Library moved Neighborhood Science to virtual platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, Zoom, and Facebook. A total of 210 programs have been produced and offered in the last 19 months, with a total attendance of 4,369; 54% girls and 46% boys from pre-K to teens.

Ms. Byrd highlighted several programs conducted during the pandemic such as the Renewable Energy for Kids Workshop and Neighborhood Science Tuesday series which empower participants to learn about the science behind pressing global issues and to contribute with sustainable practices.

This Summer, the Library partnered with the Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment Department on the citywide L.A. BioBlitz Challenge to engage Angelenos to observe, photograph and map wild animals, plants and insects to support biodiversity research. In eight weeks, 14,796 observations were submitted.

The Board thanked Ms. Byrd for the excellent presentation and work being done with the Neighborhood Science Program.

8. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements:

- The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. via Teleconference.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

ATTEST:

Kathryn Eidmann
Vice President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant