

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

May 8, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library starting at 11:02 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. Roll Call:

Present:	President	Valerie Lynne Shaw
	Commissioner	Kelly Besser
	Commissioner	Hiram Sims
	Commissioner	Mayra Valadez

Absent:	Vice President	Linda Blank
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Also present: City Librarian John F. Szabo, Asst. City Librarian Susan Broman; Deputy City Attorney Josh M. Templet; Administrative staff and members of the public.

- 2. Opening Remarks:** Board President Shaw welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that the new pope selected today in Rome was from Chicago and the first pope from the United States.

- 3. Approval of the Minutes:** Regular Meeting - March 27, 2025

It was moved by Commissioner Besser and seconded by Commissioner Valadez to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held on March 27, 2025. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Besser/Shaw/Sims/Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Blank).

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

- 5. City Librarian's Comments**
and Announcements: City Librarian John F. Szabo reported on past and upcoming library events and provided updates on the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

City Budget: Mr. Szabo stated that for the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget, the Library is looking at opportunities to mitigate layoffs at other city departments and that the Library has met with the Personnel Department and the CAO's Office about vacancies and services that can be used by the Library. Also discussed were non-sworn security positions and the difficulties with filling those positions. He also has concerns about funding for capital projects.

President Shaw asked whether staff from other city departments would be transferred or only assigned to the Library but remain as employees with their department. Mr. Szabo stated that, for instance, the Bureau of Engineering staff that

work on schematic designs for various library projects such as branch renovations, and GSD staff that work on contracts out services requested by the Library, but the Library pays for all of those services.

Commissioner Valadez asked where from the budget would the funds be taken from to cover for the extra GSD employees that would be assigned to work specifically for the Library. Madeline Rackley, Business Manager, replied that her office would review the budget and move funds where needed and would come to the Board for approval of that transfer. Mr. Szabo added that funds from the unencumbered unreserved balance account could be used for this purpose as well.

7. City Librarian's Reports:

Discussion Items

a. Award of a publishing agreement to Sam Quinones for the *Angel City Press* at the Los Angeles Public Library

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of a publishing agreement between Sam Quinones and *Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library*.

Discussion

Commissioner Sims asked if the Board would be approving every publishing agreement the Library enters into with authors and whether the royalty was negotiable or if it was standard rate for everyone. Mr. Szabo replied that yes, publishing agreements needed Board approval and that royalties are generally consistent, but sometimes there are variations.

It was moved by Commissioner Besser and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve the following resolution. The motion passed unanimously with 4 Ayes (Besser/Shaw/Sims/Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Blank).

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11 (C-8)

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2023, the Board of Library Commissioners (Board) approved a Gift Agreement to accept the Angel City Press publishing operation and committed to continuing the legacy of Angel City Press by publishing new books that amplify the voices of local authors and preserve the stories of Los Angeles and Southern California; and

WHEREAS, Staff will ensure that the required compliance documents are completed and submitted prior to the execution of the agreement. The publishing agreement has been reviewed by the City Attorney and is ready to be transmitted for processing:

Library Resolution
No. 2025-11 (C-8) Cont.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report, including approval of the award and execution of the publishing agreement with Sam Quinones for the exclusive license in the copyright of the *Our Lady of the Angeles: The Virgin of Guadalupe on the Walls of Los Angeles* (tentative title); and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the City Librarian and the City Attorney to make technical and clerical corrections, if needed, to the agreement.

8. Staff Presentation: Explore L.A. with Discover & Go

Celia Avila de Santiago, Senior Librarian of the Exploration & Creativity Department, presented an overview of programs offered by the department, including the Explore L.A. with Discover & Go program. Launched in 2019 with 20 partners, the program offers free or discounted access to Los Angeles museums and attractions for library cardholders. It was paused during the pandemic and relaunched in 2021.

A five-person team manages the program and works to expand partnerships. Promotion includes print, online, and social media campaigns. A promotional video featuring the Aquarium of the Pacific was highlighted. Popular destinations include the LA Zoo, Natural History Museum, La Brea Tar Pits, Aquarium of the Pacific, and the Academy Museum. Usage has grown from 6,021 reservations in 2021 to 35,105 in 2024, with 16,905 already made in 2025.

Ms. Avila also shared that California State Library Park Passes are available at all LAPL locations, providing free access to 200+ state parks. In 2024, patrons checked out 7,203 passes, and 5,122 have already been borrowed in 2025.

9. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements

President Shaw reported the following:

- She was briefed by Madeline Peña, Associate Director/Principal Librarian, Community Engagement and Outreach, on the Friends Groups. She said that Central/Southern Area libraries not only lack Friends Groups, but also have staffing problems. She said would like to focus on those areas in the next fiscal year and come up with initiatives to focus on the poorest areas. Mr. Szabo replied that it was an excellent idea and that the Library Foundation could assist with funding for legal and accounting services to help establish Friends Groups.
- She was briefed on the Oral History Project by Zack Ellis, who started this project and whose grandparents were Holocaust survivors and started to document their lives.

- She met with Sada Mozer, Senior Librarian at the Baldwin Hills Branch, to discuss outreach efforts.

Next Board Meeting Notice: The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., at the Central Library.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

ATTEST:

Valerie Lynne Shaw
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant