

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

August 14, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library starting at 11:47 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. Roll Call:

Present:	President	Valerie Lynne Shaw
	Vice President	Linda Blank
	Commissioner	Hiram Sims
	Commissioner	Mayra Valadez

Absent:	Commissioner	Kelly Besser
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Also present: City Librarian John F. Szabo, Asst. City Librarian Susan Broman; Deputy City Attorney Josh M. Temple; and staff.

2. Opening Remarks: Board President Shaw welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

a. Regular Meeting - June 12, 2025

It was moved by Vice President Blank and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 12, 2025. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Blank/Shaw/Sims/Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Besser).

b. Regular Meeting - June 26, 2025

It was moved by Commissioner Valadez and seconded by Vice President Blank to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 26, 2025. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Blank/Shaw/Sims/Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Besser).

4. Public Comments on Matters

Within the Board's Jurisdiction: None.

5. Staff Recognition: Disaster Recovery Center

(Presentation took place prior to the meeting.)

The Board presented certificates of appreciation for disaster response to the following Library Department staff who quickly mobilized to provide Angelenos with essential library services such as charging stations, public computers, WiFi, and Tech2Go resources to communities affected by the January 2025 wild fires, demonstrating unwavering commitment to serve our city:

Vania Arevalo	Zachary Gilman	Jessica Matthews	Alejandra Reyes
Youssef Bellamy	Claudia Gonzalez	Patty Miranda	Alicia Reyes
Edward Castaneda	Gilda Henry	Teresa Mons	Edwin Rodarte
Cathie Chenoweth	Madeleine Ildefonso	Nydia Mora	Eliud Rojas
Gayanne Cherechyan	Chandra Jefferey	Diane Olive-Posner	Irma Sanchez
Rebekah Clapp	Frances Lee	Melissa Ortiz	Kianna Shakir
Rachelle Clayton Smith	Journey Lefay	Tatiana Ortiz	Jennifer C. Siron
Gina Diaz	Jack Li	Cordonero	Loren Spector
Joanna Fabicon	Samson Lim	Madeline Pena Feliz	Justin Sugiyama
Danielle Fox	Candice Mack	Melanie Pentecost	Janet Vega Barraza
Roberta Frank	Zoila Martell	Ziba Perez	Christina Young
Kenneth Garcia	Althea Martinez	Krosheska Portillo	
Maddie Gillette	Katherine Martinez-Santos	Laurie Reese	

6. City Librarian's Comments

and Announcements: City Librarian John F. Szabo reported on past and upcoming library events, and announced the passing of Gloria Kaufmann, the philanthropist and supporter of the Donald Bruce Kaufman-Westwood Branch Library.

7. City Librarian's Reports:

Consent Items

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

a. Acceptance of gift from Rio Grande Games for the Board Game Initiative at Central Library

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-21

WHEREAS, Rio Grande Games donated 480 board games to the Los Angeles Public Library valued at approximately \$21,276.00; and

WHEREAS, this gift will support the Central Library's Board Game Initiative, augmenting program offerings and extending participation to the branches:

RESOLVED, That a gift of Board Games for the Board Game Initiative at Central Library valued at \$21,276.00 received from Rio Grande Games be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a letter of thanks be sent to the Rio Grande Games, expressing grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

b. Acceptance of gift from Judge Dean Hansell to the Los Angeles Public Library

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-22

RESOLVED, That a gift by Judge Dean Hansell to the Los Angeles Public Library of 100 (one hundred) historical documents, photos, and ephemera of California and Los Angeles, appraised at \$12,423 be accepted; and

Library Resolution
No. 2025-22 (Cont.)

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to Judge Dean Hansell for his generous donation.

Discussion Item(s)

**c. Approval of the First Amended and Restated
Contract No. C-146231 with Julie Lamba Consulting, LLC**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of the First Amended and Restated contract (Contract C-146231) with Julie Lamba Consulting, LLC, to extend the term of the contract by six months to complete work on leadership development and organizational effectiveness consulting services and he noted that this extension would have no fiscal impact.

Commissioner Valadez asked how much of \$50,000 allotted for the contract had been spent already. Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman replied that they anticipated fully expending the funds and she could provide the balance.

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

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-23 (C-16)

WHEREAS, the Library requires the professional and specialized services of a qualified consultant to develop and facilitate training sessions to enable the Library to team-build, define vision, mission, and team purpose statements, draft key goals, and outline the functions needed to support those goals and visions; and

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2024, the Board approved the award and execution of a contract with Julie Lamba Consulting, LLC, to provide leadership development and organizational effectiveness consulting services for a term of one year (Library Resolution No. 2024-30 [C-26]); and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2024, contract with Julie Lamba Consulting, LLC, to provide leadership development was executed; and

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2024, the Board approved the award and execution of a contract with Julie Lamba Consulting, LLC, to provide leadership development; and

WHEREAS, additional time is needed to complete projects initiated by the Library:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report and authorizes the execution of the First Amended and Restated contract (Contract C-146231) with Julie Lamba Consulting, LLC, to extend the term of the contract by six months to provide the time needed to complete this work; 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 contract.

8. Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2025-26**President**

It was moved by Vice President Blank and seconded by Board President Shaw to elect Commissioner Valadez as President of the Board of Library Commissioners for Fiscal Year 2025-26. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Blank/Shaw/Sims/Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: Besser (1).

Vice President:

It was moved by Commissioner Valadez and seconded by Commissioner Sims to re-elect Commissioner Blank as Vice President of the Board of Library Commissioners for Fiscal Year 2025-26. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Blank/Shaw/Sims/Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: Besser (1).

9. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements

- a. Outgoing President Valerie Lynne Shaw stated that it had been a pleasure to have led the Board as President for the past two terms.
- b. Incoming President Mayra Valadez expressed she was honored and eager to serve as President of the Board and thanked fellow Board members for entrusting her with this duty. She said this opportunity was deeply meaningful to her as a daughter of Mexican immigrant parents and first in her family to graduate from college. She conveyed her deep love for the library and the great impact it has had in her life, highlighting that with the rise of anti-intellectualism, the banning of books and defunding of libraries, and dismantling of public education, the LA Public Library shines as a bright light. She thanked outgoing president Shaw for her mentorship.
- c. **Next Board Meeting Notice:** The next Regular Meeting of the Board will be on Thursday, **August 28, 2024**, at **11:00 a.m.**, at the Central Library.

10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m. in memory of Thomas E. Alford, who passed away on July 14, 2025. He was the first African American to serve as Assistant City Librarian (1980-1992) and was a founding member of the California Black Caucus. Condolences were expressed to his family and friends.

ATTEST:

Valerie Lynne Shaw
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant

Approved: 9/11/2025