

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

September 11, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library starting at 11:03 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. Roll Call:

Present:	President	Mayra Valadez
	Vice President	Linda Blank
	Commissioner	Kelly Besser

Absent:	Commissioner	Valerie Lynne Shaw
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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 Valadez expressed concern over the legalization of racial profiling this week by the nation's highest court and that attacks on immigrant communities felt very personal, as an Angeleno and Latina. She stated that reading and learning about history and about one another was necessary for tolerance, inclusion, and mutual respect. She emphasized the importance of events such as the Los Libros Festival that celebrates our diverse communities and helps build solidarity in our city.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

a. Regular Meeting - July 10, 2025

It was moved by Vice President Blank and seconded by Commissioner Besser to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 10, 2025. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Besser/Blank//Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Shaw).

b. Regular Meeting - August 14, 2025

It was moved by Commissioner Besser and seconded by Vice President Blank to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 14, 2025. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Besser/Blank//Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Shaw).

4. Public Comments on Matters

Within the Board's Jurisdiction (Taken out of Order)

(Due to technical audio difficulties, Public Comments were heard after the City Librarian's Comments.)

- (1) Glenn Bailey, Marcy Orkin, and Garry Fordyce, all members of the Friends of the Northridge Library, spoke in reference to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Friends groups.

**5. City Librarian's Comments
and Announcements:**

City Librarian John F. Szabo reported on past and upcoming library events.

6. City Librarian's Reports:

Consent Items: There were no Consent Items submitted for approval.

Discussion Item(s):

a. Approval of First Amended and Restated Contract C-145481 with Gibbs M. Smith, Inc., to Revise Fee Structure.

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of the First Amended and Restated contract (Contract C-145481) with Gibbs M. Smith, Inc., to revise the fee schedule for the distribution of digital books and materials to 10 percent fees of net sales. He noted that the original contract did not include the distribution of digital books and this amendment would allow that.

It was moved by Vice President Blank and seconded by Commissioner Besser to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Shaw).

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-24 (C-17)

WHEREAS, the Library requires the professional and specialized services of a Contractor to become the exclusive distributor for books and materials published by Angel City Press at Los Angeles Public Library; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2023, the Board approved the award and execution of a contract with Gibbs M. Smith, Inc., for the printing and distribution of Angel City Press at Los Angeles Public Library materials (hereinafter "ACP at LAPL" (Library Resolution No. 2023-46 [C-37])); and

WHEREAS, on June 6, 2024, contract with Gibbs M. Smith, Inc, to provide printing and distribution services for "ACP at LAPL" materials was executed; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2023, the Board approved the award and execution of a contract with Gibbs M. Smith, Inc., to provide printing and distribution services for ACP at LAPL; and

WHEREAS, the Library has negotiated a revised fee schedule for the distribution of digital books and materials to 10 percent fees of net sales to be deducted from the Contractor's payment:

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-145375) with Gibbs M. Smith, Inc., to reflect a revised fee of 10 percent of net sales for the distribution of digital books and materials; 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.

**b. Approval of Second Amendment and Restated
Angel City Press Gift Agreement C-145483**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of the First Amended and Restated contract (Contract C-145481) with Gibbs M. Smith, Inc., to revise the fee schedule for the distribution of digital books and materials to 10 percent fees of net sales to be deducted from the Contractor's payment.

It was moved by Commissioner Besser and seconded by Vice President Blank to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Shaw).

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-25 (C-18)

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2023, the Board approved a Gift Agreement to donate and transfer the rights and obligations of the Angel City Press operation from Patricia Calistro-McAuley and Scott McAuley (Proprietors) to the Library (Library Resolution No. 2023-46 [C-37]); and

WHEREAS, the gift was made to help ensure that the Angel City Press operation would continue its vital role of providing local writers the opportunity to create books that explore all that is quintessentially Los Angeles, and provide readers with books that celebrate and deepen their understanding of the people, places and ideas that shape their city; and

WHEREAS, the Library is committed to continuing the legacy of Angel City Press with new books, as well as extending the reach of existing titles locally, nationally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, the Gift Agreement was executed on June 11, 2024, as Contract No. C-145483 and includes reimbursements to the Proprietors of Angel City Press for the cost and expenses of services related to books or author agreements published, and business transactions entered into, through the Proprietors' business closing date; and

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the Gift Agreement finalized the reimbursement amount and revised the Proprietors' business closing date; and

WHEREAS, additional time is necessary to complete the execution of Author Authorization Addendums for various Contingent Author Agreements; and

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment to the Gift Agreement will extend the end date of the transition period from June 11, 2025 to June 11, 2026:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report and approves the Second Amendment and Restated Gift Agreement (Contract No. C-145483); 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 Second Amendment and Restated Gift Agreement (Contract No. C-145483).

7. Staff Presentation:

Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library

Terri Accomazzo, Editorial Director of the Angel City Press (ACP) reported that she had worked for ACP since 2005 with Patricia Calistro and Scott McAuley, the owners and founders of ACP for 30 years before gifting it to LAPL. She said ACP had collaborated with LAPL and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles over the years to publish books about LAPL collections such as the Sheet Music Collection and the Autograph Collection.

Ms. Accomazzo detailed the operations of the ACP at LAPL, highlighting several published and forthcoming books and their authors. These include *Art Deco Los Angeles* by Robert Landau, *Also on View*, *Unique & Unexpected Museums of Greater Los Angeles* by Todd Lerew, *A Handful of Earth and Handful of Sky: The World of Octavia E. Butler* by Lynell George, and *Elements of Los Angeles* by D.J. Waldie. Additionally, she mentioned collaborations with LACMA on a book about the Brockman Gallery, as well as two books commemorating the Central Library's 100th Anniversary: an ABC's book for children and a pop-up book of the Central Library.

Board President Valadez thanked Ms. Accomazzo and Elliot Kane (not present) for the incredible work they are doing and for the information on the published titles and those coming up. She added that she loves gifting Angel City Press books, which are always a hit.

LAPL's Pop-Up Book Collection

Selena Terrazas, Principal Librarian, Central Library Access Services, introduced Sara Rebman, Sr. Librarian, Children's Department, to present on the Special Collection of Pop Books.

Sara Rebman reported that in 2000, the Children's Literature Department created a special collection dedicated to showcasing pop-up books and to preserve examples of paper engineering. She said that pop-up books, also known as toy movables, have a unique play or kinetic paper element created by the motion of turning a page, lifting a flap or pulling a tab; and some books come with toys for the reader to interact and play with the book. She demonstrated how they work using several books from the collection, including *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* by Robert Sabuda, and *Paper Blossoms for All Seasons* by Ray Marshall.

Ms. Rebman reported that pop-up books date back to the 1300's and they were mainly used in astronomy and medical books, not originally made with children in mind. She said the term paper engineering only started being used in the 1960s and *The Elements of Pop-Up*, published in 1999 was one of the first books to document and demonstrate how to make these specific mechanisms; however, there is no institution currently dedicated to teaching this type of design and most artists are self-taught, learning from examples and engineering their own mechanisms.

Ms. Rebman stated that this Special Collection currently has over 1,700 items that not only documents the evolution of paper engineering, but also preserves the art pieces themselves. The books are very fragile; she pointed out that most books cannot be assembled by machine. She said the books are used for special events and programs such as the Night at the Library, but unlike the circulating pop-up books that can be found in the picture book room, the titles in the Special Collection are for reference use only.

Discussion

President Valadez thanked Ms. Rebman for the presentation and asked how the books for this collection had been acquired, whether they were purchased by the Library or donated to the Library. Ms. Rebman replied that they purchased one copy per book for the Special Collections and additional copies for circulation, and that they had received donations as well.

**8. Commissioners' Comments
and Announcements:**

- a. President Valadez stated that she was looking forward to welcoming patrons to the Los Libros Festival this Saturday at the Central Library. She thanked Diana Olivo-Posner, Isabella Sandoval, and Madeline Peña, who have worked on this event in the past and thanked staff for their incredible dedication. She also reported that she would be attending the Hollywood Area's Service Pin presentation next week and the Career Online High School graduation ceremony on October 10th.
- b. **Next Board Meeting Notice:** The next Regular Meeting of the Board will be on Thursday, **September 25, 2025**, at **11:00 a.m.**, at the Central Library.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m. in memory of Peggy Murphy, who retired in 2020; Sgt. Michael De La Hunt, LAPD Library Security Section; and Joseph Stamps, Messenger Clerk from the Shipping department. Condolences were expressed to their family and friends.

ATTEST:

MAYRA VALADEZ
President

RAQUEL M. BORDEN
Board Executive Assistant