

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

February 27, 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	Valerie Lynne Shaw
	Vice President	Linda Blank
	Commissioner	Kelly Besser
	Commissioner	Hiram Sims
	Commissioner	Mayra Valadez

Absent: None.

Also present: City Librarian John F. Szabo; Deputy City Attorney Josh M. Templet; Administrative staff and members of the public.

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

3. Approval of the Minutes: None.

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

**5. City Librarian's Comments
and Announcements:** City Librarian John Szabo reported on past and upcoming library events.

Discussion

President Shaw asked Mr. Szabo if the money raised by the Library Foundation for the Palisades Recovery Fund will go towards construction of the new Palisades Branch Library. Mr. Szabo explained that the dollars collected for the Palisades Branch Recovery Fund can be used broadly to provide services between now and when the new facility opens. The funds can also be used to provide the Pacific Palisades community with mobile or temporary library services.

6. City Librarian's Reports: None.

7. Staff Presentations:

a. Sounds of Sunset Exhibit

Christina Rice, Senior Librarian of the Photo Collection and Wendy Horowitz, Adult Librarian of the Photo Collection and Fulbright specialist provided an overview of the Sounds of Sunset Exhibit. The joint project between the Los Angeles Public Library and the Médiathèque Musicale de Paris covers the music scene in Los Angeles between 1960 and 1990. The exhibit is part of the Cultural Olympiad, linking Paris with Los Angeles, and will be on display until April 12, 2025 in Paris, France. The exhibition will be coming to the Central Library First Floor Galleries in August. President Shaw thanked Ms. Rice and Ms. Horowitz for their presentation

b. Teens Leading Change

Candice Mack, Senior Librarian of Young Adult Services and Danielle Fox, Young Adult Librarian at West Los Angeles Branch Library provided an overview of the Teens Leading Change (TLC) Program. The program offers teens the opportunity to develop and participate in civic action projects that implement positive change in the community. This year will begin Cycle 9 of the program, which will include 6 projects at 7 branch libraries. Ms. Fox noted that the West L.A. Branch Library's TLC project will document and preserve the unique history and cultural significance of Sawtelle, a neighborhood facing gentrification. A Teens Leading Change Showcase will take place at Central Library on April 19th in the Taper Auditorium.

Vice President Blank asked which schools do the student volunteers involved in the West L.A. project come from. Ms. Fox stated that most of the students go to University High School, which now includes students that were reassigned from Pacific Palisades High School.

President Shaw asked how can more TLC projects be brought to branches. Ms. Mack stated that most branch libraries are now fully staffed with YA Librarians who will have an opportunity to nominate programs at their designated branches.

8. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements

Vice President Blank attended a meeting of the Palisades Friends group, Pacific Palisades Library Association, held at the Westwood Library, where Author Susan Orlean spoke and read a passage from her book regarding the importance of libraries.

Commissioner Valadez thanked Director Eva Mitnick and Principal Librarian, Diane Olivo-Posner for the invitation to join the Library at the Big Read event with Sandra Cisneros on February 23rd.

Commissioner Sims gave a shout out to Joseph Nunez, a former student of his and an aspiring Librarian, currently completing a capstone internship at the Sims Library of Poetry.

President Shaw attended the ALOUD program with Nikole Hannah-Jones on February 20th.

- **Next Board Meeting Notice:** The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., at the Central Library.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

Valerie Lynne Shaw
President

Lynda Herrera
Acting Board Executive Assistant