

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

February 12, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library starting at 11:04 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. Roll Call:

Present:	President	Mayra Valadez
	Vice President	Linda Blank
	Commissioner	Kelly Besser
	Commissioner	Valerie Lynne Shaw
	Commissioner	Fabian R. Wesson

Absent: None

Also: Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman, Deputy City Attorney Josh M. Templet, administrative staff, and members of the public.

2. **Opening Remarks:** Board President Valadez welcomed everyone to the meeting and remarked on all the exciting programming to come during the centennial anniversary of Central Library.

3. **Approval of the Minutes:**

a. Regular Meeting - January 22, 2026

It was moved by Vice President Blank and seconded by Commissioner Shaw to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 22, 2026. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

4. **Public Comments on Matters Within the Board's Jurisdiction:**

The Board heard nine public comments from the following community members: Ben Eubanks, Marcy Winograd, Marc Wutschke, Xu Li, Summer Farah, Nora Lester Murad, Jean Lin, Jenan Matari and Jeremy T.

5. **City Librarian's Comments and Announcements:** Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman reported on past and upcoming events.

6. **City Librarian's Reports:**

Discussion Items

a. **Approval of transfer of funds within Fund 300 in the amount of \$120,000, for Branch Library Book Drop Replacement**

Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman recommended approval to transfer \$120,000 within Fund 300 for branch library Book Drop replacements. This ongoing project will upgrade and replace 17 old book drops throughout the Library system. Sufficient funds were already allocated in the current year's budget and are available for transfer.

Discussion

Board President Valadez asked about the assessment process for determining when book drops need replacement. Ms. Broman explained that Branch Library Services periodically assesses the receptacles and identifies those needing replacement, often due to normal wear and tear. She added that the book drop receptacles are vinyl wrapped to resemble giant library cards, making them eye-catching and helping to identify library locations.

It was moved by Commissioner Besser and seconded by Vice President Blank to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-5 (C-5)

WHEREAS, The Library Facilities and Event Management Section will purchase new book drops and replace the damaged book drops for seventeen (17) Branch Libraries; and

WHEREAS, Library staff requested the transfer of \$120,000.00 from Contractual Services Account 3040 to Office and Administrative Account 6010 within the Library's Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget to comply with City procurement and expenditure policies; and

WHEREAS, Sufficient funds have been budgeted in the Library's FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget and are available in the Contractual Services Account 3040 for this transfer; and,

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners (Board) approves the following transfer of \$120,000 from the Contractual Services Account 3040 to the Office and Administrative Account 6010 within the Library's Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget, Fund 300, Department 44, as follows:

From:	<u>Acct. No.</u> 3040	<u>Account Name</u> Contractual Services	<u>Amount</u> \$ 120,000
To:	<u>Acct. No.</u> 6010	<u>Account Name</u> Office & Administrative	<u>Amount</u> \$ 120,000

THEREFORE, FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board hereby authorizes the City Librarian and City Attorney to make technical corrections as deemed necessary.

- b. Approval of transfer of funds within Fund 300 in the amount of \$160,000, for contract services for City of STEM + Maker Faire 2026**

Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman recommended transferring \$160,000 within Fund 300 for City of STEM + Maker Faire 2026 contract services. These funds, already approved in the current year's budget, will support the ongoing partnership with the City of STEM and LA Maker Faire, which will be held on April 26, 2026. This free, all-ages event is described as Southern California's largest celebration of science, making, creativity, and invention. The Library has partnered with the City of STEM for three years, following three years of running its own Maker Faire, which outgrew the Central Library space (reaching 10,000 attendees). The total project budget is \$175,000, with the remaining \$15,000 to be used for administrative expenses.

Discussion

President Valadez asked how many vendors are contracted and for what services. Ms. Broman clarified that the process is changing this year: instead of paying for individual services, the Library will contract with a single vendor to facilitate the entire process. This change is expected to significantly streamline operations, allowing the team to focus more fully on programming. This shift is the primary reason for the change in funding this year. The event, which drew approximately 30,000 attendees, will be held at Exposition Park in partnership with the City of STEM and other science and maker organizations. This year, the fair is expected to feature about 120 makers and vendors.

It was moved by Vice President Blank and seconded by Commissioner Besser to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-6 (C-6)

WHEREAS, The Fiscal Year 2025-26 Adopted Library Budget includes funding for the 2026 City of Stem + Maker Faire in Library Account 6010 Office and Administrative; and

WHEREAS, Staff requested the transfer of \$160,000 to Library Account 3040 Contractual Services to allow staff to use a services contract:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves the following transfer of \$160,000 from the Office and Administrative Account 6010 to the Contractual Services Account 3040, within the Library's Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget, Fund 300, Department 44.

<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
From: 6010 – Office and Administrative	\$160,000
To: 3040 – Contractual Services	\$160,000
TOTAL:	\$160,000

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Library Commissioners hereby authorizes the City Librarian and the City Attorney to make technical and clerical corrections as deemed necessary.

c. **Approval to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding for License to the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) allowing use of Library premises for a WorkSource Portal at Central Library**

Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman recommended approving a Memorandum of Understanding for License authorizing the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) to use Central Library premises for a WorkSource Portal. This MOU formalizes a long-standing agreement, allowing the EWDD to operate a Worksource Portal on Central Library premises. This free, federally funded service assists Angelenos with job finding, resume review, and mock interviews. Both the EWDD and the Library are committed to continuing this valuable service.

Discussion

President Valadez asked how long the program has been in operation at the Central Library. Ms. Broman stated that the program has been operating since 2012, with a physical portal established at Central Library since 2015.

Commissioner Shaw asked how many individuals have used the service and how it is promoted. Ms. Broman stated that in the 10 years since the portal opened, over 10,000 people have received assistance. The services are provided by staff from the Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE), which contracts with the EWDD. Both the Library and PACE publicize the services, which are offered and refer people through the Business and Economics department where the portal is located. Services are available to both walk-in visitors and referrals. Central Library Services Assistant Director Ana Campos stated that staff use social media and outside department methods for advertising. PACE staff also coordinate with the Business and Economics subject department and collaborate once a month with the Source, an LAPL program supporting community members experiencing homelessness, life instability, or who are low income.

It was moved by Commissioner Blank and seconded by Commissioner Shaw to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-7 (C-7)

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2026, the Board of Library Commissioners (Board) approved the Memorandum of Understanding for License between the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) and the City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD); and,

WHEREAS, the license will allow EWDD to use designated Library premises; and,

WHEREAS, EWDD will operate the WorkSource Portal at Central Library to provide Angelenos with job finding assistance and LAPL will provide the physical infrastructure for the portal.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report; 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.

7. Staff Presentation: Central 100

Central 100 Co-Chairs Christina Rice, Senior Librarian of the Photo Collection and Madeline Peña, Principal Librarian of the Community Engagement and Outreach Division provided a detailed overview of the Central 100 Centennial Celebration. Planning for the year-long celebration began nearly two years ago. The kickoff event on January 29th was a huge success with standing room only, and included the reveal of the 1925 time capsule. Upcoming events include a Central 100 Festival on July 11th, original Melodrama Production shows in early December and an All Staff Party on December 12th. Additionally, Central Library will host five exhibitions, and will deploy a pop-up traveling exhibit for branch libraries. Online content includes Central 100 microsite in English and Spanish with a blog, timeline, and opportunity for audio/video testimonials, as well as a library staff-written and produced podcast called Past Due: 100 Years of Work at Central Library. Promotional banners installed are placed all around the city, and a special edition Centennial library card is available at all Los Angeles Public Library locations while supplies last. Commemorative merchandise is available at the Library Store, including a Central 100 3D Retro Viewer, and limited-edition artist prints inspired by the Library. The Co-Chairs concluded their presentation by thanking all staff, Library Administration, the Library Foundation, and volunteers for making the Centennial celebration possible.

Discussion

President Valadez thanked Ms. Peña and Ms. Rice for their dedication on the Centennial, noting immense pride from Library staff, which is evident in the exhibits. She views this as a testament to the institution and the beauty and art shared with the public. She also expressed excitement about seeing the Library's banners displayed in front of the Pacoima Branch Library.

Commissioner Besser noted that the kickoff event was a beautiful celebration of all things Central Library and the last 100 years. She praised the 20's fashion at the kickoff event.

Commissioner Wesson expressed regret about missing the event, noting a personal connection to the 1920s theme because her mother's birthday is on 2/26/1926, which also marks 100 years. She remarked on the positive feeling she gets from the Library and the enthusiasm of others when she mentions her commission role. She noted that meeting with staff members last month—Business Manager Madeleine Rackley, Heather Smith and Emily Wooten from the Budget team and Branch Library Services Director Joyce Cooper and Emily Fate—further convinced her she is in the right place, highlighting their passion for their respective work and the Library's mission. She concluded by stating her eagerness to contribute and thanked City Librarian John Szabo for the positive atmosphere emanating from his leadership.

8. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements

- Commissioner Besser remarked on a past collaboration between the West L.A. Regional branch and the UCLA Library Special Collections Punk Collective zine workshop. She commended the Teen Council's dedication and ownership of programming and outreach. She looks forward to future programming collaborations with the Library.
- Commissioner Wesson reported that she is looking forward to celebrating the newly relocated Dorothy Vena Johnson Black History Collection at the Baldwin Hills Branch Library.
- Commissioner Shaw also shared her excitement to debut the collection at the Baldwin Hills Branch and noted that the event will be held on March 21st during Women's History Month.
- President Valadez thanked Commissioner Shaw and Commissioner Wesson for their work to highlight the collection.

Next Board Meeting Notice: The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., and will be held at the Central Library.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayra Valadez
President

Lynda Achi
Secretary to the Board