

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

April 22, 2021

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

1. Roll Call:

Present:	President	Bích Ngọc Cao
	Vice-President	Kathryn Eidmann
	Commissioner	Arianne Edmonds
	Commissioner	Dale Franzen
	Commissioner	Josefa Salinas

Absent: None

Also present via teleconference: City Librarian John F. Szabo, Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman, Deputy City Attorney Basia Jankowski; Library staff and members of the public.

2. Opening Remarks:

- **Welcome to New Commissioner Arianne Edmonds**

Board President Cao welcomed Library Commissioner Arianne Edmonds as the new member of the Board. Commissioner Edmonds is a fifth generation Angeleno, and a social impact professional archivist and storyteller. In 2017, she founded the J.L. Edmonds Project, an initiative dedicated to preserving the legacy of *The Liberator*, an early 20th-century Los Angeles African American newspaper founded by her great-great grandfather, Jefferson Lewis Edmonds. Ms. Edmonds is the keeper of her family's archive and has committed over a decade to uncovering forgotten stories hidden away in libraries and repositories around the nation.

In late 2017, Ms. Edmonds and her father, Paul Edmonds, developed a partnership with the Los Angeles Public Library to digitize *The Liberator* newspaper and offer it to the public for the first time in over a century.

- **Poet Laureate Lynne Thompson**

Commissioner Salinas introduced Los Angeles Poet Laureate Lynne Thompson who was in attendance to deliver a reading of her poem, *The Purgatorial*. She is an acclaimed writer and outspoken force who uses words to tell stories bringing communities together and opening new venues of art and thinking.

3. Approval of the Minutes: NONE

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

There were no requests received for public comment.

5. **City Librarian's Comments**

and Announcements: City Librarian John F. Szabo reported the following:

- **Earth Day:** The Library participated in Earth Day events and programs to encourage people to be planet protectors. The Library launched the Celebrate the Earth Challenge that runs through the end of the month, with 780 people signed up to date. Other programs celebrating the environment include Neighborhood Science and Full STEAM Ahead programming.
- **Reopening to the Public:** The first branches will be opening with limited services on May 3. Public announcements will be made on Monday, April 26, with details about services and locations. Thank you to staff from throughout the organization who have been part of the planning effort.
- **LeVar Burton** visited the Central Library to film a special project. While on site, he posed with the giant library card for social media and agreed to serve as a celebrity representative for LAPL at the L.A. Times Festival of Books. He is an incredible voice for libraries, reading, and literacy.
- **Black Maternal Health Week:** Last week, the Library promoted and offered programming on Black Maternal Health topics and has curated resources online. This is the third year the library has participated in promoting the information week.
- **Anti-Racism Zine Workshop:** On April 14, Librarians from the Goldwyn-Hollywood and Felipe De Neve branches hosted an Anti-Racism Zine Workshop, as part of the *Book to Action* series and featured as a guest zine maker, Tracy Park.
- **LA Made Program on Racial Justice:** This intergenerational conversation on racial injustice and reconciliation was centered on George Takei's book, *They Called Us Enemy*. June Berk, a former WWII incarcerated and Japanese American National Museum volunteer, was interviewed by two Los Angeles area high school students from the Koreatown Youth and Community Center's Koreatown Storytelling Program.
- **Story Hackers:** In partnership with KLCS public television station, this series focuses on book storytelling activities and library resources with the goal of encouraging children to read. The first episode features Maya Lin, the architect of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Civil Rights Memorial. Children's Services Senior Librarian Joanna Fabicon hosts the episode and leads a journey into examining this designer and architect.
- **Online Docent Tours of Central Library:** Docents are conducting virtual tours via Zoom every Saturday morning at 11 a.m. Each week a docent leads an hour-long tour, sharing slides, videos, and stories about Central Library's history, art, and architecture. Prior to the pandemic Central Library tours had skyrocketed due to Susan Orleans' *The Library Book*, and these online tours are popular as well.

- **Praise from a Patron:** A patron wrote a public comment about appreciation of the library services during the pandemic: “The Los Angeles Public Library has been the hidden hero for our family during the past year. It has not only ignited a budding passion for reading with both our daughters, but has provided all the things that great books do: spark imagination, make the time fly by, and transport us to worlds far and wide outside of our otherwise locked down home. Thank you to you and all the librarians and library services for providing this invaluable, delicious escape.”

6. City Librarian’s Reports:

Consent Item(s)

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Commissioner Franzen to approve the following resolutions. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Cao, Eidmann, Edmonds, Franzen & Salinas). Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

a. **Approve acceptance of Library Development Impact Mitigation Fee for the 7500 Sunset Boulevard Project**

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2021 - 13 (C-12)

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2021, the Board of Library Commissioners found that developer and builder, Faring Capital, applied for and received conditional approval from the Department of City Planning to construct the 7500 Sunset Boulevard Project (the “Project”) consisting of 200 residential units to be located at 7500 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles 90028; and

WHEREAS, the DCP imposed a condition of approval requiring the developer pay a Library Development Impact Mitigation fee of \$200 per capita based upon the 430 projected number of residents in the 200 residential units, which fee totals \$86,000; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Library Commissioners approved the acceptance of \$86,000 for payment of a Library Development Impact Mitigation Fee; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Library Commissioners authorized the City Librarian, or designee, to deposit \$86,000 into the Library Trust Fund 831, Account 364, to acquire books, technology and library materials, to pay for Library programs, facility and landscape improvements, and furniture for the Frances Howard Goldwyn – Hollywood Regional Library; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Librarian, or designee send a letter to Vince Bertoni Director of DCP, with a copy to Vince Manzenberger, Greystar, located at 2615 Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 210, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 notifying DCP that the Library Development Mitigation fee has been paid for this Project.

b. **Approval of Amendment No. 2 to Supplemental Agreement No. 5 of Contract No. 736 with Sencorp White Inc. to continue maintenance services of the compact shelving at the Central Library**

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-14 (C-13)

WHEREAS, on October 3, 1993, the renovated Central Library opened with a new compact shelving system manufactured and installed by White Systems Inc.; and
Library Resolution
No. 2021-14 (C-13) Cont.

WHEREAS, on August 4, 2005 the Board of Library Commissioners approved issuance of a Request for Bids (RFB) for the maintenance of the compact shelving system at the Central Library. White Systems, Inc. was the only firm to respond to the RFB; and

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2005, the Board of Library Commissioners approved Contract No. 736 between the City of Los Angeles and White Systems, Inc. The contract was approved for a three-year period, June 14, 2006 through June 13, 2009; and since 2009, the Board has approved extensions of the contract for one year periods; and

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2009, the BOARD approved Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 736 to extend the term of the contract through June 13, 2010; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2010, the BOARD approved Amendment No. 2 to the Contract No. 736 to extend the term of the contract through June 13, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Contract No. 736 expired on June 13, 2011. Thereafter on July 7, 2011 the BOARD approved Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to Contract No. 736 between the City and White Systems, Inc., to extend the term of the contract through June 13, 2012; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2012 the BOARD approved Amendment No. 1 to Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to Contract No. 736 to extend the term of the contract through June 13, 2013; and

WHEREAS, as on February 14, 2013 the BOARD approved Amendment No. 2 to Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to Contract No. 736 to extend the term of the contract through June 13, 2014; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2014 the BOARD approved Amendment No. 3 to Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to Contract No. 736 to extend the term of the contract through June 13, 2015; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2015 the BOARD approved Amendment No. 4 to Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to Contract No. 736 to extend the term of the contract through June 13, 2016; and

WHEREAS, on October 31, 2015, Connell Limited Partnership acquired White Systems, Inc. and changed its name to Sencorp White, Inc. and has continued to be the sole provider of maintenance services for the brand and model of compact

shelving at the Central Library; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2016, the Board approved Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to Contract No. 736 to extend the term of the contract through June 13, 2017 and accepted the assignment of the contract from White Systems to Connell Inc., Limited Partnership and its name change to Sencorp Inc.; and

Library Resolution
No. 2021-14 (C-13) Cont.

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2017, the Board approved Supplemental Agreement No. 3 to Contract No. 736 to extend the term of the contract through June 13, 2018; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2018, the Board approved Supplemental Agreement No. 4 to Contract No. 736 to extend the term of the contract through June 13, 2019; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2019, the Board of Library Commissioners approved Supplemental Agreement No. 5 to Contract No. 736 to extend the term of the contract through June 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2020, the Board of Library Commissioners approved Amendment No. 1 to Supplemental Agreement No. 5 to Contract No. 736 to extend the term of the contract through June 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Commissioners found pursuant to Charter Section 371(e)(10) and Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.15(a)(10) that the use of competitive bidding would be undesirable, impractical or impossible because Sencorp is the sole manufacturer and the sole provider for the maintenance of the compact shelving ; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Commissioners found pursuant to Charter Section 1022 that the work can be performed more economically and feasibly by Sencorp because the City's Personnel Department and Library's Human Resources department have determined that City employees do not have the expertise to perform the work required; and

WHEREAS, Funds are available in the Library's Contractual Services Account:

RESOLVED, That on April 22, 2021, the Board of Library Commissioners approved Amendment No. 2 to Supplemental Agreement No. 5 to Contract No. 736 extending the term of the contract one year to June 13, 2022; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Librarian and City Attorney be authorized to make technical changes if needed to the amendment prior to execution; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Attorney be authorized to correct

where appropriate references in the Statement of Facts and in the Agreement regarding the description of the agreement.

**7. Oral Update from the Ad Hoc Committee
on Re-imagining Safety & Security**

Vice President Eidmann provided a recap of the work and progress of the Ad Hoc Committee on Re-Imagining Safety & Security at the Library. She reported that the most recent meeting the committee primarily focused on the reopening of library facilities and on the short term initiatives the Library is planning to implement to create a welcoming environment for patrons. She asked staff to provide an update.

Susan Broman, Assistant City Librarian, stated the Library is working on rolling reopening plans for May 3. Staff will be greeting the public to welcome them and remind them of the requirements to wear a mask and maintain physical distance. Training will be provided for staff and contract security, and masks will be available to hand out to the public.

Ms. Broman stated that Library Experience Office staff Karen Pickard-Four, Principal Librarian, and Helen Neal are working on several projects relating to reopening and providing services, including discussion with potential partners. The office has virtual office hours for staff to contact them to ask questions or provide suggestions.

Vice President Eidmann stated that there were a number of items that the Mayor announced in his State of the City address that were aligned with the Library Experience Office, including additional provisions for mental health services and legal services and encouraged the Library Experience Office to coordinate with the other departments of the city and engage in those activities.

**8. Commissioners' Comments
and Announcements**

Commissioner Franzen mentioned that George Takei is a Broadway star and he was very involved in a show about the internment, which later became a movie.

- **Next Board Meeting Notice**

The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. via Teleconference.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

ATTEST:

Bích Ngọc Cao
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant