

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

February 26, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library starting at 11:02 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. **Roll Call:**

<b>Present:</b>	President	<b>Mayra Valadez</b>
	Vice President	<b>Linda Blank</b>
	Commissioner	<b>Kelly Besser</b>
	Commissioner	<b>Fabian R. Wesson</b>

<b>Absent:</b>	Commissioner	<b>Valerie Lynne Shaw</b>
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**Also:** City Librarian John F. Szabo, 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 the positive energy of the staff attending to celebrate those being recognized for their years of service.

3. **Approval of the Minutes:** None

4. **Staff Recognition:**

The Board presented certificates of retirement to Director of Human Resources Michael Bolokowicz, Assistant Director of Human Resources Leona Stevenson and Commission Executive Assistant Raquel Borden. The Board congratulated and thanked the recipients for their contributions to the Library and city.

Board President Valadez thanked Ms. Borden for her dedicated service as Board Secretary and for her assistance during the onboarding process when she joined as a new Commissioner in 2024. She fondly recalled her City Council confirmation, noting how Ms. Borden made her parents feel welcome by greeting them in Spanish during their first visit to City Hall—a gesture that was deeply meaningful to them.

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

The Board heard nine public comments from the following community members: Ben Eubanks, Xu Li, Charmaine E. Johnson, Marcy Winograd, Glen Bailey, Nora Lester Murad, Sue Doherty, Jeremy T., Matthew Christler.

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

**7. City Librarian's Reports:****Discussion Items****a. Approval of publishing agreement between John McCormack and Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of the publishing agreement between John McCormack and Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library for the exclusive license in the copyright of *The Last Condors of Eaton Canyon*.

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

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-8 (C-8)**

**WHEREAS**, on December 14, 2023, the Board of Library Commissioners (Board) approved a Gift Agreement to accept the Angel City Press publishing operation and committed to continuing the legacy of Angel City Press by publishing new books that amplify the voices of local authors and preserves the stories of Los Angeles and Southern California;

**WHEREAS**, Staff will ensure that the required compliance documents are completed and submitted prior to the execution of the agreement. The publishing agreement has been reviewed by the City Attorney and is ready to be transmitted for processing.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report, including approval of the award and execution of the publishing agreement with John McCormack for the exclusive license in the copyright of *The Last Condors of Eaton Canyon*; 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.

**b. Acceptance of gift of \$10,000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the Cahuenga Branch Library**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended acceptance of a gift of \$10,000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the Cahuenga Branch Library. Mr. Szabo noted that Exhibits B, C, and D are all recommendations to accept funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, a legacy philanthropic entity. This initial step involves a \$10,000, generally unrestricted gift to libraries across the country that operate a Carnegie library. The Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) is proud to operate three such libraries—the Vermont Square Library, the Lincoln Heights Branch Library, and the Cahuenga Branch Library—which are the recipients of these gifts. Mr. Szabo noted that while this \$10,000 is a one-time gift, he hopes it is a "first step toward some other major

funding" from the Corporation. Mr. Szabo recommended approval of these gifts as a significant first step in re-establishing a funding relationship with the Corporation.

### **Discussion**

President Valadez asked if the funding is a one-time gift or will be provided on an annual basis. Mr. Szabo clarified that it is intended as a one-time gift for systems that operate Carnegie libraries. He noted that while the Carnegie Corporation hasn't made a formal commitment, they have shown renewed interest in supporting these historic libraries nationwide, which he expects will lead to further grant opportunities.

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

### **LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-9 (C-9)**

**RESOLVED**, That a gift of \$10,000.00 for the Cahuenga Branch Library received from The Carnegie Corporation of New York be accepted and deposited in Trust Fund 831, Account 380; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a letter of thanks be sent to the Carnegie Corporation of New York, expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

c. **Acceptance of gift of \$10,000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the Lincoln Heights Branch Library**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended acceptance of a gift of \$10,000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the Lincoln Heights Branch Library.

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

### **LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-10 (C-10)**

**RESOLVED**, That a gift of \$10,000.00 for the Lincoln Heights Branch Library received from The Carnegie Corporation of New York be accepted and deposited in Trust Fund 831, Account 380; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a letter of thanks be sent to the Carnegie Corporation of New York, expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

d. **Acceptance of gift of \$10,000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the Vermont Square Branch Library**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended acceptance of a gift of \$10,000 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the Vermont Square Branch Library.

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

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-11 (C-11)**

**RESOLVED**, That a gift of \$10,000.00 for the Vermont Square Branch Library received from The Carnegie Corporation of New York be accepted and deposited in Trust Fund 831, Account 380; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a letter of thanks be sent to the Carnegie Corporation of New York, expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

**e. Approval of Assignment and Assumption Agreement between Cell-Ed, Inc. and EnGen with the Consent of the City of Los Angeles**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of the Assignment and Assumption Agreement between Cell-Ed, Inc. and EnGen with the Consent of the City of Los Angeles. The contract is part of the Immigration Assistance Services and is used most notably in the New Americans Initiative to provide non-English learners with a software-based learning unit focused on naturalization and immigration assistance. Because EnGen has acquired Cell-Ed, Inc., the contract is being transitioned to the new entity name while maintaining all original terms, lengths, and conditions.

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

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-12 (C-12)**

**WHEREAS**, on August 22, 2024, the Board approved the award of contracts to provide the Library with immigration assistance services and immigrant integration & inclusion projects as part of a list of pre-qualified contractors to thirteen vendors, including Cell-Ed, Inc.;

**WHEREAS**, on September 10, 2024, Contract No. C-146142 between the Library and Cell-Ed, Inc. was executed for a term of three years;

**WHEREAS**, on October 8, 2025, Cell-Ed, Inc. was acquired by EnGen;

**WHEREAS**, EnGen wishes to continue to operate in the position of Cell-Ed, Inc. as a contractor pre-qualified to provide the services specified in Contract No. C-146142;

**WHEREAS**, the terms and conditions of the contract will remain the same;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report and approves the Assignment and

Assumption Agreement for the Contract Number C-146142 of City of Los Angeles Contracts between Cell-Ed, Inc. and EnGen with the consent of the City of Los Angeles; 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.

**8. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements**

- Board President Valadez shared her enthusiasm for the upcoming ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Temporary Palisades Branch Library, noting that she looks forward to celebrating the new facility with both staff and the local community.
- Commissioner Wesson is looking forward to celebrating the newly relocated Dorothy Vena Johnson Black History Collection at the Baldwin Hills Branch Library on March 21st.
- Commissioner Wesson congratulated the retirees on their next chapter and expressed her appreciation for their contributions despite not having had the opportunity to work closely with them.

**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 11:54 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayra Valadez  
President

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Lynda Achi  
Secretary to the Board