

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

January 25, 2024

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:

Present:	President	Valerie Lynne Shaw
	Vice President	Linda Blank
	Commissioner	Kelly Besser
	Commissioner	Hiram Sims

Absent: None.

Also present: Appointed Commissioner, Ms. Lacy Wright, 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 Shaw welcomed Lacy Wright and congratulated her on her appointment to the Board and pending confirmation.

3. Approval of the Minutes: Regular Meeting - December 14, 2023: APPROVED.

It was moved by Vice President Blank and seconded by Commissioner Besser to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held December 14, 2023. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Shaw/Sims); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

**4. Public Comments on Matters
Within the Board's Jurisdiction:** (1)

The Board heard one public comment regarding the opening hours for the West Hollywood Branch. City Librarian John Szabo informed the Board that the branch was not part of the LAPL system.

**5. City Librarian's Comments
and Announcements:** City Librarian John F. Szabo reported on past events as well as the following:

2024-25 Proposed Budget Update: Mr. Szabo stated that the budget process is continuing through April 20, when the Mayor releases her budget. He also reported about an article in the *LA Times* regarding the city's financial picture as well as hiring and eliminating vacancies. He reported that the city's hiring limitations and position elimination would not include the Library Department, due to the Library's Charter funding.. He stated that a communication will be going out to all library staff about this.

President Shaw asked how many vacancies the Library had, the total number of Library employees, and what the Library's regular vacancy rate was. Michael Bolokowicz, Director of Human Resources, said there are approximately 104 vacant positions currently and there are 1,100 employees, not inclusive of the as-needed employees, and the vacancy rate usually is 10 to 12% .

Vice President Blank asked about the process by which somebody gets employed by the City. Mr. Bolokowicz replied that the process starts with the city Personnel Department and the vast majority of all the hiring is done through the Civil Service process, which begins with the city personnel department opening an examination. Candidates fill out and submit an application online. The city administers an examination for all those that qualify candidates who are ranked according to score. When a department is ready to fill positions, they would submit a request to the Personnel Department, who provides a pool of names based on score.

Vice President Blank asked if the Library anticipated filling some of those 100 vacant positions. Mr. Bolokowicz replied that's part of the hiring plan and they are in the middle of an internal transfer process for current staff to give them an opportunity to move around.

Commissioner Besser asked how current employees who want to move into these open positions are prioritized. Mr. Bolokowicz replied that before the positions are filled, they make them available as an internal transfer.

6. City Librarian's Reports:

Consent Items

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

a. Acceptance of gift from the Bruckman Rare Books Friends Group

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended accepting a gift from the Bruckman Rare Books Friends Group. He noted that the Bruckman Rare Book Friends Group, which was created in 2011, raised funds to purchase special and unique items for both the Rare Books Collection and orchestrations for the Art, Music & Recreation Department. He said the group is now dissolved and the remaining Board member and treasurer retired and gifted the remaining funds from Bruckman Rare Book Friends Group to the LAPL.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2024-1 (C-1)

RESOLVED, That a check in the amount of \$5,195.00 from the Bruckman Rare Books Friends Group, now dissolved, be accepted and deposited into Trust Fund 831, Code 378; and

Library Resolution
No. 2024-1 (C-1) Cont.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to Serenna Day, retired LAPL librarian and Board member of the now-dissolved Bruckman Rare Book Friends for releasing the funds for use by the LAPL, and for her dedication and contributions to the LAPL.

Discussion Items

**b. Approval of four amended author agreements for the
Library's "Angel City Press at Los Angeles Public Library"**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of four amended versions of author agreements for the Library's Angel City Press at Los Angeles Public Library, which were initially approved by the Board in December as part of the acceptance of the gift of Angel City Press to the Library. This item contains four author contracts; three of them were part of the original 86, but financial information had been redacted. Staff is asking to unredact them, because of financial obligations associated with those four particular authors. Another contract was added bringing the total to 87.

Discussion

Vice President Blank asked why the financial agreements with these four authors are different from the other ones. Josh Temple, Deputy City Attorney, explained that these four agreements are different because that there's still a small balance that it is owed to them, but all the other authors have already been paid in full.

It was moved by Commissioner Besser and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve the following resolution as amended. The motion passed unanimously with 4 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Shaw/Sims); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2024-2 (C-2)

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2023, the Board of Library Commissioners (Board) approved a Gift Agreement to accept the Angel City Press (ACP) publishing operation and materials related to the art, history, and culture of Southern California, particularly of Los Angeles;

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2023, the Board approved the transfer and amendment of the 86 author agreements to the Library for the exclusive license in the copyright of the authors' works;

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2024, the Board authorized the Library to approve amended versions of three of the author agreements; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2024, the Board authorized the Library to approve the transfer and amendment of one additional author agreement for the exclusive license in the copyright of the author's works.

Library Resolution
No. 2024-2 (C-2) Cont.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report, including the award and execution of amended versions of the author agreements enclosed in Attachment A of this report for a total of 87 author agreements, for the exclusive license in the copyright of the authors' works; 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 four amended author agreements.

7. Staff Presentation: LA Made at the Los Angeles Public Library

The Board heard a presentation about the cultural programming series LA Made at the Los Angeles Public Library from Senior Librarian Celia Avila de Santiago and Librarian II Kevin Awakuni from the Exploration and Creativity Department.

8. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements

- **Appointment of Ms. Lacy Wright to the Board of Library Commissioners**

Board President Shaw announced that the Board had received a copy of a Letter, dated January 2, 2024, from Mayor Karen Bass to the Los Angeles City Council regarding the appointment of Ms. Lacy Wright to the Board of Library Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2026.

- **Next Board Meeting Notice:** The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., at the Central Library.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

ATTEST:

Valerie Lynne Shaw
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant