

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

March 11, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held via teleconference at 11:05 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. Roll Call:

Present:	President	Bích Ngọc Cao
	Vice-President	Kathryn Eidmann
	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: Commissioner Franzen opened the meeting with inspirational quotes from George Eliot, Bob Marley, and Damian Barr.

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

The Board heard one (1) comment in the General Public Comments section.

**4. City Librarian's Comments
and Announcements:** City Librarian John F. Szabo reported the following:

- **Women's History Month:** The Library has many programs planned to celebrate the stories and accomplishments of so many pioneering women such as Rita Walters, labor leader and activist Dolores Huerta, first LAPL African-American Librarian Miriam Matthews, and the first female Los Angeles City Librarian and suffragist Mary Foy. These and other women are being celebrated with blog posts, podcasts, book lists, and online programs.
- **Update on the proposed dedication of Vermont Square Branch Library in honor of Rita Walters.** The proposed dedication has been vigorously promoted to gather public input, including an interview with Gayle Anderson from KTLA and soliciting input from the Voices Neighborhood Council meeting, which includes the area of the Vermont Square Branch.

- **New Poet Laureate of Los Angeles Lynne Thompson:** The Poet Laureate Program is a partnership between the Department of Cultural Affairs and the Los Angeles Public Library. Library staff is already working with her on a special dedicated blog page and programming for National Poetry Month in April to engage teens and adults across the City.
- **Racial Equity and Inclusion Update:** In December, the Library's Racial Equity Action Board was established with 10 staff members from throughout the Library and from a variety of positions selected for their experience, skills, unique perspectives and understanding of the Library's role in cultivating racial equity.
- **Message in support of Asian American and Pacific Islander community:** The Library supports all our Asian American and Pacific Islander staff and members of our community and we stand with them during the devastating escalation of anti-Asian violence.
- **Graduation Ceremony for Career Online High School (COHS) students:** A virtual graduation ceremony will be held this afternoon where over 70 students will receive their diplomas. Mr. Szabo stated that this is the largest graduating group since the Library started the COHS program.
- **Launching of Library To Go evening service:** The Library will offer evening service on Tuesday and Thursdays to increase access for patrons to pick up their materials.
- **Safe Parking at Libraries:** The Library is currently supporting safe parking at the West Valley and Edendale Branch Libraries. A third location is being added at the Cahuenga Branch Library in East Hollywood. The Library parking lots are used overnight when the libraries are closed and are being managed by the nonprofit Safe Parking LA through funds from Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).
- **Anniversary of Pandemic and Stay at Home Order:** Around the world, the nation and in Los Angeles have reached the one year anniversary of the pandemic. Mr. Szabo thanked the staff for their work during this time, for quickly pivoting from physical operations to virtual platforms. He said he was proud of the Disaster Service Workers that provide services at hotels, motels and shelters, managed trailer sites, senior meal call center, senior vaccination hotlines, and worked as contact tracers. He also thanked the Board members for their leadership, and all staff for their perseverance, resilience and adaptability.

5. City Librarian's Reports

Consent Item(s)

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Vice President Eidmann to approve Consent Items A, B and C. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao, Eidmann, Franzen & Salinas). Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

**a. Approved acceptance of a gift from the
Friends of the Encino-Tarzana Branch Library**

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-6 (C-6)

RESOLVED, That a gift of \$25,861 received from the Friends of the Encino-Tarzana Branch Library for the benefit of the Encino-Tarzana Branch Library be accepted; and deposited in Trust Fund 831, Account 363 and;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to the Friends of the Encino-Tarzana Branch Library, expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

**b. Approved acceptance of California Library
Literacy Services Final Grant for Family
Literacy Services for Fiscal Year 2020/21**

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-7 (C-7)

WHEREAS, On August 26, 2020, the California State Library announced that the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) Adult Literacy Service program grant application was accepted and was eligible for an initial \$135,540 grant and an additional \$65,025 designated for family literacy. The Los Angeles Public Library and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles provide matching funds to make LAPL eligible for this grant; and

WHEREAS, The remaining 10% of LAPL's 2020/21 CLLS award is now being claimed after the completion of a mid-year financial and narrative report and confirmation that 90% of the initial grant has been expended. This remaining grant amount is \$15,060 and \$7,225 designated for family literacy. The total award for the fiscal year is \$222,850; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Public Library and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles provide matching funds to make LAPL eligible for this grant which is determined by applying a CLLS formula. The formula includes the amount of local dollars expended by the LAPL and the LFLA on Adult Literacy Services in 2020/21 added to a per capita amount based on the adult learners enrolled for tutoring in the Adult Literacy Services program by the Los Angeles Public Library in 2020/21; and

WHEREAS, These funds must be accepted by the Board of Library Commissioners to activate this award.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners accept the final 10% of the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) grant of \$15,060 and additional \$7,225 designated for family literacy for the Los Angeles Public Library's Adult Literacy Services for Fiscal Year 2020/21; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the funds be deposited in Trust Fund 419, Account 361.

c. Approved acceptance of Funds from the Library Foundation of Los Angeles from the Righteous Persons Foundation Fund and the Muriel Pollia Foundation

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-8 (C-8)

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners approve the transfer of \$6,500 from the Library Foundation of Los Angeles (LFLA) to the Library Department for Fiscal Year 2020-21, to be deposited as follows:

- \$3,500 to be deposited into Trust Fund 831, Account No. 337, from the Righteous Persons Foundation Fund to maintain and develop the Judaism Collection of the Social Science, Philosophy, Religion Department of the Central Library.
- \$3,000 to be deposited into Trust Fund 831, Account No. 336 from the Muriel Pollia Foundation Fund to maintain and develop the Asian Religion and Philosophy Collection of the Central Library.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That these funds be used in accordance with the guidelines specified by the Righteous Persons and the Muriel Pollia Foundations.

6. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements

- Request for Update on Reopening Plans
Board President Cao requested that an update on the reopening plans of libraries facilities be scheduled for an upcoming agenda.
- Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, March 25, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. via Teleconference.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

ATTEST:

Bích Ngọc Cao
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant

Approved: 3/25/2021