

# **MINUTES**

## **BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

**May 22, 2025**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library starting at 11:09 a.m. on the above-written date.

**1. Roll Call:**

<b>Present:</b>	President Commissioner Commissioner	<b>Valerie Lynne Shaw Hiram Sims Mayra Valadez</b>
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<b>Absent:</b>	Vice President Commissioner	<b>Linda Blank Kelly Besser</b>
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**Also present:** Asst. City Librarian Susan Broman; Deputy City Attorney Josh M. Templet; Administrative staff, Gensler representatives Kevin Rosenstein, Aly Holmes and Midori Mizuhara.

**2. Opening Remarks:** Board President Shaw welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**3. Approval of the Minutes:** Regular Meeting - April 10, 2025

It was moved by Commissioner Sims and seconded by Commissioner Valadez to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held on April 10, 2025. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Shaw/Sims/Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: 2 (Besser/Blank).

**4. Public Comments on Matters**

**Within the Board's Jurisdiction:** None.

**5. City Librarian's Comments**

**and Announcements:** Asst. City Librarian Susan Broman reported on past and upcoming library events.

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

**Discussion Items**

**a. Approval of a publishing agreement between Jerry de Wilde and Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library.**

Asst. City Librarian Susan Broman recommended approval of a publishing agreement between Jerry de Wilde and *Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library* for the book titled, "*Call Before You Come.*"

It was moved by Commissioner Valadez and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve the following resolution. The motion passed unanimously with 3 Ayes (Shaw/Sims/Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: 2 (Besser/Blank).

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12 (C-9)**

**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; and

**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 Jerry de Wilde for the exclusive license in the copyright of the *Call Before You Come*; 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. Approval of a publishing agreement between Michael Walker and Steve Appleford and Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library.**

Asst. City Librarian Susan Broman recommended approval of a publishing agreement between Michael Walker and Steve Appleford for the book titled, "*All About Eve: The Oral History of Eve Babitz*."

**Discussion**

Commissioner Valadez asked about the gender representation of the authors that they approve contracts for, pointing out that these authors are three men, and noting that all the previous author contracts approved were men also, and said the Board needs to look at that. Ms. Broman replied that she would look at that information, but stated that she and the editor have discussed the desire to have gender diversity and equity in general.

Commissioner Sims asked if the representative from Angel City Press was in attendance. Ms. Broman replied that she was not, but a presentation from her would be scheduled in the next couple of months.

It was moved by Commissioner Valadez and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve the following resolution. The motion passed unanimously with 3 Ayes (Shaw/Sims/Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: 2 (Besser/Blank).

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-13 (C-10)**

**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 preserve the stories of Los Angeles and Southern California; and

Library Resolution  
No. 2025-13 (C-10) Cont.

**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 Michael Walker and Steve Appleford, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office for the exclusive license in the copyright of *All About Eve: The Oral History of Eve Babitz*; 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:** Los Angeles Public Library Strategic Plan

Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman introduced representatives from Gensler, who are working with Margaret Sullivan Studios to develop a strategic plan for the Library Department in coordination with LAPL staff. The team includes Brooke Sheets, Principal Librarian in the Leadership Development Office and Lead Project Manager on the strategic plan, along with the Steering Committee comprised of Susan Broman, Assistant City Librarian; Emily Fate, Assistant Director of Branch Library Services; Ana Campos, Assistant Director of Central Library Services; and Jené Brown, Director of Emerging Technologies and Collections. Ms. Broman noted that the team brings extensive experience working with large urban libraries on strategic plans across the country.

Gensler representatives Kevin Rosenstein, Aly Holmes, and Midori Mizuhara provided an overview of the strategic plan process, methodology, and goals to develop a plan with deep community engagement. Ms. Mizuhara explained that the strategic planning process is divided into four distinct stages: discover, develop, design, and deliver. She noted that they are currently in the discovery phase and have begun the process through surveys and workshops with partners and the general public, including both library users and non-users. They plan to engage in a robust campaign with an overall timeline of approximately 14 months.

President Shaw asked how they determine who the community leaders are in terms of community engagement. Ms. Mizuhara replied that, for example, the previous day they had hosted approximately 62 different leaders from diverse communities and L.A. community organizations throughout Los Angeles.

**Discussion**

President Shaw asked whether those who attended were nonprofits and who had compiled the list of participants. Ms. Broman replied that the Library contacted all of its branch libraries and the Central Library to identify partnerships throughout the community. The participants included a combination of nonprofits, representatives from LAUSD, and several organizations that work with the Library on the New Americans Initiative, with the Library Experience Office, and with specific branch libraries. President Shaw stated that if the theme is community building, they need to ensure they are genuinely engaging with the community.

Commissioner Valadez asked whether the survey would include any type of message testing, what their target number of completed surveys was, and how they are targeting the various communities in the city. Ms. Mizuhara replied that they are creating digital and paper surveys in six different languages. She said they will use both internal and external communications, including outreach to the 62 organizations that attended the breakfast, to whom they will send a multilingual communication kit that organizations can forward to their audiences and subscribers. She emphasized their desire to create a word-of-mouth effect while also amplifying different communication networks that might not normally feature LAPL content, which is important for obtaining the non-user perspective.

Ms. Holmes stated that they will track the demographics of survey respondents to ensure they are reaching their priority groups and that responses are reflective of the city. She said they are focused on understanding community needs and identifying barriers to library use, especially as they continue to focus on non-users.

Commissioner Sims asked when the Board would see a draft of the strategic plan and if they would be asked for feedback. Ms. Holmes replied that around the 10th month, they will share a draft and request feedback for modifications.

Commissioner Sims noted that actual use of the library was one of the things that was mentioned and he asked if there is a use balance or metric they use to determine the right number of people they want using library space, and what happens if there are too many people coming to visit. Ms. Broman replied that if they had more people than they could handle, it would prompt discussions on whether they have buildings in the right locations, whether buildings are large enough, or whether buildings are correctly configured. The goal would be to find ways to ensure the community feels welcomed and feels the space belongs to them.

President Shaw stated that it had come to her attention that the poorest areas face staffing problems, resulting in fewer programs. She asked whether staff could develop strategies to resolve this problem, as the poorest areas with the greatest need seemed to have the fewer resources.

Ms. Holmes replied that examining how resources are distributed throughout the system and ensuring fair distribution that responds to community needs is within the scope of this work.

President Shaw stated that the Board is excited that this process has begun and she believes the future is dependent on who is going to make a difference, in terms of community building and helping people in a myriad of ways. She said she looks forward to seeing their recommendations on making an impact and thanked all of the presenters for the information provided.

## **9. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements**

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President Shaw reported the following:

- She had a series of briefings with Stacy Lieberman, President of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles to talk about the Foundation finding funds to provide for branches. They also talked about offering more programs for seniors at the branch libraries, about financial needs of the Friends of the Library, and about increasing financial literacy classes.

- She had a briefing from Madeline Peña, Director of Outreach and Community Engagement and talked about community outreach. Last year, they provided information and services to over 465 groups, which is amazing.
- She met with Brooke Sheets, Principal Librarian, Leadership Development Office, to discuss the IDEAS mini-grants program, and to talk about creating memorial certificates for staff who have passed on so that the Library can give their families.

Commissioner Valadez mentioned that she was bringing her company team to the Central Library this evening for a staff outing and a docent tour. She said she is excited to expose folks to the Central Library, one of the beautiful features of our city.

President Shaw notified that the meeting schedules had been revised.

- a. Revised Jan-June 2025 Meeting Schedule: Changed the 11 a.m. Regular Meeting on June 26 to a Board Retreat from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- b. Revised July-Dec. 2025 Meeting Schedule: Changed meeting location for October 23 to Woodland Hills Branch Library
- c. Next Board Meeting Notice

The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, **June 12, 2025**, at 11:00 a.m., at the Central Library.

**10. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Valerie Lynne Shaw  
President

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Raquel M. Borden  
Board Executive Assistant

Approved: 6/26/2025