

# **MINUTES**

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

**June 9, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held via teleconference at 11:07 a.m. on the above-written date.

**1. Roll Call:**

<b>Present:</b>	President Vice-President Commissioner	<b>Bích Ngọc Cao Kathryn Eidmann Josefa Salinas</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	Commissioner Commissioner	<b>Arianne Edmonds Dale Franzen</b>

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

**2. Opening Remarks:** None

**3. Approval of the Minutes:** Regular Meeting - May 12, 2022

It was moved by Vice President Eidmann and seconded by Commissioner Salinas to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 12, 2022. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Cao/Eidmann/Salinas). Noes: 0. Absent: 2 (Edmonds/Franzen).

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

The Board heard one (1) General Public Comment about branch libraries that are unable to open in the morning due to lack of staff. The speaker requested the Library find a solution because the burden falls on library users who go to a specific branch and find it closed.

**5. City Librarian's Comments  
and Announcements:**

- **California Library Association Award:** The Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) had a strong presence at the California Library Association (CLA) annual meeting held in Sacramento last week. Principal Librarian Jené Brown is the current CLA President and Library staff presented on LAPL's work on safety and security, the Library Experience office and other programs and initiatives. The Los Angeles Public Library won a PR Excellence Award from CLA for the "Story Hackers" TV program, which the awards committee called, "Pure genius" and "Creative and fun to watch." The

Librarians and Social Media Librarians who were involved in the program accepted the award.

- **LGBTQIA Pride Month:** June is Pride Month and the Library has created more than two dozen events and programs for patrons of all ages to celebrate pride in person and online. They include an online queer art show, film screenings, book discussions, and fun activities like Drag Queen Storytime with Pickle at the Silver Lake Branch Library. This weekend will also be the triumphant return of the Library marching in the Pride Parade with vehicles, book bikes, and the book cart drill team, and will be offering resources, programs and activities for everyone.
- **Summer Reading Program:** It officially kicked off on Monday, June 6, and it will run through August 6th. This year's theme is "Summer with the Library, Express Yourself." The artwork was done by artist Man One and is in use in social media posts and other communications. Patrons are encouraged to express themselves through art, poetry, music, dance, writing, photography, cooking, gardening, and community activism; and to keep track of their reading through the online app. Participants are eligible for badges and prize drawings at the end of summer.
- **State Park Pass:** The California State Libraries in partnership with the State Parks System are circulating State Park Passes through libraries for patrons to visit a state park for free. Mr. Szabo noted that in addition to receiving 382 Parks Passes to be checked out like books, LAPL also received a \$5,000 grant from the California State Library that will fund hiking, camping, and telescope kits to explore the variety of landscapes throughout California. Mr. Szabo said the passes are being circulated systemwide and there currently 640 holds on them.
- **"LA for All" Campaign:** This campaign is an initiative of the Civil+Human Rights and Equity Department. The "LA for ALL" campaign was designed by local artists and uses art, advocacy, and community as a call to action, to stand up against hate, and stand for the values of diversity, belonging and inclusion. The Library has received packages of "LA for All" posters and bumper stickers with information on how to report incidents and hate crimes as well as a link to multilingual resources that have been distributed throughout the library system.
- **Summit of the Americas:** The City of Los Angeles is hosting the "*Summit of the Americas*," and the Mayor's Office held a special event and reception at the Central Library this week for dignitaries that included L.A. City Council President Nury Martinez, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, the Consul General of Mexico, the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Canada, the Mayor of Bogota, Columbia, the United States Ambassador to Mexico and a number of others.
- **13th Annual Senior Symposium:** LAPL's Engagement and Outreach staff recently shared library resources with more than 200 seniors at the 13th Annual Senior Symposium in Van Nuys. They handed out 50 memory boxes that were created to stimulate the mind and help in daily life. The memory boxes were filled with a large print puzzle book, magnifier with light, multi-colored pen and other helpful items, and were a hit with the seniors. Mr. Szabo said this project is one more fine example of how LAPL is helping to meet the evolving needs of older Angelenos.
- **Digital Access Recognition:** *StateTech Magazine* recently had an article about the work libraries are doing across the country in digital equity for individuals that would

not otherwise have internet at home. Librarian Edwin Rodarte was quoted and the Library's Tech2go Program was highlighted, mentioning how the Library expanded outreach during the pandemic by loaning chromebooks and mobile hotspots to 2,000 patrons through the Emergency Connectivity Funding received from the FCC, through private funding, and from the Library's own budget. The growth of the Virtual Cyberspace Program during the pandemic was also discussed in the article.

- **Telemundo Coverage:** Telemundo News recently featured the story of Perla, a young woman who grew up in Mexico, who participated and graduated from LAPL's Career Online High School Program (COHS). In the story, she said, "I always have in my mind that the sky is the limit." Perla achieved her High School Diploma and she is now one of the COHS graduates that now total 728.

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

### **Consent Item(s)**

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Vice President Eidmann to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Cao/Eidmann/Salinas). Noes: 0. Absent: 2 (Edmonds/Franzen).

- a. **Approval of Findings to Continue**  
**Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to AB 361:** APPROVED.  
*(Public Hearing was held at the Regular Meeting of October 14, 2021.)*

Determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3 (e)(3) that, while the state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, this legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

- b. **Acceptance of gift from the Friends of the Sherman Oaks**  
**Library via a grant from the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council**

### **LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2022-19**

RESOLVED, That a gift of a STEAM Mobile Maker Cart for the Sherman Oaks Branch Library valued at \$1,423.50 received from the Friends of the Sherman Oaks Library via a grant from the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to the Friends of the Sherman Oaks Library and the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council, expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

**c. Approval of the General Manager's Expense Account for Fiscal Year 2022-23**

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners hereby authorizes the City Librarian or designee to receive an advance or be reimbursed for miscellaneous business-related expenditures such as business meals, taxi fares, parking fees, etc., in an amount not to exceed \$3,500 for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That said amount be encumbered in the Office and Administrative Expense Account No. 6010, Library Fund No. 300.

**Discussion Items**

**d. Adoption of the Library Department Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended adoption of the Library Department's Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23, totaling \$227,048,611. He said that there were some last minute movements of funds in the Budget that left a little over \$800,000 in the budget that was referred to as a reserve fund, and a number of small projects were not funded in the budget.

Commissioner Salinas asked if this budget includes the new positions for social workers. Mr. Szabo replied that the budget does include all of those positions that were initially included and approved in the budget, and they'll be hiring the first social worker in the coming months.

Board President Cao asked the City Librarian if there was something not included in this budget that he would like to see included in the year's budget. Mr. Szabo replied that the cost of materials has increased due to demand, there is also need for more facility improvements, and expanding the Library Experience Office are areas that could use more funding.

Board President Cao stated that there is anxiety about the financial future and asked how that would affect the library. Mr. Szabo replied that the increase in the Library budget as a result of Measure L for this year is less than the prior year and that could also be the case for the 2023/24 budget. He noted that the Library has the Budget Stabilization account to help mitigate issues in the future.

Commissioner Salinas asked what are the key things that would indicate that the Library has to tighten things for next fiscal year. Mr. Szabo replied that the Library's budget is entirely connected to the assessed property values. If properties get reassessed at lower value then it affects the Library's funding directly.

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Board President Cao to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Cao/Eidmann/Salinas). Noes: 0. Absent: 2 (Edmonds/Franzen).

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2022-21 (C-15)

WHEREAS, On November 18, 2021, the Board of Library Commissioners (Board) approved the Library Department Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23 in the amount of \$227,048,610 to fund Library services and programs (Library Resolution Number 2021-31 [C-25]); and

WHEREAS, Staff recommends the adoption of the Library Department Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23 as approved by the Mayor and City Council in the amount of \$227,048,611; and

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners hereby adopts and certifies the Adopted Library Department Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23 in the amount of \$227,048,611, as approved by the Mayor and City Council.

**8. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements**

Board President Cao announced that the next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2022, at 11:00 a.m., via Teleconference.

**9. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Bích Ngọc Cao  
President

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Raquel M. Borden  
Board Executive Assistant