AGENDA
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015

ASCOT BRANCH LIBRARY
120 W. FLORENCE AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90003

TIME: 11:00 A.M.

AGENDA: In compliance with Government Code Section 54957.5, you may view the agenda and all available documents related to the items at the Central Library’s Information Desk or via the Internet at: http://www.lapl.org/about/blc_docs.html.

RULES OF DECORUM: Persons addressing the Commission shall not make impertinent, slanderous or profane remarks to the Commission, any member of the Commission, staff or general public, nor utter loud, threatening, personal or abusive language, nor engage in any other disorderly conduct that disrupts or disturbs the orderly conduct of any Commission Meeting and prevents the Commission from carrying out its public business. At the discretion of the Commission President or upon a majority vote of the Commission, the Commission President may order removed from the Commission meeting place any person who fails to observe the rules of decorum. Any person who has been ordered removed from a meeting may be charged with a violation of Penal Code Section 403, or other appropriate Penal Code or Los Angeles Municipal Code sections.

1. ROLL CALL

2. REMARKS BY THE CENTRAL SOUTHERN AREA MANAGER AND THE ASCOT BRANCH SENIOR LIBRARIAN

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE BOARD’S JURISDICTION

   (In accordance with Board Policy, a total of 15 minutes shall be allocated for public comment not to exceed three (3) minutes per speaker. Items arising during the public comment portion of the meeting shall be referred by the President to the staff or Board Committee for appropriate action or report back thereon to the Board.)

4. CITY LIBRARIAN’S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. CITY LIBRARIAN’S REPORTS

   CONSENT CALENDAR

   (Commissioners who wish to discuss particular items should ask that such items be called as Special. The remaining items will be subject to a single vote.)

   a. RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT A GIFT OF $3,000 FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LOS FELIZ LIBRARY FOR THE “HOT OFF THE PRESS” BEST SELLER PROGRAM AT THE FELIZ BRANCH LIBRARY (EXHIBIT “A”)

   b. RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE EXHIBITION AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR “LAUSD K-12 VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION” AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY (EXHIBIT “B”)
BOARD DISCUSSION

c. RECOMMENDATION TO INITIATE THE PROCESS TO CONSIDER THE DEDICATION OF ASCOT BRANCH LIBRARY IN RECOGNITION OF POET WANDA COLEMAN, IN ACCORDANCE TO BOARD POLICY 1:312

EXHIBIT “C”

6. VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

7. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING

8. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT BOARD MEETING NOTICE

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2015, AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY, 630 WEST FIFTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90071, CONVENING AT 11:00 A.M.

FINALIZATION OF BOARD ACTIONS - CHARTER SECTION 245: In accordance with Charter Section 245, actions of the Board of Library Commissioners shall become final at the expiration of the next five (5) meeting days of the City Council during which the Council has convened in regular session.

PARKING: Reduced parking rate validation can be obtained by showing your library card at the Information Desk, and is only valid for parking on the Westlawn Garage at 524 S. Flower Street. The Westlawn Garage is not owned or operated by the Library Department. Additional information is available at www.lapl.org.

Title II of the American with Disabilities Act: The City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting/event you wish to attend. For additional information, please contact the Board Office at (213) 228-7530.

POSTED 3/23/15

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: LIBRARY COMMISSION OFFICE (213) 228-7530
LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD REPORT

March 26, 2015

TO: Board of Library Commissioners

FROM: John F. Szabo, City Librarian

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE OF GIFT FROM FRIENDS OF THE LOS FELIZ BRANCH LIBRARY

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Commissioners adopts the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That a gift of $3,000 received from the Friends of the Los Feliz Library, for the benefit of the Los Feliz Branch Library be accepted; and

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

FINDINGS:

1. The gift of $3,000 is for the “Hot Off The Press” Bestseller Program 2015/2016.

2. A letter of thanks should be sent to:

   Mrs. Brigid LaBonge, President
   Friends of the Los Feliz Library
   1874 Hillhurst Avenue
   Los Angeles, CA 90027

Prepared by: Paul Montonerie, Hollywood Area Manager

Reviewed by: Cheryl Collins, Director of Branches
To: Board of Library Commissioners
From: John F. Szabo, City Librarian
Subject: EXHIBITION AGREEMENT WITH THE LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (LAUSD): “LAUSD K-12 VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION”

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT The Board of Library Commissioners adopt the following resolutions:

“RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners authorize the City Librarian to enter into an agreement with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to present the exhibition: “LAUSD K-12 Visual Arts Exhibition,” and;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Attorney and the City Librarian be authorized to make technical changes to the Agreement prior to execution.”

FINDINGS:

1. The Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL), working with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Arts Education Branch, is presenting “LAUSD K-12 Visual Arts Exhibition,” an exhibit of art pieces made by students in grades kindergarten to 12.

2. The exhibition highlights the work of over 200 students in drawing, painting, photography, media arts and mixed media. Attached are examples of some of the art pieces to be displayed. This exhibit will encourage families, students and teachers to visit the Central library and learn about LAPL’s excellent resources and programs.

3. The exhibition will be on view from May 1 to May 23, 2015 in the atrium levels; Lower Level 1, Lower Level 2 and Lower Level 3 of the Central Library.

Attachment

Prepared by: Diane Olivo-Posner, Senior Librarian, Children's Services
Reviewed by: Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager
EXHIBITION AGREEMENT

In consideration of the mutual promises and obligations contained herein, this Exhibition Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into as of March 9, 2015, by and among the Los Angeles Public Library ("LAPL") and the Los Angeles Unified School District ("Exhibitor" or LAUSD"), located at 333 S. Beaudry Avenue, Los Angeles 90017.

The parties agree as follows:

Exhibition: LAUSD K-12 Visual Arts Exhibition

(250 pieces of artwork – approximate number – mounted on 28 boards measuring 3.2 feet x 7 feet) on Lower Level 1 and 2 in Central Library.

Lending Institution: Los Angeles Unified School District ("Exhibitor" or "LAUSD")

Exhibiting Institution: Los Angeles Public Library ("LAPL")

Central Library
630 West 5th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071-2002

Contact: Eva Mitnick, Principal Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library

Mireya Alonzo, Jr., K – 12 Visual Arts and Media Advisor, Los Angeles Unified School District

Schedule: May 1 to May 23, 2015

Installation dates: April 30 and May 1, 2015

Material & Transport Costs: $6,000 (approximate)

Participation Fee: $0
AGREEMENT: Signing of agreement between Los Angeles Public Library and LAUSD constitutes a contract whereby LAUSD agrees to provide a student art exhibit on LAPL’s Lower Levels 1, 2, and 3 that consists of 28 boards, measuring 3.2 feet x 7 feet, mounted with approximately 250 pieces of art. Purchase of materials estimated at $6,000 to be paid by Exhibitor. LAPL will not incur cost associated with this exhibit.

PARTICIPATION FEE: LAPL has waived the participation fee.

APPROXIMATE EXHIBITION VALUE: US $6,000

TRANSPORTATION: LAUSD will transport items to the Central Library.

DELIVERY OF EXHIBITION MATERIALS: LAPL and LAUSD will arrange delivery at a mutually convenient time. LAPL will accept delivery of the Exhibition into a secure area on its premises.

INSTALLATION: LAUSD agrees to install the Exhibition in accordance with the Los Angeles Building Code and other City regulations. LAUSD agrees to provide LAPL with a floor plan of the exhibit prior to the installation for approval.

INSPECTION: LAUSD is responsible for unpacking, inspecting and installing the Exhibition.

SECURITY: There are no specific security requirements for the Exhibition.

STANDARD OF CARE: LAPL is not responsible for damage to any loaned items in the Exhibition by fire, theft, vandalism, and other damage or loss. No loaned artwork or artifact shall be removed from its frame or display case without express permission of LAUSD. Loaned items may not be altered or modified in any way unless approved in writing by LAUSD.

PHOTOGRAPHY/REPRODUCING RIGHTS: Photography of the Exhibition for sales or profit purposes is prohibited. Photography by public visitors to the Exhibition is permitted for personal, non-commercial purposes. A sign memorializing this language will be visible at the entrance of the exhibit to notify the public. Photography or recording of the Exhibition is permitted only for the purposes of education, publicity and record keeping in connection with the Exhibition. Written permission must be obtained from LAPL and LAUSD for any other reproduction purposes.

PUBLIC ENTITY MUTUAL HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE:

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 895.4 et seq. of the California Government Code, each party agrees to indemnify and hold the other harmless from all loss or liability for injury or damage, actual or alleged, to person or property arising out of or resulting from the indemnifying party’s acts or omissions in the performance of this Agreement.
In the event of third-party loss caused by the negligence, wrongful act or omission of more than one party, each party hereto shall bear financial responsibility in proportion to its percentage of fault as may be mutually agreed between them or judicially determined.

The provisions of California Civil Code Section 2778 regarding interpretation of indemnity agreements are hereby incorporated into this agreement.

RETURN OF EXHIBITION MATERIALS: LAUSD will de-install and remove the Exhibition on May 23, 2015.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED:

Name: Date
Title:
Los Angeles Unified School District

John F. Szabo Date
City Librarian
Los Angeles Public Library

Name: Date
Assistant City Attorney
City of Los Angeles
ATTACHMENT A
Floor Plan

LAUSD K-12 Visual Arts Exhibition
According to the scale provided, the drawing represents the atrium of the Central Library in Los Angeles Public Library. The plan includes various sections labeled as LL2, LL3, and LL4, indicating different areas within the atrium. The notes indicate that 6 round 3x6 tables are included in the design. Additionally, there are 8 panels and 3x2x7 feet dimensions specified in the drawing.
ATTACHMENT B

Floor Plan

Los Angeles Public Library Exhibit:

LAUSD K-12 Visual Arts Exhibition
Walt Whitman HS Artwork
LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD REPORT

March 26, 2015

TO: Board of Library Commissioners

FROM: John F. Szabo, City Librarian

SUBJECT: INITIATE THE PROCESS TO CONSIDER THE DEDICATION OF THE ASCOT BRANCH LIBRARY IN RECOGNITION OF WANDA COLEMAN

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Commissioners adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners initiate in accordance with Board policy 1:312, the process to consider dedicating the Ascot Branch Library in recognition of the poet and lifetime Los Angeles resident Wanda Coleman.

FINDINGS:

BACKGROUND

1. The Board of Library Commissioners received letters from Mr. Austin Straus, husband of the late Wanda Coleman and Dr. Jennifer D. Ryan, a noted expert on Ms. Coleman’s work, who is an associate professor of English at Buffalo State, the State University of New York, requesting the Ascot Branch Library be dedicated in recognition of Wanda Coleman.

2. Ms. Coleman, who died November 22, 2013 was a world famous poet and often called the “unofficial Poet Laureate of Los Angeles and “the LA Blueswoman”.
   Ms. Coleman was a native Angeleno growing up very near the site of the current Ascot Branch Library. Los Angeles Times book critic David L. Ulin wrote of Coleman as “the conscience of the L. A. literacy scene – a poet, essayist and fiction writer who helped transform the city’s literature when she emerged in the early 1970’s”.

3. The criteria and procedure for recognition in branch facilities is stated in Board Policy 1:312.

To acknowledge citizen involvement and contributions to branch libraries, the Board of Library Commissioners may recognize individuals or organizations that have made substantial efforts or donations to enhance and improve library services in the Los Angeles Public Library:
A. The Board of Library Commissioners may dedicate a branch library in memory of an individual and approve the design and placement of a plaque within the library with the individual’s name. Recommendations for the dedication of a branch library may be accepted and processed in accordance with the following requirements:

1. A written recommendation must be submitted to the Board of Library Commissioners to include a justification for the proposed dedication.

2. The justification shall include the person’s prominent contributions to humanity, to the city, to the library, or to the community, and should demonstrate that the character and achievements of the individual set standards of excellence, served as a role model, and reflected the principles and ideals of American democracy, its diversity and plurality.

3. The recommendation shall be posted in the libraries and on the library website for three months for review and the opportunity for comments by the public.

4. Library staff will evaluate the recommendation and community input in a report to the Board of Library Commissioners for its consideration of the request.

B. The Board of Library Commissioners may name a community meeting room or area of the branch in honor or in memory of an individual, and approve the design and the placement of a plaque with the individual’s name. Recommendations for naming a community meeting room or area of the library may be accepted and processed in accordance with the procedures in 1:312 A above.

4. Library staff recommends initiating the process to consider dedicating the Ascot Branch Library in recognition of Wanda Coleman, as requested by Austin Straus and Dr. Ryan.

Prepared by: Cheryl Collins, Director of Branch Library Services

Reviewed by: Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager
To the Board of Library Commissioners:

My name is Austin Straus. I am writing to request that the Ascot Library, located at 120 W Florence Ave in District 9, be renamed The Wanda Coleman Memorial Library in honor of the memory of my wife of nearly 33 years, the world-renowned poet/writer/journalist.

Wanda died on November 22, 2013. I have held three memorials to her, one very well-attended at the Central Library, and two at the Church in Ocean Park, where we were married.

Among Wanda’s many honors are the 2012 Shelley Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, fellowships from the Califoirnia Arts Council, The National Endowment from the Arts, The Guggenheim Foundation, and the 1999 Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize presented by the Academy of American Poets for Bathwater Wine (Black Sparrow Press 1998). Mercurochrome: New Poems (Black Sparrow Press 2001) was a bronze-medal finalist for the National Book Award. Her poems and short stories appear in hundreds of magazines and anthologies. She won an Emmy as a writer for Days of our Lives, and was twice a finalist for Poet Laureate of California. She was the first literary fellow of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. Among many other honors, she received the 2013 Book Award from the San Francisco State University Poetry Center for The World Falls Away.

I would love to hold future memorials, with readings of her work by prominent LA poets, at the library after it is named in her honor. I guarantee that many of LA’s leading poets will donate signed copies of their books, participate in annual memorials, and help when and if we do fundraisers for the library.

Wanda and her brothers, George (an artist) and Marvin (a pianist) and her sister, Sharon (a singer) spent many hours as youngsters in the Ascot branch, making it quite appropriate for that library to be given her name. Wanda also loved the Central Library where she spent many hours doing research on various projects.

Wanda Coleman was long known as the ‘Unofficial Poet Laureate of Los Angeles’, ‘The LA Blueswoman’, and many other titles. She published more than twenty books of poetry, stories, and essays, and one novel. Two days after she died, there was a front page obituary with photographs in the Sunday LA Times, Nov 24th, 2013, and two days later, a splendid eulogy by David Ulin, the editor of the LA Times Book Review.

Wanda was the most prolific, most published black poet in American history. She certainly deserves to be remembered by this city she loved and wrote about endlessly, representing LA not only to the USA, but in her many travels to Europe and Australia.

Please note that Wanda and I were volunteer (unpaid) programmers on radio station KPFK FM for fourteen years (1981-1996), interviewing local poets as well as those visiting from all over the USA and the world, on our show ‘The Poetry Connexion’. We also performed together (we’re on Youtube) doing my poem, ‘Red’, collaborated in editing each other’s work, gave
readings at numerous schools and universities, in theatres and clubs, in prisons and nursing homes, and helped raise funds for many local organizations, including Amnesty International, PEN, AIDS groups, libraries, and many others.

Please consider my request, noting that many LA poets support this idea, will donate signed copies of their books, will help raise funds for the library, and will participate in annual, and perhaps more frequent, poetry readings at the library. I will, if my health holds up, organize and run all these readings, in conjunction with the librarian. (I hope ultimately to give this library an excellent poetry section, probably the best one in town.)

I have contacted Ellen Tanner, the head librarian at the Ascot branch, who was very enthusiastic about the idea, as well as City Councilman Curren D. Price of the 9th District in which the library is located. You may also be receiving requests for the name change from various leading LA poets and writers.

I am doing everything in my power to perpetuate Wanda Coleman’s legacy, including establishing a poetry scholarship in her name at The Naropa Institute in Boulder, CO, yearly memorials, doing many poetry readings around LA, often from our book, The Love Project (Red Hen Press 2014), completed just before Wanda died. And most vitally, working on her voluminous 50-year accumulation of manuscripts, letters, flyers, posters, photographs, research materials, etc, which constitute her archives, soon to be appraised and, hopefully, sold to a university in California, preferably in Southern California.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, which means so much to me. You may contact me at aguysmediavox@hotmail.com or at my cell phone number (661) 492-2806. Looking forward to your response, I am

Sincerely,

Austin Straus
Board of Library Commissioners
Ascot Branch Library
120 West Florence Avenue
Los Angeles, CA  90003

5 December 2014

To the Board of Library Commissioners:

I am writing in reference to a communication I recently received from Mr. Austin Straus, a visual artist and poet who is also the husband of late poet Wanda Coleman. Mr. Straus told me about his wish to have the Ascot Branch Library renamed the Wanda Coleman Memorial Library. I find this idea a perfect way to honor Ms. Coleman, who used this library many times throughout her life and who valued reading above most other things.

I am an associate professor of English and a literary critic from Buffalo, NY. Although I live on the other side of the country, I was honored to host Ms. Coleman on the campus of my college, SUNY – Buffalo State, in October of 2010. During this visit, Ms. Coleman visited creative-writing classes, met with student groups, and gave a reading of her poetry to a room packed with nearly 150 students, faculty, staff, and community members. This reading was the best-attended I have ever seen on our campus, and my colleagues continue to this day to use it as an example of the social power that literature holds.

I kept in touch with Ms. Coleman after this visit, and I have also continued to study and write about her poetry. One of the chapters in my book, Post-Jazz Poetics: A Social History (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010), is devoted to her work, and I have two articles on her poetry coming out in the next 18 months: an interview with her (one of the last she conducted before her death) in the Spring 2015 issue of MELUS (The Journal of the Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States), “Come. Glory in my wonder’s will: A Conversation with Wanda Coleman,” and an article on her 100-poem American Sonnets sequence in a 2016 issue of African American Review, “The Transformative Poetics of Wanda Coleman’s American Sonnets.” These studies, which have included reading every piece of her work that I could, along with the other interviews she has given and the criticism on her work, have convinced me that Ms. Coleman was one of the most historically significant and innovative American poets of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

I want to add my support, therefore, to Mr. Austin Straus’s attempts to secure a name change for the Ascot Branch Library. Wanda Coleman was a locally, regionally, nationally, and
internationally recognized poet, essayist, novelist, and critic. She contributed substantially to the artistic and social communities of not only Los Angeles but also the United States. By renaming this library the Wanda Coleman Memorial Library, you will ensure that her work and legacy remain alive in the minds of her future readers.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any further information or help in any other way.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Jennifer D. Ryan  
Associate Professor and MA Coordinator  
English Department  
Office: Bishop 313  
Mailbox: Ketchum 327  
(716) 878-6820  
ryanjd@buffalostate.edu
MATTERS PENDING
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 26, 2015

SUBJECT

1. LIBRARY FOUNDATION PRESENTATION

SCHEDULED FOR
BOARD MEETING

Pending

COMMISSIONERS’ OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY

Library Foundation of Los Angeles Board
Gregory Bettinelli, Member
Mai Lassiter, Member

Board Policies & Procedures Committee
Chair: Vacant
Member: Vacant

Media Marketing Ad Hoc Committee
Chair: Bich Ngoc Cao
Member: Mail Lassiter