

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

September 11, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Woodland Hills Branch Library, 22200 Ventura Boulevard, Woodland Hills, CA 91364, convening at 11:03 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT:	PRESIDENT	JOSEFA SALINAS
	VICE PRESIDENT	BICH NGOC CAO
	COMMISSIONER	GREGORY BETTINELLI

EXCUSED

ABSENT:	COMMISSIONER	MAI LASSITER
	COMMISSIONER	RITA WALTERS

ALSO PRESENT: John F. Szabo, City Librarian; Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager; Basia Jankowski, Deputy City Attorney; Christine Jerian, City Services Manager, Mayor's Office; and staff.

APPROVED CONTINUANCE OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting –8/28/14

MOVED by Commissioner Bettinelli, seconded by Vice President Cao and unanimously carried that approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held August 28, 2014 be continued to the next Board Meeting.

REMARKS BY THE WEST VALLEY AREA MANAGER AND THE WOODLAND HILLS BRANCH SENIOR LIBRARIAN

West Valley Area Manager

Ruth Seid, West Valley Area Manager, welcomed the Board to the Woodland Hills Branch, one of 10 libraries within the West Valley region that serves a very diverse population of 640,000. She introduced the senior librarians from the West Valley Area libraries who were present.

Ms. Seid provided an overview of all the libraries in the region, including programs, initiatives, and special grant-funded programs. She stated that the region has two Adult Literacy Centers (Mid Valley and Platt Branch) and that every branch in the region has a Friends of the Library group. She also reported on program initiatives and collaborative partnerships, noting that the Mid Valley Branch received a Cal Vets grant to assist the large homeless veteran population in the area by providing programs on job preparation, financial counseling, benefits information, etc. Also several area libraries will be participating in the CAL Reads program, "War Comes Home."

Ms. Seid stated that throughout the year, librarians perform outreach activities to approximately 215 schools. Children's and Young Adult librarians recently completed the annual Summer Reading Club, with very high registration numbers and participated in the LAPD sponsored Summer Night Lights (SNL) gang-prevention program at Lanark Park Recreation Center, in addition to the family programs offered throughout the summer months.

Ms. Seid concluded her presentation by informing the Board that 50 Library employees recently were presented service pins acknowledging them for their loyal and dedicated service to the residents of the City of Los Angeles. She introduced Nancy Brennan, Children's Librarian at the Woodland Hills Branch, who received her 40-year pin.

Senior Branch Librarian

Jane Dobija, Senior Librarian, welcomed the Board to the Woodland Hills Branch Library, which was built 11 years ago as part of the Los Angeles Public Library's Branch Construction Project. She introduced the following branch staff: Children's Librarian Nancy Brennan, Young Adult Librarian Kathryn Ross; Clerk Typists Angela Harris and Jan Christensen; and Messenger Clerk Lucine Stephanian. She said the Woodland Hills Branch is a very active element of this community, enjoying significant support from a hardworking Friends group and the neighborhood in general.

Ms. Dobija reported that the Woodland Hills Branch serves a community that is very diverse with significant numbers of Jewish, Persian, and African American communities as well as a growing Indian population and a smaller Russian and Polish population in the area. She stated that she has been paying attention to these ethnic groups as she develops the collection and plans programs. For example, staff is currently creating a section to feature book from "traveling collections" from the International Languages Department for Russian and/or Persian languages. She also spoke about special programs, including :

- A dramatic reading of a play about Viktor Frankl, the Austrian psychiatrist who spent time in a number of concentration camps during World War II.
- Hosted a presentation by a Polish journalist who wrote a book about the influence of Polish artists on Hollywood's film industry.
- She said she is also working with a volunteer, who from is from India, to find a way to bring some of the Indian traditions into library programs.
- This library is the venue for the West Valley region's programming on "The Odyssey." With funding from the Library Foundation, the branch will host a book discussion of the Greek classic led by a faculty member from Pierce College; and a Read-Aloud Odyssey program with readings from contemporary literature about the experiences of soldiers returning home.

- The Branch is offering a four-part writing workshop just for veterans called "What it is like to come home from war." During these classes, the veterans will be learning and practicing techniques for explaining experiences that sound strange and unfamiliar to their families and friends. They'll also be learning the basics of writing (grammar, sentence structure, and organization) that would be useful to them in any writing they may do in the future.
- In November, Woodland Hills will continue programming for vets through the Cal Reads project. This is a system-wide reading of the book "*What it is like to go to War*" written by Karl Marlantes, a Yale Graduate and Rhodes Scholar who served as a marine in Vietnam.

Ms. Dobija reported on the numerous initiative-based programs provided at the branch, they have included programs about Medicare and insurance enrollment under the Affordable Care Act. For financial literacy programming, the branch presented a "Stock Market Boot Camp" with four sessions on consecutive Wednesdays, presented by skilled professionals in the community who volunteer their time and expertise in this area. Other programs focused on advice for homeowners and on women & finance. During the summer, it offered three workshops on social security. She said that a program on stock market analysis is still in the works.

Ms. Dobija stated that programs for children such as the STEAM programs are very popular and most of them are conducted by Children's Librarian Nancy Brennan, who brings together stories, crafts, and science to her programs. Young Adult Librarian Kathryn Ross has a growing group of active teen volunteers from local high schools and she is planning a special book drive for veterans in November, and the teens will be key participants.

Board President Salinas thanked Area Manager Ruth Seid and Senior Librarian Jane Dobija for their presentation. She asked if the programs for veterans were going to be filmed. Ms. Dobija replied that they are planning to record the veterans stories in Memory Box format to link them to the website and Facebook page.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS

WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION: None.

CITY LIBRARIAN'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Szabo reported the following:

New Voice Over IP Telephone System

Mr. Szabo reported that beginning in October, the Library will be implementing a new telephone system. This new Voiceover IP telephone system is a capital project being done in partnership with the City's Information Technology Agency.

Launching of TechKiosk at Central Library

This week, the Library launched a TechKiosk at the Central Library. This new automated self-service allows patrons to check out laptops and tablets by scanning their library card. Patrons are able to use the laptops and tablets anywhere in the Central Library for up to two hours. If successful at Central, it may be implemented at other branch libraries.

Adult Literacy Program 30th Anniversary

This month, the California State Library and the Los Angeles Public Library are celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Adult Literacy Program. In 1984, with a state grant, the LAPL established 9 Adult Literacy Centers. Now there are 21 centers throughout the system with 825 volunteer tutors and teachers helping nearly 1,500 adults improve their literacy skills. Over the years, the program has helped over 25,000 students overcome illiteracy. In celebration of this milestone, the Library is hosting appreciation breakfasts at all regions for the Adult Literacy volunteers. Mr. Szabo said the Adult Literacy Program is a wonderful program that this Library, the California State Library, and the Library Foundation invest in significantly.

Citizenship Initiative Updates

- DACA Clinic: 80 people attended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) workshop on August 30, at the Central Library. The event provided information to first time DACA applicants and to those seeking renewals. The Library and the Mayor's Office hosted the event in partnership with CHIRLA, National Immigration Law Center, and Union Bank.
- Citizenship Ceremony for Children: On September 18 at 10:30 a.m., the Library, working with the Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Mayor's Office, will be hosting a citizenship ceremony for 80 children at the Mark Taper Auditorium in celebration of Citizenship Day. Mr. Szabo invited everyone to attend.
- A Naturalization Information Workshop will be offered at the Mark Twain Branch on September 18 on the Naturalization process.

Health Matters Initiative

Health related programs throughout the Library include nutrition programs such as "A Healthy Eating Class" at the Vermont Square Branch where participants will learn how to prepare healthy food for the family; a "Sonic Healing" program at the Studio City Branch Library where the healing power of sound as well as a complementary approach to wellness will be discussed; a culinary program at the Vernon Branch; and "Medicare 101" educational workshop by United Health Care at the Encino-Tarzana next week; and many more.

The Chinatown and the Harbor City/Harbor Gateway libraries hosted last month the "Know Your Digits! Be in Control" campaign. The free hypertension screening program emphasized the importance of hypertension prevention and management.

Financial Literacy Programs

The Baldwin Hills Branch is offering monthly Community Business Clinics where attendees learn how to apply for grants, develop business plans and discuss other business-related topics. The Palms-Rancho Park hosted a program on starting a small business that was presented by a representative from SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives); and the San Pedro Regional Branch Library is hosting a financial planning seminar this Saturday.

Latino Heritage Month Programs

In celebration of Latino Heritage Month, September 15 - October 15, several branch libraries and the Central Library will be presenting programs including:

- The Pacoima Branch Library will be hosting noted author Miriam Pawel, who will discuss her rated book, "The Crusades of Cesar Chavez."
- The Malabar Branch Library is having a maraca making program.
- The Edendale Branch Library will offer a Latino Heritage Storytime and mask making craft program.
- The Angeles Mesa Branch will offer a "Papel Picado: Mexican Paper Art" program.
- The San Pedro Regional Branch will show one of the great Mexican Motion Pictures directed by Academy Award winner Luis Bunuel.
- The Central Library will be showing the documentary film, "When Worlds Collide," which explores the origins of today's Latino culture.

Banned Books Week

September 21-27 is Banned Books Week. This annual event celebrates the freedom to read and several Library locations will have displays and programs highlighting books that have been "banned" among those were, "To Kill a Mockingbird," "Catcher in the Rye," "Lolita," "Color Purple," "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," and other titles.

The Library will also present a theatrical performance on "Tales from the Comic Book Crackdown" at the Central Library on September 23, 7 p.m. The performance focuses on the April 21, 1954 U.S. Senate hearings held on the bad influence of comic books. After these hearings, comics were censored and banned. Excerpts of the actual hearing transcripts will be performed and it will feature live music and short comedic bits.

Author Talks

The Cypress Park branch hosted KCRW journalist Lisa Napoli last week, who discussed her book "Radio Shangri-La: What I learned in Bhutan, the Happiest Kingdom on Earth."

The Westwood Branch will host this evening the award winning author and Talmud scholar, Maggie Anton, who will discuss her latest book. She also wrote the historical fiction series, "Rashi's Daughters."

Board President Salinas thanked Mr. Szabo for the information and noted that it would be wonderful to have those events on YouTube.

Mr. Szabo stated that the Library hosts approximately 1,200 programs each month and some of them are recorded and made available online.

CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORTS:

It was MOVED by Vice President Cao and seconded by Commissioner Bettinelli, and unanimously carried that the following resolutions be adopted:

Recommendation to Accept CLLS Baseline
Grant for Adult Literacy Services for FY 2014-15

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2014-33 (C-30)

WHEREAS, On July 18, 2014, the California State Library announced that the Los Angeles Public Library Adult Literacy Services Program's grant application was eligible for a baseline \$15,000 grant; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Public Library and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles provide matching funds to become eligible for the grant; and

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

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners accepts the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) baseline grant of \$15,000 for the Los Angeles Public Library's Adult Literacy Services for Fiscal Year 2014/2015; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the funds be deposited in Trust Fund 419, Account 309.

Recommendation to Accept funds from
The Pacific Library Partnership for the
Veterans Resource Center Project

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2014-34 (C-31)

WHEREAS, On February 10, 2014, a Veterans Resource Center opened at the Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library. This library was chosen based on a set of criteria developed by the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CALVET) that included: number of veterans living locally, resources available in the area and unemployment in the area; and

WHEREAS, The Veterans Resource Center is part of the Los Angeles Public Library's broader initiative to connect veterans with their benefits and provide resources and materials to veterans and their families on transitioning from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, The funds are for reimbursement of funds expended by the Library for supplies and staff time involved in the project:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners approve acceptance of funds from Pacific Library Partnership for \$6,664.82 for the Veterans Resource Center project at the Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the funds be deposited in Fund 831, Account 310.

RECOMMENDATION TO INITIATE THE PROCESS
TO CONSIDER NAMING THE WOODLAND HILLS
BRANCH LIBRARY IN HONOR OF MARIE BOUGETZ

City Librarian John F. Szabo stated that, in accordance with Board Policy, staff recommends the Board approve initiating the process for the naming of the Woodland Hills Branch Library in honor of Marie Bougetz. He stated that the criteria and procedure for recognition in branch facilities were stated in Board Policy 1:312 Recognition in Branch Facilities. The Board heard from the following speakers:

Public Comments

(1)

Betty Caraway, President, Friends of the Woodland Hills Branch Library, spoke in support of the dedication. She said the Friends are asking that the meeting room at the Woodland Hills Branch be named in honor of Marie. She pointed out that Marie loved this library so much that it was her wish that donations be made to the Library after her passing. The Friends Group received a lot of donations in Marie's memory. She said Marie exemplified librarianship.

(2)

Karen Brown, Treasurer, Friends of the Woodland Hills Branch Library, spoke in support of the dedication. She noted that Marie was very well loved by the community and donations received by the Friends Group in her memory were used to purchase furniture for the branch.

It was MOVED by Vice President Cao and seconded by Commissioner Bettinelli, and unanimously carried that the following resolution be adopted:

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2014-35

WHEREAS, Marie Bougetz, who died on January 5, 2014, served as a reference librarian at the Woodland Hills Branch Library for 30 years. She was a great favorite of the patrons of the Woodland Hills Branch Library, especially the children who appreciated her courtesy and helpfulness. She was a great influence on a generation of Los Angeles Public Library librarians for her excellent customer service and her professionalism; and

WHEREAS, On July 31, 2014, the Board of Library Commissioners received a letter from Councilmember Bob Blumenfield requesting that the meeting room at the Woodland Hills Branch Library be named after to Marie Bougetz:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners initiate, in accordance with Board Policy 1:312, the process to consider naming the meeting room at the Woodland Hills Branch Library in recognition of Marie Bougetz.

PRESENTATION ON VALLEY TIMES
COLLECTION DIGITIZATION PROJECT

City Librarian John F. Szabo introduced Senior Librarian Christina Rice, who is responsible for managing the Library's Photo Collection. Earlier, Mr. Szabo had mentioned that a photo from the LAPL's Photo Collection had been published in Governing Magazine's latest issue.

Presentation

Christina Rice, Senior Librarian, Photo Collection, provided a general overview of the Los Angeles Public Library's Photo Collection that was started in the 1940's with a collection of 15,000 photographs and it has now grown to 3.4 million. She said digitization is a main focus of the Library and approximately 97,000 photographs have been digitized as of August, with 500 to 600 new images being added to the online database each month. She stated that the Library has been recipient of major collections as well as smaller collections, and provided sample images and a brief summary of each of them on a Power Point presentation:

Original Collection: contains many early images of Los Angeles, including what is believed to be the first photo taken of Los Angeles (La Plaza, circa 1862).

WPA Federal Writers Project: contains images of street scenes in the 1930's such as Ferguson Alley in Old Chinatown, circa 1940 and Felipe de Neve Branch, 1937.

Luther Ingersoll's Portrait Collection: was purchased from a historian who collected photos of early pioneers and many other notable individuals in Los Angeles, such as Sepulveda, Lankershim, and Barnsdall.

Security Pacific National Bank Collection: the bank donated its archives of approximately 250,000 historical photographs to the Library in 1981. The massive collection includes the first aerial photo taken from a hot air balloon by the Los Angeles Express Newspaper in 1887. Other photos include the Central Library when it was being constructed in 1924, and the Board of Library Commissioners, circa 1930.

Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce Collection: contains photos of publicity images promoting lifestyle in California to attract people to move to Southern California.

"Shades of LA" Project: In 1990, Senior Librarian Carolyn Cole, who managed the Photo Collection, formed Photo Friends and launched the "Shades of LA" project with Kathy Kobayashi, member of the Photo Friends. The purpose of the project was to add images that were more reflective of the city's ethnic diversity. They invited people to bring their family photos to branch libraries in various communities and with grant funds they hired photographers who took pictures from family albums.

Herald-Examiner Collection: This newspaper, which had been around since 1870, donated its graphic collection of 2.2 million photos to the Library when it closed down. The collection include the photo of Robert Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel, which was nominated for a Pulitzer and the Olympics in 1984.

Ms. Rice reported that smaller collections have also been donated by individuals and from famous photographers such as Lucille Stewart, Henry Quillen, Ansel Adams, William Reagh, Kelly Holiday, Herman Schultheis, and Rolland Curtis. She noted that Herman Schultheis' biographer will be doing a program tonight at the Central Library to discuss his book, "The Lost Notebook: Herman Schultheis and the Secrets of Walt Disney's Movie Magic." She said this event will be recorded and made available through the website.

Valley Times Newspaper Collection: This collection of approximately 70,000 was acquired by the National Pacific Bank and then transferred to LAPL. Ms. Rice stated that in the last two years, staff has been giving a lot of attention to this collection, which covered the San Fernando Valley from 1946 to 1970. Prints includes post-war

photos of suburban growth in the Valley and photos of professional women (She showed photos of an architect, a packaging engineer and a rocket scientist). Currently, the Library has a display from this collection at the Central Library titled, "Defining Their Identity: The Changing Roles of Women in the Post-War Era as Documented in the Valley Times."

Ms. Rice reported that photos from this collection are also being displayed at various branch libraries in the Valley (Encino, Mid-Valley, and North Hollywood). Furthermore, she and the Photo Friends president have been invited to turn Councilman LaBonge's Sherman Oaks field office into a Valley Times Exhibit Space. Back in June, the Los Angeles City Council presented the Library and the Photo Friends with certificates of appreciation for their work on preserving the Valley Times Collection. Recently, the Daily News and the Los Angeles Register had a wonderful spread of the Valley Times exhibit at the Central Library.

Ms. Rice stated that a Valley Times Advisory Council has been formed with prominent Valley business people. She reported that a campaign had been launched by the Photo Friends to raise funds to contract an archivist to assist staff to process this collection for digitization. The fundraising goal is \$500,000 and the project kicked off about a year ago. Up-to-date, they have raised about \$175,000 and have hired a contract archivist to prep images for digitization. She stated that staff seeks grant funding for the various photo collections in order to digitize them. Recently, they received a \$115,000 grant from the State Library for the digitization of the Valley Times Collection.

Commissioner Bettinelli asked about the cost of digitization per photo. Ms. Rice replied that it is difficult to break down the costs because it takes several steps: an archivist identifies the photo before it is sent for digitization then it gets uploaded to the server, after that a cataloguer enters the description of the photo on the database.

In response to Commissioner Bettinelli's question on the percentage of the photos that could be digitized, Ms. Rice stated that about 60% could be digitized, since many images that came from newspaper archives, studios, and other sources for which the Library does not have the copyrights and cannot be digitized.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS &
REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING:

Report of Gift/Donations to the Library

Commissioner Bettinelli inquired about the annual contributions made to the Library from general donations, Friends groups, Library Foundation and grants. Mr. Szabo stated that the Board receives requests for acceptance of gifts of \$1,000 and above, but the Library keeps records of all the gifts and grants and will provide that information.

Presentation from the Library Foundation of Los Angeles

The Board President requested an introduction by the Library Foundation president on what they are doing to support Library programs and their fundraising goals. She asked that this item be added to the list of Matters Pending.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

ATTEST: _____

Josefa Salinas
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant

Date to be approved: October 9, 2014