MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

July 9, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library, 630 West 5th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071, convening at 11:02 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT:  VICE PRESIDENT  BICH NGOC CAO
COMMISSIONER  GREGORY BETTINELLI
COMMISSIONER  RITA WALTERS

EXCUSED

ABSENT:  PRESIDENT  JOSEFA SALINAS
COMMISSIONER  MAI LASSITER

ALSO PRESENT:  John F. Szabo, City Librarian; Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager; Arletta Maria Brimsey, Deputy City Attorney, General Counsel; Roy Stone, President, Librarians’ Guild; and staff.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:  None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE BOARD’S JURISDICTION:  None.

CITY LIBRARIAN’S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Librarian John F. Szabo reported the following:

1. The American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference was held in San Francisco in June. Los Angeles Public Library was very well represented.

2. Los Angeles Public Library received an honorable mention at the Urban Libraries Council awards ceremony for top innovators in the category of Health, Wellness and Safety.

3. Candice Mack, Senior Librarian, has been elected President of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association with around 8,000 members.
4. Madeline Peña, Social Media Librarian, has been selected as 2015 Librarian of the Year by REFORMA, a national association that promotes library information services to Latinos and Spanish-speaking public.

5. Dora Ho, Young Adult Librarian, was elected to ALA Council for a 12th year and Madeline Bryan, Senior Librarian, Children’s Literature Department, was elected for a second year.

6. LAPL sits on the ALA selection committee for book awards, and on the committees for the Caldecott Medal, the Coretta Scott King Book Award, and the Stonewall Book Award.

7. Michael D. Kirley, a retired LAPL genealogy librarian who was very responsible for the development of the genealogy collection at the Central Library, was presented with the Genealogical Publishing Company Award for his work of building the genealogy collection.

8. In June, the Library participated in the L.A. Pride Parade for the first time. Mr. Szabo thanked the LGBT committee for their work and all 87 staff and family members who participated. It was a wonderful opportunity to promote library services.

9. “To Live and Dine in L.A.” book and exhibit in the Getty Gallery are getting really great press. In addition to highlighting LAPL’s 15,000 menu collection, it also serves an opportunity to talk about the Library’s work in area of health and nutrition and present programming around these subjects. Mr. Szabo thanked the Library Foundation of Los Angeles for funding and coordinating this project.

10. A Pan-Asian Citizenship Workshop was hosted two weeks ago at the Central Library in partnership with Asian Americans Advancing Justice, whose representatives offered assistance in 10 different languages to participants applying for citizenship. The Library promoted ESL classes and other library services. 80 individuals attended. Almost 300 – 350 people attended the last Pan-Asian workshop. According to the Mayor’s Office and partner organizations, the decline has to do with immigration reform.

11. “War Comes Home – The Legacy” Exhibit highlights private correspondence from almost every major conflict in U.S. history and it offers real insight into the thoughts and emotions of the veterans and their families of their homecoming. The exhibit is located it the Central Library’s Bradley Wing, Lower Level 2.

12. Health Matters Initiative: Representatives from the L.A. County’s Department of Social Services will be at 18 LAPL locations to sign people up for Medi-Cal, Cal Fresh and Covered California healthcare insurance programs.
13. LAPL will open a Job and Career Center at the Central Library in partnership with the Pacific Asian Consortium Employment (PACE). Mayor Garcetti, Jan Perry, General Manager, Economic and Workforce Development Department, and Charles Woo, Chair of the Workforce Investment Board will be present at the opening. PACE will staff the center in the Business and Economics Department to help people enroll in the Workforce Development Network and to assist them with one-on-one job searches.

14. Hire LA Youth Initiative - Summer Youth Program. Mayor Garcetti and the County Board of Supervisors held a press conference yesterday to announce that they want to ensure that 11,000 youths have employment during the summer. In the past, the Library has hired 10-20 youths. This year, the Library is committed to hiring 100 teens.

15. The Library, in partnership with DWP, is circulating 300 Kill-A-Watt readers, a device that gives information about how many kilowatts an appliance uses. The idea is that people will use less energy if they know how much they are using. All Library locations have devices to circulate.

16. Beginning next week, a weekly report listing all of the coverage received of LAPL programs and activities will be distributed. The list will encompass radio, television, and print. Mr. Szabo asked the commissioners to provide feedback.

CITY LIBRARIAN’S REPORTS:

Commissioners thanked all donors for their kind donations and commended the donor of the device to assist low vision readers to the Westchester-Loyola Village Branch Library.

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

Recommendation to Accept Gifts

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2015-32 (C-27)

RESOLVED, That the following donations to the “Hot Off The Press” Bestseller Program be accepted from the following Friends of the Library groups:

- $3,000 From the Friends of the Fairfax Library
- $3,000 From the Friends of the Mar Vista Library
- $3,000 From the Friends of the Pacific Palisades Library Association
- $3,000 From the Friends of the Sunland-Tujunga Library
- $3,000 From the Friends of the Will and Ariel Durant Branch Library
Library Resolution No. 2015-32 (C-27)

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of appreciation be sent to the Friends groups expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for their generous support.

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LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2015-33 (C-28)

RESOLVED, that the gift of $3,000 received from the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council to purchase library materials for the Little Tokyo Branch Library be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to the donor expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for this generous donation.

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LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2015-34

RESOLVED, that the gift of a Merlin LCD Desktop Electronic Magnifier of Low Vision, valued at $2,000, received from Mrs. Natalie Diamond for the benefit of the Westchester-Loyola Village Branch Library be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of appreciation be sent to Mrs. Natalie Diamond, expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for her generous donation.

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LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2015-35

RESOLVED, that the gift from the Friends of the Mid-Valley Regional Branch Library, consisting of a Shure QLX-D Digital Wireless Combo System to be integrated as a wireless microphone into the sound system in the Multipurpose Room at the Mid-Valley Regional Branch Library, valued at $1,532.51, be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of appreciation be sent to Friends of the Mid-Valley Regional Branch Library expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for their generous donation.
Acceptance of Pacific Library Partnership Grant for the Veteran Resource Center at the Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2015-36 (C-29)

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners approve the acceptance of funds from the Pacific Library Partnership in the amount of $5,001.31 for the Veterans Resource Center at the Exposition Park- Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the funds be deposited into Library Trust Fund 831, Account 310.

Approval of Request for Proposals (RFP) For Architectural Design Consultant for Digital Media Labs at Central Library and Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch Library

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2015-37 (C-30)

RESOLVED, That the Request for Proposals (RFP) for an architectural design consultant to prepare designs for the installation of Digital Media Labs at the Central Library and Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch Library be approved, advertised and distributed to potential proposers; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners determine, in accordance with Charter Section 1022, that it is more economical that these services be performed by an independent contractor; and

FURTHER RESOLED, That proposals be submitted no later than 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 2, 2015, to the office of the Board of Library Commissioners, 630 West Fifth Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071

PRESENTATIONS: CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY EUREKA! FELLOW PROJECTS

City Librarian John F. Szabo introduced Children’s Librarian Joanna Fabicon and Young Adult Librarian Jennifer Noble, who attended the Eureka! Leadership Institute and each received a grant administered through the Museum and Library Services and the California State Library to execute a project in their local library. He said these two fabulous librarians made their Eureka! Project presentations this past June in San Jose, California.
“Hollywood Meets the Library” Eureka! Project

Jennifer Noble, Young Adult Librarian at the Studio City Branch, presented her project, “Hollywood Meets the Library-Digital Media Skills for a YouTube Generation.” She said that her program was aimed to attract people ages 13-35 (Millenials) with the goal of making cinematic arts available to everyone through community partners. She said that with iPhones, iMovies and relatively inexpensive and accessible consumer technology that is available, there’s no reason to not make movies and the Library can be a part of it.

Ms. Noble stated that project was envisioned at the Will & Ariel Durant Library in the heart of Hollywood and moved over to the Studio City Branch Library, both libraries have great film making collections and both are in the midst of hundreds of studios in the filmmaking industry. She started by approaching YouTube mogul company RocketJump, Lauren Haroutunian, Dean of RocketJump Film School, and Freddie Wong, Co-Founder of RocketJump - to propose them to collaborate with the Library because they were starting a film school offering free online content to teach people on how to make films and they serve the demographics she was trying to reach. RocketJump agreed to collaborate and assisted her with curriculum development.

Ms. Noble stated that she also recruited 28 interns from Hollywood High School and brought in a network of mentors to assist on her project which resulted in over 35 film professionals participating in the program over a period of seven weeks and moderated seven panels and Q&A questions. They included the CEO of Digital Bolex, sound editors from major television networks, music video directors, and producers from L.A. Makers, the biggest presence in YouTube. She showed sample video clips made by RocketJump.

Ms. Noble stated the program allowed open space for workshop activities, like recreating famous scenes from movies and it also allowed participants to collaborate. They received over 50 films submitted from all over the world that were showcased. They documented and archived all the panels and put them online. They live Tweeted every single event on LAPL and RocketJump, who has over 70,000 Tweeter followers and over 7.5 million YouTube subscribers so they could showcase what the Library has to offer to film professionals.

Ms. Noble noted that over 600 people were served through this program, and the majority of those people who came to the programs were not regular library users. By showcasing LAPL’s electronic collections and specialized filmmaking resources at every panel, she was able to show that the library could be branded as a place for creativity.

Ms. Noble said that industry professionals felt happy about talking to people through this mentorship opportunity, and many of them realized how much others had helped them get to where they were in their careers, so they appreciated an opportunity to do the same.
Ms. Noble stated the program has ended but she is talking with RocketJump Film School about developing curriculum geared toward groups for an afterschool program at the libraries since they have made interesting programs available on YouTube. She said she has created program boxes with equipment she was able to purchase with the grant to recreate some of the activities they did during the project.

“Coder Time” Eureka! Project

Joanna Fabicon, Children’s Librarian, stated that the goal for her “Coder Time” Eureka! Project was to bring coding into libraries and schools by providing quality resources to librarians and facilitators, thus creating an opportunity to prepare future generations for technology careers. She reported that seven years from now, there would be 1.7 million programmer jobs available, but filling those jobs would be difficult when there’s less than 1% of students enrolled in advanced placement courses for computer science.

Ms. Fabicon stated that there were two key partnership that helped her launch the project, Sylvia Aguiñaga, who is an LAPL intern with a coding background, and LA’s BEST, the after-school program provider that services 195 elementary schools in LAUSD. Ms. Fabicon and Ms. Aguiñaga created the curriculum and trained librarians and teachers. The program reached 180 kids over the course of ten weeks at schools and libraries. These kids learned basic coding skills and were encouraged to use those skills to create a project for the Central Coder Time culmination event.

Ms. Fabicon reported that the Central Coder Time culmination event was held on Saturday, April 25. Children who attended the weekly Coder Time program in the Children’s Literature Department and children from eight of LA’s BEST school sites gathered at the Central Library to share their projects. They had tables featuring high and low tech activities. These activities were also open to the public and the approximately 300 people that came to the library that day also got to see the displayed Coder Time projects.

Ms. Fabicon stated that the best part of the culmination ceremony was when the kids themselves talked about the music, games, and stories that they had created. She showed power point clips of students from one of the LA’s BEST sites illustrating their understanding of Code. She said Coder Time ended months ago but the students are still on Scratch creating and curating projects and they also gained skills and a social connection through Coder Time.

Ms. Fabicon reported that LA’s BEST is interested in continuing the program, adding more sites, and possibly having culmination events in their local communities, thus providing an opportunity for branch libraries to participate. She said she will be working with Children Services to train librarians so they can run the program throughout the city.
Ms. Fabicon noted that she has presented Coder Time at the California State Library Eureka! Anniversary and Library Directors and Policy Makers at the Digital Inclusion Summit at ALA. She concluded her presentation by stating that now she has an extra professional mission, which is to get coding in libraries to become as common as Storytimes.

Vice President Cao thanked the presenters for their projects.

Mr. Szabo noted that the librarians do so much good with the $5,000 grants provided for their project and they use those funds to continue having impact.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS & REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING:

Vice President Cao reviewed the Matters Pending List.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

ATTEST: _________________

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Bich Ngoc Cao
Vice President

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Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant

Approved: September 10, 2015