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 11:00 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT:  
PRESIDENT  
BICH NGOC CAO  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
KATHRYN EIDMANN  
COMMISSIONER  
JOSEFA SALINAS  

EXCUSED  
COMMISSIONER  
RITA WALTERS  
COMMISSIONER  
MAI LASSITER  

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

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: Regular Meeting – 1/12/17  

MOVED by Commissioner Salinas, seconded by Vice President Eidmann, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held January 12, 2017 be approved as submitted.  

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE BOARD’S JURISDICTION:  

Talisha J. Cummings, patron, spoke in reference to African American Heritage Month. She was not able to find a list of programs on the website. She also couldn’t find many branches featuring collections on African American History except for the African American Collection at the Vernon Branch Library.  

Ms. Cummings alleged that an incident had occurred on December 1 at the Angeles Mesa Branch Library with students from a school that was in a lockdown situation. She also mentioned that she knew several parents who were looking for tutoring services and teen programs at some of the libraries. She said she has volunteers who can assist in providing those types of programs.  

Ms. Cummings, in response to a question from Commissioner Salinas, stated that to her knowledge, no tutoring and young adult programs were offered at the branch on Florence, Baldwin Hills and Angeles Mesa. She added that she has volunteers who are retired teachers that are very familiar with the STEAM program.
City Librarian John F. Szabo stated that he would like the opportunity to look into each one of the issues brought forward, noting that he takes all of them very seriously.

Commissioner Salinas thanked Ms. Cummings for bringing her concerns to the Board and reassured her that the Board will follow up on them.

CITY LIBRARIAN’S COMMENTS
AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **African American Heritage Month** programs are being offered at all library locations for all ages. Along with the 113 programs, a special area has been created on the website devoted to African American Heritage Month as well as special blog posts highlighting books in the African American Collection. Some of programs include:

   - **The Lula Washington Dance Theatre** is performing at five libraries (Baldwin Hills, Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional, Playa Vista, Valley Plaza and Palms-Rancho Park).

   - **Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Robert Friend**, who is one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airman, will be at the Sunland-Tujunga Branch to discuss his experience and the history of the Tuskegee Airmen.

   - **Actress Anike Tourse** portrayed abolitionist Sojourner Truth last week at the Harbor City-Harbor Gateway Branch in South Los Angeles.

   - **“Your Genealogical Journey: African American Genealogy in the Age of Technology”** will be hosted at the Central Library.

   - **The Marcus Miller Drums** will perform at the Westwood Branch on February 16.

   - **Book Discussion on John Lewis’ book, “March”:** will be held today at the Vermont Square Branch. This book won the 2017 Coretta Scott King Book Award and 2017 YALSA Award for Excellent in Nonfiction for young adults.

   - **“Examining the 50th Anniversary of the Black Panthers”:** A special program at the Chatsworth Library will feature a film and speaker Michael McCarty, a former Chicago Black Panther Party member.

   - **Rolland Curtis Photo Archive - Images of Los Angeles’ African American Community:** Senior Librarian Christina Rice and Central Library Director Kren Malone will be giving a presentation on this collection.
2. **Financial Literacy Program**: The Library, working with the volunteer partner organizations will be offering the following financial programs:

- **Free Income Tax Preparation**: Volunteers from IRS’ VITA Program, CSUN, Cal State L.A., Cal State Long Beach, UCLA and AARP will offer free income tax preparation and electronic filing for qualified individuals at 14 branch locations. Last year, 3,596 people received this service.

- **Financial Planning for After Holiday Stress Workshop**: City Controller Ron Galperin held a workshop at the North Hollywood Branch.

- **Teen Financial Workshop**: The Youth Policy Institute, (YPI) conducted a Teen Financial Workshop for budget and financial goals at the Pacoima branch.


4. **“Art Without Walls” series**: The Felipe de Neve Branch is partnering with the Hammer Museum to produce this series. Artist Sandy Rodriguez is working with families to create art inspired by social justice issues, children’s literature and Hammer Exhibitions. The program begins with a discussion and continues with interactive activities. The three programs are: “A is for Activism,” “How Would You Defeat Racism,” and “Monument to Rad Women.”

5. **LAPL Blog Posts**: Mr. Szabo thanked staff for the terrific job they are doing with social media Blog posts, such as the Los Angeles and the Reintegration of the NFL by Bob Timmermann; USA and Pakistan - Seeing each other by Linda Rudell-Betts; The Resistance Lives by Ani Boyadjian; Going for the Gold: African Americans and the 1984 Olympic Summer Games, and Against All Odds: State and Local African American Politicians in the 1960’s both by Christina Rice; and Criminalizing Immigration by Jack Stephens.

6. **LA Plays Initiative**: Senior Librarian Teri Markson from the Panorama City Branch started this collection of backpacks with a book and toys that can be checked-out for story time at home. This program was funded initially through the Ideas Grant program and has been replicated by the Arroyo Seco Branch, and will be expanding to the Vernon Branch Library. Mr. Szabo thanked Teri Markson, her staff, and the other branches for helping make this program so successful.

7. **LAPD Read Along Program**: Officers from the Los Angeles Police Department read stories to preschool groups. The program has expanded from Vermont Square and Vernon to Exposition Park, Watts, Pacoima, and West Valley branches. The officers have read to more than 2,008 children and 718 adults.
8. **Architecture and Beyond Program:** Authors Locke and Vincent Brook spoke about their book, “Silver Lake Bohemia.” This program was organized by Senior Librarian Pearl Yonezawa and sponsored by the Friends of the Los Feliz Branch Library.

9. **“America’s Shakespeare: The Bard Goes West” Exhibit:** Gale Anderson from KTLA presented four live segments of the exhibit. Programs are being presented throughout the libraries. A Shakespeare Themed Open Mic with the Shakespeare Troupe and The Friends of Leimert Park Village Book Fair staged live at the Washington Irving Branch, where some dressed in their favorite Shakespearean and medieval costume. The Will Geer’s Theatricum Botanicum, a professional repertory theatre, performed excerpts from Shakespeare’s most popular plays at the Granada Hills Branch.

**CITY LIBRARIAN’S REPORTS:**

City Librarian John F. Szabo reviewed the Consent Calendar and recommended its approval.

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

**Recommendation to Accept CLLS Grant for the Adult Literacy Program for FY 2016-17**

Vice President Eidmann asked about the requirement of the matching funds and the distribution of responsibilities between the Library and the Library Foundation. Mr. Szabo replied that the Library Foundation of Los Angeles (LFLA) funds almost all of the staffing for the Adult Literacy Centers. The Library uses the State grant funds for the materials and equipment needed for the program.

Mr. Szabo stated that he is looking into transferring the staff under the responsibility of the Library because he wants the work that the Library is doing on adult literacy to be more owned as a service of the Library. He stated that the Library Foundation is supportive of it. Also, the Adult Literacy Program is so connected to many of the Library’s other programs, such as the Career Online High School, Citizenship Initiative and more.

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2017-5 (C-5)**

WHEREAS, On December 5, 2016, the California State Library announced that the Los Angeles Public Library Adult Literacy Services (CLLS) Program’s final payment of the total grant allocation for Fiscal Year 2016/17 is $154,675; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Public Library and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles provide matching funds to become eligible for the grant; and
Library Resolution
No. 2017-5 (C-5) (Cont.)

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) grant of $154,675 for the Los Angeles Public Library’s Adult Literacy Services for Fiscal Year 2016/2017; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the funds be deposited in Trust Fund 419, Account No. 330.

Approved Re-appropriation of UUFB Funds to various accounts within Fund 300

City Librarian, John F. Szabo explained how the re-appropriation of funds would be utilized. He stated that of the $2,920,000 from the Unreserved and Undesignated Fund Balance (UUFB) $950,000 would be for contractual services for the development of a facilities master plan and for other branch library alterations and improvements. The library would look at the physical infrastructure of all library facilities and determined where the needs are and where new facilities are needed. Currently, the Library is working on the Van Nuys Branch Library improvement project. Also, $1.9 million will be used for a variety of IT related expenditures included in the Library's Proposed Budget for 2017-18 that were already approved the Board. Using funds from the UUFB this year would enable the Library to begin the projects sooner.

Board President Cao inquired about the timeline for the completion of the improvements to the Van Nuys Branch Library facility. Eloisa Sarao, Assistant Business Manager, stated that they are working on the schematic design of the Van Nuys Branch Library and looking at another nine months for completion.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2017-6 (C-6)

WHEREAS, Funds in the amount of $2,000,000 are encumbered from prior fiscal years for purchase orders and contracts where expenditures were less than anticipated and funds in the amount of $1,000,000 are available in the Unreserved and Undesignated Fund Balance (UUFB) from prior fiscal years due to position vacancies and projects that were delayed by other City departments; and

WHEREAS, Staff requested the re-appropriation of $2,920,000 from the UUFB to various accounts within the Library’s Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget:
Library Resolution
No. 2017-6 (C-6) (Cont.)

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves a re-appropriation of $2,920,000 from the Unreserved and Undesignated Fund Balance, Fund 300, Department 44, Account 2539, to the accounts listed below in Fund 300, Department 44:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From: Fund 300; UUFB, Account 2539</td>
<td>$2,920,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To: 3040 – Contractual Services</td>
<td>950,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6010 – Office and Administrative</td>
<td>1,209,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7300 – Furniture, Office and Tech Equipment</td>
<td>760,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,920,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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ORAL PRESENTATION: THE ROLLAND CURTIS PHOTO ARCHIVE – IMAGES OF LOS ANGELES’ AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Kren Malone, Central Library Director, made an introduction of The Rolland J. Curtis Photo Collection. She stated that this is an extensive archive documenting politics and African American neighborhoods of South Los Angeles in the 1960s. The Library featured images from this collection in the exhibition “King, the Kennedys, & Los Angeles” as a supplement to the traveling exhibit, “Changing America.” Most recently, the Library dedicated an entire exhibition to the collection titled, “Firsts, Seconds and Thirds: African American Leaders in Los Angeles During the 1960s and ’70s.” This exhibit offered a sampling of trailblazers who were the first, second or third African Americans in the history of Los Angeles to accomplish their feats.

Christina Rice, Senior Librarian, Photo Collection, provided a brief overview of Rolland J. Curtis’ life and career and talked about the importance of the collection. She stated that Rolland J. Curtis became field deputy to newly elected Councilmember Tom Bradley 1954; then, he worked for Councilmember Billy G. Mills. Curtis’ jobs provided him with unique access and opportunities to photograph local events and people in the African American community as well as local and national figures. She noted that the 1960’s were very tumultuous times, so there are several pictures of demonstrations in the collection, but images of the Watts Riots were not received.

Ms. Rice stated that Curtis’ widow, Gloria Curtis, donated his trove of images to the Los Angeles Public Library with a full transfer of copyright. It contains 12,500 images, with coverage of about 1,700 events from 1963 and 1974. After receiving the collection, a
volunteer worked for 13 years on identifying each of the images. She (Rice) applied and obtained a $25,000 grant from the Haynes Foundation to hire an archivist to organize, curate and prep the images for digitization. Last month, they finished digitizing all 12,500 images, which are now being uploaded to the servers.

Ms. Rice stated that The Rolland J. Curtis Photo Collection is very important because it provides valuable insight into a time and place largely underrepresented in other image collections and presents African Americans in a very positive light. The collection’s strength is the covering of local politics and communities. For example, it includes Marguerite Justice, who was the second woman and the first African American woman appointed to the Police Commission in 1971; Homer Broome, the first African American Police Captain and Police Commander; Professor William T. Wilkins, who opened the first interracial piano school in the City of Los Angeles; and photos of The Bank of Finance, the first banking institution west of the Mississippi owned and operated by African Americans for African Americans.

She stated that the Photo Friends had funded and published a book that complemented the exhibit, “First, Seconds and Thirds”. This month, City Council District 8 and The California Black Caucus ordered images from the collection to display for African American Heritage Month. Recently, the daughter of the founders of the Ebony Showcase Theater contacted her to get photos of the production of “Lost in Stars.” Also, the niece of the founders of the Bank of Finance contacted Rice last year to obtain photos of the bank to include with ephemera from the bank that she was planning to submit to the National African American Museum. She has successfully submitted her materials to the museum, which are now part of the museum’s permanent collection.

Ms. Rice concluded her presentation with a photo of Tom Bradley surrounded by youth in the community and that she is looking forward to having this collection be known by the world.

Mr. Szabo stated that the importance of the dedication given to the collection by the volunteer for 13 years on identifying the images was so important that it deserves to get an award. Ms. Rice stated that the volunteer had also facilitated the transfer of the copy right to the Library and did not wish to be recognized for her work.

Vice President Eidmann asked if all the images were available on the website. Ms. Rice replied that 171 photos are searchable on the website. This collection has a lot of series of photos and the Library is currently migrating to a new platform (Content DM), which will allow to catalog photos in series.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: None.
COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS & REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING: None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

ATTEST:

__________________________________  _______________________
Bich Ngoc Cao                    Raquel M. Borden
President                        Board Executive Assistant

Approved: February 23, 2017