

# MINUTES

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

**February 23, 2017**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library, 630 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071, convening at 11:05 a.m. on the above-written date.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	PRESIDENT	BICH NGOC CAO
	VICE-PRESIDENT	KATHRYN EIDMANN
	COMMISSIONER	JOSEFA SALINAS
<b>EXCUSED</b>		
<b>ABSENT:</b>	COMMISSIONER	RITA WALTERS
	COMMISSIONER	MAI LASSITER

**ALSO PRESENT:** John F. Szabo, City Librarian; Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager; Dov Lesel, Assistant City Attorney, General Counsel; Roy Stone, President and Henry Gambill, Vice President, Librarians' Guild, and staff.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: Regular Meeting – 2/9/17

MOVED by Commissioner Salinas, seconded by Vice President Eidmann, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 9, 2017 be approved as submitted.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS**

WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION: None.

**CITY LIBRARIAN'S COMMENTS  
AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

African American Heritage Month (AAHM): Over 100 programs have been held to date in celebration of AAHM at Central and branch libraries. Staff has done a wonderful job with displays and programs. Collections and blogs about African American collections are being featured on the website. This evening, the Studio City Branch will present, "Songs of the African American Experience," by Soprano Tammy Jenkins, and the Palms Rancho Park will be hosting a discussion on Henry Louis Gates' book, "Black America since MLK."

L.A. Conservancy Preservation Award: The Los Angeles Public Library will receive a Preservation Award from the LA Conservancy for the work done with the Valley Times Collection, which contains about 85,000 images of San Fernando Valley's history. Mr. Szabo stated that the digitization of the Valley Times Collection had been

completed with the grant funding and several exhibits have been presented with images from this collection. He thanked Christina Rice, Senior Librarian, Photo Collection; Kren Malone, Director, Central Library and her team, as well as the Photo Friends for their work on the collection. The Preservation Award will be presented early May.

Women's Heritage Month: Over 50 events are planned thus far for the month of March in celebration on Women's Heritage Month. The events will be promoted on the website and social media. Some include: Premiere, an all-female acapella group, will perform as part of LA Made Series at the Studio City, Silver Lake, and Wilmington Branch libraries. Performances on Mary Ellen Pleasant, the mother of Civil Rights in California, will be presented at the Woodland Hills Branch, and a performance on Sojourner Truth will be held at the Silver Lake Branch. A special panel discussion about Women in Comics will be held at the Vernon Branch Library. A look at the marketing of actress Jane Russell in the 1940's will be discussed at the Platt Branch Library. A discussion on the history of stuntwomen will be held at the Hollywood Branch Library. Mr. Szabo stated that the children's librarians do a great job in weaving these heritage months' themes into their story time and craft programs.

Veterans' Initiative: On April 1, the Library, in partnership with USC Veterans' Collaborative and the Mayor's Office, will host the 3rd annual event at the Central Library in celebration of the Month of the Military Child. Mr. Szabo said that librarians do a wonderful job putting together programs for military children and families.

Veterans Connect @ the Library: On March 13, the West Valley Regional Library, in partnership with the California State Library, will host a training for librarians that will be presented by the California Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Citizenship Initiative: On February 25, the Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch Library will hold a Citizenship Workshop presented by NALEO to provide citizenship application assistance. Alicia Rodriguez, one of the accredited bilingual outreach librarians, will be participating as well.

The Source has expanded to Exposition Park – Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Library. Library staff is bringing multiple (12-15) non-profits agencies together to serve the homeless. One of the Library's goal is to expand the Source to other branches. The Source assisted 30 people in the first month and 60 in the second month at the Exposition Park. The Library is working with People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), Department of Social Services (DPSS), L.A. County Department of Mental Health, St. John Mobile Medical Clinic, and Volunteers of America, and many other resource providers to serve the needs of the homeless population.

Events on Diversity: On February 25, the Washington Irving Branch will host a discussion on the "2017 Hollywood Diversity Report" with Darnell Hunt, a Professor of Sociology from UCLA and Director of Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies; the Studio City Branch will be hosting "Diversity in TV: Challenges, Barriers and Opportunities"; the Benjamin Franklin Branch will host

multimedia journalist Walter Thompson-Hernandez, who will be moderating a community conversation on “Past, Present, Future: Black and Brown L.A.”

Books about the Central Library have been published recently. “Los Angeles Central Library: A History of its Art and Architecture” was published last year by Angel City Press and “The Los Angeles Central Library: Building an Architectural Icon, 1872-1933,” authored by Kenneth Breisch, a professor of architecture and scholar at USC, has just been published by Getty Research Institute. Mr. Szabo noted that Mr. Breisch kindly acknowledges Raquel Borden from the Commission Office for giving him access to the Minutes Books to conduct his research. A third book will soon be released. The books are for sale in the Library Store.

Chinese New Year: 106 people attended a traditional Chinese music program at the Chinatown Branch. Mr. Szabo stated that staff throughout the library system has presented fantastic programs in celebration of Chinese New Year.

Website Changes: The Library has formed a Digital Content Strategy Team to look at the website’s digital content and presence. The team will determine where changes are needed with the plan to work more strategically on the deliverables that are offered through the website.

Commissioner Salinas stated that she works with nonprofits and could assist in reaching out to other nonprofits that are not currently participating in the Source to provide services that are still needed or are at capacity.

Mr. Szabo welcomed Commissioner Salina’s offer to refer agencies that would be willing to work with the Library on the Source, noting that there are some non-profits or agencies that provide services regionally/locally, which would work perfectly for Source services expanded to branch libraries.

Commissioner Salinas requested a list of the current partners and the types/category of services already being offered.

Board President Cao stated that she would like to hear more about the digital content work that is being done with the website.

#### 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:

Approved Acceptance of Gift  
From Sherman Oaks Friends Group

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2017-7 (C-7)

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners approve the acceptance of a gift in the amount of \$5,000 from the Friends of the Sherman Oaks Branch Library; and

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

Approved Acceptance of Funds from  
The Library Foundation of Los Angeles

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2017-8 (C-8)

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners approve transfer of funds totaling \$95,000 from the Library Foundation of Los Angeles (LFLA) to Los Angeles Public Library; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the amount of \$85,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant be deposited in Library Trust Fund 831, Account Number 283 - Humanities; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the amount of \$10,000 from the Gluck Endowment be deposited in Library Trust Fund 831, Account No. 285 - Youth Services.

Approved Exhibition Agreement with the  
Comisión Nacional De Libros De Texto Gratuitos  
to present the exhibition: "Pintando La Educación"

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2017-9 (C-9)

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners authorize the City Librarian, or designee, to enter into an Agreement with the Comisión Nacional De Libros De Texto Gratuitos to present the exhibition: "Pintando La Educación" in the Getty Gallery of the Central Library from May 3, 2017, to July 30, 2017; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners authorize the City Attorney and the City Librarian, or designee, to make technical changes to the Agreement prior to execution.

Oral Presentation: Job and Career Center –  
A Partnership between the Library and the  
Economic and Workforce Development Department

City Librarian John F. Szabo stated that for many years the Library has been helping people search for jobs; however, the demand for this service increased during the recession because many people rediscovered the public library as a learning institution and have been taken advantage of services and resources to learn how to build a resume, use computers to write resumes and to search and apply for employment. He said the Library has taken the next step in helping people connect to jobs by establishing a Job and Career Center at the Central Library in partnership with the WorkSource. He introduced Kren Malone, Central Library Director to speak about the services.

Kren Malone, Director, Central Library Services, stated that the Library is committed to empowering the lives of patrons through a variety of job and career resources, printed and online collections, programs, workshops and events at Central and branch libraries. Currently, the library offers over 200 employment related websites. This year, the Singleton Literacy Center began offering classes to teach students to write resumes, cover letters and improve their interview skills. The Central Library's Business and Economics Department has a job and career collection that showcases current jobs and career books. She also highlighted the work that several branch libraries are doing to assist patron looking for employment.

Ms. Malone stated that the Job and Career Center, located in the Central Library's Business Department, is a joint effort by the City of Los Angeles, WorkSource Centers and the Los Angeles Public Library to provide basic and free assistance in dealing with the effects of unemployment by providing classes and mentoring on job hunting skills, resume preparation and review by WorkSource counselors, and access to job listings from Cal Jobs and JobsLA. The center also helps individuals apply for unemployment benefits through the California Employment Development website. Over 2,400 patrons have been assisted since the Job and Career portal opened at the Central Library on July 2015. She introduced Mr. Johnathan Davis and Ms. Lusine Ter-Karapetyan to speak about the services that WorkSource provides.

Lusine Ter-Karapetyan, Sr. Workforce Development Specialist, PACE Downtown/Pico Union WorkSource Center, stated that there are 17 WorkSource Centers in the Los Angeles area to assist people who are looking for jobs. She said the targeted population are people who are adult with one or more barriers to employment such as homeless, limited English proficiency, being unemployed for a long time and people who have been displaced from their jobs. Individuals work with career counselors, who review their skills and see if they can transition to a new industry, receive training in a new industry or if they need to brush up their skills in their current industry. Because of limited funds, WorkSource works in partnership with other community organizations. For example, they have been working with the LA County Office of Education to provide security guard training and with the Department of Rehabilitation assisting people with disabilities to obtain work; and in July 2015, it began

operating a WorkSource portal at the Central Library. She introduced Mr. Johnathan Davis, who operates the WorkSource portal at this location.

Johnathan Davis, Workforce Development Specialist, stated that he serves a very diverse population, from executives to first time job seekers. His work with patrons and conducts assessments to find training opportunities and employment based on their interests, goals, and experience. He said that there are also individuals who come with aspirations of owning their own business or getting better paid positions and he provides guidance for that as well. Some of his clients have come for assistance from as far as Riverside, Moreno Valley, and Long Beach.

Mr. Davis stated that he teaches participants on how to market themselves and guides them through their resume preparation. He stated that individuals not only come from other near and far communities, but also new arrivals from other countries have come for assistance. For example, he helped a brother and sister from Vietnam who received help with their resume and they attended a career fair. He also spoke of an individual from Skid Row that he helped get a job and also provided moral support in dealing with a death in the family; and about an African American young man who attended the last job fair that came to him for mentoring stating that his two parents are on welfare and needed guidance to gain employment. Mr. Davis said the young man was like a sponge and took action on his advice and now he is employed. He said stories such as these go on and on.

In response to a question from Commissioner Salinas about resumes, Mr. Davis clarified that in respect to the resume, he guides the individuals to create a resume worksheet and the framework. The applicant does the actual typing so they own the document and know the information in it. They also get a sense of achievement when they complete a resume for the first time. They gain the skill to do a resume on their own.

Commissioner Salinas congratulated Mr. Davis for his method of guiding individuals because they would be able to discuss the information that is in their resume. She thanked both presenters for their amazing passion they have for their work.

Vice President Eidmann thanked the presenters for helping the Library provide these services. She asked Mr. Davis if there is an information sharing mechanism that can be used by the Library for marketing and promotion. Mr. Davis replied that he is currently working with Senior Librarian Youngsil Lee on developing a way to capture those success stories so that they can be shared publicly.

Vice President Eidmann asked if the Job and Career Center keeps data, not only on the number of individuals encountered, but the number of people successfully connected with jobs.

Ms. Ter-Karapetyan replied that because WorkSource Centers operate under Federal Grants, they have measures they have to meet. She said each individual has to qualify to be eligible for the program and data is kept starting from the point of enrollment to every individual service they receive. The program also provides 12 months of follow up after placement, because some individuals can get a job but can't keep a job. The counselors provide

other support necessary to keep employment, whether it be transportation, motivation, day care, or calling to see how they are doing, because sometimes a family issue can become a barrier for someone to hold on to their jobs. They also provide services from other partners to support that individual so they can keep their jobs. At WorkSource, they definitely believe that employment is the foundation of happiness.

Board President Cao thanked the presenters for sharing the stories because story telling is very impactful when talking to people about success.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS &  
REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING: None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Bich Ngoc Cao  
President

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Raquel M. Borden  
Board Executive Assistant

Approved: March 9, 2017