

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

July 27, 2017

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 11:06 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT: PRESIDENT BICH NGOC CAO
VICE-PRESIDENT KATHRYN EIDMANN
COMMISSIONER RITA WALTERS

EXCUSED

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER MAI LASSITER
COMMISSIONER JOSEFA SALINAS

ALSO PRESENT: John F. Szabo, City Librarian; Susan Broman, Acting Asst. City Librarian; Arletta Maria Brimsey, Deputy City Attorney; and staff.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: Regular Meeting – 6/22/17

MOVED by Commissioner Eidmann, seconded by Board President Cao, and carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 22, 2017 be approved as submitted.

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. Assistant City Librarian Kris Morita: Mr. Szabo thanked the entire Board for the resolution recognizing Kris Morita for her 34 years of service to the Library and 40 years of service to the city. He thanked Commissioner Walters for attending the retirement reception and presenting the resolution. It was a fantastic event that honored Kris for all she has done for the Library.
2. Summer Reading & Summer Lunch Programs Update: Staff has conducted over 500 Summer Reading Challenge programs with STEAM topics weaved into this year’s theme, “Reading by Design.” To date, 37,200 children, teens, and adults have read an excess of 51,100 hours and almost 9,000 meals have been served to both kids and teens at 14 library locations. Mr. Szabo thanked Board President Cao for helping serve meals at the Central

Library. He also thanked all children and teen librarians and staff who work so hard throughout the system. He noted that it is a year-round effort to put together a large array of programs and activities for kids throughout the summer, and staff will probably start planning around September or October for next summer.

3. The Summer Author Series, funded by the Library Foundation of Los Angeles (LFLA)'s Future Leaders Fund, gives children the opportunity to meet authors and illustrators. Among the featured authors were Javaka Steptoe, winner of the 2017 Caldecott Award for his book about story of young artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, "Radiant Child"; and Author Cory Doctorow.
4. Partnership with the Los Angeles Dodgers: The Library Foundation once again received a grant from the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation, and through the partnership, the Dodgers have been an essential component of the Library's summer reading program. Dodgers Manager Paul Roberts participated at a Storytime in Arroyo Seco Branch as did relief pitcher Grant Dayton at the R.L. Stevenson Branch in Boyle Heights. Other Libraries that had Dodgers' events were: Edendale, Chinatown, Sun-Valley, John Muir, Benjamin Franklin and Westchester. At each stop, the players coordinate with library staff to read to children, lead them in songs and create a new generation of Dodger fans while instilling the importance of reading and learning.
5. "L.A. Landmarks: Lost and Almost Lost" Exhibit: Featuring 31 images from the LAPL Photo collection highlighting Los Angeles buildings that were either lost or almost lost to redevelopment is on display in the History & Genealogy Department at Central Library. There is an accompanying book with 130 images published by LAPL's Photo Friends.
6. 2nd Annual Indigenous Literature Conference will be hosted at the Central Library on July 29 and 30. The presenters will be reading excerpts from their work on a wide range of subjects and it will be done in Spanish and in indigenous languages. The first day will be dedicated to indigenous literature from Oaxaca, mainly in the Zapotec language. The second day will include readings from other indigenous languages. Last year, it was a one-day event with 170 attendees. This year it is two-day event and it is expected to larger.

Mr. Szabo stated that this event ties in with the upcoming exhibit that is part of PST LA/LA "Visualizing Language" Exhibit that will bring monumental murals that will hang below the Dean Cornwell murals.

7. IDEAS@LAPL Mini-Grant Awards: The grants are made possible through the support of the Library Foundation and totals a little over \$12,000 for this grant cycle. The selected projects are:
 - *Baby Gym*: To create a safe space for multi-sensory playtime for babies and caregivers to encourage early childhood literacy for infants under the age of two (West Valley Regional Branch).

- *Science Curriculum Collection*: To supply interactive tools to middle school students for hands-on activities that boost self-initiated exploration of STEAM concepts (Cypress Park).
- *Musical Keyboard*: To offer a digital keyboard and headphones to allow patrons to browse the Library's musical score collection (Central).
- *Caja Divertida (Funny Box)*: To create English and Spanish ready-made program boxes to conduct STEAM programs to preschool audience (Central & Watts).
- *It's Sew Cool*: Will supply five sewing machines and tools to enhance STEAM education with art, design, science, and technology (Junipero Serra).

Mr. Szabo stated that Mayor Garcetti is very interested about this concept and how it could work in other departments.

CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORTS:

City Librarian John F. Szabo reviewed the Consent Calendar and stated that two Board Reports on Exhibit A had been revised to include the account information for the funds donated to the "Hot Off The Press" Best Seller Program and recommended approval.

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

Approved Acceptance of Gifts

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2017-26 (C-24)

RESOLVED, that the gift of \$3,000 from the Friends of the Mid-Valley Regional Branch to the Mid-Valley Regional Branch Library for the "Hot Off The Press" Bestseller Program be accepted and deposited in Trust Fund 831, Account No. 257; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a letter of thanks be sent to the Friends of the Mid-Valley Regional Branch expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for their generous support.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2017-27 (C-25)

RESOLVED, that the gift of \$3,000 from the Friends of the Palms-Rancho Park Library to the Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library for the "Hot Off The Press" Bestseller Program be accepted and deposited in Trust Fund 831, Account No. 257; and

Library Resolution
No. 2017-27 (C-25) Cont.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a letter of thanks be sent to the Friends of the Palms-Rancho Park Library expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for their generous support.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2017-28

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners approve the acceptance of the following gifts from the Vermont Square Friends of the Library: One (1) Dell Inspiron Laptop Computer, One (1) View Sonic Home Theater Projector, Legos Educational Pieces and two (2) banners, for a total value of \$1,945.73 for the Vermont Square Branch; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to the Vermont Square Friends of the Library, expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gifts.

Approved Acceptance of Grants from Pacific Library
Partnership for the Veterans Resource Centers at
Van Nuys Branch and Central Library

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2017-29 (C-26)

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners approve the acceptance of funds in the amount of \$6,500.23 from Pacific Library Partnership for the Veterans Resource Center project at Central Library; and

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

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2017-30 (C-27)

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners approve the acceptance of funds in the amount of \$3,494.13 from Pacific Library Partnership for the Veterans Resource Center at the Van Nuys Branch Library; and

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

Commissioner Walters left at 11:21 a.m.

ORAL PRESENTATION: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

Brooke Sheets, Senior Librarian, Children's Literature Department, provided an overview of the activities, programs and services offered to the public by the Children's Literature Department. It provides space for children to learn, play and explore with a computer lab, a theater, a play kitchen, a beautiful reading room and a large Children's Literature Collection with over 250,000 items comprised of materials in English and 26 other languages and several special collections. A team of five librarians assist students of all grade levels. Staff also offers tours and training for educators on how to do storytime, how to use the Library's database, and how to use STEAM resources in the classroom.

Ms. Sheets said that programs offered by the Children's Literature Department include Storytimes for babies and preschoolers, Try It Tuesdays for children in grades 3 and up where children explore STEAM, DIY, service learning, and other programs designed to be inclusive with universal learning principals. The newest addition is Sensory Storytime, which is intended for children with autism spectrum disorder or sensory processing disorders, using concepts from occupational therapy and special education to explore a wide range of senses. Special events are held throughout the year, most recently: Chef Roy Choi's book launch featuring graffiti artist Man One, who demonstrated graffiti art; the 11th Annual Science Day with special guests that included the creators of Disney Jr.'s TV show, *Miles from Tomorrowland*, and their science consultant Dr. Yvonne Cagle, who is an astronaut and a medical doctor. Visits from the Dodgers and Elmo are also among the past highlights. Last year, it offered over 200 programs and served over 9,000 children and families.

Ms. Sheets also spoke on how the Children's Literature Department fits into the LAPL system at large. She said they create monthly order sheets for staff to fill the children's literature collection at the branch libraries, train librarians on how to use online tools and collection development, and provides reference services to librarians system wide.

Ms. Sheets also mentioned that the Children's Literature Department has collections that aren't books, which include the Gladys English Collection of Original Art from Children's Books, Doll Collection of international collectible dolls, and the FOCAL Award Puppet Collection with puppets created by Carol Onofrio and Jesse Kingsley. Annually, the Friends of Children and Literature (FOCAL) presents an award to honor a book that celebrates excellence in children's literature with California content and present the author with a puppet representing a character from the award-winning book. This year's winner is *Chasing Secrets* by Gennifer Choldenko.

Discussion

Board President Cao thanked Ms. Sheets for her presentation.

Vice-President Eidmann said that all these services are so incredible and asked if there had been any thoughts in terms of the times children programs such as storytime are offered because it might be difficult for parents to bring their children to the library during working hours.

Ms. Sheets replied that the staff goes out to do outreach. Try It Tuesdays are presented at the Lanterman Center. They have also partnered with TeenScape to inform teen parents about library resources for them and their children. They also will be filling the bilingual Spanish-speaking librarian position very soon, which will be helpful for increasing outreach and programming. She noted that the downtown community is really expanding, particularly with young families.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS &
REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING: None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

ATTEST:

Bich Ngoc Cao
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant

Approved: October 12, 2017