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: DALE FRANZEN
- COMMISSIONER: MAI LASSITER

**EXCUSED**

**ABSENT:** COMMISSIONER JOSEFA SALINAS

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Regular Meeting – February 22, 2018:

It was MOVED by Commissioner Franzen, seconded by Commissioner Lassiter, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 22, 2018 be approved as submitted.

**REMARKS BY THE CENTRAL SOUTHERN AREA MANAGER AND THE EXPOSITION PARK - DR. MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE REGIONAL BRANCH SENIOR LIBRARIAN**

Central Southern Area Manager

Adam Mendelsohn, Central Southern Area Manager, reported on the various programs, services and initiatives offered at the 13 branch libraries in this region of approximately 842,000 residents; with over 200 schools and covering four Council Districts (Districts 8, 9, 10 and 15). He said the region has over 400 volunteers, including the Friends’ Groups and STAR readers.

Mr. Mendelsohn spoke about each of the branch libraries in the Central Southern Region: The Jefferson-Vassie D. Wright Memorial Branch offers Deluxe STEAM programming; the Vermont Square Branch and the Alma Reaves Woods-Watts Branch offer the “LAPD Read-Along” Program; the Junipero Serra Branch is in partnership with Project Art, a growing organization that partners with libraries with
the sole purpose of offering art instruction to youth, ages 4-17; the Vernon-Leon H. Washington Jr. Memorial Branch Library was the first branch library in the Central Southern Region to offer the LA Plays Initiative, for which it lends out 50 different kinds of backpacks that includes a book and toys that are checked out for storytime at home. The John Muir Branch was one of the first libraries to pilot an urban garden in the system, for which the branch and its master gardener Emi Carvell have been formally recognized by the Mayor’s Office; the San Pedro Regional Branch piloted the Book Bike, which began as a mini-grant project by Children’s Librarian Ednita Kelly, who also received the 2015 Mayor’s Civic Innovation Award.

Mr. Mendelsohn concluded his presentation by reporting that a ceremony had been held on September 2017 to present service pins and certificates to 32 employees, for a combined total of 492 years of service, acknowledging them for their loyal and dedicated service to the residents of the City of Los Angeles.

Mr. Mendelsohn introduced Alberto Alvarez, Senior Librarian, Exposition Park- Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library, to speak about the wonderful resources and services that the branch provides to the community.

**Senior Branch Librarian**

Alberto Alvarez, Senior Librarian, Exposition Park-Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Library, welcomed the Board to the branch and introduced staff members: *(Names in italics were present): Sandra Brooks, Adult Librarian III; Eugene Owens, Adult Librarian; Maria Diaz, Young Adult Librarian; Jessica Ko, Children’s Librarian; Josh Linton, Lizette Morales, Felix Najera, and Melvin Segura, Administrative Clerks; Ana Bocanegra, Alicia Carbajal, Nelly Flores, Monika Hamilton, Nathalie Michel, and Taj Turner, Messenger Clerks; Jesus Esparza, Cybernaut; and Julie Christenson, Adult Literacy Coordinator.*

Mr. Alvarez gave historical background of the branch from when it first was established in 1909 up to its current location and facility, which opened on August 18, 2008. The branch was named in honor of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, an educator, racial justice activist, advisor to President Herbert Hoover and founder of the Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida. She was known as one of the most influential black women in American history. A mural of Bethune by renowned artist and avid library user Charles White was installed on January 1978 and relocated to this new branch. Artist Cha-Rie Tang’s forest mural with three-dimensional glass pictures and copper tiles is also featured at the branch.

Mr. Alvarez said this branch serves a population of 31,325 residents and serves nine (9) elementary schools, four (4) middle schools and two (2) high schools. He also spoke about the programs, services and initiatives offered by the branch, including Baby/Toddler Storytime, LAPD Read Along, a Veterans Resource Center, New Americans Initiative, Financial Literacy, Health Matters; and The Source, which is a one-stop shop for services and resources for people experiencing homelessness.
Mr. Alvarez also mentioned that three major projects are underway in the community: The Crenshaw Metro Light Rail line to connect the Expo Line to LAX; the construction of the George Lucas Museum at the Exposition Park; and the construction of the Banc of California Stadium. He concluded his presentation by thanking the Board for taking the time to visit the branch and for their support of the Los Angeles Public Library.

Discussion

Commissioner Lassiter asked if the schools around the branch had already received their Student Success Library Cards. Mr. Alvarez replied that they have had many students come to the Library with their Student Success Library Cards. Eva Mitnick, Director, Engagement and Learning Division, informed the Board that Student Success Library Cards for the Central/Southern Region had already been distributed to all schools.

Commissioner Franzen asked Mr. Alvarez what was the greatest need patrons had in the community. Mr. Alvarez answered that it was computer literacy and literacy in general. He said many patrons don’t have the tools to learn computer skills and the Library helps greatly by providing them with equipment and resources in the Library. He said that at the end of the day, a lot of people come to the library to use the computers and print documents.

Vice President Eidmann asked how many people have been served through The Source program at this branch. Mr. Alvarez replied that 30 people had attended the last Source event held on February 20. He said that 30 is the average number of attendees per event but staff is trying to increase the number through outreach efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE BOARD’S JURISDICTION: (Taken Out of Order)

Ernest Dillihay, Chair, Los Angeles Inner City Cultural Center (LAICCC), spoke about a project his institution is working on to build a library to preserve cultural knowledge, collections, and documents of works of minority artists, authors, etc. He said they have a strategic plan and now he is seeking information on all the things that it takes to build a library. He noted that the Library has participated in LAICCC discussions panels and Kren Malone, Director of Central Library Services, has participated in previous panels. He invited the Board members to the LAICCC Diversity and Inclusion Award ceremony that takes place every November.

CITY LIBRARIAN’S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Librarian John F. Szabo reported the following:
“I Love My Librarian” Award
Annie Cipolla, Senior Librarian at J. C. Fremont Branch, won the “I Love My Librarian” Award, which is an award given by American Library Association, the New York Public Library and the Carnegie Foundation, but the nominations come from the community. Mr. Szabo said Ms. Cipolla went to New York to receive the award and a proclamation from Mayor Garcetti was presented to her yesterday.

Career Online High School Graduation Ceremony
On March 14, the Library will hold a graduation ceremony for 30 students who have completed the Career Online High School (COHS) Program. Mayor Garcetti and Board President Cao will be attending. This is the third graduation and so far 131 graduates now have an accredited high school diploma through this program.

STAR Volunteers Recognition
The Library recognized STAR volunteers at brunches on February 22 and March 1. STAR volunteers are adults who read to children at the Library. The LAPD Read-Along Program for which officers from the Los Angeles Police Department volunteer to read stories to children is also part of the STAR program. Mr. Szabo said he had an opportunity to chat with officers at the Westchester-Loyola Village Branch Library. The officers said they love doing this.

Women’s History Month
Mr. Szabo said thanked staff for doing a fantastic job with celebrations of African American History Month in February; and this month, they are doing the same with Women’s History Month. He told the Board he loves the photo of the all five female members of the Library Commission, which has been posted on social media. He said programs celebrating Women’s History Month are on the webpage, among them, “Leading Ladies of Animation” held at the Mark Taper Auditorium; and also blog posts about women photographers in Los Angeles, and much more.

Major Exhibits:
- “For All the World to See: Visual Culture and Struggle for Civil Rights”: This artifact based exhibit is from the National Endowment for the Humanities and complemented with photos from the Library’s Photo Collection. Very powerful images of Dr. King and Mayor Bradley. The exhibit is on display in the Central Library’s Getty Gallery.

- “The Industry in Our Backyard: Television Production in Los Angeles 1940s-1980s” Exhibit: Gail Anderson from KTLA featured this exhibit in an all morning live broadcast from the History Department.

- “Take None - Give None: The Chosen Few Motorcycle Club”: Photography Exhibit by Gusmano Cesaretti features LA’s first integrated motorcycle club in the 1960’s. It is on display on the First Floor galleries.
New Americans Initiative
Launched in January, this initiative is already showing success. To date, 122 appointments have been made with accredited individuals from partner organizations providing services at the Library; 110 for immigration services, other services were for workers’ rights, etc.

Teen Tech Month
This year’s theme for Teen Tech Month is “Libraries Are for Creating,” and encourages teens to take advantage of all the great science and STEAM programs that are offered throughout the library system.

Budget Update
Currently, staff is fielding questions from the Mayor’s and CAO’s offices. The only amendment to the budget was the $1.6 million for security and overtime. On April 20, the Mayor will release its budget, then it would go City Council for review and approval. The Library will be answering questions during that process also. He said he will keep the Board updated throughout the process.

Library Staff Members Participating in committees and organizations
Mr. Szabo stated that the following staff members not only serve the people in Los Angeles, but also are leading in organizations nationally: Madeleine Ildefonso, Batchelder Award Committee; Tina Lerno, Chair, Great Graphic Novels for Teens; Loren Specter, Great Graphic Novels for Teens Committee; Jennifer Siron, Great Graphic Novels for Teens Committee; Anna Avalos, Pura Belpre Award Committee; and Sada Mozer, ALA Notables. Dora Ho, ALA Council Orientation Committee; Jené Brown Secretary, Coretta Scott King Executive Board; Eva Mitnick, Pura Belpre Expansion Task Force; Brooke Sheets, PLA Liaison to ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee; and Dora Ho and Celia Avila, both are members in the ALA Council.

Targeted Local Hire Program
This initiative provides job opportunities for underrepresented groups in the city and it streamlines the hiring process into an entry level position titled “Office Assistant” and then transition into full time positions. The Library has hired 25 individuals into Office Assistant positions, which represents about 16% of all people hired into this classification city wide. In the next few weeks, 3 more office trainees come and it will be adding up to 15 office trainees over the next couple months. Mr. Szabo said the Mayor’s Office has lauded the Library’s leadership in this initiative. The Mayor is very passionate about it and Union leadership has been very supportive of it.

L.A. Plays
L.A. Plays consists of a see through backpack containing a literacy based kit - a toy, a book and suggested activities parents can do at home with their children. On November 14, 2017, the Wilmington Branch Library became the fifth library to add this program. Teri Markson, Senior Librarian, initiated the program at the Panorama City Branch and it has expanded to Arroyo Seco, Vernon and Pico Union branch libraries; each location typically has 100 kits.
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 Lassiter and unanimously carried that the following resolutions be adopted as amended:

Approved Acceptance of Gifts

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2018-14 (C-8)

RESOLVED, That the gift of $1,000 received from Bob’s Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation, Inc. for the benefit of the Platt Branch Library be accepted; and deposited in Trust Fund 831, Account 340; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to Bob’s Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation, Inc. expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

Approved Transfer of Funds from Salaries-General
To Salaries As-Needed and Salaries-Overtime Accounts, within Fund 300, Library Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget

Commissioner Eidmann asked how many people had been hired through LA Youth. Michael Bolokowicz, Director, Human Resources, replied that 73 youth were hired last summer for a total of 124 for the entire calendar year. He said they are hired as part-time messenger clerks.

Commissioner Franzen asked how the Library advertises for the jobs. Mr. Bolokowicz replied that positions are advertised at library locations and through social media.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2018-15 (C-9)

WHEREAS, The Library transfers funds between salaries accounts each year to ensure that libraries are properly staffed; and

WHEREAS, Staff requested the transfer of $325,000 to various salary accounts within the Library’s Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget:
Library Resolution
No. 2018-15 (C-9)

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves the following transfer of funds within the Library’s Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget, Fund 300, Department 44:

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<td>1090 – Salaries Overtime</td>
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ORAL PRESENTATION:
FULL STEAM AHEAD INITIATIVE

Diane Olivo-Posner, Principal Librarian, and Vivienne Byrd, Librarian III, both from the Exploration & Creativity Department, Division of Engagement & Learning, provided a detailed background on the Library’s Full STEAM Ahead Initiative. Ms. Olivo-Posner reported that it started in late 2012, when the California Science Center offered to train a group of Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) librarians on hosting preschool science storytimes in the library setting. She said Eva Mitnick, who was then the Principal Librarian of Youth Services, took on the mission to expand the California Science Center’s science program projects beyond preschoolers. Eva’s efforts resulted in LAPL being awarded several major grants to not only sustain the science storytimes and kits for preschoolers, but also to expand into programs that cover science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) catering to elementary school students, teens, and adults; furthermore, the grants also offered professional development opportunities to librarians through local STEAM partners.

Ms. Byrd stated that the first key funding came to the Library in 2013 from the Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) as a grant for $77,000 that was used to expand partner-led STEAM programs for kids ages 8 to 13; to add programs on simple robotics, filmmaking, stop-motion animation, 3-D printing, coding, etc.; and for development workshops for eight staff members. In 2015, with a Keck Foundation’s grant of $250,000, the Library was able to obtain technology equipment and funding to hire a one-year STEAM coordinator. Also, in 2015, the Library received the Laura Bush’s Grant of $500,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Combined, the Keck and IMLS grants, provided funding to update technology equipment and also to purchase more high-tech equipment to offer more technology-driven STEAM programs such as LEGO WeDo 2.0, 3-D Designing and Printing, Green Screen photography & filming, Virtual Reality/Augmented Reality/Mixed Reality Experience, Digital Photography, E-Textiles, and more.
Ms. Olivo-Posner added that the Keck and IMLS grants also provided for librarian development through existing and new partners and to purchase more equipment and materials to expand and sustain the “Ready-to-Go” STEAM program kits. She said these kits come with instructions, materials and supplies for librarians to conduct STEAM programs at branches. Currently, they have 39 STEAM program kits, ranging from non-tech, low-to-no technology kits, to high-tech kits such as VR/AR Experience kit. She said that over the years, the Library has built a very strong pool of partnerships, they include NASA, Girls Who Code, LEGO, DIY Girls, Google Expeditions, Discovery Cube LA, Microsoft Store, LA Makerspace, and Iridescent.

Ms. Byrd reported that attendance to STEAM programs is very impressive. She said that the total of STEAM programs offered went from 354 programs in Fiscal Year 2013-14 to 1,488 programs in the last fiscal year. She said they expect to surpass last years’ numbers because they are already at 1,301 programs this year. She pointed out that with LAUSD and schools in California adopting the new Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) curriculum starting this fall, the demand for these STEAM programs will for sure continue to rise.

Ms. Olivo-Posner stated they have a strong focus on creating inviting and friendly STEAM learning environment for all genders, and they have not only closed the gap, but reversed gender participation pattern with more female than males attending STEAM programs in Fiscal Year 2016-2017. She showed data collected from preschools to teen participants.

FY 2015-2016 = 10,638 Male vs 5,553 Female  
FY 2016-2017 = 10,814 Male vs 12,925 Female  
FY 2017-Feb 2018 = 9,684 Male vs 10,148 Female  

Ms. Byrd stated that in June 2017, they shifted the librarian training model to peer-to-peer training, also known as “Train the Trainer,” and hired an instructor from LEGO to train 21 librarians who in turn would train librarians in their region or department. In addition to training LAPL librarians, they are also sharing their knowledge and resources with librarians outside LAPL. In March 2017, they provided the very first STEAM professional development training with two STEAM partners, Iridescent and LA Makerspace, and invited librarians from all over Southern California to participate; 16 librarians from as far as Calabasas and Santa Barbara came to join them.

Ms. Olivo-Posner stated that they have also been participating in various STEAM related outreach events throughout Southern California, such as Educators’ Night at Discovery Cube LA, NASA’s Total Solar Eclipse Event, Google Expedition AR pilot project, and events hosted by the Library Foundation. In 2017, the Library hosted two major STEAM events: LAPL Science Day, a family-friendly event that attracted over 500 people; and LAPL’s 2nd Annual DTLA Mini-Maker Faire that attracted over 1,800 people to the event.
Ms. Olivo-Posner and Byrd stated that they have received overwhelming positive feedback and they will continue to seek funding and grant opportunities to sustain and expand this initiative and continue emphasis on peer-to-peer staff training as well as provide support to the upcoming digital media labs and make Los Angeles the Maker City with a flagship Mini-Maker Faire and strengthen partnerships with local Makers, LAUSD and STEAM partners.

**Discussion**

Commissioner Franzen asked if the STEAM program was being sustained through grants because it was not funded as part of the regular budget. Ms. Olivo-Posner replied that currently it is being funded through grants, but they have submitted a package for funding for the next fiscal year’s budget.

Commissioner Franzen asked Ms. Olivo-Posner if she believed the Library would continue to receive federal funding. Ms. Olivo-Posner answered that staff is very hopeful that the Library will continue to receive federal grant funds and also through the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, because the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) is the innovator and leaders in this program along with the Chicago Public Library.

**VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS & REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING:**

Board President Cao announced that the next Regular Board Meeting would be held on Thursday, March 22, 2018, at the Central Library. She reminded the members to inform the Board Office if they anticipate to be absent.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

___________________________  ______________________________
Bich Ngoc Cao               Raquel M. Borden
President                    Board Executive Assistant

Approved: April 12, 2018