MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
March 22, 2018

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 11:14 a.m. on the above-written date.

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

EXCUSED

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DALE FRANZEN
COMMISSIONER MAI LASSITER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting – March 8, 2018: Approval was continued to the next meeting by unanimous consent.

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

CITY LIBRARIAN’S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susan Broman, Acting Assistant City Librarian, provided the comments on behalf of City Librarian John F. Szabo, who was attending the Public Library Association Conference in Philadelphia with other Library staff:

Career Online High School (COHS) Graduation Ceremony

On March 14, a graduation ceremony was held at the Central Library for 31 students from the Career Online High School program. Board President Bich Ngoc Cao and Commissioner Mai Lassiter joined City Librarian John F. Szabo and Mayor Eric Garcetti for the ceremony. Approximately 100 family members and friends attended. Ms. Broman said the students had very inspiring stories and were happy to have been able to achieve this milestone. She said this was the third graduation bringing the total to 135 graduates of the program. Ms. Broman stated that enrollment for the COHS program has increased enough to hold a second graduation ceremony in October 10, 2018. Currently, 265 students are enrolled in COHS.
“The Industry in Our Backyard: Television Production in Los Angeles 1940s-1980s” Exhibit:

This photo exhibit is on display in the History Department and will run until July 15, 2018. It features photos from the Library’s Photo Collection that were largely taken by photographers from the Herald Examiner and the Valley Times newspapers, who were granted exclusive access to back lots, sound stages and location shoots around town. Some of these photos haven’t been seen in 65 years since when they first ran in the newspapers. They provide a rare glimpses of the earliest L.A. television stations, crews at work and stars in action. The Library is holding a series of lectures in conjunction with the exhibit, sponsored by the Photo Friends. Gayle Anderson of KTLA Morning News has already filmed and aired live several segments about this exhibit.

Blog Posts of Early Female City Librarians

For Women’s History Month, the Library has blog posts in its website featuring female city librarians from the early years of the Library. One is titled, “Scandal on the Stacks,” which tells the story of Harriet Child Wadleigh, who was the eighth city librarian; and another one titled, “The Great Library War of 1905,” which is about Wadleigh’s successor, Mary L. Jones, who was the first city librarian to graduate from library school and whose mentor was Melvil Dewey. Ms. Broman said this story is so dramatic that it will be posted in four parts. As a bonus, there is a link to the story of Tessa Kelso, the sixth city librarian, who was an early fighter for intellectual freedom in library collections. Ms. Broman said these blogs look at the history of the Library and struggles of women in the work place at the turn of the century. She noted that staff independently researched the stories and volunteered to write these blogs.

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Commissioner Salinas stated that she would like to get the stories of the COHS graduates to feature them in her radio segment.

CITY LIBRARIAN’S REPORTS:

Acting Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman reviewed the Consent Calendar and recommended its approval.

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

Approved Re-appropriation of Funds within Fund 300,
From UUFB Account to 2539 to Account 7300 to
Complete the Library’s Desktop Virtualization Project

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2018-16 (C-10)

WHEREAS, sufficient funds in the amount of $226,000 are available in the Library’s Unreserved and Undesignated Fund Balance (UUFB); and
Library Resolution
No. 2018-16 (C-10)

WHEREAS, staff requests the re-appropriation of $226,000 from the UUFB to the Furniture, Office and Technical Equipment Account 7300 in the Library’s Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget to complete the Library’s desktop virtualization project, which began in Fiscal Year 2016-17:

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves a re-appropriation of $226,000 from the Unreserved and Undesignated Fund Balance, within Fund 300, Department 44, Account 2539 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From: Fund 300; Account 2539, UUFB</td>
<td>$226,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To: Fund 300; Account 7300 – Furniture, Office and Technical Equipment</td>
<td>226,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>$226,000</td>
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ORAL PRESENTATION:
Genealogy Resources at the Los Angeles Public Library

Julie Huffman, Adult Librarian III, Genealogy Specialist from the History and Genealogy Department, spoke about the various resources available at the Los Angeles Public Library on print and online for anyone interested in finding out about their family history. She stated that there are many reasons why people search for this type of information. It could be to find relatives or to find evidence of lineage in society to be recognized in organizations such as the Daughters of the Revolution and the Mayflower Society; to obtain dual citizenship or for tribal inclusion, as well as many other personal reasons.

Ms. Huffman stated that the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) is the destination for many people who go all over the country researching their ancestry because LAPL has one of the largest genealogy collections west of the Mississippi; of which, 20% is not in the Library of Congress. She said the History and Genealogy Department has over 150,000 titles and about 45,000 of those are classified as genealogy. She noted that genealogy books are for reference only and must be used in the Library; they include: Census Records; Heraldry and Coats of Arms; local histories, military records, name books, newspapers, online databases, periodicals, telephone directories, a Family Histories Collection of approximately 10,000 files and published genealogy research that individuals have done and donated to LAPL; City Directories from all over country in print, microfilm, and microfiche listing information of where a person was living, occupation, and spouse name -- 114 volumes of City Directories have been digitized and are accessible online; Also, LAPL has unique information in the Genealogy and Local History Index and files that lead or point to resources by typing a family name.
Ms. Huffman stated that the Library also has subscriptions to various online genealogy services, resources and databases such as Ancestry.com that save patrons hundreds of dollars in membership fees if they were to sign up for their own account. Some databases such as HeritageQuest, Access Newspaper Archives, and JewishData can also be accessed from home for free through the Library’s website by using the LAPL library card. She also had in hand several hard to find expensive resources that patrons can use for free at the Library, among them she had “The Silver Book Collection,” which contains the list of the Mayflower passengers and detailed genealogical breakdowns of all the passengers, and another book containing the names of those who served in the Revolutionary War.

Ms. Huffman stated the Library offers events such as Genealogy Garage every 3rd Saturday of the month by the Southern California Genealogy Society and Family Research; and Hispanic Saturdays with experts from the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America-Southern California Chapter. These events are held at the Central Library to inform patrons about research tools and ideas and to provide a place for people interested in genealogy to talk about their findings. Branch libraries also offer genealogy events. She concluded her presentation by stating that essentially, genealogy personalizes history and it shows how we are all a one-world community and the library is a fantastic free resource.

Discussion

Board President Cao commented that several years ago she had done genealogy research in the History Department and staff helped trace her ex-husband family history back to the 1800’s prior to going on a trip to Ireland.

Vice President Eidmann asked how many patrons are served. Ms. Huffman replied that 30% of the patrons who come to the History Department are asking for genealogy resources; however, it does not include patrons using the online services. They also have tour groups come to the History Department specifically for information on genealogy.

Joyce Cooper, Principal Librarian, Department Manager, added that on weekends, the History Department is very busy assisting people who are doing genealogy research.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS & REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING:

Announced Change of Location for the Next Board Meeting

Board President Cao announced that the location of the next regular meeting of the Board scheduled for Thursday, April 12, 2018, will be moved from the Wilmington Branch Library to the Central Library.
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Bich Ngoc Cao                   Raquel M. Borden
President                       Board Executive Assistant

Approved: April 12, 2018