M I N U T E S

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

May 14, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library starting at 11:01 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. Roll Call:

Present:	President	**Mayra Valadez**
	Commissioner	**Kelly Besser**
	Commissioner	**Valerie Lynne Shaw**
	Commissioner	**Fabian R. Wesson**
Absent:	Vice President	**Linda Blank**

Also: City Librarian John F. Szabo, Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman, Deputy City Attorney Josh M. Templet, administrative staff, and members of the public.

2. Opening Remarks: Board President Valadez welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared her enthusiasm to hear the update on the Strategic Plan.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

a. Regular Meeting - March 26, 2026

It was moved by Commissioner Shaw and seconded by Commissioner Wesson to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 26, 2026. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Besser/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: Blank.

4. Public Comments on Matters Within the Board's Jurisdiction:
The Board heard one public comment from community member Ben Eubanks.

5. City Librarian's Comments and Announcements: City Librarian John F. Szabo reported on past and upcoming events.

6. City Librarian's Reports:

Consent Items

a. Approval of publishing agreement between the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library for the title: Brockman Gallery: Los Angeles 1967–1990.

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of the publishing agreement between the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library for the title: *Brockman Gallery: Los Angeles 1967–1990*. The book is intended to accompany a major, traveling exhibition at LACMA and will feature content from the Los Angeles Public Library's Brockman Gallery archive. Mr. Szabo expressed pride in being part of the book and collaborating with LACMA noting the collaboration will also lift up the particular collection within the library. He stated that while the library has previously collaborated with LACMA on arts programming in branch libraries and exhibit passes, the publishing agreement represents the first partnership of its kind between the two institutions.

It was moved by Commissioner Shaw and seconded by Commissioner Wesson to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Besser/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: Blank.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-17 (C-17)

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2023, the Board of Library Commissioners (Board) approved a Gift Agreement to accept the Angel City Press publishing operation and committed to continuing the legacy of Angel City Press by publishing new books that amplify the voices of local authors and preserves the stories of Los Angeles and Southern California; and

WHEREAS, Staff will ensure that the required compliance documents are completed and submitted prior to the execution of the agreement. The publishing agreement has been reviewed by the City Attorney and is ready to be transmitted for processing.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report, including approval of the award and execution of the publishing agreement with Museum Associates dba Los Angeles County Museum of Art for the exclusive license in the copyright of *Brockman Gallery: Los Angeles 1967–1990*; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the City Librarian and the City Attorney to make technical and clerical corrections, if needed, to the agreement.

b. Approval of publishing agreement between the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library for the title: Wander: Exploring LACMA's David Geffen Galleries.

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of the publishing agreement between the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library for the title: Wander: Exploring LACMA's David Geffen Galleries. This publication will serve as the printed guide to the new Geffen Galleries that opened at LACMA. Mr. Szabo noted that the publication is expected to be financially positive for the library.

It was moved by Commissioner Shaw and seconded by Commissioner Wesson to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Besser/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: Blank.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-18 (C-18)

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2023, the Board of Library Commissioners (Board) approved a Gift Agreement to accept the Angel City Press publishing operation and committed to continuing the legacy of Angel City Press by publishing new books that amplify the voices of local authors and preserves the stories of Los Angeles and Southern California; and

WHEREAS, Staff will ensure that the required compliance documents are completed and submitted prior to the execution of the agreement. The publishing agreement has been reviewed by the City Attorney and is ready to be transmitted for processing.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report, including approval of the award and execution of the publishing agreement with Museum Associates dba Los Angeles County Museum of Art for the exclusive license in the copyright of *Wander: Exploring LACMA's David Geffen Galleries*; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the City Librarian and the City Attorney to make technical and clerical corrections, if needed, to the agreement.

Discussion Items

c. Approval of Easement Agreement with Holland Caring Echo Venture, LLC, for Crane Swing and Tieback work at the Edendale Branch Library.

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of an Easement Agreement with Holland Caring Echo Venture, LLC, for crane swing and tieback work at the Edendale Branch Library. Located on Sunset Boulevard, the Edendale Branch Library is adjacent to the former TAIX restaurant site, where a new mixed-use residential and restaurant structure is currently being developed. The proposed agreement consists of two primary components: First, a crane easement will allow a construction crane to pass over the library property. Second, subterranean tieback work is required for the development's structural engineering. In exchange, the library will receive a standard overarching fee, along with additional fees for any tiebacks that remain at a depth of 20 feet. Similar agreements have been successfully implemented at the Little Tokyo and John C. Fremont branch libraries. This agreement has been reviewed and approved by the City Engineer, the Bureau of Engineering, City Risk Management, and the City Attorney's Office.

It was moved by Commissioner Shaw and seconded by Commissioner Wesson to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Besser/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: Blank.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-19 (C-19)

WHEREAS, Holland Caring Echo Venture, LLC (Developer) is the owner and developer of certain real property located in the City of Los Angeles (City) commonly known as 1911-1929 and 1931 Sunset Blvd. (Development Property) and more particularly described in Exhibit A of the proposed Crane Swing and Tieback Easement Agreement;

WHEREAS, the City is the owner of the real property located adjacent to the Development Property, commonly known as the Edendale Branch Library located at 2011 W. Sunset Blvd. (City Property) and more particularly described in Exhibit B of the proposed Crane Swing and Tieback Easement Agreement;

WHEREAS, the Developer plans to construct a new six-story mixed-use building consisting of residential and retail spaces, subterranean parking and amenities (Project) on the Development Property. In conjunction with the development of the Project, the Developer proposers to swing a tower crane boom over and across the airspace above the City Property (Crane) and to install a tieback anchor system underneath the surface of a portion of the City Property (Tieback Area);

WHEREAS, the City and the Developer desire to enter into this Crane Swing and Tieback Easement Agreement to set forth the terms and conditions pursuant to which the Developer and its representatives shall be permitted to operate the Crane in the air space above the City Property during the construction of the Project; and the terms and conditions pursuant to which the Developer and its representatives shall be permitted to insert and maintain tieback rods beneath the surface of the City Property in the Tieback Area;

WHEREAS, the term of the temporary easement will expire by December 1, 2028, and in the event a final certificate of occupancy has not issued for the Project, the expiration date shall be automatically extended for an additional six months. The Developer will provide payment in the amount of $20,000 to the Library within thirty (30) days of the execution of the Crane Swing and Tieback Easement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, any tieback rods or anchors that are abandoned in-place (due to inability to be removed) must be detensioned. For each tieback anchor that remains within the top twenty (20) feet of the surface elevation, the Developer shall pay the City a fee of $5,000. All of the activities specified in this Section shall be performed by Developer at its sole expense.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report and approves the Crane Swing and Tieback Easement Agreement; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the City Librarian to execute the Crane Swing and Tieback Easement Agreement upon completion of all required approvals; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the Chief Accounting Employee to create a sub-account in Fund 831 to deposit and expend funds, including payments from the Developer, related to the operation and maintenance of the Edendale Branch Library; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the City Librarian and the City Attorney to make technical and clerical corrections, if needed, to the Crane Swing and Easement Tieback Agreement.

d. Approve the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Audiovisual Services for the Los Angeles Public Library.

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended an approval to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Audiovisual Services for the library. These services support meetings, programming at the Taper Auditorium for the library and outside entities, and branch library needs. The current contract, established in 2023, is set to expire this year. Approval of the RFP document initiates a new procurement process, with the final vendor selection to be brought back for board approval.

Discussion

Board President Valadez asked if the RFP for this service goes out every three years. Mr. Szabo confirmed that the current process is initiated every three years.

It was moved by Commissioner Shaw and seconded by Commissioner Besser to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Besser/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: Blank.

e. Approval of the Los Angeles Public Library Strategic Plan for 2026-2031.

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended the approval of the Los Angeles Public Library Strategic Plan for 2026-2031, emphasizing that the plan resulted from extensive collaboration among library staff, the public, and consultants from Gensler and Margaret Sullivan Studios. He underscored the library's commitment to soliciting broad community input, stating that the plan's success relied on its alignment with the needs and desires of Angelenos. Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman echoed this enthusiasm, acknowledging the vital contributions of Project Manager Brooke Sheets, the staff working group, and steering team committee members Jené Brown, Emily Fate, and Ana Campos. Following these remarks, Ms. Broman introduced the consulting teams from Gensler and Margaret Sullivan Studio to present the plan's detailed objectives.

The Strategic Plan was presented in detail by Kevin Rosenstein and Allie Holmes from Gensler, alongside Margaret Sullivan of Margaret Sullivan Studios.

Discussion

Commissioner Shaw asked which part of the plan addresses staff challenges they've encountered. Ms. Holmes highlighted an Organizational Recommendation document, serving as a supplement to the strategic plan, which frames recommendations through organizational values in areas such as programming, process, and talent development. Key initiatives include addressing internal communication challenges and finding an appropriate balance between system cohesion and branch autonomy to ensure staff can respond to local community needs while maintaining a cohesive experience for those using the library.

Commissioner Wesson noted that she had several detailed questions regarding the strategic plan, specifically concerning how staff and leadership were selected and the methodology behind the community survey that received 19,000 responses. To avoid taking up excessive time during the meeting, she requested to email these specific inquiries to receive answers. Mr. Szabo welcomed this approach and said he would provide detailed responses to her questions and share information with all the commissioners. Commissioner Besser requested that the list of the 46 community organizations that participated in the convening be included in his response.

Commissioner Valadez raised a concern regarding survey demographics, highlighting under-representation among certain groups, specifically individuals with annual incomes below $50,000 and the Latino population. She inquired about the team's strategy for addressing this common polling challenge and whether specific variables were weighted to account for these gaps. Ms. Holmes explained that while survey results were compared against community demographics, the team also took a proactive approach to ensure broader representation. Through partnerships and targeted focus groups, they engaged specific populations including Spanish and Mandarin-speaking residents and individuals with annual incomes below $50,000 to better understand their experiences and challenges. These conversations, combined with extensive community outreach and the library staff's deep local knowledge, helped address gaps in the survey data. Ms. Sullivan added that the library's support allowed the team to engage non-users in ways that many public libraries cannot due to limited resources. She described community engagement as a process of continually reaching deeper into the community, requiring persistence and extensive outreach. Through these efforts, the team heard a consistent message from non-users: while other spaces may offer co-working or learning opportunities, they often lack the sense of connection and belonging that libraries provide. She emphasized that these findings offer strong evidence of the library's unique role in helping people achieve their goals and strengthen their communities.

Board President Valadez expressed her gratitude for the presentation, specifically thanking the teams involved, as well as the staff and leadership, for the dedication required to reach this milestone.

It was moved by Commissioner Besser and seconded by Commissioner Shaw to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Besser/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: Blank.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-21 (C-21)

RESOLVED, that the Board of Library Commissioners approve "The Library We Share: Advancing Learning, Opportunity, and Belonging For All Angelenos" as LAPL's Strategic Plan for 2026-2031; and,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the City Librarian and the City Attorney to make technical and clerical corrections, if needed.

7. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements

- Board President Valadez gave thanks to the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, specifically praising the "Night at the Library" as a fantastic event. She noted her pleasure in seeing Jessica Salgado, a personal favorite poet, and observed the widespread enjoyment of all attendees at Central Library. Looking ahead, she is looking forward to attending the AAPI Joy festival this coming Saturday and shared her excitement for engaging with the many patrons expected at the library.

- Commissioner Besser echoed her sentiments for the “Night at the Library” event.

- Commissioner Besser gave a shout out to the staff of the Arroyo Seco Branch Library. She expressed her admiration for the beauty of the branch and the community utilizing its services, she shared that the experience was deeply inspiring and has made her eager to explore more branches.

- Commissioner Shaw recently attended a meeting with the June Jubilee Committee to plan for the upcoming event.

- Commissioner Shaw met with Director of Engagement and Learning Division Madeline Peña regarding the Library Foundation's support for Friends groups, noting that funds are available to assist with accounting or legal challenges. She noted that these resources may be used to help the Washington Irving branch library's Friends group resolve a problem with their nonprofit status.

- Commissioner Shaw announced a centennial celebration for Mary Matthews, an effort aimed at honoring her achievements while celebrating, educating, and recruiting African American librarians. This initiative includes an "Ideas Summit" to explore policies and improvements for collaborating with other city departments.

- Commissioner Wesson recently paid a visit to the Little Tokyo branch with 14 preschoolers, and praised Librarian Cynthia for her engaging program and welcoming attitude. She shared concerns regarding the library's visibility, noting that she had frequently driven past the location without realizing it was a library due to poor signage or ongoing construction.

- Commissioner Wesson suggested developing individualized materials for board members to take to various branches to better understand and address specific community needs

Next Board Meeting Notice: The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., and will be held at the Central Library.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayra Valadez President	Lynda Achi Secretary to the Board