

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

May 28, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library starting at 11:04 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. Roll Call:

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

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 expressed her joy for the full-house attendance for the staff recognition.

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 3 Ayes (Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 2 (Besser/Blank).

4. Staff Recognition:

City Librarian John F. Szabo welcomed Business Manager Madeline Rackley to receive her certificate of retirement. Ms. Rackley has spent over 40 years with the City of Los Angeles, including more than 10 years at the library serving as Chief Management Analyst. Mr. Szabo expressed deep appreciation for her role as an ambassador of the department within city government, noting that her extensive experience and connections greatly benefited the library, its mission, and the public it serves.

The Board presented Ms. Rackley with her certificate of retirement and thanked her for her dedication and service to the department and City.

5. Public Comments on Matters Within the Board's Jurisdiction:

The Board heard one public comment from community member Ben Eubanks.

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

7. City Librarian's Reports:**Consent Items****a. Acceptance of gift of furniture donation from the Friends of the Westwood Library to the Westwood Branch Library.**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended accepting a gift from the Friends of Westwood Library: ten community room tables valued at \$12,312.15. These tables will benefit the Westwood Branch Library by replacing outdated furniture, thereby enhancing programming capacity and community participation.

It was moved by Commissioner Shaw and seconded by Commissioner Wesson to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 2 (Besser/Blank).

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-22

RESOLVED, That a gift of four 30" x 48" Versteel tables and six 30" x 72" Versteel tables valued at \$12,312.15 to benefit the Westwood Branch Library received from the Friends of Westwood Library be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to the Friends of Westwood Library expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board for the generous gift.

b. Approval of publishing agreement between Eric Smith and Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library.

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of the publishing agreement between Eric Smith and Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library for the exclusive license in the copyright of *Wild Wings of Hollywoodland*

It was moved by Commissioner Shaw and seconded by Commissioner Wesson to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 2(Besser/Blank).

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-23 (C-22)

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 Eric Smith for the exclusive license in the copyright of *Wild Wings of Hollywoodland*; 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.

c. **Approval of publishing agreement between John McCormack and Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library.**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of the publishing agreement between John McCormack and Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library for the exclusive license in the copyright of *The Last Condors of Eaton Canyon*.

It was moved by Commissioner Shaw and seconded by Commissioner Wesson to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 2 (Besser/Blank).

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-24 (C-23)

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;

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 John McCormack for the exclusive license in the copyright of *The Last Condors of Eaton Canyon*; 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.

8. **Presentation: Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library**

Terri Accomazzo, Editorial Director of Angel City Press (ACP) at the Los Angeles Public Library, shared an extensive preview of the titles slated for 2026. She explained that the presentation was intended to give the Board a look at the work that follows the publishing contract approval and to highlight books recently released or nearing publication, while offering a preview of the upcoming 2026 catalog. Ms. Accomazzo and Elliot Kane lead Angel City Press. As Editorial Director, Ms. Accomazzo oversees each book's development from contract acquisition through publication, while Mr. Kane manages marketing and public relations efforts. Ms. Accomazzo described 2026 as a "powerhouse year" for the press. Among the forthcoming releases is *In Case You Missed It: Counterculture Photography of the 1960s and 1970s*, scheduled for publication in two weeks and marking the start of the new publishing cycle.

She highlighted *Leave It for the Children: A Visual History of the Pan-African People's Arkestra* as the final publication of 2026. Featuring vibrant Afrofuturist artwork and chronicles the visual and cultural history of the Pan-African People's Arkestra (Ark), a community-based jazz organization founded by Horace Tapscott in Leimert Park more than 60 years ago. Ms. Accomazzo noted that the project is particularly significant because it preserves oral histories from musicians across Los Angeles and beyond whose stories have often gone undocumented. Drawing extensively from the Arkestra's previously unseen archives, the book illuminates community resilience, artistic legacy, and the intergenerational transmission of culture. She described the project as a personal passion, emphasizing that archiving and preserving these materials is a collective effort, much like the orchestra itself. She concluded that the book serves as a fitting finale to the presentation and exemplifies Angel City Press's mission to safeguard and share vital community histories and cultural legacies for future generations.

Discussion

Commissioner Shaw shared that one of her hobbies is interviewing unsung heroes, noting that she has a filmed 15-minute interview with Cecilia Tapscott, wife of Horace Tapscott. She offered to share the recording with Ms. Accomazzo, who welcomed the gesture and noted that Mrs. Tapscott played an incredibly important role in the Arkestra.

President Valadez expressed excitement for the upcoming release, *Our Lady of the Angels: The Virgin of Guadalupe on the Walls of Los Angeles*. Ms. Accomazzo noted that the featured murals are geographically diverse, appearing across the city, including the San Fernando Valley and South Los Angeles.

9. Commissioners' Announcements and Comments

- Commissioner Wesson shared a reminder of the upcoming June Jubilee celebration on Saturday, June 13 at Central Library.

Next Board Meeting Notice: The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., and will be held at the Will & Ariel Durant Branch Library at 7140 W. Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90046

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

BOLC MINUTES

May 28, 2026

Mayra Valadez
President

Lynda Achi
Secretary to the Board