

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

June 25, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library starting at 11:06 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. Roll Call:

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

Absent: None

Also: City Librarian John F. Szabo, 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 remarked on the joy throughout Los Angeles for the World Cup. Additionally, she expressed her excitement for the upcoming Central Centennial Festival.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

- a. Regular Meeting - May 14, 2026
- b. Regular Meeting - May 28, 2026

It was moved by Commissioner Shaw and seconded by Commissioner Wesson to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held on May 14, 2026 and May 28, 2026. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

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. **Acceptance of grant of \$15,000 from the nonprofit Critical Minded for Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library.**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended the acceptance of a \$15,000 grant from Critical Minded to support Angel City Press. The funds are designated for the publication *Leave it for the Children: A Visual History of the Pan African Peoples Arkestra*, previously introduced by Editorial Director Terri Accomazzo during her presentation at the last Board meeting. This grant will facilitate the expansion of the book.

It was moved by Commissioner Shaw and seconded by Commissioner Wesson to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 25 (C-24)

RESOLVED, That a grant of \$15,000 received from the nonprofit Critical Minded be accepted and deposited in Trust Fund 831, Account 372 for the purpose of expanding the number of pages in *Leave it for the Children: A Sixty-year Visual History of the Pan African Peoples Arkestra*, a forthcoming Angel City Press publication; and,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to Critical Minded expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the grant.

b. Approval of the General Manager's Expense Account for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of the General Manager's Expense Account for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, in an amount not to exceed \$3,500.

It was moved by Vice President Blank and seconded by Commissioner Besser to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-26 (C-25)

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners hereby authorizes the City Librarian or designee to receive an advance or be reimbursed for miscellaneous business-related expenditures such as business meals, taxi fares, parking fees, etc., in an amount not to exceed \$3,500 for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That said amount be encumbered in the Office and Administrative Expense Account No. 6010, Library Fund No. 300.

Discussion Items

c. Adoption of the Library Department's Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27.

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended adoption of the Library Department Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 in the amount of \$279,695,417. This is an increase of \$9,930,281 from the current fiscal year, which includes an increase of \$1 million for library collections materials, \$1.4 million for the LAPD and contract security budget, funding and authority for 9 additional positions across various areas of the library

system, including a dedicated full-time architect position. Also included is significant funding allocated for Alterations and Improvements (A&I) projects at branch libraries such as roof and HVAC replacements, renovations, and unplanned emergencies.

Discussion

Commissioner Shaw asked what projects the architect position will work on and if it includes the Benjamin Franklin Branch Library. Mr. Szabo clarified that architectural work for the Benjamin Franklin Branch is already complete and construction is underway, noting that the new role will focus on supporting various future projects. He added that a dedicated architect would have been advantageous for that and previous projects, though he cautioned that the hiring process will take time within the new fiscal year.

Commissioner Shaw inquired why the number of contractual services decreased by \$4.6 million. Co-Business Manager Heather Smith noted that the A&I costs for next year were lower than they were for the current year.

It was moved by Commissioner Besser and seconded by Vice President Blank to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-27 (C-26)

WHEREAS, On November 13, 2025, the Board of Library Commissioners (Board) approved the Library Department Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 in the amount of \$279,695,417 to fund Library services and programs (Library Resolution Number 2025-37 [C-28]); and

WHEREAS, Staff recommends the adoption of the Library Department Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 as approved by the Mayor and City Council in the amount of \$279,695,417; and

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners hereby adopts and certifies the Adopted Library Department Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27 in the amount of \$279,695,417, as approved by the Mayor and City Council.

d. Approval to authorize the transfer of funds of \$50,000 or less within Library Funds for the Library Department's Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget.

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval for authority to transfer amounts of \$50,000 or less between Accounts within the Library's Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget, Fund 300, or between Library administered funds.

It was moved by Vice President Blank and seconded by Commissioner Wesson to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-28 (C-27)

WHEREAS, Library Staff requested that the City Librarian or Library Business Office Manager have authority to transfer amounts of \$50,000 or less between Accounts

within the Library's Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget, Fund 300, Department 44 or between Library administered Funds:

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners hereby adopts the recommendations and findings in the City Librarian's Board Report and grants authority to the City Librarian or Library Business Office Manager to transfer amounts of \$50,000 or less between Accounts within the Library's Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget or between Library administered Funds;

THEREFORE, FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board hereby authorizes the City Librarian and City Attorney to make technical corrections as deemed necessary.

e. **Adoption of the Library Department's Personnel Resolution for Fiscal Year 2026-27.**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended that the Board adopt the Library's Personnel Resolution for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, which outlines all authorized classifications and positions for the Department. This includes substitute and as-needed positions, which provide the flexibility necessary to maintain seven-day staffing across the library system.

Discussion

Commissioner Besser inquired if the as-needed positions are part of an internal hiring process. Mr. Szabo clarified that the Personnel Department and Library Human Resources Division collaborate with hiring managers across the library system to streamline the process. He noted that these roles are non-civil service, though an exam is required for certain positions on the as-needed list.

Vice President Blank asked what the timeframe is for someone to go through the process to become eligible to be hired. Mr. Szabo explained that the process varies based on the specific position, the exam schedule, and current departmental capacity and personnel availability.

It was moved by Commissioner Besser and seconded by Vice President Blank to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Shaw/Valadez/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-29 (C-28)

PERSONNEL RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION FIXING PERSONNEL IN THE LIBRARY DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027.

WHEREAS, this Board has considered the various classifications of employees and the number of positions in each classification approved by the City Council as part of the Library Department's Budget for the fiscal year 2026-2027; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the City Charter, Section 511(a), it is the desire of the Board to adopt a resolution authorizing personnel for fiscal year 2026-2027 to include

both positions approved by the City Council and those authorized by the Board of Library Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT :

1. Effective July 1, 2026, the following classes of positions are hereby authorized in the Library Department, and the number of positions, and code numbers and titles as set forth in the attached schedule "A" are hereby fixed for such classes of positions and shall be known as the 2026-2027 Library Personnel Resolution.
2. Memoranda of Understanding approved by the Board of Library Commissioners, and the City Council where appropriate shall be considered to be incorporated into this resolution. The provisions of each of the Memoranda of Understanding shall take precedence over any conflicting provisions contained in this resolution, but only for those employees in classes and/or positions within the employee representation unit to which the various Memoranda of Understanding apply.
3. It is the intent of the Board that all City Council actions relating to salaries and benefits and affecting classes in the Library Department will become effective on the same basis and date as those approved by the City Council for council-controlled employees.

(The entire resolution will be included in the official Minutes Book records.)

7. Commissioners' Announcements and Comments

- July - December 2026 Board Meeting Schedule: The Board President asked fellow Board members to review the schedule for the remainder of the year.
- Commissioner Besser attended the third meeting of the Miriam Matthews Centennial Planning Committee held at UCLA Library Special Collections. The committee reviewed selections from the Miriam Matthews collection—including photographs, personal papers, and African American newspapers—and discussed plans for upcoming centennial events at library branches. She noted it was a wonderful, inspirational meeting, and she felt grateful to be doing this work with her colleagues from LAPL.
- Vice President Blank commended the Teens Leading Change 'Love Letters to LA' program. She noted that such programs and services created through the Library Foundation are vital to the community and help expand horizons for developing teens.
- Commissioner Wesson echoed Commissioner Besser's remarks, commending her dedication to highlighting the important work of Miriam Matthews.
- Commissioner Shaw expressed her appreciation to everyone involved in the June Jubilee celebration, noting that her grandniece enjoyed attending the event.
- Board President Valadez thanked the Commissioners for their engagement, particularly regarding personnel and youth initiatives. She highlighted the

importance of programs like Teens Leading Change—noting the 'Love Letters to LA' project from the Westwood branch—and emphasized the Library's role in empowering young people, exposing them to library resources, and providing clear career pathways to support their early success.

Next Board Meeting Notice: The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, July 09, 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