

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

September 10, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library starting at 11:09 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. Roll Call:

Present:	Commissioner	Kelly Besser
	Commissioner	Joana Reyes
	Commissioner	Valerie Lynne Shaw
	Commissioner	Fabian R. Wesson

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

Due to the absence of a President and Vice President, Commissioner Shaw moved to nominate Commissioner Besser as acting President for the purpose of chairing this meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wesson and passed unanimously: 4 Ayes (Besser/Reyes/Shaw/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Blank).

2. Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2026-27:

President:

It was moved by Commissioner Wesson and seconded by Commissioner Shaw to elect Commissioner Besser as President of the Board of Library Commissioners for Fiscal Year 2026-27. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Besser/Reyes/Shaw/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Blank).

Vice President:

It was moved by Commissioner Shaw and seconded by Commissioner Reyes to elect Commissioner Wesson as Vice President of the Board of Library Commissioners for Fiscal Year 2026-27. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Besser/Reyes/Shaw/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Blank).

3. Opening Remarks: Commissioner Besser expressed her deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve the library and step into the role of Board President. She shared that earlier that morning, she joined host Sheridan Cazarez on the Centennial podcast for a wonderful discussion highlighting Central Library's past, present, and future.

4. Approval of the Minutes:

a. Regular Meeting - July 23, 2026

It was moved by Commissioner Wesson and seconded by Commissioner Shaw to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held on July 23, 2026. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Besser/Reyes/Shaw/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Blank).

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:****Discussion Items****a. Approval to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Special Events Coordinator for the Los Angeles Public Library.**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended an approval to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Special Events Coordinator for the Los Angeles Public Library. The current contract was extended for six months through January 2027 to cover the expiration in July 2026. Upon approval, the RFP will be issued to initiate a competitive selection process, with the goal of starting a new contract in January. The Special Events Coordinator facilitates the use of library spaces (primarily at the Central Library) by internal city groups, outside nonprofits, and commercial entities. Responsibilities include coordinating AV services, staff, catering, security, custodial needs, setup, and providing cost estimates.

It was moved by Vice President Blank and seconded by Commissioner Besser to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Besser/Reyes/Shaw/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Blank).

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-38 (C-33)

WHEREAS, the Library requires the professional and technical services of a qualified entity to coordinate special events;

WHEREAS, Library staff developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals from qualified entities to enter into an agreement to provide the necessary special event coordination services;

WHEREAS, on September 10, 2026, the Board of Library Commissioners (Board) approved the release of an RFP to solicit proposals from qualified entities to provide special event coordination services; and,

WHEREAS, the term of the proposed contract resulting from the RFP process will be three years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report and approves the release of the RFP for a Special Events Coordinator; 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. Award of contract to Sutherland Consulting Group Inc., dba EDTECHNOLOGYFUNDS for E-rate consultant services.

City Librarian John F. Szabo presented a recommendation to approve the award of a contract to Sutherland Consulting Group Inc., dba EDTECHNOLOGYFUNDS, for E-rate consulting services. The proposed item utilizes a piggyback contract based on the procurement process completed by the County of San Diego. The specialized consulting services support the library's IT Division in navigating the complex application, documentation, and compliance processes required to secure E-rate funding. Administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the federal E-rate program assists schools and libraries in obtaining essential broadband access and telecommunications technologies. The consultant also assists the department during federal program audits. Since the library began participating in the program, cumulative E-rate benefits have exceeded \$17 million dollars. Given the complexity of the program and potential federal cuts to its future, expert consulting is critical for digital equity and broadband access.

It was moved by Commissioner Wesson and seconded by Commissioner Shaw to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Besser/Reyes/Shaw/Wesson); Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Blank).

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2026-39 (C-34)

WHEREAS, the Library requires the professional and technical services of a qualified entity to provide E-Rate consultant services on an as-needed and as-requested basis;

WHEREAS, the County of San Diego, California awarded contract number 569493 to Sutherland Consulting Group Inc., dba EDTECHNOLOGYFUNDS for E-Rate consultant services;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Charter Section 371(e)(8) and Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.15(a)(8), the Library may use or "piggy-back" on the San Diego Contract, because contracts for cooperative agreements with other governmental agencies for the utilization of the purchasing contracts and professional, scientific, expert or technical services contracts of those agencies are an exception to the City's competitive bidding requirements;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report and authorizes the award and execution of a contract for E-Rate consultant services to Sutherland Consulting Group Inc., dba EDTECHNOLOGYFUNDS; 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: New LAPL Website

Jené Brown, Director of the Emerging Technologies and Collections Division, introduced Senior Librarian Neale Stokes and members of the Digital Content Team present in the audience, including Graphic Designer Grace Ramos, Librarians Grace Poole, Anita Martinez, and Tina Lerno, and Administrative Clerks Juan Avalos and Melissa Huerta. Mr. Stokes presented on the development and launch of the library's new website, highlighting the final beautiful, modern, user-friendly design.

Board President Besser thanked Mr. Stokes for the presentation and commended the hard work and dedication put into the website.

9. Commissioners' Announcements and Comments

- Commissioner Shaw congratulated Commissioner Besser on her appointment as Board President. She noted that on the Board, there has been a valuable opportunity for all members to step into leadership roles and contribute collaboratively to the library.
- Vice President Wesson also congratulated Commissioner Besser and expressed her pride to work collaboratively to support the library. She welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Joana Reyes to the Board.
- President Besser Welcomed Commissioner Reyes to the Board and gave thanks to the commissioners for their support.
- Commissioner Reyes expressed her excitement to collaborate with the Board members, noting the value of their diverse backgrounds and her eagerness to learn from them, Mr. Szabo, and library staff. Reflecting on growing up in the Valley and frequenting the Sun Valley and Valley Plaza branch libraries, she shared that the library holds a special place in her life and expressed deep gratitude and honor for the opportunity to serve.

Next Board Meeting Notice: The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., and will be held at the Central Library.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kelly Besser
President

Lynda Achi
Secretary to the Board