

**LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD REPORT**

January 25, 2024

TO: Board of Library Commissioners

FROM: John F. Szabo, City Librarian

SUBJECT: **APPROVAL OF AMENDED VERSIONS OF FOUR AUTHOR AGREEMENTS FOR THE LIBRARY'S "ANGEL CITY PRESS AT LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY" ("ACP AT LAPL")**

A. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Library Commissioners (Board):

1. Award amended agreements with four authors, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, Attachment A, for the exclusive license in the copyright of the authors' works.
2. Authorize the City Librarian and the City Attorney to make any technical and clerical changes to the four author agreements.
3. Authorize the Board President and the Board Secretary to execute the four author agreements upon the completion of all required approvals.

B. BACKGROUND:

1. Since 1992, ACP has engaged more than 100 Southern California authors and produced more than 135 non-fiction books that celebrate the quintessential qualities of the L.A. region.
2. When ACP founders Scott McAuley and Paddy Calistro contemplated retirement and sought a new home for ACP, they approached LAPL with an offer to donate the fully operational book publishing operation to the Library. LAPL recognized this unique opportunity to continue and expand ACP's vital role in telling the stories of L.A. that have captivated people the world over.
3. ACP and LAPL have enjoyed a decades-long relationship. ACP has published books inspired by the Library's holdings, including its special collections of sheet music (*Songs in the Key of Los Angeles*), menus (*To Live and Dine in L.A.*) and autographs (*The Autograph Book of L.A.*), as well as a volume about the historic Central Library (*Los Angeles Central Library: A History of Its Art and Architecture*). Dozens of ACP volumes are illustrated with images from the Library's extensive collection of 3.5 million historic photographs.

4. Bringing Angel City Press to the Library is a natural extension of LAPL's mission to amplify the voices of local authors, celebrate their work, and preserve the stories of Los Angeles and southern California.
5. The acquisition benefits both writers and readers. It helps ensure that ACP will continue its vital role in helping local writers create books that explore all that is quintessentially Los Angeles, and it provides readers with books that celebrate and deepen their understanding of the people, places and ideas that shape their city.
6. LAPL is committed to continuing the legacy of ACP with new books it publishes, as well as extending the reach of titles locally, nationally and internationally.
7. LAPL's commitment to a seamless transition means that it will continue books currently in production and will maintain ACP's backstock of titles and working relationships with Los Angeles-based authors.
8. On December 14, 2023, the Board approved 86 author agreements as part of Angel City Press at the Los Angeles Public Library (Library Resolution No. 2023-46 [C-37]). In the versions approved by the Board, sensitive information, such as social security numbers, had been redacted.
9. Among the redacted information were the amounts of payments to be made to each author in advance of publication of their book (found in paragraph 11 of the agreements). For all but four of the agreements, the publisher has already been fully reimbursed for the advance payments through proceeds from book sales. But as to the four enclosed agreements, some of the advance payments have not yet come due, and the Library will be responsible for their payment. The anticipated payments therefore represent a liability to the Library, albeit a modest one (none will exceed \$1,500), until the Library is reimbursed from book sales. The City Attorney advised that the Board be made aware of these liabilities prior to approving the agreements.
10. Library staff requests that the Board approve the enclosed versions of these four author agreements.

C. FINDINGS:

1. Library staff requests that the Board approve amended versions of the four author agreements enclosed in Attachment A of this report, for the exclusive license in the copyright of the authors' works. The author agreements allow the Library the exclusive right to print, publish, distribute, and/or sell all editions of literary work throughout the world,

including the rights for derivative works. The author agreements also provide the Library the right to permit others to print, publish, distribute, and/or sell the literary works and derivative works. In addition, under the author agreements, the authors retain the copyright to their intellectual property.

2. The four author agreements have been reviewed by the City Attorney.

Attachments

Prepared by: Claudia Aguilar, Senior Management Analyst

Reviewed by: Madeleine M. Rackley, Library Business Manager
Susan Broman, Assistant City Librarian

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2023-__ (C-__)

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2023, the Board of Library Commissioners (Board) approved a Gift Agreement to accept the Angel City Press (ACP) publishing operation and materials related to the art, history, and culture of Southern California, particularly of Los Angeles;

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2023, the Board approved the transfer and amendment of the 86 author agreements, enclosed in Attachment D of the City Librarian's Board Report, to the Library for the exclusive license in the copyright of the authors' works; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2024, the Board authorized the Library to approve amended versions of four of the author agreements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report, including the award and execution of amended versions of the four author agreements enclosed in Attachment A of this report, for the exclusive license in the copyright of the authors' works; 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 four amended author agreements.

This is a true copy: