

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

April 27, 2023

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	Bích Ngọc Cao
	Vice-President	Kathryn Eidmann
	Commissioner	Linda Blank
	Commissioner	Valerie Lynne Shaw
	Commissioner	Hiram Sims
Absent:	None	

Also present: City Librarian John F. Szabo; Deputy City Attorneys Michael Dundas and Josh Temple; Library staff and members of the public.

- 2. Opening Remarks:** Board President Cao welcomed everyone back to the first in-person Board meeting since COVID and welcomed three new Library Commissioners, Linda Blank, Valerie Lynne Shaw and Hiram Sims. She asked them to introduce themselves and to talk about their connection to the Library.

Commissioner Linda Blank

Commissioner Blank stated that her connection to the Library is as a member of the Friends of Westwood Library, where the Friends recently acquired a grand piano to offer free concerts once a month. She said that libraries offer more than books and that LAPL as a whole is really concerned with making sure to meet the needs of various communities.

Commissioner Valerie Lynne Shaw:

Commissioner Valerie Lynne Shaw discussed her experience being a former employee with the City of Los Angeles, as a council deputy, as a member of the Civil Service Commission and the Board of Public Works where she served for 17 years, as well as a member of the Redistricting Commission. She said her main intention as a member of this Board is to be a part of the process that continues to look at libraries as community standards, and she is interested in making sure that people know how to access any services, to be a part of the process, and look for partnerships and funding for individual libraries. She said her passion is South Los Angeles.

Commissioner Hiram Sims:

Commissioner Hiram Sims stated that he has been connected to LAPL since childhood, having been born and raised in South LA, and visited the branch on Vermont Street after school every day. He said he is currently a poetry professor at USC. Also, he created the Community Literature Initiative, which is a program that helps LA writers to finish and publish books, and much of his work is related to helping people to write their own stories in whatever genre they choose. He noted that he has also held many events at LAPL libraries, especially at the Washington Irving Branch and at the Hyde Park-Miriam Matthews Branch Library. He stated that he had also created a library called the Sims Library of Poetry on Florence Avenue that holds 10,000 volumes of poetry and has open mics, lectures, panels, all centered around giving people in the neighborhood an opportunity to have a voice through poetry.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

a) Regular Meeting - February 23, 2023: Approved

It was moved by Vice President Eidmann and seconded by Board President Cao to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 23, 2023. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Cao/Blank/Eidmann/Shaw/Sims) Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

b) Special Meeting - February 27, 2023: Approved

It was moved by Vice President Eidmann and seconded by Board President Cao to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 23, 2023. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Cao/Blank/Eidmann/Shaw/Sims) Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

4. Public Comments on Matters**Within the Board's Jurisdiction: (1)**

Lisa Palombi, Sr. Librarian at the Silver Lake Branch and President of the Librarians' Guild, welcomed the new members of the Library Commissioners and thanked them for their willingness to serve the Library and the City of Los Angeles.

5. City Librarian's Comments

and Announcements: City Librarian John F. Szabo reported the following:

Library Budget Fiscal Year 2023-24 Update: Mr. Szabo provided an overview on the status of the Library's Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 and talked about the budget process noting that the Mayor had already released her proposed budget for the city. The City Council's Budget and Finance Committee began yesterday with their budget hearings and the final budget will be released in June. He reported that per the City Charter, the Library receives its budget appropriation based on a formula using the assessed value of property in the city, which increased \$14.8 million this year; thus totaling the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 at \$241,852,012.

Mr. Szabo said that this budget funds the Library Experience Office and all of the new social services and social worker positions and approaches to being a safe and welcoming library. In next year's fiscal budget, the Library invested significantly on leadership development, creating the Leadership Development Office, pulling together some existing staffing and resources and adding new appropriations.

Koreatown Media Lab Hosts Mayor Bass: Mayor Bass, FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, City Councilwoman Heather Hutt and other community partners held a press conference in the Koreatown Media Lab at the Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch Library to promote the Affordable Connectivity Program, which is an initiative of the FCC to help residents to enroll for low cost internet access. The Library promoted its Tech2go program that circulates computer bundles with a laptop and mobile Wi-Fi hotspot that patrons can check out.

Maker Faire and City of STEM: The Library partnered with the Columbia Memorial Space Center to host the Los Angeles Maker Faire and City of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) at the Los Angeles State Historic Park earlier this month. Keynote speaker Bill Nye addressed a large crowd of science and technology enthusiasts. When LAPL started the DTLA Mini Maker Faire at Central Library it had 15 exhibitors and about 500 visitors, and by 2019, the event had grown to more than 150 exhibitors and more than 10,000 people.

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books: The Library hosted the Children's Stage and three booths throughout the festival, where staff had Storytime and gave away 1,500 books and comics, and staff signed up new patrons for library cards. Over 1,000 library cards were issued.

LAPL150: Our Story Is Yours: The Library's new exhibit celebrating the 150th anniversary has opened in the Getty Gallery. The exhibit traces the LAPL's long history with both photos and artifacts.

El día de los Niños/El día de los Libros (Children's Day/Book Day): Commonly known as Día, this nationally recognized initiative emphasizes the importance of literacy for all children from all backgrounds. LAPL celebrates all month long during April with a variety of events systemwide. The Children's Literature Department held their Día celebration earlier this month that included a performance by Ballet Folklórico in the Mark Taper Auditorium, followed by face painting, crafts and a photo booth in the Rotunda.

U.S. Postal Service Unveils Stamps at LAPL: The Central Library hosted the event to unveil the stamp of author Ernest J. Gaines, the 46th honoree in the U.S. Postal Service's Black Heritage Stamp Series. The Library and its award-winning Changing Tones Advisory Committee partnered with L.A. Postmaster Jeremie Six, Community Build, Inc. in association with the African American Heritage Month Legacy Project for the unveiling at Central Library. Fifth graders from Windsor Hills Math, Science, Aerospace Magnet School attended. The second stamp unveiling in honor of author Toni Morrison was held at the Hyde Park-Miriam Matthews Branch Library with a community room full of Friends of the Library and first graders from the school next door.

National Library Week and National Library Workers Day: This week we are celebrating National Library Week and Tuesday was National Library Workers Day. The Los Angeles Public Library was recognized during the City Council meeting by City Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, who presented a resolution of appreciation for library staff and acknowledging LAPL's 150th Anniversary.

LAPL receives Innovation Award from the Urban Libraries Council: Today, in a virtual program, the LAPL will receive an Innovation Award from the Urban Libraries Council. It is the ULC's top innovator award in the workforce and economic development category awarded for the "Sea Un Vendedor Ambulante Exitoso," which is the "Be a Successful Street Vendor " program that focuses on the street vending community in LA by teaching micro enterprise readiness skills like bookkeeping, credit, building, customer service using virtual tools such as cell and as well as zoom offered both Spanish and English.

National Library Week: Mr. Szabo concluded his comments by thanking the entire staff throughout the Library and gave special thanks to the staff who had helped make today's first hybrid Board Meeting possible.

6. City Librarian's Reports:

Consent Item(s)

It was moved by Commissioner Blank and seconded by Vice President Eidmann to approve the following resolutions for the Consent Items. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Cao/Blank/Eidmann/Shaw/Sims) Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

a. Acceptance of gift from the Friends of the Palisades Library for the Malabar Branch Library's summer STEAM coding series.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2023-12

RESOLVED, That program materials valued at \$2,486.90 were received from the Friends of the Palisades Library for the Malabar Branch Library's summer STEAM coding series.

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

b. Acceptance of the final CLLS grant installment for Adult Literacy Services for Fiscal Year 2022/23.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2023-13 (C-10)

WHEREAS, On August 24, 2022, the California State Library announced that the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) Adult Literacy Services and Family Literacy Services grant application was accepted and was eligible for an initial \$162,283 grant designated for adult literacy services and an \$80,957 grant designated for family literacy. The total award for the fiscal year is \$243,240; and

Library Resolution
No. 2023-13 (C-10) Cont.

WHEREAS, The award can be claimed in two stages. The Library is allowed to first request 90% of the adult literacy services grant and 100% of the family literacy grant. The remaining 10% adult literacy services grant amount of \$16,228 will be subsequently claimed; and

WHEREAS, On October 27, 2022, the Board of Library Commissioners accepted the total California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) grant in the amount of \$243,240; and

WHEREAS, The remaining 10% of this grant is now being claimed after the completion of a mid-year financial and narrative report and confirmation that 90% of the initial grant has been expended. This remaining grant amount is \$16,228 designated for adult literacy, must be deposited in Trust Fund 419, Account 371. The total award for the fiscal year is \$243,240; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Public Library and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles provide matching funds to make LAPL eligible for this grant which is determined by applying a CLLS formula. The formula includes the amount of local dollars expended by the LAPL and the LFLA on Adult Literacy Services in 2022/23 added to a per capita amount based on the adult learners enrolled for tutoring in the Adult Literacy Services program by the Los Angeles Public Library in 2022/23; and

WHEREAS, These funds must be accepted by the Board of Library Commissioners to activate this award:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners accept the final 10% of the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) grant of \$16,228 designated for adult literacy for the Los Angeles Public Library's Adult Literacy Services for Fiscal Year 2022/23; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the funds be deposited in Trust Fund 419, Account 371.

c. Acceptance of LSTA funds from the California State Library in for the Mar Vista Branch Library

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2023-14 (C-11)

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners accepts a grant of \$3,700 from Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds from the California State Library for the Mar Vista Branch Library's "Tai Chi Time: Community Building Around Health Literacy With Seniors" program series; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the funds be deposited in Trust Fund 419, Code 372.

Discussion Items

City Librarian John F. Szabo pointed out that the attachments to the agenda for Exhibits D and E were transposed. (The attachments were corrected to match the order of items on the agenda.)

d. Approval to release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development of a new website

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval to release a Request For Proposals (RFP) for the development of a new website for the Los Angeles Public Library. He said the RFP would be advertised widely to get as many respondents as possible and will host a pre-proposal conference to answer questions. He noted that it has been about 11 years since significant design work was done on the website. The contractor will work very closely with our library staff on redesign of the website, which is very important for a public library to have a strong and robust digital presence.

Discussion

Commissioner Sims asked how long it would take to redesign the website once someone is selected for the project.

Neale Stokes, Senior Librarian from the Digital Content Team, replied that he would be the primary person that would be working with the developer, and from what the RFP stipulates for the project, it could typically take anywhere from 12 months to up to 2 years to complete.

Commissioner Blank asked whether there was going to be any input requested from any of the libraries other than the Central Library in terms of what they would like to see and revive.

Mr. Stokes replied that they are working right now on a stakeholder plan for library staff that will encompass all classifications from clerical through librarians and administration and make it geographically diverse as well.

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

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2023-15

WHEREAS, the Library requires the professional services of a qualified individual or organization to oversee the design and development for a new Library website;

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that a contract could be executed within 12 months of releasing the RFP, at which point the selected Contractor and Library staff may then begin the necessary work to develop a new Library website. A beta website version could then be presented to the Board in mid to late 2024 for discussion, revisions and approval;

Library Resolution
No. 2023-15 Cont.

WHEREAS, the term of the proposed agreement will be for two years with one one-year option to renew at the discretion of the City Librarian, or designee, in an amount not to exceed \$400,000. No minimum amount of work or compensation is guaranteed;

WHEREAS, funds are available in the Library Contractual Services Account 3040 to compensate the selected Contractor for services in accordance with the proposed contract:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report and authorizes the release of an RFP for the Development of a New Library Website; and

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

e. Approval of transfer of funds from Various Special Account 9510 to Transportation Equipment Account 7340 within Fiscal Year 2022-23

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval to transfer funds in the amount of \$550,000 within the Library's current Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget to purchase three (3) vehicles that are for shipping and delivery, and one vehicle for facilities maintenance. Mr. Szabo stated that this transfer would not affect the overall budget.

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

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2023-16 (C-12)

WHEREAS, The Shipping and Delivery group needs to replace three high-mileage vehicles which have surpassed their useful life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, the Facilities Maintenance group needs to procure a four-wheel drive truck for landscape maintenance staff; and

WHEREAS, Library staff requested the transfer of \$550,000 from Various Special Account 9510 to Transportation Equipment Account 7340 within the Library's Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget to comply with City procurement and expenditure policies; and

WHEREAS, Sufficient funds have been budgeted in the Library's FY 2022-23 Adopted Budget and are available in Various Special Account 9510 for this transfer:

Library Resolution
No. 2023-16 (C-12) Cont.

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners (Board) hereby approves the following transfer of \$550,000 from Various Special Account 9510 to Transportation Equipment Account 7340 within the Library's Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget, Fund 300, Department 44, as follows:

From:	<u>Acct. No.</u> 9510	<u>Account Name</u> Various Special	<u>Amount</u> \$550,000
To:	<u>Acct. No.</u> 7340	<u>Account Name</u> Transportation Equipment	<u>Amount</u> \$550,000

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board authorize the City Librarian to make any necessary technical changes.

f. Approval to Release a Request for Bids for the After-Hours Use of the Woodland Hills Branch Library Parking Lot

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval to release a Request for Bids (RFB) for the after-hours use of the Woodland Hills Branch library parking lot. In years past, the parking lot has been used for valet purposes for a nearby restaurant. At that time, an RFB was done and an agreement in place for some time. Now, the Library wishes to release this RFB to solicit interest in using the 43 spaces of the library's parking lot during after hours, when the library is not open. The existing lease has produced a modest amount, but still an important amount of revenue and he recommended approval of the release of the RFB.

Discussion

Commissioner Shaw asked if the RFB would be open up to everyone and how the minimum bid had been established. Mr. Szabo replied that it would be open to businesses anywhere, not just within a radius of the library, and the minimum amount is based on the amount received from the previous contract and by looking at similar services in the general area.

Commissioner Sims inquired whether the amount mentioned in the RFB about the \$2,000 a month, \$24,000 a year was a fixed amount or a minimal amount. Mr. Szabo stated that the Library is asking all respondents that the amount not be under that.

Commissioner Blank asked how much does the Library anticipate would get from renting the parking lot and if it would supplement the budget. Mr. Szabo said that they will see when the responses come back and that recommendation will come back to the Board for approval and the funds are used for that branch.

Commissioner Sims asked if there is any type of scrutiny about the type of businesses that can rent or the RFB was focused on the financial only.

Mr. Szabo answered it is expected that it would be restaurants or other businesses that would use valet parking. He asked Deputy City Attorney Josh Templet to speak on whether there were any other requirements.

Josh Templet, Deputy City Attorney, who worked on the RFB said this request for bids is strictly about price. There was also the option to do a Request For Proposals where you can look at prices as one factor and other factors as well such as size of the business, the number of years they've been an operation, nature of the business, etc.

Vice President Eidmann asked Mr. Szabo to talk about what the library would potentially do with the revenue, since the reason that this was structured as a request for bids is because the purpose of leasing out the parking lot is to raise revenue for the library and library programming. Mr. Szabo said that typically dollars are used for that particular branch to support collections and other library services. He asked Mr. Templet if there was anything that prohibits this from being an RFP.

Mr. Templet replied that the title doesn't necessarily have to define the process and a typical proposal would have 5 factors that might be considered and the tenant decision was made to evaluate price only, but more can certainly be added.

Commissioner Sims asked if the parking lot was strictly for parking only because he thinks it could be more detailed and it should have some evaluation criteria.

Mr. Templet said that the RFB talks about a very narrow purpose of parking and it goes to whoever is going to bid the highest.

Thereafter, It was moved by Vice President Eidmann and seconded by Commissioner Blank to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Cao/Blank/Eidmann/Shaw/Sims) Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2023-17

WHEREAS, the Library desires to lease the Woodland Hills Library parking lot located at 22200 Ventura Boulevard, Woodland Hills, CA 91364, and has a parking lot that contains 43 spaces with ingress and egress through a single driveway on San Feliciano Drive;

WHEREAS, the last agreement has since expired and a competitive bid process is required to continue the lease of the parking lot with a qualified and experienced business;

WHEREAS, Library staff has completed a Request for Bids (RFB) to solicit proposals from qualified entities to enter into a contract for the after-hours use of the Woodland Hills Library parking lot;

WHEREAS, the term of the proposed contracts will be for one year with two one-year options to renew at the discretion of the City Librarian. The minimum bid accepted will be \$24,000 per contract year; and

Library Resolution
No. 2023-17 Cont.

WHEREAS, funds will be deposited into Fund 831 and will be used for facility maintenance and improvements.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Library Commissioners (Board) adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report and authorizes the release of the RFB for After-Hours Use of the Woodland Hills Library Parking Lot; 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 RFB.

g. Approval of Agreement with County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) to host Ballot Drop Boxes (BDBs) on Library property

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of the agreement with the County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) to host dropboxes on library property to collect ballots. Mr. Szabo pointed out that this is a renewal of an agreement that they had entered into back in 2020. There's no expense to the Library and in the most recent general election in November 2022, there were 217,000 ballots that were returned using the ballot boxes at library locations; and in November 2020, the first general and Presidential election year, 418,000 ballots were returned. This is a great way for the library to be a partner in our democracy, and also makes it convenient for the residents.

Board President Cao said that she loves this agreement because ballots can be returned by going to the local library making it accessible for everyone in LA and she is pleased that this agreement is being renewed.

Commissioner Shaw asked who would do the maintenance of the ballot boxes or who would take care of the boxes if they were damaged.

Mr. Szabo said that maintenance is entirely the Registrar's responsibility. Assistant Director of Branch Library Services Emily Fate is the principal point of contact and if library staff recognizes that there may be damage to a box, staff immediately informs the RR/CC.

Board President Cao commented that she once saw graffiti on one of the boxes, and it was taken care of within three days.

Commissioner Sims asked if the libraries had served as polling places in the past. Mr. Szabo replied that some libraries had served as polling places.

Commissioner Shaw asked why the agreement was only for a 5-year term. Mr. Szabo asked Joyce Cooper, Director of Branch Library Services to respond.

Ms. Cooper stated that the RR/CC requested the 5-year term. They also take some time to re-examine whether or not the boxes are a successful way for the ballots to be returned and whether it is working. She said so far it's been a very successful partnership for both parties.

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

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2023-18 (C-13)

WHEREAS, in March 2020, the County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) introduced a new voting system for the Presidential Primary Election. Post-election surveys indicated that 20 percent of voters had a negative experience and 15 percent of voters reported waiting more than two hours to vote. The recommendation from RR/CC to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (LACBOS) was to install Ballot Drop Boxes (BDBs) at various public facilities throughout the County of Los Angeles to make it easier for voters to drop of their ballots;

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2020, the Board of Library Commissioners (Board) approved an agreement with the RR/CC for the use of the Library to host BDBs on Library property to collect ballots from the public at the Central Library and the 72 branch libraries. The term of the agreement was for three years at no cost to the Library;

WHEREAS, the RR/CC has requested that the Library continue this arrangement and enter into an updated agreement to install BDBs at the Central Library and the 72 branch libraries;

WHEREAS, the Library desires to enter into this agreement to describe roles, duties, and responsibilities, and to provide the public with a positive voting experience:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board adopts the recommendations and findings of the City Librarian's Board Report and approves the agreement between the Library and the RR/CC as stated in the report;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the City Librarian and the City Attorney to make technical and clerical changes, as needed, to the agreement; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the City Librarian and the Board Secretary to execute the agreement upon completion of all required approvals.

7. Oral Update from the Ad Hoc Committee on Re-imagining Safety & Security

Vice President Eidmann provided some background history on the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee on Reimagining Safety and Security since establishing the Library Experience Office two and a half years ago. She said the Library has been doing groundbreaking work on creating a safe and welcoming environment, reenvisioning what security looks like for patrons and staff, and has made incredible progress over this period of time.

Vice President Eidmann reported that hiring of social workers has begun to support library patrons and that a new position, Library Experience Ambassadors, will welcome patrons into the library and help them navigate the library and meet their needs. She noted that contracts to provide services to patrons and to provide staff training on how to engage patrons that might have mental health needs, and de-escalation training had been developed. She noted that the committee meets monthly and it's on the cusp of actualizing this vision of the initiative. She asked City Librarian John Szabo to provide further information.

Mr. Szabo stated that progress continues on the implementation of all of these initiatives with the Library Experience Office. He said the first social worker had come aboard in late February and soon another social worker would be hired. He stated that six new employees with the civil service classification of Customer Service Representative had been hired. These employees are trained in de-escalation, making referrals to social services and other related services. He also stated that three contracts for mental health and social services have been approved by the Board and by the City Council, and have been given notices to work; one is already doing work in libraries. The other six additional contracts approved by the Board are with the Mayors and/or CAO's office pending approval.

Mr. Szabo also reported that training had been provided on the administration of the drug Narcan to help prevent fentanyl overdoses. He said that about 350 library employees had been trained and another training will be held in June. The training is ongoing and staff are not required to engage in this training, and he is very proud that so many staff have volunteered.

Ms. Szabo commented that Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman and Library Experience Office Manager Karen Pickard-Four along with other LAPL staff are currently at a conference in Columbus, Ohio, where discussions of these alternative approaches on safety and security are taking place with libraries across the country. He said all of these initiatives and activities around the Library Experience Office are funded in the Mayor's budget that was approved by the Board of Library Commissioners last fall.

Commissioner Shaw asked for an example of how mental health professionals and social workers would assist in the library.

Mr. Szabo replied that the new social worker has already helped someone find transitional housing. Staff at Central and branch libraries are already providing many kinds of referrals requested by patrons. However, the social

workers are able to provide more one-on-one assistance and spend more time in instances where individuals are in crisis in the library and need help. Commissioner Shaw asked how these new employees are assigned across the entire system.

Mr. Szabo replied that nine (9) service providers are going through the city's contracting process; and three of them have been approved already and are on board to provide these services primarily at the Central Library. As an example, one of those entities is SistahFriends, which is exclusively working in South Los Angeles.

Commissioner Shaw said she would like to be briefed on these services and providers. Mr. Szabo said staff could provide a list of all of the nine (9) contracts that have been approved and what services they provide, and the specific geography they serve, as well as an overview of these initiatives.

Commissioner Blank said that there was only a finite number of social or mental health workers that would serve 72 libraries and asked how they were going to accommodate the needs of the various libraries with such a finite number of workers available.

Mr. Szabo replied that the Library Experience Office staff, as well as the Social Worker are looking at where they have the most incidents and issues, and where they can be most effective, but clearly there's not enough service to provide given the need throughout the city.

Vice President Eidmann added that libraries are sites in the community that people who have real needs turn to, and that LAPL can be a service provider and a locus of support. This is a very new approach and the first social worker was just hired a month ago. She said that this commission can advocate for increasing resources towards this by thinking about how it can be built out to serve the entire library system.

Mr. Szabo said that how to measure success is something that they're still working on. The goal is to create a safe, welcoming environment, which then allows our staff to do what they do best.

8. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements

Board President Cao stated that she was really excited that we got to be here today together and again welcome to our new commissioners.

Commissioner Sims announced that this Saturday the World Stage Press is having a performance in the Mark Taper Auditorium with 26 different poets from different parts of the city performing. He said World Stage Press is a Los Angeles publisher that publishes so many incredible local poets.

Next Board Meeting Notice:

The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at the Central Library, in the Board Room. Public comment will be available via zoom for those who cannot attend in person.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Bích Ngọc Cao
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant