

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

June 12, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library starting at 11:03 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. Roll Call:

Present:	President	Valerie Lynne Shaw
	Vice President	Linda Blank
	Commissioner	Kelly Besser
	Commissioner	Hiram Sims
	Commissioner	Mayra Valadez

Absent: None

Also present: City Librarian John F. Szabo, Asst. City Librarian Susan Broman; Deputy City Attorney Josh M. Templet; and staff.

2. Opening Remarks: Board President Shaw welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

a. Regular Meeting - April 24, 2025

It was moved by Vice President Blank and seconded by Commissioner Besser to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held on April 24, 2025. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Shaw/Sims/Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

b. Regular Meeting - May 8, 2025

It was moved by Commissioner Besser and seconded by Commissioner Valadez to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held on May 8, 2025. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Besser/Blank/Shaw/Sims/Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

4. **Public Comments on Matters**

Within the Board's Jurisdiction: None.

5. **City Librarian's Comments and Announcements:**

City Librarian John F. Szabo reported on past and upcoming library events, remarking that the Central Library, Chinatown and Little Tokyo Branch Libraries had to close early due to the curfew declared for the downtown area. He said there was no notable damage to any of the libraries, except for graffiti at both branch libraries in the curfew area. He added that activities in the downtown area are changing hour by hour and staff are dealing with information that impacts Library operations and schedules.

Mr. Szabo highlighted the Library's ongoing commitment to the New Americans Initiative, which serves immigrant communities in Los Angeles and ensures the Library remains a welcoming and secure environment. He noted the availability of both printed and online "Know Your Rights" resources, ensuring broad access to crucial information.

6. City Librarian's Reports:

Discussion Items

a. Acceptance of gift from the Friends of Westwood Library for the benefit of the Westwood Branch Library.

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/Sims/Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-14

RESOLVED, That the gift of a 2003 Yamaha C3 Professional Series baby grand piano, bench, and piano cover valued at \$25,000 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 the General Manager's Expense Account for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of the General Manager's Expense Account for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, in an amount not to exceed \$3,500.

President Shaw asked the City Librarian if that amount was sufficient to cover his miscellaneous expenses. Mr. Szabo replied that the amount had not changed for many years, and he has stayed well under budget.

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

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-15 (C-11)

RESOLVED, That the City Librarian or designee be authorized to receive an advance or be reimbursed for such miscellaneous expenditures as may be necessary in the form of business meals, taxi fares, parking fees, etc. in an amount not to exceed \$3,500 for the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that said amount be encumbered in the Office and Administrative Expense Account Number 6010 of the Library Fund Number 300.

Discussion Items

c. Approval to authorize the transfer of funds of \$50,000 or less within Library Funds for the Library Department's Fiscal Year 2025-26 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 2025-26 Budget, Fund 300, or between Library administered funds.

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/Sims/Valadez); Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-16 (C-12)

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 2025-26 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 2025-26 Budget or between Library administered Funds; and

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

7. Staff Recognition: Library Journal Movers and Shakers

The Board presented certificates of recognition to the following staff who have received the *Library Journal's* Movers and Shakers award:

- Jackie Welsh, Acting Principal of the Library Experience Office (2015), for creating the Pathways program to connect probationers and parolees with the LAPL resources to help them to reenter society.
- Anna Avalos (2020), as Multilingual Collections Manager, she quadrupled the Spanish collection within three years, created the Spanish Language Translation Team and chaired the first L.A. Libros Festival.
- Ramin Nadir (2021), Adult Librarian III, for providing service to the largest Farsi-speaking community, developing the Persian collection, and creating the Persian Poetry Forum of Los Angeles to help promote mental health and to collect the stories of immigrant poets.
- Keith Kessler (2023), as Social Media Librarian, he increased LAPL's social media presence and captured the Linda Lindas video that went viral on Instagram.

- Lynn Nguyen (2023), Young Adult Librarian at the Chinatown Branch, created the Chinatown Teen Council and organized a grocery distribution program in LA's Chinatown during COVID.
- Edwin Rodarte (2025), Senior Librarian, Emerging Technologies Division, co-authored a multi-million dollar grant application that secured funding for 7,000 laptop and hotspot bundles for the Tech2Go Initiative.
- Amanda Mellor (2025), Adult Librarian–Social Science; Social Science, Philosophy & Religion Dept., at the time of the award, she was a Mobile Outreach Librarian who created vital connections offering Library services to people in the Skid Row community.

**8. Commissioners' Comments
and Announcements**

Next Board Meeting Notice: The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, **June 26, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.**, at the Central Library.

- 9. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

ATTEST:

Valerie Lynne Shaw
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant