



"Enriching Lives"

## LA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION VIRTUAL MEETING

**DATE:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022

**TIME:** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm



**To participate:** To attend the virtual meeting using a laptop or desktop computer, click [Virtual Meeting Link](#) to join at the time of the meeting.

Mobile device users will need to install and use the Cisco Webex Meetings application to access the meeting.

Meeting Number: 2451 758 1448, Attendance Password: VGhEqHm234

**To listen only via telephone:** Call (213) 306-3065, Access Code: 2451 758 1448

If you are experiencing technical difficulties accessing the meeting, please call 1-888-810-8885 for assistance.

### AGENDA

1. **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call**
2. **Minutes**  
Approval of minutes from the regular meeting on May 18, 2022.
3. **LA County Library Report**  
Skye Patrick, LA County Library Director, will provide a brief update on Library activity.
4. **LA County Library Presentations**
  - a. Binh Le, Chief Information Officer, will provide an update on the Library's broadband efforts and partnering with other County departments on the County's *Delete the Divide* initiative.
  - b. Pat McGee, Assistant Director, Capital Projects & Facilities Services, will provide an update on recent Library capital projects and Facilities Reinvestment Program projects.
5. **2022-23 Commission Goals and Objectives Reports**  
Subcommittee Chairs will provide an update on the efforts of their respective subcommittees toward their goals and objectives:
  - a. Commission Benchmarking
  - b. Education & Community Needs
  - c. Foundation & Philanthropy
  - d. Legislative Advocacy

6. **Library Commission 2021-22 Annual Report**  
Recommendation by the Annual Report Committee of the 2021-22 Library Commission Annual Report.
7. **Library Commission 2022 Election**  
The Ad Hoc Nominating Committee recommends voting on the 2022-23 Election of Officers. Appointments to take effect immediately after the July 20, 2022, meeting.
8. **Commissioner Comments/Announcements**  
Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested), placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency or when the need to take action arose after posting of the agenda.
9. **New Business**  
New Business items for the Commission.
10. **Public Comment** *(Limited to 3 minutes per speaker.)*  
Opportunity for members of the public to address the Library Commission items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Library Commission.

For those who wish to provide live public comment, you must join the virtual Webex meeting as a participant. You may also provide written public comment via email to [librarycommission@library.lacounty.gov](mailto:librarycommission@library.lacounty.gov). The deadline to submit a written public comment is Tuesday, July 19, 2022, by 5:00 pm. Please include the agenda item and meeting date in your correspondence. All correspondence received shall become part of the official record.

11. **Adjournment**

**Accommodations:** For ADA accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter for the virtual meeting or materials in an alternative format, call (562) 940-8462 (voice) or (562) 940-8477 (TTY), Monday - Thursday, 8 am - 5 pm, at least 6 days prior to the meeting date.

**Supporting Documentation:** Documents distributed to the Commission for this meeting can be made available for public inspection. Supporting documentation is available by appointment at LA County Library Headquarters located at 7400 Imperial Hwy, Downey, California 90242, and may also be accessible on the LA County Library Commission website at [lacountylibrary.org/library-commission](http://lacountylibrary.org/library-commission). To make arrangements, please contact [librarycommission@library.lacounty.gov](mailto:librarycommission@library.lacounty.gov).



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VIRTUAL MEETING**

**DATE:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022

**TIME:** 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call**

Chair Corey Calaycay called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. A quorum was met.

Chair Calaycay acknowledged new Commissioner, Mayor Jessica Ancona of El Monte. Commissioner Ancona stated that she is delighted to participate on the Commission, and she spoke about the importance of reading and access to literature. Each Commissioner introduced themselves as did the Library leadership team.

**Commissioners in Attendance: (15)** Andrew Yam, Angelita Medina, Corey Calaycay, Denise Diaz, Jessica Ancona, Jim Allen, Joy Williams, Karen Farrer, Lisa Cleri Reale, Mary Mendoza, Nancy Kuechle, Nancy Lyons, Reve Gipson, Steve Croft, Tess Shih.

**Library Staff in Attendance: (13)** Skye Patrick, Yolanda De Ramus, Grace Reyes, Jesse Walker-Lanz, Pat McGee, Binh Le, Samangi Skinner, Sara Keating, Steve Duarte, Luis Garnica, Jaclyn Morales, Bryant Chow

**Guests in Attendance: (2)** Andrea Carroll, Executive Director, Library Foundation; Mary Ann Morato, Commission Services

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on May 18, 2022, was made by Commissioner Croft and seconded by Commissioner Gipson. The minutes were approved by a majority vote.

## **LA County Library Report**

Skye Patrick, LA County Library Director, provided a brief update on Library activity with some slides.

**Book Banning:** In response to a prior request at an earlier commission meeting, Patrick discussed the issue of banning books which has frequently been reported in the news.

Patrick reported that unfortunately book banning is still underway in many communities and there has been a need to galvanize professional efforts around this issue. Of the reported incidents, 44% impacted school libraries; 37% public libraries; 18% schools and 1% academic/other. She stated that the American Library Association (ALA)'s Office for Intellectual Freedom issued a Library Bill of Rights and Freedom to Read Statement. The incidents, according to Patrick, go both ways with people being offended by lots of things. She reiterated that an ongoing challenge for a library is to have all points of view, that information is accurate, and the library is not disseminating disinformation or misinformation. The ALA states that parents and only parents have the right and responsibility to restrict access of their children to library resources and censorship by librarians of constitutionally protected speech violates the First Amendment.

With regard to LA County, residents can formally challenge a book or request an examination of materials but there is a process. A form to request a review of library materials is on the website. The Library does not entertain anonymous requests. More often than not, books are maintained and kept in the collection. Patrick stated that LA County Library does not get challenged as much as other systems.

Patrick ended with a quote from Mary Jo Godwin, an editor and library consultant, who said: "*A truly great library contains something in it to offend everyone.*"

**Malibu Endowment:** The City of Malibu's Library Sub-Committee is pursuing an allocation of \$500,000 to create an endowment for the Library Foundation. They would have utilized 3% of their surplus and try to engage other surplus cities to do the same. Patrick reiterated that endowments are a way to build capacity and generate other interest in an organization. However due to internal Malibu complexities and her desire for a partnership with unreserved support, Patrick requested that Malibu withdraw the Library's application and rescind the motion to transfer funds for an endowment.

**Infrastructure Funding:** Thanks to a California State Library program to identify projects with a life-safety or critical maintenance nexus, the Library was able to submit funding applications for all 85 of its libraries. Patrick stated that it is a competitive grant process and staff hopes for good news.

**Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding:** Staff is wading through 350 different federal funding programs available through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law designed to

improve roads, transportation, waterway safety, energy efficiency, broadband services, human connectivity and more. Public Works is leading the Countywide pursuit of these funds and the Library is in the process of identifying more than \$20 million in applicable projects.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding: The Board is looking to strategically invest this funding into efforts that support equitable and inclusive recovery. The Library was approved for three projects: Laptop and Hotspot Lending expansion, early literacy and education programming, and parking lot connectivity expansion.

Fire at Library Headquarters in Downey: Due to damage from the fire last fall, staff is expected to be out of the office for 2-3 years. There are teleworking and hybrid opportunities available.

Contact Tracing: Close to 700 staff had served as Disaster Service Workers (DSW) during the pandemic. Patrick gave a big shout out to the staff who did such great work over the course of the pandemic. She reported that the last group of DSWs, who were on the Contact Tracing assignment, returned to the Library in June.

There was a discussion about library surpluses between Patrick and some commissioners who stated that surplus funding is often used for everyday supplies and operations including furniture and landscaping. Patrick stated that there should be good and transparent conversations between the Library and the cities related to surplus dollars.

Commissioner Allen commended Patrick on her report. As the commissioner who first brought up the issue of book banning, he asked if there is anything the Commission can do to help. Patrick appreciated the offer and stated that around the country, there are librarians doing their jobs and some have lost jobs in a profession that they love.

Commissioner Farrer stated that the whole incident in Malibu related to surplus funding was one of the uglier chapters for the city. She stated that she would have been proud to have had the endowment approved and said she would have been happy to continue the fight for funding.

Commissioners Allen and Cleri Reale both commended Farrer for doing amazing work on behalf of the Library. They stated that she should be incredibly proud and that she made the City of Malibu look good.

### **LA County Library Presentations**

Binh Le, Chief Information Officer, provided an update on the Library's broadband efforts and partnering with other County departments on the County's *Delete the Divide* initiative. He presented slides that focused on the last 4-5 years of impressive and innovative projects to increase connectivity and access for residents of Los Angeles County. He reviewed the great progress made by each program.

Pat McGee, Assistant Director, Capital Projects & Facilities Services, provided an update on recent Library capital projects and Facilities Reinvestment Program projects. He reviewed the wide range of projects that include refurbishments, maintenance and repairs, and facilities reinvestment projects. McGee reviewed several projects underway in several Supervisorial Districts and stated that the average project budgets vary. Current challenges, according to McGee, include labor shortage, supply chain issues and construction cost escalation.

Chair Calaycay thanked both speakers for impressive presentations.

### **2022-23 Commission Goals and Objectives Reports**

Chair Calaycay then asked each Commission Sub-Committee to report on their progress to date.

#### **Commission Benchmarking**

- Commissioner Shih reported that their superstar subcommittee includes Commissioners Allen, Lyons, Mendoza and Williams. They have met 2-3 times and have made progress and come up with a list of 20 library systems to reach out to. They are developing an outreach letter and a list of survey questions and will finalize and share with their liaison. Shih reiterated that their goal is to learn about other systems and to help enhance efforts to support the LA County Library system.

#### **Education & Community Needs**

- Commissioners Kuechle and Yam discussed how the Commission can serve as conduits to communication about the Library's programs and activities strengthening the list of partnerships and potential speakers.

#### **Philanthropy**

- Commissioner Cleri Reale stated that other library foundations had much larger revenue than Los Angeles County and that Commissioners can help by implementing the fundraising plan created by the subcommittee, raising \$40,000 for the Foundation's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and raising awareness of both the Library and its Foundation.

#### **Legislative Advocacy**

- Commissioner Medina thanked subcommittee members and Library's Chief Deputy Director Yolanda De Ramus who has been available all the time. The subcommittee has identified six goals. Medina stated that the subcommittee was disappointed that a recent application to the State did not get approved but that it had been a learning experience because along the way they spoke to legislators. They learned valuable information including the fact that some congressional representatives would be open to requests from the Library.
- Chair Calaycay stated that each Commissioner should try to make contact with local legislators and set up connections with the subcommittee.

- Library Director Patrick stated that the staff pulled together the large state application very quickly, but a better approach is for everyone to identify projects in their specific geographic areas and pursue funding for those projects. Commissioner Medina cited examples of projects such as one in Pasadena that received funding due to grass roots advocacy.

#### **Other Comments**

- Chair Calaycay commended Commissioner Yam for being on three subcommittees and encouraged those commissioners who are not yet on a subcommittee to join one.
- Commissioner Gipson thanked Library Director Patrick for all her hard work and extended early birthday wishes.
- Commissioner Shih asked if there is a site where all the subcommittee documents and materials can be housed. Patrick and staff will follow up.
- Commissioner Ancona volunteered to join the fundraising and advocacy work.
- Commissioner Farrer requested a blurb for use in outreach. Library Foundation Director Andrea Carroll will send something out.

#### **Library Commission 2021-22 Annual Report**

Commissioner Cleri Reale reviewed the need for the Commission to submit an annual report to LA County Commission Services. She reviewed the proposed 2021-22 Library Commission Annual Report and made a motion to approve. Commissioner Yam seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Chair Calaycay and Vice Chair Allen thanked Cleri Reale and the committee for their work.

#### **Library Commission 2022 Election**

Vice Chair Allen reported on the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee's work related to the 2022-23 Election of Officers. Allen stated that appointments will take effect immediately after the July 20, 2022, meeting. Allen reviewed the process and thanked his ad hoc committee members Commissioners Gipson, Medina and Yam. Allen then presented the slate:

- Corey Calaycay as Chair
- Jim Allen as Vice Chair
- Lisa Cleri Reale as Secretary

A motion to approve the slate was made by Commissioner Gipson and seconded by Commissioner Lyons. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **Commissioner Comments/Announcements**

There were no additional comments or new business.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Adjournment**

Chair Corey Calaycay adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.