



"Enriching Lives"

LA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION VIRTUAL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, September 21, 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: 2463 049 4801, Attendance Password: 2fvXFfUmf83

To listen only via telephone: Call (213) 306-3065, Access Code: 2463 049 4801

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AGENDA

1. **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call**
2. **Minutes**
Approval of minutes from the regular meeting on July 20, 2022.
3. **LA County Library Report**
Skye Patrick, LA County Library Director, will provide a brief update on Library activity.
4. **LA County Library Presentation**
Deborah Anderson, Assistant Director, Education and Engagement will share an update on the Library's new Smart Start Early Literacy model.
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
 - Introduction of new Library Foundation Chair, Kate Hennigan Ohanesian
 - d. Legislative Advocacy

6. 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 need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

7. New Business

New Business items for the Commission.

8. 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. Deadline to submit written public comment is Tuesday, September 20, 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.

9. 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. To make arrangements, please contact librarycommission@library.lacounty.gov.



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VIRTUAL MEETING**

DATE: Wednesday, September 21, 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 10:05 a.m., followed by a pledge of allegiance and roll call. A quorum was met.

Commissioners in Attendance: (11) Angelita Medina, Corey Calaycay, Eric Alfaro, Jim Allen, Kim Ting Yu, Lisa Cleri Reale, Mary Mendoza, Nancy Kuechle, Reve Gipson Parks, Steve Croft, Tess Shih

Library Staff in Attendance: (9) Skye Patrick, Yolanda De Ramus, Deborah Anderson, Jesse Walker-Lanz, Grace Reyes, Samangi Skinner, Sara Keating, Luis Garnica, Bryant Chow

Guests in Attendance: (3) James Lau, Member, California Library Services Board; Kate Hennigan Ohanesian, Chair, Library Foundation; Nyla Jefferson, Commission Services

Chair Remarks

Chair Calaycay introduced a special guest, James Lau, the director of the local Paramount Education Foundation who is also a newly appointed board member to the CA Library Services Board – appointed by Speaker Anthony Rendon.

Lau responded by saying that he appreciated the invitation, and he thanked Chair Calaycay for his service. Lau informed the Commissioners that he just joined the State Library Services Board and reached out to the LA County Library Commission to see if there are any potential connections/partnerships. Lau is based in LA and expressed interest in learning more about the Commission.

Chair Calaycay then informed the Commission that Andrew Yam's term had ended. He introduced two new Commissioners appointed by 1st District Supervisor Hilda Solis: Eric Alfaro and Kim Ting Yu. Calaycay also discussed another new commissioner appointed by 4th District Supervisor Janice Hahn – Jonathan Beutler who will be joining at a later date.

Commissioner Alfaro thanked everyone and stated that he is excited and very honored to join the Commission. He grew up in a farm town, the son of farmworkers and he knows firsthand the power of having access to resources and literacy at a library. For him, this became a bridge to be the first person in his family to go to college.

Chair Calaycay commented on the forthcoming loss of two very engaged and wonderful commissioners: Karen Farrer and Nancy Lyons, who are not seeking re-election to their city councils. With their departure, there will be vacant CSC seats in SD1, SD2 and SD3. Calaycay asked Commissioners to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on July 20, 2022, was made by Commissioner Croft and seconded by Commissioner Gipson Parks. The minutes were unanimously approved.

LA County Library Report

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

- **CSL Infrastructure Funding:** Staff submitted grant applications for \$18 million in identified project costs and were approved for those projects. Patrick commented that it is a huge win for the Library. This represents grant funding from the federal government that comes down through the State of CA. It is a matching grant and they have identified other sources of funding for the match. Grant funding will support items such as security cameras, deferred maintenance projects, etc. Funds must be expended prior to June 2026, and this is a capacity challenge in a County as large as LA per Patrick.
- **Extreme Heat:** 24 library locations served as cooling centers on September 4 - 5, providing coverage for 2700 community members. LA County Department of Public Health decides where and what part of the County the centers are located. The County Sustainability Office has been leading more long-term efforts dealing with extreme heat. The project involves collaboration with different departments to create a model for Community Resilience Centers that allow residents to quickly and safely bounce back from events like extreme heat, disasters, etc.
- **Sustainability Efforts:** This involves multiple projects. Last fiscal year the Library installed 40 EV chargers at various locations. Libraries are well positioned with their parking lots to assist a significant number of residents.
- **General Election:** The Library is an integral partner when it comes to elections. Currently there are two locations serving as 11-day Vote Centers: Artesia and Lancaster. Stevenson Ranch will serve as a 4-day Vote Center. This is pared down from what was done in the past. There are 5 library check-in center locations to collect ballots and 46 libraries that will serve as drop box locations from October 5 through November 9.
- **Hygiene Motion:** This motion approves a pilot program focused on the distribution of feminine products, diapers, etc. at various County locations including five libraries.

Supervisor Solis will be speaking at a press conference on October 28 at Baldwin Park Library to launch the program.

- **Child Care Motion:** This motion came out of SD1. They called on the Library about the feasibility of providing childcare at or near library sites. Library staff is working with a consultant and will provide an update to the board in December.
- **Community Feedback Sessions:** Formerly called Visioning Sessions, which Patrick launched when she became Library Director, this initiative allows patrons to provide their thoughts on library services and programs. Patrick reminded the Commissioners that Sammy Skinner has emailed instructions of how to register for these sessions. They have already completed sessions for SD4 and SD5. If people cannot make it to a session, there are other ways to provide feedback including online surveys and paper surveys at local libraries. Patrick thanked the Library Foundation for providing some incentives for people to participate.
- **In-person public meetings:** Commission Services will provide information about the transition from virtual meetings to in-person meetings. Sammy Skinner added that staff is waiting to hear more details related to logistics.

Questions/Comments

- Chair Calaycay requested a return to using satellite locations for those who cannot make the commutes to different sites. Skinner reported that there is a plan to revisit the best satellite locations.

LA County Library Presentation

Deborah Anderson, Assistant Director, Education and Engagement, provided a presentation on the newly minted Smart Start Early Learning model with several slides. Highlights include:

- Serving families and young children is a priority of LA County Library.
- Early literacy has evolved over the years from storytelling to much more intentional programming based on data.
- Anderson talked about the importance of early literacy and described Smart Start and how staff is currently redesigning the early learning centers. They have already redesigned the Storytime program.
- Anderson explained the concept of caregivers as a child's first teacher and reiterated that for children to become lifelong readers, they need adults to model that for them.
- This project involves partnership with other County departments. Staff training is critical and they have invested in expert trainers/facilitators.
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion elements are integrated into all programs.

Questions/Comments

- Commissioner Cleri Reale stated that these are critical services, and she commended the staff for providing the highest quality service.
- Commissioner Mendoza shared her amazement and stated that she loves everything that was presented that is being offered to their community.

- Commissioner Alfaro stated that these services are life changing and asked if staff is seeing any challenges with growing the program.
 - Anderson responded that they are trying to secure the services of a consultant to help with the re-design and working with an organization called Pollyanna to help update the curriculum.
 - Patrick stated that from a capacity standpoint, the Library did lose staff during the pandemic and had to release some part time staff. Thus, it will take time to expand this to all libraries.
- Commissioner Allen stated that these have always been wonderful programs and he loves the new evolution. He shared that his granddaughter participates in these programs, and they clearly have a huge impact on our region's children.
 - Patrick thanked Allen and reminded him how much his voice matters to evangelize, educate and speak about what the Library offers.

Chair Calaycay thanked Anderson and Patrick and moved on to the subcommittee reports. For the benefit of new commissioners, he explained the history of the Commission's strategic planning process.

2022-23 Commission Goals and Objectives Reports

Commission Benchmarking Subcommittee

Commissioner Shih who serves as subcommittee chair referred everyone to the materials sent out prior to the meeting. She reviewed the proposed list of libraries to contact, the letter to be sent to them and the questions to be asked.

Commissioner Croft commended Shih as having done a great job pulling everything together and he stated that he expects the information will be very valuable.

Both Library Director Patrick and Commissioner Cleri Reale advised that library foundations and commission are structured differently in different locations. Some are advisory boards, some are commissions, many have different mandates, so a suggestion was made to revisit the nomenclature being used in the materials.

Education and Community Needs Subcommittee

Commissioner Kuechle stated that with Commissioners Ferrer and Lyons leaving, there will only be two members on this subcommittee. Kuechle reported that they have had two really good meetings with Debbie Anderson. She encouraged all Commissioners to attend visioning sessions and let people in the community know about them. She also reiterated that everyone should pass along what the Library is doing related to programs, services, events, etc.

Philanthropy Subcommittee

Commissioner Cleri Reale who chairs this subcommittee explained that the Library Foundation had recently completed a successful retreat to discuss fundraising and outreach ideas. She then introduced the Chair of the Library Foundation Kate Hennigan Ohanesian to make a few remarks.

Ohanesian stated how excited she was to be at the Commission meeting. She said she had a kick-off call with Library Director Patrick. She talked about how the Foundation board wants to change the role and the dynamic of the Foundation including getting an endowment started. She shared that the retreat was great with board development and endowment as top priorities. She announced that Amazon gave the Foundation \$50,000 due to a connection with a board member. There is a small event planned with the Courage Theater Company on November 6th and a drag queen bingo fundraiser on October 11th. She encouraged everyone to support these events. Cleri Reale added that Library Foundation ED Andrea Carroll wants everyone to think about their end of year giving and how they can encourage others to give. The goal is \$40,000 to commemorate the Foundation's 40th anniversary.

Chair Calaycay thanked Ohanesian. He suggested she talk to former members of the Commission and engage them in Foundation activities.

Legislative Advocacy Subcommittee

Commissioner Medina who chairs this subcommittee, stated that this subcommittee will meet before end of November to start preparing for the new legislative session. They plan to talk to Library staff about infrastructure and programmatic needs that could be funded by legislators. She shared that with the departure of Commissioners Yam and Solache, they could use more participation. She also shared that they would like to create a strong plan to secure what used to be earmarked funding but is now called Community Project Funding. Medina promised more information to come and invited commissioners to join the subcommittee.

Commissioner Comments/Announcements

Patrick stated that Supervisor Hahn is having a Commissioner reception in the South Bay area.

New Business

Calaycay shared that there was no new business. He did introduce Nyla Jefferson from LA County Commission Services who thanked everyone and stated that she was just observing the meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Calaycay at 11:36 a.m. with a reminder that the November meeting could be in person.