



"Enriching Lives"

LA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

Monday, May 19, 2025
10:00 am – 12:00 pm



Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 W Temple St
3rd Floor, Room 372
Los Angeles, CA 90012

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Introduction of Board Library Deputies**
4. **Minutes**
Approval of minutes from the special meeting on February 19, 2025, and regular meeting on March 19, 2025.
5. **Chairperson's Report**
Chairperson Corey Calaycay will report on various Commission items and activity and obtain feedback from Library Deputies on Board priorities for the Library.
6. **2024-25 Commission Goals and Objectives – Final Reports**
Subcommittee Chairs will provide a final report on their respective subcommittees toward their goals and objectives:
 - a. Commission Benchmarking
 - b. Education & Community Needs
 - c. Legislative Advocacy
 - d. Philanthropy
7. **2025-26 Commission Goals and Objectives**
Commissioners will establish new goals and objectives for 2025-26 and identify new or continuing subcommittees and subcommittee chairs.
8. **Library Commission 2024-25 Annual Report**
Lisa Cleri Reale, Chair of the Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee, will provide an update on preparation of the Commission's 2024-25 Annual Report.

9. Library Commission 2025 Election

Jim Allen, Chair of the Nominating Ad Hoc Committee, will provide an update on the process of selecting nominees and voting on Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary with voting to take place in July 2025. Appointments to take effect immediately after the July 16, 2025, meeting.

10. Bylaws/Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee Update

Jim Allen, Chair of the Bylaws and Ordinance Revision Ad Hoc Committee, will provide an update on the committee's efforts to revise the Library Commission bylaws and put forth an ordinance.

11. Public Comment *(Limited to 3 minutes per speaker.)*

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Library Commission on items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Library Commission.

Those who wish to provide public comment, may also provide written public comment via email to librarycommission@library.lacounty.gov. Deadline to submit written public comment is Thursday, May 15, 2025, 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.

12. Commissioner Comments, Announcements, or New Business

Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested), placed on the agenda for action at a future Commission meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency or when the need to act arose after posting the agenda.

13. Adjournment***Upcoming Meetings:***

Wednesday, July 16, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Gardena Mayme Dear Library

Wednesday, September 17, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Claremont Helen Renwick Library

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

Supporting Documentation: Documents distributed to the Commission for this meeting will be made available for public inspection at the meeting location and satellite locations. Supporting documentation is available by appointment at Lawndale Library located at 14615 Burin Ave, Lawndale, California 90260, 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.



**LA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 19, 2025
10:00 am – 12:00 pm**



Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W Temple St, 3rd Floor, Room 372
Los Angeles, CA 90012

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

Chair Calaycay called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and thanked everyone for attending. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken and a quorum was met.

Commissioners in Attendance: (13) Angie Medina, Bill Uphoff, Corey Calaycay, David Lesser, James Allen, Joy Williams, Linda Freedman, Lisa Cleri Reale, Marianne Riggins, Mary Mendoza, Nicole Payton, Reve Gipson, Tess Shih

Library Staff in Attendance: (2) Samangi Skinner, Sara Keating

Introduction of Board Deputies

Chair Calaycay then welcomed the LA County Board Deputies who joined the meeting:

- Supervisorial District 1 (SD1) – Solis: Farin Lea, Legislative Deputy
- Supervisorial District 2 (SD2) – Mitchell: Chris Ah San, Senior Deputy, Arts & Culture
- Supervisorial District 3 (SD3) – Horvath: Rachel Fox, Arts & Community Services Deputy
- Supervisorial District 4 (SD4) – Hahn: Daritza González, Library Deputy
- Supervisorial District 5 (SD5) – Barger: Michelle Vega, Assistant Chief Deputy

Calaycay also introduced Andrea Carroll, Executive Director of the LA County Library Foundation, and Santino Cassani, who completed Pitzer College and was assigned to Chair Calaycay as part of a special mentorship program. Calaycay then asked every Commissioner to introduce themselves.

After introductions, Calaycay announced that Commissioner Joy Williams will be leaving the Commission. He stated, “Today is Joy’s final meeting with us. She has been on the Commission for 10 years and we hope that she will return for a special acknowledgement.” Commissioner Cleri Reale added that she and Commissioner Williams had served together for almost the entire time and that Commissioner Williams served with grace and professionalism, and deeply loves LA County Library.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Corey Calaycay reported on various Commission items and activities summarized below:

- He spoke to County Librarian Skye Patrick and she said that this Commission is in demand and people want to serve on it.
- He acknowledged the work that Vice Chair Jim Allen has done related to the Ordinance and how that work has improved the quorum compliance.
- He stated that LA County is facing budget challenges and there is still a possibility for Library cuts on the table.
- Calaycay reminded everyone that former Commissioner Rosenthal helped divert a portion of the Malibu surplus funding for seed funding to support an Executive Director for the Library Foundation and that several Commissioners helped re-write the Foundation's bylaws and other materials to re-ignite the Foundation.
- Calaycay stated that, "we have helped take the Foundation to the next level but Skye's appeal to us is to take it to an even higher level."
- Calaycay suggested that we re-engage former Commissioners in the Foundation and Commission's work.
- He announced that all the Commission Subcommittees will present reports:
 - Commission Benchmarking's Subcommittee Chair Shih has joined the Urban Libraries Council.
 - Education & Community Needs, where there are opportunities for partnership.
 - Legislative Advocacy – we now have three former Commissioners who are State Legislators: Bob Archuleta, Celeste Rodriguez, and Jose Luis Solache, Jr.
 - Philanthropy, which remains a very important issue.
- Calaycay thanked Patrick and her team for challenging the Commission to create the subcommittees and do the work.

Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Lesser and seconded by Commissioner Gipson to approve the minutes from the special meeting on February 19, 2025. A motion was also made by Commissioner Uphoff and seconded by Commission Riggins to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on March 19, 2025. Both motions were unanimously approved.

Board Deputy Comments

Chair Calaycay asked each of the Board Deputies to provide some thoughts regarding Board priorities for the Commission.

SD1: Farin Lea

- She stated that she had just joined Supervisor Solis' office two months earlier and she is learning about all the wonderful things the Library is doing. She added that the Supervisor is happy about the work and the wonderful input from the Library Commission.

SD2: Chris Ah San

- He stated that it's a really tough fiscal climate. He thanked the Commission for its work, but he reinforced that it is a really tough funding year as some of the departments

are getting attacked from all sides – losing County, federal and other funding. One of Supervisor Mitchell’s priorities is to build out the capacity of the Library to do its own fundraising. He added that some of the County departments who rely less on the General Fund are doing a little better than other departments. He recognized that there is a need to prioritize our unincorporated areas as we will see their needs becoming more pronounced. He discussed meeting customers where they are – citing that MāK Mō has been great for that. He reiterated that we can stand to benefit more from the Commissioners’ input on how to be responsive to the needs of these communities.

SD3: Rachel Fox

- She stated that the budget situation is very challenging, and they really appreciate the work that the Library is doing despite the budget impacts. She cited Supervisor Horvath’s motion creating the Books Unbanned program that has been successful, and they appreciate the work that Skye and team are doing to create digital library cards to provide access for youth across California (CA). In addition, the Books in Jails program has resulted in a great partnership between LA County Library and the Sheriff’s Department. They are working collaboratively and now have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) despite logistical challenges. Book donations are dropped off at library locations and then the Sheriff’s Department picks them up and distributes them to jails. They would like it to be a more formal library program, but that requires additional funding. She ended by saying how much they appreciate all the work that the Commission is doing.

SD4: Daritza González

- She stated that it’s a tough time right now but there are lots of things to recognize, specifically citing the Summer Stars tutoring program which expanded to Reading Stars. Finding ways to fund this is important to Supervisor Hahn. The Supervisor sees great value with the Commission, and the Commissioners are the ones who are visiting the libraries and communities more often.

SD5: Michelle Vega

- She stated that it’s the passion and dedication of each Commissioner that moves the work forward. It’s an unfortunate budget time for LA County. She stated that Supervisor Barger has talked about restoring library hours and helping with capital improvement projects. Some library sites have fallen into disrepair and restoring and revitalizing these sites is her priority.

Calaycay added that a letter from the Commission to the Board of Supervisors was sent in support of the Library’s unmet needs budget request towards books and materials and ongoing funding to address Library sustainability.

Commissioner Lesser thanked the deputies for making time to be at the meeting, especially as they are working through budget challenges. He asked how they see the Library Commission best helping the Supervisors.

- Daritza González: Bringing grant opportunities to our attention for funding, and recommendations on how to keep services going as much as possible.
- Michelle Vega: The Commission should look for opportunities to seek outside funding and ways to support the Library. That will be key to the County.

- Rachel Fox: As we look to find outside funding opportunities, there is a growing movement for partnerships among library systems to strengthen all library voices.

Commissioner Uphoff stated that it goes back to serving the needs of the constituents. He said, “Our local library is a Resilience Center. When things happen, we send people to the library which is a needed resource for many when it gets hot. Let’s not forget this.”

Commissioner Shih stated that the metrics for success are very important and asked the deputies what numbers they want to see for the Library.

- Michelle Vega: Patronage is a key indicator for us including accessibility and quality of materials and programming.
- Daritza González: It’s so much more than books and we need to see which programs are used the most. We’d like to hear from the community via the Commission as a whole. She also added that they would love a stronger relationship with the City Selection Committee (CSC) appointed members of the Commission.

Chair Calaycay responded that perhaps each Supervisorial District can meet with all four representatives: the two appointed by the Supervisor and the two appointed by CSC.

Commissioner Payton asked if there are currently gaps related to library stats. Commissioner Allen responded that the Commission receives data on a regular basis. Commissioner Cleri Reale urged all Commissioners to communicate with the Board Offices on a regular basis to share data with each other.

Commissioner Lesser stated that the biggest challenge is not undermining the role of the County Librarian as everyone has their own opinions.

Commissioner Williams spoke about working more during the transition periods with outgoing commissioners handing the torch to incoming commissioners so that there is some knowledge sharing.

Commissioner Allen asked how the approval of Measure G will impact commissions and how should commission prepare for that impact?

- Rachel Fox: We are putting together a Governance Reform Task Force and to Commissioner Williams’ point regarding transitions, as we add more commissioners, we can share some of the that knowledge.
- Michelle Vega: So much will be determined by the Governance Reform Task Force.
- Vice Chair Allen suggested to Chair Calaycay that perhaps they could reach out to the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors to let them know that the Library Commission is prepared to talk with the Task Force when the time comes.

Commissioner Uphoff: Supervisors are looking for input on this issue and for potential members of the advisory committee.

Chair Calaycay ended the discussion session by informing the Board Deputies that the Commission meets six times per year: once at the Hall of Administration, as a chance to meet with the Board Deputies, and five times visiting different libraries. He suggested that if the Board Deputies think of anything else they need, they can reach out to their appointees. He thanked them for their time and invited them to stay for the remainder of the meeting.

2024-25 Commission Goals and Objectives – Final Reports

Subcommittee Chairs provided a final report regarding their respective subcommittee work over 2024-25, as well as a peek into potential 2025-26 goals and objectives.

Commission Benchmarking:

Subcommittee Chair Shih explained that, over the last few years, the subcommittee interviewed diverse public libraries across the country and plan to finish with San Francisco City and County. The subcommittee reported on key findings around library governance, internal operations and metrics for success. They also learned about best practices. She commented that it was a huge undertaking and because of other personal commitments, she will step down as Chair and Commissioner Allen will take over and finish the report. She ended by stating that they will determine whether to sunset this subcommittee.

- Commissioner Allen thanked Commissioner Shih for all that she did and added that next steps include reaching out to San Francisco, as it mirrors LA County a little, and finishing up the final report by the end of the calendar year.
- Commissioner Payton asked what happens if Benchmarking goes away and those commissioners have no other subcommittee to go to as there is a limit on the number of members allowed on each subcommittee. She asked if the Commission could revisit the maximum number of subcommittee members with County Counsel.
- Commissioner Uphoff asked if the subcommittee had benchmarked other county libraries as this would be informative for the Supervisors.
 - Chair Calaycay agreed and Commissioner Medina added that it is a good idea as there are libraries like Whittier that are not part of the LA County system, and we should capture their data.
 - Daritza González agreed that it is a good way to track this data as these other library systems look to LA County Library for best practices.
- Commissioner Mendoza thanked Commissioner Shih for her leadership with the subcommittee and stated that when subcommittee members called various libraries, the libraries were very receptive.
- Commissioner Payton stated that all the data will help with fundraising proposals.

Education & Community Needs

As this subcommittee had a recent change in leadership and composition, there was no formal report. However, Commissioner Freedman shared that she participated in some Storytime programs/activities and it reflected the incredible value of library programs for communities.

Legislative Advocacy

Subcommittee Chair Medina reiterated the dire budget situation in California. She reported that Skye Patrick and Debbie Anderson, the Library's Assistant Director over Education and Engagement, met with CA State Senator Bob Archuleta and his staff asked for a formal budget request. Commissioner Medina called CA State Assemblymember Lisa Calderon's office, and they also asked for a budget request. In addition, a budget request was sent to CA State Assemblymember Mike Fong's office. Commissioner Medina thanked Commissioner Mendoza for securing a meeting with CA State Assemblymember Celeste Rodriguez. Medina and Debbie Anderson visited with Rodriguez's staff. She added that Congressmember Luz Rivas' staff wants to talk about libraries. Commissioner Medina reinforced the need to establish relationships with these various offices prior to receiving funding. She added that she is still optimistic despite the current budget climate. She ended by saying that a June 3rd meeting is pending with Congressmember Sydney Kamlager-Dove.

- Chair Calaycay stated that he met with his State Senator to establish a relationship and encouraged others to do the same.

Philanthropy

Subcommittee Chair Cleri Reale reminded everyone that this subcommittee is unique because it includes both Commissioners and Foundation board members. She stated that there is a great deal of attention (as stated earlier by the Board Deputies) to secure more outside funding for the Library. She added that the Foundation Board is planning a retreat around fundraising and the information from that retreat will help frame the subcommittee's next meeting. She reminded everyone that when the subcommittee first launched, a draft fundraising plan was distributed to every Commissioner and Foundation board member. That plan is being reviewed and an updated version will be distributed to the Commission at a subsequent meeting. She ended by saying that fundraising is critical to the Library's sustainability, and she reviewed a few goals:

- 100% giving from the Commission and the Foundation Board – no matter what the amount.
- Reaching out to friends, colleagues about giving to the Library – especially at key times like National Library Day or Giving Tuesday.
- Using the materials that the Foundation has created – social media messaging, stories, etc. – to raise the profile of the Library and raise more awareness about the Library's value to the community.
- Chair Calaycay suggested looking at former Commissioners as potential donors.
- Commissioner Uphoff stated that it would be helpful to get a Foundation flyer to hand out at city meetings and drum up support.
- Commissioner Payton suggested a working session on how to fundraise and brainstorming previous foundation supporters.
- Commissioner Gipson shared that she calls her friends to help support the Library and makes sure to follow up with them until the donation is received.

Library Commission 2024-25 Annual Report

Lisa Cleri Reale, Chair of the Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee, reviewed that LA County Commission Services requires an annual report from each Commission. She added that the Library Commission takes pride in the fact that it is one of the commissions that complies with this request. The report is due in September so it must be approved by the Commission at the July meeting. The ad hoc committee includes Commissioners Allen, Gipson, Lesser and Cleri Reale.

- Commissioner Lesser suggested including the May meeting summary with the Board Deputies as part of the report.

Library Commission 2025 Election

Jim Allen, Chair of the Nominating Ad Hoc Committee, provided an update on the process of selecting nominees and voting on Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary with voting to take place in July 2025. He stated that appointments will take effect immediately after the July 16, 2025, meeting. He stated that new leadership is always welcome and encouraged those interested in serving or those who wish to nominate others to reach out to him.

- Commissioner Medina nominated incumbents Corey Calaycay, Jim Allen and Lisa Cleri Reale for their current positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.
- Commissioner Riggins thanked them all for their service.
- Chair Calaycay stated that the Library Commission has come a long way since he first started.
- Commissioner Allen acknowledged Chair Calaycay's leadership.

Bylaws/Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee Update

Jim Allen, Chair of the Bylaws and Ordinance Revision Ad Hoc Committee, provided an update on the committee's efforts to revise the Library Commission bylaws and put forth an ordinance. Allen provided background for the Board Deputies and explained that most of the County Commissions have established ordinances. He referred to the draft copies of the materials and encouraged everyone to review them especially as it relates to revising the structure around CSC appointments. Next steps include going back to County Counsel and securing a letter for the Board of Supervisors. The goal is to secure final approval of the Board letter in July and to finalize the entire process by year's end.

- Chair Calaycay stated that he is now Vice Chair of the City Selection Committee, and they were having trouble with quorum causing delays in selecting appointees. Calaycay suggested a satellite meeting model, similar to what the Library Commission has been doing, which was implemented and now meeting quorum should no longer be an issue.
- Commissioner Williams congratulated Allen for all his work moving this process forward.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Comments, Announcements, or New Business

Commissioner Uphoff shared that over the weekend he participated in the California Contract Cities Association spring seminar in Indian Wells and there were representatives from LA

County Library handing out materials. He stated his appreciation of their vigilance in raising awareness about LA County Library.

Commissioner Freedman stated that somebody reached out to her from Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. California is one of the last states to be a part of this initiative and they've hired four people to implement the program throughout the state—one for each region: Northern CA, Central CA, LA County and Orange/San Diego County. She looped both Chair Calaycay and County Librarian Patrick into the conversation. She did note that there is a match element to the model.

- Andrea Carroll stated that the Dolly Parton group has approached the Library prior to this, and staff attended some events.
- Commissioner Riggins suggested that perhaps there is a way to tie into the program and create a book club at each Library so people are reading and sharing what they read. It would be creating a community connection.
- Commissioner Cleri Reale cautioned that the Dolly Parton model works better with nonprofits who are willing to give books away to their clients, but it does not necessarily work with libraries where the goal is to loan books to many people.

Commissioner Riggins reported that Malibu Library hosted the Poet Laureate and some poetry readings as well as a local speaker series. There is another session on June 16th and she invited Commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Lesser announced that Manhattan Beach Library hosted a conversation with Chef Roy Choi and Skye Patrick that received very positive feedback. There was such a large crowd, the overflow moved to the high school auditorium. He expressed gratitude to LA County Library for allowing the event to be held at another site.

Commissioner Williams thanked former Supervisor Kuehl and current Supervisor Horvath for appointing her to the Library Commission. She stated that it's been an absolute joy to serve alongside such passionate and intelligent leaders in the community. She stated that when she started, there was no quorum and no Skye Patrick but the Commission has evolved. She ended by saying that her commission experience is something very dear as it allowed her to do great work via the Benchmarking and Education Subcommittees.

Chair Calaycay explained that the next commission meeting is on July 16 and will be dedicated to commission business so there will be no staff reports.

Adjournment

Chair Calaycay adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m. thanking the Board Deputies and others for their time and participation.