



"Enriching Lives"

LA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, January 21, 2026
10:00 am – 12:00 pm



Primary Location: East Rancho Dominguez Library
Satellite Locations: San Fernando Library and West Covina Library

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Calaycay called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was initiated and quorum was met.

Commissioners in Attendance: (14) Angie Medina, Bill Uphoff, Corey Calaycay, David Lesser, Janae Cannon, Linda Freedman, Lisa Cleri Reale, Mary Mendoza, Nicole Payton, Dr. Perla Hernandez Trumkul, Reve Gipson, Rick Crosby, Steve Croft, Vilma Cuellar Stallings

Library Staff in Attendance: (8) Yolanda Pina, Debbie Anderson, Grace Reyes, Jesse Walker-Lanz, Jessica Lee, Samangi Skinner, Sara Keating, Heather Firchow

Chair Remarks

Chair Corey Calaycay introduced Carolyn Reed, Library Manager, East Rancho Dominguez Library. Reed thanked the Commission for visiting the library. She stated that East Rancho Dominguez Library was one of the first LEED-certified libraries and opened in 2012. It is open 6 days a week to the community. Reed offered a tour for Commissioners after the meeting.

Chair Calaycay introduced new Library Commissioner Dr. Perla Hernandez Trumkul, who was appointed by Supervisor Hilda Solis. He added that her experience involved working for former U.S. Representative Grace Napolitano and that she would be a great addition to the Commission's legislative work.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on November 19, 2025, was made by Commissioner Croft and seconded by Commissioner Medina. The motion was approved by a majority vote, with three abstentions recorded from Commissioners Cuellar-Stallings, Mendoza, and Uphoff.

LA County Library Report

Yolanda Pina, LA County Library Chief Deputy Director, provided several updates.

Vaccine Clinics

- Federal funding cuts have resulted in a reduction of vaccine clinics hosted at library locations – from an average of 30 per month in 2024 to a handful in January 2026.

Fixit Clinics

- In December, LA County Library and LA County Department of Public Works coordinated an LA Fixit Clinic with 48 participants bringing in broken items. Twenty-four items were successfully repaired, diverting over 340 pounds of material from landfills.

Daddy & Me

- This series was launched in September 2025 and included performances, Storytime and other activities. The program was located in each of the five Supervisorial Districts. From September to January, 280 adults and 253 youth participated.

STAR Tutoring & Homework Support

- STAR (Students Together Achieving Results) Tutoring will take place from January 20 to May 21, Tuesday through Thursday, at 30 select library locations throughout the five Supervisorial Districts. The program reaches students in grades 1 to 6.
- Homework Centers will also be available at the same locations from January 13 to May 21, Tuesday through Friday, to provide support to students in grades 1 to 12.

WeHo Stories

- This program is taking place on January 21 at 7:00 p.m. in West Hollywood Council Chambers with LA County Librarian and Director Dr. Skye Patrick moderating a panel of *WeHo Stories*' creators and contributors.

Brown Act and SB 707

- LA County Commission Services announced the most significant updates to the Brown Act in decades. Most provisions are effective as of January 1, 2026, and include items such as social media and teleconferencing rules as well as remote participation.
- Another set of updates will be effective July 1, 2026, and include issues such as hybrid meeting requirements, language access and disruption policy.
- Pina reported that Commission Services will continue to engage all LA County Commissions to attend the annual workshop and new commissioner orientation.

Discussion and Questions

- Commissioner Cannon asked if the changes affect the subcommittees. Pina replied that the subcommittees are short term in nature and the Brown Act is related to public meeting requirements.
- Commissioner Lesser reminded everyone that the Brown Act had impacted the cap on the number of subcommittee members.

LA County Library Presentations

Heather Firchow, Library Administrator, Youth Services, presented on Library programs that support parents and families such as Smarty Pants Storytime, Smart Start Rainbow Parenting, Healing Library Kits, Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) and others.

Discussion and Questions

- Commissioner Uphoff suggested that there is an opportunity for every commissioner to serve as a Library Ambassador and share information about some of the many great programs.
- Commissioner Payton stated that she has not seen many of the parent and family programs publicized in her library's children section. She asked if the programs can be more amplified. She also asked if LA County Library is working with First 5 to make them aware of the many programs focused on young children. Firchow stated that they do have contacts with First 5. Payton also offered to make sure West Hollywood is aware of the many program options shared by Firchow. Payton also suggested reaching out to elementary schools. Firchow responded that there is direct marketing through the libraries and that they serve 65 different LA County school districts. She added that all the programs are posted on the LA County Library website and calendar.
- Commissioner Cannon suggested communicating the parenting programs with local hospitals, doctors, maternity wards and nurses.
- Commissioner Cleri Reale stated that LA Public Library used to have a partnership with local hospitals where they shared information about programs related to parents and young children.
- Commissioner Uphoff added that flyers could be shared with new parents.
- Commissioner Crosby congratulated library staff on their programs. He asked how the library chooses to run programs in general. Deputy Director Pina responded that staff look at the amount of funding available, the criteria and high need communities. Crosby requested Firchow's slides so the Education Subcommittee can share the information with their connections and communities.
- Commissioner Freedman stated that library programs are all so beneficial and need to be accessible to all people. She stated that the local library manager

comes to every city council meeting to talk about library programs and that this has proven very successful as it raises awareness.

- Several commissioners suggested that they will email Firchow with suggestions of various partners or ways to raise awareness about the programs presented.
- Deputy Director Pina stated that community library managers are required to attend city council meetings. She also asked that any emails sent to library staff should copy both Samangi Skinner and Sara Keating so that there is some coordination.

Jessica Lee, Assistant Director, Marketing and Communications, provided an overview of the Library's marketing and outreach efforts. Lee explained that the goal is: Elevating Libraries to Shape Lives, Policy and the Future of Librarianship. She reviewed some basic statistics:

- LA County Library is the second largest system in the United States based on the number of locations.
- LA County Library is nationally and internationally recognized for programs and services.
- LA County Library has received several awards including the 2023 IMLS award.

Lee explained that the Marketing team is eight staff including Lee. She stated that marketing matters and provides critical support in several ways:

- Access to information
- Countering censorship
- Serving all communities
- Building community resilience
- Educating the public about modern services
- Outreach for funding

Lee's slides summarized how marketing supports events, social media, ads, speeches, the Library's website, as well as external-facing tools such as billboards, direct mail, flyers, invitations. The Marketing team evaluates the approach based on the demographics and needs of various communities.

Lee announced several future events:

- *One Book, One Coast* involves approximately 100 library systems and takes place during April/May with a culminating event featuring George Takei on May 31.
- The next Manhattan Beach Library Speaker Series event takes place on May 23 with Julia Quinn.
- Next Chapter Writers' Summit is to be scheduled.

Discussion and Questions

- Commissioner Lesser asked how staff determine if a campaign has been successful. He asked what metrics are being used. Lee responded that it depends on the ultimate goal. She stated that when looking at social media for an upcoming event, staff look at how posts are translating to registration and in-person turnout. Some metrics could be impressions and views.
- Commissioner Lesser asked what general trends staff are seeing in social media that might be useful for the commissioners as ambassadors. Lee responded that it varies. She stated that social media is here to stay but platforms are shifting from TikTok to Meta (Facebook and Instagram). She shared that Meta is becoming a little more popular, bus shelters are very productive, and YouTube is here to stay as well.
- Commissioner Uphoff noted that he sees more and more QR codes being used and asked if this is a viable tool. Lee responded that it is a popular tactic that increased during the pandemic and that the Marketing team uses it as it provides one more access point to LA County Library.
- Commissioner Mendoza asked about *One Book, One Coast*. Debbie Anderson responded that the program would encourage residents of participating communities to read George Takei's graphic novel, *They Called Us Enemy*.
- Commissioner Cannon asked if staff are considering podcasts and things teens are engaging with. She also asked about partnering with local content partners that can be advocates for LA County Library. Lastly, she suggested holding a contest – “Be a local ambassador for the library” with a teen angle. Debbie Anderson responded that the Marketing team does create partnerships with content creators, but they don't do it for free and some of the more popular ones ask for high fees. Jessica Lee added that staff have relationships with a variety of influencers and now looking at “unexpected influencers” who have careers that can help LA County Library.
- Commissioner Payton asked if staff need connections to public access venues saying that she has connections to West Hollywood public access and billboards.
- Commissioner Hernandez Trumkul suggested piggy-backing and sharing ideas with others to help promote libraries.
- Chair Calaycay asked if marketing materials are sent to the public information officers in all LA County cities that have County libraries. Lee responded by saying that it's a good idea and that staff need to build that database. Chair Calaycay suggested working with the Legislative Advocacy Subcommittee.

Bylaws/Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee Update

Vice Chair Jim Allen, Chair of the Bylaws and Ordinance Revision Ad Hoc Committee, provided an update on the committee's efforts to put forth an ordinance, which includes revisions to the Library Commission Bylaws. Allen reported that he and the Ad Hoc Committee plan to meet with LA County Counsel to see if any elements should be added to support Measure G or if the proposed document should remain the same.

2025-26 Commission Goals and Objectives

Subcommittee Chairs provided an update of their respective subcommittees' efforts toward their goals and objectives:

Commission Benchmarking

Subcommittee Chair Jim Allen reported that the subcommittee needs to meet and finalize data for its final report.

Education & Community Needs

Subcommittee Chair Rick Crosby reported that the subcommittee had not been able to meet but reiterated that their goal is to promote LA County Library programs and activities to library constituents.

Legislative Advocacy

Subcommittee Chair Angie Medina shared several updates.

- The CA state budget situation does not look very good, so the subcommittee is approaching projections in a realistic way, especially since they do not want to see Library staff do unnecessary work.
- Subcommittee members approached CA State Assemblymember Lisa Calderon, who had previously provided \$500,000 in funding, to ask if her office is open to receive budget requests. Calderon's staff responded that they could accept all requests and will hold them until there is an opportunity for funding.
- Medina concluded by saying the subcommittee will try to visit a couple of legislative offices but will be very strategic about it – visiting the ones that have expressed some interest in funding LA County Library.

Philanthropy

Subcommittee Chair Lisa Cleri Reale reported that the subcommittee has not yet met in 2026. However, Cleri Reale will work with the LA County Library Foundation Executive Director Andrea Carroll and the Foundation board at their board retreat in early February to focus on fundraising goals, after which the subcommittee can convene to coordinate efforts. Regarding Commission giving, Cleri Reale reported that in 2025, 65% of commissioners (13 out of 20) had donated. She reminded everyone that there is a goal of 100% giving and strongly urged everyone to start 2026 closing that goal. She reiterated

that any amount works and that there are many opportunities throughout the year to give: April's Library Giving Day, Giving Tuesday, end of year, etc.

- Commissioner Medina reminded everyone that donations can be spread out in monthly payments.

Discussion and Questions

- Commissioner Uphoff asked if there are any favorable policies that the Commission should be pursuing with legislators. Chief Deputy Director Pina responded that staff would circle back on this topic as LA County Librarian and Director Dr. Skye Patrick is planning to meet with the State Librarian regarding funding. Pina explained that library staff are pursuing education funding and advocating to increase State Library funding. Pina stated that staff will keep the Commission updated with priority issues that they can support.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Comments, Announcements, or New Business

- Commissioner Croft was approached by a Latter-Day Lakewood church stating that they would like to make the church genealogy databases free and accessible but not sure where to go. Chief Deputy Pina asked Croft to send her the contact info and she will discuss it with the Library's CIO.
- Commissioner Mendoza shared that her granddaughter was a local bookmark contest winner.
- Chair Calaycay was in Azusa for the unveiling of a commemorative sign marking Route 66's 100th anniversary. He suggested that other cities and libraries might connect with this celebration.
- Chair Calaycay also reminded everyone about the special commission meeting with Board Deputies being held on May 18th at the Hall of Administration.

Adjournment

Chair Calaycay thanked everyone and reminded them that the next meeting will be on March 18 at West Hollywood Library. He adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.