



"Enriching Lives"

LA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
10:00 am – 12:00 pm



Primary Location: West Hollywood Library
Satellite Locations: Hacienda Heights Library and Lawndale Library

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Calaycay called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was initiated and quorum was met.

Commissioners in Attendance: (14) Angelita Medina, Corey Calaycay David Lesser, Dean Francois, Janae Cannon, Linda Freedman, Lisa Cleri Reale, Marianne Riggins, Mary Mendoza, Nicole Payton, Dr. Perla Hernandez Trumkul, Reve Gipson Parks, Steve Croft, Vilma Cuellar Stallings

Library Staff in Attendance: (9) Dr. Skye Patrick, Yolanda Pina, Debbie Anderson, Jessica Lee, Samangi Skinner, Sara Keating, Mariko Farinacci-Gonzalez, Sharis Peters, Wendy Nguyen

Guests in Attendance: (2) Andrea Carroll, Matias Massian

Chair Remarks

Chair Calaycay welcomed Library Foundation Executive Director (ED) Andrea Carroll and then introduced Matias Massian, an exchange student who is accompanying Calaycay to meetings to learn more about governance and community. Calaycay remarked that they used public transit to West Hollywood.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on January 21, 2026, was made by Commissioner Payton and seconded by Commissioner Medina. The motion was approved with one abstention from Commissioner Riggins.

LA County Library Report

Dr. Skye Patrick, County Librarian & Director, provided a brief update on Library activity.

Women's History Month: LA County Library hosted more than 80 programs for all ages including a Trailblazers event scheduled for March 19th. Programs were focused on the accomplishments of women. Patrick stated that all the programs are virtual and there's been much engagement. She urged Commissioners to share the information from the website.

Fixit Clinics: These clinics are hosted in all five Supervisorial Districts and scheduled throughout the year. The focus of the program is to teach people how to recycle, reuse and repair – keeping things out of landfills.

E-rate Funding: This funding ensures affordable high-speed connectivity. It was approved for FY 25-26; 85% is federally funded and 15% is library funded and will modernize the network infrastructure by the end of 2026.

Friends of the Library Annual Meeting: The purpose of this meeting is to keep the Friends Groups updated and further cultivate these relationships. Foundation ED Andrea Carroll will be the guest speaker. Patrick stated that during the pandemic, there was a significant drop in Friends' participation so there is a need to strengthen the network and bring in new people. These groups are fundraising for their local libraries.

One Book, One Coast: Patrick announced that over 200 public library systems in 1200 locations up and down the coast have agreed to participate in this program. The book chosen is *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei. From April 1 to June 6, digital copies will be available via the Libby app. On May 31, there will be an Author Talk with George Takei at East LA Library, which will also be livestreamed on YouTube. Patrick stated that this is the last iteration of the Books Unbanned program.

Leland R. Weaver Library Reopening: This event will be held on Friday, March 20th at 3:00 p.m. and Supervisor Janice Hahn will attend.

Discussion and Questions

- Commissioner Payton asked how the Library is promoting the Friends groups and suggested that perhaps young parents who are participating in children's programs at their local libraries might become members. Patrick said she would get back on this issue.
- Commissioner Riggins suggested that students could serve on Friends groups as part of their community service hours.
- Commissioner Cleri Reale suggested that sending out library reopening events earlier might result in better attendance. Patrick responded that the goal is to send them out a month in advance.
 - Commissioner Riggins offered to post the notices on social media and through Malibu City Council.
- Commissioner Cleri Reale asked if Patrick's reference to "the last iteration of the Books Unbanned Program" meant that there will no longer be a focus on this issue. Patrick explained that they will continue advocacy on the State level and will continue distribution of the digital card created as part of the Books Unbanned program. Patrick also shared that they are closely monitoring HR 7661 from the U.S. Congress, which the American Library Association has condemned.

- Commissioner Riggins asked if books are being banned or just age segregated. Patrick responded that it depends. She cited Huntington Beach, where they removed books from the collection. She also reiterated that even restricting material for certain audiences is something that libraries take issue with. LA County Library does curate their collection by having a children, teen and young adult section.
- Commissioner Cannon asked if there will be a special library card for *One Book, One Coast*. Patrick responded no but added that they are creating a special edition Summer of Soccer library card for the FIFA World Cup.
- Commissioner Medina shared that she attended the last *One Book* event and it was excellent. She encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming event in May.

LA County Library Presentations

Sharis Peters, Management Fellow, and Wendy Nguyen, Psychiatric Social Work Consultant, presented on the Library Engagement & Access Program (LEAP) partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH). Slides were shown and a summary of the presentation is below.

- This program initially began in 2018 at eight libraries and grew to 43 libraries until it was paused in March 2020 due to the pandemic.
- In September 2024, the Board of Supervisors and LA County DMH passed a motion to re-establish the program, once again embedding social workers in high need libraries.
- This iteration of the program was named LEAP and officially launched in March 2025 at 14 locations and has now expanded to 17 locations in all five Supervisorial Districts.
- Services offered are:
 - Referrals for housing and shelter
 - Access to healthcare
 - Self-care
 - Coping strategies
 - Mental health support
 - Support library staff regarding patrons who have mental health needs, etc.
 - Can also support crisis situations
- LEAP Teams are comprised of a Mental Health Clinical Supervisor, a financial worker and five clinicians.
- Program success has been strong. In the first 7 months, 1,055 resources were provided; 62 mental health referrals; 229 placements for interim housing; 1,546 instances of outreach and engagement and much more.

- Challenges include a few security concerns where library staff was threatened.
- Next steps include continued assessment of data and analysis of LEAP and an expansion to Malibu.

Samangi Skinner, Executive Services Manager, presented on the Library Strategic Plan. Following are highlights:

- Implementation of the Strategic Plan spans 2024-2028.
- The plan reiterates the mission and values of LA County Library.
- A cross-divisional implementation team reviewed each of the four strategic priorities and key initiatives and created Action Plans for each one.
- In 2028, there will be a full assessment of outcomes.
- Commissioners will play a role not only as having completed stakeholder surveys but continue to serve as Ambassadors to help promote LA County Library.

Discussion and Questions

- Commissioner Cleri Reale asked about the LEAP Teams and if they are focused on individual libraries. County Librarian Patrick responded that the Teams are focused on the SPAs (Service Planning Areas).
- Commissioner Riggins commented that many people are anxious about not being able to manage their budget so that they can take care of basic needs. She asked if they would receive tools to help them with this. Nguyen responded that immediate intervention regarding housing seems to be the most frequent request, and the housing referral has a case manager that will work with clients regarding money issues, etc.
 - Commissioner Riggins added that Malibu and their Council of Governments (COG) have a robust program in place and perhaps they can team up with LA County Library to avoid duplication.
- Commissioner Cannon asked about the timing involved in helping folks at various library locations. Nguyen responded that DMH staff can use County cars to transport clients to a shelter, etc. However, commitments like transporting clients can pull the mental health experts away from the libraries where they may miss drop-in clients. Clients are encouraged to call ahead if possible.
- Commissioner Mendoza asked about collaborating with cities because they have housing staff and others who could help.
 - The short answer is yes as the LEAP team is very collaborative. In Norwalk, they are working with the City Council, etc. to fill gaps in services

rather than duplicating efforts – that is what library staff is trying to do in each city.

- Commissioner Francois asked if there is a way to expand the program to those who do not yet have the service. Patrick responded that it's really a cost issue. With 86 libraries, there's no real path forward to being in every library.
- Chair Calaycay asked about particularly violent patrons who have been suspended from libraries and how to enforce this. Patrick responded that they do not take suspensions lightly and that they are reviewed thoroughly. Suspensions can be for a day, or up to 6 months or 1 year for repeat offenders. It's a case-by-case situation. She reminded everyone that there is private security at some locations to protect patrons.
- Commissioner Lesser thanked staff for the Strategic Plan presentation and lifted the importance of the Commissioners' roles. Patrick responded that the Manhattan Beach Library Speaker Series is a huge part of that advocacy and championship.

Library Commission 2025-26 Annual Report

Commissioner Cleri Reale initiated a discussion of the 2025-26 Library Commission Annual Report and formation of the Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee to prepare the report by the end of the fiscal year. She stated that the same template will be used and that Commissioners Allen, Lesser and Mendoza will serve on the Ad Hoc Committee. Cleri Reale suggested distribution of a draft report at the May Commission meeting with a final approved in July.

Selection of Nominating Committee Members

Chair Calaycay initiated discussion and selection of the Commission's 2026 Nominating Ad Hoc Committee to initiate the process of selecting nominees and voting on Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Voting will take place in May 2026, and appointments will be effective July 2026. Calaycay announced that he will join Commissioners Allen and Gipson on the Ad Hoc Committee, and he asked for 1 or 2 additional members. Calaycay explained that the role of the Ad Hoc Committee is to solicit requests for nominations and bring forth a slate for Commission approval.

Bylaws/Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee Update

Vice Chair Jim Allen, Chair of the Bylaws and Ordinance Revision Ad Hoc Committee, was unable to attend the meeting as he was participating in his retirement event. Chair Calaycay announced that there was no update to provide.

Discussion and Questions

- Calaycay added that Vice Chair Allen will remain on the Commission. He also announced that Commissioner Croft is not seeking re-election to the Lakewood City Council and that it is his last Library Commission meeting.

- Commissioner Croft stated that he enjoyed his 6 years on the Commission and thanked everyone. Commissioner Cleri Reale thanked Croft for his service, stating that he always engaged at every meeting from making motions to asking questions and volunteering for committees.

2025-26 Commission Goals and Objectives

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

Commission Benchmarking

- There was no update from this subcommittee.

Education & Community Needs

- There was no update from this subcommittee.

Legislative Advocacy

- Subcommittee Chair Angie Medina reported that over the last year, the subcommittee members built relationships with more elected officials so that once the State budget situation improves, the subcommittee can take action. She added that some legislators invited budget funding requests.
- Medina asked Commissioners to identify any elected officials that they know.

Philanthropy

- Subcommittee Chair Lisa Cleri Reale reported that National Library Giving Day is on April 1 and that this is a focus of the Library Foundation. Cleri Reale encouraged 100% of Commissioners to donate either on Library Giving Day or at any time throughout the year that is convenient to them.
- She reported that Andrea Carroll will follow up with Giving Day materials, social media messaging and all the tools needed and again encouraged commissioners to participate in some way.

Discussion and Questions

- Commissioner Hernandez Trumkul stated that based on her longtime legislative experience, every elected official works differently but the timeline is the same for community grants.
- Commissioner Cleri Reale identified Sydney Kamlager-Dove as her congressional representative and asked Commissioner Medina to connect offline.
- Chair Calaycay knows Congresswoman Norma Torres and can help.
- Commissioner Riggins is trying to work with her congressional representatives regarding several issues. She suggested inviting them to events so that they can see the Library's work in the community.

- There was significant discussion about fundraising tools with several commissioners asking for the Library Giving Day slides/materials. A suggestion was made to offer Zelle and/or Venmo, but Carroll stated that there were some obstacles and that they are pursuing it.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Comments, Announcements, or New Business

- Commissioner Cannon asked how to volunteer at her local library. Sammy Skinner responded that there is a protocol involved that includes live scanning and registration and she would get Cannon connected to the Library's lead.
- Commissioner Riggins announced that the upcoming Malibu Library Speaker Series event is sold out. The entire series has been incredibly well received. She also invited everyone to the Chumash Day events in Malibu on March 28th and 29th. Admission is free with free off-site parking and shuttle.
- Commissioner Cannon volunteered to be a part of the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee.
- Chair Calaycay reminded everyone that the next commission meeting is on Monday, May 18th at the Hall of Administration. It is in person only with no satellite locations.

Adjournment

Chair Calaycay adjourned the meeting at 11:58 a.m.