A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners convened at 11:06 a.m. on the above-written date, held at the Central Library, 630 West 5th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Vice-President Kathryn Eidmann
Commissioner Dale Franzen
Commissioner Mai Lassiter
Commissioner Josefa Salinas

Absent: President Bích Ngọc Cao

ALSO PRESENT: John F. Szabo, City Librarian; Susan Broman, Asst. City Librarian; Basia Jankowski, Deputy City Attorney; and staff.

2. OPENING REMARKS: Literary Appreciation: Commissioner Salinas read a poem.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:


b) Regular Meeting – September 12, 2019: Postponed.

c) Regular Meeting – October 10, 2019: Approved.

It was MOVED by Commissioner Salinas, seconded by Commissioner Franzen to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 10, 2019 as submitted. Motion passed 3/4 (Vice President Eidmann abstained).

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE BOARD’S JURISDICTION:

Ida Talalla, patron, spoke about the outstanding library programs she attends at the Echo Park and Edendale Branch libraries and also mentioned that she makes use of the online passes to visit museums and other local attractions. She said that seniors are now living longer and need more than just exercise classes at their senior centers. She stated that the Los Angeles Public Library offers a treasure trove of programs at their libraries and it would be wonderful if the Library could offer programs for seniors on food, travel and languages at senior centers and encourage them to travel to the library.
5. CITY LIBRARIAN’S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Librarian John F. Szabo reported the following:

- **Fine-Free Policy Update:** Mr. Szabo reported that the new policy has been very well received by Angelenos and staff. He said a press conference was held with the Mayor to announce the new policy. He thanked Commissioner Lassiter for attending and Board President Cao for speaking at the press conference.

- **Families Read Together Literacy Program:** This program is about infusing family literacy with the Adult Literacy Program for adult learners with children at home ensuring that the children’s literacy needs are met and that the parents are reading to their children at home. The Library offered a series of Families Read Together workshops at its 21 Literacy Centers across the city. About 200 people attended a special event held at the LA Zoo for families that completed the program.

- **Gift from the United States Asian Cultural Academy:** The Los Angeles Public Library has been gifted two Chinese ceramic pieces from the Yue Celadon tradition consisting of two seals; one that reads on the bottom “Los Angeles Public Library” in English and in Chinese on the other. This ceramic tradition had been lost for over a thousand years and it was revived in the 1980’s. The academy commissioned three artists to create these seals to give to the Los Angeles Public Library.

- **Neighborhood Science Kits:** These kits are available in 15 branch libraries for check out with topics consisting from clouds, mosquito habitats, water quality monitoring, etc. Children can also download the app and input their findings that can also be used by scientists for data gathering. This program is a component of the Full STEAM Ahead Initiative.

- **Census 2020:** The Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) is engaged in helping out with the 2020 Census to make sure everyone is counted. The LAPL is promoting census jobs, educating the public on how the Census is going to be done, and will have ADA accessible Census stations. The Library is also hosting the Census Bureau to conduct outreach and ambassador training. Library staff will be familiar with Census questions and will be able to assist patrons.

- **Vote by Mail Ballot Drop-Off Boxes at Libraries:** The Library is working with the L.A. County Registrar Recorder to use various libraries as Vote by Mail Ballot Drop-Off locations for the March 3rd Election. To date, 51 libraries have already been listed and more will be added. Ballot boxes will be available from February 3 - March 3.
6. **CITY LIBRARIAN’S REPORTS:**

   **Consent Items**

   City Librarian John F. Szabo reviewed the Consent Calendar and recommended its approval.

   It was MOVED by Commissioner Franzen, seconded by Commissioner Salinas and unanimously carried that the following resolutions be adopted:

   A. **Approved Acceptance of Gifts**

   **LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2020-1**

   WHEREAS, The MaddocksBrown Foundation supports programs that build for the future by educating, enhancing and empowering the community; and

   WHEREAS, Edward (Ed) Ruscha is an influential American artist based in Culver City who is associated with the Pop Art movement. His work, as with Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein, is rooted in American commercial art. He often experiments with a wide range of materials, and is well known for his painting, collages and photographic work:

   THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners accept a gift to the Special Collections of the Los Angeles Public Library of two (2) Edward Ruscha art works by the MaddocksBrown Foundation, namely LIBRARY, 1995 (limited edition number 28 of 40) and BOOK RETURN, 1995, (limited edition 28 of 40) be accepted; and

   FURTHER RESOLVED, that a letter of thanks be sent to the MaddocksBrown Foundation for this generous donation.

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   **LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2020-2**

   RESOLVED, That a gift of four (4) Wausau concrete benches and two (2) Wausau concrete trash receptacles, including installation, valued at $6,646.02 received from the Friends of the Mid-Valley Regional Branch Library for the Mid-Valley Regional Branch Library be accepted; and

   FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to the Friends of Mid-Valley Regional Branch Library expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.
LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2020-3

RESOLVED, That a gift of a TBS Simple Scanning Station, valued at $4,520, received from the United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council and the Friends of the Jefferson Branch Library to be utilized by the Jefferson-Vassie D. Wright Memorial Branch Library be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to the United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council and the Friends of the Jefferson Branch Library expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

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LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2020-4 (C-1)

RESOLVED, That a gift of $2,000 from the Friends of the Atwater Library for the benefit of the Atwater Village Branch Library be accepted and deposited in Trust Fund 831, Account 340; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to the Friends of the Atwater Library expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

B. Approved Acceptance of CLLS Grant for LAPL’s Adult Literacy Services

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2020-5 (C-2)

WHEREAS, On December 26, 2019, the California State Library announced that the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) Adult Literacy Service program final payment of the total grant allocation for the 2019/20 fiscal year is $149,333. On October 10, 2019, the Board accepted the initial baseline CLLS grant amount of $18,000 and an additional $70,000 designated for family literacy. This brings the grand total to $237,333. LAPL and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles provide matching funds to make the Library eligible for this grant; and

WHEREAS, These funds must be accepted by the Board of Library Commissioners to activate this award:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners accept the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) grant of $149,333 for the Los Angeles Public Library’s Adult Literacy Services for Fiscal Year 2019/20; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the funds be deposited in Trust Fund 419, Account 352.
7. PRESENTATION: *The California Index* at Central Library

Kelly C. Wallace, California History Subject Specialist, History Department, provided an overview of *The California Index*, a unique LAPL resource of local and California history. She said *The California Index* collection was created in-house and it is accessible to all through TESSA, home for LAPL Digital Collections.

Ms. Wallace explained that *The California Index* is a vast database that contains citations and scans of documents and ephemera from files at Central Library and many of the system’s branches with information from books, newspaper/magazine articles, photos, and vertical files related to people, places, events and subjects important to California, with an emphasis on Southern California. Some of the newspapers currently indexed are the Los Angeles Times, the Downtown News, The Sentinel, and the Japanese/English newspaper Rafu Shimpo. Also, included are community newspapers such as the Argonaut, the Larchmont Chronicle, the Eastside Sun, and the L.A. Watts Times. The Index includes the journals of historical societies and organizations such as the California Historical Society, the Los Angeles City Historical Society, and the Los Angeles Conservancy as well as popular magazines Sunset, Los Angeles Magazine, and Westways. Currently, there are nearly 600,000 records and new entries are added daily to *The California Index*.

Ms. Wallace noted that *The California Index* contains two parts—the California Subject Files and the Biography Files, including collective biographies, such as the *History of the bench and bar of Southern California* (1909), *Judicial profiles of the Superior Court of Los Angeles, County, California*, and *Negro Trail blazers of California* (1919). *The California Index* contains many names of individuals who would not get into the standard *Who’s Who* and published histories. She said the Index is very useful for those working with California genealogy and history. Many of the biographical entries are biographical data sheets filled out by the person himself or herself in the early years of the 20th century. This is a resource unique to Los Angeles Public Library.

Ms. Wallace concluded her presentation by reporting that *The California Index* was accessed 6,949 times in 2019. She said staff write blog posts and is working on a series of short videos showcasing the vertical files to promote usage of this fabulous resource. Also, there is a great display case on the second floor on the Cawston Ostrich Farm, which contains items from the vertical files.

8. VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: None.

9. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS & REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING:

Next Board Meeting Announcement

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, at the Central Library at 11:00 a.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Kathryn Eidmann                Raquel M. Borden
Vice President                  Board Executive Assistant

Approved: April 9, 2020