



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
August 24, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Facilitator: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor

Attendees: A.J. Cave (ANZ), Toni Hines (BAY), Katherine Hsieh (CHI), Penni Wisner (EVA), Leonie Vandenberg (GGV), Deirdre Merrill (MAR), Crystal Lê (MBA), Judy Blanchard (MER), Kathy Mallegni (MER), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Johanna Lopez Miyaki (OVI), Nicky Trasvina (OVI), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Diane Silver (PAR), Peter Linenthal (POT), Marcia Popper (PRE), Elaine Cahn (RIC), Heather Gonzalez (RIC), Deborah Oppenheim (SUN), Christy Estrovitz (Acting Assistant Chief of Branches), Ana Elisa de Campos Salles (Central District Manager), Denise Sanderson (Southwest District Manager), Regan Gong (Northwest District Manager), Florinda Battad (Library Technical Assistant II)

Excused: Lena Yu (CHI), Marcia Parrott (EXC), Nora Dowley (GPA), Sonia Moscardon (ING), Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE), Edna James (OVI), Joan Walton (SUN), Monica Herbert (WSA)

Library Administrators: Dolly Goyal (Chief of Public Services).

HOUSEKEEPING

Upcoming Meetings

- The next **Library Commission Meeting in September** will be on **Thursday, September 21, 2023**, at 4:30 pm. *Hybrid in-person and virtual*
- The next **Council of Neighborhood Libraries Meeting in September** will be on **Thursday, September 28, 2023**, at 4:00 p.m., *SFPL Virtual Library*

Branch Open Houses in September

Branch	Date	Time
Ortega	9/9/23	12 – 3 pm
Anza	9/20/23	4 -7 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Peter (POT) let us know that his article on Black Gold Rush pioneer, James P. Dyer is in the Argonaut: https://www.academia.edu/105897168/James_P_Dyer_Black_Pioneer_Activist_and_Soap_Maker
- Terry Carlson has joined the IT Department as their Digital Strategist. Rebecca introduced Christy Estrovitz as the Acting Assistant Chief of Branches. Christy comes from the Community Programs and Partnership (CPP) Division where she spearheaded the Library's early literacy programs.

UPDATES

City Librarian's Report – Dolly Goyal

Civic Center Carnival

- A four-day carnival in the Civic Center will take place on Thursday, August 24th through Sunday, August 27th on Fulton Street between the Main Library and the Asian Art Museum.
- Michael represented the Library at the press conference with the Mayor kicking off the event.

Summer Stride

- Higher registration numbers!
- A party was held for about 70 Summer Youth Volunteers to thank them for their help with registering patrons and outreach.

Twelve Million Circulating Items

- The Library celebrated the milestone of reaching 12 million checked-out items.
- Includes print and online items and surpasses pre-pandemic annual circulation.

Bay Beats

- [Bay Beats](#) is SFPL's online local music collection.
- Submissions from 600 local artists in all genres were received. They will be considered for inclusion on the platform by SFPL staff members and Community Jurors.
- A launch party is planned for October with selected musicians performing on the Fulton Street steps.

California First Partner Visit

- Jennifer Siebel Newsom visited The Mix teen center to engage with thirty YELL (Youth Engaged in Library Leadership) Interns.
- The teens participated in poetry, craft, and dance workshops and discussed the titles on the [First Partner's Summer Book Club](#) list.

Intellectual Freedom

- SFPL will host a series of [public programs](#) and displays to raise awareness about the ongoing challenges to intellectual freedom.
- September 30 - PEN America's Freedom to Read Student Summit. This all-day program is open to high school students and will teach them the skills to fight book banning and educational censorship.
- October 1-7 – Banned Books Week. Programs at the Main and the branch libraries will include a panel of children's and YA authors whose work has been banned or censored, banned book reading groups, and [letter-writing sessions to banned authors](#).

Q&A

- **Katherine (CHI) – Can you tell us more about the First Partner's Summer Book Club?**
Goyal – The program is a partnership with the California State Library to reduce summer learning loss. The books on her list were chosen by her and librarians across the state and

reflect the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. SFPL was asked to host this important initiative to engage youth.

Estrovitz – The event was so successful that Mayor Breed requested to have a special book club with the teens to read and discuss one of her favorite books, [Caste](#).

Library Commission Report

The agenda and minutes from the August 17th Library Commission Meeting can be found here:

[Library Commission Agendas, Minutes & Resolutions](#)

Chinatown Renovation Community Meeting – Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor

Rebecca shared the presentations from the Chinatown Branch Community Meetings in August.

Chinatown Branch Library Renovation

- Some of the new amenities for the renovated branch include:
 - Restoring the original entrance
 - New stairway and elevator that will go to the roof.
 - Roof terrace
 - Teen room
 - Larger community room and gallery
 - Updated HVAC system
 - Additional restrooms
 - Removing the mezzanine to restore the grandeur of the reading room
- The timeline for the fully budgeted project:
 - Spring 2024 – Public Works bid and award
 - Summer 2024 - Notice to Proceed
 - Summer 2026 – Reopen (Tentative)

San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC) Public Art

- The budget for the public artwork for the renovated branch is \$182,000.00.
- SFAC is looking for artists with ties to the Chinatown community.
- The artwork will be placed on five niche panels in the adult reading room.
- The existing public artwork, *Take Root* by Rene Yung will be cleaned up and included in the renovation.

Q&A

- **Heather (RIC) – Where is stroller parking and what is the path a caregiver with a stroller would take to get into the children’s room from the street outside?**
Alcalá-Veraflor – Caregivers can enter through the gallery entrance and park strollers in the community room or gallery. Furniture in the children’s room will be moveable and the gallery walls will have operable partitions, creating a flexible space to meet different needs.
- **Katherine (CHI) – Will there be more electric outlets throughout the building?**
Alcalá-Veraflor – Yes, the building will have more outlets.
- **Katherine (CHI) – Will there be a capacity limit on the roof terrace? How does one enforce that? Will the noise from the roof be heard in the reading room below?**
Alcalá-Veraflor – There won’t be a capacity limit on the roof. The idea is that people will mostly be going in and out of the space. The ceilings are high, so noises from the roof shouldn’t be an issue, but we will work with an acoustics expert to mitigate any possible noises from the roof.

- **Katherine (CHI) – Will there be WIFI on the roof? Will the signal be stronger throughout the building?**

Alcalá-Veraflor – Yes, there will be WIFI on the roof and we will work with our IT Department, the City’s Department of Technology (DT), and AT&T to have a stronger signal.

- **Nicky (OVI) – Will there be shade on the roof?**

Alcalá-Veraflor – We have yet to decide what kind of furniture will be on the roof.

- **Crystal (MBA) – Thanks so much for sharing about all the exciting changes underway in Chinatown. I’m already looking forward to visiting the rooftop terrace and gallery. Folks at the Mission Bay Branch are interested in seeing more community artwork as well. Many of the elders who live in the Mercy Housing are fantastic artists and it’d be great to have an exhibit at Mission Bay to showcase their creations throughout the branch.**

- **Leonie (GGV) – When will the open hours at Golden Gate Valley be extended? Will it be possible for the branch to open earlier on Fridays or Sundays?**

Alcalá-Veraflor – We are slowly adding back hours at the branches so that their open hours will be back to pre-pandemic levels. The Golden Gate Valley Branch will be open earlier on Wednesdays at 11:00 am. The Library’s Custodial and Security divisions don’t have the staffing to support opening earlier on Fridays or Sundays.

Adjournment: 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad