



San Francisco Public Library

**MINUTES**  
**Council of Neighborhood Libraries**  
**February 22, 2024 4:00 p.m.**  
**CALL TO ORDER**

**Meeting Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Facilitator: Christy Estrovitz**

**Attendees:** A.J. Cave (ANZ), Toni Hines (BAY), Lena Yu (CHI), Penni Wisner (EVA), Marcia Parrott (EXC), Leonie van den Berg (GGV), Sonia Moscardon (ING), Deirdre Merrill (MAR), Judy Blanchard (MER), Kathy Mallegni (MER), Crystal Lê (MBA), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Nicky Trasvina (OVI), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Diane Silver (PAR), Jessica Hyman (POT), Elaine Cahn (RIC), Ana Elisa de Campos Salles (Central District Manager), Regan Gong (Northwest District Manager), Michael Roman (Jr. Management Asst.), Florinda Battad (Library Technical Assistant II)

**Excused:** Katherine Hsieh (CHI), Nora Dowley (GPA), Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE), Edna James (OVI), Johanna Lopez Miyaki (OVI), Peter Linenthal (POT), Marcia Popper (PRE), Heather Gonzalez (RIC), Deborah Oppenheim (SUN), Joan Walton (SUN), Monica Herbert (WSA), Genevieve Feldman (Northeast District Manager), Denise Sanderson (Southwest District Manager), Anne Vannucchi (Southeast District Manager)

**Library Administrators:** Michael Lambert (City Librarian), Dolly Goyal (Chief of Public Services),

**HOUSEKEEPING**

**Upcoming Meetings**

➤ The next **Library Commission Meeting** will be on **Thursday, March 21, 2024** at 4:30 p.m., *Hybrid – virtual and in-person*

➤ The next **Council of Neighborhood Libraries Meeting** will be on **Thursday, March 28, 2024** at 4:00 p.m., *SFPL Virtual Library*

**Upcoming Branch Open Houses**

<b>Branch</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Bayview	2/24/24	11am – 2 pm
Golden Gate Valley	3/16/24	1-5 pm
Sunset	3/23/24	1-5 pm

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Christy Estrovitz, who has been the Acting Assistant Chief of Branches since last June, was promoted to the position. In her previous role as the Youth Service Manager, Christy spearheaded numerous programs, partnerships, and initiatives. She is an innovator and leader in the field, and we are fortunate to have her in the Chief of Branches Office.
- With an Innovation Grant from Friends of the SFPL, Toni Hines, a CNL member representing the Bayview, has been engaged to be an outreach ambassador (promotora) on behalf of the Library. This is a pilot program that is predicated on a community health worker model that pays trusted community pillars to spread information about Library resources and services. Toni will receive an in-depth training to enhance her already robust library skills so that that she can assist people in the Black/African American community better access the library.

## City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert

### **SFPL continues to thrive**

- Weekly foot traffic continues to grow. We anticipate exceeding our high of 80,000 visitors in one week last August.
- Circulation is also growing with over 1 million items circulating per month. We expect to eclipse the 13 million mark this year.
- Michael's visit to a branch library in Oahu reminded him how fortunate it is for SFPL to be well funded and that homelessness occurs in all urban environments.

### **Programming**

- Programs are increasing and going strong.
- **Drumbeats, Heartbeats: Communities as One**
  - The Library's joint celebration of Black History Month and the Lunar New Year drew a capacity crowd in the Koret Auditorium.
  - Among those in attendance were Mayor London Breed, Sheryl Davis, Director of the SF Human Rights Commission, and Claudine Cheng, President of the APA Heritage Foundation.
  - Musicians, dancers, and poets took part in this second annual event that recognizes the shared struggle of Black and Asian communities, bringing them together to uplift each other.
- **Night of Ideas**
  - In its fifth year, Night of Ideas takes place on March 2, 2024 at the Main Library.
  - Free to the public, this all night program of talks, performances, and art will center around the theme, "Fault Lines: Outside the Lines."
  - The Main Library will be closed that day to prepare for the event.
  - New this year will be Afternoon of Ideas with family programming from 4-6 pm.

### **Q&A**

- **Leonie (GGV) – Are the folks experiencing homelessness overflow from Maui?**  
Lambert – No, homeless patrons are par for the course in urban libraries.
- **Marcia (EXC) – Were you able to talk to the director of the library in Oahu?**  
Lambert – No, the libraries in Hawaii are managed by the state and not by the municipal government. The State Librarian in Hawaii used to be the California State Librarian.
- **A.J. – Anything new on the budget?**

Lambert – The Library Commission approved the FY25-26 budget and it will next be submitted to the Controller and Mayor’s Budget Office.

### **Library Commission Report - Michael Lambert**

- The agenda and minutes from the February 1st meeting can be found here: <https://sfpl.org/about-us/library-commission/library-commission-agendas-minutes-resolutions>
- The meeting recording can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xW1OcmWmZpY>

### **Budget**

- Two Library Commission meetings were scheduled in February to discuss the budget.
- Chief Financial Officer, Mike Fernandez presented budget proposals to the Library Commission to consider: <https://sfpl.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/ITEM-3-LC-Feb-Budget-Presentation-FY-25-26-Final.pdf>
- A budget was unanimously approved, making a second meeting unnecessary.
- Approved budget: \$186.6 million for FY25 and \$191.6 million for FY26
  - Improvement to the Library Preservation Fund estimates - \$400,000 this year and an additional increase of \$5 million dollars in the following year.
  - An additional \$4.8 million for the Ocean View Branch capital project in both FY25 and FY26
  - \$22 million collections budget
- The updated Strategic Plan will be reflected in next year’s budget proposal.

### **Q&A**

- **Lena (CHI) – There was a flyer outside the Chinatown Library regarding a public hearing on 2/21/24. Do you have any information or updates from that hearing?**  
Lambert – Public Works presented the design for the Chinatown Branch renovation to the Historic Preservation Committee. The design was overwhelmingly approved.
- **Silver (PAR) – Any news on a temporary location for Chinatown?**  
Lambert – We have followed up on some good leads and visited a property yesterday at 950 Grant Street that looks promising. The City’s Real Estate Department will engage with the owner and I hope to have more information at the next meeting.
- **Parrot (EXC) – Is it true that the Mayor has put a hold on staffing?**  
Lambert – That is correct - we can’t add new positions, but we aren’t in danger of losing our vacant positions either. We are filling a lot of the library page and librarian positions, which will bring the number of vacancies back to double digits and to a normal rate of attrition.
- **Sonia (ING) – Is there a timeline for when the security position at Ingleside will be filled?**  
Lambert – Filling the position needs to go through the bureaucracy of the Civil Service process. The person who was hired, reassigned to another branch, so we are back to the beginning stage of hiring for the position. We don’t have a timeline, but we are fully committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment at the branches.

### **Night of Ideas – Kate Patterson**

- Partnering with the Franch Embassy and KQED, SFPL will once again host Night of Ideas on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. All seven floors of the Main Library will be open for a marathon evening of programs.
- New this year is the addition of all ages family programming from 4-6 pm. The Afternoon of Ideas will include music, crafts, interactive dance, and a writing and illustration workshop with award-winning children's book author, Maggie Tokuda-Hall.
- There will be a special program celebrating Muni featuring a decommissioned Muni bus turned into an interactive art installation.
- Other highlights include:
  - Talks about AI
  - Presentations about climate change
  - A panel of chefs discussing Black food in the Bay Area
  - Small business marketplace

### **Q&A**

- **Marcia (EXC) – Will each program be presented only once in the evening?**  
Patterson – Yes, all programs will be presented once except for the presentation and tour of the exhibit in the Jewett Gallery, *Toward a Black Aesthetic: Kenneth P. Green Sr. 's Photographs of the 1960s and 70s.*

**Adjournment: 4:45 pm**

**Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad**