



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
March 27, 2025 4:00 p.m.
CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Facilitator: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor

CNL Members			
Toni Hines (BAY)	x	Helen Land (NBE)	
Katherine Hsieh (CHI)	x	Nicky Trasvina (OVI)	x
Penni Wisner (EVA)		Johanna Lopez Miyaki (OVI)	
Marcia Parrot (EXC)		Edna James (OVI)	
Nora Dowley (GPA)	x	Chuck Moody (ORT)	x
Lindy Chris (GPA)	x	Marcia Erlich (PAR)	
Chloe Rounsley (GGV)	x	Diane Silver (PAR)	x
Leonie van den Berg (GGV)	x	Sherine Ta (PSI)	
Sonia Moscardon (ING)		Lily Li (PSI)	x
Ed Connor (ING)	x	Jon Logan (POR)	x
Deirdre Merrill (MAR)	x	Peter Linenthal (POT)	
Phil Lesure (MAR)	x	Jessica Hyman (POT)	x
Judy Blanchard (MER)	x	Julia Anaya (RIC)	
Kathy Mallegni (MER)		Tara Cahn (RIC)	x
Sharon Chien (MBA)		Deborah Oppenheim (SUN)	x
Janie Alcindor (MBA)		Monica Herbert (WSA)	x
Ruth Maginnis (NVA)	x	Crystal Lê (WSA)	x

COB Office			
Christy Estrovitz		Anne Vannucchi	
Ana Elisa de Campos Salles		Denise Sanderson	x
Genevieve Feldman		Florinda Battad	x
Regan Gong		Michael Roman	x

Library Administrators: Michael Lambert (City Librarian), Dolly Goyal (Chief of Public Services)
 Margot Shaub (Library Commission Affairs Analyst)

Guests: Emily Garvie (Friends of SFPL), Jessica Parker (Friends of SFPL), Michelle Jeffers (Chief of Community Programs & Partnerships)

Housekeeping

Upcoming Meetings

- The next **Library Commission meeting in April** will be on **Thursday, April 17, 2025, 4:30 p.m., Hybrid (In-person and Virtual)**.
- The next **Council of Neighborhood Libraries Meeting in April** will be on **Thursday, April 24, 2025, 4:00 p.m., Virtual**

Announcements

- We welcomed two new CNL members: Jon Logan representing Portola and Ed Connor representing Ingleside.
- Presidio Branch will have their Open House on March 29th.
- The opening reception for the 64th Annual Potrero Hill Artists' Exhibition will take place at the Potrero Branch on Saturday, May 3, 2025. The exhibition is the longest running annual art show in San Francisco. The exhibition will be on view through August 22nd.
- District Managers will present at CNL meetings to talk about the goings on at their branches. They will highlight programs, services, and unique aspects of their branches, as well as address what can be improved. The Central District Manager, Ana Elisa, will be at the April meeting.

Minutes

- Approval of the February meeting minutes will be done at the April meeting.

Friends Updates – Emily Garvie

- Library Laureates will take place on Saturday, May 3rd. Donors at this fundraising event will meet and dine with thirty Bay Area authors while supporting key Library initiatives and the continued renovations of branches.
- Co-hosts at the Night of Ideas after-party disco in the Library's atrium.
- Book Sales
 - Weekly Library Step Sale at the Main Library on Larkin Street (Every Wednesday / 11am – 3pm)
 - Monthly Book Sale at the Friends' Donation Center (April 4 & 5 / 12-5pm)
 - Big Book Sale and Block Party in June

City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert

Library Commissioners

- At a ceremony held at the Potrero Branch, Mayor Lurie appointed two new Library Commissioners. He also reappointed a Commissioner.
- Dr. Shawn Calhoun is the University Library Dean at USF and is the first librarian to serve on the Library Commission.
- Whitney Jones comes from the private sector with a retail and customer service focus having worked as a senior director at Banana Republic.
- Pete Huang served as a Library Commissioner for seven years and was re-appointed.
- Outgoing Commissioners, Susan Moll and Theresa Ono served during the Branch Library Improvement Program and the renewal of the Library Preservation Fund - a period of great successes for the Library.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

- An executive order was signed to continue reducing Federal bureaucracy by cutting the funding and staffing of entities that have been determined as unnecessary, including that of the IMLS.
- The California State Library received \$15.9 million in federal funding in FY24.
- SFPL receives no federal or state funding. The impact will mostly be felt by municipal and rural libraries.
- What you can do:
 - Send a message to your senators and representatives
 - Highlight the issue with your personal network
 - Support the [American Library Association](#)

Library Night with the San Francisco Giants

- SFPL will join 21 other local library systems at Oracle Park to celebrate Library Night at a SF Giants game on April 7th. A portion of ticket sales will support Library programs.

- The Bookmobile will participate in a family friendly pregame event in China Basin Park.

Q&A

- **Judy (MER) – Does the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) still exist? If so, how does it support libraries?**

Lambert – The ULC is a think tank, advocacy organization that works to strengthen and advance the essential role of public libraries. They are banding with the American Library Association, the Public Library Association, and state library agencies to restore the IMLS.

Library Commission Report – Margot Shaub

- The agenda and minutes from previous meetings can be found [here](#).
- The recording for the February 6, 2025 meeting can be found [here](#).
- Facilities Director, John Cunha gave an update on the Library's Capital Projects including timelines for the branch renovations.
- The April 17 meeting will include the following presentations:
 - SWANA (Southwest Asian and North African Heritage) programming
 - Night of Ideas and Library Night updates

Q&A

- **Nora (GPA) – What is the status of the Mission, Chinatown and Ocean View renovations?**

Alcalá-Veraflor – The updates are in the [Facilities presentation](#). Here are some highlights:

- Mission is 40-45% complete with project completion in Spring 2026.
 - The planning phase is complete at Chinatown with construction estimated to begin in October 2025, and project completion in Fall 2027. Moving into the temporary location at 950 Grant Avenue is tentatively scheduled for Summer 2025.
 - Site selection continues for the Ocean View Branch.
 - In other branch projects, roof repair at Park is 20% complete and Mission Bay Branch will have their flooring replaced.
- **Katherine (CHI) – Is the public now able to make comments before the topic? Has public comment been reduced from three minutes to two minutes?**
- Shaub – The public can speak on non-agenda items during general public comments, which occurs at the beginning of the meeting. We made the change to public comments after looking at how other departments conducted community meetings. Limiting public comments to two minutes allows the meeting to move along faster.
- **Deirdre (MAR) – Are the Library Commissioners paid? How do they become Commissioners?**
- Shaub – The seven members of the Library Commission are volunteers, appointed through a political process.
- Lambert – The Library Commission is unique in that they are a part of the executive branch of the government, approving the budget, setting policy, and handling recruitment. The Commissioners have a length of term of four years.

Night of Ideas – Michelle Jeffers

- Night of Ideas (NOI), the annual arts and culture happening, will be celebrated in twenty-four cities across the country, with the biggest event in San Francisco.
- On April 5th from 4:00pm-1:00am the theme of (un)Common Ground will connect the panel discussions, performances, and interactive activities at the Main Library, Fulton Plaza, and the Asian Art Museum.
- Inaugural launch of SPECTRA, an LED public art installation between the Main Library and the Asian Art Museum above Fulton Plaza.

- Afternoon of Ideas will offer family programs from 4:00-6:00pm.
- The evening will end with a disco in the Main Library atrium.

Q&A

- **Lindy (GPA) – How has the event been advertised?**
Jeffers – We’ve mostly advertised on social media. Of the 14,000 tickets that have been handed out, we expect about half to attend.
- **Katherine (CHI) – Is ticketing strict? Can we attend at the last minute?**
Jeffers – Ticketing is not strict.
- **Lily (PSI) – Is there a full list of vendors and activities online that we can share?**
Alcalá-Veraflor – Yes, the [NOI program brochure](#) is available on our website.
Jeffers – There will be over eighty programs including a chance to see the newest exhibit at the Asian Art Museum and attend a talk with the artist, art and performances for all ages, a small business marketplace and food trucks.
- **Lindy (GPA) – Will there be a police presence at Night of Ideas?**
Jeffers – In addition to having Library and museum security present, SFPD will be patrolling the area.
- **Katherine (CHI) – Will there be a recording of Night of Ideas for people who miss it?**
Jeffers – No, the panels and performances will not be recorded. The panel hosted by KQED Forum in the Koret Auditorium will be live streamed.

Additional topics and sharing – All

- During National Library Week (April 6 – 12, 2025), the Library’s Public Relations Department will send a letter to patrons to thank everyone for supporting the Library Preservation Fund (LPF). Thanks to the LPF, City budget cuts will not impact SFPL since we don’t rely on general funding.
- During Mayor Lurie’s press tour and walk through the North Beach neighborhood, he stopped at the North Beach Branch with Michael and Rebecca.
- An event honoring Cesar Chavez takes place at the Glen Park Rec. Center on March 28, 2025 (12:00-1:30pm).
- Go to the library to get your garden ready for spring. Bayview, Park, Potrero and Ortega branches have seed libraries and many branches host plant swaps. Ingleside will have a plant swap on April 4, 2025 (10:00-11:30am).

Q&A

- **Deirdre (MAR) – Any thoughts on an in-person meeting?**
Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor – We would like to have an in-person meeting at a branch. We will send out a survey to find a good date.

Adjournment: 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad