



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of MAY 15, 2025

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting May 15, 2025, at the Koret Auditorium, Main Library and virtually on Zoom.

The SFPL Commission meeting was called to order at **4:30 PM**.

Commissioners Present: Wolf, Huang, Jones, and Calhoun.

President Wolf presented the ancestral homeland acknowledgement of the Ramaytush Ohlone.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment

Stacy Smith said he had an administrative hearing, and the hearing officer did not have access to the appeal and video footage, which countered the incident report.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director of Library Users Association Libraryusers2004@yahoo.com, PO Box 170544, San Francisco California 94117-0544, said there are threats against anyone with the top political person in the country including libraries, which the Commission should consider.

Emily Garvie, Executive Director, Friends of the Library, gave updates of Friends work for the Library including raising \$560,000 through the 2025 Laureates event.

Walt Bilofsky, SF Bay Chapter Freedom From Religion said The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence were going to make public comment about SFPL joining Books Unbanned.

Jason Gibbs, who retired from the Library, learned about the strategic plan, which one discussion was of joy and wonder at the Library, which happens when the trained professionals help patrons find the book or item they are looking for, they are astounded by the system.

Ruben Juarez said he was a representative of SEIU, which welcomes the new and returning Commissioners back.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 17, 2025

Ruben Juarez asked for a correction in the minutes.

Peter Warfield said the minutes do not include every time he mentions his contact information and are brief.

Commission Discussion

Motion: Motion by Vice President **HUANG** to approve the minutes with one edit seconded by Commissioner **CALHOUN** to approve the **APRIL 17, 2025**, Commission Minutes.

Action: AYES 4-0 (Wolf, Huang, Jones and Calhoun)

AGENDA ITEM NO.3 PROGRAMMING PERFORMANCE METRICS

Dolly Goyal, Chief of Public Services and Angel Castro, Administrative Analyst presented Library programming and performance metrics, which are aligned with fulfilling vision 2030 Strategic Priorities of Literary Champion, Cultural Amplifier, Community Catalyzer, Thoughtful Navigator and Resource Provider. They highlighted that although programming has not yet returned to pre-Covid levels they are on track to deliver more than 14,700 programs for all ages, a 63% increase for all programs compared to fiscal year 23 which is when they begin to ramp up programming numbers following the pandemic.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said he generally does not have a problem with what is being presented, but he did not hear about books or anything at all about how to access the tremendously rich collection at the library.

Ruben Juarez said for every program there is preparation for physical preparation that goes into getting the space ready. There is a prep whether it's an in-house program or someone from the outside.

Jason Gibbs, retired Librarian, said he noticed over the past few years there is an inflation in the demand to give programming to the point where there is conflicting programming that divides up the audience. He said it used to be typical for a program to have 100 people attend.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Calhoun thanked staff for the presentation and asked if on the slide with the patron satisfaction where pretty much everything was green, were there things below the fold there may be rated differently.

Randy McClure, Chief Analytics, responded that on the topic of programming this is the complete set of questions.

Commissioner Jones said the work was incredible and this is the power of the systems working together to make all the programming come to life. She asked that for the data to separate out adult versus youth in the diagnostics, it would help the team understand where some of the pain points are and feel focused about supporting patrons effectively.

Vice President Huang said he is proud of SFPL programming and congratulated to everyone who has done anything for a single program and would like to understand the framework by which you consider what better means.

President Wolf said it is fascinating to notice that youth programs have been cut in half since, and adult programming has doubled, this is a great shift and asked if it was this intentional and how does staff set goals each year for the kind of balance and the kind of participation they want.

City Librarian said coming out of COVID, they were focused on recovery and the restoration of what they had pre-pandemic.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief of Community Programs and Partnerships (CPP) said hiring after the pandemic, as we were down some children's librarians, took some time to get fully staffed up and adult attendance does reflect online

programs, which we don't see kids coming to online programs.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Jess Ouyang and Sachiko Iwabuchi, CPP presented highlights of Weaving Stories: Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Heritage month including curated book lists that connect patrons to library materials, the Asian Pacific Islander American a (APIA) biography project, which includes educating the public about APIA Americans and a website created for K- 12 students and a Sake and Shochu event in partnership with the Consulate- General of Japan.

Ruben Balderas, CPP, presented Dia de los Ninos/Dia de los Libros 2025, a celebration of children and books. The first Dia event was held in 1999 and each year since then organizers continue to volunteer time and resources to champion and promote literacy and unite families of all cultures through a community-based child center event. They gave away a thousand children's books in English and Spanish, the annual celebration has distributed over 25,000 multilingual books in the community.

Michelle Jeffers gave highlights from the Jewish American Heritage Month, a new program started this month. Jeffers said this heritage needs to be celebrated in San Francisco and that the Jewish community has been instrumental in this city since gold rush days. The celebrations included a series of family programs, author talks, concerts and workshops.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said he was glad to hear about programming that included books.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Calhoun said he agrees that there is a lack of programming around Jewish heritage and asked what kinds of questions they asked about impact as they were putting that programming.

Jeffers said they talked to partners before planning any programs to identify what was missing and they are working with a pro bono consultant to bring in more questioning and more evaluation of the programs.

City Librarian Lambert said through Vision 2030 and implementing our new strategic plan, part of that process for the upcoming fiscal year is to develop criteria to assess programs success and what to sunset.

President Connie Wolf said the public programs are at the core of who the library is in reaching community partnerships and every program is free and accessible.

PRESIDENT WOLF ADJOURNED THE MEETING at 6:01 PM

Margot Shaub, Commission Affairs Analyst

To access **Commission Meeting recordings** please visit: [SFPL Commission Meeting 15 May 2025](#)
Commission Affairs Analyst, 6th floor, Main Library, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-4733.

Please note: These are draft minutes subject to revision by the San Francisco Public Library Commission. Copies of the minutes and handouts are available in the office of the Library Commission Affairs Analyst, 6th floor, Main Library, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-4733.

Explanatory documents: Copies of listed explanatory documents are available as follows: (1) from the Commission Liaison Affairs Analyst/Custodian of Records, 6th floor, Main Library; (2) in the rear of Koret

Auditorium immediately prior to, and during, the meeting; and (3), to the extent possible, on the Public Library Commission webpage: sfpl.org/library-commission/public-notice/agendas. Additional materials not listed as explanatory documents on this agenda, if any, that are distributed to Library Commissioners prior to or during the meeting in connection with any agenda item will be available to the public for inspection and copying in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.1 and Sunshine Ordinance Sections 67.9, 67.28(b), and 67.28(d).