



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
October 23, 2025 4:00 p.m.
CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting
Facilitator: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor

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

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

Library Administrators: Michael Lambert (City Librarian), Margot Shaub (Library Commission Analyst)

Guests: Jessica Parker (Friends of SFPL)

Housekeeping

Upcoming Meetings

- The next **Library Commission meeting in November** will be on **Thursday, November 20, 2025, 4:30 p.m., Hybrid (In-person and Virtual)**.

- There will not be a Council of Neighborhood Libraries meeting in November.
- The next **Council of Neighborhood Libraries meeting will be an in-person meeting in December.** The date and time are to be determined.

Announcements

- Henry Roark joins the CNL representing Eureka Valley Branch. Welcome Henry!
- Julia Gitis (WPO) will be starting the neighborhood steering committees for 2026 [Good Neighbor Week](#) this winter. She will reach out to CNL representatives who would like to participate with their branch managers. Contact her if you haven't already.

Minutes

- The September meeting minutes were approved.

City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert

ICE and Federal Troops in SF

- Community and advocacy groups had planned vigils at neighborhood libraries in response to Donald Trump's threats to send federal troops to San Francisco.
- Organizers were informed that as a municipal department, the Library needs to remain non-partisan and couldn't endorse, co-sponsor, or be affiliated in a direct manner with any political actions. The vigils were welcome if they didn't obstruct entry into the library.
- Library staff were given resources describing local sanctuary laws and guidance about rules that apply to City employees when interacting with ICE and law enforcement.

Programming Updates

- One City One Book (OCOB)
 - OCOB is the annual literary event where all San Franciscans are encouraged to read the same book at the same time and come together to discuss it.
 - This year's selection is [The Worlds I See: Curiosity, Exploration, and Discovery at the Dawn of AI by Fei-Fei Li](#).
 - There will be a variety of programs for all ages in support of the event during AI Week (December 11-17), with the highlight being [a conversation with the author on 12/17 at the Koret Auditorium](#).
- [Living Tattoo Traditions: American Irezumi and Beyond](#)
 - This exhibit showcases the "American Irezumi" style, which blends traditional Japanese tattooing with American influences, to explore how tattooing tells stories of identity, place, and cross-cultural experience.

Visitor and Circulation Statistics

- Foot traffic into the libraries continues to increase, with over 4.5 million visitors this fiscal year.
- September had the highest circulation numbers with 13.9 million items circulating. The Library is trending towards 15 million items circulating, which would be a new record.

Q&A

- **Monica (WSA) - What is the Library's policy on groups disseminating materials? Do they need to be vetted by library staff?**
 Lambert – Yes, we direct folks to submit their materials to our Public Affairs office before they can be distributed at the Library. We can maintain a non-partisan perspective while fulfilling our strategic priority of being a thoughtful navigator and guiding people to resources that help them feel safe and empowered.
 Alcalá-Veraflor - We work with the City's Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) to provide resources for immigrants, such as know your rights and pathways to citizenship information.

- **Ed (ING) - Is it possible to hang banners similar to the ones at [City Lights](#) on our libraries?**

Lambert – We can consider it.

- **Marcia (PAR) - Are vigils planned at all the branches?**

Jon (POR) - [Bay Resistance](#) is hosting the vigils at all libraries except Chinatown and Visitacion Valley Branch. The purpose for gathering at the libraries is to have a peaceful and respectful event where the community can come together. The goal is to leverage the physical location of the libraries as essential community hubs but not ‘overrun’ the libraries with political action. Participants will mostly remain outside except to print materials and use the restroom.

Lambert – The vigil in Chinatown will be at Portsmouth Square. We hope people attending the vigils will take the opportunity to come into the library

- **Deirdre (MAR) - Is there an update on the decision made by the Commission Streamlining Task Force regarding the Library Commission?**

Lambert – The Task Force has recommended keeping the Library Commission but took away its authority to hire and fire the City Librarian. The authority has always been with the mayor, with the recommendation actualizing what is already in place.

- **Henry (EVA) - From an equity perspective, would it be more accessible for Storytime and other popular events to do a lettery in advance so it’s not whoever can get there first?**

Lambert – Thanks for the suggestion. We can broach this idea with our Children’s Librarians.

Library Commission Report – Margot Shaub

- The agenda and minutes from previous meetings can be found here: <https://sfpl.org/about-us/library-commission/library-commission-agendas-minutes-resolutions>
- The recording of the October 16th meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RjGWyQJuZU>
- Presentation highlights include:
 - Summer Stride
 - Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP) Progress Report
 - Exhibition Highlights
 - One City Once Book
- Next meeting on November 20:
 - FY 24-25 Annual Report
 - Capital Projects Update
 - Tricycle Music Fest
 - Bay Beats
 - First Person: Native American Heritage Celebration

Friends of SFPL Updates – Jessica Parker

Capital Campaigns

- Fundraising for the Mission Branch is ending soon, with construction expected to be completed in May 2026.
- Fundraising campaign for the Chinatown Branch continues.

SF Litquake

- San Francisco’s largest independent literary festival (10/9 - 10/25) concludes with Lit Crawl, a literary pub crawl through the Mission District on Saturday, 10/25.

- Participating in Lit Crawl will be four of the [2025-2026 Lisa Brown and Daniel Handler Residents](#) reading at the Et al. Gallery.

Q&A

- **Monica (WSA) - Do the Lisa Brown and Daniel Handler Residents receive a stipend?**
Parker – No, they don't receive a stipend, but they do receive free studio space, help promoting their work, and collaboration opportunities with SFPL.

CNL Support at the Branches (Branch Managers Meeting feedback) – Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor

Branch Managers met on October 16th and were given the ideas and questions CNL members had for supporting their branches. Branch Managers were excited to work with their CNL representatives and shared the following:

- Help with programs
 - Prepare materials for take-home arts and crafts kits
 - Distribute program information
 - Promote and attend library programs and the Open House
- Share neighborhood events
 - Make sure the library is aware of neighborhood events so that they can be included in the branch newsletter.
- Create community connections
 - Introduce branch managers to community groups and merchant organizations
- Have regular check-ins
 - Meet off-site for coffee or tea

Q&A

- Lambert – SFPL is a robust library system, spending about \$26 million a year on library services. It's a different story for small, rural libraries and other municipal systems. Funding for California public libraries saw a 50% cut in the 2024-25 budget cycle, reducing funding to about \$1.8 million for all of California. The most important thing you can do as a CNL member is to be an advocate for public libraries. Contact your representatives and urge them to support [restoring the California Library Services Act funding to pre-cut levels of \\$5 million](#). We may ask you to help in other ways, such as going as a group to Sacramento to meet with legislators.
- **Nicky (OVI) - It might be nice for CNL members to have something that shows we are representing SFPL, maybe a badge?**
Alcalá-Veraflor – We can follow-up with the Library's Volunteer Coordinator.
- **Lindy (GPA) - Are all libraries polling locations?**
Feldman – No, only nine branches will be polling locations. Usually there are more, but since it is a special election, there are just nine. Voting happens in the community rooms, which have a separate entrance, so folks are able to vote before the library opens and after the library closes.

Adjournment: 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad