



San Francisco Public Library

**MINUTES**  
**Council of Neighborhood Libraries**  
**August 22, 2019**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**CALL TO ORDER**

**Meeting Location:** Latino Hispanic Room

**Facilitator:** Cathy Delneo, Chief of Branches

**Attendees:** AJ Cave (ANZ), Larry Ware (BAY), Katherine Hsieh (CHI), Penni Wisner (EVA), Jules Older (GGV), Gail Seagraves (Main), Mailine Chew (Main), Susan Leurey (MER), Judy Blanchard (MER), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Kathleen McClay (NBE), Bessie Hahn (ORT), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Diane Silver (PAR), Deborah Oppenheim (SUN)

**Excused:** Lena Yu (CHI), Marcia Parrot (EXC), Ruth Grabowski (EXC), Nora Dowley (GPA), Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE), Edna James (OVI), Philip Gray (OVI), Michael Leahy (PSI), Don Thielges (POR), Marcia Popper (PRE), Kaitlyn Tran (PRE), Elaine Cahn (RIC), Joan Walton (SUN), Rochelle Fort (VVA), Maryam Roberts (WPO), Callen Taylor (WSA)

**Library Administrators:** Michael Lambert (City Librarian), Sue Blackman (Library Commission Secretary), Tom Fortin (Chief of Main)

**Guests:** Anissa Malady (Community Programs and Partnerships)  
Shellie Cocking (Collections and Technical Services)

**HOUSEKEEPING**

- The next **Library Commission Meeting** will be on **Thursday, September 19, 2019, 4:30 p.m.** in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

CNL Members to attend the upcoming Library Commission Meeting:

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Please contact the Chief of Branches Office if you would like to volunteer to attend.

- The next **CNL Meeting** will be on **Thursday, September 26, 2019, 4:00 p.m.** in the Latino Hispanic Meeting Room, Main Library.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Cathy welcomed two new CNL members, Philip Gray (Ocean View) and Katherine Hsieh (Chinatown), and thanked and bid farewell to resigning member, Pinkie Bolden (Ocean View).
- The Library Community Baby Shower will take place at Bayview Branch on Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> (12:00 – 3:00 pm). The event is for families who are expecting or have infants or toddlers, and features a Baby Rhyme Time and Playtime, community resources, breastfeeding support, and a raffle.
- The Friends of SFPL will have their Annual Big Book Sale at Fort Mason from September 18-22 (10 am – 6 pm), with a Friends Member Preview Sale and Reception on September 17th (4-8 pm).
- ¡Viva! is SFPL's annual celebration of Latino Hispanic heritage. There will be events and programs featuring food, crafts, author talks, book clubs, music and dance for all ages throughout the months of September, October and early November.
- Chief of Branches (COB) office updates:
  - Anne Vannucchi recently became the permanent South East District Manager.
  - Ramses Escobedo, the acting South West District Manager will return to his previous position as the Excelsior Branch Manager in September.
  - The new Central District Manager, Rose Harrington will start in mid-September.
  - Recruitment will begin for acting District Managers for the North East and South West Districts.
- It was noted that the cost of the Exploratorium's Middle Ground exhibit was closer to \$2M.

## **UPDATES**

### **City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert**

- Michael was pleased to announce that Maureen Singleton will serve as SFPL's Chief Operating Officer (COO). Maureen was appointed as the Library's Chief Financial Officer in 2011, and had been serving as Acting COO since March 2018. Maureen is a 17-year veteran of the City and County of San Francisco, starting her career in city government as a budget analyst for the Board of Supervisors' Budget Analysts Office.
- The new SFPL library card design features the San Francisco Giants, and was launched during the Junior Giants Day celebration at Oracle Park on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Four thousand books were given away at the event, and Michael and Cathy were on hand to help register kids for library cards.
- The Library was presented with two celadon seals by Mr. Xiaoming Zhao, the Chairman of the Board of the US Asian Cultural Academy, as a gift to promote culture and friendship, as well as to recognize SFPL's commitment to the preservation and dissemination of Asian culture. The seals were brought to the CNL meeting by the City Librarian. The seals are engraved with "San Francisco Public Library" in English and in Chinese, and are on display in the Chinese Center in the Main Library.

## **Library Commission Report – Sue Blackman**

- **SFUSD Partnership - [SFUSD Partnership](#)**

SFPL librarians have long collaborated with SFUSD teacher librarians to better serve students and promote reading.

- The ConnectED Library Card Challenge is an initiative to create partnerships between library directors, elected leaders, and school officials in order to make it possible for every child in school to have a library card and be able access to the library's books and resources.
- SFPL's Scholar Card program created library card accounts for all SFUSD students by using the data shared by SFUSD. 65% of the accounts have been activated. Many of the unactivated cards belong to students who already have library accounts.
- Kevin Truitt, the Chief of the Student, Family and Community Support Division of the SFUSD spoke passionately about the public library in his community as a sanctuary for him growing up, and the testament to the power of reading. He acknowledged the effort of SFPL librarians to visit classrooms, and thereby cement the relationship between individual schools and branches.

- **Fine Free Implementation - [Fine Free Implementation](#)**

SFPL goes fine free on September 16!

- Not only will overdue fines be eliminated, but past overdue fines will be forgiven, items checked out to patrons will automatically renew, and library access will be restored for those patrons who have stopped coming to the library because of outstanding fines.
- Fabulously Fine Free! is the tagline for the campaign, evoking a feeling of joy, celebration and welcome, as well as tapping into San Francisco Pride.

- **Budget FY20-21 - [Budget FY 2020-21](#)**

- In July the Board of Supervisors finalized the budgets for FY20 and FY21. Total expenditures in FY20 is \$171.6M, and in FY21 is \$168.9M.
- The Board passed a resolution for the Library to accept and expend the annual monies from the Friends of SFPL in the amount of \$807, 820.
- The Board also passed the ordinance to eliminate overdue fines for library materials and forgive outstanding overdue fines.

- **Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Services – [TAY Services at SFPL](#)**

TAY services are devoted to young adults between the ages of 18 to 25 who are transitioning into adulthood, with an emphasis on serving youth coming out of the foster care or criminal justice system and/or marginalized in some way.

- More intentional approach to connect youth with the Library and its resources
- Outreach visits to and partnerships with organizations such as Larkin Street Youth Services and Huckleberry Youth Programs
- *The Power of Creating Resilience: Art by Transitional Age Youth of San Francisco* is an exhibit from the Art Program at Larkin Street Youth Services, and is on view on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at the Main through September 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **One City One Book – Anissa Malady**

- [One City One Book.pptx](#)

- In its 15<sup>th</sup> year, One City One Book is the Library's annual citywide community reading program where everyone in the city is encouraged to read and discuss the same book.
- The title selected for this year's event is *There There* by Tommy Orange, which tells the story of the urban Native American experience in Oakland.
- The program will coincide with the City's celebration of indigenous people and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alcatraz Uprising, and is in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission, Oakland Public Library, City College of San Francisco, and June Jordan School of Equity.
- There will be many events and programs related to One City One Book, including:
  - an author talk with Tommy Orange on October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Main Library
  - Anissa will lead book club discussions at 16 branch libraries and the Main
  - *Reclaiming Space: Portraits of the American Indian Community* – a temporary public art project by the San Francisco Arts Commission that will project photos of members of the American Indian community onto the Main Library.
  - SFPL's Native American Heritage Month celebration on October 26 – November 30
- Larry (BAY) – *Bayview Branch is not one of the branches that is having a book club discussion.*

Branch Managers responded to Anissa's call to host a book club. If your branch is not hosting a book club, but you would like them to, please let your branch manager know or send an email to the Chief of Branches office.

- Kathleen (NBE) – *How are books chosen for One City One Book?*  
Books are chosen by a selection committee made up of SFPL's Community Programs and Partnerships staff, Library Commission members, book sellers, and community members. The committee will be looking for new folks for next year. CNL members interested in being on the committee can contact Anissa ([anissa.malady@sfpl.org](mailto:anissa.malady@sfpl.org)).  
A book is chosen if it can meet certain criteria, such as reflects the diversity of San Francisco, deals with issues facing San Franciscans, is San Francisco based, appeals to both adults and high schoolers.
- Diane (PAR) – *Is there a discussion guide available?*  
Yes, a program guide will be available. It will include book discussion questions as well as a listing of the many events and programs related to One City One Book.
- Jules (GGV) – *New Zealand and Australia have a reading program where the two countries are reading the same book.*  
SFPL and the Shanghai Pudong Library are having their Two Cities One book program in September, where the people of San Francisco and Shanghai will read and discuss *Little Bee* by Chris Cleave.
- The group voted to have a book discussion of *There There* by Tommy Orange at our October CNL meeting.

### **Trends in Library Collections – Shellie Cocking**

- San Francisco residents responding to the 2019 City Survey, gave the Library's collection a grade of A-. The Library's healthy \$17M collections budget will allow an increase in physical and electronic resources in FY2020.
- Circulation of physical items peaked in FY2012, however circulation of electronic materials has been steadily increasing, resulting in an overall upward trend in circulation.
- Other trends in collections in the past year include:
  - huge increase in eAudiobook circulation
  - non-English digital magazines are available through Kono Digital

- decrease in demand for music
- Changes in technology have expanded the Library's mission and how to best meet the needs of the public.
  - Evidence-based Selection Planning (ESP) helps the Library select what titles to buy, which branches to buy them for, and the number of copies to buy for each branch. It predicts how a title will circulate by recommending a score based on analytics.
  - Streaming media platforms, such as hoopla and Kanopy meets the demand for immediate access.
- The Lucky Day Collection is a collection of popular titles that are available for immediate check-out, even when there are multiple holds on the title.
  - Luck Day books cannot be reserved or renewed.
  - Lucky Day books are available at seven branches and the Main, with the goal of them being at all locations.
- Marcia (PAR) – *How do you decide how much to buy?*  
The Collection Development staff use their experience as librarians, as well as the ESP tool. The goal is to always have 1 copy for every 3 holds on a title. The average wait for a popular title with a lot of reserves is about 12 weeks.
- Cathy – *How many different vendors do you have?*  
The Library has contracts with 20 vendors.
- A.J. (ANZ) – *I did not hear back from the Library after suggesting a title.*  
If you suggest a title through the Classic Catalog, the suggestion goes into a database and a response cannot be generated. However, if you suggest a title by logging into your Bibliocommons account, you will get a response. You can suggest up to 10 titles a month through Bibliocommons.
- Kathleen (NBE) – *How does the Library go from having no copies of a movie for a long time to suddenly having ten copies?*  
Movie titles sometimes go out of print. When they become available again, the Library will purchase many copies while they are available. The Collection Development staff have a list of titles on their “wish list” – titles that they are waiting to come back into print. \$2K from the Friends can be used to purchase movies unavailable from vendors through other sources.
- A.J. (ANZ) – *Why does the Library purchase dubbed versions of foreign language movies?*  
Sometimes movies in the original language are not made available to the U.S. market and cannot be purchased legally.
- Katherine (CHI) – *Disney books were previously unavailable. Why are they available now?*  
Disney books weren't purchased for a couple of reasons: the books were bound poorly and the budget at the time was a lot smaller. With the Library preservation fund, the Library can purchase materials more freely, especially if there is an interest in the community.
- A.J (ANZ) – *How much of the budget is spent on video games?*  
Video games on the computers are not part of the collection budget.
- Ruth (NVA) – *Is the selection for children's materials similar to the selection for adult materials?*  
Yes, the process is the same for selecting children's and adult materials. Current titles are evaluated and selected by selection committees made up of librarians from the Main, Branches and the Collection Development Office (CDO). Librarians in CDO make the final decision about what titles are purchased, the number of copies purchased, and their distribution.

**Adjournment: 5:30 pm**

**Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad**