

**Date:** December 19, 2018  
**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the Council  
**From:** Steve Fjeldsted, Director of Library, Arts, and Culture  
**Re:** **Fiscal Year 2017-18 Annual Report of Library Board of Trustees**

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The mission of the Library Board of Trustees (LBT) is to monitor the activities and progress of the South Pasadena Public Library (SPPL), to work with Library staff in the development of the proposed budget request to the City Council, and to advise the Library on policy. Currently, the LBT consists of Brendan Durrett, Carolyn Flemming, Alan Jutzi, David Uwins and Luther Luedtke. Rick Thomas completed his term in December 2017, and Andy Lippman resigned in July 2018. The Board welcomed David Uwins in February 2018, and Luther Luedtke in June 2018.

FY 2017-18 has been another banner year for the Library in updating and improving its ability to meet the cultural and educational needs of the community. The City Council, City Manager's Office, and fellow departments deserve special credit for all the support they provided. The LBT is also very appreciative of the Friends of the Library (FOL) as well as the Library's outstanding staff and volunteers. Gratitude is also extended to the legions of dedicated library users, including voters and taxpayers, for their strong support.

Again during FY 2017/18, the Library has enjoyed enviable staffing stability in its Senior Management and been able to add an Assistant Director for the first time. The Library's new Assistant Director, Cathy Billings, has worked diligently assisting with day-to-day operations. The Board is hopeful that the Library will also be able to fill the remaining open positions in its organization chart. In addition, the Board has encouraged review of library staffing to explore whether one of the two part-time children's librarian positions could be replaced with a full-time position, so that the Library can offer consistent staffing in what is perhaps its most beloved department. However, the Board is well aware that this would bump the Library up to 11 full time staff, that there are serious fiscal challenges looming ahead for the City, and that personnel changes are not within its purview. The LBT has also expressed hopefulness that the Library will be able to fill the remaining open positions in its organization chart: Digital Services Manager and Local History Librarian.

The Library has accomplished meeting many important Goals of its ambitious *Library Operations Study* (LOS) and its follow-up, the *Library Strategic Plan, 2017-2022*. As presented to the City Council on September 29, 2018, 40 of the 56 goals of the LOS were either completed or in progress.

Perhaps the most important initial strides in meeting the goals of the LOS were ushered in with the implementation of the CENIC grant project from the California State Library. It brought a high speed broadband connection, vastly improved Wi-Fi, and equipment and connectivity discounts. As also recommended by the LOS, the LBT has continued its work to develop plans for the formation of a Library Foundation with the FOL. Another major fundraising nonprofit is a necessity in these times of budgetary challenges coupled with the expressed Library needs of the community. The proposed subcommittee would work to create a Foundation to raise funds for large scale projects like the remodeling of the Library's interior entryway. The LBT has already favorably received a top interior designer's plans. With help from staff and a volunteer, the LBT has also developed a fundraising letter for local estate attorneys to share with their clients. The LBT also reviewed Community Room fees with an eye to comparable facilities and local usage patterns and submitted recommendations for the updated fee schedule. The Board also instituted a Library policy for donated artwork.

As in previous years, the Library hosted many major events and partnered with almost all local clubs and organizations in significant ways. These included a screening of "La La Land," partially filmed at the Rialto Theatre, as well as showings of "Buffalo Bill" with South Pasadena-born Joel McCrea, and for Halloween-time, "Damien: Omen II" with South Pasadena-bred William Holden. For the Holden Centennial Celebration on April 17, 2018, his "Country Girl" with Grace Kelly and Bing Crosby was shown to an enthusiastic audience.

South Pasadena residents, California State Poet Laureate Dana Gioia, and stand-up comedian Don Friesen, were showcased on separate occasions to large appreciative audiences. For the Winter Arts Crawl in February 2018, Lissa Reynolds, a local actress and theatre co-owner, was presented on the first floor of the Library while a Chinese-American Art Gallery was showcased upstairs. Other popular events were a 'Latinx Literary Love-In,' with poetry, live music and Mexican food; a Family Friendly Comedy Night, a Ribbon Cutting for the FOL-funded Jolino Beserra-designed mosaic archway for the Children's Room, and a presentation by Dodgers' play-by-play announcer Joe Davis, another South Pasadena resident.

The LBT and Library staff held the Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on April 23, 2018 with John Horn from KPCC as the Keynote Speaker. On April 28, 2018 the Library accommodated more than 600 for five concert performances on its Carnegie Stage of the Eclectic Music Festival with sets by South Pasadenans Calvin Joe, Dave Kinnoin, David Plenn, and others. On May 25, 2018 the Library's week-long "Sanctuary" Art Exhibit opened and more than 650 attended during its five-day run that also featured live music and author talks. The Library also conducted another lively Summer Reading Program with more than 1500 youth participants. In June 2018, it hosted a grant-funded two-day workshop to capture the unheard personal stories of the 710 Freeway Fighters in digital form for later showing.

These are just a few examples of the Library's many vibrant events and projects that contributed contribution to the City's rich cultural life during FY 2017-18. Not content to rest on its laurels, the Library continues to generate new ideas and projects and to attract more users and supporters. Work at all levels is positive and constructive plans are being developed to further update, enhance and improve the highly popular, venerable institution.