

Jerold D Kappel, CEO
The Library Foundation of Newport Beach

Memo



To: Library Trustees
From: Jerold D Kappel, CEO
Date: July 14, 2026
Re: Library Foundation Report

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1. **Governance and Management:** The June 2026 Board Meeting was held on Monday, June 22. The meeting was held in the Central Library Friends Room. The Board approved the draft budget for FY2027.
 - a. The next meeting will be on Monday, August 24 in the Friends Room. There is no July meeting.
 - b. The Foundation's audit is scheduled. We anticipate completion in mid-September. As noted previously, the Foundation's audits and public copy of the IRS Form 990 are published on our website. The Foundation has the highest rating for transparency and accountability by the rating organizations Candid and Charity Navigator.
 2. **Witte Hall:** The Grand Opening Weekend events were very successful. Over 1,600 people attended at least one of the four events and toured Witte Hall. The four events were the City Council ribbon cutting, the Donor Grand Opening, the Library Open House and presentations in the Hall, Meet the Author, and Sunday Musicale.
 - a. The Donor Grand Opening on July 10.
 - i. Over 300 registered to attend. The reaction to the Hall and celebration was overwhelming. Invited were donors at the \$25,000 and up level, Library leadership and Trustees, City department directors, and community leaders.
 1. The technology and acoustics in the Hall are superior. This will be a very fine venue for the Musicales and other community music groups.
 - ii. The Library Foundation published a 56-page program book for the Grand Opening Weekend and inaugural Witte Hall season. It includes all Foundation and Library events scheduled as of this date in Witte Hall. 15% of the program book is dedicated to the Library and to Library events.

1. Ad and tribute ads sales were successful, especially as it is the first time the Foundation published a season program or attempted to sell ads. Most of the ads were “tribute” ads celebrating the opening of Witte Hall.
2. Over 900 Program Books were distributed over the weekend of events. The book is already being reprinted.
- iii. The Foundation secured five sponsors for the opening event: Hoag Hospital, Samuelli Foundation, Related Company, McKenna Automotive, and South Coast Plaza. Argyros Foundation also made a contribution to help underwrite the event.
- iv. Witte Hall will remain dark in order for the contractor to complete the construction, including the “punch list.” As of the date of this report, there is nothing scheduled in the Hall until the Grieving lecture on August 13.
3. **Development:** The annual Summer Solstice Celebration for new members of the Foundation was held on Wednesday, June 24. The Foundation honored Clarence and Janice Turner and Tod and Linda White. The event was held on the patio of the Community Room.
4. **Bookmark** was mailed the week of June 22. In addition to Foundation information, it also included two pages on the Library, two pages on Project Adult Literacy, and two on the cultural arts. Bookmark is now 24 pages. For the Winter/Spring edition we will include the Library annual report as well as the Foundation annual report.
 - a. Bookmark is mailed to over 1,200 donors and community leaders and another 600 are distributed through the (now) three branches and other City outlets.
5. **Foundation Endowment:** The Foundation approved the Library grant request for \$182,500 at its May Board meeting. The grant was transmitted to the Library on June 26.
6. **Programming**
 - a. The programming for the 2026-2027 season is confirmed and was announced in the June Bookmark. The Witte Lectures, Library Live, Spotlight on Science, and The Library Foundation Presents will be held in Witte Hall. All other programs—Medicine in Our Backyard, Financial Literacy, and the Book Discussion group--will continue to be held in the Friends Room.
 - i. The Foundation will present three special lectures this coming season. On August 13, the Foundation will present a special Library Live lecture as part of Newport Beach Art Week. Tim Grieving will present *John Williams: A Composer's Life*. The Newport Beach Film Festival will also promote the event.
 - ii. On November 10, under a new program name, The Library Foundation Presents, Walter Stahr will introduce his newly published biography on *William Howard Taft: A Great American Life*. This will be a free event. Another Library Foundation Presents is in the planning stage. It will be held in the Spring.
 - b. For the 2026-2027 season the Library will present three special donor events (Witte Hall Grand Opening, Library Leadership Reception, Summer Solstice Celebration), three special lectures, eight Witte Lectures (4 weekends), four Library Live author lectures, four free Spotlight on Science lectures, nine Book Discussions, 12 Financial Workshops, and eight Medicine in Our Backyard lectures. That is a total of 51 events presented by the Library Foundation, 34 of which are free events open to the public.