

Jerold D Kappel, CEO

Newport Beach Public Library Foundation

Memo

To: Library Trustees
From: Jerold D Kappel, CEO
Date: April 16, 2025
Re: Library Foundation Report

1. The April 2025 Board Meeting was held on Monday April 14. Melissa Hartson, Library Director, reviewed National Library Week events, the Balboa Branch closing and construction, and the elevator replacement in the Central Library.
2. Library Live committee added two new members: Elizabeth Manji and Elizabeth Hanauer.
3. The next Foundation Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2025.
4. The Development Committee reviewed the planning for the June 18 Summer Solstice Celebration event. The Summer Solstice event was inaugurated in June 2022 to celebrate new members of the Foundation that joined during the pandemic closing and to attract new members to the Foundation. Invited to the event are new members that joined in FY2025 (beginning July 1), the Library Leadership Circle donors (\$1,000 plus), the Foundation Board, the Library Trustees, City Council members, and City officials.
 - a. The event includes a reception and a speaker. This year we have Michael Hiltzik, LA Times Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of the recently published history Golden State: The Making of California.
 - b. The event will also honor the Foundation's immediate past chair, and a former Trustee of the Library, Karen Scott Clark.

- c. Because the courtyard will be under construction and the Friends Room will have limited occupancy, the Summer Solstice Celebration will be held in the Civic Center Community Room and adjoining lawn.
5. Project Adult Literacy: The Library will present its grant request to the Foundation at the Literacy Committee meeting on April 22. The request will then be presented to the Foundation Board at its May Meeting; upon approval it will be incorporated into the FY2026 budget. The grant funding will be remitted to the Library in early July.
6. Programming
- a. The final Witte Lecture Series for 2025 will be with M. Chris Fabricant, author of *Junk Science*, on April 18 and 19. The Witte Lectures have been sold out all season.
 - b. The final Library Live lecture by Viet Thanh Nguyen, author of *The Sympathizer*, on April 24 is sold out. All Library Live lectures this season have been to capacity Friends Room attendance.
 - c. The final free Medicine in Our Backyard lectures are on April 28 and May 19. The April lecture is on Managing Memory Loss, and the May lecture on Melanoma.
 - i. Due to the Courtyard construction, the May lecture will be in the Community Room.
 - d. The six Spring free Finance Literacy Workshops focus on estate planning. The final workshops are on April 21 and April 28. The workshops began a month earlier this year in order to avoid the courtyard construction Friends Room limitations.
 - i. Reminder that the Foundation funds a program called FreeWill for which anyone can make a totally free will or simple estate plan. The program is available for any library patron on the Foundation website under the Ways to Give/Estate Planning tab. It is not required to leave a legacy to the Foundation by using this free service. This is one way the Foundation can support financial literacy for all Library patrons.
 - e. The final free Book Discussion Group is May 14 to discuss *The Book of Goose: A Novel* by Yiyun Li. Because the Book Discussion Group has about 40 participants, it will still be held in the Friends Room.
 - f. The final free Spotlight on Science with Dr. Lucy Jones, the renowned seismologist, speaking about California's seismic activity, will be on April 30. It will be the last major program in the Friends Room until the construction of the Hall and Courtyard is finished.
7. The Foundation will have a hybrid home/library work schedule during the Central Library closing because of the HVAC replacement and other renovations during the September closing.
- a. All Foundation programs, including the fall Library Leadership Reception, will be moved to the Community Room during September and October 2025.

8. The Foundation is still monitoring the funding impact of what the potential loss of IMLS funding in the Grants to States program will have on all of California libraries and the services that the State Library offers free of charge to all libraries across the state.
 - a. All IMLS staff have been furloughed. The newly appointed IMLS interim director is attempting to claw back and/or rescind all IMLS grants that have already been granted, both to libraries and museums.
 - b. Federal grants are primarily a reimbursement of funds already expended for a project once a grant is given. This means that many libraries and museums that receive grants, including statutory Grants to States, have already spent project funds with the expectation that the agency will reimburse those expenditures according to the grant agreement.
9. Beyond Books capital campaign has raised cash and future gifts of over \$11,100,000 as of 4/16/2025. This includes interest on the account.
10. Witte Hall Grand Opening: There is a sub-committee working on the donor appreciation event which will be the Thursday of Grand Opening weekend.
 - a. Public Works (Peter Tauscher), Recreation and Senior Services (Sean Levin), the Library (Rebecca Lightfoot), Kunga Wangmo and Jerold Kappel had the first meeting about the Grand Opening weekend. As planning progresses, the Foundation will seek corporate sponsors for that weekend.
 - b. It is planned that the Foundation will publish a program book for the entire weekend that will include a full listing of Hall donors, programs and notes, and sponsor recognition.
11. The ribbon-cutting of Witte Hall is currently scheduled for December 9, 2025, prior to the final City Council meeting of 2025. The Grand Opening weekend is scheduled for March 20-22, 2026. There will be a special event for donors at the \$25,000 and up level on Thursday, March 19, 2026.
12. Orange County Business Journal Giving Guide has been published. The Library Foundation has a two-page spread. One side has general information about the Foundation and the other side is an ad for the Beyond Books Campaign for Witte Hall.
13. Jerold Kappel, the CEO of the Foundation, gave an informative presentation on the Hall to the Board of Visit Newport Beach. The Newport Beach Film Festival stated that it cannot wait to have the Hall as a presentation site for its films, especially documentaries and short films.