

Memo



To: Library Trustees
From: Jerold D Kappel, CEO
Date: May 12, 2026
Re: Library Foundation Report

1. **Governance and Management:** The April 2026 Board Meeting was held on Monday April 27. Chase Reif, Library Trustee and Foundation Liaison, and Melissa Hartson, Library Director, attended. The meeting was held in the Central Library Friends Room.
 - a. The next meeting will be on Monday, May 18 in the Friends Room. This will be a week early because of Memorial Day.
2. **Witte Hall:** The construction update provided on April 24 states that the date for “Substantial Completion” is now July 6, 2026. That is another delay in completion. The City is still planning its ribbon cutting for Thursday July 9.
 - a. The Grand Opening Committee is continuing the planning for the July 10 Grand Opening. Randy Heyler is chairing the opening event.
 - i. Formal invitations are set to be mailed the week of May 18.
 - ii. The Library is planning additional free to the community events for Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12 (Sunday Musicale.)
 - iii. The Library Foundation will publish a program book for the Grand Opening Weekend and inaugural Witte Hall season to include all Foundation and Library events in Witte Hall. Advertising is available in the program book.
 - iv. The Library Foundation is soliciting corporate sponsorships for the Grand Opening donor event and weekend activities.
 - b. The Beyond Books Campaign active fundraising effort for the campaign is now over. The Foundation exceeded goal by more than \$1 million. The Foundation has also funded a larger video screen, seat plates for a seat campaign for the future, redesigned donor signage, and auditorium and other signage.
3. **Development:** The annual Summer Solstice Celebration for new members of the Foundation will be held on Wednesday, June 24. Hold the date emails will go out the week of May 18 and formal invitations the following week. The Foundation will be honoring Clarence Turner and Tod and Linda White. The event will be held on the patio of the Community Room.

4. **Foundation Literacy Committee and Endowment:** The Foundation has contributed \$25,000 to Project Adult Literacy from its Literacy Endowment.
- a. Funding for the Hoffman Awards will be determined once all applications have been received. The Hoffman Awards for FY 2027 (Summer 2026) can be as much as \$1400 based on the current value of the endowment.
 - b. The Literacy Endowment is +/- \$561,000 dependent on the market. The Literacy Endowment is governed by the Library Foundation's Investment and Distribution Policy and adheres to the California Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act regarding prudent investment and distribution.
 - c. The Foundation has provided the amount available to the Library to apply for its annual grant request. The amount is based on the Investment and Distribution Policy of the average endowment value of the trailing 12 quarters. There is a 5% maximum distribution rate. The amount allowable for FY2026 is \$184,445, of which \$2500 is restricted by the Dweck gift to the CdM branch. The grant request will be considered by the Foundation Board at its May 18 Board Meeting.

5. **Programming**

- a. The final programs for the 2025-2026 season were completed in the past 30 days. The final Witte Lecture featured Ruth Ben-Ghiat. Because of scheduling conflicts at Oasis Senior Center, the Friday lecture was held in the Community Room and the Saturday lecture at Oasis. The total audience for Ben-Ghiat was 451.
- b. The final Library Live lecture with Anthony Doerr lecture was held at the Oasis Center on April 23. He was extremely popular and 321 tickets were sold.
- c. The final Spotlight on Science for the season featured Noble Prize winner Dr. Barry Barish talking about the evolution of the universe. Spotlight is a free lecture. There were over 300 pre-registrations for Barish and more people arrived at the door.
- d. The final Medicine in Our Backyard program is Monday May 18 with Dr. Jay Shah speaking on Spotting Stroke: Know the Signs, Prevent Damage.
- e. The final Financial Literacy Workshop was on April 27 and the last Book Discussion Group was on May 13.
- f. The 2026-2027 season of the Witte Lectures—its 30th season, Library Live, and Spotlight on Science will be announced in the June Bookmark Magazine. Season passes for Witte and Library Live will go on sale for Foundation members in early July.
- g. Library Live will have an additional special presentation on August 13 as part of Arts and Culture Week. It will be with Tim Grieving, author of a new biography of composer John Williams. Foundation members will get the first option to purchase tickets. This is not part of the season pass package, but a separate event.
- h. On November 10, the Foundation will present Walter Stahr highlighting his newest biography, *William Howard Taft: A Great American Life*. This will be a free event.
- i. There is a potential for an additional program by a Hoover Scholar in partnership with the Hoover Institution. That program is in negotiation.
- j. For the 2026-2027 season the Library will present three special donor events (Witte Hall Grand Opening, Library Leadership Reception, Summer Solstice Celebration), two special lectures (Grieving and Stahr), eight Witte Lectures (4 weekends), four Library Live author lectures, four free Spotlight on Science lectures, nine Book Discussions, 12 Financial Workshops, eight Medicine in Our Backyard lectures. That is a total of 50 events presented by the Library Foundation, 30 of which are free events open to the public.