

Memo



Supporting Discovery and Connection ... Beyond Books

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

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1. **Governance and Management:** The February 2026 Board Meeting was held on Monday February. Chase Reif, Library Trustee and Foundation Liaison, and Melissa Hartson, Library Director, attended. Mr. Reif by Zoom.
 - a. Beginning with the March meeting, the Foundation Board meetings will be moved to the fourth Monday of the Month. The next meeting will be March 23.
 - b. Kunga Wangmo Upshaw has returned from maternity leave.
 2. **Rebranding of Foundation:** Name and logo change reflecting the new brand continues. Surprising on how many printed and digital documents, banners, brochures, etc., a logo lives on.
 - a. The Foundation's domain name is now LibraryFoundationNB.org
 - b. Emails are @LibraryFoundationNB.org
 - c. Website is www.LibraryFoundationNB.org
 3. **Witte Hall:** The construction update states that May 18 is now the date for "Substantial Completion."
 - a. Regarding the donor signage in the Woolsey Lobby: The Foundation has committed to funding the design of new signage in the Woolsey Lobby of Witte Hall. The Foundation will be responsible for the revised signage manufacture and installation.
 - b. The Development Committee includes the Grand Opening Committee. It interviewed two event planners/managers at its meeting on February 13. The final selection of an event planner will take place the week of February 16.
 - c. The Grand Opening is now set for the weekend of July 10-12, 2026. That is the same weekend 32 years ago that the Central Library had its Grand Opening. Friday, July 10 is the Foundation's event to thank donors at \$25,000 and above. Other City officials, Trustees, and Community leaders will be invited. There are 121 donors at the \$25,000 plus level to Witte Hall.

4. Development: The annual Summer Solstice Celebration for new members of the Foundation will be held on Wednesday, June 24. It is planned for the Stahr Courtyard. In addition to new members and the Library Leadership donors (\$1,000 and above), Library leadership staff, Library Trustees, and City officials will be invited. We will be honoring Clarence Turner and Tod and Linda White.

- a. The Foundation received \$50,000 for a designated endowment for the Corona del Mar Library Branch. That amount will be combined with our Library endowment, and the Library will receive \$2500 annually for the CdM Branch. These gifts are estate gifts from the S. Seven Dweck Foundation.
- b. Planning for a major legacy giving campaign to develop an endowment for Foundation programming will begin this summer. The goal is to raise \$1 million to endow programming (distribution under current policy of 5% annually.) I anticipate that this will be a 3-5 year effort.

5. Programming

- a. All four Library Live lectures sold out. Both Colm Tóibín and Anthony Doerr will be held at the OASIS Center.
- b. The Witte series has sold 259 total season passes for Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Additionally, a total of 331 single tickets has been sold for the lectures. The first Witte Lecture is February 27-28 with China expert Julian Gerwitz. The promotional sponsor for this lecture is the World Affairs Council of Orange County.
- c. All Witte Lectures, except May 1, will be held at the OASIS Center. The May 1, Friday evening lecture will be held on the Civic Center Green with the same setting as the Library Live lecture with Bonnie Garmus in September 2024.
- d. The Spotlight on Science continues to have high registration. Spotlight is a free lecture. The April Spotlight is with Dr. Charles Norton speaking about small satellites, and the May lecture is with Nobel Prize winner Dr. Barry Barish talking about the evolution of the universe. Both will be held at the OASIS Center.
- e. The Library Foundation will participate in Art Week with a special Library Live presentation. The speaker will be Tim Grieving who has written a biography on composer John Williams. Co-sponsoring the event will be the Newport Beach Film Festival.