

Jerold D Kappel, CEO

Newport Beach Public Library Foundation

Memo

To: Library Trustees

From: Jerold D Kappel, CEO

cc:

Date: July 10, 2024

Re: Library Foundation Report

1. The Foundation presented 48 events this fiscal year, including 8 Witte Lectures, 4 Library Live, 3 Spotlight on Science, 12 Financial Workshops, 8 Medicine in Our Backyard, 9 Book Discussion Group, 2 donor events, 2 capital campaign events.
 - a. Of the public programs, 32 were free and open to the public.
 - b. Total attendance for all programs exceeded 6,000.
2. The 2025 season Witte Lectures and Library Live were announced to the Foundation members by eblast on July 3. It also included the opportunity for Foundation members to purchase a season pass for either or both Library Live and Witte Lecture Series.
 - a. As of this date, 125 season passes have been purchased for the two series.
 - b. Individual tickets for Library Live go on sale September 1. Individual tickets for Witte Lectures go on sale October 1.
3. Witte Lecturers are: journalist and New York Times columnist Bret Stephens; sports reporter and columnist Christine Brennan; homeland security expert Juliette Kayyem; and attorney and advocate for criminal justice reform, Chris Fabricant.

4. Library Live authors include: Bonnie Garmus (Lessons in Chemistry); Rosanna Xia (California Against the Sea: Visions for our Vanishing Coastline); Javier Zamora in conversation with Gustavo Arellano (Solito: Home, Identity, and the Immigrant Experience); and Viet Thanh Nguyen (A Man of Two Faces: A Memoir, A History, A Memorial and The Sympathizer.)
 - a. The Bonnie Garmus event will be held on a Friday after the Library closes and it will be on the lawn for seating of up to 500 people.
5. The video recordings of this season's Witte Lectures and Library Live are available for Foundation members for three months starting June 15. Note that the authors' contracts now stipulate that video recordings should be behind a paywall. Having the recordings available for Foundation members satisfies that restriction.
 - a. All Medicine in Our Backyard and Spotlight on Science video recordings are always available for free on the Foundation's website.
6. The Foundation has now raised \$9.2 million in gifts and gift commitments toward its \$12 million goal, which is 50% of the cost of the construction of Witte Hall. The Foundation deposited \$7.1 million into an escrow account to initiate the construction of the Hall.
 - a. The construction camera video is updated every 7-10 days and is available on the Witte Hall webpage on our website. <https://nbplf.foundation/witte-hall/>
 - b. The Foundation is underwriting the cost of the capital campaign for Witte Hall. By the end of this fiscal year, the Foundation will have spent over \$100,000 to fund the campaign.
 - c. The Kids Marketplace, proposed by Erin Grody Kingsley, a member of the Beyond Book Campaign Committee, took place on Sunday June 23 from 2-4pm. The event was held in the Friends Room and (what is left of) the Bamboo Courtyard. Children set up booths to sell crafts, snacks, and other goodies. There were ice cream and coffee vendors and a "Hawks on Hands" naturalist presentation. It was free and open to all children (accompanied by an adult). We also promoted the Summer Reading Program and kids signed up for library cards.
7. The Summer Solstice event on June 12 honoring Jene Witte, founding sponsor of the Witte Lecture Series, was very successful with over 160 in attendance. Unfortunately, Jene Witte passed the following week.
 - a. Bookmark has been delayed due to the passing of Jene Witte. There will be an "in memoriam" piece in Bookmark because we highlight the Summer Solstice
8. The July Board Meeting of the Library Foundation was on Monday June 8. The draft Y2024 financials were presented to the Board. Also at this meeting, the Board approved a revised Investment Policy.
9. The Foundation is continuing to promote legacy giving to the Foundation. The Foundation established The Elizabeth and John Stahr Legacy Society to honor those who have left an Estate Gift to the Foundation and those who have stated the intent to provide one in the future. The goal of this campaign is to build the endowment to \$5 million, assuring an annual contribution to the Library of over \$200,000.