

**Jerold D Kappel, CEO**

**Newport Beach Public Library Foundation**

# Memo

**To:** Library Trustees  
**From:** Jerold D Kappel, CEO  
**Date:** January 15, 2025  
**Re:** Library Foundation Report

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1. The January 2025 Board Meeting was held on January 13. As reported earlier, there was no December meeting, but a reception for the Board and Library Trustees. Trustee Chair Chase Rief gave a detailed overview of the Library—funding, services, programs, and patrons served. The Foundation Board of Directors highly appreciated it.
  - a. The next Foundation Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 10, 2025.
2. The Foundation has matched \$299,000 of the \$500,000 anonymous matching gift challenge. With current and future committed contributions, the Foundation has raised \$10,250,000 towards its agreement to fund \$11,750,000 towards the construction of Witte Hall.
  - a. The Foundation's Witte Hall tab on its website has a video showing the construction progress which is updated weekly.
3. The Pals4Pal organization is still working with the California Attorney General on its dissolution. We anticipated that it would be final by this time. The Foundation has filed all necessary documents for the transition.
4. Programming
  - a. The Witte Lecture Series presentations with Bret Stephens for January 24 and 25

- b. are both sold-out with a waiting list for both lectures. The remaining Witte Lectures are selling well, and we anticipate selling out for all six remaining (Friday evening and Saturday afternoon for the three remaining lectures).
  - c. Both Library Live presentations in the Fall—Bonnie Garmus and Rosanna Xia—were sold out. The Garmus event attracted over 500 people on the Civic Center Green. The Spring lectures by Javier Zamora and Viet Thanh Nguyen have very few tickets remaining.
  - d. The free Medicine in Our Backyard lectures return with a presentation on Integrative Health, Nutrition, Food Allergies and You, with Kiran Sachdev, MD from UCI Health, on Monday January 27, 2025. There will be five lectures this Spring. Average attendance is +/- 70.
  - e. The six Spring free Finance Literacy Workshops that focus on estate planning return on March 24. The Foundation’s finance workshops are the most highly attended of any site that presents these workshops.
    - i. A reminder that no presenters at these workshops are licensed to sell any financial products. The presenter does not receive any attendee contact information.
  - f. The free Book Discussion Group has over 40 readers attending. The January book was *Solito* by Library Live speaker Javier Zamora. The Book Discussion Group runs monthly through May.
  - g. The free Spotlight on Science will feature Spring Spotlight will feature Dr. Grant MacGregor on CRISPR (gene editing) and renowned seismologist Lucy Jones on California tectonic activity (earthquakes.)
5. I am monitoring issues with California and federal funding of libraries. There is mounting concern that the incoming Congress and administration will zero out funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services. California receives \$15 million from IMLS as a pass-through grant annually, the largest grant in the nation. The federal funding is about one-third of the total funding for libraries in the state.
6. Bookmark, winter 2025 edition, has been published and mailed to over 1400 donors and key community leaders. It has also been distributed throughout the four branches and other public buildings. It includes a reprint of then Mayor Will O’Neill’s speech at the September Library Leadership Reception, Councilmember Robyn Grant’s presentation at the beam signing ceremony, a page on Project Adult Literacy and a reprint of Mercedes Adrián Sanz essay in “In Our Own Words”, Library events, a special thank you to the Friends of the Library, and the Foundation’s annual report.
- a. It is noted in the report that the Foundation contributed \$199,625 to the Newport Beach Public Library for free community programs, direct grants to the Library, and capital campaign expenses for the construction of Witte Hall. When you include the ticketed lectures of Library Live and Witte Lectures, the total support for the Library is \$384,718.