BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

VALERIE LYNNE SHAW
PRESIDENT

LINDA BLANK
VICE-PRESIDENT

KELLY BESSER
HIRAM SIMS
MAYRA VALADEZ

RAQUEL M. BORDEN
BOARD EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

KAREN BASS
MAYOR

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

RICHARD J. RIORDAN CENTRAL LIBRARY
630 WEST FIFTH STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90071

(213) 228-7515 Phone
(213) 228-7096 TDD
(877) 488-4327 TDD
(TOLL FREE NO.)

JOHN F. SZABO
CITY LIBRARIAN

January 29, 2025

Arts, Parks, Libraries, and Community Enrichment Committee
Government Efficiency, Innovation and Audits Committee
Los Angeles City Council
City Hall, Room 395
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: **COUNCIL FILE NO. 23-0600-S70**

Honorable Committee Members:

The City Council instructed the Los Angeles Public Library, with the assistance of the Youth Development Department, regarding a potential collaboration between the two departments that would create a pathway for youth work in libraries including a gateway portal for young people to access these opportunities.

The report is hereby transmitted for your consideration.

Should you need additional information, please contact Eva Mitnick, Director of the Engagement and Learning Division at (213) 228-7527 or at emitnick@lapl.org.

Sincerely,

John F. Szabo
City Librarian

Draft Report on Collaboration between LAPL and Youth Development Department

Request: *Instruct the Library Department, with the assistance of the Youth Development Department, to report to the Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee on a potential collaboration between their departments that would create a pathway for youth work in libraries including a gateway portal for young people to access these opportunities.*

Career Readiness, Employment and Volunteer Opportunities for Youth at LAPL

The Los Angeles Public Library's Youth Services Department has supported career readiness for teens in a number of ways for at least a decade including, but not limited to hosting, training, promoting and/or participating in:

- Teen volunteers program
    - Library locations offer career readiness support for teens through teen volunteering programs. Teens go through an interview and orientation process, set schedules, and work on a variety of projects, while being supported and supervised by LAPL librarians.
    - **2,494** current active teen volunteers
    - **4,965** teen volunteers since 2019
    - **21,423** teen volunteer hours completed in the last year
- Teen Leadership/Advisory Councils
    - Teens participating in Leadership/Advisory Councils have the opportunity to provide input on library programming and collection development. This provides an opportunity for developing decision-making and leadership skills.
    - LAPL hosts **73 Teen Councils**
- Career Readiness & Certification Training via our Get the Balance Right initiative, in partnership with Unite LA and the LA Area Chamber of Commerce
    - Teens can take advantage of workshops on resume creation and interview skills. They can participate in mock interviews and, through Unite LA and LA Area Chamber of Commerce get access to job postings and information.
- Teens Leading Change
    - Teens identify an issue in their community, research and develop a project aimed at alleviating the issues. This helps develop their skills in project management, critical thinking, civic engagement and budget management skills.
    - **6** current Teens Leading Change projects
    - **52** completed Teens Leading change projects
    - **64** branches participating
    - Over **728** teen participants
- Diversity and Inclusion Apprenticeship (led by the LAPL Engagement & Outreach Department)
    - The DAIA summer program exposes students who reflect the diversity of our communities to library careers. Through a mentored learning experience, apprentices are introduced to multiple facets of library life, from administration to programming to user services.

    - DAIA apprentices work 15 hours a week with the guidance of a librarian mentor, and develop and implement a capstone community project. Apprentices attend up to three field trips within Los Angeles County; tour neighboring library systems; and explore universities offering Master of Library and Information Science programs and professional library associations.
    - **73** DAIA Apprentices since 2017
    - **27** former DAIA Apprentices are working at LAPL
    - **1** former DAIA Apprentice completing their Masters of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) December 2024
- HIRE LA Youth (in partnership with the Library's HR Department)
    - HIRE LA focuses on preparing young adults for the 21st Century workforce. It is designed to provide a starter job for youth ages ages 14-24. HIRE LA is funded by multiple sources and used to provide work experience, as well as work skills development, financial literacy, career coaching and mentoring, and career exposure. HIRE LA programming provides youth with the preparedness needed to enter the workforce and sets them on a path of becoming lifetime earners.
    - Several of our previous HIRE LA Youth participants have been hired on as regular employees at the library.
- Teen Web - LAPL website's landing page for teens
    - LAPL's Teen Web offers college and career readiness resources including: event listings, online test prep (ACT, SAT, etc.), vetted links to reputable websites on colleges, job listing websites (including LA City jobs), financial aid resources, podcasts on different careers, and community service opportunities.
    - Teen Web also offers teens the opportunity to practice their writing skills by contributing to the Teen Blog.
    - Teen Web URL: www.lapl.org/teens

<u>Current and Future Collaboration Efforts with the Youth Development Department</u>
Members of Youth Services participated in the creation of the Youth Development Department's strategic plan and continue to attend meetings and participate in events hosted or sponsored by the Youth Development Department.

On July 15, 2023, Library representatives attended the 2023 LA City Youth Expo and provided teens with information on Library resources.

On June 20, 2024 Library representatives attended the 2024 LA Youth Expo and Youth Services has been participating in the YDD's Youth Protection Workgroup.

Representatives of the Youth Development Department have also presented to LAPL's youth librarians.

LAPL's Youth Services department has designated a liaison with the Youth Development Department to continue to build relationships between the two departments.

The Youth Services Department is in regular contact with the Youth Development Department to inform them of upcoming events, programs, and opportunities for youth.