New Orleans Public Library
Executive/Finance Committee Meeting
3rd Floor Conference Room; Main Library
Wednesday October 14, 2026
4:30 p.m.

MINUTES

I. **Call to Order -- 4:35 p.m.**

II. **Roll Call — 4:35 p.m.**
Members Present: Kathleen Coverick, Joel Ross
Absent: Clarice Kirkland
Library Staff Present: Emily Painton, Michel Thompson

III. **Information Items– 4:36 p.m.**

A. Finance Report
1. We budgeted $22m and so far received $21.8m. The Fund Balance was budgeted at $12m and $4.6m has been expended or allocated. Our last meeting was at $7.6m and this number will continue to fluctuate as monies are allocated to projects and paid out.
2. Total budget: $34.7m and available revenue is $26m
Personnel costs: $17m budgeted and $5.9m remains
Operating Costs: $17.6m budgeted and $8.2m remains
Total Expenditures: $34.7 budgeted and $14m remains
3. Discretionary requests have ended as of last Friday.
4. $4.6m of the money has been encumbered or expended on building projects. This leaves ~$11m in our fund reserve at year end.

B. Executive Director Update
1. The HVAC/Elevator project for the Main library bids came in $2m over budget. The Director of CAP, Jerry Harris, gave options for the next steps. Algiers will close on October 22 to receive an HVAC and roof replacement. Smith Library is open.
2. When the project was created, it was determined that the library conference rooms and Keller Library did not need HVAC replacements. Due to the high cost, it is not an option to add them to this current project. Temporary A/C units will be used to support meeting rooms' HVAC systems until a plan can

be implemented. Keller Library and Alvar HVAC replacements will be planned at a later date.

3. The roof of the Community Center will be repaired this week.
4. The Children's Resource Center ribbon-cutting had 250 attendees on October 3rd.
5. Judging has begun for Crescent City Sounds. We have 205 Submissions.
6. The Outreach Department attended five different Night Out Against Crime events on Tuesday in five different neighborhoods as well as two events later in the week. Books were distributed to youth and teens
7. library staff spoke at the New Orleans Council on Aging Senior Center's Directors Meeting regarding partnerships and has received two responses.
8. The Budget hearing for the library will be on October 22nd.

IV. **Discussion Items – 5:26 p.m.**

A. Committee Structures – (Kathleen Coverick, 5 minutes)
   1. Ms. Coverick would like to assemble additional committees now that the board is nearly full. There is also a seat available on the Executive committee.
   2. Ms. Thompson may create a financial dashboard that the board members can look at prior to the board meetings.

B. Plan for Executive Director Evaluation
   1. This item was tabled

V. **Adjournment**

A. Ms. Coverick made a motion to adjourn the October 14, 2026 Executive Committee meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ross. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.