

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK LIBRARY COUNCIL
Friday, December 5, 2025
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: EcoLab 1 at the Greenpoint Library and Environmental Center
107 Norman Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11222
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84280175298>

Minutes

Present: Nick Buron, Stephen Bury, Patricia Hswe, Caryl Matute, Leah Meisterlin, Jesse Montero, Kristina Rose, Shawn(ta) Smith-Cruz

Not Present: Karen Fairbanks, Melissa Jacobs, Terry Kirchner, Marie Østergård, Kameelah Rasheed

Staff: Nate Hill, Shannon Mattern

Nick Buron brought the meeting to order at approximately 3:02 pm.

Minutes:

Buron motioned to accept the minutes from the 10/23/2025 board meeting. Jesse Montero moved, and Leah Meisterlin seconded. The board voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

President's Update: Buron noted that this is a time of change for libraries in New York City with the upcoming mayoral transition. It is encouraging that the mayor-elect has expressed support for libraries, including a commitment that 0.5% of the city budget be allocated to public libraries. The President also shared the news that Carla Hayden has joined the Mellon Foundation as a Senior Fellow. Additionally, Queens hosted the State Librarian, Lauren Moore, who met with students to generate interest in careers in the field.

Finance Report: Stephen Bury reported that the transition to the new accounting software is progressing well. Investment performance remains strong. Grant activity is slightly higher than usual, but overall, METRO's finances remain very healthy.

Agenda Item: LLC for Library Field

The board revisited the discussion from the previous meeting regarding the recommendation from two attorneys that ownership of the Library Field be transferred to a separate LLC in order to better manage risk and ensure that insurance coverage for the property is handled separately. The board voted to authorize ED to sign the necessary documents and begin the process of establishing the LLC. Leah Meisterlin moved, and Patricie Hswe seconded. The board voted unanimously.

Executive Director's Report:

- DLF Forum and future collaboration with CLIR.
- Visited the Anythink Nature Library. A great precedent and source of inspiration for Library Field work.
- Attended the Metlib conference in Toronto, "From Isolation to Social Connection: Libraries and Well-being".
- Will be keynoting an event that Morgan Stanley is hosting in March in Westchester called "Reimagining Libraries: Innovation, Space, and Community Impact."
- Newsletter stats.
- Archipelago updates.
- Programs, Events & Grants updates.
- Creative Research updates.
- Library Field updates and hikes.

Creative Research Presentation: Shannon Mattern**Agenda Item:** New Board Member Vote

The board voted to approve Edwin Maxwell, Chief Librarian at BPL, as a new board member. The motion was made by Bury and seconded by Meisterlin. The board voted unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.