

## **Library Director Report**

**January 2022**

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Just like everyone else I am hoping for a better year in dealing with the pandemic. The challenges never seem to end with new variants and the continuous change in dealing with conditions. MPL will continue to closely monitor and make any changes necessary to insure our staff and public remain safe. I am hoping we can return to more in-person programming and meetings.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Public Health Face Covering Order has been extended to March 1, 2022. Until that time we are continuing to mandate masking in all public areas for both staff and the public, with the exception of vaccinated people can unmask if in a common enclosed area, like a study room or office. We are reconsidering some of our food/drink restrictions due to the extreme temperatures since it is not really an option to ask people to take their food outside.

### **BUDGET 2022**

We were able to get the Operating Cost Plan introduced on January 18<sup>th</sup>. It then went to Finance Committee on January 24<sup>th</sup> and it did pass for recommendation on a 5-1 vote. Final approval was to go in front of full Common Council on February 1, but Mayor Satya asked me to seek a referral with the sponsors to be able to add more information to the Operating Cost Plan about possible budget implications. At the February 1<sup>st</sup> CC meeting the resolution was referred to the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Our budget team will be working with Finance to help develop the additional messaging.

Although it will not require another vote by the Board since this is not changing the plan, I will bring the supplemental memo in front of the Board prior to it being submitted to the March 1<sup>st</sup> CC agenda.

### **IMAGINATION CENTER**

The pre-design process has been completed, and we presented our first public introduction to the results of the pre-design in an evening virtual presentation and Q&A on January 27<sup>th</sup>. We had app. 150 attendees to the program. Thank you to the Library Board members that did join the presentation. Earlier in the day, the design team met with numerous stakeholders to get their feedback on the project and how they see their services/programs connecting with the IC.

We have received strong letters of support from HoChunk Gaming and the Literacy Network.

### **WESTSIDE COMMUNITY ANALYSIS**

I have been in discussion with MPL management and the Library Planner for some time about doing an analysis of our services on Madison's west-side. Somewhat akin to the analysis we did in the past for the east-side but it may not be quite as extensive, and not take 2 years to complete. Rynn has already kicked off the process by gathering input from staff, collecting ideas and possible community contacts. Rynn's timeframe at this time is to complete the bulk of the work within 2022.

### **NEW CONNECTION**

When I was renewing my WLA membership last year I decided to join the Wisconsin Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Special Interest Group. We had the first meeting this month. It

should be beneficial to have this connection to discuss intellectual freedom issues that may be in front of MPL and be aware of any other challenges from across the state.

## **MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, TEAMS & MORE**

### **City**

Mayor's Management Team  
Mayor Check-in  
Racial Equity & Social Justice Strategic Planning  
Deputy Mayor Check-in  
Mayor's COVID-19 Taskforce  
TeamCity Change Leadership  
ICRP Public Presentation review with the Mayor  
ICRP Discussions with Mayor  
Finance Committee Meeting  
Meeting with Alder Abbas  
Meeting with Alder Halverson  
Meeting with Alder Figuera Cole

### **MPL**

Library Management Team  
All Staff Town Hall  
MPL Foundation Grants presentation  
Check-in with Foundation Director  
Meeting with Ho-Chunk Gaming  
Imagination Center Design Team  
Imagination Center Stakeholders Team

### **External**

Meeting with stakeholders of ICRP Pre-design  
Public Meeting of ICRP Pre-design  
Wisconsin Resource Library Directors  
Dane County Library Directors Meeting  
Urban Libraries Council Director/CEO Calls  
Digital Equity Leaders Network Kick-Off: Overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law  
Meeting with Dr. Alex Gee  
Meeting with HoChunk Gaming.