

Library Director Report January-February 2023

Focus Areas:

Building Project (BP)

West Side Analysis (WS)

Organizational Development (OD)

PUBLIC HEALTH

Community level has generally been at LOW, with smaller cases/day data in Dane County. Dane County did hit an interesting milestone-on February 5th, that date was exactly 3 years since the first case of COVID was documented in Dane County.

There are several changes to the current status of COVID-related programs at all levels of government. They include:

- Federal Emergency Declaration is to end on May 11, 2023, the impact of this will be that a number of programs will no longer be receiving Federal assistance, and many of the services or access to tests/vaccines may no longer be free. This will also impact local PH services, the PHMDC South Madison Clinic for COVID will be closing operations in mid-May.
- There is also State assistance related to COVID but there was no report on how that may change at this time.
- The direction of Federal/State COVID-related programs will probably move under local Public Health Care.
- PHMDC thanks MPL for our work in distributing Home COVID test kits. Distribution will end in Mid-June, 2023.

Are we close to an endemic or perhaps have reached an endemic level?

PH: Great question. Still need to examine the facts to see what an endemic would be for COVID. It is still not known how COVID will be present itself going forward. Will there be a "COVID season" much like the flu?

Status of vaccinations.

PH: It is anticipated that we have some type of annual vaccination, like the flu shot, for COVID. There is discussion moving forward to try to standardize an annual vaccination so you don't have different protocols from different providers.

IMAGINATION CENTER (BP)

Schematic Design continues with primary stakeholders still tweaking the design. Major decisions are being made on the exterior materials that will influence the final design. We are also discussing various interior configurations for shelving to accommodate sufficient collection size and allow for better sightlines.

Rynn reported that she met with City Planning staff to talk about their Northeast Area Plan. She shared that City Planning informed her that the public needs more information on the ICRP project. They were

discovering that some people were connecting the ICRP project to the recent shelter plans and/or as a reaction to the encampment that happening in Reindahl Park during the pandemic.

City Planning asked about our engagement with the public since they are planning several meetings and were concerned with fatigue by the community being asked to engage so many times. We will need to take their schedule under consideration when we establish our timetable for community engagement.

Rynn has been also talking with past leadership of the Sandburg Neighborhood Association, which is planning to formally renew its officers and begin community conversations.

WEST SIDE COMMUNITY ANALYSIS (WS)

Rynn is beginning to schedule more community conversations. She is connecting with the Personal Essentials Pantry in Allied and will be attending another Good Shepherd community meal.

ROSEMARY LEE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INTERN (WS)

Katarina Ampian, our latest Rosemary Lee intern, completed the program and gave a presentation on their report about peer libraries and their engagement work. Katarina interviewed various libraries to compare their work with how MPL was engaging the community and collecting public input.

CONNECTIONS

One of the wonderful aspects of working for MPL is the opportunity to engage with extremely talented and visionary people. At a recent ART Party at the Madison Community Foundation offices, I met Dr. Roberto Rivera. Dr. Rivera was talking about his program working with youth in Chicago. He shared that he was using hip-hop and the arts for reconnecting youth to education and helping them find their passions. He was a consultant on the formation of the First Wave program at UW-Madison. I was able to meet with him again after the event to learn more about his work and his plans. I offered and I'm hoping that MPL will have a chance to partner with him in some way. To learn a little more about him you might check out this link. <https://www.lovewi.com/roberto/> An amazing story.

MPL STAFF IS GENEROUS

I have always shared stories about how generous our staff is when dealing with our patrons or supporting various programs in our community. They are now recognized as one of the top departments in the City for their generosity toward donating to the City of Madison and Dane County Employees Combined Campaign. MPL was recognized for having the highest percent participation for a department of over 100 employees. (We actually tied with Public Works for 1st).

MPL also had the highest Special Events Dollars Raised. We have a bake/craft and coffee sale at our Staff Day, which raised \$1,489. In total MPL employees gave a total of \$14,571, outpacing even some larger City departments.

NEW MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY WISCONSIN BOOK FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

In December I reported on a new Executive Director for the Foundation and now we have a new WBF Director. Conor, Tana, and I completed the hiring for a new director of the Wisconsin Book Festival. (WBF). There were 15 applicants and we interviewed the top 6 candidates. It was a strong field and each candidate had some unique skills related to the work. Three of the candidates resided in Wisconsin, and the others were from Spokane, OR, Aspen, CO, and Brooklyn, NY.

The position was offered and accepted by Jane Nicole Rotonda. Jane resides in rural Wisconsin and will be relocating to Madison in the near future. In the interim she can commute when necessary. Jane's experience with publishers and events comes primarily from her work with Wisconsin Public Radio. She also oversaw many of the statewide pledge drives of WPR, so she is no stranger to fundraising. She will be starting in February. I hope she can attend a Library Board meeting soon for an introduction.

LEGISLATIVE DAY (OD)

Madison Public Library was host for WLA's 2023 Legislative Day. The keynote was given by Gov. Evers. He has presented to this group before as Superintendent of DPI, but this was his first time as Governor. Governor Evers mentioned to me as I greeted him on his arrival, that he did not recall Legislative Day



ever gathering in a library. He was correct. It was the first time for Legislative Day to begin the day in a library. According to WLA it was also one of the best attended Legislative Days with over 200 registered.

In addition to networking with colleagues in the morning I was able to meet with Joan Johnson, Director of Milwaukee PL, and Colleen Rortvedt, Director of Appleton PL for dinner the night before. We discussed return from COVID, and Appleton's progress on a new Central Library. Earlier on Monday, Colleen has also toured MPL's Central Library with Conor Moran and Appleton's Development Director to discuss naming strategies.

I met with Senator Kelda Roys and Rep Lisa Subeck. Both are very strong library supporters and promised to continue to support our work and values. Rep. Subeck shared a little quip right as our picture was taken. Photo by: Alex Johnson

SISTER CITY KANIFING, THE GAMBIA

The Gambia Library Project group is beginning to make plans to regroup and perhaps recruit some new members. I continue to be in contact with the Lord Mayor Bensuda's administration to receive updates on their main library project or to offer information that may assist with that project. For example I recently shared how StarLink, a satellite delivered internet connection being developed by Space X has completed an agreement in Nigeria for providing connectivity. The StarLink system would seem to be especially well suited for remote locations or even urban places that lack infrastructure to connect to the internet.

In addition I was recently invited to join the KMC/KETP Library Support Group for their Main Library and satellite library projects. Unfortunately with the time difference, their noon meeting time is 6am here. KMC refers to Kanifing Municipal Council, and KETP is one of the divisions within the municipality.

NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY UPDATES (BP)

City Real Estate is still negotiating our lease terms with the landlords for Lakeview Library's renewal due in 2023.

No new reports on progress by City Real Estate on lease negotiations at Meadowridge Library.

I have renewed conversations with City Engineering and Royster Corners about installation of solar panels to help supplement power to Pinney Library. Neighbors on the property has some issue with earlier solar array installation locations, and we will be going back to them for their input. In the meantime Royster has provided the City with 3 areas on the property that may be able to meet our installation needs.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Most of our libraries will have a role in the upcoming elections, providing voter registration, early voting, and some are polling locations. Sequoya hosted a mayoral candidate panel prior to the primary. Central Library with host DMI's Mayoral Debate for the general election.

Central Library also hosted the presentations for the City's Lake Front Development plans. An overflow crowd of over 200 people were in attendance to learn about the project, and provide questions and feedback on the designs.

THE CARE PLAN (OD)

The Care Plan is a Chicago organization that presented at our 2022 Staff Day about how to care for ourselves and others. We have invited them back to present on a two part series about Trauma Informed customer service. The programs are recorded for staff to view who could not attend the presentation or for staff to review the slides. The topic is very relevant in helping staff recognize and address customers that may be dealing with personal trauma. There are also basic lessons in improving the customer service experience for all our patrons.

MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, TEAMS & MORE

City

Mayor's Management Team
Mayor Check-in
Deputy Mayor Check-in
Mayor's COVID-19 Taskforce
Gambia delegation debriefing
RESJ Strategic Planning Committee
Kanifing Delegation Presentation at Common Council

MPL

Library Management Team
Imagination Center Design Team
ICRP Communications Planning
Rosemary Lee Intern presentation
MPLF Board Meeting
Meeting with the new MPL Foundation Executive Director
The Care Plan workshops

ULC Director/CEO Call

Wisconsin Book Festival - Hiring panel for new Director

Meeting with Alder Vedder, District 12, on ICRP

Webinar: Libraries and AI: Boon or Doom

Dane County Director Meeting – Review of Formula Recommendations

External

Common Council Holiday Party

ART Party

Meeting with Dr. Roberto Rivera

Kanifing Sister City Library Support Group

Visitation and service for Paul Kronburger,
former City of Madison IT Director

WLA Legislative Day – Planning session

WLA Legislative Day - Dinner with OOT Directors

WLA Legislative Day – Meeting WI legislators

City of Madison Lake Front presentation at
Central Library

DMI Breakfast Frozen Assets Panel Discussion