

**Library Director Report
December 2018**

BP: Building Projects

CR: Collaborations including representing MPL in Local, State, National, and International roles

EL: Early Literacy.

LIBRARY SITING AND ALLOCATION (BP) (CR)

Pinney Project:

The move from the old Pinney to the new interim site is in progress. So far everything is on schedule and we anticipate a January 7th reopening. MPL Facilities, SCLS, and especially Pinney staff have all pitched in to make this a successful transition. Before we know it, it will be back to business.

The Public Works bid package has been released. There is a February 8th closing date.

The work on the Royster site is making good progress. In a recent meeting with Carl, he was confident to be able to deliver our gray box on time.

Imagination Center at Reindahl Park:

Kevin continues to make community contacts and collect conversations on the project. It is becoming an interesting mix of discussions. Ideas concerning the park are being shared along with the ideas for the library. At the start of 2019 I want to bring together a strategic team to begin framing the project from multiple facets, including equity, communications, and more.

Goodman South Madison Library Renovation:

Renovation has started and Mark can provide a progress report at the board meeting.

CENTRAL LIBRARY AND INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (CR)

We have noticed over the past 2 months more individuals sleeping along our Central Library. At first we had some issues with people sleeping along our front doors seeking some shelter from the overhang. This was causing a safety issue with the library and some difficulty servicing the porch area. We have also noticed more abandoned bags or bags being stored on the outside of our property. This situation is not necessarily happening due to a shortage of shelter options, but rather we are seeing individuals that cannot handle a shelter environment. Many of the individuals are regular users of the Central Library and we have been working with them to not block the entrance. With the weather getting colder the numbers have decreased but we will continue to monitor the situation. We have received some complaints about the bags and belongings that have been accumulating along our walks and next to our building. We are working with the city agencies that deal with that situation.

DIRECTORS' SUMMIT (CR)

This year's Library Journal Directors' Summit focused on the topic of "Break Through: Unconventional Approaches, Exceptional Impact." One of the presentations was a discussion by library leaders about their libraries becoming fine free. It was unanimous agreement that this was an important step for their organizations. Many libraries are now moving in that direction with many different approaches to addressing the revenue issue. San Diego PL made the decision to reduce staff in order to cover the revenue shortage. Some libraries asked for budget increases to cover the shortage, and others found additional ways to cover the shortage. There was a discussion on an option to the traditional interlibrary loan that I have shared with staff, information about using Narcan, and programs on inclusion. There is always a wide variety of topics discussed, but one major takeaway is affirmation that the work at MPL is in alignment with many of the innovative

libraries and sometimes beyond. (An unexpected happening while in San Diego was an extreme storm that included heavy flooding and a loss of power at the Central Library during a reception.)

MADISON MUNICIPAL BUILDING "RESTORED" GRAND REOPENING

I've included this in my report due the high level of participation by MPL in this celebration. MPL helped with child crafts, programs, living history projects, performances, and more. I was very proud of our many contributions and it reflects how important a resource we are not just for the public, but for other City agencies as well.

THE "CULTURE CLUB"

This was a fun nickname that I gave to a recent meeting with many of the directors involved with the creative side of Madison. I was joined by Sandra Gajic, the new director of the Overture, Amy Gilman, new director of the Chazen Museum, Steve Fleischman, Director of MMOCA, and Tom Linfield, Grants Administrator for Madison Community Foundation. We discussed possible collaborations including a future joint project. It was good to learn of the challenges and accomplishments within the group. I hope we can keep the discussion moving forward.

STAFF NEWS

It is with a heavy heart that I share with the Library Board that Gretchen Ede, a clerk at Central Library, unexpectedly passed away on Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018.

The following was shared with all MPL staff by her supervisor Michael Spelman:

It is with sadness that I write to let you know that Gretchen Ede unexpectedly passed away on Sunday. As a long time MPL employee who worked in several departments, Gretchen touched many of us at MPL with the strength of her convictions and her dedication to her work. Her leadership as a member of the city's Women's Initiatives Committee was instrumental in the growth of Take Your Child to Work Day, one of many achievements. An intrepid explorer, Gretchen lived in several countries before settling down in her beloved Monona where she took meticulous care of her garden and graced us with sublime home made baked goods.

END OF YEAR

Since this is my last report for 2018, I do want to express my sincere thanks to the Library Board for your service to Madison Public Library. There are many new faces on our board and I'm excited for the new perspectives joining the more veteran views of our organization. It is a very unselfish and important role you play in making MPL the best we can. Thank you so much for your contributions and leadership.

Business Meetings

- Meeting with Monroe St Library staff
- Human Resources Check-in meeting
- AnjiPlay meeting
- Meeting with Leslie Orrantial, UW Community Engagement Director
- Meeting with Sandra Gajic, Steve Fleischman, Amy Gilman, and Tom Linfield
- Meeting with Ashman Library staff
- Meeting with RDC and MPLF about a fundraising project for new Pinney
- Taste test for new caterer focused on kosher food
- Budget Check-in
- Meeting with Goodman South Madison Library staff
- MOU review with MSCR at Meadowridge Library

City Business

- Meeting with Enis Ragland
- Dept/Division Head Meeting with Mayor
- Equitable Workforce Plan
- Performance Excellence Leadership Team (Formerly SMOC)
- Mayor's Management Team
- Mayor's Human Services Committee
- Line of Sight Committee meetings (Bi-Weekly)
- RESJI Committee

Public/Media Appearance

- Forward Madison Open House (the new pro soccer team)
- Madison Municipal Building grand reopening
- Performance of American Idiot
- This my Life. This my Art. Teen art exhibit at Central Library.
- pARTy at Common Wealth Gallery
- Christine Beatty, Director of Madison Senior Center, Retirement celebration
- Wisconsin State Law Library open house
- DMI Breakfast featuring Jackson Fonder from The Beacon