

Library Director Report

March 2017

LIBRARY SITING AND ALLOCATION

Pinney Project: The Library has been in 2 meetings with RDC to resolve the outstanding issues in the LOI. The expectation is that we will have a LOI introduced at the April 18th Common Council meeting, then the Library Board will have a special session On April 20th to make a recommendation, and it will move to the Board of Estimates on April 24th and then to the Common Council for final approval on May 2nd. I have been meeting with Public Works and we will be conducting designer interviews on April 25 and 26.

ABSENTEE VOTING

We now have absentee voting at all of the libraries for the spring election. We continue to learn something new with every election as we provide this service. It is definitely popular with the community to have more absentee voting opportunities, so it is very likely to continue.

MPL STRATEGIC LENS

You will be reviewing our latest draft of the strategic lens. Many people have contributed to this document but I did want to point out to the Board that Tana Elias and Krissy Wick have dedicated an enormous amount of time and expertise to this project. It is under their leadership and hard work that we have been able to provide this strategic direction for MPL.

CITY OF MADISON STRATEGIC PLANNING

I have been assigned to work on the Mayor's Strategic Management Team and to the City's Guidance Team for a Vibrant and Creative City. It has been an interesting comparison between how MPL has approached the concept and how the City is preparing their document.

BEHAVIOR INSIGHTS

The City has been providing presentations in conjunction with their RESJI program. Elizabeth Linos, Head of Research and Evaluation for the Behavior Insight Team presented on Behavioral Insight. It is a fascinating way to research and evaluation a program. After the presentation I was able to talk to her about our early literacy objectives and how they would be more effectively measured. She was very interested in our projects and asked that I report back to her about our progress.

HIP HOP ARCHITECTURE CAMP

A couple of videos were produced in conjunction with the Hip Hop Architecture Camp MPL hosted last month. They both debuted in a presentation given by Mike Ford at SXSW. I recently shared the videos with other library directors and Skye Patrick from Los Angeles County contacted me about the possibility of doing a joint hip hop project with their Compton Library. We are both excited about the potential of getting youth from both locations connected and doing some virtual collaboration.

Links to the video:

'Build It Up' music video featuring the Kids These Dayz Collective: <https://youtu.be/wRktViVPPu8>

The Hip Hop Architecture Camp mini documentary: <https://youtu.be/xrJhJbG8NjY>

MANAGEMENT POSITION

Last month I reported that we were in the hiring process for our newest management position, the Community Engagement Coordinator. It was an extremely competitive field of candidates. We are happy to announce that Annie Weatherby-Flowers has accepted our offer. Annie has extensive experience in community engagement in Madison working in the Civil Rights department. She is also the Founder and Co-chair of Madison's Juneteenth Day celebration. Annie will be joining us on April 10th.

Business Meetings

- SLIS Advisory Council
- Meeting with MPL Foundation regarding mini-grants
- Pinney architect review plans
- PLSR Workgroup

City Business

- Dept/Division Head Meeting with Mayor
- Mayor's Guidance Team (3)
- Review of Social Services program at the Library
- Mayor's Management Team
- Meeting with Dept. of Civil Rights on library services to immigrants
- RESJI Strategic Planning committee (2)
- Mayor's Human Services Committee
- Mayor's Strategic Management Team meeting (2)
- Hawthorne Patio art project meeting

Public/Media Appearance

- Oregon Area Progressives
- Bill VandenBrook's retirement form Fleet services
- Smart Studios film and discussion at Central Library
- RESJI Open House
- InDIGenous Jazz Series at Central
- DMI Breakfast program
- Gave tour to SLIS class on Central Library