

## **Library Director Report October 2023**

Focus Areas:

Building Project (BP)

West Side Analysis (WS)

Organizational Development (OD)

### **PREFACE**

I will be leaving on October 24, 2023 to attend the Urban Libraries Council Annual Meeting and then taking leave afterward, so my October report is being filed slightly earlier than usual. I may need to cover the last week of October in my November Report.

### **BUDGET 2024**

The 2024 Executive Operating Budget was released from Central's Library's Madison Room on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. As previously reported there were no major changes to the Library Board's proposed budget. I also presented on our budget to Finance Committee. I only received one comment, Alder Vidaver asked for our continued support for keeping Monroe St. Library open. As a reminder to the Library Board, we do keep Monroe St. Library open 5 days a week with the City funding 3 of those days, and MPL using its Library Fund Balance to fund the other 2 days.

The great news for most City employees in the 2024 Executive budget is a phased 6% pay increase with 4% in January and the remaining 2% in July.

There were no amendments from Alders to our 2024 Operating budget, so we will move to the final approval process on Nov 14-16.

### **IMAGINATION CENTER (BP)**

We have been attending up to at least 4 meetings a week in discussion for the Design Development (DD) part of the project. DD is when final decisions are made on design, materials, furnishings, construction notes, and more. It is scheduled to be complete by February 2024, so the designers could begin the next phase, Construction Documents. Construction Documents are prepared to be used in the bidding process for the builder.

I have asked City Engineering to give a presentation on the Imagination Center to the Board at the November meeting.

### **WEST SIDE COMMUNITY ANALYSIS (WS)**

No update to report.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW (OD)**

The Care Plan will be updating the Library Board.

The Operational Assessment RFP was released and proposals were due October 20, 2023. We have three submissions to review.

## **WISCONSIN BOOK FESTIVAL**

MPL's Fall Wisconsin Book Festival was a tremendous success. In partner with the Wisconsin Science Festival and the Art & Literature Lab this year. An official report is still pending but we estimated over 3,000 attendees to the series of programs. I was able to attend several of the programs at Central Library and rooms were full or close to capacity even into the last day on Sunday. For the first time we had a special program to recognize all the young authors who participated in our We Read Youth Voices event. Over 175 children, parents, and family members crowded into Central's Youth Services to celebrate and recognize the talented young people and their contributions.

Thank you to the MPL Foundation for your continued support of this event and WBF events throughout the year. Huge thank you for the many staff and volunteers that make the WBF so enjoyable to attend. Thanks to Room of One's Own for making the author's books available for purchase. And a major congratulations and job well done to Jane Rotunda, the new Director of the WBF on her first, and hopefully many more to come, fall festivals.

It is such a delight to see so many in our community come together to share their love of reading, their curiosity, and their support of MPL.

## **LIBRARY BOARD CANDIDATES**

Mayor Satya has submitted her Library Board appointments for introduction. They are Salud Garcia (District 18) and Genevieve Carter (District 3) Official appointment by the Common Council will be at the Nov 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **UPCOMING**

I will be in Seattle for the ULC Annual meeting from Oct 25-27. I will report on the conference at the November Library Board meeting.

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

### **City**

Mayor's Management Team  
Mayor Check-in  
Deputy Mayor Check-in  
Common Council  
Budget Review with City Finance  
Finance Committee/Budget presentation and discussion  
Lakeview Lease Review with City Real Estate  
Ashman CAM issues meeting

### **MPL**

Library Management Team  
MPLF Board Meeting

Meeting with MPL Foundation Executive Director

MPL Foundation Board Meeting  
ULC Director/CEO Call  
All Staff October Town Hall

### **External**

Operating Budget Press Release Announcement at Central Library  
MPL Foundation Annual Board Meeting and Social  
MPL Foundation ExLibris Intro event  
Wisconsin Book Festival Fall Festival  
Downtown Rotary Luncheon