

Director's Report to Library Board August 2014

LIBRARY BUDGET

Budget has been submitted. Next in line will be the Mayor's release of his Executive CIP proposal on Sept. 2nd.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

MPL was featured on the cover of the Sept/Oct *American Libraries* Library Design Showcase issue. The Central Library was in the Renovation and Expansion category and was recognized for Service Flexibility.

MPL was also part of an article in *Public Libraries* July/August issue on "Why Build Libraries?"

Library Journal has recognized MPL as a Star Library.

SOCIAL SERVICES AT CENTRAL

We recently experienced an unexpected hit to our social service programs at Central Library. The funding to continue the office hours for the Shine Initiative ran out on August 15th. There was a very small offer to extend the program but the offer of 8 hours a week to the staff made it unaffordable for them to continue. We are in the process to see what can be done to replace this valuable service. Since Central was opened, Shine has helped nearly 800 different individuals with various needs.

NEW ASSIGNMENT

I have been asked by the Mayor to be part of a new Human Services Committee. The committee is composed of various city departments that address housing, public health, and delivery of services to people in need. We just had our first meeting and already I can see the value in being able to collaborate with the agencies represented on the committee.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

We had another record turnout for our summer reading program. We are still collecting our final stats but the summer went great! In addition this summer we partnered with MMSD and United Way to present the Read Up program. This program stressed the importance of students continuing to read during the summer to prevent the "summer slide". A select number of schools agreed to a reading pre-test of students just before school let out and will retest the students who participated in the program to determine their level of retention or gain due to the reading program. This qualitative data will be very important on how we design and implement our future reading programs. At the debriefing of Read Up, both MMSD and United Way were very complimentary of how the Library was able to engage the students and promote their participation.

LIBRARY SITING AND ALLOCATION

A Library Planner has been hired. Catherine Duarte will begin on September 8th. We have already scheduled her for a number of programs so she will begin to get acquainted with Madison and how our libraries deliver services. Catherine recently located here from Austin, TX where she participated in some very interesting public planning projects.

Negotiations are continuing with Ruedebusch on the Pinney Project at Royster Commons. Willy St. Co-op had a successful vote from their membership to allow the company to expand its number of stores. This was their first step to be able to proceed at Royster Commons.

We had been discussing a possible collaborative project to build our Facility Maintenance Shop with other city departments but we determined that this may lead to a substantial delay in completing our project. Long Range Planning has released us from that obligation and is allowing us to pursue a site on our own. City Real Estate is in the process of investigating a property that should meet our needs.

YAHARA MUSIC LIBRARY

Murfie has contacted us regarding a possible change in the oversight of our program. Murfie is planning to create a spinoff company to handle the Yahara project and other library programs that sign on to the project. City legal and the Library's Yahara group will be meeting with Murfie soon to discuss the implications of the move.

WHAT'S NEXT FORUM

MPL was selected to host the second annual What's Next Forum. This is program sponsored by Demco that invites a select group of library directors from across the country. In total 18 directors will be attending the 2 day program in Madison. In addition to touring our new Central, directors will be visiting other Madison programs including Sector 67, the DreamBank, and Wisconsin Institute of Discovery.

"WORLD TOUR"

Beginning in October, I will again be making visits to staff meetings across the system to have an opportunity to visit with all staff. I greatly appreciate the opportunity to learn directly from staff their ideas and concerns.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Unsung hero award goes to Deb Lehnerr. Very few staff know about the level of effort it takes to put together the Library's budget. Meeting deadlines, last minutes changes, endless recalculations, and a Director who is always asking, "What would it look like if we made this adjustment?" In addition she has the patience to repeatedly explain how it works. Deb is an invaluable contributor in making our budget process run smoothly year after year. Engagement, dedication and commitment to MPL at its best.

AUGUST SCHEDULE

Business Meetings:

- Library Planner Interviews
- Presentation and tour to Rochester (MN) PL staff and city officials about our Central Library project
- Assistance to Lincoln City Libraries on their Central Library proposal preparations
- What's Next Forum planning meeting
- Book Festival Planning meeting
- Meadowridge Library tour
- Meeting with Mary Bartzen, Community Partnerships Director of the Foundation for Madison's Public Schools
- Neighborhood Library Supervisor Interviews
- Dane County Large Library Director's group meeting
- Meeting with Focus on Energy to discuss possible credits for energy efficiencies for the Pinney project
- Meeting with Library Board member Eve Galanter to provide updates on library projects
- Meeting with Patti Jorenby from Olbrich Gardens to discuss event planning

City Business:

- Department and Division Head meeting with the Mayor
- 2 Mayor's Management Team meetings
- Budget meeting with the Mayor
- Long Range Planning Committee
- Mayor's Human Services Committee

Public/Media Appearances:

- American Libraries Magazine feature on MPL
- Public Libraries article, "Why Build Libraries?" including MPL
- Participated in the Meet and Greet of City Officials presented by the Chamber and DMI
- DMI Program at Cento including tour of the Block 100 buildings
- Wanda Fullmore Internship Celebration
- Celebration of new Madison Historical Mural at the MMB
- Sketchbook Station project on State St.
- Super Smash Tournament, Finals of the MPL Gaming Championships
- Pechakucha
- Hearts for Healing, celebrity cashier for mini-brat fest
- Bridgit Zinn Film Festival hosted at Central Library