

Library Director Report September 2023

Focus Areas:

Building Project (BP)

West Side Analysis (WS)

Organizational Development (OD)

BUDGET 2024

The 2024 Executive Capital Budget was released and Mayor Satya included an additional \$2M in her budget to cover the estimated overage of construction costs to complete the Imagination Center. Another major change to our proposed CIP was to move our Central Library green funds to Engineering. This will actually be better to have Engineering control the funds since they control this type of project for us and other City departments. We did not receive our requested amount for the refresh of Central Library. The Executive budget will cover the installation of a new PA system and update to our security cameras. Alder Verveer submitted an amendment to add an additional \$125K to the 2024 CIP to cover replacement of carpeting in the 301/302 Community Room and to replace some worn furniture. He also added \$250K to the 2025 CIP to cover the costs of a designer to develop plans for repurposing areas of Central Library. His amendment was passed by the Finance Committee.

The first draft of the 2024 Executive Budget has been shared with Departments. Mayor Satya's formal public release of her Executive Operating Budget will be from MPL's Madison Room on Oct 3rd. No major changes from our proposed budget were made in the Executive Budget. It was called out that Library reserves will again be used to maintain Monroe St Library being open 5 days per week. This is a \$70K expense.

The next step will be a presentation of our operating budget to the Finance Committee on Oct 9-10. A possible additional Finance Committee meeting if an alder introduces any amendments to our operating budget. Then we proceed to the final approval process in front of Common Council on November 14-16.

This will be my last budget before I retire. During my tenure, our budgets have been demanding, tense, and painful at times. I am very proud of the support by City leadership, the Library Board, and the community to MPL's mission and vision. There has been tremendous growth that reflects the dedication of the MPL staff with both our traditional and innovative roles in support of the communities we serve. And I see that trend continuing with the future addition of a 10th library to our system in service to a greatly underrepresented part of our city.

I also want to give a huge shout out and thank you to the core group of staff that helped develop and meet the budget challenges each year by giving the Library Board a solid basis to make your budget decisions. The membership has changed a bit over the past 11 years but the budget teams have always been diligent, creative, and caring to support our staff and sustain our work. Oddly enough, as much as I feel relief each year after our budget is passed, it will be one part of my duties that I will greatly miss. There is an incredible satisfaction from my privilege to advocate for MPL - the amazing staff, the innovative programs and services, and knowing that our work really can make a difference in the lives of the people we service.

IMAGINATION CENTER (BP)

The schematic design has been reviewed, and we have received the finalized schematic design set from JLA. Many of our suggested changes will be addressed in the DD phase of the process. There is a very intensive schedule for design development (DD) to review all aspects of the facilities to inform the construction document process. It is hoped to have DD completed by Spring 2024.

I have asked City Engineering to give a presentation on the Imagination Center to the Board, tentatively scheduled for 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 at the October meeting.

The Operational Assessment RFP has been released. Due date for proposals is October 20, 2023.

MEETING WITH LIBRARY BOARD CANDIDATES

I have shared my recommendations with Mayor Satya on the appointment of two new Board members. I am hoping that they could be appointed in time to attend the November meeting.

STAFF DAY (OD)

September 4, 2023 marked the 10th All-Staff Annual meeting in conjunction with the reopening of the renovated Central Library in 2013. The focus of the day was on self-care for staff and to address ways for staff to reduce stress and help address some of the daily pressures we face in our work. I would like to thank the Library Board and Mayor Satya for your support by allowing us to close all of our libraries for the day. Additional thanks to the Madison Public Library Foundation for funding the costs of food and refreshments throughout the day.

DONATIONS

I was recently notified of two recent sizable gifts to MPL. The first was a gift from an estate to the Friends of MPL for \$160K. This will be allocated to be spent for Central Library. Still to be determined.

The second donation is a Madison Community Foundation (MCF) Field of Interest gift recently established that will benefit MPL. This gift will gather interest for one year and then distribution of funds will begin in 2025. It is anticipated the fund will annually provide approximately \$20k-\$25K. MCF will work with our Foundation and library staff to determine projects/programs to support with the funds. A huge thank you to MCF for pointing out the innovative and diverse programming of MPL that attracted the donor to allocate their gift to support our work.

IN MEMORIAL

A former Library Board member, Richard Swanson, passed away on August 31, 2023. Richard served on the Library Board with Ali Ashman. He was also a next door neighbor to me, and when he learned that I worked for MPL he always shared his love for libraries and how much he enjoyed serving on the Library Board. He was an educator and a prolific poet. He was a member and strong supporter of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets. At the time of his death, per his wishes, there was no memorial service.

But in tribute to Richard, he will be honored and remembered at the 2024 Wisconsin Poets' Calendar reading, Saturday, November 11th at Sequoia Library beginning at 1:30pm.



In 2019, during National Poetry Month, MPL staff were asked to submit a favorite poem, with one poem being shared each day during the entire month. I selected one of Richard's poems.

Hopeless

by *Richard Swanson*

Recommended by: Greg Mickells

Why I chose this poem:

I am sharing this since Richard Swanson is my neighbor and a former Library Board member. He has gifted Bev and me with several of his books of poetry. This particular poem struck a chord with me since Bev is totally fascinated with handwriting, and for me he mentions on top of his to-do list to return his books to the library.

Hopeless

by

Richard Swanson

I've taken to writing lately, the old kind,
my day's agenda set down in old-fashioned ink
I draw from one of those squat, prism-shaped bottles
found at estate sales or in musty Venetian shops.

On a meadow of paper whose spring is the pen's nib,
a woodland creek of my making flows.

For years I lost track of her, my fountain pen,
a separation born of my senseless neglect.
She's aged well, no less shapely, I see.
As I hold and warm her, her tarnish wears off.

We start the day together, she insistent
on careful finger-and-eye interplay: artful swirls,
pleasant tilts and dips, measured spacing,
lazy backslides (the tail of the "y"),
well-placed touches (dotted "i's," crossed "t's")
and once in a while a robust stroke
let loose in a moment of mini drama ("!").

More and more I like this, my morning begun
unrushed, with some flair, my tasks

___ books to the library
___ stamps at the post-office
___ trash out

an elegant list in florid indigo.

© by *Richard Swanson*.

MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, TEAMS & MORE

City

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

MPL

Library Management Team
MPLF Board Meeting
Meeting with MPL Foundation Executive Director
MPL Foundation Board Meeting
ULC Director/CEO Call

External

Madison Senior Center 40th Anniversary
Literacy Network Lunch
Art Party hosted by MPL
Wisconsin Book Festival Joyce Carol Oates
Gambian Baby Naming Ceremony