

## **Library Director Report August 2022**

### **Focus Areas:**

Building Project (BP)

West Side Analysis (WS)

Organizational Development (OD)

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Dane County is now at a High COVID-19 Community Level. (Community level has been shifting between Medium and High, which was expected by Public Health.) It is not mandatory to wear a mask but strongly recommended to wear a mask indoors during this time. It is strongly recommended to keep current on your vaccinations. I did ask about waiting for the potential new vaccine that is supposed to target the latest variant. Public Health recommends not waiting if you are eligible to get boosted, and more than likely the new vaccine will still be available to you later. Another reminder that the last age group from 6 months to under 5 is now eligible for vaccination. MPL parents/caregivers can use their Emergency Paid Leave (EPL) to have their children vaccinated.

MPL continues to distribute rapid/home tests from our libraries. It has been extremely popular and we do frequently run out of supply, but we have been able to get more supply when needed.

### **BUDGET 2023**

I presented our 2023 Operating budget to the Mayor and her budget team. The submitted budget with the 1% reduction did require including an increase to our salary savings line and elimination of Sunday hours. We did receive a compliment from the Mayor that our argument for the slight increase to our salary savings was backed by data.

#### *Key Dates for 2023 Budget*

Agency Briefings with Mayor's Office May 6 – 20 (Capital) August 10 – 17 (Operating)

Executive Budget introduced to Common Council (CC) Tuesday, September 6 (Capital) Tuesday, October 11 (Operating)

Finance Committee (FC) Briefings September 12 – 13 (Capital) October 17 – 18 (Operating)

FC Amendment Meeting September 28 (Capital) October 31 (Operating)

CC Amendment Week November 7 – 11

CC Budget Adoption Meetings November 15 – 17

MPL is scheduled to be first to present September 12<sup>th</sup> on our Capital budget to the Finance Committee.

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

Schematic design continues on the facilities and grounds for the Imagination Center. We are at the stage in the schematic design that we will begin to include more MPL staff for their input on the work. We have requested and received some additional floor plans to review and comment on to JLA. We have already had a few major discussions about bathrooms.

We will be planning to present an update to the Library Board on the design at the October meeting.

## **LIBRARY BOARD**

At the August 2<sup>nd</sup> Common Council meeting, Mayor Satya forwarded two new appointments to the Library Board. Succeeding Jair Alvarez she has nominated Mathias Lemos Castillo, and succeeding Michael Ford she has nominated Yeonhee Cheong. Expected confirmation of the appointments will be at the Sept 6<sup>th</sup> CC meeting. The Mayor is still considering two more appointments that will be introduced at the Sept 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **OPTIMISM**

Actually it should be Optimist, since I recently presented to the Optimist International Madison Westside chapter. I did share with the group that I was indeed optimistic about the return of these in person presentations. The group was extremely impressed by the scope of MPL's work, and had several follow up questions about our operations. I have another presentation scheduled for the Optimist International Madison Downtown Chapter coming up. (They are not related, just a coincidence.)

## **MAJOR GRANT**

WOW!!! MPL Foundation recently informed us that we were selected by the Ascendium Foundation for a \$100,000 grant in support of MPL's services, operations, and collections. The funds from this grant will allow us to continue support for many established programs, and enhance collection access for workforce development and literacy initiatives.

Ascendium allowed their employees to vote on awarding ten of these grants to Madison institutions that have a focus on community needs.

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

Rynn has finalized the new version of Tell Us packets that will be going out to neighborhood libraries by August 26. Rynn has also met with MPL's community engagement and youth services teams to get their input. A big part of this information gathering for Rynn, who is new to Madison, is to learn about community connections to reach out to for input. Part of that is being accomplished by outreach to neighborhood associations and the City's NRTs.

Rynn and I recently met with Alder Figueroa-Cole to brief her on the study including the goals of the project. We wanted her to know that this is a continuous process for MPL to evaluate its services and identify areas for improvement. Some may be budget related, but it is not always necessary to add to our budget if we decide to shift our focus on a community need.

## **BOISE PUBLIC LIBRARY (OD)**

I was recently interviewed and completed a survey on MPL operations and services as part of discovery process conducted by Susan Hildreth, a consultant for Boise Public Library. Boise PL has been working with Susan to develop their vision and scope for services. As part of that process they identified five institutions that were similar in size to Boise, and organizations that they admired. In addition to MPL, the study included Central Arkansas Library System, St. Paul Public Library, Scottsdale Public Library and Spokane Public Library.

## **CHANGES TO THE COMMON AREA MAINTENANCE FOR GOODMAN SOUTH MADISON LIBRARY (BP)**

As reported in my July report there was a resolution for a major shift of CAM expenditure for our Goodman South Madison Library. This resolution was approved by consent at the August 2, 2022 CC meeting.

## **LIBRARY DIRECTOR CONTRACT**

2022 is the final year of my 5 year contract with the City of Madison. My current contract will expire on September 4, 2022. I have been in discussion with Mayor Satya and HR Director Harper Donahue (prior to his departure from the City) about renewing my contract. Terms were agreed to and the new contract process will commence.

Here is the timeline for the process.

- September 6 – Council Introduction
- September 12 – Finance Approval
- October 6 – Library Board Approval
- October 11 – Confirmation Hearing

Even though final approval, if granted, is beyond my expiration date. The terms of the new contract will be retroactive to September 4, 2022 and extend to September 4, 2027.

I have already completed and received approval of my recertification for Grade 1 Library Director. Certification is a requirement for all Wisconsin Library Directors. After initial approval, Library Directors in all grades must participate in 100 hours of continuing education including at least 10 hours of technology training over the five-year period for recertification.

## **STAFF/PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT (OD)**

Tammy Ocampo, Youth Services Supervisor, recently shared this report on MPL's Youth Home Delivery project, in partnership with Madison Reading Project. Holly Storck-Post, coordinates and manages the program along with several other youth librarians. This program really gained momentum during the pandemic when we were creatively finding ways to reach patrons, especially young readers that could not make it to our libraries. We had originally used Union Cabs for delivery and later transitioned to the Madison Reading Project for delivery of materials. [This is one of the programs that will benefit from the Ascendium grant]

From January through August of 2022:

- 165 deliveries and pickups (see below - we added a pilot of daycare sites picking up bins in the library!)
- 49 daycare providers receiving monthly bins of library books
- Over 400 kids have access to new library books
- 3,077 books delivered

A related pilot program was started in March to provide delivery to MMSD Play and Learn providers and 6 classrooms at the Reach Dane East site, and to offer bins for pick up in the library by one daycare site interested in entirely Spanish language materials. This pilot was very well received, and will continue in the fall. In June, most providers received a summer bin of extra books, and we will resume monthly delivery in September.

Additionally there has been a focus on growing the Spanish Language collections since there is such a large demand.

Tammy also share this heartwarming feedback from one of the daycare providers using our program. The daycare provider has a child who has been hitting a lot lately, and this month she asked for books in Spanish that could help the child learn why hitting others is not ok and understand how it makes their peers feel. We were able to find a few things in Spanish that might help, and she got them this week. She just sent me this message:

*"Los libros que me prestaste el miércoles tienen tanta enseñanza, son tan hermosos, muchas muchas gracias! Son dos días y me han servido mucho, mis niños han captado el mensaje"*

*(The books you lent me on Wednesday have so many teachings, they are so beautiful, thank you so much! It has been two days, and they have served me well, my kids have gotten the message)*

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

### **City**

Mayor's Management Team  
Mayor Check-in  
Racial Equity & Social Justice Strategic Planning  
Deputy Mayor Check-in  
Mayor's COVID-19 Taskforce  
Finance Committee Meeting  
Budget Contacts Meeting  
Common Council Meeting

### **MPL**

Library Management Team  
All Staff Town Hall  
MPL Foundation Grant discussions  
Imagination Center Design Team  
MPLF Board Meeting  
Susan Hildreth on Boise Public Library

Meeting MPL Foundation Executive Director  
Meeting MPL Budget Team  
Royster Corners Condo Association  
Budget Team meeting on 2023 CIP  
PlayLab Planning Session  
Meeting Goodman South Madison Staff  
SRLAAW 3rd Quarter meeting

### **External**

Wisconsin Resource Library Directors  
Urban Libraries Council Director/CEO Calls  
Digital Equity Leaders Network  
Presentation to Optimist International Westside chapter  
Madison Regional Economic Development and Diversity Summit  
Wisconsin Book Festival with David Maraniss