

Library Director Report June 2023

Focus Areas:

Building Project (BP)

West Side Analysis (WS)

Organizational Development (OD)

BUDGET 2024

Mayor Satya's 2024 Operating Budget kick-off was on June 20, 2023. The presentation started with some grim news. The projected 2024 deficit is \$28M. Major factors contributing to this gap are increases for staff salaries and benefits, plus the increase in debt service on capital projects. Additionally the City was hoping for a better revenue sharing result from the State than what was awarded. The City is still experiencing growth in new construction, but with mandated levy limitations, it is not sufficient to keep up with inflation. At least for the 2024 budget there are some one-time revenue sources and other revenues from closed TIDs and the Reserve Fund, to help close this gap to \$10M. This remaining amount will need to be achieved through savings by all City departments.

This year's directive is a new approach on how agencies will meet that fiscal goal for the City. Instead of identifying various cuts in our line items, we were directed to keep within 99% of our Cost to Continue budget prepared by Finance. It does not matter where we realize these savings. The 1% totals \$208K for the Library. There are some areas that we will keep close tabs on, including salary savings, supply expenditures, and a number of other areas to keep within 99% of our budget. One area that we requested in our Cost to Continue that was not included was to make whole the funding for Monroe St. Library within the Operating Budget. Currently only 3 days of operating costs are included in our Operating Budget. The other two days are covered using funds from our Fund Balance. We may need to continue to use Fund Balance in 2024 unless the operating cost for the two days is restored in the Executive Operating Budget. The amount is app \$70K for the two days and we do have sufficient funds in the Fund Balance to cover this expenditure.

The 2024 Operating Cost to Continue is 5.2% higher than our 2023 starting point, but the 1% saving is also included in the budget so our realized gain in 2024 is a net increase of 4.2%.

We are allowed to submit one supplemental ask but it does come with several conditions. Any ask will be difficult at best to gain approval. Additionally, this instruction was followed with a dire picture for future budgets. Some of the revenue sources used in 2024 to close the gap may not be available in 2025 and beyond. Preliminary projections estimate a 2025 budget deficit of \$32 million, steadily increasing up to \$56 million in 2029. Mayor Satya is stressing that departments will need to view budgets with a longer range perspective than just from year to year.

Although this is a new format for us, it still requires review from the budget team including Krissy Wick, Mark Benno, Susan Lee, Lori Suiter, and me. But with the new format the majority of the heavy lifting was performed by Lori, plugging in the numbers and sorting through the line items to enable us to meticulously track our revenues and spending. Huge shout out to Lori to make this budget possible in only one week in order to get it to the Library Board in time for approval at the July 6th meeting.

IMAGINATION CENTER (BP)

The schematic design has been completed. Staff has reviewed and delivered changes to JLA for their finalization of this phase of the project. We are still waiting to receive the drawings from JLA.

I reported to the Library Board on some concerns impacting the project after our CIP presentation. I was able to meet with the Mayor to discuss our options. She supports the project and has made some problem-solving considerations to keep the project moving forward.

WEST SIDE COMMUNITY ANALYSIS (WS)

Rynn has completed the Tell Us Engagement Halfway Report. (A copy is included in the packet) The report reflect the data and community input gathered since December, 2022. During preparation of the report Rynn did determine some internal talking points for our management team to review and discuss. This work will also be an important component of our upcoming operational overview in helping us to gain efficiencies and evaluating our services.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW (OD)

The initial report from The Care Plan following the series of SWOT exercises has been presented to the Library's Management Team for review and discussion. Since the input was from staff, there is a more internal focus to the content at this time. The Care Plan will begin following up with community engagement and other sources to round out the areas of consideration to establish our goals in the next three years.

The Care Plan will be at the next Library Board meeting in August to present on the work completed so far.

A small group has been working on a framework for the Operational Overview RFP. We have been assigned Purchasing Agents from Finance to assist us with the RFP process. I am hoping we can get this noticed to potential consultants by the end of July.

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES AT CENTRAL LIBRARY (BP)

The projectors and main screen have been replaced in the 3rd Floor Community Rooms. Even with sunlight coming in, the projection on the screen is bright enough to be clearly seen. We still have more work to complete to install cameras and update some of the other control devices and microphones. Replacement podiums have also been ordered, as our current podiums were beginning to literally fall apart. This has been a another great team project with assistance from Facilities, Technology, and Event Planning staff working with a private vendor and City IT staff to design and implement the plans.

With special thanks going to Madison Public Library Foundation. Without their support this may not have been possible at least in this shorter timeframe. The total project cost will be app. \$250K.

SCLS BROADBAND OUTAGE

I have to congratulate the team effort put in by many MPL staff to assist the amazing work of Pat and Lucas from our Technology Dept. to provide clear direction and resources to help us cope as best as we could during the broadband outage. Using a combination of hot spots and City connected devices we were able to maintain some connectivity to answer questions and provide circulation.

Unfortunately one of the resources that our patrons really depend on, public computing, will not be available during the outage

WISCONSIN BOOK FESTIVAL

There have been several tremendous WBF events recently but a special one to recognize in June was the WBF partnering with A Room of One's Own Bookstore to present Eliot Page in conversation about his new book Pageboy. The event was held at the Barrymore, and everyone attending received a free copy of the book. Unfortunately the event was so successful, 200-300 more people were still in line before we had to close the doors after reaching the full capacity of near 1000 attendees. Major shout out to Jane and Haley for making this a wonderful experience for the community.

UPCOMING

I will be attending an Irish Wake for former City Attorney Mike May on July 1 at Burrow Park. I will be taking some additional time off during July with my granddaughter coming from Colorado to Madison for two weeks of hockey camp. Go Bears!

MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, TEAMS & MORE

City

Mayor's Management Team
Mayor Check-in
Deputy Mayor Check-in
Mayor's COVID-19 Taskforce
Common Council
Operating Budget Kickoff
Budget Review with City Finance
ICRP Meeting with Mayor

MPL

Library Management Team
Imagination Center Design Team
ICRP Schematic Design Review
MPLF Board Meeting
Meeting with MPL Foundation Executive Director
MPL Foundation Board Meeting
The Care Plan Strategic Planning
ULC Director/CEO Call
ULC Virtual Annual Business Meeting
Dane County Director Meeting
Follow-up with City Real Estate on Lakeview Lease
LMT Strategic Planning Retreat with The Care Plan
Meet with Finance on Central Library Refresh
Mid-Year Budget Projection Meeting
Meeting with Jeff Liggon of The Fit
Webinar on A library Response Strategy to Artificial Intelligence

External

Wisconsin History Center Reveal and Fundraiser
iSchool Advisory Council at UW-Madison

Art Party at Wisconsin Union