

Library Director Report February 2016

LIBRARY SITING AND ALLOCATION

The Pinney Library project has a few new challenges that are currently being discussed with the Mayor and other city departments about the progress being made on the site. You may be aware that the site was recently re-contaminated and the consequence of that action is being resolved. I have been engaged with various city departments to remain current on the options being discussed. I will also be at the table when these options are being discussed with the Mayor. I hope to have more details at the time of the Board meeting.

The Badger Building remains under design and we will begin the budget and design discussions soon to determine the scope of the project.

Catherine Duarte is in the homestretch for completion of her eastside library services plan. She will be meeting with staff during March to tweak the publication and we are hoping to present the plan at the next board meeting.

NATIONAL MEDAL 2016

Once again our nomination for the National Medal has carried us to the finalist stage. We will be sending more information to the Board as to how you can contribute to our campaign to be selected as a winner. Just like last year it is quite an honor to even be selected as a finalist. (But it would be sweet to win.)

STATE LEGISLATION

I attended the WLA Legislation Day event where we recognized WI State legislators that were supportive of library measures during the 2015-16 session. The day included visits to our personal representatives to update them on what libraries are doing now and asking for their future support. I actually have an easy task since I meet with Sen. Risser and Rep. Subeck who are both very strong supporters and users of public libraries. As a follow up to the Return of Library Materials bill that I lobbied for last month, it did pass. I did a brief follow-up interview in the WSJ on its passage. http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/govt-and-politics/libraries-can-give-info-to-bill-collectors-but-not-user/article_6966e463-3fdb-55d3-85ff-ea03239548a0.html

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Not exactly a “first” that we would share widely but the memorial service for Rosemary Lee was the first event of this kind that Central has hosted. It was especially significant since Rosemary, a long time downtown resident and Central Library user, was recognized by the many community members who grew to know her over the years. Her family, who all traveled from Indianapolis, IN, knew of Rosemary’s strong attachment to the public library and so we were identified for donations in her memorial.

UW-MADISON CONNECTION

As I have shared many times, our relationship with the UW continues to grow. The UW turned to us when they were seeking a grant to research participatory learning which resulted in a 6

figure grant providing programming and staffing funds to our Bubbler program. We have been approached again by the UW to take part in another research grant seeking \$1.3M over 3 years that would also include programming and staffing funds for MPL. We have not made a decision yet if we will participate.

CONNECTION TO INNOVATION

MPL continues to be tied to innovation happening in our community. In a recent article in the Cap Times, the Bubbler was identified along with other “makers” in Madison for contributing to the city being recognized as one of the top 10 cities in the country by the National League of Cities for its Maker Movement.

http://host.madison.com/ct/news/local/education/university/madison-featured-in-national-study-of-the-maker-movement/article_c785475d-0bc8-5581-8c56-fc9c177af7eb.html

MORE TOURS OF CENTRAL LIBRARY

You might think that after more than two years that tours of the Central Library may be a thing of the past. That would not be the case. I recently reported on the visit by Seattle PL and now in February we have provided tours to the Pioneer Library System out of Norman, OK and a tour and meet up with a staff member from Richland Library in Columbia, SC. Richland has worked very closely with MPL in developing their strategic plan. I co-presented with their director at the Director’s Summit in Chattanooga, TN on the innovative services both of our libraries are providing to our respective communities.

STAFF RECOGNITION

Jan Anderson retired on February 26th after 42 years of service at MPL in a variety of roles. She began her career in 1974, working on the City Bookmobile. In 1977, she moved into the Interlibrary Loan division, which was then part of the Circulation Department at the Central Library. Later, ILL operations and staff were transferred into the Adult Services Department.

As part of Adult Services, Jan continued in ILL as well as working at the public Help Desk. She transferred to Technical Services to become a cataloger in 1985 and was instrumental in implementing MPL’s first ILS (integrated library system), Geac. Working with South Central Library System, she played a major role in the migration from Geac to Dynix in 1994 and then to Koha in 2011. Jan has led the cataloging team with humor, patience, and compassion. She will be sorely missed. *Submitted by Susan Lee.*

I would add that many times contributions by staff in “behind the scenes” positions do not get the recognition they richly deserve. But you can quickly glean from this brief recounting of her career how many important contributions Jan made for MPL and ultimately for the Madison community. Plus anyone who has survived not just one but two ILS migrations and one original implementation is to be admired. Thank you Jan for your service to Madison Public Library.

Business Meetings

Meeting with Tibetan representative to the Dalai Lama
Tour of Central by Pioneer Library System (Norman,OK)
Pinney Library RFP review
Strategic Planning meeting with Public Health
UW Grant proposal

Meeting with Paula Kiley, director of Milwaukee PL
Library Legislative Day
WBF meeting
After Hours Facility Use of Meadowridge Library
National Science Foundation grant review
Meeting with City TIF Staff involved with Pinney Project
Meeting with Will Glenn on equity hiring
UW-Madison SLIS Advisory Committee

City Business

Dept/Division Head Meeting with Mayor
Mayor's Management Team
Public Works, Pinney Project on the agenda
Public Market private fundraising meeting
Mayor's Human Services workgroup

Public/Media Appearance

Rosemary Lee Memorial Service
Bill White Celebration Party for Retirement and New business venture
Little Woman Opera
Legislative Day Lecture on history of WI Library legislation at Central Library
Presentation by Dane County DA Ismael Ozanne on Dane County justice system
Pinney Movie Night
Interview, George Hesselberg, "Libraries can give bill collectors, but not user information", Wisconsin State Journal, February 22, 2016
PechaKucha
WBF John Nichols & Robert McChesney *People Get Ready*
Racial Disparity in Dane County at Lake Edge Lutheran Church
Strong Roots: Building Economically Stable Families, a United Way program
WBF EJ Dionne *Why the Right Went Wrong*