

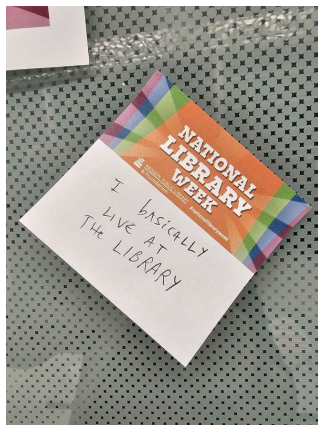
Interim Library Director Report April 2024

Eclipse Mania!

Libraries have been hopping in April! First, we served as election sites for thousands of voters on April 2. Then, we were hit with a wave of visitors looking for eclipse glasses. We started giving out glasses on Wednesday, April 3, and all 2,500 pairs were gone by Friday! Phones were ringing off the hook looking for glasses right up until the actual eclipse happened on Monday afternoon. A huge thank you to our staff for helping residents enjoy this rare event!

National Library Week

National Library Week was held from April 7 - 13, and we had a host of activities to celebrate



the occasion. For details about each day of the week, you can check out: <https://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/national-library-week>.

Thanks to the generosity of the Madison Public Library Foundation (MPLF), we were able to celebrate our staff on April 8 with a variety of snacks throughout the day. Thank you, MPLF!

National Volunteer Recognition

Saturday, April 20 was National Volunteer Recognition Day. MPL is so lucky to have over 120 dedicated volunteers who gave over 7,000 hours of their time in 2023. Again, thanks to the Foundation, we were able to give small gift cards to each volunteer as a little token of our appreciation. As our experience in the pandemic proved – our volunteers are essential in providing quick service to our patrons. We simply cannot move our materials as quickly without them.

Lunch for Libraries

The Madison Public Library Foundation held the annual Lunch for Libraries celebration on Tuesday, April 23 and were thrilled to host author, Tommy Orange. This was the largest Lunch for Libraries event ever, with nearly 800 attendees and over \$137,800 raised. Congratulations to the Foundation for another fabulous event!

Budget Update

As Tana noted in her April 17 email to the Library Board, the Common Council adopted a resolution providing direction to City leadership on the operating budget on April 16. The full text of that resolution can be [found here](#). The Library has also met several internal budget milestones this month (major kudos to Lori for making sure that we met all of our deadlines!). In addition to submitting all of the documentation for our Capital budget, we also prepared our Cost to Continue operating budget submission and provided Finance with their requested information for the May community meetings on the operating budget. The May budget engagement events are scheduled for May 1 at Kennedy Elementary from 6:30-8:30pm; May 16 at Memorial High School from 6:00-8:00pm; May 29 at Goodman South Madison Library from 5:30-7:30pm; May

30 at the Madison Municipal Building (and virtual) from 6:00-8:00pm; and June 5 at Blackhawk Middle School from 6:00-8:00pm. We will send out advocacy tips and links to RSVP for these sessions once they're available.

Operational Assessment

Work on the first phase of the operational assessment has continued throughout the month of May, with additional informational interviews with staff. The steering team has been impressed with the way Advancing with Purpose seems to be understanding and synthesizing the information they've been given, and we are looking forward to their in person visits in May.