

Library Director Report August 2023

Focus Areas:

Building Project (BP)

West Side Analysis (WS)

Organizational Development (OD)

PUBLIC HEALTH

Last month I reported that we had moved from the pandemic to tracking the Air Quality Index due to the Canadian wildfires. We are still tracking the AQI but now we have had to add Excessive Heat Events since libraries are designated cooling centers. Just another way that libraries continue to be resources for the community in many different ways.

Quick fact from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Heat is the nation's leading cause of weather-related fatalities, leading to more deaths (168) annually over the 30-year average (1993–2022) than hurricanes (48) and tornadoes (71) combined.

BUDGET 2024

The 2024 Executive Capital Budget will be coming out on September 5, 2023. It is not official yet since it has not been released but I did receive a draft of the budget to review. Mayor Satya did add in the extra \$2M need to cover the overage on the Imagination Center project. This is excellent news as it means that Public Works will continue to move the project forward. I will give a complete report at the Board meeting after the budget is released. On September 11, 2023. I will be briefing the Finance Committee on our CIP.

IMAGINATION CENTER (BP)

The schematic design has been reviewed, and we are still waiting to receive the finalized schematic design set from JLA.

The resolution exempting park property from the TOD ordinance passed, allowing for the Imagination Center project to proceed without any changes to the current design. We are anticipating to get a Design Development (DD) work plan from JLA on Sept. 12, which will be followed by a DD Kick-off meeting on Oct 2. DD completion is expected in April 2024.

I will talk to City Engineering about putting together a presentation on the Imagination Center to give to the Board at a future board meeting as we begin to roll out more information to the public about the design and function of the space.

WEST SIDE COMMUNITY ANALYSIS (WS)

No update to report. I did meet with Rynn and Mark Benno to discuss timeframe for finalizing a report on the findings.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW (OD)

The Care Plan will be updating the Library Board at the September meeting.

The Operational Assessment RFP is being finalized and should be going out for public notice in September. Scoring of the proposals will happen in October and hopefully we will have someone onboard by the end of October.

MEETING WITH LIBRARY BOARD CANDIDATES

The Mayor's office sends the applications submitted for request to be appointed to the Library Board to my office. I will typically meet with the applicants to give them an overview of the responsibilities of the Library Board, and to answer any of their questions. I will then share a brief report back to the Mayor so she can make her decision on the appointments. I am hoping to finalize my report soon so the Mayor can move forward with her appointments and get them in front of Common Council for approval.

SPECIAL GUEST IN THE LIBRARY

I was contacted by Dr. Ndirangu Wachanga with a request to use library space for an interview. Dr. Wachanga's research is around the question of memory, and for the last two decades, he has been



documenting biographies of African intellectuals and thinkers, including the 1986 Nobel Laureate, Prof Wole Soyinka. He made the request for library space to interview Sona Jobarteh. Sona Jobarteh is a world- renowned kora player. She was in Madison to perform at the Sessions Concerts in McPike Park. Sona was born in London but her family has Gambian roots. She is a member of one of the five principal kora-playing (griot) families from West Africa, and the first female member of such a family to rise to prominence on this instrument. The playing of this 21-stringed harp-like instrument was exclusively passed down from father to son. The instrument is an important element of the Mandingo peoples in West Africa and their playing is reserved only to certain families called griot.

In addition to meeting her at the library I was able to attend both of her concerts. There were many local Gambians in attendance, including several members of the Madison delegation that traveled to The Gambia. I also attended her concert at Graver Feed Mill in March.

UPCOMING

A reminder to all Library Board members of the upcoming all-day Staff Day on September 14, 2023. You are welcome to attend the entire day if you wish, or stop by in the morning or afternoon if that works better for your schedule. Remarks by the Director, Mayor, and Foundation's Executive Director will begin at 11am.

A delegation from Kanifing, The Gambis Is planning to come to Madison. The Library will be hosting a reception for them on Sept. 27th. We also have a book festival event on that day so the reception will take place in our youth area at Central Library.

MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, TEAMS & MORE

City

Mayor's Management Team
Mayor Check-in
Deputy Mayor Check-in
Common Council
Operating Budget Kickoff
Budget Review with City Finance
AQI Response Planning
Executive Check-in Evaluation

MPL

Library Management Team
MPLF Board Meeting
Meeting with MPL Foundation Executive Director
MPL Foundation Board Meeting
ULC Director/CEO Call
Meeting Alder Martinez-Rutherford
Meeting with DCR and NRT on Pindex
West Side Planning meeting

External

Sona Jobarteh Concerts
Social Good Workshop visit with organizers
WestFest
Inspired by the Gambia: presentation by CEOs of Tomorrow
Retirement celebration for Steve Brist

Interviews on MPL Library Director Retirement

WSJ Interview https://madison.com/news/local/government-politics/madison-library-director-retires/article_40136288-3b96-11ee-8662-8bf317bb1324.html

Channel 3 interview https://www.channel3000.com/video/madison-public-library-director-optimistic-for-future-of-library-ahead-of-retirement/video_9fe53970-3855-578c-8602-cbf2fc38d800.html