

Library Director Report December 2023

Focus Areas:

Building Project (BP)

West Side Analysis (WS)

Organizational Development (OD)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS & NEW YEAR

Best wishes for a joyful holiday and New Year. 2023 was a year of many accomplishments. I asked Tana to pull together some highlights to share with all of you. Some of these were new in 2023, and some are shining stars that have been around for a while but continue to give in many important ways. And it is always OK for Board members to share these wonderful stories of achievement with your friends, family, and community. Enjoy.

Our Town Everywhere & Little Book Project

The Little Book Project was started by Rachel Werner in 2019, with the first edition coming out in 2019. Now, many version later, we're happy to say that the Bubbler at Madison Public Library was at the center of the 7th edition, which was recently completed! Little Book #7 is titled Collaboration and is a snapshot into the multifaceted collaboration happening throughout the [Our Town Everywhere](#) project (2022-24). Collaboration features the team of artists and community members from all corners of Madison, participating in the creation and collection of self-portraits.

City Partnerships Highlight Library's Community Connection

The Library enhances civic engagement in our city through a series of partnerships. We hosted Metro information meetings and drop in sessions to educate users about route changes, and distributed thousands of bus maps and schedules. We hosted elections, in-person absentee voting at six sites, and registered voters - an effort we'll increase in the pivotal 2024 election year. We continued to distribute masks and COVID tests in partnership with Public Health and work with PHMDC on other health-related issues and programming. And a surprise hit was the distribution of Snow Plow trading cards this winter in partnerships with Streets and Engineering!

Teejop & Beyond

The [Teejop & Beyond](#) programs this year were such an incredible experience! We heard from nine presenters representing multiple Native nations, including Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Ottawa, Oneida and more. We learned traditional crafts like beading, quillwork and basket weaving, and heard talks on Menominee food, Language Revitalization, Growing Up Native in Wisconsin, the Climate Crisis, and more. The series spanned three months and 16 individual programs with more than 350 attendees. Thank you to everyone who attended a program, to our wonderful presenters - many of whom shared their own personal stories and histories, in addition to the topics they spoke on - and to our partners Ho-Chunk Gaming for their support throughout the process.

Ebooks and Online Content Continues to Grow in Popularity

Ebooks, digital audiobooks, online magazines and streaming video collections continue to grow in popularity with our library users. In 2023, we're on track to see nearly 750,000 online checkouts from these 24/7 services. These now comprise more than 25% of our library's total items checked out. Our

Foundation recently raised more than \$30,000 during Giving Tuesday to support these popular collections.

Parents as First Teachers

Our Parents as First Teachers initiative is a collaboration with Public Health Madison & Dane County's home visiting nurses to get early literacy materials into the hands of families with kids ages 0-5, as well as some expectant parents. We have created reusable literacy packs, and provide free, bilingual books to families thanks to donations to the Madison Public Library Foundation from the Roots & Wings Foundation. Recently, Parents as First Teachers partnered with the Overture Center for the Arts's [Lullaby Project](#) to expand our offerings! We're incorporating links to their parent-created lullabies, adding musical links to the Literacy Packs, and adding Lullaby Project CDs to our library collections. Plus, we're working together to host Lullaby Circles, where parents and kids can write their own songs.

Library of Things

Our collection of "things" we check out grows every year! From BCycle passes to seeds to disc golf kits to adaptive toys, our libraries check out a variety of unique collections emphasizing the sharing of resources in our community and working with community partners. Additional efforts highlight STEM and Maker kits for educators. See the entire collection at <https://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/resources/madison-public-libraris-library-things>

IMAGINATION CENTER (BP)

It is exciting to see the final decisions being made on the project as it moves to completion of design development. It is important to have many of these items resolved in order to have the most complete construction documents as possible in order to get an accurate bid for construction.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW (OD)

The Care Plan will have a finalized Strategic Priority document for the Library Board at the January meeting. After input from the Library Board at the December meeting, The Care Plan met with the Library Management Team to tweak and find consensus, as the team will move on to develop a Strategic Plan, with an aligned Work Plan.

2023 LEADERSHIP GATHERING (OD)

I was joined by Krissy Wick and Tana Elias in attendance at the City's Leadership Gathering facilitated by City Human Resources. The gathering brought together a variety of director and management level employees from all departments and divisions to discuss value based leadership. It was a great opportunity to visit with other leaders from across the entire City. One take-away that was discussed in my group was how beneficial it really is to be able to share in-person across the table and discuss common issues we all face in providing guidance and resolving issues. The final breakout session had a variety of topics at various tables that you could choose to discuss with co-workers. Although it was only a half day, I found it had real value. In my response to their post-event survey, I encouraged HR to continue with the practice, and find additional ways for staff from across the City to periodically come together. Pre-COVID, Department-Division directors would meet once a month for a brown bag lunch. I always found this casual gathering as a way to learn more about the City and how others were addressing various issues. It would be an excellent opportunity for a new Director to get to know their colleagues.

WEST SIDE COMMUNITY ANALYSIS (WS)

No update to report.

REAL ESTATE STATUS (BP)

The new lease for Lakeview should be arriving soon. I believe every issue with that negotiation has been resolved. The final area of resolution on the Ashman Common Area Maintenance (CAM) agreement hopefully will be resolved soon. City Legal, City Real Estate, and Library Accounting will be meeting with the owners to determine how management fees will or will not be part of our CAM. We have not voted yet on acceptance of the budget for the Royster Condo Association due to a concern about a significant increase in insurance costs. City Real Estate is investigating that concern.

DIRECTOR TRANSITION

At this time I have sent notifications to MPL staff, City Leadership including Department-Division heads about Krissy Wick's appointment to Interim Library Director. I have requested that future communication go to her and to copy me in if needed. I have also requested that Department-Division heads inform their staff if they have any Library relationship to include Krissy in any communications.

In the meantime I have trimmed my files and organized them for the incoming Library Director. It is comparable to how files were left for me to review when I started. It was very beneficial to me for example to see the early files on Central Library as a reference when I was taking over that project. Although we have a number of staff involved with the Imagination Center at Reindahl Park, some of the earlier records that I have kept may be informative to a new Director. It has been very interesting in reviewing many of the older files across many projects and programs that bought back some fond (and some not so fond) memories of our work. I have been sharing some of the files with staff that were part of the documentation that I kept.

My next major step will be working with Library IT on the transition of my electronic files.

UPCOMING

Travel to Omaha the week of Dec 18th.

I am planning to attend the January, and February Library Board meetings.

MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, TEAMS & MORE

City

Mayor's Management Team
Mayor Check-in
Deputy Mayor Check-in
Common Council Budget
Lakeview Lease Review with City Real Estate

ULC Director/CEO Call
Operational Assessment review
Lakeview Lease discussion
Strategic Plan discussion
Transition Planning Discussions
On-Boarding of new Board members

MPL

Library Management Team
MPLF Board Meeting
Meeting with MPL Foundation Executive Director
MPL Foundation Board Meeting

External

Common Council Holiday Party
ArtParty at UW-Madison
CEOs of Tomorrow Business Presentations
Mary Bottari's Farewell Party
Meeting with Bob Queen

