

Library Director Report October 2019

BP: Building Projects

CR: Collaborations including representing MPL in Local, State, National, and International roles

EL: Early Literacy.

LIBRARY SITING AND ALLOCATION (BP) (CR) (EL)

Pinney Project:

We have started meeting to go over proposed dates for completing the project and the projected opening. A major concern is to make sure we can minimize our time in the interim space since this additional cost takes away from our building project. In the meantime, the construction continues and the defined space are becoming evident.

Imagination Center (IC) at Reindahl Park:

The original amendment made at Finance Committee involving the project remains. The ask to move the IC from the Mayor's Horizon Project List back to the CIP will be decided in the final Common Council adoption process.

Kevin conducted his first Local Voices Network session with neighborhood residents about the project. He received some feedback from one of the participants that I wanted to share with the Board.

Subject: Thank You

Hi Kevin,

I wanted to thank you for taking the time to meet with us and truly listen to our community. We really appreciate it! After our conversation last night I got so excited about this project that I had to share some of my reflections with you. Sorry this is so long!

After reflecting on your question about our community identity, I truly believe that is something that we are missing. We are a community that is cut off by large roads and disconnected from the amenities of Madison and surrounding areas. East Town Mall, chain restaurants and the airport also break up our neighborhoods without providing community space. This library would give our area something to be proud of and I believe could help us to connect, bring together resources, ideas and people to build a needed network and gain respect for this area.

I also think the library could bring exciting options to improve the park. The park has the potential to better serve our community and enhance the space. I think adding to the park through ideas such as a water feature or pond (could have fishing), bike paths, dream park playground, pool, dog park, reading tree house, ice skating, flower gardens, dog park, bath paths and recreational rentals etc. could make it a desirable and destination space. I also think exploring how the space could express and create art, music, theater, food would really embrace the imagination center idea. This could bring events such as movie nights, concerts, food and craft festivals, etc. which is something our area is also lacking.

One of the needs close to my heart is bringing resources to the community members here most in need. Being so close to the interstate makes us an accessible location for drug dealing and using. With this, we also have members in our community struggling with addiction and homelessness at the parks and surrounding hotels and neighborhoods. I believe bringing services such as a resource specialist, needle exchange/public health program, social worker, mental health, housing, etc. could radically support these community members.

This library will be so much more for this community as I believe we have a desperate need for a neighborhood center and space as well. I think doing some volunteer coordinating and asset mapping could provide some untapped potential here such as childcare volunteers, Zumba/yoga teachers, artists, musicians, chefs, gardeners, teachers and social workers who could contribute to this center. I also believe the library will bring access to community members in need such as books, internet, social events, and social services to those who are underserved. I also hope it will bring existing community resources such as benefit workers, American Family DreamBank, community caseworkers and programs to diversify options at low or no cost to the project.

The community kitchen and cafe idea is exciting as I can imagine a patio surrounded in plants and gardens maintained by the community and giving people a beautiful spot to enjoy a drink, ice cream or connect. Bringing a local vibe to this community is so needed as well as a way for our cut off communities to connect.

Thank you again and we are so excited about the future of this project! I can't say enough how much I believe this will impact our area and the future possibilities are so exciting for me as I dream about building up the untapped parts of our community. Thanks for taking the time to hear all my ideas!

Best,
Sally

WISCONSIN BOOK FESTIVAL (CR)

We completed our 7th WBF since reopening Central Library and it continues to grow and improve each year. In addition to having C-SPAN's BookTalk back again at the fest, we had a special surprise for the audiences at the ***For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Politics*** and ***Real Queer America*** sessions. Everyone in attendance at these two events received a free copy of the book. This was made possible by the generous donation to the WBF by the Cheryl Rosen Weston estate. It was truly an "Oprah moment" for the audience and the authors were also very surprised. Another fun note from this year's WBF, my office was used as the "green room" and several of the authors were impressed by Central's green roof but none more so than Ben Folds, the musician and author. It was almost the only thing he talked or asked about prior to his presentation.

We don't have the final numbers yet on the 4 days of events, but I will provide an update when I have that information.

BUDGET UPDATE

Finance Committee met on October 21 to determine their final recommendation to the Common Council for their consideration and adoption on Nov. 12th. There were 27 amendments presented at the meeting, but none of them concerned the Library. So we will go into the final stage of budget approval with the Mayor's supplemental additions intact.

ULC ANNUAL FORUM (CR)

It is always interesting to attend this annual event where ULC distributes the Innovation Awards and focuses presentations on a particular topic. This year's topic was Artificial Intelligence (AI). Both of those features of the forum were somewhat overshadowed by continuous discussion about the Macmillan e-book embargo. The discussion ranged from a boycott of Macmillan's electronic resources, to more negotiations, to pushing for legislation to prevent this from happening. So far MPL has signed various petitions including Mayor Satya signing the ULC petition condemning the practice. The embargo begins on November 1st, so we will know very soon what the impact of this action will mean to MPL's e-book users.

In other news at the Forum, unfortunately MPL did not receive any of the Innovation Awards this year, but our work with the Local Voices Network was recognized in the AI discussions. Charlotte Mecklenburg Library contacted me to ask for an introduction to Cortico, so they might explore the LVN platform. I was also approached by St. Paul Public Library and Skokie Public Library to discuss our progress on our RESJ work.

LIBRARY DIRECTORS' SUMMIT & KNIGHT MEDIA FORUM (CR)

I will be attending the Library Journal's Directors' Summit from November 6-8, in Tulsa, OK. In addition to the several presentations (And probably more discussion about the Mac Embargo) I will have the opportunity to view for my first time Tulsa's new Central Library designed by MSR, the same architectural firm that worked on our Central Library. Tulsa staff came to our Central Library when they were developing their design to draw on our experience and I'm sure borrow some of our building ideas.

I was honored to be invited back to the Knight Media Forum. This forum in February of 2020 always introduces some the leading edge ideas about media and discusses the latest intellectual freedom issues.

VISIT FROM KANIFING'S LORD MAYOR BENSOU DA (CR) (BP)

Madison's sister city in The Gambia is Kanifing and Lord Mayor Talib Bensouda came to Madison to attend the annual Kanifing Sister City Dinner. He was joined by a member of his council and a member of his personal staff. In addition to the dinner, the Mayor of Kanifing met with Mayor Satya on the following Monday to share his relationship with our city and to discuss the public library project he hopes to complete in his city. On Tuesday MPL hosted a press conferences with both Mayors, Alder Baldeh, Chair of the Madison/Kanifing Sister City group, and myself to announce the plans to work together on the Kanifing Public Library project.



Lord Mayor Bensouda visited the Bubbler during his tour of Central Library, meeting our artist-in-residence Emily Balsley. All of the visitors, including the Mayor, drew on Emily's community art project.

MPL IN THE MEDIA (CR)

It was a banner month for MPL in the media. From TV spots on library topics and the book fest, to numerous articles related to our operations and budget consequences. Through all of this I would like to call out the work of Tana Elias. Even while working shorthanded, she was able to keep up with the press demands, organize press conferences, keep vigil on the book fest, and fill in gaps on our social media coverage. She even put together this laundry list of the recent media coverage. Thanks Tana for your terrific work.

Reindahl Imagination Center

[Ald. Samba Baldeh: Reindahl Park Library Would Bring Services to Those with Greatest Need](#). October 17. The Capital Times.

[Snakes and Slides: How Locals are Imagining the Reindahl "Imagination Center"](#). October 8. NBC 15.

Madison-Kanifing Sister City

[Madison Helping Sister City with Library](#). October 22. WKOW 27. (no video)

[Mayor of Kanifing Visits Madison to Celebrate Library Project](#). October 22. WORT-FM.

[Madison to help build first public library in Gambian sister city Kanifing](#) October 24. Capital Times.

Library Fines

[Madison Library System Considers End to Overdue Fines](#). October 20. Wisconsin State Journal.

Ebooks

[Madison Library Says Publisher's Move Will Limit Access to eBooks](#). October 20. Wisconsin State Journal.

[Petition to Stop Macmillan Publishers from Restricting Public Libraries' Ebook Access](#). October 18. Channel3000.

[Madison Public Library Raises Concerns About Major Publisher's New Ebook Model](#). October 18. Channel3000.

Wisconsin Book Festival

[Olympic Figure Skater Visits Madison Library](#). October 19. NBC 15.

[Olympic Figure Skater Speaks at Wisconsin Book Festival](#). October 19. Fox47/Channel3.

and watch many of Saturday's festival authors on the C-Span2 BookTV's [2019 Wisconsin Book Festival](#) web page

and full list of [book festival media coverage](#) on web site

Dream Bus

[Dream Bus' Brings Library to Madison Schools](#). October 19. The Capital Times

[Dream Bus Brings Books, Multimedia to Students in Need Across Dane County](#). October 16. NBC15.

...and upcoming stories in The Capital Times &/or Madison 365 for eBooks and Sister City stories, upcoming radio appearance on iHeart Radio with Robin Colbert on multiple library topics, and mention in DPI email about our fine presentation to board...

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY VISIT (CR)

A group from Boston Public Library traveled to MPL on Tuesday, Oct. 29th, and spend the entire day at Central Library learning about our Bubbler program and experiencing the space. They also met with staff about our adult services programs and projects.

Business Meetings

- CIP Review
- Operating Budget Review
- Adult Reentry and Employment Strategies Survey Follow-up
- Meeting with Alder Heck
- ULC Annual Forum in Salt Lake City
- Meeting with Alder Baldeh
- Results Madison overview
- Meeting with Mary Botarri
- Kanifing Mayor and Madison Mayor meeting
- Tour of Central Library with Mayor Bensouda
- Meeting with Neeyati Shah to review MPL's involvement in the 2020 Census
- Meeting about Library Takover
- Phone meeting with Catherine Penkert, director St. Paul Public Library (MN)

City Business

- Dept/Division Head Meeting with Mayor
- Performance Excellence Leadership Team
- Mayor's Management Team
- Line of Sight Committee meetings (monthly)
- Meeting with Linda Vakunta
- Finance Committee hearing on Operating Budget

- Freakfest Family Reunification Center meeting
- Common council
- Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund
- Mayor's Human Services Committee

Public/Media Appearance

- Mayor's Press Conference at Goodman South Madison Library introducing the 2020 Executive Operating Budget
- MPL Foundation Social for new board members
- Wisconsin Book Fest Luncheon
- Jenie Gao's new studio opening
- Gallery Night at Central Library
- After Hours at MMOCA
- Digital Inclusion Week Kickoff at EPIC
- Justified Anger Community Potluck: Mobilizing for Justified Action
- Wisconsin Book Festival, several sessions
- Kanifing Sister City Annual Dinner
- Press Conference at Central Library for Kanifing Library Project
- ArtParty at MMOCA
- ExLibris Release event
- Thurbar Park Artist Residency Donor Appreciation & Sneak Peek Reception