

Library Director Report

November 2021

PUBLIC HEALTH

The Public Health Face Covering Order #4 that expired on November 27, 2021 was replaced with another extension. Public Health Face Covering Emergency Order #5 will begin on November 27, 2021 and continue until January 3, 2022. There is one modification of note in Order #5. Individuals who are otherwise required to wear a face covering may remove the face covering in the following situations: When in an enclosed space with individuals who are fully vaccinated. Individuals are fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose vaccine series for COVID-19 (such as Pfizer-BioNTech's or Moderna's vaccine) or two (2) weeks after their first dose in a single-dose vaccine series for COVID-19 (such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine), may remove their masks.

So nothing will change for MPL except for people sharing an enclosed space, like a study room, can remove their masks if all in attendance are vaccinated. MPL was not verify this fact, and we will trust that unmasked individuals meeting in enclosed spaces have been vaccinated.

Getting boosters. CDC has cleared the way for vaccinated individuals to receive a booster if an appropriate amount of time has passed since their final dose depending on their type of vaccine. To encourage City employees to get their booster, the City is now offering 30 minutes of paid leave if outside of their regular work to get a booster. The City is also allowing for employees who had already received their booster to retrospectively request their 30 minutes of paid leave.

BUDGET 2022

The Common Council has adopted the 2022 Operating and Capital budgets. The final Operating Budget for the Library was amended to add \$70,000 to restore two more days of service to the Monroe St. Library. Unfortunately we don't have "players on the bench" waiting to be called to service. We have started the process of hiring to fill the positions needed to add the two days. We anticipate to have personnel hired and trained by sometime in Spring 2022. With the additional of the \$70,000 our total 2022 operating budget will be approximately the same as our 2021 budget in dollars. There are still cuts within the 2022 Operating to some of our line items, but they will be less impactful than in 2021. As a result we still have very little additional staffing capacity to cover staff shortage as they occur. The Capital budget that the Board forwarded to the Mayor was left intact. An amendment to the Library's Capital budget did pass during Finance Committee budget review. The amendment require the Library to submit an operating cost plan for the Imagination Center to the Common Council for their approval before additional design funds for the project will be released. I am meeting with Alder Halverson to discuss. MPL staff are working on the plan and we are planning to bring it in front of the Library Board at the January 6, 2022 meeting, and hopefully introduce it to the Common Council at the January 18, 2022 meeting.

GRANT FUNDS

Last month I shared the great news about the MPL Foundation funding our Amplifying Community Voices grant. This month we received additional good news. The MPL Foundation has informed us, our We Read and Play grant has been approved by their Grants Committee for \$36,327.29.

In addition, the Evjue Foundation recently informed us that they will be giving us \$10,000 for the Bubbler's artist-in-residence program.

IMAGINATION CENTER

The pre-design process is getting closer to completion. Some key decisions are being made to help inform the estimated cost of construction and the next stage of the design process, which includes construction documents and the interior design.

I have another meeting with the Ho-Chunk nation following a very successful conversation about the Imagination Center project and how Ho-Chunk nation could they could be part of the project.

B-CYCLE

In addition to the B-Cycle fobs circulating well, it was reported that new station at Pinney Library is being well used. B-Cycle is already discussing potential expansion to other MPL libraries, as a great place for the public to access their service.

DIRECTOR ON LEAVE

I will be taking vacation and traveling out of town from Dec. 15, 2021 – Jan. 5, 2022. I will still be taking a few virtual meetings, and can always be reached via phone.

MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, TEAMS & MORE

City

Mayor's Management Team
Mayor Check-in
Racial Equity & Social Justice Strategic Planning

Deputy Mayor Check-in
Common Council Budget
Strategic Racial Equity Committee
Mayor's COVID-19 Taskforce
TeamCity Change Leadership
Imagination Center Displacement Study
Check-in with Jenni Jeffress

MPL

Library Management Team
All Staff Town Hall
MPL Foundation Grants presentation
Check-in with Foundation Director
Alder Evers meeting
Meeting with Ho-Chunk Nation
Imagination Center Design Team
Imagination Center Stakeholders Team
Imagination Center LEEDS Focus Team

External

Wisconsin Resource Library Directors
Urban Libraries Council Director/CEO Calls
SHLB section meetings
ExLibris
Galley Night
Kenya Library Consultation