

Library Director Report

April 2022

Focus Areas:

Building Project (BP)

West Side Analysis (WS)

Organizational Development (OD)

PUBLIC HEALTH

In a recent report from Public Health, COVID cases are rising but a key factor that they are tracking is that hospitalizations are not showing a corresponding increase. It appears that the high rate of vaccination in Dane County may be a factor. We have been noticing an increase in cold & flu illness among staff since the mask mandate has ended.

BUDGET 2023

I will be giving our agency presentation of MPL's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to Mayor Satya and her budget team on May 10th. We have a considerable number of changes from the previous year with some additions, but the amount of preparation coupled with the degree of detail within the scope of our projects should justify our plans.

IMAGINATION CENTER (BP)

We have received a preliminary plan from JLA about the upcoming schematic planning and construction documents. Design is anticipated to begin in May 2022, with construction documents completed in July 2023 in order to begin the construction bid process in September 2023. Anticipated opening is still mid to late 2025.

The Foundation has started its fundraising campaign with a feasibility study on who will be providing private funding toward the project, and what will be the storyline to donors.

ELECTIONS

Madison Public Libraries were options for early voting and some of our locations were also polling places. The City Clerk continues to compliment the work of MPL staff in support of everyone's civic right to vote.

WISCONSIN HISTORY CENTER (BP)

I participated in a focus group of educational and cultural leaders to learn about and provide input on the new Wisconsin History Center. (WHC) The WHC will be replacing the old Wisconsin History Museum on a slightly expanded site with a 5 story building. The intent is to also activate the Mifflin St. side of the building that may extend to Central Library. The projected timeline is to begin design in 2022, demolition of existing building beginning in 2024, and opening of the new WHC in 2026. We strategically placed the design assessment of Central Library in 2025 so that changes could be compatible with the WHC. There was a lot of discussion about the cultural facilities collaborating more and linking our facilities through mutual programming and promotions. The new WHC should be a major tourist and research draw to the facility and downtown Madison.



PINNEY LIBRARY RECOGNIZED

OPN Architects recently notified us that Pinney Library was recognized by the IIDA Wisconsin chapter (International Interior Design Association) for outstanding design. The project was awarded the Award of Excellence in the Service category at the 2022 awards banquet on April 22, 2022.

“This is very exciting for the entire team and we wanted to share this with you and thank you again for letting us be a part of your project. I will let you share this internally with your groups as this award represents a large group of individuals working towards a united goal and we are proud to be a small part of that team.” Wes Reynolds, OPN Architects.

DIRECTOR LIBRARY VISITS (OD)

I have reinstated my in-person visits to libraries to meet with staff, share information, and answer questions. It has been very rewarding to see staff again in person and not through a Zoom call. The updates that I am receiving is very encouraging as visits and use of resources continues to grow. We may begin to see us reaching pre-pandemic numbers or even surpassing since most of our programming is just beginning. It was especially rewarding to hear from Meadowridge staff that students are beginning to return to the library.

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY ANALYSIS (WS)

As reported last month the service area data that was in progress for all branched has now been completed. Rynn also completed the review of the neighborhood plans on the west side, and is working with the City's Planning Dept. to align with their approach for area planning.

Rynn is working with Tana on plans to release a survey similar to the Tell Us survey used for the eastside strategy plan. There was a slight delay due to other staffing demands, but this is now proceeding toward completion.

MPL STAFF

Congratulations are in order for Tammy Ocampo. She was recently selected to serve on the State Superintendent's Reading Advisory Council to help strengthen literacy supports for children in Wisconsin. The work is part of a state-wide effort to support educators, children and their families.

MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, TEAMS & MORE

City

Mayor's Management Team
Mayor Check-in
Racial Equity & Social Justice Strategic Planning
Deputy Mayor Check-in
Mayor's COVID-19 Taskforce
TeamCity Change Leadership
Finance Committee Meeting
Meeting with Alder Furman
Budget Contacts Meeting

MPL

Library Management Team
All Staff Town Hall
MPL Foundation Grant discussions
Check-in with Foundation Director
Imagination Center Design Team
MPLF Board Meeting
Meeting with MPL Foundation Executive Director
Meeting with MPL Budget Team
WISEgrant Training for ARPA Grants
Royster Corners Condo Association
Budget Team meeting on 2023 CIP
Cost to Continue Budget discussions
Staff Baby Shower
Karen Lucas Retirement party
Meeting with Meadowridge Staff
Meeting with Ashman Staff

External

Digital Equity Leaders Network Meeting: The Affordable Connectivity Program
Wisconsin Resource Library Directors
Urban Libraries Council Director/CEO Calls
Digital Equity Leaders Network
Groundbreaking of Urban League Black Business Hub
WHS New History Center Update with Madison Cultural & Educational Leaders
Fundraising Feasibility Study
Listening session with State Sen Kelda Roys
gALPHA Urban League Accelerator
Rob Phillips, City Engineer, Retirement Party
American Institute of Architects Awards Program