

## **Library Director Report December 2022**

### **Focus Areas:**

Building Project (BP)

West Side Analysis (WS)

Organizational Development (OD)

### **LAST REPORT FOR 2022**

Every year when I reach the end of the year I am amazed at how fast each one seems to fly by. We have a lot to be thankful for over the past year. MPL made it through another year of the pandemic, restoring many of our services and programs, and started the process of welcoming back our public. Many programs returned to in-person, and from lessons learned during the pandemic some have become a hybrid of virtual and in-person, like our book festival. We have grown tremendously this past year and we continue to innovate and explore new programs and delivery of services. Our budget was left intact and our marquee project the Imagination Center continues to move forward. I'm extremely proud of our staff and their dedication to the community we serve.

I also want to thank the Library Board for your unselfish service to provide your oversight to MPL.

Happy Holidays and a stellar 2023 to all.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Dane County is seeing a slight increase and is at a MEDIUM COVID-19 Community Level. It is being complicated with the addition of severer cold and flu also contributing to hospitalization. Flu vaccination is still very low in Dane County so a message to get your flu shot is being emphasized.

### **IMAGINATION CENTER (BP)**

Schematic Design continues with primary stakeholders still tweaking the design. The overall project is experiencing many ebbs and flows with design competing with function at times. A major change that was presented to the stakeholders is that the delays experienced earlier in the project and the continued discussion on the building massing (the actual shape of the facilities) has been extended. As a result the current timetable is reflecting a 2026 opening, instead of the expected mid-2025. This may impact construction costs and we will need to review our CIP in conjunction with the ICRP project and other City projects in alignment with this new timeline. I will also be in discussion with the Foundation about how this may impact their campaign.

In addition to the design discussions, Rynn has coordinated with Rebecca Hoyt, from the Dept. of Civil Rights for review of accessibility in and around the facilities.

### **WEST SIDE COMMUNITY ANALYSIS (WS)**

Rynn and Katarina have been going to Centro Hispano's Mercadito the last four weeks for table talks about the West Side Plan and Tell Us. She added that it has been great to connect with people there to inform them about the plan and pass out Tell Us packets. The markets are coming to a close for 2022.

They continue to host smaller Tell Us community conversations. Attendance has been small but robust. Rynn is planning to review the 2022 practices and plan for adjustments in 2023 to increase our reach for community input.

#### **NEW MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Foundation has selected Coran Moran as the new Executive Director of the Madison Public Library Foundation. Conor has led the Wisconsin Book Festival for almost 10 years and prior to that he did development work within Madison. He definitely has first-hand knowledge of MPL's work and values, and I expect him to continue to build on the work of his predecessor. I and other MPL staff have already met with him about some of the transitional items that will need to be addressed. Among them is the hiring of a new book festival director. Conor has also joined as a stakeholder in the ICRP design discussions.

Congratulations Conor. We look forward to working with you and continuing the excellent support the MPL Foundation provides to the library.

#### **SISTER CITY VISIT TO KANIFING, THE GAMBIA**

I would like to start by thanking Mayor Satya and the Library Board for allowing me to participate as a representative for the City of Madison delegation to our sister city Kanifing, The Gambia. It was an amazing experience and I was humbled by the remarkable welcome we received from our hosts.



I had been working for a couple of years prior to the pandemic with the sister city coalition to help develop plans for a public library in Kanifing. I have finally been able to see the country first-hand, and see how meaningful that resource would be for Kanifing. I also had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Lord Mayor Bensouda to review the plans from those planning sessions. He was very responsive to the ideas and there is potential to continue to work on the project with the coalition. It may result in some benefit to MPL as the plans call to explore a pre-fab self-contained library constructed from a shipping container that could be placed near a

power source and operated much like a pop-up library. The Mayor Bensouda was interested in developing several of these container libraries and placing them next to existing community centers. I hope to continue the work with the sister city coalition to work toward a prototype.

In addition, the delegation made visits to several sites and projects across the city. From crocodile ponds to the city dump. Mayor Satya asked for each City delegate to share their impressions and experiences for an upcoming report. Among the topics she wanted us to describe was our most impactful experience. I've included an excerpt from my report.

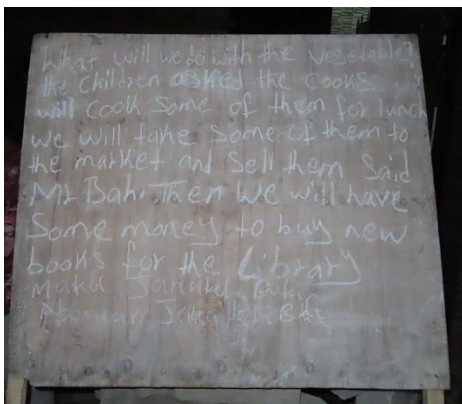
*The most impactful experience is extremely difficult to determine since there were so many. If it was qualified by sensory overload then the greeting at the airport with the drummers and dancers, or the frenzy of the fish market would definitely be at the top of the list. If it was about humanity, my visit to Gorée Island in Dakar, Senegal, the site of the largest slave-trading center on the African coast left an indelible mark witnessing the cruelty of human exploitation.*

*If it was about humility it would be our audience with Gambian President Barrow, or Ousainou Darboe, leader of the United Democratic Party, and my meeting and engagement with Lord Mayor Bensouda. They all left a tremendous impression of their dedication to their people and their country. Which finally narrows it to the people of The Gambia. The experience at the gardens, the markets, the council, the school, the performers, our guides and drivers, introduced me to a wide spectrum of many people that collectively displayed hard work, engagement, dedication, and so many times a sense of pure joy. (Especially when dancing was involved.)*



*It was also an honor to witness the women's gathering along with Mayor Satya and Banjul Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe celebrating the progress being made to help woman entrepreneurship in The Gambia.*

I also included in my report about a visit to a family compound that was a highlight of my trip. It was nighttime and children working on their studies were gathered in a common outdoor courtyard sharing the light from a single LED display atop a tall pole to spread the light out as best as possible. Some were gathered at a table working together while others were reading on their own. One of the children was at a made-shift "blackboard" using a pointer and reading aloud a message that had been written on the surface with chalk.



The text of the message on the board:

What will we do with the vegetable? the children asked the cooks will cook some of them for lunch. We will take some of them to the market and sell them said Mr Bah. Then we will have some money to buy new books for the Library.

#### **ADDITIONAL LEASE DISCUSSION**

Working with City Real Estate we presented a counter proposal for our lease at Lakeview Library. The future lease is a slight departure from our current lease, since we are hoping to have CAM costs

integrated into our monthly rent as opposed to having to resolve the CAM amount at the end of year. This way we will know exactly our annual cost for Lakeview in our budget. We are also asking to have more landlord responsibility for the maintenance and replacement of mechanicals for the space.

Preliminary discussions have started with City Real Estate and with Department of Community Development about renewal of our lease at Meadowridge Library. Community Development oversees the lease for the community center side of the combined facilities. Our main lease expires in 2023. We do have one year extensions already built into the current lease but this is a good time to evaluate if we want to renegotiate an entirely new lease agreement.

#### **DIRECTOR VACATION**

I will be out of town from Dec 21 to Dec 31 traveling to Colorado for the holidays. I will remain reachable via my cell or email, but in the interim local coverage of my office will be by Krissy, Susan, and Mark over the course of the time.

#### **MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, TEAMS & MORE**

##### **City**

Mayor's Management Team  
Mayor Check-in  
Deputy Mayor Check-in  
Mayor's COVID-19 Taskforce

##### **MPL**

Library Management Team  
Imagination Center Design Team  
MPLF Board Meeting  
Lakeview Lease Review

##### **Meadowridge Lease**

Meeting with the new MPL Foundation  
Executive Director  
The Care Plan

##### **External**

Kanifing Sister City Visit to the Gambia  
SCLS Annual Visit