

Director's Report to Library Board February 2015

NATIONAL MEDAL

Madison Public Library has received notice from the IMLS that we have been selected as a finalist for the National Medal. Out of over 150 nominations we are one of 30 finalists. MPL was nominated by Rep. Mark Pocan. The five winners will be selected sometime in April with the winners receiving their award in the first week of May in Washington DC. I will keep you updated on our finalist activities.

IMLS LEADERSHIP GRANT

I have accepted a request by the IMLS to be a reviewer for the next round of IMLS National Leadership grants for 2015. This is the same grant we received in partnership with the UW-Madison to study participatory learning through the Bubbler program. After the initial critique of applications the review group meets in Washington DC to make a final determination for awarding projects.

LIBRARY SITING AND ALLOCATION

The Royster Corners project design that includes the building that will house the relocated Pinney Library has received approval by the Planning Commission and initial approval from the Urban Design Committee. UDC will still need to vote on final approval. (Catherine Duarte and I attended the Planning Commission to answer questions. Members from the Pinney area neighborhood associations were seated behind us and after the project was given approval they reached out to high five us. I can definitely say they are excited about the project.)

Common Council has approved the sales contract with Graybar. City Real Estate with assistance from Library maintenance staff are conducting the due diligence on the property. Excluding any major concerns arising from the vetting process we should be finalizing the purchase in the next 60 days.

Catherine Duarte has been constructing a community conversation toolkit. The kit is intended for individuals to take home and use with family and friends without library staff. They record their results and return the kit to the library for our community input data collection. This information will be used for the new Pinney project but will also be beneficial to the overall eastside planning.

LABOR MANAGEMENT

Library management meets with staff labor representatives on a regular basis. A major topic of discussion and concern by library staff was when the new Employee Benefits Handbook (this is in place of the former union contracts) was finalized Saturday differential which had been a part of library staff compensation pre-Handbook had been removed. There has been a request by staff to have it restored and I do support this position. In order to amend the Handbook and have Saturday differential restored for eligible library staff I have submitted a proposal to the Employee Relations Committee, via the City's Human Relations office. This committee will determine whether the proposal will be forwarded to the Common Council for their decision on whether to restore this benefit or not.

BEST OF MADISON

Just a quick fun fact that our food and beverage providers Chocolaterian and Underground were both recognized in the recent Best of Madison by Madison Magazine. Chocolaterian was recognized for its chocolate and Underground for its catering. Congratulations to both of them. Great to have the "best" associated with our organization

STAFF RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Mary Knapp and Romeo Dais on their retirement. Mary and Romeo each had over 40 years of service to MPL.

Mary provided tremendous leadership in our materials selection operations. Her expertise in fiction will be greatly missed. She also served since its inception on the E-book selection committee for the State of Wisconsin. This collection has one of the highest circulation rates in the country and this has been largely due to Mary's contributions to the program.

Romeo has been a stalwart member of the reference team at Central Library. He also contributed to material selection with a huge emphasis on our history materials. And although this was prior to my arrival I was told Romeo was the Government Documents librarian for MPL. Having some experience with Gov Docs I know how difficult a task it was to keep up with the “endless” amounts of government produced materials, keeping them organized and updated was never ending.

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Business Meetings:

- Wisconsin Book Festival steering committee
- Annual Chocolaterian performance review (BTW, we gave them an outstanding review)
- RESJ Training
- Meeting with Maintenance staff
- Meeting with Technical Services staff
- Labor relations meeting
- Initial strategic planning meeting
- National Medal conference call
- Meeting with Computer Services
- PLA Performance Measures application discussion
- Yahara Meeting with Rabble
- Meeting with Officer McLay about Neighborhood Police office
- ALA Conference call for my participation on a Pre-conference panel
- Review of Porchlight performance
- Meeting with Engberg Anderson
- Romeo Dais' retirement party

City Business:

- Department and Division Head meeting with the Mayor
- Mayor's Management Team meetings
- Mayor's Human Services committee
- Urban Design Committee for Royster Corners project
- Planning Commission for Royster Corners project
- Philosopher's Grove , City Staff meeting
- BOE meeting for Graybar purchase
- Common Council for Graybar purchase
- Meeting with Enis Ragland concerning My Brother's Keeper program
- Meeting with City Clerk regarding the latest Knight News opportunity

Public/Media Appearances:

- Madison Police Chief community forum at Central Library
- Twin Peaks Bubbler event
- Black History program at Goodman South Madison Library
- Polka Press open house
- Meadowood Neighborhood Center re-opening ceremony
- DMI event at 100 State
- WBF Princess Bride program
- Midwest Gypsy Swing Festival
- Library Legislative Day