

Library Director Report June 2016



National Medal 2016

It was definitely a privilege to accept the National Medal for Madison Public Library from First Lady Michelle Obama. I was joined by Rob Franklin, our community member representative, and Tracy Kuczenski, Library Board President. This is a tremendous accomplishment. The award recognizes the significant support MPL receives from the Madison community to allow us to excel in the delivery of our services. In addition, having an engaged staff dedicated to our mission and vision confirms how their hard work is recognized, valued, and rewarded. I am so proud of MPL and our ability to achieve this level of excellence.

LIBRARY SITING AND ALLOCATION

I had a meeting with RDC to discuss the current status of the Pinney project. Carl and Jeff are anxious to move forward with the project. The City is still reviewing the TIF request on the project and recently met with RDC in regard to the City's response to the request.

In our 2017 Capital Budget proposal to the Mayor we have made an additional \$325K request to address a possible building fund shortage for the Badger Building. It appears to have made it into the Budget at this time. Projected completion of the Badger Building is in late summer of 2017.

2017 BUDGET

The current instructions from the Mayor are to submit a flat budget that contains no supplemental requests and he has requested a 2.5% reduction plan. This plan cannot feature an essential service that could not be realistically cut (I translate this to mean we could not propose the closing of a library), and we should avoid any layoffs of permanent staff. We are still waiting a final confirmation of our flat budget total but a 2.5% reduction at this time would be app. \$415K.

Congressional Makers Caucus

As part of a growing effort to highlight the Maker Movement, the second annual Capitol Hill Maker Faire took place on June 21 in the Rayburn House Office Building and was open to Members of Congress, staff, as well as members of the public.

Innovation and Art in Making: As new technologies have become accessible, innovators in the art community are using Maker principles to create unique and beautiful art. New tools and techniques continue to raise the bar on innovation. Panelists will explore the intersection of art and making.

- Moderator: Heidi Sheppard, NEA and NIST
- Jeremy B. Carter, Autodesk [Jeremy's title is Design Education Evangelist]
- Lisa Brahm, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh [Lisa has been to Madison a few times as a consultant to our current IMLS Bubbler grant.]
- Davide Prete, Catholic University
- Greg Mickells, Madison Public Library (WI)

MPL received a lot of high praise for the work we are accomplishing in this area which is a main focus of our Bubbler programming. Where we excelled was in the area of making connections with the community in a variety of ways, including a discussion of our Making Justice program and the emphasis on social justice. Of special note, after the presentation I was approached by Kipp Bradford, a research scientist, who was very interested in our emphasis on liberal arts to promote our making initiatives. Even though he was from the MIT Media Lab he also stressed the importance of not just making the makers' movement about technology. Kristin Fontichiaro, Univ. of Michigan, researcher of maker spaces across the country, shared that she will definitely have to pay a visit to Madison to explore the Bubbler program. In addition I was approached by two IMLS staff who gave high marks to our work.

Fun note: Heidi Sheppard, the moderator, is a graduate of UW-Madison. I kind of put her on the spot when I started talking about the Bubbler. I let her explain to the audience what a bubbler was, and fortunately she was able to do so.

CENTRAL LIBRARY TO HOST ROTARY LUNCHEON

The Downtown Rotary asks various organizations and businesses to host a luncheon at their locations for a "Day of Learning" for their membership so they can discover more about the various operations. We hosted a luncheon in 2012 to share about the upcoming opening of the new Central Library. We have been invited again this year to host another lunch to share about our current operations and also about our National Medal achievement. It will be July 6th at Central Library.

COMMUNITIES INSPIRING LIBRARIES

Catherine Duarte and I made a presentation of the report to the Mayor and the Human Services staff. Catherine will be presenting July 1st to the Planning Dept. and both of us will present to the Common Council on July 5th. The Mayor was very impressed with the scope of the report, especially our emphasis on gathering community input from vulnerable populations. I have already used the report to help defend MPL positions in our 2017 capital budget proposal.

STAFF RECOGNITION

We recently celebrated the retirement of **Katie Scharf** who was a long time Lakeview staff member. It was very accurately put in a Northside newsletter that ran a story about Katie's retirement that she was "their librarian." Katie had that level of connection with her community. It was very common when speaking to patrons of the Lakeview Library to have them refer to it as "Katie's library" and they did so in regard to the many contributions Katie had made over the years. They were always willing to share numerous accolades for her work. That level of respect from the community was earned by Katie through her relationship building and advocacy for the community. And her final retirement event at Lakeview Library truly demonstrated her accomplishments with almost 200 community members showing up to wish her well. She will be greatly missed by the Lakeview community.

Also departing soon from MPL will be **Catherine Duarte**, our library planner. She is leaving earlier than we anticipated but she has completed her initial charge of an Eastside Strategic Service Plan. The plan alone does not begin to reflect the many contributions Catherine made to the library, to the city and to the community during her tenure here. She has been instrumental in developing a community tool that MPL will be able to use to reach the many voices in Madison, in particular those of vulnerable populations. Her achievements will allow MPL to be more effective on our focus on equity. During her short stay she has been a strong advocate for equity and has been instrumental in sharing her expertise in this area. Her urban planning background brought a new perspective on how MPL might deliver our services and opened up many new opportunities for the Library. I hope to stay in touch with her to continue to gain from her leadership and innovative approaches to planning. She has made major contributions to MPL and we wish her well in her future endeavors.

Business Meetings

Pinney Library Site Meeting with Mayor
PLSR Chapter 43 workgroup meeting
Meeting with RDC concerning status of Pinney Project
RESJ Part 3 Training
Rotary Lunch planning at Central Library
Meeting with City IT on inclusion work
Conference call on Congressional Makers' Caucus
Capital budget briefing
Exit interview with Catherine Duarte
Meet with MPL Foundation
PLSR Workgroup meeting
Meeting with CareerPartners for future collaborations
Meeting with Enis Ragland
Meeting to discuss Staff Day agenda
Operating Budget discussions
Central Library social services review

City Business

Dept/Division Head Meeting with Mayor
Mayor's Management Team
Mayor's Human Services workgroup
Operating Budget Kickoff
What Works Cities organizational meeting
What Works Cities site visit and workshop
Personnel wage discussion with Department Heads
HR meeting on Personnel Handbook
Agency Goal presentation to the Mayor
Meeting with Mayor on personnel wage discussion
IT Strategic Planning meeting

Public/Media Appearance

Movin' Out and Pinney Lane Apts. Grand Opening
InDIGenous Series Concert at Central Library
Katie Scharf retirement parties
Isthmus Jazz Festival
Rock and Read fundraiser
Presentation at Congressional Makers Caucus
Pinney Library Project presentation at Foundation gathering
Bridget Birdsall Celebration
WBF Women Street Artists of Latin America