

## Library Director Report January/February 2019

BP: Building Projects

CR: Collaborations including representing MPL in Local, State, National, and International roles

EL: Early Literacy.

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Due to moving the February meeting, this is my first report for 2019. I'm excited about 2019, and how many ways MPL and its stellar staff will continue to deliver superior services and programs to make MPL your place to learn, share and create.

### **LIBRARY SITING AND ALLOCATION (BP) (CR)**

#### *Pinney Project:*

The move from the old Pinney to the new interim site was a very smooth transition. It was a real team effort with Pinney staff, Facilities staff, and more working together to make this a successful move. In addition, it proved to be a good training exercise for when we move to the new Pinney library.

We had a very successful bid process, with eight bidders and the bid came in below estimates. Tri-North submitted the winning bid. Here is the timeline since we had a successful bid.

1. The contract will go to the Public Works Board for approval and recommendation to Common Council on Feb 20.
2. The award of contract must go to the March 5 Common Council meeting for approval.
3. Then the following Monday, March 11 – assuming Tri-North has executed the Contract and the Mayor has signed the Council proceedings – we will start routing the contract at the City for execution.
4. Assuming the Pinney real estate deal closes we can then fully execute (i.e. the Mayor can sign) the construction contract and we can send out a start work letter.
5. Public Works would like to get the start work letter out by March 15 which gives the contractor 10 days to start construction which will put us at April 1 for actual starting of work.

City Engineering is working with RDC to coordinate a punch-list to achieve Substantial Completion (SC) status by Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, so we can close on our agreement and proceed with the build. SC means that there are still some finishing touches to make on the project but the degree of completion is sufficient to close on the deal. Since the project is not totally completed we will not pay the entire purchase amount but hold back funds until the other items are completed to our satisfaction.

#### *Imagination Center at Reindahl Park:*

We have had some internal meetings to begin the process of alignment with the multiple parts to developing the scope of the project. We also will be meeting with Parks to make sure we are communicating the same message to the public and working toward the same goals.

#### *Goodman South Madison Library Renovation:*

The renovation is getting closer to completion. A major impact on the library was that we did have to move a portion of the collection off-site in order to have room to complete renovations in the adult area of the library.

### **SPECIAL INVITATION (CR)**

MPL was selected by Emilio Estevez as one of the libraries to host a screening of his recent movie *The Public*. The movie focuses on a message of how public libraries deal with many vulnerable populations, including the homeless, individuals with mental illness, and individuals dealing with substance abuse issues. It has already been shown at a couple of national conferences for librarians and now there will be a mini pre-screening tour

prior to the premier showing on April 1st at New York Public Library. The film will have a national release on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Emilio Estevez will be joined by Ryan Dowd, creator of The Librarian's Guide to Homelessness blog, for a Q&A session after the movie. We hope to take this opportunity as a way to raise awareness about homelessness, mental illness and services that are provided through the library to address these issues. If you go to Ryan Dowd's site you can see the complete tour schedule and a trailer for the movie.  
<http://www.homelesslibrary.com/thepublic.html>

In conversation with the promoters, we are limited to 200 tickets for the screening. All Library Board members will receive an invitation to attend. The MPL screening is March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

### ***CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (CR)***

Again MPL had an important role in the upcoming spring election. Central Library hosted two primary mayoral forums and will host another forum with the selected candidates on March 18<sup>th</sup>. In addition, we helped to contribute to another record for early voting for this type of election.

### ***WONDER OF LEARNING (EL) (CR)***

Despite uncooperative weather conditions we had an excellent opening reception for the Wonder of Learning exhibit in our youth area at Central Library. The exhibit is the result of a partnership with Pre-school of the Arts and other local agencies to bring this display about the Reggio Emilia early learning philosophy. Reggio Emilia is actually the small town in Italy where Loris Malaguzzi developed this program for early childhood learning based on discovery and creativity. I would highly recommend a visit to the exhibit. A portion of the exhibit is also on display at the Overture. It will be on display until May 1, 2019. There will also be a number of workshops and gatherings for teachers in conjunction with the exhibit.

### ***STAFF NEWS***

Beth McIntyre, teen serves librarian, was awarded the prestigious Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowship. The Bechtel Fellowship provides a grant to a qualified children's librarian to spend four weeks studying at the Baldwin Library of Historical Children's Literature in Gainesville, Florida. Beth's research will focus on examining depictions of poverty in books for children over the last 200 years and looking for opportunities for empathetic readings. Beth was recommended by the UW iSchool. (CR)

Trent Miller has been invited by Nate Hill of METRO (Metropolitan New York Library Council) to present at "Arts in the Libraries." The symposium is co-organized by the Metropolitan New York Library Council, the Finnish Cultural Institute in New York, and The New School. The event will be held at METRO's Studio at 599 11th Avenue in New York. It will feature FCINY's recent artistic collaboration with Oodi, the brand-new Helsinki Central Library; METRO's current "Privacy in Public," a "digital privacy" exhibition that's distributed across nine NYC branch libraries; and an assortment of related exhibitions, artworks, and residencies around the country. In addition to Trent some of the other presenters will include Anni Vartola, curator of the library-themed Finnish pavilion at the 2018 Venice Architecture Biennale, and Laura Norris, Service Director of Oodi. Trent will be talking about the Bubbler and our involvement of the arts into a public library setting. (CR)

Gilbert Spencer, long time maintenance worker at Central Library, retired. Gilbert always had time to share a story and he always took tremendous pride in his work. When we had so many challenges to the appearance of the flooring on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Central Library, even though the best solution would have been to replace the flooring, when we could not do that he came up with a solution that made the best of it. His wry humor and custodial expertise will be missed.

***DIRECTOR OUT OF TOWN***

I will be attending the Knight Media Forum from Feb 23-27 in Miami. Since I need to submit this report prior to my trip I will report on the forum in my March report to the board.

**Business Meetings**

- Meeting room AV training
- Meeting with Vicki Teal Lovel, SCLS Technology Dept.
- Site visit to the interim Pinney first day
- MPLF Grants Committee
- Evaluation review with Board President
- Meeting with CCO Steve Anderson of Bendyworks
- Gilbert Spencer retirement party
- Meeting with Hawthorne Staff
- Meeting with Ed Holmes at Overture
- Meeting with Lakeview Staff
- Meeting with Christian Overland, new director of the WI Historical Society
- Meeting to discuss AnjiPlay at MPL
- Meeting with Raj Shukla, mayoral candidate
- Pinney Library design meeting
- HR Check-in
- Meeting with Satya Rhodes-Conway, mayoral candidate
- Wisconsin Book Festival strategic planning
- Review of capital spending on Reindahl project
- Conference call with The Public publicist
- Meeting with Public Services staff
- Meeting with Sister City Kanifing about a library project in The Gambia
- Imagination Center update meeting
- GAS planning meeting at the Chazen Museum of Art

**City Business**

- Meeting with Enis Ragland
- Dept/Division Head Meeting with Mayor
- Performance Excellence Leadership Team
- Mayor's Management Team
- Mayor's Human Services Committee
- Line of Sight Committee meetings (Bi-Weekly)
- RESJI Committee

**Public/Media Appearance**

- Memorial Service for Gretchen Ede
- Mayoral Forum at the Barrymore
- DMI New Faces New Places @ Boulders Gym
- Scott Free celebration at the Labor Temple
- Mayoral Forum at Central Library
- Conversation Corps of the Local Voices Network presentation
- Women's March on the Square
- Common Council Holiday Party
- MLK Recognition Breakfast
- MLK at the Capital
- MLK at the Overture including after party
- Wonder of Learning opening reception
- Art opening at Central Library
- Mayoral Forum at Oakwood
- WBF Muriel Simms
- Mayoral Forum at Central Library
- WLA Library Legislative Day
- Focus group on the new Wisconsin History Museum design
- Attend the Knight News Media Forum

