

Library Director Report March 2019

BP: Building Projects

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

EL: Early Literacy.

LIBRARY SITING AND ALLOCATION (BP) (CR) (EL)

Pinney Project:

We should know by the time of the Library Board meeting whether we have closed on the gray box. City Engineering has been monitoring the final punch-list on the project and it is expected to be completed by March 30th with a couple of exceptions. If we do close within the first week of April we should be able to maintain our current opening objective of early 2020 for the new Pinney Library.

We have had several meetings to resolve the final layout and furnishing selection for the space. In addition I have met with staff who have been working on the PlayLab concept that will be introduced at Pinney. The PlayLab will become a significant early learning concept for MPL in the same way the Bubbler is a concept that captures creativity and learning. I'm very excited to see how this work compliments the existing work already happening in MPL.

Imagination Center at Reindahl Park:

We had a very productive meeting with the Parks and Public Works departments regarding this project. We wanted to make sure we all understood each other's role in the process and how we can improve on making this a valuable resource for the community.

Goodman South Madison Library Renovation:

The renovation is getting closer to completion. Mark Benno will fill you in on his report to the Board.

THE PUBLIC (CR)

As I shared in my last report, MPL was selected as one of the public libraries to host a pre-screening of Emilio Estevez's movie *The Public*. Unfortunately at the last minute we received news that Emilio was ill and would not be able to attend the screening. Although we had some last minute cancellations due to that news, we still had a full house of 230 people. The studio representative was very pleased with the turnout and was very complimentary of the organization for the event. So a shout out to Tana Elias and her team, our event staff, maintenance staff, and Central Library staff who all pitched in to make that possible. Mayor Soglin made a brief appearance, since he had a scheduled mayoral debate that night, to present a key to the City to Emilio Estevez.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (CR)

MPL received a request from Mouna Luna to use our community room on Sunday March 24th for a program to discuss and recognize the recent tragic event in New Zealand. Typically we do not have the community room open for public programming on Sundays, but I felt this was too important not to make our space available for this community conversation. I have added the notice from their Facebook page that will give an explanation of their plans and purpose. The program filled the space with 250 people attending. I'm very proud of our staff to make this possible for our community on very short notice (only 5 days). Here is a link to the news coverage: <https://wkow.com/news/top-stories/2019/03/24/religious-leaders-come-together-for-vigil-conversation-after-new-zealand-attacks/>



Join together with your neighbors, city leaders, spiritual leaders, and other Madisonians to this community event.

Confirmed speakers include: Honorable Judge/ Pastor Everett Mitchell, Rabbi Betsy Forester, Assistant District Attorney Awais Khaleel, Muslim Community Leader and Imam Ibrahim Saeed, and Pardeep Kaleka.

This event will create space to mourn the lives lost in tragic events in faith communities, especially considering the massacre that just occurred in New Zealand.

This space will also be a place to create solutions to fighting white supremacy through interfaith solidarity. City, community, and religious leaders will facilitate this dialogue.

Everyone is welcome. Free and open to the public. Come with ideas, contributions, or simply to be present.

WONDER OF LEARNING (EL) (CR)

There is still a month to go for our hosting of this exhibit about the early learning philosophies of Reggio Emilia. The exhibit goes to May 1st. In conjunction with the exhibit, Madison recently hosted the North American convening of Reggio Emilio practitioners from across the continent to discuss and learn from each other about the method. I was told we even had visitors from Italy that came for the conference and to view the exhibit. I did have the opportunity to meet with the North American Reggio Emilio Board during one of their meetings at Central Library. We were mutually appreciative of each other's respective roles in making this a success. The Board showed some resilience since we had to move them from their scheduled community room space (we had to set up for The Public screening for that night), but they embraced the move and even said they were happy to meet in such a creative space (they met in the Bubbler room) than the rather boring hotel meeting rooms where they usually meet. This has been a terrific opportunity for MPL to be part of this collaborative venture.

INCIDENT AT LAKEVIEW LIBRARY (CR)

As I have already reported to the Library Board, it was a very difficult and sad time for library staff and the public as the result of the incident at Lakeview Library on March 11th. I have posted a statement from my office available on our website:

<https://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/new/statement-march-11-incident-lakeview-library>

I have responded to emails and phone calls from the public sharing their concerns and ideas about the situation. Additionally, MPL staff, including myself, have been involved in a number of meetings with various community members, organizations and city agencies to address the bigger picture of how we can do better meeting the needs of youth in our city. I have discussed with MPL staff that I see these discussions as being beneficial for our entire system, not just for Lakeview Library. At this time we are discussing some ways that we can begin to move forward in a collaborative way with the various resources available in the community and to find better ways to prepare our staff to hopefully prevent actions like this from reoccurring at MPL.

KNIGHT MEDIA FORUM (CR)

I was invited by the Knight Foundation to attend the 2019 Knight Library Convening and the Knight Media Forum. It is an exceptional opportunity to network with my peers and to listen to the presentations from the media's perspective on current events and especially at this conference about the serious lack of local generated news in many parts of the country. I have attached a report that I also shared with the MPL management team.

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations!!! to Sarah Lawton. Sarah was selected by Library Journal as a 2019 Mover and Shaker in the category of Advocates for her racial equity and social justice work at MPL, City of Madison, and at the national level. She was described in the article as an Equity Architect, which really does capture her accomplishments. MPL is very proud of her many contributions to address the RESJ needs in our community, and her dedication to make her expertise available beyond our borders. Link to the full article:

<https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=sarah-lawton-movers-shakers-2019-advocates>

MPL has been very fortunate to have other Movers and Shakers recognized for their many contributions to our community and to our profession. Current and past MPL staff that have received this award include Sarah Lawton, 2019; Jesse Vieau, 2017; Trent Miller, 2015; and jointly Laura Damon-Moore and Erinn Batykefer, 2014

Business Meetings

- Meeting with City Real Estate
- DMI Arts & Culture Taskforce
- Meeting with software developers for a possible library app
- Meeting with Technical Services Staff
- Meeting with Circulation staff
- Meeting to discuss MPL assisting with MMB event planning
- Meeting with Parks and Public Works on the Reindahl project
- Pinney Core Design meeting
- PlayLab Update
- Teen Engagement discussion with various community agencies
- Meeting with Arts and Culture leaders
- Welcome the PLA African Delegation to Madison and MPL
- UW iSchool virtual class interview

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)
- RESJ Committee

Public/Media Appearance

- Presentation by Sarah Godlewski (After learning of her poor work conditions at the State Capital, I invited her to use Central Library for a more welcoming office experience)
- BAM: Black Arts Matter, poetry slam at Central Library
- Working Draft 1 year Anniversary (this new brewery participated at Ex Libris)
- Local Voices Network Social
- Rotary Mayoral Candidate Forum
- WORT Mayoral Candidate Forum at Central Library
- Screening of *The Public* at Central Library
- School Board and Mayoral Candidates Forum at Wright Middle School
- InDigenous Jazz Concert at Central Library
- MEM Dinner for recent executive retirees from City of Madison
- Welcome remarks to @Power UP National Conference at Central Library (@Power UP is a leadership program focused on youth services)