

Library Director Report

August 2021

PUBLIC HEALTH

In addition to the mayor's directive reported last month for all City staff to return to maintaining a mask while in City buildings/vehicles, Madison and Dane County Public Health has released a new Public Health order requiring the public to maintain a mask inside public buildings. This order is in effect until September 16, 2021. MPL has modified its entrance signage to notify the public of the new order. One of the challenges has been that masking now begins with age 2 and up, which can be difficult for a very little one to maintain a mask, but we do rely on the caregiver to do their best. Although food and drink are exempt from the new order, we are keeping a no food directive in the library unless it is part of a library program or sanctioned event.

MPL has been a host and has helped Public Health promote vaccination to several areas of the city. Public Health has performed pop-up vaccination clinics at libraries and at programs that involved MPL.

BUDGET 2022

We are still waiting for the Executive releases of the budgets. CIP is scheduled to come out prior to the September Library Board meeting on August 31st. The Operating Budget will not be released until Oct. 5th. I have responded to some questions from the Mayor's office in regard to our budget, and we did briefly discuss some aspects of our Operating Budget during my check-in with Mayor Satya. MPL did receive some recognition by the Mayor for how we submitted our reduction priorities with the Green/Yellow/Red scheme. She found it very useful -- and so do I in communicating our position for restoration of the reductions.

FEDERAL FUNDS

We decided to pass on the first window for the Emergency Connectivity Fund. Despite the availability of funds, internally it would be difficult to support especially since SCLS is not going to support the devices that are obtained through this fund. The FCC has released the announcement of a second window that will run from Sept 28 – Oct 13th. This may give us some time to determine a way to access the funds but sustainability of the program after Federal funds are gone is a major consideration, and having sufficient staff to support the additional devices will always be a major consideration. I did mention to the Mayor in my check-in that our reduction in staff in the 2021 Budget has made it more difficult to take advantage of opportunities like the ECF.

IMAGINATION CENTER

Work on the pre-design continues and Margaret Sullivan Studio (MSS) has released a collection of possibilities for the Imagination Center spaces and connections to the community. The core MPL team is reviewing the document. We have also started to meet to discuss the engineering aspects of the project including the green features that can be incorporated in the building and the surrounding grounds.

Rynn Kerkhove, Library Planner, has been re-connecting with some of the community stakeholders that were established prior to our scoping study. She has also been working with MSS and conducting some visioning sessions. It is very timely work to re-connect the community's aspirations with the work being proposed in the pre-design.

I have also been investigating how we may involve the Ho-Chunk Nation in the planning for this facility, and how we may be able to recognize that the Imagination Center is being built on land once occupied by the Ho-Chunk Nation.

MADISON MAGAZINE

Madison Magazine has been working on an article about MPL and in particular services at Central Library. It is a review of how the library has been evolving in our delivery of services and programs. A variety of MPL staff were interviewed for the article. The article is expected to be in the October issue.

STAFF PICNIC

MPL's Engagement Team organized an all-staff picnic on August 29th. We previously had all-staff picnics in 2018 and 2019, so this is a return with the pandemic interruption in 2020 for staff to take some time to have fun and get together. We have also invited former staff, especially those that had retired since March 2020 to have a chance to receive some congratulations and best wishes from all of us.

MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, TEAMS & MORE

City

Mayor's Management Team
Mayor's Human Service Committee
Racial Equity & Social Justice Strategic Planning
Deputy Mayor Check-in
Human Service Funding & Recovery Team
Agency Operating Budget presentations
EOC Briefings

Check-in with Mayor Satya
Dept. Equity Team Expansion Plan
3.5 Investigation Reports
ACRE Presentation (Development on Monroe St.)
Digital Inclusion Team
Subtle Acts of Exclusion Team
TeamCity Change Leadership

MPL

Library Management Team
Administration & Communications Check-in
All Staff Town Hall
Omar Poler meeting (Ho-Chunk)
MEA Community Space review
Alder Figuora Cole meeting
Deputy Mayor Reuben Sanon meeting (Ho-Chunk)
Madison Magazine Photo session
Alder Halverson meeting
Alder Vidaver meeting

External

Wisconsin Resource Library Directors
Urban Libraries Council Directors
SHLB section meetings
FCC ECF Webinar
Social Good Summit
ART Party
DMI Breakfast: Teejop presentation