
Library Advisory Board Minutes May 13, 2008

For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Mark Garber called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Board members present were: Joe Arellano, Robert Brading, Marian Creamer, Gwen Farnham Hyland, Stephen Feltz, Mark Garber, Dean Gisvold, Ruth Gundle, Rick Gustafson, Virginia Koontz, Jon Kruse, Diane McKeel, Alice Meyer, Donna Oden-Orr and Garrett Shephard. Board members David Blount and Ellen Wallin were excused.

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, Candy Bertleson, Becky Cobb, Ellen Fader, Pat French, Cindy Gibbon, Penny Hummel, Rita Jimenez, June Mikkelsen, Vailey Oehlke, Sara Ryan, Carol Uhte, Dave Ratliff, David Miles, Virginia Tribe, Abigail Elder, Jim Carmin and Yvonne Chambers.

Also in attendance were: Chris Hudson and Scott Grier, Friends of the Library; and Suella Springfield, community member and Portland Community College student.

The minutes of the April 8, 2008 meeting were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Mark Garber opened the meeting with an announcement that the tour of East Multnomah County Libraries has been postponed and will be rescheduled in the Fall. The LAB retreat will also be rescheduled for the Fall.

LIBRARY FUNDING TASK FORCE

Dean Gisvold reported on behalf of the Library Funding Task Force (LFTF). Dean and Susan Hathaway-Marxer have scheduled a briefing with Chair Wheeler on Monday, May 19 to discuss the Task Force's proposal. If that meeting goes well, the subgroup of the Task Force will meet with the other commissioners and also hold one more Task Force meeting in June.

A draft of the LTF proposal was forwarded to LAB members as part of their board packet. Dean asked LAB members to forward him any comments they may have regarding the proposal.

Alice Meyer commented that she was concerned that the funding plan is only for ten years. Dean responded that it will go through 2020. After much debate, the Task Force had concluded that trying to come up with a plan for beyond 2020 would not be

practical. Rick Gustafson commented that the key is to make financial projections based on trying to determine what the Library will need.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Stephen Feltz reported on behalf of the Finance Committee. The Board of County Commissioners is meeting today, May 13, for a budget work session. The Library will be presenting and, as part of that, Virginia Koontz will present the CBAC report. Stephen noted there are escalating inflationary expenses in the proposed budget that will continue to increase each year due to personnel costs, internal services with the County and the addition of two new libraries. The budget does reflect the General Fund commitment made as part of the levy financial plan.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Marian Creamer reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The Committee proposed that we fill position 8, Dean Gisvold's current position, with Henise Telles-Ferreira. Henise is a Social Studies and English as a Second Language teacher at Roosevelt High School, a Portland Public School. She has extensive experience in education and language, and an appreciation of cultural change. The Nominating Committee voted unanimously to send her recommendation to the LAB.

A motion was made to recommend Henise Telles-Ferreira to Chair Wheeler and the Board of County Commissioners for position 8 on the Library Advisory Board.

The motion was seconded and the LAB vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Committee will work toward filling two positions that will become vacant in October (Stephen Feltz and Joe Arellano's positions).

Marian requested additional members for the Nominating Committee, due to vacancies left on the Committee by LAB members who have fulfilled their terms. Ruth Gundle volunteered to join the Nominating Committee, which now consists of Marian, Alice Meyer and Ruth.

Marian reminded LAB members that individuals recommended for consideration on the LAB are required to be residents of Multnomah County. Virginia asked the Nominating Committee to look into whether or not new Youth Advisory Board members need to be recruited for the new school year due to the current Youth Advisory members graduating from high school and continuing their education outside of the County.

TEEN INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (TIC)

Teen Services Specialist Sara Ryan and Youth Services Coordinator Ellen Fader discussed the results of the Teen Involvement Committee Meeting in April. Sara recommended that the LAB provide an orientation to new youth members that would

cover what it means to serve on an advisory board, specifically the Library Advisory Board; an introduction to the State of Oregon Ethics Rules for Public Officials; and the role of committees of an advisory board.

Sara also proposed that the new youth members meet with the Teen Services Specialist to receive an orientation and a tour of select library locations teen-focused library activities. She also proposed that the LAB appoint each teen to an LAB committee, such as the Nominating Committee, to foster participation.

Once the youth advisory board members are integrated within the LAB there will be no need for a Teen Involvement Committee.

Stephen recommended assigning new youth members a mentor who is a LAB member.

A motion was made to accept the Teen Involvement Committee's report.

The motion was seconded and the LAB vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Molly Raphael congratulated Katie O'Dell and Steven Engelfried, Multnomah County librarians, for their recent appointments to the Newbery Award Committee. Katie will serve as committee Chair and Steven will join the committee as a member. Molly also made reference to Nell Colburn's current role as the Chair of the Caldocott Committee.

Molly will be attending the second budget hearing later this evening. She noted the most recent hearing was uneventful. She also commended Becky Cobb and her staff for their work on the coming year's budget.

NEW LIBRARIES SITING REPORT

Molly reported on the siting for the Troutdale and Kenton libraries. The Troutdale site is going through the final negotiation phase and a recommendation is expected to go before the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) by the end of May. The Kenton Library site selection has been narrowed down to two possibilities. The public will be able to provide input during a hearing scheduled on Thursday, May 29 at the Kenton Masonic Temple.

ART COLLECTION ANNUAL REPORT

Jim Carmin, MCL Librarian, John Wilson Special Collection, presented the Library's annual art report on the Library's art collection, which included recent additions purchased for and donated to the Library. A copy of his written report is attached.

Highlights include increased outreach use of the collection and the acquisition of a postcard written by Allen Ginsberg to William Burrows.

FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION UPDATE

Molly reported on behalf of The Library Foundation. Molly acknowledged Library Foundation Board member Eric Friedenwald-Fishman for his 2008 Volunteerism in the Arts Award for Exemplary Business Volunteer for the Arts from Northwest Business for Culture and the Arts. The award is given to members of the business community who, through volunteerism, provide vital support and capacity to the arts and cultural organizations in our community.

Chris Hudson reported on behalf of the Friends of the Library. The Friends recently conducted their annual book sale in East County. A report on the proceeds was not available. The sale was one of the best attended in recent years.

Chris invited everyone to attend their Annual Meeting on May 20, Tuesday from 5:30 to 7 PM in the US Bank Room. The guest speaker will be Professor Primus St. John, a Portland State University professor and a nationally known poet.

GOOD & WELFARE

The next LAB meeting will be on June 10, 2008. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

Yvonne Chambers
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Multnomah County Library, Oregon

Multnomah County Library Art Collection Annual Report
to Multnomah County Library Advisory Board

Background

The Library's Art Collection Policy provides that the Director of Libraries report annually on the art to the Multnomah County Library Board. This is the fifteenth such report on the library's art. This report covers the period from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007.

New Acquisitions

As in the recent past, major gifts and acquisitions continue for the John Wilson Special Collections (JWSC), including the notable gifts below. One of the most significant and spectacular acquisitions of 2007 was purchased for the collection with unrestricted gift monies from The Library Foundation. It is a small postcard written August 28, 1965 from Seattle by poet **Allen Ginsberg** to writer **William Burroughs**, and talks about Crater Lake, hiking in the Cascades with poet Gary Snyder, buying a VW van, and seeing the Beatles in Portland a few days earlier (during which John Lennon announced on stage: "We hear Allen Ginsberg is in the audience and we send him our greetings"). A few days after the concert, perhaps on the same day as he wrote the postcard, Ginsberg wrote his memorable poem that commemorated the event: "Portland Coliseum."

This year also marked a fine gift from **Mary Ann Normandin**—who just passed away on May 10th—of a number of fine press books and letters from poet **William Stafford**, which include several poems in manuscript. Mary Ann's good friend, and great friend of our collection, **Ed Caswell** (the great grandson of John Wilson) gave our collection a marvelous copy of Ando **Hiroshige's** great **Fifty-Three Stations of the Tokaido**, in spectacular condition. Another good friend of the collection, **Susan Wilson Berg** (and the great granddaughter of John Wilson), give us several important titles on Oregon history.

Long-time library and special collections supporter, **Brian Booth**, gave several books from his collection, including fine press titles by former Oregonians **William Everson**, **Gary Snyder**, and **Loyd Haberly**. And equally long-time supporter, **Jack Walsdorf**, gave us materials from his huge collection of books, this year related to the infamous book forger **T.J. Wise**, books on books, and his entire collection of **Armed Services Editions**.

An extensive list of all acquisitions and gifts during this period is available by contacting Jim Carmin (jimc@multcolib.org or 503-988-6287)

Exhibition and Educational Use of the Collection

Jim Carmin curated several major exhibitions during this reporting period in the Collins Gallery. In 2007 he organized four exhibitions, including ***“A Message to Garcia: Elbert Hubbard and the Power of Print”*** which focused on the publishing phenomenon around “A Message to Garcia,” a small pamphlet first published at the end of the 19th-century; for this exhibition, materials were borrowed from a private collector in Portland (Jack Walsdorf), the Erie County and Buffalo (NY) Public Library, and from the JWSC. A second exhibition, ***“Philip Smith: Extraordinary Bindings from an Englishman”*** achieved international recognition, and featured 40 remarkable bindings borrowed from private and public collections throughout the U.S., Canada, and England; and thanks to the support of Cynthia Sears and Frank Buxton (of Bainbridge Island, WA), the library sponsored a talk by Philip Smith who flew in from London for the event, with more than 100 in the audience. A third exhibition was ***“Vital to Language and Living: 35 Years of Poetry at Copper Canyon Press”*** which featured materials from the special collections by this internationally recognized poetry press located in Port Townsend, Washington; a hand-printed broadside signed by poet W.S. Merwin commemorated the event. A fourth exhibition featured unique materials from the John Wilson Special collections, ***“Timberline Lodge: Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of an Historic Treasure,”*** which also borrowed materials from regional private and institutional collections.

Additionally, Jim Carmin curated six exhibitions within the John Wilson Special Collections that featured materials pulled from the special collections, including

“Celilo Falls: the 50th Anniversary of the Flooding of Wy-am” (Jan/Feb 2007)

“Gertrude Jekyll: A Feminist in the Garden?” (Mar/Apr 2007)

“May Day Press: 15 Years of Artist’s Books by Catherine Alice Michaelis”
(May/June 2007)

“Ernest Haycox: Dust-Wrappers of an Oregon Western Writer” (Jul/Aug 2007)

“Banished!: Censored & Challenged Books from the John Wilson Special
Collections” (Sep/Oct 2007)

“The Rain Returns!: The Christmas Flood of 1964 in Photographs”
(Nov/Dec 2007)

Three works from the John Wilson Special Collections figured prominently in an exhibition at the Portland Art Museum, ***“Graphic Force, Humanist Vision: Leonard Baskin Works on Paper”*** (Aug. 18, 2007 – Nov. 11, 2007); all three books were gifts to our collection by Seymour and Carol **Haber**, and featured original etchings and a woodcut by Leonard Baskin.

The Special Collections continued to offer many formal education activities. Jim gave an **ever-increasing number of presentations and talks** on the Special Collections during this period to classes and groups from the community and local and regional schools. Jim lectured on contemporary book arts; history of graphic design; religious studies; poetry and writing; Ernest Bloch; medieval and early renaissance books; and on text & image, to organized **classes from many institutions of higher education** throughout the Portland metropolitan area:

- Oregon College of Art and Craft
- Pacific Northwest College of Art
- Portland State University;
- Lewis and Clark College; and
- Portland Community College.

Other organized groups that visited the collection during this period included Powell's City of Books used book buyers.; Metropolitan Learning Center 7th and 8th grades; Vestal Elementary 5th grade; and more. **In 2007 alone, more than 2,200 individuals attended special outreach events** in, or related to, the John Wilson Special Collections during its regularly closed hours, up considerably **from 1,360 in 2006, 1,058 in 2005 and 860 in 2004.**

During this period, Jim served on a panel for Public Program Grants for the **Oregon Center for the Humanities**; he also served on two juries including "Sense & Sensuality: Contemporary Books Arts" (**23 Sandy Gallery**, Portland) and "The Illustrated Word: An Exhibit of Letterpress Broadsides" **Maude Kerns Art Center**, Eugene). Jim also spoke at **Maryhill Museum of Art** on book collecting and book values; and he was the keynote speaker at the "Focus on Book Arts" conference at **Pacific University**; he continues to serve on the board of **Poetry Northwest** journal. During this reporting period, Jim had several book reviews published in *The Oregonian* and the *British Art Libraries Journal*.

As in past years, Jim continued the use of several volunteers and interns in the John Wilson Special Collections. Work performed by these volunteers has included cleaning the gutters of early printed books; processing gifts and archive collections; collation of materials; covering fragile dust wrappers with archival mylar; working with Jim in organizing collections of archives; and helping with exhibition research and installation.

Conservation and Restoration

Jim continues to identify materials he believes may be at risk in their current condition. During this period notable conservation efforts included placing loose photographs in individual archival Mylar sleeves; and loose manuscripts filed in acid-free folders and organized in manuscript boxes.