

Library Advisory Board Minutes May 14, 2013

For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Katie Lane called the meeting to order at 7:31 am.

Board members present were: Hallie Blashfield, David Blount, Erin Cooper, Marian Creamer, George Feldman, Bernadette Janét, Katie Lane, Mardy Stevens, Danika Stochosky, Henise Telles-Ferreira, Maegan Vidal, Carlene Weldon and Sola Whitehead. Board members Lori Irish Bauman and John Potter were excused. Board members Etsegenet Ayele and Adam Starr were absent.

Staff members present were: Vailey Oehlke, Director of Libraries; Becky Cobb, Deputy Director; Rita Jimenez, Neighborhood Libraries Director; Cindy Gibbon, Access & IT Services Manager; David Ratliff, Central Library Director; Terrilyn Chun, Public Programming & Community Outreach Manager; Katie O'Dell, Youth Services Director; Shawn Cunningham, Policy Advisor; Javier Gutierrez, interim Collections Services Manager; Jeremy Graybill, Marketing & Communications Director; Shelly Kent, Human Resources Manager; and Jamie Owens, Administrative Specialist, Director's Office.

Also in attendance were: Althea Gregory, Budget Office, Multnomah County; Matthew Timberlake, IT Project Manager, Multnomah County; Ali Harvey and Erin Butler, Friends of the Library; and Merris Sumrall and Rachel Brunette, The Library Foundation.

The April 9, 2013 minutes were approved, with changes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Katie reported that she is attending the monthly Library Transitions Community Committee meetings. The group recently started the discussion of library assets, and committee members also expressed interest and concern about how the current library employees are protected during the transition. Katie said that LAB members should contact her if there are any questions or concerns and she will bring them to the next committee meeting which is May 24.

Henise Telles-Ferreira asked about the monetary assets that belong to the library. Becky Cobb explained that the library reserve fund is invested along with the County reserve money. Henise outlined an international campaign for groups to divest their

interests in oil companies and she would like the library to do the same. Vailey answered that the County manages those investments and that the library could bring that issue to them.

Katie reminded everyone that there will be two leadership positions open in July and to talk with Sola Whitehead if interested, or if they have a nomination for one of the open Board positions.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vailey talked about the budget process that is continuing during May. The library's budget was presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) a few weeks ago. Now that Chair Cogen has presented his executive budget, the process continues with public hearings. The two remaining hearings are scheduled for May 22 and May 29. The public has an opportunity to see what the county is proposing for FY14, and to comment. The library will be making their presentations on the county library budget and on the Multnomah County Library District (MCLD) budget on May 28 at 10 am, and LAB members are welcome to attend. John Potter will be presenting the LAB's Citizen Budget Advisory Committee's report as part of that presentation. The BCC will formally adopt the budget on June 6. Vailey thanked Becky, Althea Gregory and Kayrne Kieta for their hard work on the budget.

Vailey shared that she had the privilege of participating in the first naturalization ceremony that MCLD hosted at the Central Library. Twenty-one people became new U.S. Citizens, representing 18 different countries. Vailey talked about the contribution that MCLD makes in people's lives by providing adult literacy classes and materials. MCLD has a six-week citizenship course sponsored by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Vailey acknowledged the connections that employees Melissa Madenski and Jane Salisbury have made in order for MCLD to host the event.

Vailey announced that the MCLD mobile app, which has 14,000 plus monthly users, is now available in all the languages that MCLD targets: Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Russian. Jeremy shared that MCLD is the first library to provide a mobile app in five languages, according to the vendor that provides the app.

Vailey will miss June's LAB meeting because she will be attending the Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government summer session for public executives. Becky Cobb will have full authority during this time.

CENTRAL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION REPORT

Vailey introduced Terrilyn Chun to share the plans to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Central Library building. Terrilyn reported that there are more than a dozen programs and special tours planned starting in June, leading to a party on

Saturday September 7, 2013. Thanks to The Library Foundation (TLF) for making many of these programs possible, in particular the concert series that will be in the Collins Gallery. All programs can be accessed via My MCL by entering "Central is 100". With the help from a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) program and through the American Library Association, Multnomah County Library was selected as a pilot site for the Story Corps @ your Library program that is planned for the month of June. Story Corps invites residents to share their memories of the library, the buildings and the city. This collection will then be shared during the celebration of the Library's 150th year. Steph Miller is heading up the library's first digitalization project by scanning images of the Central Library. This collection will be available in July, in time for the celebration. Vailey noted the contrast of the digitization project coming along at the same time the library system is turning 150 years old. Mardy Stevens asked if the neighborhood and regional libraries will take part in the Central centennial celebration. Terrilyn explained the building celebration involves Central, but the celebration will be open to everyone. Next year for the 150 system-wide library anniversary, there will be series of history programs for the neighborhood libraries and the celebration of library service in the general community.

ART POLICY AND INVENTORY REPORT

Becky stated that when physical assets are mentioned, people think about the buildings, computers and the books, but in the early days of this system, people donated and provided for art. Libraries are viewed as cultural and educational institutions; a shared mission with museums. The Institute of Museum and Library Service's mission states that the organization is here to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning and civic engagement. Library art collections are important because they engage the community by reflecting local history and providing free access to art for citizens. Donated art is now received through TFL. The Art Collection Policy was updated in 1990 as part of the transfer of assets from the Library Association of Portland (LAP), which was a private non-profit, to Multnomah County. In preparation for the potential transfer to MCLD, now is a good time to revisit the art policy, update and refresh the inventory, and make the collection more widely known and accessible. Kirsten Leonard is heading this project; she has been inventorying and capturing the images. Forty-one pieces have been inventoried so far. The goal is to get all of the old information into the new program, so that it is complete enough to make it a system of record, and provide easy access.

Matthew Timberlake demonstrated the new art inventory program. The Regional Arts and Culture Council (RACC) allowed MCLD to review the system they use to catalog public art, which gave MCLD a starting point. Matthew shared how the new content management system allowed the art inventory database structure to be built in 10 hours. The new application imbeds the image in the record, and the records can be linked to each other, which will connect related works. In the future when people search online for art or artists, the inventory at MCLD will pop up; this will drive people to the My MCL website. This project needed to be completed quickly, but the plan is to go

back and take better photos for the permanent record. Bernadette Janét asked if revisions will be made of the submissions form in the Art Policy, so that acquisitions will come with complete information and photos. Matthew answered that many items that the library acquired are quite old and didn't have much information. The new format is secure and MCLD can add to it as more information becomes available. Danika Stochosky asked if the library actively curates works or just accept donations. Vailey answered that many artists would love to hang their work for display on the walls of Central, but the donations come through TLF.

Katie inquired if the art that is now donated belongs to Multnomah County or MCLD. Becky answered that everything MCLD owns still belongs to the County through the 1990 agreement. That agreement stipulated that Multnomah County has the right to dispose of any library assets but, if that happened, the proceeds would have to be used for library operations. Becky added that the County over the years has done a great job of making sure that the art collection is adequately insured. Bernadette asked if the Art Policy revision is a project that the LAB would be involved in. Vailey answered that it would be. The partnership with RACC lets MCLD have access to art from artists in this community and to art that is not donated to us. George Feldman asked if the RFID technology would be available to track the art. Matthew explained that RFID could be added along with QR labeling technology. Vailey explained that these technologies would be part of the larger project. Marian Creamer asked if the LAB could have a tour of the art at Central. Vailey answered that it could be arranged.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Merris Sumrall shared that many LAB members knew Joan Shipley and are familiar with her support of MCLD. She was part of RACC during the Central renovation. She was very invested in this library and her family continues to support programming here. Joan would have been pleased to see the new access to the art collection.

Merris introduced the Foundation's new Communications Manager, Rachel Brunette.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Ali Harvey reported that the recent spring book sale in Gresham was the largest ever, raising over \$35,000. There were new volunteers for this event. The next book sale is in the fall at the DoubleTree Lloyd Center.

On Wednesday, June 5, 2013 from 6-7:30 pm the Friends annual meeting will be held in this room. Jim Carmin, John Wilson Special Collections librarian will be presenting. Refreshments will be served and new members can sign up at the door.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Mardy Stevens noted that she volunteered at the FOL spring book sale and was impressed by how organized it was. She encouraged all to volunteer at the book sale.

Vailey shared that she just returned from Washington DC where she attended Legislative Day as part of the American Librarian Association (ALA) delegation. Vailey had conversations with staff of Senators Merkley and Wyden and Congressman Walden about e-book access and other matters regarding public libraries. The issues were very well received and they are concerned about the impact of these issues on their constituents. Vailey invited everyone to the Electronic Access Policy Advisory Committee (EAPAC) meeting tomorrow at 12:30 pm, where she will share more details about this visit.

The next LAB meeting is on Tuesday, June 11, 2013.

Katie Lane, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:40 am.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Multnomah County Library, Oregon