

Library Advisory Board Minutes November 12, 2013
For Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB)

The Multnomah County Library Advisory Board (LAB) met on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Chair Sola Whitehead called the meeting to order at 7:31 am.

Board members present were: Etsegenet Ayele, Erin Cooper, George Feldman, Bernadette Janét, Katie Lane, Jose Padin, John Potter, Mardy Stevens, Danika Stochosky, Henise Telles-Ferreira, Maegan Vidal and Sola Whitehead. Board members Megan Irwin and Carlene Weldon were excused. Board members David Blount and Adam Starr were absent.

Staff members present were: Vailey Oehlke, Director of Libraries; Becky Cobb, Deputy Director; Rita Jimenez, Neighborhood Libraries Director; Dave Ratliff, Central Library Director; Katie O'Dell, Youth Services Director; Terrilyn Chun, Programming & Community Outreach Manager; Shawn Cunningham, Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives; Javier Gutierrez, Director of Collections & Technical Services; Jeremy Graybill, Marketing & Online Engagement Director; Jim Carmin, Librarian, John Wilson Special Collections; and Jamie Owens, Administrative Specialist, Director's Office.

Also in attendance were: Althea Gregory, Budget Office, Multnomah County; Jon Deitz and Loren MccRory, Friends of the Library, (FOL); Merris Sumrall and Greg Tudor, The Library Foundation (TLF).

The October 8, 2013 minutes were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Sola thanked everyone for serving on subcommittees; the Nominating Committee still needs members and the youth position is still vacant. Sola asked everyone to reach out to the community and their contacts to find applicants for the vacancy. Mardy Stevens asked about the age range. Youth members need to be in high school.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Vailey asked Terrilyn Chun to provide an update about the Everybody Reads (ER) program. The 2014 selection is *My Beloved World* by Justice Sonia Sotomayor. It is

generating a lot of interest in the program. Everybody reads the book in January, the book is discussed in February and the author lecture follows in March. This year there will be only one lecture ticket each available for LAB members.

Terrilyn talked about the book and what a great role model Justice Sotomayor is. Lecture tickets become available to organizations that serve youth in the community. Thanks to TLF, 2,000-2,500 books will be available, and teachers who use the book as part of classroom instruction receive additional assistance from MCL. Portland State University will support Everybody Reads with programs about affirmative action and the Supreme Court, and with information related to the political and cultural background of Puerto Rico. New this year: approximately 2,000 ebook copies will be accessible because of support provided by The Library Foundation.

Danika Stochosky asked about the Everybody Reads book selection process. Vailey explained that she selects the books and is already considering the 2015 book choice. Vailey invited the LAB to make suggestions. Vailey thanked The Library Foundation for their continued support of Everybody Reads.

ANNUAL ART REPORT

Jim Carmin provided the Annual Art Report, November 12, 2013. He invited everyone to visit the John Wilson Special Collections and brought highlights of the recent exhibition called "The Nature of Nature: Depictions of the Natural World from the John Wilson Special Collections." The show featured photographs, paintings, copper engravings, transparencies made of trees, and original drawings. Artists in the exhibition included Leonard Baskin, Sarah Horowitz, Doug Shafer, John James Audubon, Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Steichen, C.E.S. Wood, and Edward S. Curtis.

Jim brought examples of contemporary artist books to share including a pinwheel book and a letter press book by Jessica Sprague. Also shared were boxes that were made to hold and protect specific books.

For the third consecutive year, the Flyfisher Foundation of Oregon provided funds to purchase wonderful acquisitions; this year included a collection of six books published by Stone Wall Press. All six are authored by Dana Lamb and include warm inscriptions, printed dedications, and signed correspondence.

The collection received a new gift of archives from Portland poet Carlos Reyes, who is an author and poetry publisher. His papers reflect his long life in these roles and are rich with correspondence with other poets, manuscripts, and hundreds of his poems.

There were gifts of poetry from Primus St. John, a poetry professor at Portland State University, and a gift of poetry archives from Clemens Starck, a Dallas, Oregon native. Jim again worked with Lewis and Clark College for the William Stafford correspondence show.

Working with Jeremy Graybill, the John Wilson Special Collections room has started a Tumblr blog called “Without ellipses ...” John Potter commented that more interest could be generated if video could accompany the blog.

Bernadette Janét suggested a fund-raising gala where citizens would come to hear Jim speak and be able to contribute funds for a specific big-ticket item.

Jim invited everyone to visit the collection. He also noted that a list of all acquisitions and gifts is available by contacting him.

LIBRARY DISTRICT COMMUNITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Katie Lane explained that the committee is composed of different stakeholders, including representatives from FOL, TLF, current and former LAB members, Local 88, Multnomah County staff and library staff. No matter where the assets actually sit, they will still be part of the library. This committee is only considering assets, not services. Because the transfer of assets is a unique situation, the committee wants to fully understand the impact to library patrons. The original timeline scheduled a review and recommendation by January 2014. However due to the current temporary status of the District 1 Commissioner and Chair, the work will potentially continue after the May 2014 election. Vailey added that there is an internal staff group working on the analysis of the potential of transferring the buildings, the collection and the art. Becky Cobb is part of this group.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Merris introduced the new TLF grant writer, Greg Tudor.

The Willamette Week’s Skidmore Prize is intended to recognize and encourage long-term commitment to the non-profit sector and to inspire others to get involved. One of the 2013 winners is Kristin Wallace, who joined the TLF in 2006. She works with the Summer Reading Program (SRP) and has raised \$1.5 million in prize donations. Congratulations to Kristin.

The Library Foundation will again be in the community section of Willamette Week’s Give Guide.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Jon Deitz reported that the fall book sale generated \$84,000, which is an 8% increase. There are plans to expand the online sales, which will be a huge opportunity for growth. An annual board retreat is planned for tomorrow and there are two new board members.

Loren MccRory announced future fundraising events. November 23 through December 26 will be double discount days of 20% off at the bookstore for Friends members. All four locations of the Laurelwood Pub will donate 10% of their proceeds from business on December 3, 2013, and the donation of a book will get you a free beer.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Sola reported on a Texas citizen who was arrested for overdue library fines and expressed her appreciation that that doesn't happen here.

Danika Stochosky reported that she and Bernadette Janét attended the OMSI open house for teachers; it gave them an opportunity to see how library outreach is done. While there, they talked with teachers about the many benefits of having an educator library card. They also reached out to brand new charter and private schools, many that don't have a library and were unaware about the services that MCLD provides. Danika thought that library presence at the new schools' open houses would be a great way to reach more classrooms and students. Bernadette added that it would be a good idea to check in with the teachers in these newer smaller schools about youth attendance for the Everybody Reads programming.

Henise Telles-Ferreira commented to the group regarding the status of the contract negotiations between Portland Public Schools and the Portland Association of Teachers.

Mardy Stevens reported that the newly remodeled Gresham library is awesome and the helpful staff recognized her obviously-common, glazed-over look that was asking: "where is everything?"

Katie Lane shared her appreciation of the "request an acquisition" feature on MyMCL. While traveling, she was able to put a book on hold and make a request for another one that was not in the collection. Vailey added that one of library's goals is to be responsive to the community and this is an important way to build a collection for patrons.

The next LAB meeting is on Tuesday, December 10, 2013.

Sola Whitehead, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:29 am.

Respectfully submitted by:
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