

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 2011

Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Budget Development

Boise Public Library's Management Team drafted a potential budget to address the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) items which I reviewed with Boise City's Executive Management Team (EMT) on December 15. This year, the EMT is approaching the budget build by reviewing new budget items addressing departments' SWOT items to determine if the projected budget will support new improvements, enhancements, and alternatives before engaging in in-depth budget development for the Fiscal Year 2012/2013 cycle. Major items for the Library include the following: construction of a library branch at Bown Crossing, public parking remedy for the Main Library, e-book download stations, added repair and maintenance items for the Main Library, and a Main Library design charrette. This review process will continue through January and the budget will continue to be developed throughout the winter and spring.

LYNX! Consortium

The LYNX! Consortium directors met on December 18 and moved forward on several initiatives. A draft position paper regarding privatization was presented and discussed with some requests for the subcommittee to review. The Integrated Library System (ILS) evaluation committee recommended developing a Request for Information for various vendors to present ILS programs and enhancements to the group this spring and summer. The wish list for a new ILS includes continued enhancements for customer interaction, e-commerce/e-gov solutions, enhanced mobile applications, and customer created content. The directors will be reviewing the existing ILS and enhancements provided by our current vendor, Sirsi Dynix, as well. A strategic planning retreat has been scheduled for March 16-18 in Hailey, Idaho. The Consortium develops strategic plans for a three-five year period, which is a requirement for federal grant dollars.

The Big Read

Please join me in reading this year's community-wide reading selection, *The Call of the Wild*, by Jack London. On January 14, the Big Read will kick-off with an event at Morris Hill Park. People and dogs of all ages are invited to answer "The Call of the Wild" at the park, as Mayor David Bieter, *The Idaho Statesman* columnist Dan Popkey, and other dignitaries officially em "bark" on a celebration of *The Call of the Wild* - the 2011 Big Read Boise and Beyond.

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT:

Gift-Making at Collister

The Library! at Collister staff offered a holiday gift-making program on December 2. Teens were invited to make holiday-scented natural beauty products for their family and friends. Each gift was stored in a cute jar and labeled with printed gift tags.

Upgrades Coming to the Main Library

The recarpeting of the Main Library's first floor and some shelving upgrades have recently been completed and more changes will be coming soon. The recarpeting and hard surface installation will continue as the focus shifts to the Youth Services area. Two walls in Youth Services will be painted to match the new carpet, as will the teen area. The teen area will also get a new look when a writeable whiteboard surface is installed. Keep an eye out in 2011 for these changes.

HVAC and Electrical Work at the Main Library

Administration staff has been working extensively with our HVAC contractor to evaluate all components of the HVAC system at the Main Library. We have received a comprehensive inventory of all HVAC components and recommend a significant amount of funding from the Library's Major Repair and Maintenance budget be directed towards upgrading our HVAC systems. We're working with another contractor to evaluate all electrical components of the Main Library. Once the evaluation is complete and recommendations are reviewed, we hope to schedule the necessary work in a phased approach. Some items may need to be addressed immediately and some items could be deferred until the next biennial budget process. We'll start on other planned projects, including signage and safety upgrades, later this fiscal year if funds are available once HVAC concerns are addressed.

Hillcrest Fiber Connectivity

The project to install fiber as a means for all Internet connectivity at the Library! at Hillcrest has had several significant delays due to the complexity of this large project. The City IT department is managing this project.

A New Approach in Youth Services

Youth Services staff at the Main Library is going wireless with reference service. A large chunk of the reference desk has already been removed and a much smaller desk will go in its place. Thanks to an LSTA (Library Service & Technology Act) grant, Youth Services staff will soon begin providing service on-the-go in the children's room and in the teen area with mobile tablet devices rather than providing service from a stationary PC. Staff has also done some other rearranging, giving the children's room a more open feel.

Cole & Ustick Goes 3D

The Library! at Cole & Ustick recently hosted its first 3D movie showing and it was a lot of fun for everyone involved. Staff offered an afternoon showing of the Polar Express in 3D on Tuesday, December 21, and had 35 people attend. They offered an evening showing on the 23 and had 17 people attend. Staff received great comments and people were excited to experience 3D at their library!