

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT  
February 2011

Budget Development

The Boise Public Library's Management Team is engaged in building the Fiscal Year 2012/2013 library budget, a portion of which will be presented to the Trustees during the February Board of Trustees meeting for consideration. The revenue projections indicate a "flat" budget for Fiscal Year 2012 and a modest increase in Fiscal Year 2013. I do not anticipate major changes in the Library's Maintenance and Operations lines. The capital budget includes requests primarily focused on the repair and maintenance needs of the Main Library. The Management Team has divided responsibilities for the budget build and will be presenting various portions of the proposed budget to Trustees over the next two months.

The Library! @ Hillcrest Update

The fiber optic Internet connectivity project has been delayed by Idaho Power to prepare the poles. Adam Reno, the City's Information Technology (IT) coordinator for this project indicates that the project could be completed by the last week of February. I am confident that the IT group is keeping this project moving forward to the best of their ability. The Hillcrest branch is the group's top priority for fiber connectivity.

The Hillcrest shopping center is also entertaining the possibility of adding a new tenant adjacent to the branch library. The Northwest Animal Rescue facility, a nonprofit organization, is proposing to enclose a portion of the breezeway to create a larger storefront for a thrift store and clinic services. A conditional use public meeting was held on January 20 and attended by Laurel White, Neighborhood Library Services Manager. I will be making comments regarding the proposal with the City concerning handicap parking and access issues for the Library. The improvements at Hillcrest have prompted some customer complaints.

*ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT:*

Resource Thursday Programs Resume at the Main Library

Resource Thursday started again in January after a brief hiatus in December. The focus this month was "Starting a New Nonprofit" and over 50 people attended. Adult Services staff taught two classes on use of the Foundation Center Databases; both were well attended, with standing room only for the roundtable on new nonprofits. Staff has scheduled Resource Thursdays every month in 2011.

Retro Gaming at Hillcrest

The Library! @ Hillcrest presented its second program on "old school" gaming, planned for and shared with families at a monthly all-age Saturday program. The first was in November and it was so well received that Hillcrest staff decided to do it again. Members of the staff set up old gaming systems, many of which they enjoyed as kids, so parents could play with their children and explain "old school" games. Atari, Commodore 64,

Nintendo 64, and games similar to the coin-op stations you see in airports were shared. The program attracted news coverage each time it was offered: *The Idaho Statesman* covered the November event as a "best bet" and Channel 12 featured the January event.

#### Collection Maintenance at the Main Library

Many collection improvement projects are underway at the Main Library. Major weeding projects are happening for reference and the Funding Information Center collections, as well as intensive work in other nonfiction areas and the adult fiction collections. The circulating Idaho collection is currently being integrated into the general adult fiction, and the genre collections have recently been rearranged as part of the shelving arrangement on the first floor. The CD collections will also be arranged within the next two months to make better use of the space on the first floor.

#### Programs for Kids

The "Get Your Child Ready for Kindergarten" classes have started again. There are two five-week sessions in January/February at the Main Library, another five-week session set for February/March at the Library! at Cole & Ustick, and a six-week session scheduled for March/April at the Library! @ Hillcrest. These classes are for kids four-five years old and their parents and teach early literacy skills in order to prepare kids for kindergarten. Materials are made available through a grant from the Idaho Commission for Libraries. Youth Services also hosted the Capital City Youth Ballet on January 22 for a dance performance of *Tales from Beatrice Potter*.

Kids learn how to decorate a bedroom, playroom, or cozy corner in the January RE-ART sessions on Interior Design, offered at all four library locations the weekend of January 8 and 9. RE-ART programs encourage five-ten year olds to explore and embrace art in new contexts, and are offered by the Library in partnership with Boise's Arts & History department, TRICA, and the OfficeMax Community Fund.

#### Movies at Cole & Ustick

Under a performance license contract with Movie Licensing USA, the Library! @ Cole & Ustick showed the film "Eat, Pray, Love" to a small audience on January 5, and the animated adventure film "Alpha and Omega" to an audience of 33 on January 22. The latter, a story of two wolves released in an Idaho park, was offered as part of The Big Read.

#### The Call of the Wild and the Big Read

The Big Read Boise and Beyond kicked off on Friday, January 14, at the Morris Hill Dog Park, featuring as many dogs as people, in all shapes and sizes. The event was well-attended by the media, with participating dignitaries including Mayor David Bieter, who spoke about the value of the program to the City of Boise. On Wednesday, January 19, a biographer of Jack London, James Haley, spoke at the Main Library. More than 90 people attended, and ranged in ages from 10 to 80! Lots of discussion and questions followed Mr. Haley's presentation, which was informal and full of little known facts about London's life. Jack London will also soon be a topic of discussion at the Library! @ Collister as that branch's book club discusses *The Call of the Wild*.

A variety of Big Read events are scheduled through late March, including author appearances, film screenings, outdoor activities, and presentations by historians, dog mushers, the Idaho Humane Society, and Boise Police K9 units, as well as several lively book discussions. Boise is one of 75 communities nationwide participating in the program. The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest. The 2011 Big Read Boise and Beyond is by Ada Community Library, Boise Public Library, The Cabin, and *The Idaho Statesman*.