

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

June 2011

### Special Thank You to Martie Brennan

I want to thank Martie for ten years of exemplary service as a Trustee for the Library. Martie has been instrumental in developing our branch library system, improving library operational budget, and advocating for library service across the city. Martie is the model of an outstanding trustee and she will be missed by everyone at the Library. I know she will continue to use the Library and continue to be one of our strongest assets in the community. Thank you, Martie.

### Budget Process

The Library has submitted its Fiscal Year 2012/2013 budget requests and associated narratives to the City's budget office. The Executive Management Team continues to review projected revenues and projected expenditures and will develop a proposal to narrow the projected gap. The Boise City Council will review and discuss budget proposals at the budget workshops scheduled for June 27-29 in the City Council chambers. The Library's Management Team will continue to monitor budget developments on a weekly basis and develop expenditure service alternatives as needed.

### Landmark Libraries

I am thrilled with the Library Journal's announcement that the Library! at Cole & Ustick received an honorary mention as a Landmark Library in the U.S. The branch continues to receive national attention from library professionals and architects nationwide. A copy of the article is enclosed in the board packet under miscellaneous documentation.

### Boise Public Library Foundation Activity

Boise Public Library Foundation president Bev Harad and I met with Bill Drake on May 24 to review a public relations strategy to improve and increase the Library's image and visibility in the community. The Foundation also desires to increase its visibility with the public in preparation for an annual giving campaign and future capital campaign. Bill is going to hold a focus group with library opinion leaders on June 8 to review and glean some ideas regarding library publicity and image issues. Thanks to Bill for assisting with this project.

### Discovery Layer Research

Laurel White and I are attending several "discovery layer" demonstrations from library catalog vendors to determine which product would best serve library customers. A "discovery layer" is a third-party software layer that joins with our catalog system to provide a more user-friendly interface, federated searching capabilities, and assistance in finding correct search terms. We hope to have a "discovery layer" in place by the fall.

### Summer Programming

Highlights of this summer's programming include visits by local authors Scott Marchant and Alan Heathcock, as part of our continuing author visit series and the Adult Summer Reading program, Novel Destinations. Details are available in the Library's calendar of events. Thank you to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring these great summer programs. Also, Treasure Valley Family Magazine is working with us again as media sponsor for all of the Treasure Valley Children's Summer Reading Programs (One World, Many Stories). A copy of the ad they'll run in their June and July issues is included in miscellaneous documentation.

*ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT:*

Main Library Building Study/Facility Assessment

The Library has contracted with CH2M HILL, Inc. to begin a library building study. This project consists of seven subtasks which include: defining existing building organizational, structural, mechanical, and electrical conditions; defining the building's general compliance to the fire, life, and safety requirements of current building code; defining the building's compliance to structural requirements of building code; defining the building's compliance with mechanical and electrical codes; determination of options for short-term solutions to the building's operating deficiencies; and lastly presentation of findings and recommendations to library staff, Board of Trustees, Mayor, and City Council. The project will begin the week of June 6 and will be complete within 60 days. This was funded from Fiscal Year 2011 Major Repair and Maintenance funds in the Library's capital budget.

Upgrades in the Children's Room at the Main Library

With the installation of new, more colorful carpet and the placement of a few new or reupholstered pieces of furniture, the upgrades to the physical space in the children's room are complete. Within their newly reconfigured space, staff members in that area are experimenting with the use of tablet devices for the provision of reference service thanks to a grant administered by the Idaho Commission for Libraries. Youth Services librarian Tobie Garrick wrote the grant and will give a presentation at the Idaho Library Association conference this fall to share the knowledge gained through this experiment with other Idaho librarians.

Exterior Sign at the Library! at Hillcrest

A new exterior sign, visible from Overland Road, is now in place in front of the Library! at Hillcrest.

Centralized Computers at the Main Library

A project to create a central public computer area on the second floor of the Main Library kicked off this month with the installation of a viewing station for the SAM computer management system on the second floor. This station, the first of three that will be installed over the course of this project, consists of a PC connected to a 40" LCD that displays the SAM queue. With that queue displayed on a large screen, customers will be able to browse or sit down while still keeping an eye on their position. Next steps include shelving changes to make room for the computer area and the introduction of a laptop lab funded by the Friends of the Library.

New Approaches to Merchandizing at the Library! at Collister

In an effort to boost print and audiovisual material circulation, the Collister branch has changed the physical location of several collections and started merchandising in a variety of ways to bring attention to their collection. For instance, oversized books now reside in the living room like coffee-table books rather than at the end of the stacks, and hopefully, customers will discover them for the first time. The branch continues to create displays and to set out books in appealing arrangements to entice checkout.