$16 FOR SIXTEEN FUND RAISING UPDATE
Donations continue as a part of the Library Foundation’s $16 for Sixteen campaign. The gross amount received is over $43,000 with over 500 donors contributing. The Foundation directors will be reviewing and conducting a debrief at their February meeting. The virtual reality stations have been purchased, new coding robots have been purchased, and the pop-up library components are under review. Well done Foundation!

SNOW CONDITIONS
Library attendance has been down through January due to the severe weather conditions. The Main Library experienced some burst HVAC pipes on the second and fourth floors, but maintenance staff promptly repaired and cleaned up the water. Snow removal will, of course, exceed this year’s budgeted amount, but I am confident the City will provide funds to cover at year-end.

MAIN LIBRARY VISION PROJECT
Proposals for the developer/construction manager/general contractor consultants were opened on January 18. The project team leaders are in the process of reviewing the proposals and should have an award recommendation by the end of January.

The fundraising feasibility study request for proposals has been released with a deadline of February 2.

Architectural Nexus will be conducting the design-thinking workshops in mid-March. Jeff Davis, principal architect with Nexus, will be visiting Boise in early February to begin planning the workshop with project team members.

RADIO FREQUENCY-IDENTIFICATION DEVICE (RFID) PROJECT
The Library’s collection should be converted by the end of February on project schedule. The project team will be making a recommendation on public launch after the conversion process is completed. They have performed an exemplary job in guiding this project and bringing it to completion.

ARTS AND HISTORY DEPARTMENT COLLABORATION
The staff has begun collaborating with the Arts and History department on two key art projects. First, a call for artists was issued to create a mural related to graphic novels/graphic arts to be installed on the northwest corner of the Main Library. The concept includes issuing a new “call” every year with new murals installed to coincide with the Library Comic Con in August.

Second, the Library and Arts and History will be issuing a call for local artists to design new library card images this spring. This project is designed to give local artists an opportunity to share their work with a broad audience and create additional designs for the Library’s rotating image library card stock.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Read Me Treasure Valley (February 1- April 20): Join me in reading this year’s community-wide selection, The River Why, by David James Duncan. A series of programs will be held to coincide with the reading and is sponsored by area libraries, The Cabin, The Idaho Statesman, and the Idaho Humanities Council.
Celebrate Laura Ingalls Wilder 150th Birthday! (February 11): The Main Library will host a day of activities, discussions, and crafts celebrating Ms. Wilder’s birthday. The Library’s program partner is Rediscovered Books.

Friends Fiction Book Sale (February 10-11): The Friends upcoming book sale in February will be featuring fiction. The sale will be located in the warehouse on River Street.

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS:

LOOKOUT JUNCTION MODEL RAILROAD SHOW
The Main Library hosted Lookout Junction, a model railroad show, on Saturday, January 21 and Sunday, January 22. The Rocky Mountain Hi-Railers, along with the Train Collectors Association, brought their large operating layouts to demonstrate to the public. Attendees watched these model trains in action and learned about the designing, building, and collecting aspects of the hobby. More than 1,300 people attended! A second show is scheduled for February at the Library! at Cole & Ustick.

POP-UP LIBRARIES
January was a busy month for pop-up libraries. Early in the month, Information Services librarian RE Zickau set up a well-received pop-up library at the Boise Art Museum for the exhibit Minidoka: Artist as Witness and later returned to the Museum for First Thursday. She took a pop-up library featuring dinosaur books and more to the Discovery Center for the opening of the T. Rex Named Sue exhibit. Zickau will create a pop-up library featuring library materials highlighting art, LGBTQ+ issues, and AIDS awareness at the Flying M’s Valentine for AIDS art show and another pop-up library at Edwards Greenhouse for their indoor pop-up park.

BEGINNER BOOKS TO GO
The Library recently debuted Beginner Books to Go, a new collection for children and parents. The collection consists of sets of books aimed at children at different points in their learning. Step 1 sets are geared toward kids just starting to read; Step 2 sets are for children who are getting comfortable with more words on the page and an expanding vocabulary; and Step 3 sets are aimed at kids getting ready to make the leap to beginner chapter books. Each set consists of a canvas bag containing ten titles that fit within a theme: animals, princesses, superheroes, etc. The sets were made available to the public at the beginning of January. Within the first week, 40 of the 63 sets available were checked out.

TEEN SCIENCE & ENGINEERING CAFÉ
Jen Scott Wills hosted the Library’s first Teen Science & Engineering Café at the Main Library on January 19. The monthly program, part of a national network of groups, connects teens to local science and engineering professionals who offer discussions and hands-on activities. Dr. Eric Hayden, a biology professor from Boise State University, discussed engineering bacteria for bio-remediation efforts with the 35 students who attended on a snow day.

HILLCREST REPORT
On January 21, staff at the Library! at Hillcrest presented an “Intro to Bullet Journaling.” Staff started with a brief overview of the basics of bullet journaling and how it has been adapted by users. Participants then tried bullet journaling themselves, using journal along with stickers, washi tape, gel pens, and more.
LETTERS AT THE MAIN LIBRARY

Two artists, one in Boise and one in Salt Lake City, operating under the name "Two Quarters Collective" will bring an art installation to the Main Library in June. The installation will feature a vending machine that dispenses handwritten letters. The artists received a grant from Boise's Arts & History department for this project.