LIBRARY! AT BOWN CROSSING
Interior finishes are progressing and exterior finishes have resumed. Recruitment for the librarian positions has begun and the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA) education and programming processes are underway. Sarah Kelley-Chase will give a report on the responses to the HIA recommendations during the Trends and Issues section of the board meeting.

The public art piece, Vox Poplar, was installed on March 28 and 29. The artist, Janet Zweig, was present to supervise the installation with Karl LeClair from the City’s Arts and History department. A press announcement will be made this month regarding the installation. During the April Board meeting, Trustees will be presented a memo of agreement between the Library and The Cabin for review and approval. The Cabin will provide writing instructors for the interactive piece of the art.

I am pleased to announce “sneak preview” night, scheduled for May 12. Invitations will be sent to each of you to attend the function and preview the facility and furnishings prior to the grand opening. The grand opening and ribbon cutting will be held later in May.

MAIN LIBRARY VISION PROJECT
Design thinking workshops are scheduled for March 13, 14, and 15 at the Main Library. The project team has invited various stakeholders including users, donors, neighbors, and partners to participate and provide feedback regarding future services and uses for a new Main Library and arts and history space. Architectural Nexus will be conducting the workshops and use the data to further hone potential site and building concepts for review by the Library Board, City Council, and the general public. Initial space programs and concept alternatives should be delivered by mid-May. This is the first exploratory step the project team is initiating to develop a capital plan for the Main Library.

Design thinking workshops were held the week of March 13 and the report is expected in mid-April. Over one hundred people attended the workshops including several teenagers who participated in the process during an evening session.

On March 25, One Stone conducted a design thinking workshop with representatives from around the state who conducted “on-the-street” interviews with 79 people in the downtown area. I will be sharing the information with Arch Nexus and with the Trustees during the board meeting.

STEP AHEAD IDAHO
Work continues on developing the memo of understanding between the Library and Step Ahead Idaho. Lease negotiations are nearly completed for extension of the lease for the Library! at Hillcrest and Trout Architects is developing the final schematic drawings for the project. I am hoping tenant improvements can begin in June.

RADIO FREQUENCY-IDENTIFICATION CONVERSION
Over 80% of the collection has been converted to the Radio Frequency-Identification (RFID) tag system and the Main Library has begun the check-in process with RFID technology. Staff will be assisting the public on the new self-checkout process and we will provide an update on efficiencies at a
future Library Board of Trustees meeting. Staff also recently installed an additional new RFID self-check station in Youth Services. This entire project has been completed on time and on budget. Thank you team for a job well done!

NEW TECHNOLOGY
Thanks to the Library Foundation and its donors, the Library will debut new technology for public use on March 1. Four new types of robotics and coding kits will be available for checkout starting on that day. In addition, Virtual Reality stations will be available in every location.

WELCOME KEVIN WINSLOW
I am pleased to announce that Kevin Winslow is joining the library and community engagement staff as the Boise Public Library’s new communication manager. Winslow has worked in similar capacities for Idaho Power and Oliver Russell here in Boise and brings analytical, social media, and writing skills to our organization. Please join me in welcoming him to the Library and the Boise City.

APRIL BOOK SALE
Please do come and support the Friends of the Library, Inc. for the annual Spring Sale April 5-9. Last year’s sale grossed approximately $40,000 with proceeds used for programs at the Library including Summer Fest, Dinner and a Book, neighborhood programs at library branches, and Comic Con. Thank you Friends for producing a signature event for Boise.

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS:

OVERDRIVE ANALYSIS
The Collection Development Team participated in a partner analysis with OverDrive to see where spending could be better targeted based on usage and demand. The analysis was helpful to see trends so spending can be fine-tuned. It also pointed out that total circulations in OverDrive in the most recent 12 months increased by 18% over the prior 12 months. Juvenile materials experienced a 17% circulation growth during that same timeframe.

LAURA INGALLS WILDER
On February 11, the Library hosted a day-long celebration of the anniversary of Laura Ingalls Wilder’s 150th birthday. The program included crafts, a tea, fashion show, discussions of Laura's life and a look at what school was like during her younger years. Approximately 450 customers attended. Librarians Cherie Bussert and Jody Vestal organized the program.

REFUGEE STORYTELLERS
On February 15, the Library! at Hillcrest hosted a Refugees tell their Stories program. The Idaho Office for Refugees came to the Library to celebrate the diversity of our community through the power of storytelling! Trained refugee storytellers shared their experiences and talked about what makes us all Idahoans. Nathaniel Hoffman, who has written extensively about immigration and is a founding editor of The Blue Review, moderated a Q & A session with the audience. Thirty-five people attended the program.

GRAPHIC NOVEL AUTHOR VISIT
On Thursday, March 23, Youth Services hosted a visit by graphic novel author/artist Kazu Kibuishi. Most famous for his Amulet series, Kibuishi has a large fan base here and it was standing room only as more than 225 kids, teens, and adults packed the auditorium to hear him speak.