

Library Board, Santa Monica Public Library
Secretary's Report
January 2018
January 4, 2018

Library Budget Update:

The Capital Improvements Program planning continues. Most of the Library's projects for 2018-19 will be addressed directly without having to compete for CIP funding. The sole project remaining under consideration is the Facilities Master Plan which would include a 20-year outlook for facilities maintenance as well as a review of future use of the Main and branch libraries, placement of future service in anticipation of growth, and a key re-examination of opportunities for the Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium, the Children's and Teen Services area and integration of the system-wide Library Technology Plan now in development.

Library Services and Programs:

Grants: The Library was awarded \$28,000 for a program to integrate emerging and existing technologies in a community activation and outreach effort. Sponsored by the California State Library with Library Services and Technology Act funding, the Libraries Illuminated grant will support an 18-month program to introduce youth and their families to new technology specifically working Virtual Reality and 3D printing.

Human Resources

Vacancies

Principal Librarian for Reference and Circulation final interviews were held and library leadership is meeting with finalists.

Librarian III for Branch Services internal interviews will be held in January.

Library Service Officer recruitment drew more than 70 applications; 48 will move to the written examination in mid-January with external panel interviews scheduled later January. An as-needed Library Assistant II will join the team to prepare and analyze data to support safety and security efforts as well as coordinate information in support of services in homelessness.

Acknowledgements

Congratulations to Jennifer Boyce who graduated with the latest Management

Supervisor Academy.

The Library and specifically the Library Service Officer Team won first place at the City Hall-iday party for best food – chili cheese dogs! The LSO Team also developed an exceptional staging area featuring a hotdog photo op and a 3D hotdog and the IMD staff provided some Virtual Reality experiences.

Library Partners and Allies

Library leadership visited 18th Street Arts Center as a potential collaboration opportunity.

Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library: The Friends leadership developed an end of the year appeal to all Friends members to support summer reading. The Friends hosted a week of appreciation for the Bookstore volunteers.

Library Foundation: Library Board member Naomi Seligman met with Antonio Spears and Patty Wong to discuss Library Foundation assets, next steps and potential Board resources.

Library Security and Safety

Safety & Security

Lou and Erica have been attending bi-weekly HLP (Homeless Liaison Program) Team meetings, led by SMPD Sergeant Erika Aklufi. This meeting has been helpful in communicating with SMPD, City Attorney's Office, Human Services, and other Downtown Santa Monica services, such as the Ambassadors and West Coast Cares. There is also representation from the Department of Mental Health. The goal of these meetings is to share information and support one another when possible in efforts to address homelessness around the City.

The Rules of Conduct team will meet tomorrow with representatives from the City Attorney's office to talk about next steps for drafting the rules. The team will focus on specific questions and language regarding the rules and how the Library can work towards the outcome of producing rules that are clear, easy to follow, and will assist staff as guidelines for enforcement.

The LSO Team has instituted regular staff meetings which include all permanent and as-needed LSO's. Discussion focused on increase of presence and upgrading of patrol procedures at the Main Library, as well as the branches starting in January. LSO presence at the entrances of Main have increased, along with more communication and support to the branches. In January, the goal is to have more LSO's and patrols for the perimeter and both floors of the Main Library. Roving LSO patrols will also visit each branch at least once every 90 minutes from 12-7 pm, and three out of the four branches

will have an LSO available at closing. The LSO Team meeting agenda included a discussion and refresher of daily tasks and expectations, as well as future training with SMPD. Erica and Lou held an information session on after the team meeting for anyone interested in applying for the limited duration positions.

Two new as-needed LSO officers are currently going through the hiring process, and we will be coordinating training and a formal announcement for these individuals soon.

The Library currently has 9 individuals banned from the Library, and 2 in process, as well as 6 stay away orders.

Addressing Homelessness

The Library team worked with Human Services to provide another Resource Fair at the Main Library on December 19 from 8-11:30 am, which included representatives from Department of Mental Health, Chrysalis, The People Concern, St. Joseph Center, DPSS, and other organizations. Voices of Our City Choir founder, Steph Johnson, followed the Resource Fair on the same day to hold a “choir practice” and see who might be interested.

Our Outreach Worker from The People Concern, Linda Maximo, has been engaging with individuals to build relationships and (when ready) help connect them to services. In November, she had 67 unduplicated contacts and 11 drop-in sessions. Included in services and referrals were connections to DMV Vouchers, assistance with Cal fresh benefits, intake into case management, and connecting an individual to a shelter and case management to work on a housing plan.

As part of a package that funds different pilot programs to further address homelessness in the City, the Library has also gotten approval from City Council to pilot a limited term (12 months) Library social worker. This person will be stationed and work full-time at the Library and around the different library locations. The library will create a scope of work, based on other library social worker models, and plan on putting out an RFP in January.

The Library Board Homeless Task Force group is working on a potential homeless coalition meeting and a talent show in the near future.

Respectfully submitted:

Patricia M. Wong, Director of Library Services