

Director's Report to the Board of Agents

Silas Bronson Library

October 17, 2017

Raechel Guest, Director

Front Plaza Project

The design issues have been resolved. The contractor expects to return to work this week, pending other obligations taken on during the delay. The project should be substantially completed by the end of the year. The contractor will return in March to run a full test of the fountain before starting it up for the season, and to reseed the lawn.

Last week, we examined two sample slabs of concrete with exposed aggregate intended for use in the new sidewalks and front ramp. Both samples seemed slippery and prone to serious maintenance problems, as the embedded stones can be easily chipped during winter snow removal. We have requested alternate samples without the aggregate.

Children's Room Renovation

The Children's Room renovation project remains on track to begin on Monday, October 30 and should be finished the week before Thanksgiving (on or about November 18). We are informing patrons using a flyer handout, posters in the Children's Room, and through social media.

The Leavenworth Foundation, which is funding a portion of the project, invited me to apply for another round of grant funding. I submitted the application last week on behalf of the Friends, requesting funds for a Teen/YA Room. I will be working with the Friends on securing additional funds for the project.

Circulation Division

September Statistical Reports: Main Library

Total Collection Size: 256,477
Total Items Added to Collection: 771
Total Items Circulated: 11,290
Total Circulation In-House: 226
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 817
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 304

Total Active Patrons: 12,356
Total Expired Patrons: 14,629
Total Patrons Added: 213

September Statistical Reports: Bunker Hill

Total Collection Size: 16,904
Total Items Added to Collection: 45
Total Items Circulated: 801
Total Circulation In-House: n/a
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 57
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 281

Total Active Patrons: 429
Total Expired Patrons: 486
Total Patrons Added: 8

Museum Pass Usage, August 2017

American Clock & Watch Museum: 0
Barker Comic and Cartoon Museum: 0
Barnum Museum: 0
Beardsley Zoo: 1
Children's Museum/Roaring Brook Nature: 0
Connecticut Science Center: 1
Connecticut's Old State House: 0
CT State Parks & Forest Recreation: 0
EverWonder Children's Museum: 0
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center: 0
Imagine Nation: 2
Institute for American Indian Studies: 1
KidsPlay Childrens Museum: 2

Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk: 0
Mark Twain House: 0
Mattatuck Museum: 2
Mystic Aquarium: 1
Mystic Seaport: 4
New Britain Museum of American Art: 0
New England Air Museum: 1
New Haven Museum: 0
Old Sturbridge Village: 1
Peabody Museum of Natural History: 1
Wadsworth Atheneum: 0
White Memorial Conservation Center: 1

Online Presence

Facebook Followers as of 10/16/2017: 760
Facebook Reach Sept. 18 – Oct. 15: 4,653
Facebook Post Engagements Sept. 18 – Oct. 15: 3,473

Website Visitors Sep. 1 – Sep. 30: 3,062
Website Pageviews Sep. 1 – Sep. 30: 5,955

Most Visited Website Pages (Sep. 1 – Sep. 30):

Home Page: 3,091	eBooks: 142	How to Get a Card: 77
Bunker Hill Branch: 296	Research: 136	Borrowing Questions: 68
Programs: 296	About Us: 130	Computer Classes: 44
Museum Passes: 153	Ask A Librarian: 129	Book Sale: 31
Genealogy/Local Hist.: 149	Calendar: 106	Hall of Fame: 17
How to Find Books: 148	Children's Division: 104	

Patron Services

Mango Languages became available at the end of September. In addition to regular language learning, it includes special courses such as Spanish for Librarians. I have encouraged all the library employees to give it a try, as well as promoting it to the public.

State Budget Cuts

The Mayor issued a statement regarding the potential impact to the City's finances should the state budget fiasco continue. The City could lose up to \$22 million in State Aid for the year. Currently, the City is scrutinizing all expenses, including our monthly purchase of books, DVDs, and CDs. They have requested that all departments hold off on any purchases that aren't absolutely necessary.

DeliverIT CT

The State Library delivery system remains stuck at picking up 3 bins per day. When I asked if it would be possible to reallocate bins from small libraries that don't need that many bins, I was told that wouldn't be "fair." The State Library recommended instead that we stop allowing patrons to return books to outside bins when we are closed, a suggestion which I consider to be absurd and far less "fair" than letting us use another library's excess bin allocation.

Employee Updates

The City's Cost Containment Oversight Committee (CCOC) has approved filling one of the two vacant Librarian II positions. Approval of filling the second vacancy depends on what happens with the State Budget.

Building Theft

The row of metal panels below the windows overlooking the back patio have been cut off the building and stolen. The theft was reported to the police as soon as it was discovered.

Special Programs Reminder

The Waterbury Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held at the Mattatuck Museum on Saturday, October 21, at 2 p.m. at the Mattatuck Museum. This year's inductees are Judge Robert D. Glass, Philip V. Benevento, and Ryan Gomes.

The 13th annual Mardi Gross and 2nd annual Halloween ComicFest will be held on Saturday, October 28, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers are needed to assist with this. Donations of candy are needed as well.

Last but not least, we are collaborating with UConn-Waterbury's Urban & Community Studies Program and Connecticut Humanities for a two-part community conversation funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The first part, on Thursday, October 26, starting at 5:30, will discuss the history of downtown Waterbury. The second part, on Thursday, November 2, also at 5:30, will be an open dialogue about the potential future of downtown. Both sessions will be moderated by Larry Rifkin.