

The Multnomah County Library Board met on Tuesday, November 8, 2005, at Central Library in the U.S. Bank Meeting Room. Vice Chair Alice Meyer called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Board members present were: Marian Creamer, Gwen Farnham Hyland, Stephen Feltz, Mark Garber, Molly Gloss, Rick Gustafson, Jon Kruse, Diane McKeel, Alice Meyer and Diane Xiong. Board members Joe Arellano, Rob Brading, Martha Gies, Dean Gisvold, Marneet Lewis, and Donna Oden-Orr were excused.

Staff members present were: Molly Raphael, Becky Cobb, Ellen Fader, Cindy Gibbon, Mike Harrington, Penny Hummel, Rita Jimenez, June Mikkelsen, Lance Murty, Carolyn Myers, Leila Wrathall, Kate Houston Mitchoff, Jim Carmin, Brenda Clark, Fun Martin, Virginia Tribe, Steve Armitage, Susan Corrigan, David Miles, Candy Bertelsen, Carol Rogers, Abigail Elder, and Monique Coleman. Also in attendance were: Mei-Ling Shiroishi of the Friends of the Library, and Karie Trumbo of The Library Foundation.

The minutes of the October 11, 2005 meeting were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The following was discussed:

Karie Trumbo reported the Library Foundation received their first grant from the Allen Foundation. The Allen Foundation gave hopeful indication that this will be the first of more gifts as they desire to forge a long-lasting relationship with the Library and the Library Foundation. The grant for \$100,000 was for the Lifetime of Literacy campaign. The Library Foundation also received a 3 year \$310,000 grant from the Bella Vista Foundation. The Library Foundation is the first grantee in Portland to receive an award from the Bella Vista Foundation.

Friends of the Library board member Mei-Ling Shiroishi talked about the results from the Friends' annual sale which took place October 21-24. She reported final proceeds from the October sale totaled \$93,266 and the Friends received over 150 new memberships. Mei-Ling also reported that the Friends Store is doing well with a new merchandise mix, new manager and lots of volunteer staffing. Together with the proceeds of the Gresham sale earlier this year, the Friends have raised approximately \$120,000 for the library.

Jon Kruse gave a comprehensive report of the levy campaign efforts to date, including results of an environmental scan conducted by the campaign consultant, an overview of key findings from the scan and an outline of the campaign timeline. The key findings of the environmental scan have been shared with all of the County Commissioners as well as the Library's advocacy

groups (trustees from Library Advisory Board, the Friends of the Library and The Library Foundation. Jon thanked the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation for their financial support for the environmental scan. He noted that the challenges of this campaign will be full ballot with competition from other initiatives including The Children's Initiative and Metro Open Spaces Initiative. Jon said that he will share progress of the campaign at future meetings. Diane McKeel remarked there is more work to do with East County residents in building support for the library especially since there is a perception that a new library has already been established and the environmental scan indicates favorability ratings for the library in East County have dropped.

The Access Services Committee gave a full report at the October meeting and had no new information to report.

The Nominating Committee met with prospective board candidates. The Committee should have a name to advance to the Library Advisory Board before the end of the year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's Report was discussed. Specific items discussed were:

- 1) Hennen's American Public Library Ratings (HAPLR). For the second year in a row, Multnomah County Library is ranked #2 in comprehensive rankings of U.S. public libraries serving populations over 500,000. HAPLR evaluates libraries based on a set of measures such as expenditures, circulation per capita and the percentage of the library's budget that is spent on books and materials. Molly will email the Hennen analysis to all library board members.
- 2) Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale. Molly expressed her gratitude for the Friends' fundraising efforts.

TAPESTRY OF TALES STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

Kate Houston Mitchoff gave a lively presentation about the Festival's upcoming activities, November 16-20. This year's group of five tellers is an eclectic mix hailing from all over the country whose repertoire includes Native American stories, Appalachian tall tales, myths, fables, Chinese folk tales and stories with outrageous sound effects.

A performance by Native American storyteller Dovie Thomason will kickoff the festival on at 7pm on Wednesday, November 16 at the Native American Student and Community Center at Portland State University. Thomason will share traditional and contemporary stories and discuss the importance of story in their changing culture. Thomason will also perform on Friday, November 18 at the Hollywood Theatre. Charlie Chin, a collector and interpreter of Chinese and Chinese American folktales, will present "Tales from a Chinese Teahouse with Charlie Chin," on Thursday, November 17 at 7 p.m. at the Port of Portland

Commission Room. This event is cosponsored by the Portland Classical Chinese Garden. Chin will also speak at City Club's Friday Forum ("Chinatown's Role in a Vibrant Community") at the Governor Hotel on Friday, November 18.

The "Tellebration Celebration" will take place on Saturday, November 19 at 7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church. Chin, Thomason, and storyteller Bill Lepp, a five-time champion of the tall tales' contests, will be the featured tellers. On Sunday, November 20, from 1-5 p.m., the festival wraps up with the "Family Finale" featuring all five festival tellers and a Story Swap at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO).

In addition to their generous support of the Festival events, Kate also noted the Library Foundation's support of two performances by last year's popular storyteller Donald Davis. Davis will perform Saturday, November 12 at the Midland Library and Sunday, November 13 at Central Library. The Library Foundation also sponsored a workshop for 85 staff members scheduled for Friday, November 11. Kate concluded her presentation by inviting board members to enter a drawing for two free tickets by completing entry slips distributed at their places.

2005 ANNUAL ART REPORT

Jim Carmin, John Wilson Room – Special Collections Librarian, presented the Library's Annual Art report. This report actually covered a longer period from November 1, 2003 to June 30, 2005. Jim talked about new acquisitions, collection development, exhibition and educational use of the collection and conservation and restoration efforts. His presentation included displays of a gift from Helen Malarkey Thompson of *The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer* (1896) and a gift from long-time library supporter, Brian Booth of one of the most important early books published in Oregon, *Captain Gray's Company, or, Crossing the Plains and Living in Oregon* by Abigail J. Duniway (Portland, 1859).

Jim also talked about new collection development: the Native American literature collection, which aims to collect comprehensively all works of fiction, short stories, poetry and drama by American and Canadian Indian writers. Jim worked closely with The Library Foundation and raised more than \$60,000 to develop the core collection. Additional gifts from collectors and authors, further developed the collection which numbers today at approximately 1000 volumes.

Jim Carmin curated several major exhibitions during this reporting period in the Collins Gallery, including "Stewart Holbrook in the Finest Public Library in the West," "Personal Myths and Private Magic: Bookworks of the MKimberly Press," "Antarktos: Magnitudes of Black: Manuscripts, Sketch Books and Edition Books (1975-2005) by Timothy C. Ely," and "Documenting a Fair: The Success of Portland's 1905 Lewis & Clark Centennial Exposition and Oriental Fair". Works from the John Wilson Room, Special Collections were also featured in exhibitions outside of Multnomah County Library, including at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University in Salem and the Oregon Historical Society. Items from the John Wilson Room's collections also appeared in publications,

including *Waging War on the Home Front* and on the cover a CD recording on Handwoven Records "The Bull Moose After Party".

The Wilson Room continued to be the center of numerous formal education activities. Jim several presentations about the Wilson Room collections to classes from Oregon College of Art and Craft, Emporia State University, Portland State University, Pacific University, Marylhurst University, Pacific Northwest College of Art; Lewis and Clark College, University of Oregon; and Portland Community College.

Jim concluded his report by talking about the conservation and restoration efforts taking place in the John Wilson Room. A grant from the Oregon Heritage Commission together with a matching private donation funded major conservation work of some of the collection's 50-volume official records of the 1905 Lewis & Clark Centennial Exposition. Much of this work was exhibited in the Collins Gallery in 2005. Additionally, the conservation treatment of Burrell Collection of prints (engravings, etchings, and mezzotints) that the Library acquired in 1889, including works by Dürer, Rembrandt, Millet and others, was completed by Portland paper conservator Elizabeth Chambers, funded by a gift from donors Alice and Paul Meyer.

MILLENNIUM LIBRARY CATALOG UPDATE

Cindy Gibbon gave a brief status report of the Millennium catalog system. After two months, staff and public are becoming accustomed to the new system. She noted that Brenda Clark, the ILS Project Coordinator, and Computer Services staff have continued to work on the outstanding issues. She also noted that email notices and the telephone notification system have been implemented and are working smoothly. Mail notices have been contracted out to the same vendor that handles fine collection for the library. Cindy and others will monitor this process to see how it is working. The IT staff is working on implementing the online fine payment system. Cindy noted that Robin Rose, an organizational management consultant, has been conducting change workshops to help staff manage the stress associated with major transitions of this kind. The Library Board will continue to receive updates about the system at future board meetings.

2006-2007 BUDGET UPDATE

Becky Cobb distributed a draft copy of the section of the County budget manual that provides information about the background of the priority-based budgeting process. Becky noted the County will build on the strategic framework from last year's budgeting process. She described the various steps in the budget process as outlined in the budget manual.

Library staff has been involved with the budgeting process as members of Outcome Teams. Outcome Teams are committees of County employees from various departments whose role is to recommend a plan for how Multnomah County can select county programs and activities that will best deliver results to the community. Library staff on Outcome Teams include: Becky Cobb, Vailey Oehlke and Larry Randall, the

library's chief union steward. They serve on outcome teams for programs/priority areas where Library submitted program offers for last year.

All County departments will be required to develop strategy maps for each program offer. The strategy map serves as a visual representation of the pathway to the result. Combining words and images (graphics), the map helps decision makers understand the cause-effect connection between actions or factors and the result. Executive Team members are currently working to develop strategy maps for each of the library's program offers. An important component of the strategy maps will include scaleable options. Scaleable options will assist decision makers in deciding how much of the program offer they can purchase and what results are expected at each level.

Based on this model, Rick Gustafson expressed concern about the level of general fund support each program offer is guaranteed to receive and how this budgeting process may impact the levy campaign. Molly acknowledged passing the levy will be difficult without a firm commitment of general fund support.

Jon Kruse stated during visits to the Commissioners, the campaign consultant said that it would be very important for the commissioners to declare their support/commitment of general fund resources to the Library. This is especially important for an early referral to the ballot to begin positioning the Library for success on a full ballot of initiatives that will garner much public support.

The Budget Office indicates the revenue forecast is improving; the economy seems to be recovering. It is looking like some good news after years of bad news.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 a.m. These minutes are subject to approval at the next scheduled board meeting.