

Renovation Update: focus on teen space

Road trip update: I took a road trip with our teen department personnel on Monday, May 13. Liz Hamilton also accompanied us at my request. Kevin Huse and Kim Bolen from RATIO also met us at both locations. Our goal was to visit libraries with great teen departments for inspiration in anticipation of designing a new space. We visited two libraries: Louisville Public Library in Kentucky and Monroe County Public Library in Bloomington.

We specifically visited the South Central Branch of Louisville Public Library. The South Central Regional Library was impressive. The facility effectively utilized natural light and took advantage of being located in a small area of preserved woodland. We were there to pay particular attention to the teen area, but we toured the entire facility. It mostly consisted of open spaces, and study rooms and program rooms were entirely walled in by glass. Signage was non-existent as they were going for a minimalist approach to design. The teen area was small but distinctive with a tall power bar table, gaming area, and several study areas.



Louisville Public Library South Central Branch Teen Area



Monroe County Public Library Teen Area

We visited Monroe County Public Library in Bloomington next. We were running late, but that allowed us to view their space with a lot of activity from teens. Their philosophy for their teen space is to provide a safe social space for teens. The emphasis is more recreational than academic. Indeed, we observed a teen playing guitar and singing, teens playing video games, teens engaged in crafting projects, teens reading, and teens hanging out with each other.

Our purpose is not to duplicate Monroe County or really any other site, but we were looking for ideas and inspiration. Our goal will be to create a new teen space uniquely suited to our Carmel teens.

Legislative Update

HB1214 (the construction manager bill) was signed into law by Governor Holcomb.

HB1343 passed the legislative chamber. At the last minute there was an attempt to put it in a different bill. Local governments are feeling the pressure of the property tax cap. Several bills that were not anticipated were introduced that put ILF in a defensive posture this legislative session. Aspects of the bill:

- Allows optional review, may apply to 2021 budget.
- Budget cuts are limited to 10%

The interpretation of 150% threshold of "cash of hand" and "anticipated revenues" is still somewhat undefined.

Conversations also revolved around Local Income Tax and GIS mapping, HB 1427. This is likely to continue. Everyone is looking at LIT. There is new attention to the level of taxation and what the right mix for our state is. They are exploring GIS to determine if taxing and representation is calibrated correctly. Specifically, there is a question if people should pay local income tax to the region where they work, not where they live.

The anticipated criminal background check bill did not pass.

Other things to celebrate:

- INSPIRE was funded.
- Librarians were engaged with the legislators.

Digital Media Lab

Here are some quick updates and flash facts about the DML:

- 3D printing is comparatively up 62% over the first four months of last year.
- Likewise, the door count is up 10%.
- The Whisper Room in 2019 is at 70% utilization.
- 24 programs are offered in May, including a photography contest.

Peter Konshak and I attended the opening of the new Carmel Redevelopment space on May 15. The CRC has a glass contained map/model of Carmel, where participants are invited to print 3D buildings to go on the map. Mayor Brainard, Henry Mestetski, and Peter Konshak spoke at the event. Peter took the opportunity to explain the Digital Media Lab to attendees.