

## Space Study Project

This is the agenda we followed for our August 22-23 sessions with MSR:

### August 22:

- 11:00 - 12:30 Kick-off Meeting with Leadership Group
  - Introductions
  - Process | Schedule
    - Public engagement strategy
  - Outcome | Next Steps
- 1:15-2:45 Facility Assessment & Service/Workflow tour
- 3:00 – 5:00 Visioning Session with Staff, Board & Stakeholders
  - Introductions
  - Who we are | where we see libraries going
  - Process | Schedule
  - Guiding Principles
    - Questions for consideration
  - Next Steps

### August 23:

- 8:00 - 9:30 Kick-off Presentation to Library Staff: session one
  - Introductions
  - Process | Schedule -10 minutes
  - Who we are – 20 minutes
  - The future of CCPL
    - Break-out 1 (15 minutes)
    - Break-out 2 (10 minutes)
    - Break-out 3 (10 minutes)
    - Share feedback (15 minutes)
  - Next steps
- 8:00 – 12:00 Facility Assessment – Engineering team – Nancy to assist
- 10:00 - 11:30 Service/workflow tour
- 12:00 -1:30 Kick-off Presentation to Library Staff: session two, same agenda
- 1:45-2:30 Debrief with Bob

Early feedback I have received from the library staff indicates that they were highly engaged in their sessions on August 23. The next session with MSR is scheduled to occur on September 21 and I will share more details about that day soon.

The library hosted our annual Educator Luncheon on Friday, August 11 with teachers, administrators and media specialists from Carmel Clay Schools. Elizabeth Essink and the CYS staff did a great job putting this together. I was asked to talk about our space study, and so I prepared some remarks to the group of educators. I am presenting those remarks in this

report because it contains most of my rationale and narrative as to why we are embarking on our space study project:

*Good afternoon. You may have heard that we are gearing up for a space study at the library. We are indeed preparing to re-imagine library services for future decades and to re-approach our space usage accordingly. We have engaged a nationally recognized leader in public library architecture for this purpose, MSR Design Group. MSR was also involved in the design and creation of this current facility back in the 90's. As of today, we have only begun to prepare to go through this vision process for the library. It's all in front of us, which again is very exciting. I've had discussions with Dr. Wahl about our plans and I was able to let the school board know about our space study at their July meeting. On August 22nd, we are planning to have our first visioning session with our architects. We are planning for a group of internal library leaders, the library board, and leaders in the community to participate in this kickoff session. Dr. Martha McFarland, Director of Curriculum will participate in this session with us. Having school representation throughout our process is a high priority for us.*

*So why now? What makes this the right time to attempt to lay out a bold new vision for the library? Several important factors really. One being that hard as it is to believe, the current building is nearing its 20 year anniversary. Some elements of the facility are getting worn and some facets of the building are no longer being used as originally intended. Some areas are inadequate to meet current demand, while other areas aren't used as much as before. So it makes sense to re-approach how we are using our existing space.*

*One of the best examples I can cite and the area that was primarily on the mind of the library board when I started late last year is the Teen Area. Currently the collection is at capacity and beyond. We are in the undesirable position of being completely out of room to grow our collection. In addition to that, while we have some dedicated space for teens to hang out, we do not have the space to do much in the way of programming in the area. We think we can do more and we can do better.*

*Another reason that now is the time to do this relates to the extraordinary growth of Carmel. Since the doors opened to the public in the current facility in 1999, the population of Carmel has nearly tripled. Current estimates puts the population of Carmel in excess of 91,000 people. In 1999, the library hit a milestone of having over one million recorded circulated items in a single year. In contrast, this year will be the third year in a row where the library exceeds two million circulated items. 2016 was also the first year the library recorded an excess of 600,000 visits to the library.*

*This illustrates a basic point. Carmel is growing and library usage continues to grow with it. The extraordinary growth curve doesn't stop here though, the city is projecting an additional 56,000 will be added to the population by the year 2040. We strive for excellence in service and the community expects excellence. However, if we don't rethink our space and services, we likely won't be in the position to continue to provide excellent services by 2040. It is increasingly clear*

*that the library needs to re-position itself to have the capacity to grow with the community in the upcoming years and decades in order to continue our proud tradition of innovation and excellence. This community demands no less of us.*

*What is very exciting at this early stage in our process is that we can't tell you where exactly this is going or what new vision might emerge from our planning process. The sky is the limit and we plan to dare to allow ourselves to imagine new possibilities.*

*One facet of the future is certain though. Carmel schools will continue to be our most valuable partner. I am so impressed with our schools and am still learning more and more about how amazing our school system is. For this reason, this is the absolute perfect time for me to take part in the Carmel Clay Schools Expedition, the eight-session, in-depth exploration of the main departments and programs that make up the school district. I'm looking forward to learning much more and continuing to find ways we can partner and innovate together.*

*We're looking forward not backwards, and our partnership with the schools is one of our strongest assets in meeting the future. Thank you.*

## Programs and Services



As we continue to reflect on our usage of space and how our focus of services continues to evolve, it is useful to look at our recent eclipse programs. Our Eclipse Extravaganza was a big hit on Saturday, August 12. The weather was beautiful and we had a great crowd turnout on the front lawn.



Food trucks were on hand, library staff was giving out more information on the eclipse, and as expected, we ran out of the eclipse glasses within the first hour. We

applied for the 1,000 glasses online from a not-for-profit called Star Net so we got them at no charge. A big highlight was the daytime telescope viewing of the sun with H-Alpha

telescopes provided by the Link Observatory Space Science Institute. I got a look at a solar flare of a planetary scale. I generally observed a crowd of enthusiastic and engaged patrons of all ages and backgrounds.

The library hosted a live streaming of the eclipse on August 21. Jamie Beckman ran the "Live Streaming of the Solar Eclipse" event with the help of YA Senior Assistant Tom McCutcheon and Reference Librarian Brian Barrett. 352 people attended today's event, for a total of 1382 eclipse-related attendance. We began by live-streaming from NASA and later, when that site kept failing, through the Weather Channel. Snacks and bottled water were served, paper eclipse-related decorations were given out, two telescopes were given away by raffle, and more.

We had another great Summer Challenge year. This was my first Summer Challenge year, and it is different from a more traditional summer reading approach. I appreciate the broadening of the concept of learning and the inclusivity of all ages in the summer challenge approach. Here are some of the highlights in numbers:

#### Participant Totals:

- Individual Signups: 1,688
- Family Signups: 1,802
- Added Family Members: 4,328
- Group Signups: 14
- Total: 7,832



#### DML Report

The DML stayed open late for the Arts and Design District's August 12 Second Saturday and held an album release party for local musician Michelle Qureshi, who recorded some of her music in the Whisper Room. We had our second-highest attendance to date, with over 220 people stopping by.

In late July, the DML also hosted two classes on Comic Life, a program that can be used to create graphic novels. The program was co-sponsored by the Young Adult



Local Musician Michelle Qureshi performs at the DML

department, and we had 20 students participate.

Our Filmmaking 101 series will be held on four Saturdays in September. Local filmmaker James Moriarty will be teaching four classes. The Foundation has secured sponsorship from Roberts camera, who will loan equipment and help with promotion.

Patrons continue to give high marks to the Digital Media Lab. We continue to have over 96% rate their visit as five stars. When asked what they liked about the DML, comments include:

*"My son and I were hoping to be allowed to see the printers... but the woman working gave us so much more! She showed us how they worked, shared relevant apps, and discussed possibilities for me and my son to utilize them and other resources at the lab."*

*"The staff is friendly, very knowledgeable, and has a lot of perseverance and patience! Thank you!"*

*"The openness and helpfulness of staff in helping us learn about the digital media lab and how to make a 3D project. She was very helpful. We truly appreciate the visit since it was our first time."*

## **New Study Room Rules**

Following a series of meetings with the Reference staff, we decided to institute new rules governing the usage of our study rooms. These rooms are in high demand and we talked through our options of how to best manage the demand and came to the following new rules:

- Carmel Clay Public Library cardholders will have priority for access to rooms over non-cardholders
- Carmel Clay Public Library cardholders must present their Carmel Library card when requesting a study room
- Non-Carmel Library cardholders will still be able to use the study rooms, but will be asked to vacate for Carmel cardholders
- Carmel Clay Schools students may present a student ID in place of a CCPL card to have priority
- Individuals and groups will be treated equally going forward (groups will no longer have priority over individuals)

The Reference and Teen staff have also made it a greater priority to welcome new students to the library at the beginning of the school year. Staff members greeted students with popsicles on the first day of school and gave out light-hearted quizzes about library rules. We're doubling our efforts to get on a first name basis with as many of our young patrons as we can, partly to try to enforce our behavioral policies in a positive and proactive way. We're excited to work with our students and young patrons for another great year!



### Parting Thought

A quote from Andrew Carnegie: "There is not such a cradle of democracy upon the earth as the Free Public Library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration."

It is a rare privilege for all of us to be able to pause and reflect on what a public library can be in this new century and to then be able to take action to put our vision into action. I'm looking forward to discovering the possibilities with the library board, the staff, and the community.

-Bob

