

Director's Report to the Board of Agents

Silas Bronson Library

May 16, 2017

Raechel Guest, Director

Front Plaza Project

As of April 26, the start date of the project was moved to May 15 with a Substantial Completion date of September 15. The delay is due to the fabrication time needed for the precast concrete items (such as the fountain bowl). Rather than start the project and then have a month with no activity, the decision was made to delay the start of the project.

On Friday, April 28, I met with Sal Porzio and the representative from LaRosa Earth Group to discuss the temporary ramp for the rear entrance and the sidewalk connecting the parking lot to the front entrance. For the ramp, I asked that it connect to the patio and that it follow the direction of the sidewalk leading to the parking lot (as opposed to leading straight out into the park). I discussed the need for a sidewalk connecting the parking lot to the front entrance, and advised that it should replace the dirt path, as that is clearly the most convenient location for the public.

Bunker Hill Branch

On April 19, library staff discovered that the basement of the Bunker Hill Branch was flooded with about five feet of water (the basement is approximately 10 feet by 20 feet in size). The flood was caused by a burst pipe. We also had the electricity and gas shut off as soon as we found out about the flood. The water heater and furnace/AC unit were total losses.

The branch reopened on May 2, following a safety inspection of the electrical system. The furnace/AC unit was replaced on May 10. Fortunately, the buffer built into our annual budget for utility services & repair was sufficient to cover the costs.

Circulation Division

April Statistical Reports: Main Library

Total Collection Size: 249,946
Total Items Added to Collection: 571
Total Items Circulated: 11,231
Total Circulation In-House: 181
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 538
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 246

Total Active Patrons: 12,736
Total Expired Patrons: 15,182
Total Patrons Added: 195

April Statistical Reports: Bunker Hill

Total Collection Size: 13,340
Total Items Added to Collection: 16
Total Items Circulated: 428
Total Circulation In-House: 0
Total Circulated at Other Libraries: 78
Total Circulated from Other Libraries: 127

Total Active Patrons: 425
Total Expired Patrons: 529
Total Patrons Added: 5

Museum Pass Usage, April 2017

American Clock & Watch Museum: 1
Barker Comic and Cartoon Museum: 1
Barnum Museum: 0
Beardsley Zoo: 8
Children's Museum/Roaring Brook Nature: 0
Connecticut Science Center: 0
Connecticut's Old State House: 0
CT State Parks & Forest Recreation: 1
EverWonder Children's Museum: 1
Harriet Beecher Stowe Center: 0
Imagine Nation: 2
Institute for American Indian Studies: 1
KidsPlay Childrens Museum: 0

Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk: 1
Mark Twain House: 0
Mattatuck Museum: 0
Mystic Aquarium: 0
Mystic Seaport: 1
New Britain Museum of American Art: 0
New England Air Museum: 2
New Haven Museum: 0
Old Sturbridge Village: 2
Peabody Museum of Natural History: 3
Wadsworth Atheneum: 0
White Memorial Conservation Center: 0

Online Presence

Facebook Followers as of 5/11/2017: 667
Facebook Reach Apr. 14 – May 11: 2,980
Facebook Post Engagements Apr. 14 – May 11: 3,474

Google Listing (March)

Google Search Views: 3,061 Google Map Views: 1,214 Google Phone Clicks: 192

Website Visitors Apr. 2 – Apr. 29: 1,850
Website Pageviews Apr. 2 – Apr. 29: 6,307

Most Visited Website Pages (Apr. 2 – Apr. 29):

Home Page: 3,236	Research: 182	Calendar: 107
Programs: 313	Ask A Librarian: 178	How to Find Books: 99
Genealogy: 257	How to Get a Card: 146	eBooks & Video: 98
Museum Passes: 223	Children's Pages: 141	Hall of Fame: 91
Bunker Hill Branch: 206	About Us: 129	

FY18 Budget

We are in the process of reviewing all services for the upcoming fiscal year. We will be eliminating online services that are not of interest to the public and considering adding new ones if there is room in the budget. I will be making my annual request to the Friends of the Silas Bronson Library later this week for programming support.

Give Local

The Friends received a total of \$510 in online donations and a \$50 check for Give Local. The online donations will be increased by 12% from the sponsor pool, bringing the grand total to \$621.20 (or slightly less, if online donors did not choose to cover the processing fee).

Friends Fundraising & Outreach Committee

The first meeting was held last week and went very well. The Committee members have some great ideas and enthusiasm. We will continue to meet monthly to develop and implement plans to increase library usage and funding.

Benevento Fund

As of last week, the Friends raised an additional \$3,000 for the Benevento Fund, with more donations anticipated. The inaugural program will be held in the Main Reading Room on June 8 at 6 p.m. and will feature the cast of *Trav'lin: The 1930s Harlem Musical*, in a performance arranged by Semina DeLaurentis of Seven Angels Theatre.

Patron Services

The public restrooms on the first floor no longer require the use of a key. The doors are locked only when the room is in use. This frees up staff time, reduces the number of keys made annually due to loss, and shows the public that we respect them enough to allow them to use the restrooms without having to ask for a key.

Staff Updates

At least one library staff member from each division except Maintenance was able to attend the annual Connecticut Library Association conference on May 4 & 5. They all returned with renewed enthusiasm and fresh ideas for the Silas Bronson Library. At the conference, we were given an award for Outstanding Library Public Relations in the category of Print Media – Newsletter.

Children's Librarian Juleigh Paradise earned a Certificate of Recognition from the Connecticut Arts Administrators Association for Outstanding Support and Advocacy of the Arts in Waterbury. Juleigh runs our student art exhibit program in the Children's Room, featuring the work of young artists from public, parochial, and private schools throughout Waterbury.