COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:

NEW SERVICES:

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Library Receives Exemplary Status: As reported, the State Library notified us that the library has once again received exemplary status. An awards ceremony will be on Feb. 16 at the State Capitol. Congratulations to everyone for a job well done, especially to Sean Minkel and the supervisory staff for putting together the report.

Update of the Public Area: We received seven bids for the project by December 13. The Board approved the recommendation to go with Gustafson’s bid. The City Council award the contract on December 19. Our first meeting with the contractor was on Jan. 5. So far, the renovation is going smoothly. Sean Minkel has been coordinating the moving of stacks in the area. We just finished the second of three moves. Many thanks to staff who participated in the move and to their work in making the renovation process a smooth one.

Foundation Center Database: The Vucurevich Foundation approved our plan to make this database available to library users. My proposal was for the Vucurevich Foundation to pay for the database for one year and for the library to designate one staff person as coordinator for research and to possibly teach grant writing, but NOT to write grants. The grant is for $4999.

Strategic Planning: The Chapman Group has promised to update the library board in March. We will be getting a final draft of the strategic plan in February, probably after the board meeting. When I get a copy, I will disseminate it to board members for their input and return that to Malcom for inclusion in the final report.

Chaos (Stephen Trafoya): December was busy in the CHAOS makerspace as we hosted over 200 people through a variety of maker events. Throughout the month, people were able to drop in and learn the basics of 3D design and create their own holiday ornament that they could then 3D print and take home with them. This was a
great way to introduce practical use of 3D printing and to show people that 3D modeling doesn’t have to be hard.

During the second week of December, we hosted several Hour of Code events in CHAOS. Hour of Code is a global initiative to bring access and awareness to the importance of computer science and programming. The activities ranged from learning coding basics through the code.org/learn website, to programming some of our Sphero robotics using the SPRK coding app. Coding is one area I want to continue to develop in our makerspace since it is such a sought after skill in our world today.

On December 17th, we hosted our Holiday Toy Hacking event. During this event, participants (kids to adults) were given access to a variety of stuffed and plastic toys, and they had permission to tear them apart using a variety of tools. Then they had to creatively mesh toys together to create a new toy (think: Frankenstein or Franken-toy) that they could take home or give as a gift. Those who came had an absolute blast! This event gave participants a chance to learn and use a variety of hand and power tools that they might not use otherwise. Our volunteer for the event was a perfect match for this program and helped guide kids and teens in being safe and creative at the same time.

I attended another STEM night in the community, this time at North Middle School. At this event, kids and teens worked together to create a paper roller coaster (the same event we hosted in CHAOS in November). There wasn’t enough time to finish the whole project, so I left them with the supplies needed to develop it further in one of their science classrooms.

Finally, we experimented with a display called “Hack the Halls.” We hosted a variety of “made” things (paintings, 3D printed figurines and ornaments, circuitry projects) hung in the business hallway at the library. The idea was to expose people to a variety of different end designs and show them they could make or create something similar in our makerspace. It was fun to see people in the hallway interacting with the various projects. Overall feedback from patrons was positive.

January: This month, CHAOS transitioned upstairs for the duration of the downstairs library construction. We hosted fewer programs this month due to the move and adjustment. We hosted our first Scratch coding club (which will be a monthly program), iPad Club (for adults to learn about their ipad and how to use it in Making), and we did a Make-it Take-it: Marble Mazes the first week in January.

Since we moved into a new space, we tracked number of unique visitors (non-program attending) to the upstairs space. From Jan 8-29, we counted 462 people in CHAOS, an average of 154 people per week. This is a little more than double the traffic we have in our downstairs space, and a hundred more than what we usually host in summer. Overall, our temporary space for CHAOS has been successful, and we’ve been able to reach people we haven’t seen before.

Children’s librarian: This position has been readvertised.

Staff Resignation: Jill Peterson, one of our newest hires, resigned her position as an LA1 as of December 26 in order to return to Iowa and her family.

Media coverage:
