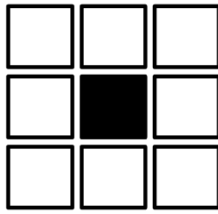


Graham Cracker House
12/12/23



Howard Miller Public Library

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

December 2023

Preschool Storytime
12/21/23



Library Events/Programming Highlights

- The Interurban Train (Adult) Presentation successfully hosted 43 participants
- The Train and Holiday themed storytimes were extremely successful with an average of 50 participants per session each week in December

Staff Highlights

- Jessica Volkers, Programming Specialist, hosted the annual Summer Reading Program planning meeting for Children's Librarians from libraries within the Lakeland Library Consortium

OTHER

- Offered a Warm Beverage Bar at the base of the stairs on the main level of the library for patrons to enjoy hot cocoa, hot chai, or hot cider during the Christmas week 12/18-12/21 from 10am to 2pm - we served an average of 4 air pots of warm beverages to patrons each day
- Amanda is beginning to work on budget considerations for FY 2024-2025 which will be presented to the LAB at the January 2024 meeting

City of Zeeland 2023 Strategic Action Plan

- Both Action Steps assigned to HML have been completed for the City's Strategic Department Goals for 2023 including the creation of the new workspace in the back workroom and the finalization of the 2024-2026 Howard Miller Library 3-Year Strategic Plan. LAB will vote to officially adopt the plan at the January 2024 LAB meeting

Zeeland Record Newspaper Digitization Project Update

- A quote estimate was received from the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University for the re-digitization of the Zeeland Expositor/Record for years 1893-2006 and for microfilming and digitization of years 2007 to the present for a total of \$83,058
- Amanda Hanson, Director, is applying for the Clarke DigMichNews grant to mitigate the digitization project cost – the grant winner(s) will be determined by March 2024.

Looking Forward

- The Library will host a Family Magic Show featuring Maciek the Magician on January 3rd

Professional Development Opportunity - Director

Amanda H. has been accepted into a working cohort of 25 public library directors from Library Class sizes III and IV (HML is a Class IV) to participate in the Post-Pandemic Public Library project of the University of Michigan School of Information and the Library of Michigan. The goal of the yearlong project is to "enhance the confidence, camaraderie, and skills of public library directors to strengthen

community relationships, communicate library impact more effectively, and respond to public queries with confidence and respect.” Monthly 2-hour Zoom meetings will begin in January 2024 and each director will make a presentation to the group in the Spring 2025 relating their library’s experience in the program and how it relates to their communities in Michigan. There is no cost to the director to attend and be a part of this project. Additionally, each library will participate in a small-group media training with a professional crisis communications expert from Hennes Communications which will prepare library directors to better respond to challenging and difficult conversations. Each library can also take advantage of a short community survey with analysis facilitated by UMSI.

HML by the Numbers – December 2023

	December		
	2023	2022	% Change
Visitors	7,895	7,568	4%
Curbside Delivery	15	14	7%
Digital Downloads	5,621	4,238	33%
Physical Items (Circulation)	24,704	24,393	1%
Computer Sessions	246	207	19%

Children’s Programs:

- 12 programs – 414 participants

Adult Programs:

- 1 program - 43 participants

Outreach Programs:

- 0 programs – 0 participants