City of Boulder
2018 Library Commission

Meeting date: Wednesday, April 4, 2018
Location: Main Library, 1001 Arapahoe Ave., Canyon Meeting Room

Meeting start time: 6 p.m. (Note: There is no access to the building after 8 p.m.)

1. Approval of agenda
2. Public comment
3. Consent agenda
   a. Approval of March 7, 2018 minutes p.3-8
4. Welcome and administer oath of office to new commissioner
5. Elect new Library Commission officers and Boulder Library Foundation members
6. New photo of Library Commission
8. Discussion of the Information Packet (IP) memo to City Council from the Library: Library Operating and Capital Funding Needs and Financing Options (See Library Director’s Memo)
9. Discussion and adoption of the Commission’s letter to City Council on BPL budget needs p. 12-16
10. Discussion of the outcome of the questions posed by City Council at the November 28, 2018 City Council study session regarding library finance and governance
11. Master Plan project update p. 17-34
   a. Review of draft part 2: community trends and needs
12. Library Commission update p. 35-48
   a. Upcoming special meetings
   b. Items from commission
   c. Boulder Library Foundation update
   d. City project representative update
      i. EcoDistricts
   e. Responses to patron emails from the Library Commission
13. Update of 2018 Library Commission meeting plan p. 49-50
14. Library and Arts Director’s Report p.51-53
   a. City budget
   b. Council Information Packet (IP) memo on future library funding
   c. Discontinuation of Boopsie library app
   d. Public Library Association Conference in Philadelphia
   e. Libraries at the polls
   f. Patron letter
15. Adjournment
2018 Library Commissioners
Pending vote, Chair    Joni Teter    Tim O’Shea    Juana Gomez    Joel Koenig
Name of Board/ Commission: Library Commission
Date of Meeting: March 7, 2018 at the Meadows Branch Library, 4800 Baseline Rd.
Contact information preparing summary: Jennifer Phares, 303-441-3106
Commission members present: Alicia Gibb, Joni Teter, Tim O’Shea, Juana Gomez
Commission members absent: Joel Koenig

Library staff present:
David Farnan, Director of Library & Arts
Jennifer Phares, Deputy Library Director
Monnie Nilsson, Meadows Branch Manager

Others present:
Robin Gard, former co-lead of Fort Collins library district campaign and Poudre River Library Trustee
and Mary Atchison, former co-lead of Fort Collins library district campaign and Poudre River Library Trustee.

Members of the public present:
None

Type of Meeting: Regular

Agenda Item 1: Call to order and approval of agenda
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Two agenda changes: Item 6: Master Plan project update was changed to a break to celebrate Commissioner Gibb’s service to the library. Added Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) update under Item 9: Library Commission update.

Agenda Item 2: Public comment
None

Agenda Item 3: Consent agenda

Item 3A, Approval of February 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes
Teter submitted one in her comments which are part of the handouts.
Gomez asked to include her statement concerning the homeless issue being central. Every demographic reported some concern. The commission talked a lot about they could do about it. She stated that it seemed less of a concern if it is not emphasized in the minutes. She wants to ensure that the Library Commission is addressing people’s voiced concerns about the homeless population at the library. Unanimously approved as amended.

Agenda Item 4: Discussion on forming a library district
Guests, Robin Gard, former co-lead of Fort Collins library district campaign and Poudre River Library Trustee and Mary Atchison, former co-lead of Fort Collins library district campaign and Poudre River Library Trustee.

Farnan introduced the guests. He clarified that the City of Fort Collins opposed the district which was incorrect rather “they folded their arms and said good luck”.

Atchison: it has been 10 years since the Fort Collins public library became Poudre River Public Library District and it has been very successful. At the time she was on the library advisory board, the City of Fort Collins had categorized the city budget into three tiers. The library was included in the third tier, the “nice to have” quality of life programs. Tier three programs had to compete with programs in the other tiers for funding. Library funding went down for years and staff and hours were cut. The library went to voters in the 1990s to build a new library. It was voted down, because it was coupled with funding for a new performing arts center.

Over two to three years, the board worked to better position the library by doing a public relations campaign that included public officials. Board members spoke to neighborhood groups to inform the community about forming a district. In 2006, the board formed a campaign group and began consulting with Attorneys Kim Setter and Jacqueline Murphy to draft the ballot measure. City council was not in favor of the ballot initiative. The board pointed out that if the measure were to pass the city would get almost $4 million back for the city budget. The campaign group leveraged the fact that the public loves
the library. They collected signatures for the petition to get the item on the ballot outside the library and distributed campaign yard signs. The campaign consolidated support for the library. The measure passed in November and in January 2007 the library began reinstating positions and services that were previously cut, and the library budget almost doubled.

Atchison described the process for forming the new library district board. Prior to the election, the seated advisory board members were interviewed and selected for the district board. The first meeting of the library district board of directors was held in March 2007 and officers were elected. The board appointed a subcommittee to negotiate with City to work out issues around property transfer and how the board would work with city council. The district contracted with the City for finance and Human Resources (HR) services and has since hired its own HR manager. Nothing changed for the staff in their day-to-day roles or their pay and benefits. They were elated to be able restore service levels that were previously cut. Some of the more challenging issues that the district had to negotiate with city were the capital property and what would happen to the impact fees collected for the library. The district received part of the park that the downtown library is located in. The City was building a library at the time, but it did not have the funds to operate it. This was a huge campaign point. The board did a rebrand and selected a new name for the district. The library board had authority to make decisions rather than making recommendations to city council. The benefit for the library and the community was that the board no longer had to fight for council’s attention or for funding.

Gard: There was not really a downside for the library to form a district. The transition is a lot of hard work, but it is straightforward. The board did a careful study of the positions that were cut. There is no better day as board member than the day we got to reinstate staff. They used the cut in storytime hours as leverage for the campaign. They felt it was effective to make the patrons feel the pinch and get them to see there are consequences to not funding the library. The staff concerns with forming a district were related to continuity with pay and benefits and the board met with staff to discuss concerns. The fact that the district chose to contract with the city for payroll and HR was reassuring to them.

Gard: There is a lot of good training available through the American Library Association. The board has the responsibility of hiring, firing, and evaluation of the library director, setting the budget, and making policy. Atchison: It was made clear to the board members that it was not their job to select books or get into operations. They were there to support the director and the library. The process was smooth. Gard: Kim Setter, attorney, helped to establish clear roles for the board. The board was fortunate to get several members with a variety and depth of experience. Atchison: An attorney sat in on the board meetings for the first few years to help address legal issues, questions about transparency, and assist the board with meeting requirements for reporting.

Gard: The negotiation with City took more than a year. Several complex issues had to be worked out. The city held several pockets of money given for different library purposes. The board had to negotiate for that money. The library had three different service models: one shared with a university, one in a retail center, and the old Carnegie Library which was in library park but not used as a library. The negotiations were not adversarial. It was ‘new ground’ and everyone wanted to be careful. The board presented to council each year on the status of the district.

Gomez: Is the board required to report to city council? Atchison: It wasn’t required but it was part of the agreement with the city. The board was accountable only to the voters. Gard: The board hired a communications person because they wanted to communicate about what the library was doing. The only opposition during the campaign was from the Chamber of Commerce and it was strictly a tax issue. The Chamber did not actively oppose the library. One of the first things the board did was reinstate the business librarian position and rebuilt relationship with the Chamber. Atchison: When a district is formed, the board’s accountability shifts from the city council to the voters. The board members felt great responsibility to community and did outreach and research to show that they were accountable. Gard: Most residents likely don’t know who runs the library. They just want the library to work to be a great place and have lots of resources.

Teter: How were the district boundaries determined? Atchison: They used the school district boundaries. The town of Wellington wanted a library, but the residents didn’t want to be taxed for it. The district had to go court to get a decision. Gard: Redfeather had its own district, and Loveland opted out of being part of the district in the beginning. Wellington did not and could not opt out after the district was formed. Atchison: Because the district is not within the city boundaries, at some point in the future when the demographics show it, a library will probably be built in Wellington. It was considered as in the library strategic plan, but the data did not show a need yet. Gard: Staff has put more efforts into outreach to people outside the city limits.

Teter: How many of the board members are from the county and from the city? Atchison: The board is not divided that way. Farnan: Who appoints board members? Atchison: A county commissioner and a city council member interview the applicants and make the appointments. The call for applications goes out to the county.
Farnan: What percentage of the population is outside the city? Atchison: Maybe 15 percent.

O’Shea: What was your budget before the district? Gard: $3.8 million and after the district passed it raised to $7.6 million immediately. O’Shea: that’s been consistent? Gard: No. The 2018 budget is $10.8 million.

Gibb: Where did the bridge money come from? Gard: The property taxes were collected immediately. Atchison: The first disbursement was April 15. She did not recall what funds were used between Jan.1 and April 15.

Gomez: The board had to negotiate with city council and the county commissioners? Gard: Just the city. Atchison: Only the city for property. Gomez: Were there other municipalities that the board negotiated with? Gard: Timnoth. There was a TIF (Tax Increment Financing) issue with property. They did a storyline in Timnoth and the Council Tree Library that opened later is very close to Timnoth. Atchison: There are no other formed towns in the district. LaPort is an incorporated town.

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Farnan: Did the district pay for any of the assets? Atchison: Not the she recalled. It saved the city money for the board to clean, insure and maintain the facilities. Gard: It is a huge plus to have a group dedicated only to the library not having their attention divided over a complex government. City council was relieved once they realized the library was in good hands.

O’Shea: What was staffing like then compared to now? Gard: We don’t know now. Seventeen positions were restored, and a new finance director and communications director were hired. In the past three years, the district hired an HR director, expanded the outreach department, and completed a reorganization.

Farnan: We compared BPL to three other libraries that became districts since 2000 (See handouts). The overall growth in staffing of those districts increased by 78% and BPL has decreased by 17%. The increase in revenues is close to 250%. BPL has increased and managed to stay almost 1% above inflation, roughly 44%. Teter: The shift is due to the shift in revenue source. The districts are no longer dependent on sales tax revenues. They have a dedicated funding source, and it is property taxes. Atchison: Property tax revenues are very stable. The prior fluctuation in revenue wasn’t only due to sales tax, it was also due to city council’s changing priorities.
Gibb: Were you involved in setting the mill levy? Atchison: No, we did have the expertise. The library director worked with the city and county finance departments to analyze what kind of revenue each Mill would bring. Gard: They projected revenues out from 2007 for ten years. Funding levels were defined as ultra-conservative, conservative, mid-point, optimistic, and ultra-optimistic. Past the ten-year mark district funding is at the optimistic level. Atchison: I urged that the Mill levy should be set higher than needed to make sure the district had the money it needed in the future without having to go back to the voters.

Atchison: What are some of the concerns or questions that are holding you back? Gibb: That we don’t set the Mill levy high enough and we have go back to the voters within 5 years. Atchison: Agreed with the advice given at the February Library Commission, ask for as much as you think the voters will tolerate.

Farnan: Did anyone on city council ask to refund current Mill levies that are going to the city back to the voters to make the cost of the library district be less? Gard: No. They were strapped and wanted the $4 million back that was going to the library.

Teter: Our political situation is very different. It is not as dire. We have a council that would like to fund the library, but we look at the budget and don’t see where that money is going to come from. And, we haven’t got to the point yet where we’re saying the city really can’t fund the library.

Gibb: Did you discuss the logic problem of the city not being able to fund the library and not supporting the formation of the library district. Atchison: We address to their concerns about giving away the library resources and buildings to the district. They are not the property of the City, they belong to the voters. The community paid for those resources and buildings from taxes collected on behalf of the library. Gard: The resources remain in the community; the library district is part of the community.

Gomez: The issue I am concerned about is the design of the district boundaries. There are a lot of county people who don’t want to incorporate with the city. Atchison: The district is 100% separate from the city. Gard: We did a lot of outreach to residents outside of the city. We promised to put book drops in outlying places. Discussion ensued about Boulder’s population outside of the city, the maps (See Handouts) that may be used to help determine the district boundary.

There was discussion of library users paying their fair share and the issue of annexation brought up by city council being a non-starter. Teter: We have to find a way to work with the City and at the same time distance ourselves so that we can address the concerns of some people outside the city who don’t trust the City.

Gibb: How do we make sure we have a responsible board that is willing to do even more than a commission? How do you get people who are serious about the work? Atchison: We had early conversations with city council and the library director about the qualities that we wanted in the board. Teter: How many members are on the board. Atchison: Seven. Two library advisory board members were appointed as members of the district. Gibb: When new members were appointed did the library board have any input about the skills needed of the new members? Atchison: It was a collaboration. Part of our responsibility as a campaign was to go around and shake the trees and find people to apply.

**Agenda Item 5: Update on Main Library restroom renovation project funding**

The city manager will recommend to council to fund the Main Library restroom renovation ($650,000) from library reserves in the General Fund. Although it didn’t need the commission’s favorable recommendation, Farnan asked for it. The commissioners were in favor of the funding plan and getting project started before the end of the year. Discussion ensued about the Library Fund described in the city charter and the library’s restricted funds that reside in the General Fund.

Farnan directed the discussion to the library district memo in the packet and considerations for setting a Mill rate. Teter: Going back to the city boundary question, would the county enclaves within the city be part of the district? It might change the numbers. We should find out if they be taxed as part of the district. O’Shea: When do we run into another library’s turf? Farnan: We don’t. There is no interest from those other libraries to join the district. O’Shea: What about the pocket along the Diagonal highway to Niwot? Farnan: The mountain neighborhoods and Niwot don’t represent a lot of voters. Niwot is one of the areas the county recommended including. He has not spoken to Niwot yet and doesn’t know if there are TIFs on the downtown. Teter: Louisville, Lafayette, Boulder and Superior all have defined growth boundaries. The proposed boundaries don’t impede on these areas? Farnan: The Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan is the...
best boundary; all areas in the county agree with the boundary, and it doesn’t impede on any other areas. It doesn’t include Niwot or mountains.

Gomez: When do we stop trying to neutral and come to a decision about forming a library district? Farnan: The commission can do as they choose. We want the Master Plan to be adopted first. The commission can make a recommendation whether to form a library district in the Master Plan. Teter: We need the elevator speech about what is critical for the library in the memo for council. It is a sustainable, dependable revenue source, flexibility with decision making, and the ability to respond quickly to needs of the community. We need to have something we can keep coming back to. The bottom line is we want a wonderful library, and we need those things to have it.

Gibb: Asked the commissioners to consider a few things in their future decision making. If you decide to form a district, set the Mill levy for as much as voters will tolerate so the library can continue to grow. Fight for taking the money that was earmarked for the library for the district and remember the voters have approved of spending the money for the library on behalf of the community.

Agenda Item 6: Thank you, Alicia Gibb for serving the community as a Library Commissioner from 2014 to 2018.

[6:120:11:12 Audio min.]
Farnan spoke about meeting Gibb and thanked her for her service. The commission took a break to celebrate Commissioner Gibb’s service and review the maps (See handouts).

Agenda Item 7: Library Commission Update

a. Matters from the Commission
   i. Report out on meetings with City Council members
   ii. Discuss letter to City Council outlining library funding needs
   Teter described the draft of the commission letter to city council that was recommended by City Council Member Weaver about the library funding needs for the next two years. Farnan shared how staff would summarize the funding needs for the commission’s memo and described how the staff is prioritizing the five year needs into three categories: critical, meet demand, and expansion of services. Farnan will ask the commission to rank the needs via a poll that he will send them via email. Gomez offered to work on the draft of the letter.

b. Boulder Library Foundation update
   BLF is hiring a branding and marketing firm to handle what Jane Sykes Wilson was doing with donation management.

c. JLF Update
   Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) update discussed scaling back the project with the organizers. They were not interested in scaling back rather they want to expand. Convention and Visitors Bureau will not be funding JLF. The City’s funding for the project is contingent on the organizers meeting deadlines. Most of them have not been met. Funding gap is between $60,000 and $160,000. They may go directly to city council to ask for funding. Discussion ensued about past funding sources and amounts and the cost per attendee. Teter expressed concern with asking for a funding increase for JLF when the library will also be asking for increased funding.

d. City project representative update
   i. EcoDistricts

e. Responses to patron emails from the Library Commission

Agenda Item 10: Library and Arts Director’s Report

a. Changes to Homebound Delivery Program service model
b. Q4 2017 Web use statistics
c. BPL call center statistics

Farnan discussed highlights from the meeting room use, web and call center statistics. Teter: Is there any plan to look at shared daytime use arrangement or partnership for the meeting rooms? Farnan: The staff discussed ideas for a marketing campaign for the use of the meeting room. He would like to revise and relax the policies first. He promotes them twice per
week. Gomez: Asked what do you get when you search “really good book”? Farnan encouraged her to try it. Discussion ensued about the results of such a search.

**Agenda Item 9: Adjournment**

[8:31 p.m., 0:00:00 Audio min.]

There being no further business to come before the commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

**Date, time, and location of next meeting:**

The next Library Commission meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, at the Main Library, Canyon Meeting Room, 1001 Arapahoe Ave.
The city’s first bi-annual Adjustments to Base (ATBs) is scheduled to be presented to City Council for first reading on May 1, 2018. A second reading and possible adoption is scheduled to occur on May 15, 2018. This first ATB presents the Library with an opportunity to adjust its $8.26 million base budget to accommodate continuing operational needs and/or address new needs for the 2018 budget year.

Library staff has identified a list of budget needs related to the continuation of programs and projects that are multi-year in nature and require the carryover of 2017 budget to complete. These are called budget carryovers. Carryovers come in three forms: operating carryovers, project carryovers, and grant carryovers. Operating carryovers represent unspent operating dollars from 2017 that had been dedicated to specific projects or work plan efforts that were not completed by year-end. Project carryovers represent unspent budget from capital projects. Grant carryovers represent unspent funds from projects, programs or services that were funded with third-party grant support and must be accounted for separately.

Library staff has also identified new budget needs that require additional funding from fund balance or additional revenue, which are referred to as budget supplementals. While carryover re-appropriates unspent funds from the last year’s budget, the supplementals add brand new funding to the 2018 budget. Budget supplementals can be sourced from additional revenue that has been received or is anticipated to be received within the budget year. Due to a constrained budget climate at the city, departments have been instructed to limit budget supplemental requests that rely on General Fund revenue in this first ATB. However, the supplemental requests the library plans to put forward are funded by fund balance from two dedicated library reserves in the General Fund, and additional revenue generated through library programs. Additionally, the Library does anticipate receiving $95,522 in unspent 2017 grant funding balances from the Boulder Library Foundation. The adjustments are all one-time in nature and any remaining money will fall to fund balance at the end of the year if left unspent. Table 1 on the next page provides a detailed list of the proposed budget adjustments divided into General Fund and Library Fund adjustments.
## Table 1
**1st Round of Adjustments to 2018 Base Budget**

### General Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library Master Plan</td>
<td>$32,115</td>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>Fund Carryover</td>
<td>Funding for graphic design and final publication of the Master Plan project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automated Materials Handling/Radio Frequency Identification (AMH/RFID)</td>
<td>$96,883</td>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>Fund Carryover</td>
<td>Funding for future installation and maintenance of the AMH/RFID system at the North Boulder branch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnegie Storage</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Fund Supplemental</td>
<td>Funding from the Blystadt Laesar House restricted reserve account to complete the digital asset management system. The system facilitates patron access to archived materials that have been digitally preserved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Neutral Restrooms</td>
<td>$650,000</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Fund Supplemental</td>
<td>Funding from the library dedicated reserves in the General Fund to build new restrooms in the Main Library building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Program</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Additional Revenue</td>
<td>Funding from the library booksale proceeds to offset volunteer program costs and supplies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canyon Theater Staffing</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Additional Revenue</td>
<td>Funding from theater rental proceeds to offset temporary staffing costs during rentals of the Canyon Theater.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

General Fund Adjustments: $808,998

### Library Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Makerspace – Littlefield Family Foundation Grant</td>
<td>$24,240</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Fund Carryover</td>
<td>Grant funding for the &quot;I Have a Dream Foundation&quot; Family Apprenticeship program to teach technology and trade skills to Latino/Latina youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 State Library Grant</td>
<td>$23,114</td>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Fund Carryover</td>
<td>Grant funding for library materials and digital resources for children and Spanish speaking patrons. These funds were originally received in late 2017.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Boulder Library Foundation Grant Awards</td>
<td>$95,522</td>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>Additional Revenue</td>
<td>Appropriation of 2017 Boulder Library Foundation grant funding (unspent) balances.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Library Fund Adjustments: $142,876
The budget adjustments being sourced from the Library Fund require the favorable recommendation of the Library Commission. Library staff is also seeking favorable recommendation from the Library Commission for the $18,000 Carnegie Storage budget adjustment that is being funded from the Blystadt Laesar reserve account within the General Fund. This reserve account was established with proceeds from the sale of the Blystadt Laesar house and currently holds a balance of $373,091.

Library staff will continue to work on developing 2019 budget requests and will plan to present those requests to the Library Commission in May.

Questions for the Library Commission
1. Does the Library Commission have any questions about the proposed 1st Adjustments to the 2018 Base Budget?
2. Does the Library Commission support the proposed budget adjustments using funds from the Library Fund and the Blystadt Laesar restricted reserve account?
To: Boulder City Council
Cc: Jane Brautigam, Boulder City Manager
From: Boulder Library Commission
Subject: Library funding needs 2019-2020
Date: April 4, 2018

The Boulder Public Library system is at a critical juncture. In the past 10 years the library has seen a 28% growth in circulation, 85% growth in children's material, 500% growth in children's program attendance, and 100% growth in overall program attendance. Yet the library’s overall budget has declined, both in real terms and relative to growth in the overall City budget. Staff positions have declined by 15%. The Library administration and staff have maximized operational efficiencies to bridge the gaps in funding, but no further cuts can be made without compromising our mission and standards. Commissioners have estimated that a total annual increase of approximately $3.2 million will be needed by budget year 2023 to fully fund the library system. This estimate includes funding to meet current demand, operate projected new locations, and implement priority Master Plan goals.

In our individual conversations with Council members, it was suggested that Commission provide Council with an estimate of funding needed by the library for the next two years, including a breakdown of how that funding would be used within the library system and (separately) for the expanded NoBo full service branch. The attached table provides that information, along with estimated costs for one-time capital funding needs system-wide, and (separately) for NoBo.

This budget request for the years 2019 and 2020 addresses some key funding deficiencies, and would provide funds needed to build, equip operate and maintain the expanded NoBo branch. It is Commission’s hope that the City will adequately provide the resources necessary to allow the Library to continue its exceptional performance over the next two years.

The Library Commission continues to work with staff to analyze the library’s funding needs, and to explore options to ensure the library’s long term financial sustainability. We look forward to further conversations with Council about long term funding after completion of the Library Master Plan (currently scheduled for Council approval in July).

Sincerely,

The Boulder Library Commission

Juana Gomez       Joel Koenig       Tim O’Shea       Joni Teter       Jane Sykes Wilson
### Staff Position Requests

**Total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff positions requested (excluding new branch):** 11.5  
**Total estimated annual salary and benefits costs (excluding new branch):** $782,000  
**North Boulder branch library total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff positions requested:** 6.5  
**North Boulder branch library total estimated annual salary and benefits costs:** $518,000

#### 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>FTE</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creative Technologist for BLDG 61 Makerspace</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Convert current fixed term position to standard position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Technology Support Specialist</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>To support new library-specific technology acquired during the past three years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials Handler</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>To support recent increased in circulation and holds service growth resulting from expanding the Flatirons Library Consortium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Library Specialist</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>To provide desk coverage and program planning.</td>
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#### 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>FTE</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Services Librarians</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>To address recent growth in program attendance. Assigned to Meadows and Reynolds Branch Libraries to also provide back up to manager.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Services Specialist</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>To address recent growth in program attendance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing and communications</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>To address identified in the 2007 Boulder Public Library Master Plan, and by community input for the current master plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs, Events, Outreach Specialist</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Systemwide support for program expansion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Services Specialist</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>To assist with coordinating additional volunteers to for program expansion and addition of new locations. Volunteers currently provide the equivalent of approximately 10 FTE each year of in-kind service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor for Creative Technologist team systemwide</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>To oversee and provide planning and operational support to the Creative Technologist team.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ATTACHMENT A. Summary of Boulder Public Library 2019-2020 Funding Needs
including costs estimates for the new north Boulder branch library shown separately.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material Handler</th>
<th>0.75 FTE</th>
<th>Systemwide support for materials budget increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### 2020 North Boulder Branch Library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>2.0 FTE</th>
<th>To provide programs in the new makerspace</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creative Technologist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Technology Support Specialist</td>
<td>1.0 FTE</td>
<td>To support library technology in new facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service and Circulation Specialists</td>
<td>3.5 FTE</td>
<td>To provide customer service and programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Annual Operating Cost Requests

Total estimated operating costs needed (excluding new branch): **$1.5 million**

North Boulder branch library total estimated operating costs needed: **$165,000**

#### 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Security service</td>
<td>Add daily stops at each branch library</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patron satisfaction biannual survey</td>
<td>Measure outcomes of programs and services</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials collection and processing</td>
<td>Increase to meet library industry benchmark</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courier services</td>
<td>Annual increase for transport of materials within BPL system and to/from other library systems</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacement cost for new patron laptop computers</td>
<td>For patron use during programs</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodic replacement of public furniture</td>
<td>To address daily wear and tear</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitorial day porter hours</td>
<td>Maintain higher standards of cleanliness in all facilities (managed by Facilities and Asset Management division of Public Works)</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support FAM request for library building maintenance and utilities costs</td>
<td>Bring building maintenance up to industry standards and 2% annual increase in building maintenance and utilities costs (managed by Facilities and Asset Management division of Public Works)</td>
<td>$440,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual literacy festival direct costs</td>
<td>Represents city-wide direct costs for library-hosted festival event (staff planning and event staffing, security, janitorial and consultant support). Does not include donation from the Boulder Library Foundation or any other agencies.</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Materials collection and processing</td>
<td>Increase to meet library industry benchmark</td>
<td>$125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automated Materials Handling systems annual maintenance contract</td>
<td>Annual increase for service contract for three systems</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courier services</td>
<td>Annual increase for transport of materials within BPL system and to/from other library systems</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support FAM request for library building maintenance and utilities costs</td>
<td>2% annual increase in building maintenance and utilities costs (managed by Facilities and Asset Management division of Public Works)</td>
<td>$547,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2020 North Boulder Branch Library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary adjustment</td>
<td>Align NoBo Branch Manager position with other branch managers.</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security service</td>
<td>Open hours security officer</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitorial</td>
<td>Daily janitorial service based on additional square foot estimate</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General operating costs</td>
<td>Supplies, security alarm system monitoring, furniture replacement, etc.</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training and temporary staff</td>
<td>Professional development and leave coverage</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Capital and One-Time Cost Requests**

Total estimated capital and one-time costs needed (excluding new branch): $1.25 million

North Boulder branch library total estimated capital and one-time costs needed: $6.2 million

### 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional patron laptops</td>
<td>Purchase cost for patron laptops to use during programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Library north building renovation feasibility study</td>
<td>$105,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology strategic plan</td>
<td>$32,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing campaign</td>
<td>Promote library’s mission to protect 1st amendment rights, patron privacy, and as a welcoming place for all persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Library public space modifications</td>
<td>To address equitable use issues and patron safety concerns in popular seating areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Library restroom renovation</td>
<td>Renovations with an all-inclusive design to update plumbing, fixtures, and access</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Items shaded are capital projects.

### 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website and online calendar design refresh</td>
<td>Refresh website and improve functionality of online calendar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Library public computing area reconfiguration</td>
<td>To address equitable use issues, privacy, and patron safety concerns with computer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemwide improvements to facility wayfinding elements and signs</td>
<td>To improve patron self-direction and access</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Items shaded are capital projects.

### 2020 North Boulder Branch Library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and fixtures</td>
<td>Not eligible for capital funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makerspace furniture and equipment</td>
<td>Not eligible for capital funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch facility construction</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening day collection</td>
<td>Books and other materials starter collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology infrastructure</td>
<td>Network and Wi-Fi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Items shaded are capital projects.
To: Library Commissioners  
From: David Farnan, Library and Arts Director  
        Jennifer Phares, Deputy Library Director  
Date: March 30, 2018  
Subject: Library Master Plan project update

Review of part two: Demographics and Community Priorities and Needs Assessment

A draft of the Master Plan update part two is Attachment A for the Library Commission’s review and comment. This is the first draft and the Library Commission is getting the first opportunity to review it. The staff master plan committee members’ input will be submitted next week. Input from both the staff committee and Library Commission will be incorporated into this part and provided for final review in May.
Overview of Boulder

Nestled in Boulder Valley against the scenic beauty of the Flatirons, Boulder is a resilient community committed to environmental sustainability, maintaining a diverse and stable economy, offering a variety of recreational opportunities, and cultivating a welcoming culture that supports innovation and learning for all its residents. It is home to University of Colorado, Naropa University, and 17 federally-funded research labs. Boulder offers an outstanding public library system, hundreds of miles of bike and walking trails, excellent public transportation, easy access to open space and the foothills, numerous and varied art, cultural, dining, entertainment and shopping options, excellent schools, and high-quality healthcare. Boulder’s high quality of life, sense of place and extensive amenities make it an attractive place for people from all over to live and work.

While Boulder is unique in its many appealing attributes, many members of the community face the same economic, educational achievement, and social challenges as Boulder County. The Boulder Public Library is an organization that seeks to serve everyone, and over the past ten years has become a regional hub providing library service to city residents as well as many patrons who reside in unincorporated Boulder County.

The following section summarizes demographic trends for children and families, the largest group in BPL’s patron base, as well as trends for other groups that are typically considered harder to connect with the city’s public services, or otherwise underserved.

Demographic trends

Boulder is home to more than 108,707 community members and its government and private businesses employ people in more than 100,148 jobs. Forty-seven percent of people employed in Boulder, commute into the city. Estimates for 2016 indicate there are 46,094 housing units in the city with 52% of them as rentals. The median detached home price was reported as $845,000 and the median attached home price was reported as $405,250. The median household income was $88,400, which is a more than 12% increase from 2000 to 2016, although poverty rates and other negative socio-economic indicators are not improving among certain populations (e.g. Latino residents, seniors, and children).

Boulder is one of the most educated metropolitan areas in the country and home to University of Colorado (CU) and Naropa University. With current enrollment of just under 30,000 students, CU accounts for approximately 29 percent of Boulder’s population.

Children and families

Children and families are one of the largest demographic groups that BPL serves, hence, a significant amount of its resources, programs and services are designed to serve this group of patrons. Demographic trends and the educational and social needs of this group are important factors to BPL’s

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1 2017 Boulder Community Profile, City of Boulder.
2 City of Boulder Resilience Strategy
Attachment A. DRAFT Master Plan Part Two

long-range planning and service delivery design. For example, input collected from Latino parents during the focus groups and community events for the Master Plan, underscored the need for BPL to find ways to offer programs and services at times and locations that are convenient to these families as the parents often hold more than one job and are not able to bring their children to the library to participate in programs and events.

In 2017, Children (<18 years of age) were estimated to make up more than 21% of the population in Boulder County (321,989 persons). The total population of children in the county increased by almost 5% between 1997 and 2017. During the period between 1995 and 2015, there was a marked shift in ethnicity. The number of white non-Latino children decreased by 22%, while the number of Latino children increased by more than 123.6%. It is projected that by 2021, children of color will make up the majority in Colorado.

Another significant trend has been the number of children whose families live below the poverty level. The number of families below the poverty level increased by 74% from 1990 to 2014 in Boulder County. While Boulder County’s child poverty rate has declined from its peak in 2010 (14%), it is still above the level prior to Great Recession at 13%. For comparison, in the City of Boulder, 9% of families with children and 4% of children were in poverty during 2015.

Poverty is not equally distributed among the county’s children. The 2014 poverty rate among Hispanic children and female-headed families was almost 15 times the rate for white, non-Hispanic children and married-couple families. In 2014, more than 15% of Boulder County’s children lived on the edge of poverty with family incomes between 100% and 200% below the Federal poverty level and nearly, 1 in 3 children in this group were below 200% of poverty.

The increase in the number of children in the county translated to an increase in student enrollment (pre-kindergarten to grade 12) of more than 10% for Boulder Valley schools from 2007 to 2016. The number of students eligible for free/reduced lunch (FRL) programs in the school district during 2016 and 2017 was 21%. Economically disadvantaged students need nearly twice the amount of support as their more advantaged peers to compensate for the experiences their families cannot afford. More than 2% of all students in the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) were homeless from 2013 to 2014. Approximately half of these children and their families lived in doubled-up housing, 40.2% were in shelters, transitional housing or awaiting foster care, 9.2% lived in hotels or motels and 1.2 were unsheltered. In BVSD, 13.2% of homeless students were youth living on their own. While the scope of

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3 The Status of Children of Boulder County Report 2015.
4 Colorado Children’s Campaign Kids Count in Colorado 2015.
5 The 2017 Federal poverty level for a family of four is annual income of $24,600 per year. The true cost of living in Boulder for a family of four is more than $86,000 per year.
6 2017 Boulder Community Foundation TRENDS
7 The Status of Children of Boulder County Report 2015.
8 Family income less than or equal to 185% of the Federal poverty level.
9 2017 Boulder Community Foundation TRENDS
10 The Status of Children of Boulder County Report 2015.
BPLs mission does not include directly addressing this serious community problem, it is important to consider the unique challenges of reaching and providing library services to children in this category.

According to U.S. Census estimates for the combined years 2011 to 2013 in Boulder County, 17.7% of children ages 5 to 17 years in non-English speaking households spoke English less than “very well”. The Census Bureau defines linguistic isolation as speaking English less than “very well” among people who speak a language other than English at home. This isolation creates substantial challenges for children with school achievement, their access to library programs and services, and for their families becoming involved in the community.

Student achievement is a common measure used to evaluate educational policy and indicates students’ readiness to enter the workforce or move into higher education. Analysis of the Transitional Colorado Assessment Program\(^{11}\) and the Colorado Student Assessment Program scores indicate that Boulder County student achievement has shown modest improvements in the ten years between 2004 and 2014. However, the achievement gaps in reading (33 percentage point gap) and math proficiency (35 percentage point gap) are wide between students who are eligible and not eligible for the FRL program. The reading gap narrowed only slightly during that ten-year period.

“The achievement gap [is defined as] the difference in academic performance between [children] from high- and middle- income, educated families and that of their peers, whose backgrounds include more risk factors and less opportunity. Far too often, Latino [children] and [children] in families that are economically disadvantaged are falling behind their peers. Closing the achievement gap was identified as one of the most critical community challenges and a top priority for the Boulder Community Foundation\(^{12}\).”

Research indicates Children’s development of literacy skills must start early, but only 29% of BVSD kindergartners attend a full-day program. This rate is dramatically lower than that of the St. Vrain Valley School District. One of the reasons for the discrepancy is that BVSD offers full-day kindergarten at only eight schools whereas St. Vrain offers it at every school. This means many children in the BVSD must wait until 1st grade before receiving full-day instruction, putting minority and poor children behind their peers from the very beginning of their education\(^{13}\).

Children with the best opportunity for success as adults are those with a high school diploma or greater.\(^{14}\) In 2014, 9 out of 10 Boulder County high school students graduated on time. One of BPLs guiding principles is to promote all forms of literacy. BPL can best serve the community by coordinating with BVSD and devoting some of its resources to providing programs that support students to increase academic achievement and to help close these gaps.

\(^{11}\) Colorado’s standards-based assessment is designed to provide a picture of student performance to schools, districts, educators, parents and the community.

\(^{12}\) Community Foundation of Boulder County 2015 TRENDS report.

\(^{13}\) 2017 Boulder Community Foundation TRENDS

\(^{14}\) The Status of Children of Boulder County Report 2015.
Immigrants

Supporting diversity and cultivating a social environment that is welcoming and inclusive are fundamental values of the Boulder community. BPL represents these values by promoting cultural competency, and through its own guiding principal that promises to evolve and continually engage with the community and to develop programs and services that are relevant to the needs of immigrants and minorities. To effectively engage and evolve, BPL must remain apprised of the trends and needs of community members with diverse backgrounds. According to the 2017 Boulder County TRENDS, The Community Foundation’s Report on Key Indicators, 25% of the city of Boulder’s residents identify as a person of color. Nine percent of Boulder’s population identifies as Latino and 18% speak a language other than English at home 15. Thirty percent of local Latinos are living in poverty and five percent of the adults (age 65+) in Boulder are Latino. 16 [Insert and reference table showing demographic breakdown by zipcode]

Older adults

Older adults represent the fastest growing population group in Boulder County and by 2050, adults aged 65+ are projected to comprise 23% of Boulder County's population 17. As of 2015, nearly 19% of Boulder County residents are age 60+ with 29% residing in the city of Boulder. 18 Six percent of adults aged 65+ were living in poverty in 2017 19.

In 2014, sixty five percent of adults aged 60+ who responded to the Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults, used a public library. While BPL provides a significant number of programs, services and resources that appeal to adults of all ages, to be responsive, BPL will have to tailor offerings to address the unique needs of members of this rapidly growing group. These needs are related to mobility and accessibility, supporting aging in place, and staying connected to other community members. [Insert and reference table showing demographic breakdown]

Persons experiencing homelessness

The cities of Boulder and Longmont have the largest number of persons experiencing homelessness in Boulder County. According to the 2009 Point-in-Time Survey, Boulder County counted 1050 individuals and family members who were experiencing homelessness. Of these, 627 were individuals and 423 were part of a family. Approximately 48% of the survey respondents were white and 39% were Hispanic. For

15 2015 Boulder Community Foundation TRENDS
16 The 2014 Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults.
17 2017 Boulder Community Foundation TRENDS
18 The 2014 Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults.
19 2017 Boulder Community Foundation TRENDS
those reporting family status, approximately 108 persons had children aged 0 to 5 years. The number of chronically homeless individuals in the county was estimated to be between 96 and 108.  

Losing a job was the most frequent contributing factor leading to homeless status and an inability to pay rent or mortgage was the second. Single individuals were more likely than heads of family households to report substance abuse and mental illness as significant contributing factors to their homeless situation. BPL is committed to assisting Boulder’s homeless community members and their families to become self-supporting and self-sufficient by improving their literacy and developing job skills. BPL is also a place for marginalized community members such as those experiencing homelessness to feel welcomed and part of the community. Further, BPL can facilitate connecting people to the information, resources and other agencies that they need to change or improve their individual situations.

Growth trends and area characteristics

During the past decade, more than 3,000 new housing units have been built and more than five million square feet of commercial and industrial space has been developed. Gunbarrel, east Boulder, and the Boulder Junction areas are anticipated to show the most growth over the next decade.

Gunbarrel

According to the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (BVCP), the Gunbarrel Subcommunity is unique because many residents live in the unincorporated area. There is also shared jurisdiction for planning and service provision among the county, city, Gunbarrel Public Improvement District and other special districts. The commercial and industrial areas in the area have been identified for potential revitalization in previous planning efforts. The 2006 Gunbarrel Community Center Plan proposes transitioning the Gunbarrel commercial area from mostly light industrial uses to a viable and vibrant, pedestrian-oriented commercial center serving Gunbarrel subcommunity residents and workers. This includes:

- Expanding and introducing more density into the retail area,
- Adding new residential and some offices in proximity to the retail area,
- Providing more multi-modal transportation connections and making Spine Road between Lookout and Gunpark roads the ‘Main Street’ for the retail area.

Implementation of the Gunbarrel Community Center Plan will require collaboration of the public and private sectors. Business associations, such as the Gunbarrel Business Alliance, and neighborhood groups will play a pivotal role in promoting collaboration to successfully implement the plan.
Attachment A. DRAFT Master Plan Part Two

An analysis of BPL accounts of patrons who reside in Gunbarrel was conducted using the Cengage Learning database by Experian. Of the 5,486 households in Gunbarrel, 1,758 (32%) are active BPL cardholders and 30% of the total households have children. Fifty seven percent of these cardholders must drive between 10 and 15 minutes, and 43% must drive between 15 and 20 minutes to reach the closest BPL location, the Meadows Branch Library. The 2016 U.S. Census population estimates (12,057) indicate that almost 4% of BPL patrons who live in Gunbarrel speak Spanish at home. The average household income of BPL patrons in the area is almost $122,000 per year with more than 9% of households having an income of $24,999 or less. Thirty-two percent of BPL patrons who live in Gunbarrel are 55+ years of age with 55 to 64 years as the most prominent age group in Gunbarrel.

Many of the BPL patrons who reside in Gunbarrel and participated in the master plan community survey and other engagement events expressed enthusiastic interest in getting some form of library service in the area. They view the public library as critical to creating a vital community center, a place where they can interact with their neighbors and a safe and welcoming place for children and families to learn and recreate.

North Boulder

The vision of the 1995 North Boulder Subcommunity Plan included a branch of the Boulder Public Library as a community center among its residential neighborhoods. Over the years, the newer mixed-use development along Broadway has become the core area of community activity with local shops and eateries. In 1997, five new zoning districts were created to implement the design guidelines in the plan, including: a business main street zone patterned after historic ‘Main Street’ business districts; three mixed-use zones that provide a transition between the higher intensity business ‘Main Street’ and surrounding residential or industrial areas; and a mixed density residential zone district. Northeast Boulder (between 30th street and Airport Rd (west to east) and Valmont to Highway 119 (south to north)) has multiple mobile home communities and apartment complexes and is one of lowest income areas in the city.

An analysis of BPL accounts of patrons who reside in the north Boulder area was conducted using the Cengage Learning database by Experian. Fifty three percent of residents in this area have an annual household income under $50,000. The median annual household income is $44,597. There are 3,690 households in this area, but only 1,578 (43%) of them are active BPL cardholders. Eighteen percent of the total are Latino households.

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24 BPL-Gunbarrel Patron Profile Analysis of Top 100% of All Patrons within the service area. Cengage Learning. 2016 by Experian. 2016 Alteryx, Inc. | Powered by Alteryx.
Attachment A. DRAFT Master Plan Part Two

Through a partnership with Boulder Housing partners, the North Boulder Corner Library came to fruition in 2014. While the compact corner library was enthusiastically welcomed by the community that was eager for library services, its small size and limited resources are not able to fully meet the north Boulder community’s need for library services.

**Boulder Junction**

The Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan describes Boulder Junction as an intermodal, regional center. The City of Boulder Transit Village Area Plan guides development of the area. The plan recommends transformation of this once mostly industrial, low-density, automobile-oriented area into a more urban, higher-density, pedestrian-oriented environment with a mixture of uses, including new retail and office space and new residential neighborhoods for persons with a diversity of incomes and lifestyles. The plan also focuses on developing community gathering spaces which could include a corner library model outlet or book return stop.

Like Boulder’s workforce, BPL has become a regional hub serving patrons from all over the region. Providing popular, convenient, commuter-friendly library service may be a natural enhancement that BPL could provide to mixed-used, higher-density areas like Boulder Junction. A corner library model service point for book return and pick-up would be an attractive feature to commuters and residents in the area. BPL may consider providing some pop-up or pilot programs in the area to engage with community members who reside or use this area to understand what type of library services would most benefit them.

**What our community says about the role of the library**

BPL received an overall excellent (51%) or good (43%) rating from respondents of the City of Boulder 2016 Community Survey. These ratings improved from the 2014 survey results. Sixty-nine percent of respondents reported that they typically use the library at least once per month. This is similar to the national benchmark for this survey.

A geographic crosstab of the results showed slightly fewer Gunbarrel respondents rated the library as excellent or good compared to respondents in the other areas of the city. The number of “Crossroads & CU” and “East Boulder & Gunbarrel” respondents that reported using the library at least once per month was about 20% less than respondents from other areas in the city28. The demographic crosstab of results showed that respondents who identified as “Hispanic and/or other race” who rated the library as excellent or good was 5% less than the other groups. These relatively lower ratings of library service between groups may correlate to the feedback received from the community during the master planning activities regarding accessibility to library services, and represent potential opportunities for improvement.

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28 [City of Boulder 2016 Community Survey](#)
Community members who participated in the master planning process said that BPL is a source of community pride and a trusted source of information. In addition to the traditional role of providing free books and other resources, they defined the library as a vital civic space for people to meet and have conversation, to study, hang out with their friends, engage in fun and educational activities and cultural experiences. Having libraries in their neighborhood area builds and strengthens connections and creates a sense of community with neighbors. BPL was described as a fun welcoming place, especially for children and youth. It is also a place for patrons to give back to the community through volunteerism, develop literacy skills, and pursue one’s love of books.

Community Priorities and Needs Assessment

While libraries cannot directly solve many of their community’s most pressing issues, such as providing adequate sustainably paying jobs, affordable housing, accessible and affordable health care and mental health care or substance abuse treatment, they do serve a key role as information centers to connect people with resources. For instance, libraries can help support community members in learning new skills and assist them with improving their employment situation. They also can refer them to social service providers to help find healthcare or end or prevent homelessness.

Libraries help build the resilience of the community, often acting as community connectors. Building resilience is not only about disaster preparedness, it is about addressing on a fundamental level, a community’s chronic stressors that weaken the fabric of a city on a day-to-day or cyclical basis. Boulder defines resilience as the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt and thrive no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks that may be experienced.29

Libraries build relationships and trust among the community and provide meaningful opportunities and social tools for inclusive collaborations in neutral, welcoming spaces. Providing these civic spaces that are open and welcome to everyone is an important element to cultivating social sustainability. BPL is a place to learn, to access resources, to participate in civic life, and to get to know your neighbors.

Several planning documents and websites of community agencies and the City of Boulder were reviewed to leverage research, community input, and priorities gathered through several other planning processes that identified community needs. The reviewed resources were chosen because the stated goals or problems to be solved are closely tied the City of Boulder’s Sustainability Framework outcomes of creating: a livable community; accessible and connected community; economically vital community; and healthy and socially thriving community. Library services directly impact these outcomes at some level. Several of the goals from these plans describe forming partnerships with community agencies as a strategy to address the specific priorities.

The purpose of the needs assessment was to:

29 City of Boulder Resilience Strategy.
Attachment A. DRAFT Master Plan Part Two

- Provide contextual information about the Boulder community’s needs and priorities and identify areas of focus for which the library can support and/or have a positive impact in fulfilling its mission.
- Provide a framework for aligning library services to address community needs.
- Provide information about how library service levels should change over time given the context of needs and trends in the community, budget and resource restraints, and changing community preferences and priorities.
- Demonstrate how the Boulder Public Library is an integral community asset.

In addition to researching planning documents and websites, the library engaged Margaret Sullivan Studio to assist with the needs assessment. The Studio interviewed 16 community leaders to establish a baseline understanding of the library’s current role in the community. Their responses began to identify the community’s needs, its challenges from the individual leaders’ perspectives, the kind of community they want Boulder to be. They were also asked to share their thoughts on the role they believe BPL can serve in reaching that vision. The leaders that participated in these initial interviews represented the library, city government, non-profit agencies, and organizations that currently partner with the library. Their aspirations for Boulder and BPL are summarized as follows:

Aspirations for the community

- Find more common purpose instead of continuing public conflict – meaningful dialogue happens with common experiences.
- Be more welcoming so persons of all ages and backgrounds can find their own place in Boulder.
- Become a greater art and culture scene with places for persons to participate in art, rather than simply observe it.
- Improve the integration process for persons experiencing homelessness into the greater community and create space where they have resources to have constructive days.
- Improve cultural competency so visitors and new immigrant community members feel like there is something for them in Boulder.
- Engage everyone on an equal level. This may be accomplished by inviting unexpected persons to serve in leadership roles and create an attitude of ”come teach us.”
- Cultivate greater trust and understanding between predominantly white and affluent community members and minority or underserved members.
- Create pathways of economic and social success for everyone.

Aspirations for BPL

- Continue to be the center of the community, the heart.
- Continue to be committed to success and pushing the community towards that goal.
- Continue to be a safe place for persons of all backgrounds, economic situations and needs, where no one is harassed or judged.
Attachment A. DRAFT Master Plan Part Two

- Continue to be an integration force and equalizer, and place where people can be without being ‘consumers’.
- Continue to be a family center.
- Continue to be a center for knowledge and inspiration for all.
- Position BPL as a touchpoint and community facilitator – a bridge between the community and the city government.
- Provide a platform for positive civic engagement and be a supportive agent of change, as a neutral space.
- Provide free exhibit and performance space to the city’s art and culture scene.
- Connect the library and the tech community in meaningful and mutually beneficial ways.
- Facilitate a sharing economy in that persons are enriched by sharing their own knowledge and experiences with one another.
- Be an experimentation factory.

The needs identified through the research and initial interviews with community leaders were further explored with community members to identify the community’s preferences and priorities for library services during focus group discussions, stakeholder meetings, a community survey, and other engagement activities [Reference Appendix with engagement methodology]. The findings from the community needs assessment are summarized along with some examples of what the Boulder Public Library is already doing to help the community achieve its goals. Most of these community priorities and needs organized within six themes are closely related or interconnected.

Supporting economic sustainability

Boulder is known as a city that uses values-based decision-making with regard to development, growing its economy, increasing economic activity for businesses and revenues for the city. It values minority- and local-owned businesses’ and non-profits’ contribution to creating a healthy economy. A diverse mix of businesses and a skilled workforce are key components for building a strong, resilient economy.

Cultivating opportunities to address the income gap. Long-term economic sustainability of a community is realized by cultivating diversity and creating an environment in which all persons have an opportunity to contribute. The Institute for Social and Environmental Transition-International maintains that lower-income people are among the least able to recover from an economic recession or catastrophic event, yet they are often central to the economy and culture of a community. Further, the percentage of Boulder County residents experiencing poverty has grown with a deep and persistent gap between the incomes of Anglo and Latino households. The income gap between those groups in Boulder County is significantly greater when compared to the income gap between those two populations nationwide. For example, BPL provides opportunities for low-income and immigrant community members to build a range of 21st century literacy skills through the Boulder Reads adult literacy program, the BLDG61 Makerspace skill-building workshops, and Conversations in English meetings.

30 Community Foundation of Boulder County 2015 TRENDS report.
collaboration with community partners, BPL could expand its offering of these types of programs and improve its outreach to serve these community members at times and in places that are convenient to them.

**Education and skill development.** Maintaining a skilled workforce that is adaptable to changes in technology is fundamental to Boulder sustaining a healthy and diverse economy. The City of Boulder Economic Strategy stated that training focused in the Science, Technology, Education, and Math (STEAM) fields was important. Providing children with the opportunity to develop interest and skills in these fields encourages critical thinking and experimentation and is a first step in preparing them for the workforce. Providing workforce training and skill building not only support a healthy economy, these opportunities for education and employment development empower adults living under the poverty level or who are experiencing homelessness to become self-sufficient and better able to make effective decisions that promote their well-being.

Further, providing programs to immigrants to help them learn about the American culture and improve their English language skills fosters inclusion in the community. It also builds self-sufficiency and increases their potential to earn more competitive salaries and become greater contributors to a healthy and socially thriving community. This includes supporting immigrant parents to actively participate in their child’s education.

BPL plays a role in supporting the economic vitality of the community through several of its programs and services that encourage life-long learning, skill building, and workforce readiness, such as BLDG 61 Makerspace workshops, Boulder Reads adult literacy program, and resume writing and job search programs. It also partners with the Boulder Small Business Development Center (SBDC), the Boulder County Farmers Market, and Seeds Library Café. Organizations whose missions to educate and support the local economy align with the library’s mission. For example, its partnership with the SBDC provides resources and consultant support directly to entrepreneurs and small business owners. In addition to these programs and partnerships, BPL may be able to cultivate new community collaborations to deliver workforce development by facilitating connections between community members and the other programs available in the community. It can also help to raise awareness and address the income gap.

A few new potential collaborations may include:

- **The Boulder Chamber of Commerce Project Innovation Blueprint 3.0** seeks to expand mentoring and training programs for entrepreneurs, female and minority business leaders, facilitate cross-industry collaboration, and develop talent among our university student population.
- **Boulder Valley School District, Superintendent’s Strategic Plan Goal** is to create a sustainable community partnership program that will establish mutually-beneficial relationships with

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Commented [PJ1]: Support the growth and resiliency of small businesses in Boulder County by providing free business consulting, practical workshops & events and connection to resources, including financing. The SBDC helps all types of small businesses – from startups through 2nd stage, from “Main Street” through highly scalable technology ventures. Some programming in both English and Spanish.

**SOURCE** Boulder Small Business Development Center

Commented [PJ2]: Support, promote and expand local agriculture, making fresh products accessible to our community and strengthening relationships between local food producers and food consumers.

Showcase local food and drink through an affordable, transparent, and seasonal menu, to engage the public with local agriculture, and to serve as a vibrant gathering space for the local food community.

**SOURCE** Boulder County Farmers Market and Seeds Library Café

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31 City of Boulder Economic Sustainability Strategy
32 Boulder County Housing and Human Services Strategic Plan
33 Intercambio Uniting Communities
34 City of Boulder Economic Sustainability Strategy
government agencies, businesses, nonprofits and other community members. The intention is to create successful, curious, lifelong learners who confidently confront the challenges of their time.

- **Family Self-Sufficiency of Boulder County** is a 5-year program that offers eligible low-income families the opportunity to receive a wide array of coordinated services. It sets training and educational goals that lead to better-paying jobs and/or homeownership for self-sufficiency.35

**Supporting community development**

While both outreach and community development happen in the community, the latter requires us to go out into the community not as experts or authorities, delivering service or information, but as learners and partners, trying to develop relationships that will evolve into collaborative service partnerships. This means more than simply being "user-focussed", it means being "user (or non-user) driven" - i.e., the user is sitting us, steering the car. - THE WORKING TOGETHER PROJECT

Providing programs and services that contribute to community development, tailoring access to programs and services to be convenient for all members of the community, and supporting opportunities for economically disadvantaged members of the community to become self-sufficient and civic contributors, results in creating a safer, inclusive, and thriving community.

**Engage older adults.** The Age Well Boulder County 2015 Strategic Plan recommended several opportunities to support older adults in the community who want to age in place. Many of these opportunities align with the library’s mission. Providing programs and services that appeal to older adults is something the library already does, but there are growth opportunities. For instance, the strategy recommended designing programs that pair older adults with younger community members to increase social engagement.

The survey that was conducted to inform the strategy also showed community agencies could improve how they share information about programs and service offered. Forty-seven percent of survey respondents indicated that not knowing what services are available to older adults in the community was at least a minor problem in the City of Boulder.36 Similar input was received from patrons who participated in the Library Master Plan survey. The library can improve upon sharing information about the programs and services offered and it can strengthen collaboration with other agencies to connect older adults with resources and other available social services.

**Support self-sufficiency.** The City of Boulder Human Services Department has seen success with implementation of the strategic plan goal of creating integrated access to information and services. The program is helping individuals and families experiencing homelessness or who are otherwise economically disadvantaged, find employment and homes. BPL also serves many of the same

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36 Age Well Boulder County Strategic Plan – 2015.
Attachment A. DRAFT Master Plan Part Two

community members and acts as connector, referring these individuals to the available social services. The library also has a role in supporting community members with gaining literacy and life skills to become self-sufficient.

Volunteerism. Respondents to the 2016 City of Boulder Community Survey rated the availability of volunteer opportunities as excellent or good with more than 50% having volunteered during the year. Providing opportunities for older adults to participate in the community through volunteerism supports aging in place and prevents isolation. The 2015 Age Well Boulder County Strategic Plan stated that volunteering later in life is associated with better physical health and emotional well-being. The library relies on volunteers to provide several of its programs and services, such as materials delivery to homebound patrons, adult literacy tutoring, oral history interviewers, and BLDG61 instructors to name a few. BPL will continue to offer meaningful opportunities for volunteer work to the community, a mutually beneficial arrangement.

Early childhood education. Boulder County’s Early Childhood Framework outlines three broad goals: Ready Community, Ready Families, and Ready Children. The goals support quality of life for families through policy development and program offerings focused on: children’s healthy growth and development, supporting parents and caregivers to become their children’s first and best teachers, school readiness and early learning outcomes. The Boulder Community Foundation initiated the Five Big Ideas early learning awareness campaign. It was created by and for Latino parents to build parent leadership and advocacy for early learning. Likewise, the grassroots program Engaged Latino Parents Advancing School Outcomes (ELPASO) emerged to address the educational achievement gap between Anglo and Latino children in Boulder County.

The library focuses programs on early childhood development and encourages parents to be active participants in their child’s education. This aligns with the Early Childhood Framework. However, opportunities exist for library outreach to Latino families in the community that could further support the mission of the ELPASO program.

Strengthen culture and diversity in the community

Several of the resources reviewed for the community needs assessment identified community priorities to strengthen culture, inclusivity, and diversity in the community.

Access to cultural experiences. Creating more opportunities for every community member to easily access cultural experiences close to home was identified as important to creating social connectedness. The Education Commission of the States Preparing Students for the Next America report outlines many positive impacts of arts education on student achievement.

37 Early Childhood Council of Boulder County’s, Early Childhood Framework
38 Community Foundation of Boulder County 2015 TRENDS report
39 Preparing Students for the Next America, Benefits of an Arts Education
Attachment A. DRAFT Master Plan Part Two

**Gathering space.** Strengthening relationships, building resilience, intimacy and character of neighborhoods is accomplished by supporting culture and creating inviting places for people to gather and interact. Like sentiments shared by the community in the Parks and Recreation master planning process, library patrons also expressed the desire for more places and events to engage the community, such as block parties and local celebrations. They also identified the need for productive spaces for community members experiencing homelessness, near-homelessness and mental illness to spend time during the day. All the BPL facilities serve as community gathering spaces. Several public meeting rooms, study rooms and the Canyon Theater serve as venues for patrons to create opportunities to interact with one another.

**Performance space.** The Boulder Community’s Culture Plan recommended creating and enhancing venues for visual and performing arts to provide flexible and affordable options for studio, rehearsal, performance, and exhibition space for the community. The library currently provides meeting room facilities and the Main Library Canyon Theater for cultural uses. Improving the flexibility of the Canyon Theater venue to encourage equitable use and participation by community members of all age groups and income levels, and offering the space for nominal or no charge, are opportunities to address this community priority.

As the most prominent public facility anchoring the west bookend of Boulder’s Civic Area, BPL serves as a popular, welcoming destination for the community and visitors. Boulder’s Civic Area Plan outlines options to redevelop or add on to the north Main Library building to incorporate a small performing arts facility and meeting space. Further investigation is required to determine if significant renovation or reconfiguration of the building is feasible.

**Cultivate civic dialogue and participation**

Input received from community members who participated in the master planning process indicates that the community desires more opportunity to engage in civic dialogue on topics and issues that are linked to Boulder’s values and challenges. Results from the City of Boulder 2016 Community Survey indicated that most respondents kept themselves informed about major issues in the City of Boulder and felt included in the community. About one-third agreed that Boulder’s City Council implements policies that reflect the values of the community. About 20% of respondents indicated that they take initiative to share their views with elected officials or city staff. Finding new methods to engage more community members in civic decision-making is an opportunity for improvement. Further, most respondents to the Community Survey identified as Caucasian, which indicates an opportunity to increase engagement with Latino community members and others.

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40 Boulder Parks and Recreation Master Plan
41 Community Cultural Plan
42 Plan for Boulder’s Civic Area
43 participation graphic p.8 P.10 Reference City of Boulder Community Survey
The community leaders who were interviewed during the master planning process suggested the library could play an important role in providing a platform for community members to engage in civic dialogue with one another, rather than having their views simply amplified in separate silos. They want more community members to listen to each other and empathize with others’ challenges. They believe cultivating civil, civic participation will serve to develop leadership skills in the “next” generation of Boulder community members. They also cited the importance of creating convenient opportunities for community members with less time or finances to be civically engaged if they choose to, so that everyone’s voice can be heard, not just those who have greater resources.

Cultivating inclusivity and leadership. Respondents to the 2017 Community Foundation survey ranked Boulder County’s openness to seniors, immigrants, and racial and ethnic minorities at the bottom of the list, with openness toward the LGBT community and young adults without children at the top. Further, parents that are experiencing poverty are also underrepresented when policy decisions affecting them are being made. Boulder’s elected leadership, and its advisory boards and commissions, are not reflective of the racial and ethnic diversity of the city.

Community leaders interviewed during the master planning process suggested the library could play an important role through outreach to underserved members of the community to cultivate leadership and ensure their views are represented on community issues. This is achieved by going to the places where these community members work, live, and gather because they are often not able or comfortable with engaging in civic activities, or seeking services outside their communities. According to its mission, the library is an organization that represents and promotes inclusivity. Input from the community indicated that the library can take a more active role in reaching out to underserved groups to facilitate and encourage participation, specifically helping Latino parents with young children find their voices as community leaders.

Education. Providing accessible information about the challenges that many Boulder community members face, such as providing elder care, homelessness, mental illness, poverty, and isolation will serve to cultivate more empathy and understanding and cultivate cultural competency. As a gathering place that welcomes all members of the community, the library can serve as neutral platform for the community to explore these challenges and have meaningful, productive dialogue about possible solutions.

The library can also support the city government to inform productive community dialogue about issues with data. The City of Boulder Resilience Strategy stated goal is to convene some of the world’s great artists and media professionals to work with scientists, librarians and city officials to develop and refine data visualization systems to create a compelling community education and communication approach for decision making. The library can serve as a platform to publish this data and hold community dialogue to identify solutions for community issues.

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442017 Boulder Community Foundation TRENDS
**Attachment A. DRAFT Master Plan Part Two**

**Culture and creative expression.** The City of Boulder’s Community Cultural Plan emphasized the importance of culture in positively contributing to the economy, social offerings, the environment, and the authentic expression of diversity in Boulder. Developing Boulder’s creative identity so the city can continue to be an innovative world leader in cultural matters and projecting that creative identity to the region and the world are priorities. As a platform for engagement, the library can support the Cultural Plan goals, which include: Boulder residents understanding their role in the culture of the community, feeling access to information about culture is readily at hand, and feeling invited into the conversation. In addition to serving as a platform, the library also offers resources, tools, and programs that support community members’ expression of their culture, creativity and innovative ideas.

**Accessible neighborhoods**

Boulder’s employers are concentrated in three main areas: East Boulder, Gunbarrel and Downtown. Twenty Ninth Street comprised by the Crossroads subcommunity, Boulder Junction, and the North Boulder subcommunity is another area in the city with a significant number of employers. Boulder’s employers and members of its workforce who reside in the community are drawn to areas that have a variety of recreational amenities, retail stores, restaurants, the arts, and that are walkable with convenient access to public transportation, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.

During the past few years the main employment centers in East Boulder and Gunbarrel have begun to grow the variety of uses, services, and amenities available. Continued development in these areas will support the community’s vision of a progressive urban design that:

- Prioritizes and supports pedestrian travel as the primary mode of travel throughout the community,
- Gives more community members the opportunity to live and work in compact, walkable neighborhoods and mixed-use districts, and
- Increases the number of age-friendly neighborhoods with access to essential services and attractive amenities being seamless, barrier-free, affordable, and welcoming.

BPL must consider the geographic distribution of its services in its long-range planning. Thirty percent of respondents to the BPL Master Plan community survey indicated they use a branch library most frequently. Several of the focus group participants without a library in their neighborhood, said they choose the library facility that is most convenient to where they work or are running errands. In some cases, this means they use libraries in neighboring cities.

Directing services and focusing expansion of library services into areas that are expected to grow will support Boulder’s value of walkable neighborhoods. Having libraries near shopping areas has a positive economic impact and supports the goal of reducing car trips.

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45 Community Cultural Plan
46 City of Boulder Economic Sustainability Strategy
[This section will flow into the Master Plan goals.]
Commission Memo

Meeting Date: April 4, 2018 – Main Library, Canyon Meeting Room

Upcoming Special meetings:

Possible May study session on master plan: pick one of these dates -

Monday, May 14 - Joel, Juana
Tuesday, May 15 - Joel, Juana
Thursday, May 24 - Joel, Juana, Joni

City Master Plan approval process (Planning Board and Council review)

- June 21: Master Plan presentation to Planning Board
- July 17: Master Plan presentation to City Council

Library Commission Annual Retreat - pick one of these dates

- July 7
- July 14

The Library Commission Master Calendar (updated) is accessible in Google Drive and included in this packet (following the Commission memo).

To see meeting dates and tentative meeting topics for 2018, go to Library Commission 2018 meeting plan

Interesting Upcoming Dates (from ALA Website)

D.E.A.R. - Drop Everything and Read - April 12

D.E.A.R. stands for "Drop Everything and Read," a national month-long celebration of reading designed to remind folks of all ages to make reading a priority activity in their lives. You may remember that Beverly Cleary wrote about D.E.A.R. in Ramona Quimby, Age 8. Since then, "Drop Everything and Read" programs have been held nationwide on April 12th in honor of Mrs. Cleary’s birthday. We figured, why not "drop" the "day" and celebrate our beloved author, her timeless stories, and the joy of reading for the full month. So, "drop" by this website all month long in April and anytime you want to make reading a priority! D.E.A.R. is sponsored by the National Education Association (NEA); Parent Teacher Association (PTA); ALA’s Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC, a division of the American Library Association); Reading Rockets; The General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC); the American Press Institute; First Book; HarperCollins Children’s Books; Read Kiddo Read;
Walden Media and Ramona Quimby.

**National Library Week** - April 8-14, 2018
First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries -- school, public, academic and special -- participate. For previous honorary chairpersons and event themes, see National Library Week History.

Future National Library Week dates are on the National Library Week/School Library Month Fact Sheet.

**National Library Workers Day** - April 10, 2018 (Tuesday of National Library Week)
The American Library Association-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA), the organization for the advancement of library employees, annually sponsors National Library Workers Day, which falls on the Tuesday of National Library Week. First celebrated in 2004, the purpose is to recognize all library workers, including librarians, support staff and others who make library service possible every day.

**National Bookmobile Day** - April 11, 2018 (Wednesday of National Library Week)
First celebrated in 2010 by the American Library Association Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services, the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach Service (ABOS), and the Association for Rural & Small Libraries (ARSL). National Bookmobile Day is an annual celebration of the contributions of our nation's bookmobiles and the dedicated professionals who make quality bookmobile outreach possible in their communities.

**Money Smart Week®** - April 21-28, 2018
The American Library Association (ALA) joined in a partnership with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago to make Money Smart Week® @ your library a national initiative, which was first held April 2-9, 2011. Celebrating its 15th year in 2016 (and its sixth as a national ALA initiative), Money Smart Week® - http://www.moneysmartweek.org - is a public awareness campaign designed to help consumers better manage their personal finances.
This is achieved through the collaboration and coordinated effort of hundreds of organizations across the country including businesses, financial institutions, schools, libraries, not-for-profits, government agencies and the media. These groups come together once a year to stress the importance of financial literacy, inform consumers about where they can get help and provide free educational seminars and activities throughout the week. Programming is offered to all demographics and income levels and covers all facets of personal finance from establishing a budget to first time home buying to estate planning. The effort was created by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago in 2002.

**Children's Day/Book Day - El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día) - April 30**

Children's Day/Book Day, also known as El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día), is a celebration of children, families, and reading and held annually on April 30. The celebration emphasizes the importance of advocating literacy for every child regardless of linguistic and cultural background. Through several grants from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, ALA's Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC, a division of ALA) continues to increase public awareness of the event in libraries throughout the country. ALSC is collaborating on this effort with the Founding Partner of Día, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking (REFORMA). Día is an enhancement of Children’s Day, which began in 1925. Children’s Day was designated as a day to bring attention to the importance and well-being of children. In 1996, nationally acclaimed children’s book author Pat Mora proposed linking the celebration of childhood and children with literacy to found El día de los niños/El día de los libros.

El 30 de abril es una fecha muy significativa para los niños. Se celebra el día de los niños y de los libros. Esta celebración se conoce como El día de los niños/ El día de los libros, y celebra la alegría y las maravillas de la infancia y la importancia de los libros en nuestra vida. Póngase en contacto REFORMA con preguntas.

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**Choose Privacy Week - May 1-7**

Choose Privacy Week, first observed by the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) in 2010, is an initiative that invites library users into a national conversation about privacy rights in a digital age. The campaign gives libraries the tools they need to educate and engage users, and gives citizens the resources to think critically and make more informed choices about their privacy.
National Library Legislative Day - May 7-8, 2018
The American Library Association, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), the District of Columbia Library Association (DCLA) and the Special Libraries Association (SLA) sponsor National Library Legislative Day.

GLBT Book Month™ - June
Starting in 2015, the American Library Association marked GLBT Book Month™, a nationwide celebration of the authors and writings that reflect the lives and experiences of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. Originally established in the early 1990s by The Publishing Triangle as National Lesbian and Gay Book Month, June 2015 marked the first commemoration of GLBT Book Month™ to be held under ALA’s auspices. GLBT Book Month™ is an initiative of the American Library Association, and is coordinated through its Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table. To help libraries mark the occasion, ALA has launched the GLBT Book Month online resource center, featuring tipsheets and downloadable materials. Contact ALA’s Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services with questions.

Created to increase the recognition of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender writing. Begun in 1992 by The Publishing Triangle, June was selected in honor of the anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Riot in New York City. It was this brave resistance to police harassment that kickstarted the gay pride movement in the US. [Description provided by Chase’s Calendar of Events.] To be celebrated by libraries, bookstores, publishers and bibliophiles everywhere. Read about the event's creation yet bittersweet success from quotes by Lawrence Schimel (labeling it National LGBT Book Month) in this May 30, 2014 HuffPost Gay Voices article by Julie R. Enszer.

1. Items from Commission

2. BLF Update (verbal)
3. Updates from Commissioners Representing the Commission in other Venues (verbal)

EcoDistricts
Central Broadway Corridor Design Framework

4. Update on Emails & Phone Calls to Library Commission

March 7, 2018

Dear Joni,

I'm sorry I have delayed in researching the question of how Library District elections are held if they are not coordinated with one or more counties. It seemed to me that they are a kind of Special District and thus could hold uncoordinated elections under Title 1, Article 13.5.

Below is a helpful answer on this topic. However, the legislature has not revised some applicable statutes, so confusing provisions remain. I think you will find Jacqueline Murphy's colleague's answer to be one more concern to be added to the discussion about the pros and cons of running a Library District.

My personal concern is that if we form a Library District and then down the road hold an election that is not coordinated through the county clerk(s), the opportunities for mistakes and mischief are increased if our election were under Title 1, Article 13.5, the Colorado Local Government Election Code. That code does not have the protections built in that are into Title 1, Articles 1-13, termed the Uniform Election Code of 1992. Citizens deserve to have the higher-quality election protections afforded under the UEC even if the election question is not tax related.

I hope you will take this concern and the facts presented below to heart as the discussion concerning Library District management proceeds. Also, as we discussed, I hope that we Boulderites will focus on ways to influence the City Council to fund our wonderful library system adequately, perhaps by grants to support the patrons who live outside of Boulder. We Boulderites have been successful in influencing City Council in the past. Bookmarks for patrons could give the council members' email and a timely message, for example--probably paid for by other than taxpayer dollars.

Thank you,
Mary

Mary C. Eberle
1520 Cress Court
Ms. Eberle –

Your inquiry about the Boulder County library district election was passed along to me by Jacqueline Murphy for response. While this cannot be considered definitive legal advice on statutory law, my understanding is the only option for the creation of a library district in Boulder/Boulder County would be a coordinated November election… the Colorado Local Government Election Code (article 13.5, title 1) is unavailable to municipalities, counties and library districts, at least at the present time. To elaborate:

Section 24-90-107 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (provided as an attachment) says a library district can be formed in one of two ways:
1) by the legislative bodies of one or more governmental units (so, the City of Boulder and perhaps Boulder County) via resolution or ordinance; or
2) by a petition of registered electors of the proposed library district.

If the district is formed by submission of a petition of registered electors, the governmental units encompassed by the proposed district can either create the district by resolution or ordinance, or can submit the question of organization of the district to the electors. In both instances (formation by legislative bodies of one or more governmental units, or formation after receipt of a petition), if additional tax support or debt authorization is needed for the district, a TABOR election must held (I’ve included 24-90-112 and 24-90-112.5 as part of the attachment).

Library district organizational elections are held in accordance with articles 1 to 13 of Title 1, CRS (the Uniform Election Code of 1992), and, if there’s a tax or debt increase, section 20 of article X of the state constitution (TABOR). Article 13.5 of Title 1, CRS (the Colorado Local Government Election Code), does not apply to counties or municipalities. Since the election for the creation of the district would likely be a Boulder County election, Article 13.5 would not be available for the organization of the library district. Tax levy elections are conducted by the County on behalf of the library district, and debt authorization elections can be conducted by either the County or the library district.

Since a library district can conduct its own debt authorization elections (it doesn’t have to go through the County), one could make the argument that the library district could utilize
the Colorado Local Government Election Code….except that 24-90-112.5(2.5)(c) explicitly states that the debt authorization election has to be conducted as provided in articles 1 to 13 of title 1, C.R.S. I have been told that when the state legislature added article 13.5 to title 1 in 2014, they should have gone through ALL the statutes and fixed the relevant references so that they read “articles 1 to 13.5 of title 1, CRS,” but they did not (and have not).

I hope this helps, and do let me know if you have additional questions.

Eugene Hainer
Assistant Commissioner
Colorado State Library
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hainer_g@cde.state.co.us  |  www.cde.state.co.us

Hi, Mary -

Here is what the Commission has learned about library district elections since you and I last corresponded.

The City could decide to establish a library district within City boundaries solely on its own through a municipal election.

If the proposed district boundaries include areas in the unincorporated County (including City enclaves and properties outside City boundaries), both the City and County would
need to be parties to an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the library district. (This would likely be one IGA, but could be separate, coordinated IGAs.)

The IGA would spell out the rights and responsibilities of all parties, and would establish governance parameters for the District. The main IGA details would need to be spelled out in advance of an election, with the agreement taking effect upon passage of the measure.

If the City and County agree that a library district is desirable, they can establish the District directly through the IGA. In this scenario, the only issue that goes to the voters is the amount of the mill levy.

The City/County could decide to put the question of whether to form a district on the ballot by resolution; the question could also by put on the ballot by petition. If the districting question is placed on the ballot through citizen petition or government resolution, then voters are asked two questions: whether to establish the District, and approval of the mill levy amount dedicated to fund the District.

A primary objective of forming a library district for Boulder would be to shift the primary source of funding from sales tax revenues (which fluctuate a lot) to property tax revenues (which tend to be stable and do a better job of keeping up with growth in demand).

The County manages property taxes. If an election is successful, the County would annually pass through the appropriate amount of property tax revenues collected in the previous year to the District (as the County does now for all districts and municipalities within the county).

On funding: I agree that it would be wonderful if the City could fully fund the library, but I fear that this is becoming increasingly unlikely. Most of Boulder's budget (about ⅔) is "dedicated funding" (either utility funding or funds earmarked for specific purposes by the voters). The ~ ⅓ of revenues remaining (the "General Fund") is used to support all of the City's basic services (police, fire, human services, library, parks, etc.), plus any Council initiatives. The General Fund is already woefully over-subscribed, and the library is not the only department operating on less revenue than is desirable.

To complicate the funding picture further, the bulk of General Fund revenues come from sales tax dollars, which have been declining in Boulder for some years. For the next budget year, the City Finance Department projects a shortfall of several million dollars based on the City's current budget. So the prospect of increasing library funding (to meet either current deficiencies or new services like NoBo expansion) is looking increasingly dim.

The Master Plan is still on track to be completed in May, with approval by Council scheduled for July. Master Plan approval does not carry funding commitments, however, and we anticipate further discussions with Council about funding options for the library continuing in the Fall.
BPL staff and the Commission are continuing to explore funding options within the City, as well as scoping out how various districting scenarios might play out. Staff is planning to send a memo to Council on this topic in the April timeframe. The Commission is also planning to send a letter to Council outlining library funding needs for the next two-five years, as Council takes up discussions on next year’s budget (April timeframe).

'Tis a puzzlement...

Thanks for your continued interest in this critical issue - and for your support of our wonderful library!

- Joni

Hi, Joni, March 7

Thank you for this update. One caveat that I would like you to be aware of is that a Boulder municipal election would not necessarily be under the Uniform Election Code (Title 1, Articles 1-13). It could instead be under the "Colorado Municipal Election Code of 1965" (Title 31, Article 10), which is as inadequate as the Colorado Local Government Election Code when it comes to certain safeguards.

Thank you for all the heavy lifting on behalf of our library!

Best,
Mary

March 19

Mary, I just wanted to let you know that I forwarded your "caution" about lack of safeguards in municipal elections to the city attorney's office and am still waiting for a response. Can you be more specific about the lack of safeguards to which you are referring? The only thing I've seen is around cybersecurity.

Thanks - Joni

On Mon, Mar 19, 2018 at 6:41 PM Mary Eberle <m.eberle@wordrite.com> wrote:

Hi Joni,

First, I am not a lawyer. Second, as I reread Mr. Hainer's email, I realized that he forgot the attachments. I will ask him to send them on tomorrow.

Did you send Mr. Hainer's response to the city attorney's office?

It would be helpful all around if the city attorney's office did a point-by-point comparison of the three election codes:
- Uniform Election Code (UEC),
- Colorado Municipal Election Code of 1965 (MEC), and
• Colorado Local Government Election Code (Local Government means "Special District" as I understand it).
If that effort is made, I would be most interested in the result, and I think the citizens need to know about the details if the district question goes forward.

Cybersecurity around elections is definitely the new concern. Depending on choices Boulder would make in running an election under the MEC or letting the district run an election as a Local Government, cybersecurity could be more or less of a concern.

Other hazards are due to differences in the three election codes. Could you ask the city attorney’s office to compare the ability of watchers to watch in a municipal election or a special district election to watchers’ ability in a UEC election (the UEC controls the election procedures Boulder follows when it coordinates election contests and issues with the county clerk)? Are there differences in signature verification requirements? Will there be risk-limiting audits to check against tabulation problems? I don't think so. And outside a UEC election, the composition of the canvass board would likely not include those who have the most experience with canvassing our elections, i.e., the partisan political appointees.

Apparently, a library district would need to be formed via a UEC election, according to Mr. Hainer's response below. But what about future library district elections?

One way around the problem might be to have the district encompass the entire county, but not extend outside it. Bring all the libraries into a Boulder County Library District. Then I think all elections concerning such a district would be under the Uniform Election Code. The city attorney could look into a county-wide scenario and determine whether that is the case.

Nevertheless, I remain hopeful that funding can be sufficient to avoid taking the district approach.

Thank you for all your hard work on the commission.

Best,
Mary

March 20, 2018

Thanks for your additional thoughts, Mary. Let me try to clarify some areas of confusion.

Libraries are not "special districts." As Mr. Hainey noted, library districts are governed by their own statutory language, so legal provisions applicable to special districts do not apply to library districts. Library districts are also not municipalities, so statutory provisions applicable to municipalities would not apply to library districts either. This includes provisions governing elections: as Mr. Hainey states, library district elections
are held under the provisions of the UEC. As I read his note and the statutory language, this is the only way that a library district can be formed. ("

Library district organizational elections are held in accordance with articles 1 to 13 of Title 1, CRS (the Uniform Election Code of 1992) ...
"

Once a library district is formed, the only reason for additional elections would be to change the property tax mill rate. That kind of election would also be conducted under the EUC. So all library district ballot measures would be handled by the Boulder County Clerk.

Unlike special districts, library districts are not governed by an elected board. Library district trustees are appointed through a process established by the municipal bodies who created the district - in our case, the County Commissioners and the City Council. Candidate qualifications and the process for appointment would be established in the library district agreement negotiated between the City and County.

Library district boundaries would be established by the City and County, and administered through the County Clerk's office for voting purposes. There is no requirement that district boundaries match the boundaries of a city or county - in fact, a main objective in forming a library district is to establish district boundaries which reflect the patron base, which usually extends beyond the boundaries of a city.

Since the County Clerk handles all library district elections under the UEC, there is no requirement - or advantage - to have library district boundaries match county boundaries. Because east Boulder county communities (including Longmont, Erie, Louisville and Lafayette) already have their own established library districts, a Boulder county-wide district is highly unlikely. As you probably know, all of these libraries (except Erie) already share collection resources with BPL through the Flatirons Library Consortium, a development that has provided greatly expanded access to materials for all of the patrons within those systems. [http://info.flatironslibrary.org](http://info.flatironslibrary.org) (Erie, whose city boundaries straddle Boulder and Weld Counties, is already part of a library district: the High Plains Library District).

I hope this information helps to clarify your questions about how a library district election would be held.

The Commission continues to explore options for the library’s long term financial sustainability, including the possibility of additional - and predictable - City funding. It is our intent to have the library master plan (scheduled for Council approval in July) outline these options in some detail. We will also be sending a letter to Council in April outlining BPL’s funding needs for the 2019-2020 budget years. Since the City’s Finance Office is projecting growing budget deficits within the City budget beginning next year, it should be an interesting discussion.

Thanks again for your interest and your support for our library!
Joni

March 23
Hi, Mary -

I wanted to let you know that I heard back from the City Attorney, Tom Carr. Here is what he said:

"The short answer is that the Colorado Municipal Election Code would not apply to any Boulder election. All city elections are coordinated elections run by the county. We believe that adequate safeguards are in place."

Thanks again for your support -

Joni
# Boulder Public Library Commission
## Master Calendar

### Matters From:
- Library Commission
- Staff
- Boulder Library Foundation

### January
- **Library Commission**
  - Review Library Commission handbook
  - Assist with recruiting new library Commissioner
- **City Council Annual Retreat**
  - Submit Library Commission’s annual letter to City Council
  - Plan review and updates of library rules and policies
- **Staff**
  - Report on outcome of City Council retreat
  - Review director’s operational service plan
  - Plan review and progress on Master Plan goals and objectives
- **Boulder Library Foundation**
  - BPL Director present the annual report for preceding fiscal year and package of recommended programs for upcoming fiscal year

### February
- **Library Commission candidate applications due**
- **Library Commission candidate applications due**
  - Approve Library Commission handbook updates
  - **Board Business Meeting**
  - BPL Director responds to questions raised in January
  - Board acts on program and activities proposed by BPL

### March
- **Appreciation of Library Commissioner whose term ends**
- **Present annual library usage statistics**
- **Staff**
  - **Board Working Meeting**
  - Vote on BPL Director funding request

### April
- **Welcome and administer oath of office to new commissioner**
- **Elec new Library Commissioner officers and Boulder Library Foundation members**
- **Take new photo for Library Commission website**
- **Volunteer Appreciation Week**
  - **Budget:** Present 1st round of Adjustment to Base requests
- **Business Meeting**
  - Present Q1 library usage statistics
  - Present Summer Reading Program plan

### May
- **Provide input on upcoming years’ recommended budget**
  - **Budget:** Present City Manager’s recommended budget for upcoming year
  - **Annual retreat**

### June
- **Annual retreat**
  - **Business Meeting**
  - BLF budget finalized, including fund-raising plan for the following year

### July
- **ANNUAL RETREAT**
  - **Board Working Meeting**
  - BLF Executive Committee and BPL Director establish a program schedule for the following year

### August
- **Approve Warner Charitable Trust contribution**
- **Present Q2 library usage statistics**
- **Budget:** Present outcome of 1st round of Adjust to Base requests and update on City Managers recommended budget for the upcoming year

### September
- **Colorado Association of Libraries Annual Conference**
  - **Budget:** Present final round of Adjustment to Base requests
  - **Business Meeting – operational budget approved and dispersal schedule established**

### October
- **Draft annual letter to City Council**
- **Review Library Commission application questions**
- **Present Q3 library usage statistics**
- **Submit Library Commission application questions following the meeting**
- **Budget:** Present update on approved city budget for the upcoming year

### November
- **Draft annual letter to City Council**
- **Review Library Commission application questions**
  - **Business Meeting**
  - BLF budget finalized, including fund-raising plan for the following year
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
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| • Finalize annual letter to City Council  
• Review BLF fund-raising successes from previous year, and fund-raising plans for the upcoming year with BLF Executive Committee | • Report on Boulder Library Foundation grant requests submitted | • Budget: Present outcome of final round of Adjustment to Base requests |
To: Library Commissioners
From: David Farnan, Library and Arts Director
Jennifer Phares, Deputy Library Director

Date: March 30, 2018
Subject: Library Commission meeting plan update

The 2018 Library Commission meeting plan is Attachment A. Staff would like to discuss the following recommended changes (highlighted in yellow in the attachment) with the Library Commission.

- Postpone discussion of expanding the holds service until October 2018.
- Postpone review and discussion of information about eliminating library fines until December 2018.
- Postpone recommendation on whether to eliminate library fines until January 2019.
- Confirm date for July 2018 Library Commission retreat.
- Select date of May 2018 Library Commission study session for final input on the Master Plan.

These changes are proposed because staff thinks more time will need to be devoted to completing the Library Master Plan and the associated implementation plan.
## Library Commission 2018 meeting plan

The list below is a proposed, tentative schedule for matters that staff will bring for the Library Commission’s consideration in 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DISCUSSION TOPICS</th>
<th>MEETING LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>Draft Master Plan review</td>
<td>Main Library, Canyon Meeting Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Session</td>
<td>5-year operating and capital cost estimate</td>
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<td>February 7</td>
<td>Draft Master Plan review</td>
<td>Main Library, Canyon Meeting Room</td>
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<td>Library district presentation</td>
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<td>Commission/ staff plan community dialogue</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Draft Master Plan review</td>
<td>Meadows Branch, 4800 Baseline Rd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Draft Master Plan review</td>
<td>Main Library, Canyon Meeting Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Options for expanding holds service</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Review of final draft Master Plan document</td>
<td>Main Library, Canyon Meeting Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Prepare update to Landmarks Board about Master Plan</td>
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<td>May Study Session</td>
<td></td>
<td>Main Library Canyon Meeting Room</td>
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<td>June 6</td>
<td>Review of final draft Master Plan document, continued</td>
<td>Carnegie Library, 1125 Pine St.</td>
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<td>Review staff presentation on the Master Plan to Planning Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 7 or 14</td>
<td>Review staff presentation on the Master Plan to City Council</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>Retreat</td>
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<td>August 1</td>
<td>Review draft Internet Safety Policy</td>
<td>Main Library, Canyon Meeting Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td>Approval of Internet Safety Policy</td>
<td>Main Library, Canyon Meeting Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 3</td>
<td>Review and discuss information about eliminating library fines</td>
<td>George Reynolds Branch, 3595 Table Mesa Dr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 7</td>
<td>Recommendation on whether to eliminate library fines</td>
<td>Main Library, Canyon Meeting Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Main Library, Canyon Meeting Room</td>
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*Date not confirmed.*
City budget

The City is projecting a $4 million budget shortfall in 2018 due to flat sales tax revenues. All general fund departments have been asked to propose potential cost saving measures for the remainder of the year. Council will discuss the shortfall at an April 24, 2018 study session. We anticipate that they will make some recommendations for a path forward as early as May of this year.

Council Information Packet (IP) memo on future library funding

I hope to have a draft of the Council IP memo on Library Funding Needs and Financing Options in time for the commission to review for this meeting. As of the packet deadline, the memo is still being reviewed.

The memo outlines Master Plan goals, the estimated cost of each broad item (such as ‘maintain core services,’ ‘enhanced services,’ North Boulder Library, etc.) and goes into some detail about the manner in which the city of Boulder could fund the library’s future needs. The three city funding scenarios outlined are a.) reallocate current city funds, b.) request voters dedicate a new sales tax for the library, and c.) increase the dedicated property tax for the library. These options are discussed in detail including costs per household, dollars generated, etc. The memo also acknowledges that Council requested information about forming a district and stipulates that information about a district will be included in the Master Plan in July 2018.

Discontinuation of the Boopsie mobile app

The library will be discontinuing the Boopsie mobile library app, also known as BPL Mobile or the Boulder Public Library app as of May 31, 2018. Instead, patrons should use the library’s website (boulderlibrary.org) and catalog (boulder.flatironslibrary.org). Optimized for mobile devices, these sites provide additional resources that are not available on the app, such as:

- Better access to research databases, and downloading and streaming resources;
- The ability to download a book straight from the catalog;
- More up to date catalog information about library materials – what is available and what is checked out; and
- Patrons can sign up to receive text messages when books are ready to pick up at the library.

BPL’s catalog and website provide a simpler, yet more robust library experience for patrons. The link to the app on the library’s website will be removed and the 400 registered users will be notified if they log in to the app before the service is discontinued. Staff were given this information on March 19, 2018 and will be ready to assist any app users who have questions.
Public Library Conference in Philadelphia

Three staff members including myself attended the national PLA conference the week of March 20th in Philadelphia. This conference occurs every two years and is a great place to discuss current trends and library data. The keynote speaker for the conference was Sally Yates. Ms. Yates served as the United States Deputy Attorney General having been appointed during the Barack Obama administration. She is probably most famous however for her 10-day stint as Acting Attorney General after the inauguration of Donald Trump. She was dismissed for insubordination for instructing the Justice Department to not make legal arguments defending the travel ban. She gave an impassioned speech about the role of libraries defending truth and making information freely available.

Most of the sessions I attended had to do with programs Boulder Public Library is considering in the context of our master plan, such as outreach and service to underserved populations, programs focused on data, and a community wireless provisions.

The conference coincided with the release of an updated edition of From Awareness to Funding: Voter Perceptions and Support of Public Libraries in 2018. This survey is an update of a seminal piece of library research from 2008. It surveys a broad swath of voters about use and perceptions of public libraries. I shared the original study from 2008 with the library commission prior to beginning the Master Plan work. The findings on a national level are sobering. Nearly every metric used has shown a decline in public support. It is worth noting that we used a question in our survey last summer from the original report. The question is “would you be willing to pay more taxes to fund public library services.” Our survey last summer showed that 72% of Boulder respondents would probably or definitely vote to increase taxes. The 2018 Awareness study shows that nationally 58% would probably or definitely vote yes. The full 34-page report is worth reading.

https://www.oclc.org/content/dam/oclc/reports/awareness-to-funding-2018/2018_From_Awareness_to_Funding_Report.pdf

Libraries at the polls

Library Journal tracked 133 library ballot measures across 24 states in 2017. The February 15, 2018 article states:

“A majority [85] were for operating funds to maintain or expand library programs, staffing, services and collections. 83 of 85 measures [98%] passed. Ballot questions related to updating, renovating or building new library facilities had a 72% success rate [28 of 39 measures.] All nine of the “governance” related questions, such as establishing a district or annexing new areas for service into a district also passed. Overall, 90% of all library ballots passed in 2017, in red states and blue ones, in small towns and in big cities, as components of larger municipal questions or as dedicated library measures.”

The February 15, 2018 Library Journal has several pertinent articles for our current work. I encourage Commission to read them if you have the time. The one cited above on elections https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2018/02/budgets-funding/breaking-records-polls-budgets-funding/ and another on national trends in library budgets https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2018/02/budgets-funding/holding-pattern-budgets-funding/#. You can also find an article on effective strategies for winning at the ballot box https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2018/02/budgets-funding/win-ballot-box-budgets-funding/ and how a few libraries have utilized unexpected donations https://lj.libraryjournal.com/2018/02/budgets-funding/found-money-budgets-funding/.
"I'm writing to you as a former patron of the Meadows Branch library. As a young child I spent many an hour at your library, as I attended Horizons k-8 from 3rd to 8th grade and often waited at the library after school for my mother to finish work and pick me up. For a while, the library was only a place to sojourn. I’d do a little homework, smuggle snacks into the study rooms (sorry!) and count the minutes until I could go home.

Around 6th grade, though, I started to spend more time browsing the shelves. I loved the YA literature section especially for its depth and breadth. I will never forget the day I pulled a collection of short stories called “glr2grl” and started to read the back cover to discover it was about girls who loved one another. As a kid, I was so deeply unaccustomed to having myself represented in popular media and art that it seemed impossible that there were books about people like me.

When I pulled the book off the shelf, at first, I was totally transfixed: could it be? My heart soured and threatened to jump out my chest entirely. Then I felt fear: I knew I wanted to check the book out and take it home with me, to waltz with its words and in that way be known. But even as a young child, I felt something about the subject was taboo, not widely discussed. What if, as I was checking out the book, the librarian realized what I was up to? (As someone who now works in a library, I know it is literally part of my job to withhold judgment on what patrons borrow – but at the time it was a very real fear.) When I finally mustered up the brawn to check out the book, I couched it in a collection of other “straight” books, just to be safe. Of course, the librarian did not bat an eye lash.

As I prepare to graduate from college this May, I have been pondering gratitude and how I came to be the person I am today, safe and loved and bright. I want you all to know that the impact you have at the Meadows Branch and all institutions of public knowledge, in helping people feel welcome to explore their identities. Especially in an era characterized by so much fear and uncertainty, please know that the work you do is immensely important. Librarians are superheroes.

- D. R.

Former scared 6th grader, current real-life happy queer person.