

Minutes

Michigan Center for Innovation and Reinvention Board

March 15, 2010

Forum

**Michigan Historical Center
702 W. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing**

The March 15, 2010, meeting of the Michigan Center for Innovation and Reinvention Board (MCIR) was held at the Michigan Historical Center, Forum, Lansing. Board members in attendance were Becky Humphries, Mike Flanagan, Gregory Eaton, Mike Moore, Nancy Skowronski, Mike Smith, and Bob Trezise. Board member Kate Pew Wolters joined the meeting via telephone conference. Staff attending were Sandra Clark, Nancy Robertson, Carol Wolenberg and Michelle Davis.

Director Humphries called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Following discussion of the draft minutes Mike Moore made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, supported by Gregory Eaton. Motion unanimously carried.

Historical Center Resources Discussion

Sandra Clark reviewed the material on the Historical Center budget, noting that the figures represent sources for funding spent during the fiscal year and do not include earned or donated income held for spending in future years. State funds cover staff and “general operating” costs, such as telephones, supplies, postage, and photocopy machines. The grant and Foundation support varies considerably year to year depending on the timing of projects. The Foundation and other support groups provide consistent funding for education and public programs, but such things as the construction of the new road for the Iron Industry Museum can represent several years of fund-raising. Future sustainability depends on increasing grant and philanthropic support as well as earned income. The second page of the budget information provided a comparison of previous fiscal year, current fiscal year and proposed 2010/2011 fiscal year funding. Clark also called attention to the organization charts and space utilization information provided to the Board.

Presentations Concerning History Programs

Kerry Chartkoff, Historian for the Michigan State Capitol – Ms. Chartkoff spoke regarding the “Save the Flags” program. Its mission is to research, preserve and display the Michigan battle flags that once were displayed in the State Capitol. Founded in 1991, it uses modest donations, often from school children to restore the flags. The flags are housed in specially designed racks in the Michigan Library and Historical Center and managed collaboratively with the Historical Center staff. Plans are to move the flags to better storage space within the building in order to better interpret and display the Civil War flags for the public. Chartkoff connected the flags to the other historic collections in the building and urged that Michigan resist the temptation to sacrifice things it should treasure for the future in order to meet a short-term fiscal crisis.

Matt VanAcker, Director of the Michigan State Capitol Tour Guide and Information Service – Mr. VanAcker spoke regarding the partnership between the staff at the Capitol and the staff at the Michigan Historical Center. Many of the 125,000 Capitol visitors tour both facilities on the same day. A great deal of that scheduling is done up to a year in advance by the staff at the Capitol. Mr. VanAcker stressed the importance of being able to educate our youth about the incredibly rich history of Michigan.

The board asked if there was a fee or stipend for the tours. Mr. Vanacker replied that there are no fees for the Capitol tours.

Bob Christensen, National Register Coordinator for the State Historic Preservation Office – Mr. Christensen spoke regarding the architectural value of the building. This building was designed to incorporate history and symbolize of our state. It is a significant example of Post-Modern Michigan architectural design.

Library of Michigan Resources Discussion

State Librarian Nancy Robertson discussed the sources of funding for the Library of Michigan. She noted that the Library has less of a public mission than that of the Historical Center. She explained the Library's priorities as first statewide services to Michigan libraries and reference services for state government, followed by holding genealogical collections and federal documents, and circulating collections to the public. She noted that \$4 million in federal funds support the Michigan eLibrary, (www.mel.org), which, among other important components, includes licensed commercially published databases for all libraries and residents in the state. If purchased separately by each library, the licensed databases would cost \$72 million combined.

Responding to Board questions, Robertson noted that as a Regional Federal Depository, the Library cares for approximately 1.7 million federally published items. It also plays an administrative role for the Selective Federal Depository collections that are in many Michigan libraries. She confirmed that there is nothing in the Executive Orders, state law or federal law that requires the Library of Michigan to be the Regional Federal Depository. However, its role is governed by an agreement with the Government Printing Office and ceasing to fill that role will require collaboration and consultation with the U.S. Government Printing Office. Digitization of federal documents may provide a way to make some of the information held in all Federal Depositories available in the future. While it is an option currently under consideration, digitization of all federal materials published to date is not feasible and is therefore not a realistic expectation.

The board asked what states do not have a regional federal depository, and how many state libraries are regional depositories. It requested additional information on the cost of being the Regional Federal Depository. Robertson clarified that no federal funds are provided to support the federal Regional Repository role.

Robertson estimated the annual operational cost of the non-Michigan genealogical collection, including space and management, as \$580,000, plus an additional \$25,000 per year to continue to add to the collection.

Presentation Concerning Genealogy Programs

Kurt Witcher, Senior Manger of Special Collection at the Allen County, Indiana, Public Library – Mr. Witcher spoke regarding genealogy and tourism. He noted that the collection in Fort Wayne, Indiana, draws people from every state and is a major tourism draw for the community. He noted that the library works with its local tourism bureau to promote genealogy and that interest in family history is continuing to grow as evidenced by recent television programs. He expects the trend to continue due to Baby Boomers reaching retirement and the celebration of the anniversaries of the War of 1812 and the Civil War. Fort Wayne estimates the impact of cultural tourism, including genealogy, on its economy at \$415 million per year.

Next Steps

The Board discussed a draft list of work groups and facilitated information sessions. It agreed to the following work groups:

1. Vision and Goals for the Building – Criteria for Future Building Use
 - a) Mike Smith
 - b) Nancy Skowronski
 - c) Bob Trezise

2. Collection Recommendations
 - a) Mike Smith
 - b) Mike Moore
 - c) Nancy Skowronski

3. Schools and Education Recommendations
 - a) Mike Moore

Additional board members will be added before the groups meet.

The board agreed to facilitated information sessions with the following groups:

Lansing Area Cultural Organizations
Related Statewide Associations
Academic Libraries
Lansing Area School Systems
After School Education
Middle/High School Leadership Academies
Education Efforts Focused on Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Mike Moore noted that the Board is faced with a challenging task, saying, “There is not an option to not do anything; the world has changed and we must try to progress with the times.”

Next Meeting

It was decided by the board to hold the next meeting on April 16, 2010, at 9:00. The location will be decided at a later time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Director Humphries opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Public Appearances

Roger Moffat, Western Michigan Genealogical Society – Taking into consideration that this facility was designed to be a Library, converting it to office space would be a huge expense to the State of Michigan. The genealogical collection has been accumulated over the past 180 years and is one of the 10 largest collections in the country today. Protecting the collection from being scattered should be our top priority.

Mary Lou Duncan, Detroit Society for Genealogical Research – Michigan’s history is not defined by boundaries. It is important to be able to research the outlying states in order to help individuals find their roots. Keeping the genealogical collection together is the most efficient way for the research to be accomplished.

Byron Bailey, Farmington Genealogical Society – Being able to find my heritage has filled a huge void in my life. The Library of Michigan was a major reason that I am now able to tell my children and grandchildren that my ancestors have been in the United States since the 1600s. We were also able to trace the arrival of my wife’s Polish ancestors back to the 1870s. Please help us to keep our heritage alive at the Library of Michigan by keeping this collection intact.

Barbara (Bobbi) Snow, Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County – Being able to access dozens of resources under one roof is likely to save a researcher many, many hours. Therefore, keeping the Library of Michigan and the State Archives together is of great importance to genealogical researchers. In time, Michigan will enjoy a better economy. We must not lose this invaluable and irretrievable collection by scattering it.

Grove Sandrock, Ingham Genealogical Society – The genealogical collection is a history of Michigan’s people and needs to be retained intact as their heritage. The more we know about ourselves, the better decisions we make. Dismemberment of the collection will destroy what is currently one of the 10 best repositories in the United States. The economic fortunes for the State of Michigan will improve and decisions should not be made that cannot be repaired when better times return.

Thomas Koselka, Dearborn Genealogical Society – The Library of Michigan has survived and remained strong through the Civil War, two World Wars, the Great Depression and numerous recessions. It is currently ranked as one of the top ten genealogy libraries in the nation and is considered to be one of the top state libraries in the nation. With that said, moving assets to the Archives side of the building is an option to keep the collections under one roof. Several donors are enthusiastic about the potential of expanding the partnership between the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan. NBC has a program “Who Do You Think You Are” that is on Friday night at 8:00 p.m. Take the time to watch and see how they have utilized libraries, archives, courthouses and local historians. British genealogical facilities have seen a remarkable increase in use due to the British version of this same program.

Frank Boles, Michigan Genealogical Society – The genealogical collection is extremely important and a great intellectual asset. The collection does not divide along geographic lines or any other simple way. It is built around people and their families rather than geography and political subdivisions. The collection is also an important economic asset; genealogy is one of the fastest growing vacation travel markets. The wisdom of transferring the collection as a whole is a must. If it must go, it must remain intact, and the Archives of Michigan would be a great home.

Sue Chinault, Services For the Blind and Physically Handicapped – They currently have facilities housed in the Michigan Historical Center. Accessibility is very important to the handicapped community and making location adjustments would affect them immensely. Their services are 90% subsidized by the Federal government with the remainder being funded by the State of Michigan.

Laura Ashlee- The Michigan Library and Historical Center and its contents belong to the people of Michigan. State government is merely the caretaker. Preserving the past is not a luxury; it is a necessity if people are to understand the society and the place in which they live. The collections should remain intact and accessible to the public.

Chris Czopek, Sons of Union Veterans – There are 60,000 Civil War veteran graves in Michigan and approximately one-third of those veterans were not from Michigan originally. Both genealogical collections are essential to properly research them. The collections need to stay together to help further the education of our youth.

Elaine Davis, historical research consultant – Comments on the February 18 document: Federal documents comprise about one-third of the Michigan Law Library and the entire collection must remain whole if it is returned to Washington, D.C. It is very important to have an estimate as to the cost of moving the entire collection before a decision is made. The Abrams Foundation has donated over \$2 million to the Library of Michigan for the genealogical program. People come from all over the United States and even foreign countries to use these valuable books. What would be gained by breaking up this collection? MeL made it possible for the State Library to truly become a “State Library” and reach the public. The circulation of the main book collection will disappear and what will become of the 2 million books in that collection.

Sheila Mott, general public – After spending many hours using the genealogical collection housed at the Library of Michigan, it is evident to a researcher that the non-Michigan genealogical collection compliments the Michigan genealogical collection. It is extremely important to keep the collections together for future use.

Tony Mott, general public – Our collections are very precious and we need to make sure it is kept together in its entirety.

Judith Dow, general public (retired librarian) – In referring to the general main, Dewey and reference collections, we should ask why should the State be required to give these books away when there is substantial monetary value for many of them? Once they are given away, the facility that obtains them will be allowed to sell them for a profit. Why shouldn't the state of Michigan have that same opportunity?

Virginia Hutcheson, Lansing Woman's Club – Members research, write and present papers on a weekly basis and use the Library of Michigan's collections extensively. Michigan has always had a library, dating back to 1828. Nothing can replace a library and those who have spent years and years of hard work to build this facility are less than pleased with the current destruction of the legacy. Our legacy of 182 years of dedicated growth and development should be preserved.

Roni Sionakidos, general public – As a citizen who has worked for various state departments, she has had the privilege of using the wonderful collections at the Library of Michigan. She was required to find historical information in order to perform her job and she was only able to succeed at her task because of the collections found at this facility.

J. William Gorski, general public – With \$30,000 and much research, Mr. Gorski put together much of Polish collection in the Library of Michigan. As individuals age, they need to find new hobbies. For him, playing hockey, golf, and other such activities, was replaced by researching heritage. The genealogical collections need to stay together for the future of Michigan.

Caroline Scholfield, general public – It is a priority to preserve the genealogical collection.

Nancy Backus, general public – Gave a personal account of the success she had using the genealogical collections at the Library of Michigan.

Mike Moore made a motion to adjourn the MCIR Board meeting at 11:50 a.m., supported by Mike Smith. Motion unanimously carried.

Note: State Librarian Nancy Robertson provided the attached clarification of matters raised during Public Comments and answers to the questions asked by the board concerning the Regional Federal Depositories.

Clarification of Matters Raised During Public Comments March 15, 2010

**Provided by State Librarian Nancy Robertson
March 24, 2010**

1. There was much comment on how important the genealogy collections (non-Michigan and Michigan) are to those who utilize them. The MDE and the Library of Michigan acknowledge the importance of the collection(s), and that is why the Library of Michigan Executive Order Implementation Plan calls for finding new stewardship for the collection, rather than piece-level disbursal by donation or sale to other libraries. That is also why one of our suggestions has been to find stewardship that can be realized by keeping the collection in its current location if possible.
2. There was comment that the state should sell the Main (LC and Dewey classified) collections of the Library of Michigan rather than offering their materials to libraries within the state of Michigan. The Library of Michigan's core mission includes services to libraries statewide, and providing materials no longer needed by the state library to libraries in the state meets that mission. The materials will either be available to residents at those libraries statewide, or the potential sale of any materials distributed to libraries by their friends groups will bolster the strength of those local libraries and likewise strengthen library services for their patrons and the state's residents.
3. There was comment that certain valued and unique treasures within the Library of Michigan's Rare Book Collection be sold to raise money. The deselection and sale of rare books is a complex issue and not something to be entered into lightly without extensive investigation of ethical consequences and/or ultimate purpose. Most of the materials in the Rare Book Collection are an extension of the core collections of the Library of Michigan. Those which are not extensions of core collections may, in the future, be evaluated for deselection and possible sale or trade for other comparably valuable materials, but that process includes inventory and individual evaluation of each item in question and entails a lengthy process of months, even years to complete.
4. Finally, there was comment that changing the Library of Michigan's status from a regional federal depository would result in the decimation of the State Law Library collections. While the Law Collection, as well as the Michigan Collection and the Rare Books Collection include many federal documents, the determination of how the change in status from being the regional federal depository for the state will be accomplished is not finalized. Several options are under consideration, including the possibility that the Library of Michigan become a selective federal depository, whereby the federal materials relating to the Library of Michigan's core mission and its core collections could be selected for retention or receipt on an on-going basis.

**Response to Information Requests Made by the Board
March 15, 2010**

**Provided by State Librarian Nancy Robertson
March 24, 2010**

1. What states do not have a regional federal depository, and how many state libraries are regional depositories?

Several territories and protectorates are involved, but for this discussion, the focus will be on states only.

Wyoming has none and is not served by one elsewhere.

Six other states have no regional but are served by regionals of other states:

Alaska served by Washington (University of Washington)

Delaware served by Maryland (University of Maryland, College Park)

New Hampshire served by Maine (University of Maine, Orono)

Rhode Island served by Connecticut (Connecticut State Library)

South Dakota served by Minnesota (University of Minnesota)

Vermont served by Maine (University of Maine, Orono)

Fourteen state libraries are regionals, including the Library of Michigan:

Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington.

2. What is the Library of Michigan's/state's annual cost of being the Regional Federal Depository for Michigan?

Half of the fourth floor of the Library of Michigan is 14,597 square feet. At \$10.22 per square foot as the building occupancy cost for FY11:

\$149,181

4 FTE annual cost at FY11 rates:

\$351,246

TOTAL estimated annual base cost for LM to be the Regional:

\$500,427

Note: These costs are currently covered by state general fund appropriation only, as there are no federal funds or other resources, besides the federal document materials themselves, provided by the federal government to manage the regional collection or program and staffing.