

Holmes Public Library
Director's Report
October 12, 2021

October brings the beginning of the implementation of the LSTA "Mind in the Making" Grant. Library Director, Jean Gallant and Children's Librarian Holly Iannucci attended a meeting at the Ecotarium in Worcester facilitated by our project consultant, Shelly Quezada. The Goal of the meeting was to get together library representatives from libraries that received new grants, libraries that had previously implemented this grant, and libraries that implemented this grant during the pandemic. Each library that received a new grant had to prepare a one-page document highlighting the themes of our proposal. It was interesting to hear what others were planning and what worked and what didn't work in the past. Shelly Quezada, had much congratulations to those libraries that were awarded this Grant, commenting that she knew that work that goes into writing a proposal and to do that with all our other responsibilities as a result of the Pandemic was quite an accomplishment. Timeline for the project from October 21-December 21 is to order and receive new materials, (let the shopping begin), work with building maintenance to create the new spaces and work with Emily Moreno, Technology Librarian to create colorful flyers, bookmarks and posters. Launching of the new spaces and project should be January 2022.

Director of Information Technology, Cesar Calouro will be working on the library transitioning to the town's network. This will most likely be a Capital Plan item for FY23. The cost at this time is not known but will be taken from the data processing budget. In accordance with the Library's Long Range Plan, of being the center point for community resources, I am working with Cesar to possibly purchase a copier that provides functionality for better quality prints and copies and allows patrons a more secure, self-service options relating to printing, copying, faxing, and scanning. This would most likely be a Capital Plan request for FY23. The only capital request which would come from the Library directly is for the sound panels to help with the acoustic in the building. This request has been made over the past few years but after researching this can be a very expensive project, more than myself and the Finance Committee deem feasible. Before the pandemic Scott Materna, Head of Building Maintenance was looking at a DIY project that would save considerable money. This idea and other options will be explored in the next few months, with the Library's Capital plan Liaison.

We are slowly returning to indoor programming, offering two story times per week, 4 book clubs and special Adult programs. Thank You to Patrick Michaels, Trustee chair for volunteering to facilitate a Science Fiction book group. Your efforts are very much appreciated. There was a good turnout for the Central Cemetery tour (located behind Town Hall) sponsored by the Friends of the Library. High praise is being received from patrons on the story walk at the Nesseralla Pumpkin Patch. The Friends of the Library have generously voted to fund future and all story walk costs. Community Service Librarian Debbie Adduci will host a Zentangle program on the second Wednesday of each month. Patrons do not need to bring any supplies. The first program will be held tomorrow night, October 13th at 6:30PM. This program has already received many inquiries from patrons' eager to attend. My Knitting group which meets every Tuesday at 10AM in the community expressed such joy for being able to come to the library for tea, coffee, knitting and conversation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Gallant