

Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative

Director's Report

August and September 2021

State Budget/State Aid:

STATE AID FY2021

- In late September, legislative leadership and Governor Whitmer's administration issued a joint announcement that a budget deal had been finalized for the FY22 state budget. On Tuesday, Sept. 21, legislative leaders moved a massive \$50 billion spending plan out of a joint House-Senate conference committee that has shaped the FY22 general government omnibus budget. On Wednesday, Sept. 22, the House and Senate, in separate votes, gave quick approval to the spending plan. The Governor indicated she would sign the budget time for it to take effect for the new fiscal year, which begins October 1.

Libraries can expect the following:

- State Aid will be increasing by \$2M this year– for a total in FY22 of \$15,067,000
- \$100,000 was added for a Poet Laureate
- \$800,000 was added for a new school/public library partnership pilot program
- \$4.2 M in federal ARPA funding was approved
- Annual Report/State Aid application will open on October 1, 2021 and will be open until Midnight on 2/1/22. Everyone needs to have completed the State Aid form by that time it will be closed and can not be reopened after that period. The application will be using the old census numbers but it is anticipated the State Aid payments will be made using the new figures.

Cooperative Services:

- Eric will be doing some Trustee Training at the Public Libraries of Saginaw Trustee Retreat in October.
- Irene has started booking in-person and virtual programs for the rest of 2021 and 2022.

Michigan Cooperative Directors Association:

Michigan Cooperative Directors Association (MCDA):

- Dillon Geshel has been chosen as the new Director of the Superiorland Library Cooperative. Dillon is currently Director of the Portage Lake District Library in Houghton, MI. Dillon will start in his new position in early October.

Organizations:

Library of Michigan (LM):

- Library of Michigan has hired Biz Gallo as Statewide Digitization Coordinator
Biz Gallo
Statewide Digitization Initiatives Coordinator
Library of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing, MI 48915
GalloB@michigan.gov | 517-335-1402

Michigan Library Association (MLA): Debbie Mikula, Executive Director of MLA

- Starting in October all MLA Web-based Coffee Hours will focus on legislative agenda items. These are the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
- Think Space is a new initiative that will be a deep dive on one topic with in person meetings of about 75 participants in December and May.
- MLA turns 130 on 9/1/2021
- October will be Michigan Library Appreciation Month, all month long MLA will be highlighting Michigan Libraries.

Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS): Scott Garrison, Executive Director of MCLS

- MCLS has hired Laura Warren-Gross as MEL Engagement Specialist, Public Libraries
Laura Warren-Gross
MeL Engagement Specialist, Public Libraries
Midwest Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS)

MMLC Administration:

- Since MMLC is the Fiscal Agents for Friends of Michigan Libraries (FOML), Irene and Eric have attended several FOML meetings in the last two months, including Executive Committee, Budget and Finance Committee and FOML Board meetings.
- Eric also participates in FOML Programming Committee meetings
- Eric is on the MLA Annual Conference 21 Committee and will be on the MLA Annual Conference 22 Committee as well. Between the two committees we have met three times over the past 2 months.
- In August, Eric met with MMLC Vice-Chair Perry Valle, to go over his evaluation. Later in the August the MMLC Personnel Committee met to go over the evaluation prepare recommendations for the Board.
- In September, the MMLC Board met and approved many items including the MMLC Budget for 2021-22; a 1-year extension of the Director's contract and a cost of living increase for both employees.
- Eric attended the Library of Michigan Updates, which have switched from bi-monthly to monthly. He then shared a synopsis of information presented with the members of the Cooperative.
- Eric set up and attended 2 Call meetings with the Lapeer Libraries, via zoom. The group decided to go from bi-monthly to monthly meetings at least until the end of the year.
- Eric has attended the two MLA Coffee Hours: National Book Festival with PBS Books, and Are you Prepared for your Next Ballot Proposal.
- Eric attended the Annual Report/State Aid Application meeting with Joe and Kathy from LM.
- Eric attended the Michigan Cooperative Directors Association Meeting in August. Kate Van Auken from White Pine had mentioned that MLA was planning a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion training. Eric attended the Cooperative Directors Association four-hour Diversity, Equity & Inclusion training by Alfredo Hernandez, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion from the Michigan Department of Civil Rights offered in September.
- Eric set up and attended the MMLC Overdrive Consortium annual meeting. Members were able to reach several agreements as a group.
- Eric attended the Connecting Michigan Task Force Virtual listening tour. Meetings are held quarterly discuss Broadband in Michigan.
- Eric visited Flint Public Library in the temporary location at Courtland Center in Burton. Director Kay Schwartz anticipate closing the Burton location around Thanksgiving and re-opening in the remodeled Downtown Flint building in early Spring. Eric visited the Strosacker Library on the Northwood University campus, which has also been remodeled this year.

**Respectfully submitted,
Eric Palmer
MMLC Director**