

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

February 2006

Director's Report and Highlights

February 21, 2006

Submitted by Pamela Kiesner

Staff Recognition

This is the time of year when we and the City Council recognize long-term employees. This year we celebrate the 30 year career of **Cathy Coldren** in our Acquisitions Department. Congratulations to Cathy for attaining this milestone! The Council also recognized **Gayle Helgoe** and **Margaret Ziegler** for their 35 years. Margaret and I attended the Council meeting and reception, a nice tradition of publicly recognizing our employees from all departments.

Strategic Planning

We have an executive session planned for the 2/21 meeting; during the regular meeting we will continue to deliberate those sites that we have on the table, and talk about our process. We have signaled to the City Council our tentative plan to bring a site to them for their consideration by June.

Jazz Grant

On February 8th, we submitted a grant for funding a program called: *Looking at: Jazz, America's Art Form*. It is a project of National Video Resources, the National Endowment for the Humanities, American Library Association, and Jazz at Lincoln Center. We worked in collaboration with the Whatcom County Library System, Western Washington University, and Jud Sherwood, from The Jazz Project.

Just fifty organizations across the United States will receive these grants which will help communities highlight six eras in jazz history, with accompanying scholar-led film discussions. We received support letters from such community organizations as the Bellingham Festival of Music, Allied Arts, and the Mount Baker Theater. It is good to make these connections in our community, no matter what the outcome is. Keep your fingers crossed!

Recruitment

Two professional positions have been advertised, with a closing date of February 24th. A brochure is attached for your information. I urge you to share this opportunity with any qualified individuals.

Communications

A community member has shared his idea for a new library on our present site; the model he refers to is in the Board Room for your review.

Express Check

...is up and running on the first floor of the Central Library. We will be happy to give you a tour, and an opportunity to check out your own materials. Our Express Check will be featured in the March BTV10 *Inside Bellingham* segment. **Thanks** to the **Friends of the Library** for their \$24,000 gift to help make this possible, along with capital funds from the **City**.

For implementing the many details to make it a reality, **thanks** are due to **many staff members** at the library, as well as the hard work of **facilities** staff members. It was a year-long team effort!