

To: Boulder City Council
Cc: Jane Brautigam, Boulder City Manager
From: Boulder Library Commission
Date: Dec. 20, 2014

2014 has been a banner year for the Boulder Public Library and the Commission is proud of the part it has played in these accomplishments:

- Hiring David Farnan as the new director. David brings to this position not only a long and accomplished resume but also the enthusiasm and talents to bring about exciting things.
- Renovation of the main BPL branch. A new teen space...a new enclosed children's area with state of the art storytime space...new meeting rooms and presentation spaces...a bright and welcoming introductory space for the library and its collections...and a state of the art materials handling system including RFID. Congratulations are in order for going above and beyond the original ballot measure and doing so within the constraints of the budget. These changes will not only bring new brick and mortar but a whole new attitude and culture to the library, its staff and patrons.
- Included within that renovation is the exciting Foundry/Maker Space providing a destination for teens and their inherent creativity.
- Opening The NOBO Corner Library. Brought to fruition after much talk and preparation, this new and exciting addition to our library system and the NOBO neighborhood is providing much needed library services to this segment of our city and its population.
- Expansion of programs provided by the Library including those traditionally supported by the Library Foundation and creating new opportunities by building upon these and through other partnerships with local industries, the SBDC (Small Business Development Center), and The Boulder Farmers Market.

Looking ahead to 2015, BPL has set the following goals:

- Increase library focus on literacy to our underserved communities.
- Reinvent the *Place to Be* to create a Community Platform to provide the infrastructure for literate, cultural and business opportunities.
- Increase usage of meeting spaces by upgrading technology and updating and improving policies for public access.
- Attract the full community, with an emphasis on children and family, to invigorate the downtown civic area.
- Invest in an improved collection to meet changing and growing community needs.
- Implement new customer service model as a reflection of new space and culture.
- Restore hours at Reynolds and Meadows branches filling a community need without increased budget.

- Continue to expand opportunities with NOBO Corner Library serving as a template for future neighborhood growth and outreach.
- Serve as a cornerstone for Civic Area planning.
- Initiate the BPL Master Plan update.
- Update the sound system and screen in the Canyon Theater with the financial support of the Boulder Library Foundation and the Arts Department respectively.

Reinventing the Place to Be, both in a literal sense with the actual renovation, and in a philosophical and cultural shift, will continue to drive the Commission's priorities. Building upon past successes and considering the goals of the library itself, the Commission has set the following priorities for 2015:

- Support the creation of the library as a *Community Platform*. This support would include but not be limited to encouraging strategic partnerships, expanding programming, and increasing utilization of new library spaces and opportunities.
- Optimize the library's digital presence and capacities with an increased emphasis on expanding digital collections and improving the user experience with the library web site.
- Continue the work that has begun on modifying the city charter, the library commission bylaws, etc. to more accurately represent the advisory role of the Commission.
- Participate in city wide planning for the civic area while reflecting the cornerstone role that the library will represent in these plans.
- Support staff as they take on the challenges represented by the new "Place to Be." Required will be a positive approach to customer service and the necessity for professional development to master new space utilization and technological needs.
- Engage with staff to update the comprehensive Library Master Plan with specific measurable goals related to topics such as partnerships, literacy, digital branch, programming, and collections.

City Council's Questions for Boards and Commissions for 2015:

1. What are your top priorities within the framework of the current council work plan adopted at the last city council retreat?
 - We encourage the city council to continue to address the issue of the homeless and transients, particularly as it impacts the library and its facilities.
2. What would you like to see done that would further advance the Council Goals?
3. How can your board specifically help reach the current council goals?
4. Are there city policies that need to be addressed that would enable your board to function at a higher level?

- We support the creation of an ongoing committee representing various public stakeholders, including library commission representation, to work with the Civic Area Planning Group as they move forward in designing the downtown civic area.
- Understand that the website technology needs of the library do not always parallel those of the city site.

5. Are there other items that council should address in the upcoming year?

- Provide additional funding to support collection development in response to the library's shortfall and reduced buying power coupled with expanding demand from the community for additional resources including:
 - traditional: books, magazines, movies, music, databases, etc.
 - non-traditional: digital collections of ebooks, audiobooks, emagazines, etc.
 - alternative resources: maker technologies, hands-on resources and materials, etc.