**OLA Report of the Acting State Librarian of Oregon**

**September 27, 2021**

**Reopening**

Our anticipated date for reopening, September 1, was put on hold after the vaccination mandate was issued by the Governor. All state employees must be vaccinated by October 18 (November 30 for members of the SEIU Union) unless they qualify for an exception based on medical conditions (requires a note from a doctor) or deeply held religious beliefs (requires management approval). As of the date of the writing of this update, the official reopening date is January 1, 2022.

Staff were very engaged with the De-escalation Training provided to us by our EAP. That and a visit from a spokesperson from the Oregon State Police who described how the OSP keeps the library safe were very well received. We will review some of the trainings again closer to the time we reopen as a reminder and support for staff. Not only did the training address how to interact with strangers, but the presenter also shared a view of stressors resulting from the pandemic for both the public and the staff with encouragement for self-care for the staff.

**National Register of Historic Places**

The State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation will review the State Library of Oregon for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the Federal government’s official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. This was a project being coordinated by Jennifer Patterson and DAS.

The building was built in 1939 as part of the Public Works Project. Public comment is officially open and will remain open until the National Park Service makes a final decision in February or March of 2022.

Here is the [actual application](https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/oh/documents/or_marioncounty_statelibraryoforegon.pdf).  It is long but be sure to scroll to the bottom to see all the amazing historical photos of the library.

General meeting information is here: <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/Pages/Commissions.aspx#SACHP> and anyone is welcome to attend the public meeting on October 22. If anyone from the State library wanted to provide comment at the meeting that would be welcome, but it is not a requirement.

This is honorary, the library will be in a thematic grouping of places built by the WPA like Timberline Lodge.  This will not impact our ability to make improvements to the building which already have to be approved by the State Office of Historic Preservation (SOHP) because of the age of the building. State law requires that improvements to any state building over 50 years old must be approved by SOHP.

**Oregon Educational Association**

The Oregon Education Association (OEA) is the representative body for over 43,000 members who work in K-12 educational settings including librarians. Most of their members are teachers and most of their continuing education opportunities are focused on teachers. Librarians have specialized needs which are not necessarily being met through OEA whereas the State Library of Oregon is a conduit of continuing education opportunities for librarians. Many members of OEA are also members of OLA.

Several folks from our Library Support Division and I met with folks from the continuing education section of OEA to explore opportunities for collaboration to support librarians in Oregon.

**Hiring the State Librarian**

The deadline for applications was September 19, 2021. When the position closed there were 21 applicants, 8 of which met or exceeded the requirements for the position. Seven meet the educational requirements but do not have 6 years of management experience. The rest were either unintentionally applying for the wrong job or perhaps not paying attention to the requirements of the position.

Bradbury Miller will have phone conversations with the 8 that met or exceeded the requirements. They will present us with their findings and recommendations at a meeting on October 5, 2021.

Since the announcement was approved, Bradbury Miller placed it on their website, posted it on various library-specific web sites, listservs and job boards.   It was included in their most recent e-newsletter, which reached over 1,700 library professionals.  They also actively recruited through their many one-on-one contacts.

The Hiring Committee met as a group on Friday September 17 to come up with a plan for the final steps of the hiring process. Candidates will be asked to submit a video recording responding to questions to be determined.

For the finalists, there will be 4 virtual screening panels, our HR partner Andrea Paola will take the lead on these panels:

* Hiring Panel
* Stakeholders (OLA, Library Board, State Archivist, State Preservation Office)
* All library staff
* Library managers (coffee time)

Before the first three panels listed above, the candidates will do a short presentation on a topic to be determined. All interviews will be virtual, none will be in person in accordance with the Governor’s COVID mandates.

The Hiring Committee Members are:

* Lori Wamsley, Library Board President
* Ann Malkin, Library Board Past-President
* Marci Ramiro-Jenkins, OLA representative
* Greta Bergquist, SEIU State Library President
* Susan Westin, SLO Manager
* Berri Leslie, Governor’s Chief of Staff
* Nancy Hoover, Acting State Librarian
* John Paschal, Executive Recruiter, Chief Human Resource Office
* Andrea Paola, HR Partner