

Director's Report to the Griswold Memorial Library Board of Trustees

25 November 2019

Section 1: Inputs

- The MBLC has announced the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) FY2021 grant round. New for this year are grants for community gardening, food literacy, managing art objects in the library, and preserving priority collections. The Civic Hub grant, to promote civic literacy, Conserving and Digitizing Historical Resources or Protecting Priority Collections grant, or “Dig In,” a grant for creating a community garden, are of particular interest for GML. Letters of intent for MBLC grants are due by December 5. Full information, including detailed fact sheets, application procedures, important deadlines and additional documents, can be found on the [MBLC LSTA Grants home page](#).
- We are displaying a “Coming Soon Census 2020” poster received from the MBLC. Further information about the census and how libraries can prepare can be found online at <https://guides.mblc.state.ma.us/census>.

Section 2: Outputs

- We hosted two extraordinary programs on Saturdays in November. First, Senator Jo Comerford’s visit, which drew 20 people to the library, and the flu clinic, in partnership with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. Thirty-two people came out for the flu clinic (25 received vaccinations), including some families who visited for the first time. This event received good media attention, with a special write-up in the *Greenfield Recorder!*
- Output statistics:

	October totals	November preliminary
Visitors	508	433
Adult program attendance	44	79
Children’s program attendance and outreach	11	54
Questions answered	148	65
Computer uses	25	30

- Building specialists from MBLC met with Chelsea on November 18th here at GML. They toured the building, noting that they were overall pretty pleased with its condition, though they did have concerns about the basement and the effluvia showing in the stairwell. They recommended that we contract a building consultant to give us an assessment (they provided several names, so I am reaching out for estimates). They recommended that meanwhile, we continue to declutter, and especially to reduce the collection size and focus on creating welcoming spaces and seating. They suggested that we might clear the rotunda all-together and move the desk towards the entry. There is a backlog from the last round of grants, and the building grants programs may be restructured, but the next available round will likely take place in 2022/2023. Continuing maintenance and upkeep efforts in the meantime can help our chances when these grants are available again.
- A meeting with Amy Donovan, the Program Director for Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, yielded plans for a three-part partnership/program series. First up, on February 19th, Amy will present, “Why Even Bother,” an information session that will cover why trash is bad, why recycling matters, what residents need to know about the Springfield MRF (Materials Recycling Facility), and allow space for questions and answers. The library can work towards a goal of having three-stream waste sorting (paper, recyclables, and landfill waste) available as of this same week.

Next, on April 20, Amy will host a workshop called, “EEEEK! Worms! A worm composting primer.” This works well with other programming we are planning for spring break/Earth Day, since Davis Bates is going to be performing on April 22nd, and we will have an Earth-themed story hour on the 24th!

Last but not least, we plan to host a Saturday workshop in late summer where participants will learn how to make a compost bin out of untreated wood palettes. The library will then be the beneficiary of the prototype composter, which we can use to collect our organic waste and make compost for our own garden beds. This program may serve also as part of the Make It, Colrain! Grant.

- Tech Soup took a while to process our status as tax exempt, thus our recent orders were all backlogged until November 22 when they sorted out the trouble. Unfortunately, this could mean that we have to re-place the order (including requesting a check from the Town of Colrain).

Section 3: Outcomes

- One of our patrons was able to get an apartment, after using the library's computers, internet, and printers, to complete her application.