SLC Grants Committee Meeting Notes
October 12, 2016

Present: Dillon Geshel, Megan Buck, Carolyn Stacey, Jean Montgomery, Shawn Andary and Pam Christensen

Shawn Andary sent out some helpful links

Here are some links that might be helpful to us as we think of possible grant ideas.

Mobile Technology Links (previously shared by Dillon Geshel with the group)
http://winslo.state.oh.us/SEO/Training_Services/MobileLab
http://www.missoulapubliclibrary.org/branches/w-o-w-bus
http://www.3ders.org/articles/20151024-brilliant-bus-and-mobile-tech-initiatives-bring-wifi-3d-printing-education.html
http://houstonlibrary.org/our-partners/community-engagement
http://arapahoelibraries.org/mobile-library-services/

ConnectED Library Challengehttps://www.imls.gov/issues/national-initiatives/connected-library-challenge

LSTA Grant Program Webpagehttp://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/0,2351,7-160-18668_77699_77711---,00.html

LSTA Webinar Recording

http://libraryofmichigan.adobeconnect.com/p9pxkwtzni4/

The discussion started out with the pros and cons of including a mobile lab or facility. Montgomery mentioned that Menominee County Library is planning to retire their current bookmobile and purchase a new bookmobile. She suggested if we ordered at the same time, we might be able to negotiate a discount.

   Stacey said that she has experience with mobile units from California and is concerned about the expense of maintaining a unit as well as how "innovative" the Library of Michigan (LoM) would find this approach.

   Buck said she thought the mobile unit would be a visible way to promote libraries at community events, etc. The mobile unit could go football games and attract visitors who might not be library users. Shopping Center parking lots, Senior Centers, Schools, Nursing Homes, etc. were other suggested places we might find new users.

   Christensen said the Overdrive unit was a semi-trailer, and Overdrive said they are looking a smaller and more mobile unit. They had problems locating in small towns, etc. due to space needed to set-up and maneuver the semi. Buck said an enclosed trailer with an open end or sides would also work or a van.

   Geshel said a van or mobile unit would be good for providing services in areas removed from the library by distance. Chassell Schools are in the PLDL service area, but the 8 miles still presents an issue in offering services. He can see how this method of outreach services would really benefit the libraries

and the residents who have difficulties getting to the library. It would be a visible presence in the outlying communities.

Montgomery said maybe we should look at the RedBox model. There are book dispensing machines that can be placed in remote locations that work with SIRSI and would allow us to put services in areas away from the actual library facility.

We discussed how the van might be a mobile hotspot. Andary mentioned that NMU is expanding their LTE network and is looking for community partners. They have sent letters to all Marquette Area Public Schools families offering access to the network (fee schedule takes into consideration free and reduced lunch status). They may be looking at the Houghton Area, Escanaba Area, etc. Geshel mentioned that the mobile hotspot infrastructure and completion in the UP hasn't really caught up to the demands. Distance and competition are issues. Most hotspots can't reach beyond 4-9 miles, keeping the more remote areas beyond their reach—not solving the issue of distance from internet access. Pricing is not flexible and controlling the usage and cost of usage is still problematic. We agreed approaching NMU to see if we could be included in this project is a priority. It was suggested that if we work with NMU, maybe we could issue each family their own hotspot.

We need to look at the educational component and increasing use of MeL and other statewide services. Andary sent out info on ConnectEd. We want members to consider what databases or services they need, patrons have asked for, etc. Try to tie these to the Michigan Education goals—Top 10 in 10, ConnectEd, etc. Can we expand Mango, SCOLA, and other databases to all of our SLC and/or UPRLC members. Culture Grams is missed by schools. Also tie in understanding of other cultures, languages, etc.

We decided each of us would prepare some info in a Google Doc Shawn would set up and identify the following by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 17, 2016.

Project Goals based on the needs of our library
Possible partners—education, business, etc.
Where do we have holes in our service that we would like to plug or fill with this project
What would be good for all of our libraries—improve visibility, increase users, etc.

Andary will set up next meeting for Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. est.