

Chair's Report April 20, 2015

Partnerships, outreach and other community initiatives

On Tuesday, March 31, Toronto Public Library officially welcomed the Aga Khan Museum to the **Sun Life Financial Museum + Arts Pass program**. The Museum hosted a breakfast reception with many of our current MAP partners in attendance, as well as representatives from the program sponsor, Sun Life Financial. Vickery Bowles spoke to the audience about the success and importance of the MAP program. Other remarks were made by Henry Kim from the Aga Khan Museum as well as Paul Joliat from Sun Life Financial. Two Library Board members also attended the event, Dianne LeBreton and Eva Svec. Guests were invited to tour the museum after the event. The Aga Khan Museum is distributing five passes per week in each of fifty library branches across the city. torontopubliclibrary.ca/mappass

On March 12, City Librarian Vickery Bowles welcomed 12 members of the subcommittee on Serving Multicultural populations attached to **the International Federation of Library Associations** (IFLA). Members representing countries around the world, from New Zealand to Sweden, were in Toronto for their mid-winter meeting. Four dynamic presentations on the range of services, resources, collections and programs offered at Toronto Public Library were followed by questions received from IFLA members that provided for thoughtful discussion. This visit provided TPL with an opportunity both to share and learn best practices when developing a clear vision, and for the planning and delivery of library services to diverse multicultural populations. After a tour of Toronto Reference Library, the group moved to the downtown campus of the University of Toronto to attend presentations about the city's academic library system.

Toronto Public Library recently provided a well-received presentation on the Library's job search resources to French-speaking clients at **Centre Francophone's 2015 Job Fair**. Fair attendees learned about business and career resources available in branches and online, as well as related services like Book-a-Librarian.

Toronto Public Library, in collaboration with Toronto's fourth Poet Laureate George Elliott Clarke, officially launched an **online Toronto Poetry Map** on April 15 in the Atrium at the Toronto Reference Library. The event included: readings by Toronto poets George Elliott Clarke, Barry Callaghan, Giovanna Riccio and Anna Yin; performances by members of the Library's Pan Am Poetry Slam group; and members of the Library's Editorial Youth Advisory Group reading poems from past issues of the Library's magazine of teen writing and visual art, *Young Voices*. The poetry map provides links on a map of Toronto to locations referenced in published poems that are held in the Library's collections. The map also whets visitors' appetites by offering excerpts of each poem cited.

torontopubliclibrary.ca/poetrymap

A couple of city-wide initiatives are seeing **library branches play host to two series of workshops** on various dates in April.

100 in 1 day, an international festival, is happening for the second time in Toronto after being successfully introduced in 2014. The June 6 initiative will see Torontonians performing “interventions” to make the city a better place, and Toronto organizers will use the opportunity to highlight causes, reclaim or beautify space, offer information, or just provide a moment of respite. Agincourt, Albion, Black Creek, Bloor/Gladstone, Don Mills, Mount Dennis and York Woods branches, along with North York Central, will be hosting workshops to bring community members together to explore ideas for making their respective neighbourhoods more livable.

Jane's Walk workshops, being held at Maria A. Shchuka, Eatonville, Long Branch, Brentwood and Runnymede branches, as well as North York Central Library, will allow community members to come together to learn about and discuss the neighbourhoods where Jane's Walks will take place on the first weekend in May (May 1-3). Jane's Walk is an annual festival of free, citizen-led walking tours inspired by Jane Jacobs.

On March 21, Malvern Branch was a host site for a **Pan Am youth summit activation**. The activation featured a poetry and empowerment workshop with RISE Edutainment (Reaching Intelligent Souls Everywhere) and Toronto Public Library. The feedback from the 28 attending youth was very positive, with many reporting that they felt enriched by the workshop. An Instant Anthology was created from the poems written during the activation.

Children's

The popular annual **Design-a-Bookmark contest** was held in December and January for children 13 years and younger. Children from all across Toronto participated and submitted designs. A selection committee made up of illustrator Sydney Smith and Toronto Public Library staff chose 16 designs from all the submissions, to be made into bookmarks that will be distributed through all branches across the city. An awards night, attended by Library Board member Sue Graham-Nutter, was held for the 16 grand prize award winners and their families at North York Central Library on April 15.

Programs and exhibits

On March 7, S. Walter Stewart co-sponsored a **book launch with Alan Redway**, former mayor of East York and former progressive conservative Member of Parliament. Redway's launch of his new book, *Governing Toronto: Bringing Back the City That Worked*, attracted over 60 people.

In one of the most unique of the many programs featured at branches all across the city during March Break, Don Mills and Fairview branches each hosted a **Mobile Ontario Planetarium** program with six 45-minute shows presented by space enthusiast Peter McMahon. The program attracted groups of all ages, including school age kids and their parents, as well as several day camp groups and one group of teens with special needs. Six hundred participants had a chance to see stars, comets, planets and a black hole projected on the inside of a giant inflatable dome that was set up inside the branches.

This year's **Asian Heritage Month** at the Library in May will provide plenty of insight and entertainment from across Asia. Four great homelands festivals will feature music, dance and culinary arts from the East, as well as intriguing programs at branches everywhere.

Highlights include lectures by Jeannette Kong entitled Hakka: The "Guest" People; Persian music with the Shiraz Ensemble; sushi-making with Chef Shoji; author Vincent Lam in conversation with Viet Thang Nguen; and an Origami Flash Mob at Parkdale Branch.

torontopubliclibrary.ca/asianheritage

Foundation

The Toronto Public Library Foundation launched a **telemarketing campaign** in April targeting current donors and 30,000 library cardholders who they have permission to contact. One of the objectives is to gain 100 new monthly donors. The telemarketing script references the imminent opening of the 100th branch of the Library and provides some elements of the current 100 Reasons to Give campaign.

The Foundation is happy to announce that TD donated \$80,000 to renew its support of TPL Teens: Summer Edition (formerly known as Word Out).

tplfoundation.ca

Prepared by Toronto Public Library staff