

Joint Retreat
Library Board and Library of Virginia Foundation Board

November 21, 2019

12:00 – 4:00 pm

Conference Rooms A and B
Library of Virginia
800 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

A joint retreat of the members of the Library Board and the Library of Virginia Foundation Board was held on Thursday, November 21, 2019, in the conference rooms on the ground floor of the Library. The retreat began with lunch at noon, with opening remarks at 12:45 pm. Library Board members in attendance were: K Johnson Bowles, Paul Brockwell, Preston Bryant, Mark Emblidge, Mohammed Esslami, Barbara Little, Mark Miller, Blythe Scott, and Marcy Sims. Foundation Board members included Robert Blackwell, Corynne Arnett, Carol Hampton, Anna Moser, Joseph Papa, Patrice Parker, Steve Rogers, Pia Trigiani, Bessida Cauthorne White, and Lara Wulff. Also participating in the retreat were the members of the Library's Executive Management Team.

Librarian of Virginia Sandra Treadway opened the retreat with an overview of the state of the Library. She reviewed the highlights and accomplishments of the past year but also reminded board members of the possibility of a reduction in the Library's budget for the coming year should the Governor need to reallocate funds to support several new initiatives. Such a reduction would slow or postpone some of the initiatives and activities that were likely to be discussed at the retreat, and she wanted all to be aware of this.

Scott Dodson, executive director of the Library of Virginia Foundation, then shared his impressions and observations about the Foundation and its partnership with the Library, based on his first two months in this position. He expressed optimism about the Library's future and the support that he hoped the Foundation can provide for Library projects in the coming years, especially in preparation for the Library's 200th anniversary in 2023.

Board members and staff next divided into four groups, each assigned to a different focus area in the Library's strategic plan: Collections, Library As Place, Library Beyond Place, and Connections. Each smaller group was given several priority projects/activities that the Library has identified as important to advancing our work in the focus area they were assigned to. After discussing each topic and associated projects, each group reported on their ideas, comments, and suggestions, which will be used to continue our planning during the coming year. Priority projects discussed were: establishing a Collections Fund and growing the Virginia Digital Newspaper Program (Collections); Second Floor Renovations and Smart Meeting Room Technology and a Digital Wall and Interactive Display in the

Lobby (Library As Place); digitization of World War II separation notices and various print, photograph, and architectural drawings collections as well as the establishment of a general Technology Fund (Library Beyond Place); and expansion of the Brown Teacher Enrichment Fund, the creation of a series of diversity and community fellowships, and establishment of funds to support in-house and travelling exhibitions (Connections).

Board members were asked to move to a different table for the final discussion topic, which was identifying the outcomes we would like to strive for at the end of 2023, the Library's anniversary year, and the opportunities that commemorative year could provide to grow awareness of the Library and strengthen institutional and individual support.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.

How can our boards help us moving forward?

What do board members need from us to do so?

2023: Identifying Outcomes/Opportunities *Table Discussion & Report Out*