

Steering Committee Meeting – 8.9.18

Reactions/Comments from Meetings

- Collaborative approach is good. “Symbiotic” relationship with local libraries. Statewide is more efficient and fiscally responsible.
- No real conflict perceived – different approach, different funders
- Concerns that a feasibility study wasn’t done. Is this viable in Montana? State Parks Foundation may be best model to learn more about – but explore others, too. Look at Humanities Commission and State Historical Fdtn., too.
- Economic development may be good area to support
- Case for supporting “different” Montanas
- Outside of grant support, bequests and planned giving may be biggest area for future fundraising growth
- Best fundraising is often locally focused, so statewide might be difficult or require a different approach
- Advocacy – tied in with other efforts – is a good idea (although may be not full-fledged lobbying)
- Will be important to fund some projects directly out of the “Foundation” rather than funneling all through the State Library. Will give the entity its own standing (important for fundraising)

Case Statement/Messages

- Fiscally Responsible/Efficiency – Collaborative platforms across the state. Will allow more libraries/communities to “get a deal”
- “We make your library exceptional” – reinforcing all the things the State Library does to support local libraries and have “Foundation” further support that. Even more important for rural state – brings the world to everyone - which allows for some local messaging.
- Four strong messages locally: kids, expanded meaning of literacy, tech and future, engagement
- Serving big and small libraries/communities
- Building stronger communities through libraries
- Filling the gap in workforce development, technology, literacy, etc.
- Helping communities thrive and grow

Purpose/Mission – Initial Concept/Draft

The mission of the Montana Library Foundation is to support reliable, equitable, and sustainable information access for all Montana residents. The Corporation's activities will complement and promote the work of the Montana State Library, the State's public libraries, and the State's geographic information systems (GIS) community.

Potential Initial Funders to Investigate Further

- Northwest Area Foundation
- M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
- Dennis Washington Foundation
- Edwards Foundation
- Bezos Foundation
- First Interstate Bank
- Bank of Montana
- Blue Cross/Blue Shield
- Realtor connections