

## Director's Report – April 2014

1. On April 3, AADL welcomed Ms. Hongquiu BI, Vice Director of the Heilongjiang Provincial Library from the People's Republic of China. Ms. BI directs one of four divisions in a public library serving 40 million persons. As part of a group travelling as guests of the US Department of State, she requested a visit to the AADL. It was my privilege to meet with her to share how public libraries function in the US, and to learn from her what her challenges are meeting the information needs of such a large and dispersed population. I wish to thank AADL staff person, Lirong Zheng, for her gracious willingness to act as our Interpreter for this visit.
2. American Library Association President Barbara Stripling visited Ann Arbor in April and opened National Library Week events at AADL on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> with a presentation on the future of public libraries and why they remain essential institutions in a democratic society. We are very honored to have an ALA President choose to speak in our community at AADL.
3. Staff members Josie Parker, Eli Neiburger, Andrew McClaren, Amy Cantu and Eric Klooster attended the unveiling of the UMS interface of its archive of 135 years of UMS events and programs. The AADL was instrumental in the design and implementation of this digital product. We are very pleased to have been involved in such an important effort to preserve and make public the history of the University Musical Society.
4. The AADL was very pleased to accept the 2014 Washtenaw County Environmental Excellence Award for Water Quality Protection. Ann Arbor District Library was selected to receive this award by the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office for its exemplary participation in the Community Partners for Clean Streams Program and outstanding water quality protection measures utilized in the design and construction of its buildings over the past decade. AADL has built three new branch libraries since 2004. All three have been recognized for their sustainability features. Malletts Creek, designed by Carl Luckenbach, was awarded an AIA award for Sustainable Design. Traverwood, designed by InFORM Studio was awarded an AIA award for Design.
5. The community joined us in celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Malletts Creek Branch on Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Over 1,000 people came for the cake, crafts, and great jazz provided by the Paul Keller at Sundown Quartet. I wish to acknowledge the effort of all of the members of AADL staff who worked for months to make sure the building was in perfect shape for the day, those who worked all day that Saturday to provide fun for the many children and families who attended, and for those who worked to setup the stage and sound system for the music. I also wish to

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acknowledge the gracious patience of those who came to use the Library on that Saturday only to find themselves in the middle of a party. It was a special joy to be there with all of you when MC turned 10.

6. Tim Grimes and Eli Neiburger currently serve on the Outreach Advisory Team for Tribeca Films for a project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities titled, *Becoming American*. This project will be a nationwide opportunity for 50 public libraries to explore the immigration experience in America through film.
7. Excerpted from Fortune Magazine March 24, 2014: *“People in the music industry tend to shudder when they see the words “digital” and “free” in close succession, but Ghostly was game, and in late February nearly the entire Ghostly/Spectral discography, nearly 250 albums (minus a few releases that the labels don't entirely own the rights to), went live on the AADL's servers where they can be streamed or downloaded, DRM-free, by any of the approximately 60,000 Ann Arborites who have a library card. As far as anyone involved is aware, this is the first deal of its kind between a record label and a library (the AADL has previously worked with an online music distributor called Magnatune), and it highlights some of the fundamental ways that some forward-looking labels and libraries have started to adapt to our modern digital climate. Record labels used to be primarily about selling records, and libraries about lending out books and other physical media, but when records and books (or at least their virtual equivalents) can easily be had for free, that model ceases to make sense.”*
8. On behalf of the staff, I would like to express my gratitude to those in the community who reached out to us over the past few weeks regarding the challenges faced by all of us as we work to provide a safe and comfortable library experience for every person who chooses to be in the public library. The emails, calls, and tangible expressions of your high regard for the Library, and all of those who work at AADL, have boosted morale and made us all smile more as we work. Thank you.