

1. On May 5th AADL opened the exhibit, Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World, with a public reception. The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, Philadelphia, and the American Library Association Public Programs Office organized this exhibit. The traveling exhibition for libraries has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: great ideas brought to life.

The traveling exhibition is based on a major exhibition of the same name mounted by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Franklin's birth. The Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary is a nonprofit organization established through a major grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts to educate the public about Franklin's enduring legacy. The exhibit will remain at AADL through July 8, 2011.

The reception opened with a fife and drum concert in the lobby of the Downtown Library. The Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps is the first fife and drum corps in the Midwest. This junior corps, consisting of young men and women ranging in age from 12 to 18, was founded in 1971. Music played by the corps spans the 17th to 20th centuries with an emphasis on traditional fife and drum melodies from the Revolutionary War. Their current uniform is a replica of George Washington's personal lifeguard of the era 1776-1783.

The evening was capped by an engaging presentation by Mark Higbee, a professor of history at Eastern Michigan University since 1994. Dr. Higbee earned his PhD from Columbia University, in American history. He's known for teaching lively, engaging classes, and for stressing the connections of the past to the present.

The Community Relations and Marketing Department and the Outreach and Neighborhood Services Department deserve recognition for successfully competing for the exhibit, and for bringing it to the AADL community.

2. The AADL contract with Magnatune received international recognition after Magnatune released a press release about the contract stating the following: *Especially impressive is the fact that the Library's IT*

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department has made a gorgeous browsing/streaming/downloading interface, with social networking features and musical categories from our information data feeds. They even noticed the Creative Commons licensing that applies to our paid downloads and applied that same license on their library music site and allows the library members to reuse our music as they see fit.

That this service has been well received by our patrons would be an understatement. The IT and Productions staff at AADL are to be congratulated for doing such a great job of bringing an entirely new type of collection into our catalog.

3. On April 22nd, I participated in undergraduate studio reviews at the UM School of Architecture, and served on a symposium panel with library directors from UM, Princeton, Rhode Island School of Art and Design and the Louisville Kentucky Public Library. The entire semester was focused on the possibility of designing new public library spaces along Woodward Avenue in Detroit and the event was titled, "Woodward Avenue and the 21st Century Library." The Traverwood Branch of the AADL was used as the case study for the students and is featured in a book published by one section of the undergraduate students participating in the studio.