

Project Narrative - anc1D 2008 Small Grants



Title: In 15 words or less, give a title that describes the project's main beneficial result.

Create and empower a community study group for greater oversight of the DC Public Library and more specifically the transformation of the Mount Pleasant Library.

Narrative: 500 words or less, all on this page. Label paragraphs - A: Group. B: Project. C: Benefits. D: Leverage.

A. Group

The Mount Pleasant Library Study Group (MtPLSG) will bring together a diverse group of Mount Pleasant residents affected by the transformation of the Mount Pleasant Library in a peer-to-peer study group organizing model.

The MtPLSG would complement the Mount Pleasant Library Friends group in that the study group could explore how to improve the library design process through information sharing and lobbying appropriate city leadership – the Friends group will currently not touch “political” activities.

B. Project

The process of renovating this historic library, as steered by DC Public Library leadership (DCPL), is one that should involve and excite all Mount Pleasant residents. Instead it has proven to be far less transparent and inclusive seemingly driven by executive decisions made in the dark. The outreach for design meetings has been minimal with most design meetings held to date having small attendance.

This grant will be the seed money to form the MtPLSG with the mission to promote the public interest in the Mount Pleasant Public Library and ensure adequate community oversight of the proposed transformation of the Mount Pleasant Public Library. The grant will cover costs for introductory flyers, group branding and graphic design, website promotions, meeting space rentals, audio/visual equipment, and other outreach methods and tools to get this group started in quick fashion.

Once formed, The Mount Pleasant Library Study Group will research and disseminate information, as well as convene meetings to foster community consultation, discuss findings, identify concerns, and take action as participants so direct. This community organizing model has also been helpful in other DC neighborhoods with library transformation projects such as in Benning and Shaw.

C. Benefits

The ultimate objective would be to see the transformation of the current MtP Library to the be the best 21st Century neighborhood library possible. This would mean fostering partnerships between DCPL and the at-large Mount Pleasant neighborhood including small businesses, tenants, youth, seniors, and all those keen on their library.

Currently DCPL leadership is making insular decisions with little direction and suggestion from the Greater Mount Pleasant residents – this project will help Mount Pleasant open these meetings up and help bring together a diverse array of Mount Pleasant residents around this important community project and institution, their library.

D. Leverage

The initial costs will be to notify residents that this group is forming and to excite them enough so they get involved and invest as many volunteer hours as possible into this important civic project. Other grants may be needed for individual projects which arise out of the study group.