

**THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA**  
800 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219-8000  
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## **Joint Retreat**

### **Library Board and Library of Virginia Foundation Board**

**Thursday, November 18, 2021**

**12:30 – 4:00 pm**

Conference Rooms A – C  
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 18, 2021, in the conference rooms on the main floor of the Library. Library Board members in attendance were: Blythe Ann Scott (chair), Robert Aguirre, Laura L. L. Blevins, Paul Brockwell, Maya Castillo, Robert Chambliss Light Jr., Barbara Vines Little, Mark Miller, and Lana Real. Foundation Board members attending were Pia Trigiani (chair), Corynne Arnett, BK Fulton, Carol Hampton, Lou Marmo, Anna Moser, Joseph Papa, Brad Parks, Lynn Rainville, Bessida Cauthorne White, and Lara Wulff. Also participating in the retreat were Assistant Attorney General Audrey J. Burges, Librarian of Virginia Sandra Treadway, and Library staff members Vanessa Anderson, Nan Carmack, Paul Casalaspi, Scott Dodson, Catherine Fitzgerald Wyatt, Kathy Jordan, Gregg Kimball, Elaine McFadden, John Metz, and Dale Neighbors.

#### **Welcome and Overview**

Librarian of Virginia Sandra Treadway welcomed everyone to the retreat and explained the timeline for the afternoon. She spoke about the space changes that the Library hopes to make in the next two to three years and why she believed these are important for the Library's future and its ability to engage and remain relevant to Virginians. She then asked retreat attendees to proceed to the second floor staircase to begin a half hour tour of the spaces the Library would like to repurpose and transform.

#### **Tour/Space Visualization of First and Second Floors**

Retreat attendees viewed artist renderings of the proposed space changes for the first and second floors and heard short presentations led by Mr. Neighbors and Ms. Fitzgerald Wyatt as the tour progressed around the second floor.

#### **Small Group Discussion and Report Out**

Board members and staff divided into four groups and spent an hour and a half discussing what they had seen and sharing ideas and suggestions about the proposed changes. Among the key themes that emerged during the report outs from the groups were the importance of making the exterior of the building and the lobby more welcoming and inviting; aligning the spaces to the

social needs of users; using the space changes to make the collections more accessible to the public, both physically and digitally; adding more helpful, interactive, and multilingual wayfinding; finding ways to appeal to younger audiences; and reintroducing a vibrant café to the first floor.

### **Space Planning -- Next Steps**

Board chairs Blythe Scott and Pia Trigiani affirmed what they had heard and expressed excitement and a commitment to working together to advance the space work. They announced the creation of a small working group of members from each board responsible for discussing a timeline and putting a strategy in place to accomplish the changes.

### **2023 Planning – Overview and Next Steps**

Dr. Treadway reviewed the major activities/initiatives that the Library's management team had identified as central to the Library's observance of its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023. After a brief discussion, she stated that a 2023 Planning Steering Committee would also be formed to flesh out ideas and signature events and would include key stakeholders as well as representation from both boards.

The joint retreat adjourned at 3:57 pm.