

Incentives Committee

September 5, 2023 | 1:30pm

1. Roll Call

- ✓ Stuart Auchincloss, Chair (U)
- Carla Taylor (P)
- ✓ Rajene Hardeman (D)
- ✓ Jill Leinung (C)
- ✓ Mary Linda Todd (G)
- Barry Ramage (D) (ex officio)
- ✓ Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (Staff Liaison)
- ✓ Laura Crisci (Staff Liaison)

2. Chair's Comments: Chair Stuart Auchincloss thanked Laura Crisci, MHLS Library Sustainability Coordinator, for her work to support member libraries through the application process and for her work to prepare for the Incentives Committee meeting. It was noted this was Laura's first year working on this project. Chair Auchincloss suggested that a press release about the recently announced grant awards through the program to member libraries be issued.

3. The Committee reviewed the process for State Aid for Library Construction Program (SALC) Award Recommendations including the 2023 MHLS Board Priorities for Funding and MHLS Definition for an Economically Disadvantaged Community.

4. The Committee reviewed the **MHLS application for roof replacement and rooftop solar installation**. The project involves: (1) the demolition and removal of the existing asphalt shingle roofing system and gutters; and (2) the installation of a new asphalt roofing system; and (3) the installation of new gutters; and (4) the relocation and installation of new downspouts; and (5) the installation of a solar energy electrical generation system on the Mid-Hudson Library System Office Building located at 103 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY. Total Project Cost: \$195,057; Requested Award Amount: \$97,528 less any state or federal incentives we are able to receive.

- a. **ACTION:** Rajene Hardeman moved, and Jill Leinung seconded, a motion to recommend a maximum award amount of \$97,528 to MHLS pending incentive calculations. The motion passed unanimously.

5. The Committee reviewed the project abstract, descriptions, and impact statements of the 10 member library applications. Total funds requested are \$1,408,823. Our allocation is \$1,242,064. Committee discussion resulted in consensus on points to award to each application based on the 2023 MHLS Board Priorities for Funding, these points were used in the formula to create the recommended award amounts shown in the attachment to this report.

- a. **ACTION:** The Committee recommends the board's approval of the recommended award amount.

6. **Guidance on Assignment of Additional Funds:** The Committee directed MHLS Staff to reallocate any funds a) turned down by members recommended for funding or b) offered by NYS in addition to MHLS' allocation, as equitably as possible across all libraries recommended for funding.

7. Debrief/Suggestions for 2024 Process

- a. MHLS staff will seek a conversation with the Division of Library Development regarding written guidance on tax incentives libraries are now eligible for and how this impacts the state aid program.

- b.** MHLS staff will draft language to fine-tune the 2024 Board Priorities for Funding for two of the five points awarded:
 - i.** Energy Conservation: removal of the Sustainable Library Certification Program from this point and clarification as to how the Energy Star criterion can be used to earn this point.
 - ii.** Additional opportunities to earn the Leadership in Sustainable Design point if a library has a board approved climate action plan or can demonstrate alignment with their municipality's climate action plan or Climate Smart Communities effort.
- c.** MHLS staff are asked to ensure libraries applying for digital signage are also installing a sunscreen to protect their investment in this equipment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01pm.