

# Memorandum



DATE June 9, 2011

TO Honorable Members of the Quality of Life Committee: Pauline Medrano (Chair),  
Vonciel Jones Hill (Vice Chair), Carolyn R. Davis, Sheffie Kadane, David A.  
Neumann, Steve Salazar

SUBJECT Dallas and the Opportunities of a New Librarianship

At the June 13, 2011 Quality of Life & Government Services Committee Meeting,  
the attached briefing will be given to provide you with a Library update.

If you have questions or need additional information, please let me know.



Forest E. Turner  
Assistant City Manager

Attachment

Cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager  
Deborah A. Watkins, City Secretary  
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
C. Victor Lander, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager  
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Frank Libro, Public Information Office  
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager

# Dallas and the Opportunities of a New Librarianship

Presented to the Quality of Life &  
Government Services Committee  
June 13, 2011

R. David Lankes  
Professor, Syracuse University iSchool



# I Believe...

- Best Days of Libraries are Ahead of Us
- Libraries are Uniquely Positioned to Lead in the Knowledge Age
- However, We Won't Get There with a Focus on Artifacts and Consumers

Citizens are not users; not customers, nor consumers - they are participants in control of their world and able to shape it

# Changing Nature of Libraries

- From Quiet Buildings with Loud Rooms to Loud Buildings with Quiet Rooms
- Places of Knowledge Access to Knowledge Creation
- Territory of the Librarian to Territory of the Community

# Changing Nature of Librarians

- Unshackled from the Collection
- Shift of Ownership Model to Rental Model of Collections
- The Ascending Resource of the Library
- Unlike the Peaking Collection

# Changes in Tools, but Not the Mission

- The mission of librarians is to improve society through facilitating knowledge creation in their communities.

# What is a Library?



# What is a Library?





# Centers

Curriculum

Co-Governed

- Entrepreneurium
- Music Center
- Writing Center
- Senior Center



Joan Frye Williams: We need to stop being the grocery store and become the kitchen



There is not such a cradle of democracy upon the earth as the Free Public Library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration. ~Andrew Carnegie

Take away my people, but leave my factories, and soon grass will grow on the factory floors. Take away my factories, but leave my people, and soon we will have a new and better factory. ~Andrew Carnegie