

Let's Loop Seattle
Report to HLAA-WA Board
August 24, 2013

King County Library System

Accomplishments: The main room at KCLS is looped! Charlie and Debra at 4 Culture have agreed to help fund, plan, and promote an event to introduce the looped room to the community (such as a movie, music, or author talk.) This room's looping hasn't been publicized much, if at all.

KCLS also purchased two counter loops for employee accommodation, and the loops may be available to patrons as well.

Next steps: After August vacations are over, Cheri will connect with Charlie and Debra to begin event planning for the multipurpose room launch. Which other libraries should be targeted next?

On the horizon: Other KCLS branches, especially Issaquah, are great candidates for looping. (Issaquah Library is very close to Eastside Audiology, which is waiting for technical upgrades before they install the loop. Audiologists could provide education, support, and endorsement. It would be exciting to see a neighborhood section all looped.)

Village Theater in Issaquah

Accomplishments: The Theater has secured one bid for looping. The demand for assistive listening has already been proven, as there's often a line to check out the ALDs they have.

Next steps: How to follow up on this to make sure the looping happens?

On the horizon: This theater is very close to the Issaquah library, again making a looped neighborhood possible!

Town Hall

Accomplishments: Seattle Arts & Lectures will open caption their Literary series. Other series will offer captioning upon request. (Seattle Arts & Lectures uses several venues, including Town Hall, Benaroya Hall, and Meany Hall.)

Next steps: Charlie and Debra will give Cheri more information about contacts at Town Hall, and Cheri will connect with Town Hall. Since Town Hall essentially shuts down in August, it's a great time to get a loop installed. Having Town Hall's upstairs rooms use CART and the downstairs educational and economic event-oriented rooms being looped would be wonderful combinations. Town Hall draws many seniors from the neighborhood, but it's also a venue frequented by people of all ages.

4 Culture

Accomplishments: 4 Culture (Charlie and Debra in particular) has been incredibly supportive and helpful about getting Seattle cultural spaces in the loop. Their efforts are detailed in other parts of this report. In addition to those efforts, 4 Culture will also compile a list of current buildings slated for renovation, building improvements, carpets, and so on. They are also interested in looking into joint funding.

Next steps: Cheri will stay in contact with them as they return from vacation. Also, Cheri will deliver them the name of the company Bellevue College/Carlson Theatre uses to promote their theatrical events.

City of Seattle

Accomplishments: the City's Parks and Rec created a committee for emergency communications planning and recruited paid SMEs. Christine Seymour was selected to provide guidance around hearing and speech. Cheri asked to be a volunteer (unpaid) advisor to this committee for looping and Universal Design issues, but she has not heard back (beyond a form letter) if her participation will be welcomed.

The 2012 launch resulted in support from city council members Burgess and Rasmussen, so looping is on their radar, if on the back burner.

Next steps: Cheri is determining whom to contact to further these efforts (Mayor McGinn, the city council, the heads of senior centers?) What is the priority for city efforts?

On the horizon: It's possible the mayor will be more responsive while he's fighting for re-election. The City of Seattle is a complex institution with lots of bureaucracy. City Council chambers, a city hall meeting room, and senior centers are all candidates for looping.

Seattle Parks and Rec is building new facilities and updating several others, but they have not been particularly responsive toward looping efforts. Cheri asked to meet with the planners for the South Seattle facility, but received no reply. Senior Centers have been the most responsive, but for the HLAA-WA funded project, a venue used by all ages would be preferable.

Sea-Tac Airport

Accomplishments: A productive and positive meeting with Dave Wilson, head of IT for the airport. He was interested in loop technology and even participated in the meeting with the loop on!

Next steps: At the meeting, it was discussed that Dave could travel to see the looping at the Grand Rapids airport. Cheri will follow up with Dave to see if this is still feasible, or if other efforts are needed to make progress. David Meyers can help facilitate the tour, if needed. If the trip to Grand Rapids is not possible, what is the next step?

University of Washington

Despite efforts by Cheri and Doug Hayden from DO-IT, the new Husky Union Building renovations were completed with no looping. In fact, hearing accommodations and design modifications were not considered very much. By the time Cheri and Doug intervened, the UW informed them that to install loops would delay the completion date, and this was not possible.

Disability Services uses FM receivers, so they are invested in this technology. The renovations included equipping only the multipurpose room for FM, but guests must request receivers 10 days in advance (students can be assigned them upon request.)

Next steps: how to continue to support the UW's efforts in hearing loss support (CI implants, DO-IT, NWUDC, Bloedel Hearing Research Center) while encouraging them toward looping on campus? Is it worth it to pursue counter loops at the HUB dining check-outs, study rooms, information center, etc.? What is the best path?

Bellevue Youth Theater

Accomplishments: Charlie and Debra from 4Culture agreed to work with Kate Johnston to find funding and move forward. It's an opportunity to have the loops integrated into the infrastructure at the very beginning.

Next steps: After August vacations, Kate will connect with Charlie and Debra.

HSDC

Accomplishments: Cheri has written an article to be submitted to HSDC's newsletter along with an email.

Next steps: Cheri would like to see HSDC become a model for looping and Universal Design. She'd also like to stay involved with HSDC in some type of partnership. How to convince them to loop? How else can she stay connected with them?

On the horizon: HSDC has undergone some funding issues. It would be great for HSDC to become a model facility for looping and universal design.

Seattle Musical Theater

Accomplishments: Cheri has connected with Seattle Musical Theater, and confirmed Janet Pope has left. She also researched the facility.

Next steps: Cheri will track down the technical terms for the wiring problem and determine who to contact about upgrading the wiring.

On the horizon: Seattle Musical Theater is in a very old building, and its wiring is probably below code and likely does not support looping at this time. (It's also managed by Seattle Parks and Rec.) Unless the theater repairs the wiring, a third of the theatre would not be accessible to those who wear hearing aids

or CIs and want to couple technology to their personal hearing device, whether it be FM, infrared, or hearing loops.

ODHH

Accomplishments: ODHH is working to supply the Community Service operations with counter loops for intake services. In addition, ODHH has purchased three P200 portable loop systems (used for the Federal Way presentation) to use for training DVR and for accommodations needed for government meetings.

Next steps:

Signage

Accomplishments: Cheri has firmed up signage placement in several places. She also wrote an article for the HSDC newsletter on the subject of signs and their importance.

Next step: Ways to get facilities to display signs?

Website

Accomplishments: In conjunction with a freelance writer, Cheri has been developing a structure and ideas to revamp the website.

Next steps: Cheri will move forward with the writer and the web designer. What other concepts should be included?

On the horizon: Ideas include sample advocacy letters, a map of looped Puget Sound locations, accessible events, ways to get involved, looping in your workplace, FAQs on loops and hearing loss, and a frequently updated news/blog.