



MEMO

To: MSL Commissioners
From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Evan Hammer, Digital Library Administrator
Subject: Recording Studio Update
Date: April 1, 2023

In June 2017 the Montana State Library (MSL) celebrated the opening of a modular recording studio to enhance our Talking Book recording program. The total cost to purchase and install the recording studio was approximately \$96,000. It was funded from donations, including a \$17,000 donation from the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

When MSL vacated its location in the Mazurek Building and moved to its current location it was with the understanding that our new location did not have space to accommodate the recording studio and that a new home for the studio would be located. After discussing the opportunity with Governor Gianforte, we believe the modular recording studio could form the basis of a state government media center for use by MSL and other state agencies. Other agencies have already used the recording studio including the Department of Administration, the Secretary of State, and Fish, Wildlife and Parks. When I raised this opportunity with the Governor's Cabinet, the Montana Department of Transportation enthusiastically agreed to explore housing the recording studio.

MSL staff will meet with MDT staff later this month to tour the studio and to finalize an agreement for its transfer and operation. If we reach agreement, we will create a project plan to move the recording studio by August, 2023. MDT has verbally stated that they have funding to pay for the cost transfer and installation. That said, it may be necessary to request authority from the Commission to use dollars from the State Library Trust to cover some of these costs.