



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
610 QUINCY ST. | RAPID CITY, SD 57701 | 605.394.6139

RAPIDCITYLIBRARY.ORG



Date: May 13, 2024
To: Library Board of Trustees
From: Sean Minkel, Assistant Library Director
Re: Strategic Plan Report

Per established practice, a strategic plan progress update will be provided to the Library Board quarterly. The current plan was adopted by the Board on August 8, 2022.

Overview:

Notable accomplishments for the library’s strategic plan during this quarter include multiple financial literacy events, the launch of a collection of no-text picture books for adults, new furniture for the children’s and teen area, and the repair of an upstairs noise dampening system.

EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY THROUGH A VARIETY OF CLASSES AND TRAININGS

Provide resources and assistance to help citizens achieve their educational, professional development, and personal growth goals

- ⌚ The library will be hosting the Spark! Places of Innovation exhibit starting in July 2024. The exhibit is designed to promote new ways of thinking and creative problem solving in communities. Library events and materials will be used to support and expand on this topic during the exhibit.
- ⌚ The library is collaborating with The Rapid City Arts Council to pursue a grant available for The Big Read, which is planned to start in late 2024.
- ⌚ Teen programming continues to be reviewed and adjusted in order to identify more popular times and provide a variety of events related to life skills.
- ⌚ An artificial intelligence (AI) staff team has been organized to prepare staff to answer questions and provide assistance to the public on this topic.
- ✓ Three financial literacy events were held in January 2024 teaching attendees about saving strategies, managing debt, and the basics of credit.

DEVELOP ENGAGING EVENTS FOR A VARIETY OF AGES AND INTERESTS

Host a variety of engaging events that draw current and new users to the library, encourage future visits, and offer unique experiences

- ⌚ Storytimes and crafts were trialed at the Liberty Center YMCA, Farmer’s Market, and Youth & Family Services; those locations and activities will be continued in 2024 with the bookmobile.
- ✓ The library hosted a successful 2024 Seed Library kickoff on March 23. Attendees were encouraged to swap seeds and learn about sustainable planting practices.
- ✓ The successful program to check out state park passes expanded to allow the checkout of passes to The Journey Museum.

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VISION *Educate, enrich, and inspire the community by providing accessible and equitable resources for all*

VALUES *Welcoming • Community • Inclusion • Well-being • Inquisitive*



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ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL LIBRARY SERVICES FOR ALL LIBRARY USERS

Ensure ease of access through library hours, library card eligibility, and adaptive technologies and resources

- ⌚ The library is investigating a high interest, low readability book collection for adults to encourage learning at all levels of literacy.
- ⌚ Genre stickers are being added to young adult materials after recommendations from the Teen Advisory Board.
- ⌚ Dynamic shelving displays are being investigated to make it easier for patrons to locate materials and better market library collections.
- ✓ A no-text picture books collection for adults was launched.

EXPAND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TO PROVIDE AND PROMOTE LIBRARY SERVICES

Invest in partnerships as a way to promote services and gain new users, especially with the business and Native American communities

- ⌚ Several new partnerships with local area businesses are being worked through in preparation for the launch of the library bookmobile.
- ✓ A partnership with the Affordable Connectivity Program (SD Dept of Labor) provided the community with information about increasing low-cost internet connections.

ENHANCE THE LIBRARY FACILITIES TO CREATE A COMFORTABLE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL

Enhance public spaces to improve library usability and comfort

- ⌚ Replacement carpeting for the 2nd floor is planned to permit easier cleaning and allow for the installation of interactive carpet tiles. A redesign of the upstairs layout is also being reviewed as part of this project.
- ⌚ The Library Foundation took on a project to redesign the landscaping in front of the library.
- ✓ New, more easily maintainable seating was purchased for the children's and young adult areas.
- ✓ The noise dampening system upstairs were repaired and is again functioning to reduce sound infiltration.

GOALS COMPLETED

Goals completed since the last review with no major updates to report.

- On October 14, 2023, the library participated in the Girl Scouts Annual BIG (Believe in Girls) Event with an engaging STEAM challenge.
- The Winter reading challenge for adults, teens, and children ran from December 10 through January 6, 2024 with 481 participants.
- Lakota Hoop Dancing and a cultural presentation were completed in November. In addition, Custer State Park returned with events related to nature, local history, and ecology.
- An author event with Jan Brett was held on December 5 in partnership with Black Hills Reads, Early Learning South Dakota, and South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

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- The Registration Policy underwent a significant revision in order to maintain and improve access to all members of the community.
- The library participated in Community Connect on November 16 with RAI (Rural America Initiatives).
- A partnership with the SDSM&T Paleontology Club started providing monthly events in November. They will be occurring in the future as available through the school year.
- The upstairs accoustical remediation project was initiated with fabric batts installed in the Community Room, sound absorbing panels in the lobby, and enclosed study rooms.

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