



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

[RAPIDCITYLIBRARY.ORG](http://RAPIDCITYLIBRARY.ORG)



Date: August 12, 2024  
To: Library Board of Trustees  
From: Sean Minkel, Assistant Library Director  
Re: Strategic Plan Update

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 the launch of the Spark! exhibit and multiple related events, new collections for the library, multiple new partnerships related to Summer Reading and the Bookmobile, and a new contract to provide and maintain library plants.

**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 is collaborating with the Rapid City Arts Council for a grant funded program, The Big Read, which is planned for late 2024.
- ⌚ Teen programming continues to be analyzed to identify more popular times and provide a variety of events related to life skills.
- ⌚ An artificial intelligence (AI) staff team has been formed to prepare staff to answer questions and provide assistance on this topic. More resources are also being pursued by supervisors.
- ✓ The library is currently hosting the Spark! Places of Innovation exhibit through August 17. The exhibit is designed to promote new ways of thinking and creative problem solving in communities. Library events and materials are being used to support and expand on this topic during the exhibit.

**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*

- ⌚ A Makerspace event will be held on August 17 to coincide with the last day of the Spark! Places of Innovation exhibit.
- ⌚ Storytimes and crafts were offered at the Liberty Center YMCA, Farmer’s Market, and Youth & Family Services Pop-up locations in 2023. In 2024, these services have started again with the bookmobile Story Walk and crafts at relevant stops. For example, the bookmobile will have crafts at the Pumpkin Festival and Central States Fair.

**MISSION** *Connecting the community to education, information, and inspiration*

**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*

- ⌚ 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 high interest, low reading level book collection for adults to encourage learning at all levels of literacy was launched.
- ✓ Fishing rods and tackle boxes can now be checked out from the library.

### 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*

- ⌚ Multiple partnerships with local organizations have been initiated as a result of the bookmobile launch, including Storybook Island, Wellfully, Black Hills Works Learning Institute, Career Learning Center, and the Central States Fair.
- ✓ A partnership started with Pennington County Housing Development and the United Way to promote Book Rich Environments to provide books at no cost to library users. When completed in 2024, the program will have given away 2,500 books at community events run by these organizations.
- ✓ The library restarted a collaborative partnership with Rapid City Area Schools for Summer Reading – something that hadn't happened since 2019.

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

*Enhance public spaces to improve library usability and comfort*

- ⌚ A safety railing is being investigated for install in the covered garage to discourage patrons from stepping in front of cars using the drive-thru.
- ⌚ Replacement carpeting for the library's 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is scheduled for September - October. A reorganization of the upstairs layout is also being reviewed as part of this project.
- ⌚ The Library Foundation is working with a consultant to plan a redesign the library landscaping based on xeriscaping and native plants.
- ✓ The Friends of the Library will provide and maintain a variety of plants in the library, to start in August or September.

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## GOALS COMPLETED

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

- Three financial literacy events were held in January 2024 teaching attendees about saving strategies, managing debt, and the basics of credit.
- The library hosted a successful 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.
- A partnership with the Affordable Connectivity Program through the SD Department of Labor & Regulation to increase internet connectivity in the community held an event January 10, 2024.
- New, more easily maintainable chairs were purchased for the children's and young adult areas.
- The noise dampening speakers upstairs were repaired and are again functioning to reduce sound infiltration.
- A no-text picture books collection for adults was launched.

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