



**DOWNTOWN LIBRARY**  
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Date: November 18, 2024  
To: Library Board of Trustees  
From: Sean Minkel, Assistant Library Director  
Re: 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Update, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2024

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 hosting the Spark! Places of Innovation exhibit, restarting a collaborative partnership with Rapid City Area Schools for Summer Reading, new high interest/low readability collections, and the completion of the upstairs re-carpeting and remodel.

### 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 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 to identify more popular times and provide a variety of classes related to life skills.
- ⌚ An artificial intelligence staff team is planned to prepare staff to answer questions and aid the public on this topic. More resources and training are also being pursued by supervisors.

### 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*

- ✓ The first Makerspace event was implemented on August 17 and coincided with the last day of the Spark! Places of Innovation exhibit. Additional makerspace and event collaborations are being planned.
- ✓ Storytimes & crafts were trialed at the Liberty Center YMCA, Farmer's Market, and Youth & Family Services Pop-up locations in 2023. In 2024, these services transitioned to the bookmobile Story Walk and crafts at the Pumpkin Festival and Central States Fair.

### 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.

**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*

## 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 new partnerships with local area businesses have been initiated because of the bookmobile launch. As of this time, new partnerships include Storybook Island, Wellfully, Black Hills Works Learning Institute, Career Learning Center, and the Central States Fair.
- ⌚ A partnership with Pennington County Housing Development & United Way to promote Book Rich Environments started to provide books at no cost to library patrons. When completed in late 2024, the program will have given away 2,500 books at events run by these organizations in the community.

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

*Enhance public spaces to improve library usability and comfort*

- ⌚ With cold weather nearing, the power supply for the entryway air curtain will be increased in November to make the entrance more comfortable for both staff and patrons.
- ⌚ The Library Foundation took on a project to rework the landscaping in front of the library and has received an initial design proposal. If all goes as planned, this project could start as early as 2025.
- ⌚ New makerspace work tables, seating, and storage are being investigated to improve accessibility in this space.
- ✓ City provided security services started mid-October and are expected to improve the consistency of security coverage.
- ✓ The Friends of the Library agreed to a proposal to provide and maintain a variety of plants in the library. The downstairs plants were placed in October and upstairs is planned for November.

## GOALS COMPLETED

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

- The library completed hosting of the Spark! Places of Innovation exhibit from July 6 through August 17 with hundreds of attendees. The exhibit was designed to promote new ways of thinking and creative problem solving in communities. Library events were also used to support and expand on the topic.
- A high interest, low readability book collection for adults was launched to encourage learning at all levels of literacy. Fishing rods & tackle were also added to the library's collection for checkout.
- The library restarted a collaborative partnership with Rapid City Area Schools for Summer Reading – something that hasn't happened since 2019.
- New carpeting for the library's 2nd floor was installed to permit easier cleaning and refresh the space. An entirely new design for the upstairs layout was also completed during carpeting to improve sightlines, better separate the young adult area, and make it easier for large events to be held upstairs.

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