

Summit County (Colorado) Public Library

Strategic Plan

Last Revised: 12-17-2014

Our Mission: The Summit County Library acquires, organizes, and provides access to information and media in printed and electronic forms for the residents of and visitors to the county in order to inform, educate, enrich, and entertain them.

Our Goals: The three branches of the Summit County Library strive to become the learning centers of our community, where people of all ages and cultures can come to discover the world of ideas, to embrace the joy of reading, and to access the power of information. The three branches of the Summit County Library also work together to serve our growing and diverse constituencies and to respond to the changing nature of library services.

Our Brand: Discover. Connect. Inspire.

One of the main responsibilities of the Summit County Library Board of Trustees is to plan for the future of our library system. This is a process that requires regular review; the Board's overall goals for the next several years are outlined below. Each of these goals works in concert with the others, and all are equally important.

Community Outreach: Continue to inform the public about the library's evolving role in the community through the Summit Daily, emails, and the library web site. Energize and improve relationships with Friends of the Summit County Libraries by thinking creatively about ways to support the Friends. Stay in close touch with the Summit County Library Foundation. Pursue strategic partnerships with community groups.

Facilities: Insist upon a welcoming atmosphere in all three branches of the Library. Monitor usage carefully and consistently, especially during the increased hours at South Branch. Also monitor usage of new technology at South Branch. Monitor closely all Sunday traffic to determine if Sunday hours should be rescinded, expanded, or otherwise revised. Begin serious discussions about increasing the size of the North Branch Library.

Finances: Work with the Library Foundation to build upon the success of the capital campaign by continuing to pursue alternative sources of funding. Maintain the current efficient and responsible use of public funds, including complete financial transparency, and, when deemed appropriate, seek an increase in public funding in order to ensure adequate and stable funding to meet current and future operational needs.

Programming and Materials: Insist upon programming to try to meet the needs of our diverse patrons. Continue to promote children, “tween,” and young adult programming. Enhance adult programming. Increase Spanish language materials and expand programming for our Hispanic patrons by actively seeking their input.

Staff, Volunteers, and Board of Trustees: Support the Director's attempts to attract, train, and retain the best staff members. Carefully assess the Director's performance as part of her annual review, and give constructive comments for improvement to her. Ensure adequate staffing, and seek to improve customer service. Solicit, utilize, recognize, and support a strong community volunteer base. Actively recruit potential Trustees from the community who can provide the skills necessary to improve our libraries.

Technology: Stay as current as possible on emerging library technologies, critically reviewing the costs and benefits provided by new technologies before implementation. Enhance and improve the library website so that patrons can better utilize this important resource. Formulate a policy about how much time staff members can reasonably devote to helping technologically challenged patrons.

Communications and Best Practices: Institute a coordinated effort whereby staff members exchange ideas, visit other branches as well as other libraries, report to other staff members and trustees on meetings attended and new ideas and practices learned. Encourage trustees to visit all three branches at least three times a year, including one Board of Trustees meeting with staff at each branch. Establish an annual series of deadlines for assessing funding needs for programming and acquisitions and for seeking grants for same. Study the overall process for acquisitions in order to improve the library's collections and to achieve better balance therein.