Community Engagement Plan | 2019–2021

VISION
An engaged community that learns, works, creates, and thrives together.

MISSION
Providing resources, experiences, and places that empower people to learn, explore, and succeed.

ENGAGEMENT, STABILITY, AND CONNECTEDNESS remained the strategic directions of Spokane County Library District’s Community Engagement Plan.

After following state-issued requirements and offering curbside service, library staff welcomed the community back as buildings reopened to the public in April 2021. However, year two of the pandemic persisted with challenges and programs remained virtual. Navigating the hybrid of in-person and virtual, the Library maintained its mission by continuing to provide resources and services to the citizens of Spokane County.

The following are a few of the ways the District’s mission helped guide the library and the community to learn, work, create, and thrive together in 2021.

2021 Financial Information

A property tax levy of $0.4762 per $1,000 of assessed valuation in the District service area accounts for more than 95% of annual funding. Remaining revenue is derived from interest earnings, other fees and charges, and miscellaneous revenues, such as gifts and donations.

Revenues

Year 2021 (from C4 for revenues)
Taxes...........................................16,191,071
Intergovernmental .............................496,017
Goods & Services .................................20,310
Fines & Fees ........................................64,189
Other .............................................. 359,504
Total Revenues ............................. 17,131,091

Expenses

From internal statements for expenses
Salaries...........................................6,771,271
Benefits ........................................ 2,338,364
Library Materials ............................. 2,195,898
Services ......................................... 1,815,255
Supplies ...........................................136,066
Capital Expenditures ...................... 796,514
Transfers Out ................................. 1,201,800
Total Expenditures ...................... 15,255,168
Due to the pandemic, the Small Business Boot Camp program shifted to a virtual format and the Library District supported participants with mobile hotspots, collaborative online workspaces, and recorded meetings. Connectivity was a challenge; however, a dedicated group of six participants completed the year-long program, gaining valuable skills and business confidence.

“Participating in the Small Business Boot Camp was very validating to me as an artist because it meant my business was being taken seriously by someone other than me and, not only that, but it also felt like the staff at the Spokane County Library District fully believed in my ability to be a successful business owner and wanted to help me succeed, so that was marvelous experience.”
– Megan Perkins,
Small Business Boot Camp participant

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY** – 2021 was the sixth year that Spokane County Library District has taken on the role of Neighborhood Champion for the American Express Shop Small event on Small Business Saturday. The library takes on the role of ambassador for the Shop Small cause—supporting, rallying, and bringing together local businesses and community members throughout the holidays and beyond.

District libraries supported four communities in 2021 including Cheney, Deer Park, Medical Lake, and Millwood (Argonne Library). Over 180 people shopped during the event at 50 small businesses: 18 in Cheney, 9 in Deer Park, 14 in Medical Lake, and 9 in Millwood. Two winners selected in each community received a $50 gift certificate to the participating small business of their choosing.

**STA SUMMER YOUTH PASSES** – Spokane Transit Authority (STA) expanded their Summer Youth Bus Pass program to the entire region for 2021 and partnered with the District to be distribution points for the bus passes. Summer Youth Bus Passes were available from June through September. Over 300 passes were distributed at District libraries in the first week of the program.

**COVID-19 TEST KITS** – The Library District partnered with Spokane Regional Health District to distribute free COVID-19 testing kits through the District’s curbside pickup service. The Library District distributed 6,000 testing kits from mid-October 2021 through mid-January 2022.
Programs and events were mostly virtual, presented via video conferencing and social media. Through online platforms, the District offered:

- **78** Storytimes with **658** in attendance
- **185** Education & Enrichment events with **3,992** in attendance
- **64** Business & Career Development programs with **816** in attendance