



SPOKANE COUNTY
LIBRARY
DISTRICT

COMMUNITY IMPACT PLAN





PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

From modest beginnings operating out of borrowed basement space in the early 1940s, Spokane County Library District has been providing access to information and ideas to the citizens of the County. In 1955, the Spokane Valley Library opened and the District has continued to grow to the professional library system it is today. The District currently operates 10 libraries serving the unincorporated areas of Spokane County and eleven of its cities and towns.

The District continues to be responsive to the evolving needs of the community. Libraries are well-positioned to identify community assets, connect with partners, and put into action programs and services that benefit our region.

With this in mind, the District set in motion a planning process to listen to County residents and learn about their aspirations for our community. The District held community conversations and one-on-one interviews. Emerging from these discussions is a road map for expanding services that have the greatest impact on the community, and to deliver services that are both relevant and responsive for the common good in changing times.

VISION

Spokane County Library District is the essential place to explore, learn, and create.

MISSION

We inspire learning, advance knowledge, and connect communities.

VALUES

- + Community engagement
- + Strong local partnerships
- + Accountability and trustworthiness
- + Good stewardship of public resources
- + Creativity, innovation, and adaptability
- + Free and open access to ideas and information
- + Learning and the pursuit of knowledge
- + Literacy and the importance of reading
- + Welcoming places
- + Excellent customer service
- + Civil discourse and interaction
- + Diversity and inclusiveness

THE RESULTS

Conversations with the community identified four areas where libraries are ready to fill needs that lead to addressing challenges and opening doors within our community.



1

DEVELOP YOUNG LEARNERS

Parents and caregivers will have resources and activities to prepare children, birth to age five, to enter school ready to learn.

The ability to read and write is the basis for all other education. The District works with other local and state early childhood literacy agencies to develop and share information to prepare our children for greatest educational success.

3

SUPPORT JOB SEEKERS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES

Local businesses and non-profits will have the tools they need to develop and maintain successful enterprises, and teens and adults will have the resources and opportunities they need to attain meaningful employment.

The job market is changing and new businesses are forming. What skills do job seekers need to compete? What resources do new businesses need to get started and remain competitive? The District provides educational awareness, test prep, and career-related programs for job seekers and support programs for businesses.



2 EXPLORE AND DISCOVER

Everyone will have the resources they need to explore topics of interest, and support to share knowledge with others.

The District has half a million items in its collection, tons of free programs and classes of popular interest, and is proud of its reputation for exceptional customer service and fiscal responsibility. Whatever you're captivated by, you're sure to find resources you want, books or digital!

4 CONNECT COMMUNITIES

Community members will connect with each other and engage in local activities.

What better place than your neighborhood library for seeking and sharing the talents and skills of fellow citizens in our community. Whether it's for personal or professional knowledge, sometimes you don't need to leave the neighborhood to find a wealth of information. The Library is the community hub for connecting locally.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The reality is there are no additional resources to fund expanded programs. However, the District has proven good stewardship with funding and will continue to implement efficiency measures to align resources with priorities identified by the community.

Where possible, existing spaces will be repurposed to create engaging learning areas for young children, to support the information needs of job seekers, and provide welcoming spaces where the community can gather to learn and share information.

The role of the library as a community center where people gather increases as library staff reaches out to connect with the community. District meeting spaces serve as essential gathering places to learn and connect.

While people continue to think of books when they think of the library, the District's collection consists of materials in many formats including movies, music, and digital resources. The District continues to invest in digital resources that can be accessed remotely to facilitate greater use of the collection.

Technology will be used to support service priorities by providing work flow efficiencies. This will enable staff to devote time to new service initiatives, and to enhance the learning, creativity, and pursuit of personal interests.

The greatest resource is the knowledgeable and dedicated staff. The District continues to invest in their training and professional development resulting in excellent service.