

Youth Department Strategic Plan for the Bitterroot Public Library

2024-2027

Vision Statement: Enriching the lives of young minds through innovative and impactful programming and material that fosters learning, creativity, and community engagement.

Mission Statement: The Youth Department at the Bitterroot Public Library is dedicated to fostering a love for learning, literacy, and personal growth among children and families. Through innovative programming, diverse collections, and collaborative partnerships, we aim to provide a dynamic and inclusive space where youth can explore, create, and connect. This plan was shaped by incorporating feedback obtained through the Facility Needs Community Assessment Survey and other youth surveys, with this documents' objectives derived from input on programming and collection development, rather than emphasizing expansion of the library's physical size.

1. Programming:

- Objective 1: Continue to assess community needs and trends to create programming that addresses current educational, cultural, and recreational demands.
- Objective 2: To diversify and enrich our youth engagement initiatives, the library aims to introduce and expand a range of dynamic programs, including
 - collaborating with local organizations to launch an integrated literacy and exercise program
 - collaborating with the Friends of BPL to organize biannual library open houses for families
 - providing 'Boredom Boxes' as engaging and interactive passive activities for children within the library premises
- Objective 3: Ensure accessibility for all youth, including those with disabilities, by providing adaptive technologies, sensory-friendly programming, and inclusive materials.

2. Literacy:

- Objective: Develop a comprehensive, year-round reading incentive program (inspired by '1,000 Books Before Kindergarten' and '100 Books Before Graduation') that encourages regular reading habits, comprehension, and literacy skills. (In addition to an annual winter and summer reading program).

3. Collaborative Partnerships:

- Objective: Continue partnering with local experts, professionals, and organizations to offer specialized workshops, career exploration sessions, and mentorship programs. Collaborate with local schools, community organizations, and cultural institutions to leverage resources, expertise, and reach.

4. Collection Development:

- Objective: Continue to assess and update the collection based on community preferences, emerging literary trends, and educational needs.

5. Technology Integration:

- Objective 1: Offer training and workshops to educate youth on effectively using digital resources for learning and leisure.
- Objective 2: Enhance the overall patron experience and streamline our library's operations by strategically integrating a display TV(s) in the Youth Area and the Beanstack platform into our services and programs, effectively utilizing these technologies to engage our community, promote literacy, and facilitate efficient program management.

Implementation and Evaluation:

The strategic plan will be executed through a phased approach, with regular evaluations to assess progress and adapt strategies as needed. Key performance indicators will include program attendance, resource usage, user satisfaction, and impact on youth development.

By adhering to this strategic plan, the Youth Department at the Bitterroot Public Library aims to become a hub of inspiration, education, and growth for the youth in our community, contributing to their holistic development and lifelong love for learning.