



JAMESTOWN PHILOMENIAN LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2024

Adopted by the Jamestown Library Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees

Eugene Mihaly, Chair

Christopher Walsh, Vice Chair

Ted Baldwin, Treasurer

Bob Flath, Secretary

Marla Romash

Devi Ross

Lisa Sheley, Library Director

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the past eight years, the Library Board of Trustees has engaged in planning the renovation and expansion of the Jamestown Philomenian Library. In that time, information indispensable to writing a new Strategic Plan was collected in various public forums.

In order to ensure all members of the community were represented, Renovation Public Forums were held at the library. Invited to the forums were Town Council members, the Town Administrator, the Friends of the JPL, community liaisons, library users, and library staff. Bonnie Clendenning (senior consultant of ESC New England), Kathryn Taylor (consultant at Dynamic

Solution Associates), and the team at Hannah Street Consulting served in various capacities to moderate these public forums.

The public forums were held as information gathering sessions. The results of the public forums were reviewed and evaluated by the formal consultants, the library staff, and the Library Board of Trustees. The Library Board of Trustees held a series of Planning Meetings to further analyze the input from the public forums. Goals and objectives for the construction project and strategic planning were formulated based upon the input as well as current trends in library services and design.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Jamestown Philomenian Library is to bring people, information, and ideas together to enrich lives and strengthen the community.

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY BUILDING

Goal: Foster and strengthen a sense of community in Jamestown, especially as we come out of the pandemic

Re-establish a sense of a physical community by reintroducing all forms of programming, including morning story times, movie matinees, adult book clubs, after-school book clubs, vacation programming, and meeting room use.

Goal: Grow our community through our web presence and social media Reinvigorate our Facebook page with more directed posts, use Instagram for youth services highlights, and introduce a library TikTok account geared toward our tween and teen population.

Goal: Reinvigorate collaborations with other Jamestown institutions to best serve the public and its needs

Establish a more robust relationship with the Recreation Center and the Teen Center through collaboration while we are in our temporary location. We will endeavor to maintain and grow these relationships so that they can thrive after we move back into the library at 26 North Road.

FOCUS ON CORE SERVICES

Goal: Reevaluate the collection on a regular basis

With monthly lists created for all materials in all age groups, we will be able to keep the most wanted materials on the shelves and make space for new favorites.

Goal: Make sure staff are sufficiently trained for their jobs

Encourage all staff to attend professional development sessions offered through OLIS, OSL, independent vendors, and to stay up-to-date on the Teams forum.

Goal: Encourage patrons to visit us at the temporary library location, which will be outside the comfort zone of many

Create welcoming signs, press releases, social media posts, newspaper articles, and website sliders highlighting all that we will have to offer at the temporary location while validating patrons' sense of displacement during this time of transition.

CREATE A FACILITY FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE

Goal: Communicate with patrons about the move and the impending return to 26 North Road

It is imperative that we are as open and transparent as possible with our patrons about where we are, where we see ourselves in six months, and where we hope to be in one year. They are the stakeholders in this institution and will continue to be so in the future, if we treat them well now.

Goal: Work with the architect and designer to guarantee that our new building is flexible for the future

Before the renovation begins, have regular check-ins with NewPort Architecture, LLC regarding the upcoming project. After a contractor has been hired, set up bi-weekly meetings to stay on top of construction movements, including any potential changes that will affect patrons' use of the new building. Make sure that the flexible design of the building is maintained throughout.

Goal: Engage with the community to meet the needs of the community

Through formal and informal surveys, we will poll the community to ascertain their needs for their local library. We will engage with community members via social media, email, website interactions, and in-person in order to further grow our responsiveness to the community, including current and future patrons.