

## April Strategic Plan Report

### A connected community has access to the resources they need.

- Thanks to a small grant from SELCO to support active aging the library has purchased a rollator mobility aid to make browsing the collection easier, and a set of hiking poles for anyone to checkout.
- Katlin has been refreshing the bookmobile collection. The new adult books (fiction and nonfiction) have arrived for this collection and will be processed and ready for use soon. We're looking forward to how the new books circulate after some serious outreach use this summer.
- We successfully hosted Children's Day/Book Day - Día de los Niños/Día del Libro at the Library Oasis, drawing 60 participants. This program also served as the capstone for the SEMAC grant that funded a portion of the Oasis mural by Paula Rojas. Paula contributed a line drawing of her mural as a coloring page for children to fill and, and a space for them to create their own mural on the sheet.



### An invited community feels at home in their library.

- Our first event at the oasis was hosted by Alexis in celebration of Earth Day. The Paper Plains Project engaged 12 participants in environmental awareness activities by making paper out of invasive plants. Students from both colleges, families, and FiftyNorth members stopped by to make art and learn about efforts to curb invasive plants. In total 12 people joined us outside on a cold and dreary April Saturday.



- We had a full house for Catherine Friend’s memoir writing workshop on April 23rd. This was a Legacy-funded program, and Alexis has heard a lot of positive feedback from writers who felt encouraged and inspired to share their stories.
- Summer Reading planning is entering the final stages! Finishing touches are being done on all promotional pieces, and we are shifting our energy to assembling materials for the actual start of the program.

**An included community feels seen, heard, and engaged by their library.**

- Alexis has been enjoying programming student filmmakers for our monthly Culture Crew movie nights in coordination with the Northfield Arts Guild and Northfield Historical Society. Our next one will be on Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, and we’ve been able to feature a student film from Carleton’s CAMS program at each one, as well as remarks from the student filmmaker themselves. It’s been great to provide a connection between the students, their work, and the Northfield community.
- Alexis has been busy coordinating our first AAPI Heritage Month Celebration, in partnership with St. Olaf. Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> will feature a day of engaging performances and presentations from St. Olaf student groups, food provided by Asian American restaurateurs in Northfield, and open with remarks by community leaders.
- Collaborating with Head Start for bilingual storytime sessions fosters inclusivity and early childhood literacy development. These sessions empower families and ensure all children have access to essential learning opportunities, contributing to an engaged and included community.
- Tyler participated in selecting the next Poet Laureate, a process that directly engages the community by uplifting local poets and fostering a vibrant poetry scene. We are looking forward to working with Russ Paladin (Boyington) on future efforts to continue poetry programming at the library. Tyler is the staff liaison for the Poet Laureate and will work with him over the next three years.

**An empowered community is equipped for the changing world.**

- We received Pages applications from 14 delightful young people, and ended up accepting all of them (rather than the 12 we had originally planned). Pages will begin orientation in the first week of May, during which they will get to know each other and form a cohort, screenprint their

Pages tshirts and make their nametag buttons, learn all about the Summer Reading Challenge and how to promote it, and begin assembling SRC components (folding maps, making prize buttons, etc). Their official start date will be June 11, when they'll begin volunteering in the library for 4-5 hours each week until the program ends in early August. We are so excited to welcome returning former Pages and newbies alike, and can't wait to invite them into the library family!

- Alexis, Cat and Tyler attended the Public Library Association conference in early April. They brought back lots of new ideas about programming, services, marketing, and evaluation. Alexis really appreciated this opportunity as an early-career librarian to get to know the library world better.
- Our staff retreat this year was hosted at Charlson Meadows, near Victoria, MN. The focus was on recharging our batteries, reconnecting with each other, and engaging in playful learning as a team.



- Our collaboration with Alexis and Francisco for Earth Day celebrations attracted 91 attendees, promoting environmental awareness and community engagement. Additionally, outreach efforts targeting older adults with the bookmobile provided access to library resources. Karin offered a lobby stop to help individuals obtain library cards, resulting in 47 participants.

**An informed community understands what their library offers and has opportunity to shape the library with feedback**

- Staff have submitted one proposal to present at the Minnesota Library Association conference this October on the results of the pilot internship program with NCCC. Library staff are encouraged to present at conferences to develop their professional toolkits, connect with colleagues, and to share the good work this library does with the wider professional community.

- Participating in events like Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA with Steve and Angelica engaged more than 175 participants. Additionally, St. Olaf Rolvaag Library's Library Week event allowed us to promote library services and facilitate library card sign-ups, resulting in 24 participants and 14 new library card registrations.
- School visits:
  - Three visits to Hand in Hand preschool classes (10 classes in total) with storytime and the bookmobile.
  - Francisco visited Spring Creek's 4 fifth grade classes in April. He shared information about library resources such as Libby (which apparently many fifth graders already use!) and talked about books.
  - We are gearing up to welcome many school classes to the library on tours in May, including: Greenvale Park 1st graders, Spring Creek 1st graders, Bridgewater 1st grade, Prairie Creek 1st graders, Spring Creek 3rd graders, and Greenvale Park 5th graders.