

May Strategic Plan Report

A connected community has access to the resources they need.

- Our monthly outreach bookmobile visits to senior living communities continue to make a meaningful impact in the community.
- Katlin worked with Baker & Taylor to set up new ordering processes to improve ordering for adult collections (both fiction and nonfiction across all subjects including reference and travel works)
- Received a new batch of 5G enabled Wi-Fi hotspots through the ALA grant we received last year. These hotspots will stay in our possession when the grant period ends in July

An invited community feels at home in their library.

- Katlin wrote a column for the library's Shelf Life newsletter on re-becoming a reader, inviting adults to participate in the library's summer reading challenge (for all ages). This column will take the place of the Director's note and Northfield News column this month.



- Board members Laura Turek and Will Flannery joined Director Draper in presenting 5th grader and Mayor for a Day, Maddie Cruse, with an Honorary Librarian certificate, in recognition of her great idea. The library will work with Maddie to implement "Maddie's Book Match". Maddie got a behind the scenes tour of the library and bookmobile.
- The library is beginning community engagement efforts with landscape architects TENXTEN to support the library's vision plan for the exterior grounds, with hopes to have a completed plan in time for planning the 2026-2027 budget. Areas of urgent consideration are: west side hill erosion and damage to stairs, as well as lack of accessible patio space; east side storm water management challenges, abundance of concrete, and lack of usable, shaded community space. The objective is to have exterior community spaces that are as welcoming and inviting for all ages and abilities as the inside of the library is.

- 18 1st, 3rd, and 5th grade classes from Bridgewater, Greenvale Park, and Spring Creek visited the library on field trips in May. Staff shared info about library services and summer reading, and gave them a tour of the library.

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

- We hosted an author visit and book talk in Spanish featuring "Historias tragicómicas de una soltera en la América profunda" by Anna De Santis for the Spanish book club at the library. This event provided an opportunity for Spanish-speaking community members to engage with literature in their native language, fostering inclusivity and cultural engagement within our diverse community.
- A new rollator and hiking poles have been added to the library, thanks to a minigrant from Selco. The hiking poles will be available for checkout soon, in time to take advantage of long summer hikes. The rollator is available to anyone visiting the library for use in the building. It has a seat, adjustable height handles, and a basket to make browsing easier.
- We brought the bookbike and a Legacy-funded program, the Sewing Circle, to Northfield's Pride in the Park on June 1st. We chatted with over 200 attendees, signed people up for library cards, checked out books, and decorated squares for a community quilt. The community quilt will be displayed in the Atrium once it's completed, then it'll be donated to the teen hangout space at The Key.
- Our first annual AAPI Heritage Month Celebration, author talk, and film series, in partnership with St. Olaf, was a success. We had over 275 attendees and received extremely positive feedback from the St. Olaf students, student groups, and library patrons involved. Sequoia Nagamatsu's author talk, in coordination with the Library's Sci-Fi Book Club, was very well attended. Both Professor Nagamatsu's talk and artist Mayumi Amada's presentation were recorded and are available to watch on the City's YouTube page. We're looking forward to the celebration next year.
- Received a Latino Poetry Reader grant from Library of America. This grant provides \$1200 to host public programs as part of Latino Poetry: Places We Call Home, a public humanities initiative planned for 2024–2025 which includes the release of a new anthology of Latino poetry. With the funds we will host a poetry reading and discussion by a UMN Poetry Scholar, as well as a poetry workshop.
- Teen Advisory Board convened in May to plan July and August programs for teens.

An empowered community is equipped for the changing world.

- On Bike to School Day, we participated by taking the book bike to ride with kids from Greenville School. The meeting place was Viking Terrace, and this activity aimed to promote physical activity and literacy among students. 16 participants.
- Our summer interns have started working and we are delighted to welcome them to the team. Annika, Naidine, Isabela, and Rihanna are all working on projects and you'll see them at many programs and summer outreach events around the community.
- Staff met with Sarah VanSickle to plan the library's involvement in Summer BLAST and Summer PLUS. We are planning to train the teachers on how summer reading works, introduce the students to summer reading, and then return 3 times during the summer school session with the bookmobile to hand out prize buttons to participants.

- We have 14 summer teen volunteers (“Pages”) who attended 3 training sessions in May. They bonded, made tshirts and name tags, learned some customer service basics, signed up for their summer volunteer shifts, and helped decorate the library for summer reading.
- We said goodbye to our Carleton student worker, Sophia, who has been an incredible help this year. Sophia will return in the fall, but in the meantime we will enjoy the stunning outer space themed bulletin board they made for summer reading.

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

- We're enhancing our website to include clear options for registering to request the bookmobile, bookbike, or library staff visits, ensuring that community members can easily access these services and provide feedback to shape our future programming.
- In celebration of Cinco de Mayo, Northfield Public Schools invited us to participate, with Francisco as our library liaison. We provided a space to promote our programs, fostering community engagement and a sense of belonging.
- Alexis is looking forward to mentoring interns Annika and Isabela this summer. They have discussed their goals, overarching projects, and career plans. As an early-career librarian, Alexis adds “I’m especially grateful to get to share the library world with people just entering their careers. I would’ve loved this internship as a high school/college student!”
- Cat and Francisco visited Prairie Creek for their weekly assembly and shared information about library resources and summer reading.