

October Strategic Plan update

- **Oasis update:** Staff have been busy organizing the collection for the Oasis. Currently we have 747 items ready to be put on the new shelves. One of our self-checks has been moved from the library and is installed at the Oasis, ready to go. We have two public access computers that are installed and ready to be used. Lots of moving pieces that are coming together all at once. Library Staff will be the first to be invited to the new Oasis space in November. We'll be there this week to test out workflows, get everything organized how we like it, and determine staffing hours. This is the "soft opening" period before we make a big announcement, but once books are on the shelves next week we'll be "in business," so to speak. If any board members would like to join us for the staff open house on **November 8th at 8 am**, at 1651 Jefferson Pkwy, please feel welcome to do so. We will have coffee and treats and we'll do a walk through and answer questions.





A connected community has access to the resources they need.

- Alexis and Tyler worked on an Affordable Connectivity program as part of the ALA grant we received. They helped attendees learn more about the ACP program and started the application process for them. The Affordable Connectivity Program provides free and low-cost internet service for eligible applicants.
- In the spirit of the Day of the Dead Celebration, we asked the community to help us create an altar remembering their loved ones who have passed away. Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday celebrated in November remembering loved ones who have died. The altar is often adorned with framed photos and favorite foods of the people we wish to remember.
- This month was busy getting ready to open the Oasis at NCRC. **Oasis collections** are nearly complete, with materials for all ages and in many different formats ready to go on our new shelves very soon! Some of the materials are newer items gathered from our main NPL collections and some have been ordered specifically for the new space. Overall, we hope that there is a good mix of appealing materials for a wide range of folks visiting the Oasis, and look forward to learning more about borrowing needs for this location as we get open and underway.
- One of the most important resources the library offers is its staff! This month, several library staff traveled for conferences around the country and came back with great ideas and information to share from their professional development.

An invited community feels at home in their library.

- We hosted a family event for the Day of the Dead, crafts and set up was run by our Carleton students, with 116 attendees. Participants learned about this Mexican holiday that is gaining exposure and popularity in the United States, we celebrating by making crafts, face painting “Catrina” designs and shared about our community altar. A couple of Growing Up Healthy staff came to celebrate with us by teaching kids one of their favorite Dia de Muertos craft which is to make flor de muerto, or flowers of the dead. These flowers (called cempazúchitl in the native

tongue) are associated with the dead and are often planted in cemeteries, they shared information about their services and gave away bilingual kids' books.

- Our Bilingual Beginning Hatha Yoga Class has ended, participants really enjoy the expertise of the instructor, Nancy Veverka.
- **Winter Walk is fast approaching on December 7th!** This is always a fun event, with music, train displays, and more offering a welcoming place to warm up and enjoy free arts and entertainment on a cold evening. This year we will have some additional LEGO model displays along with the model trains and music performances.
- Kids and teens have been invited to feel at home in their library through engaging programs this month. Our youngest patrons were welcomed through weekly family, baby, and bilingual storytimes, plus an extra special Arty Pants storytime. Kids that were out of school for MEA enjoyed learning from Tom the Creature Teacher (and I got to hold the tree frog of my dreams!) Teens were engaged and invited to the library at our video Game Night and our wildly successful after-hours Teen Movie Night (23 attendees!)

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

- Attendance doubled at October's meeting of the Glass Half Full Book Club. Alexis reported that they had a great conversation, and it was wonderful to hear people talk about how this was their first book club post-COVID or first time joining a book club now that their kids are older.
- Hosted author event with local author Priscilla Paton where she conversed with the audience about the creation of her newest novel.
- The long-awaited concert that we put on in partnership with Carleton College finally came to fruition. Joe Rainey performed an incredible contemporary Pow Wow set and had nearly an hour-long Q&A session with the audience. Around 120 people attended.

An empowered community is equipped for the changing world.

- Elle Khang from the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers gave a great program on starting a small business. She was able to give very specific and relevant advice as well as information about funding opportunities. I'll be thinking about how I can incorporate small business ownership into programming in the future.
- In November we'll be hosting a program on basic finance: "All about Credit cards and credit reports" in Spanish with the University of Minnesota Extension. Tuesday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m.
- We continue offering our English and Spanish conversation table. Five adults signed up for the Computer class in Spanish.
- The library is exploring a partnership with St. Catherine's University which would give library staff a scholarship equal to 10% off the cost of tuition. St. Kate's has the only ALA-accredited Masters in Library Science degree in Minnesota.
- Katlin met with City IT staff and a representative from **Kagi**, an ad-free search engine startup, this month. We are hoping to bring Kagi to the library as part of a pilot program for the company—offering **ad-free, AI-powered search** as an alternative (free of charge) for library patrons using public computers. Tyler will be working with City IT to offer this at the library in 2024.

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

- Alexis reached out to some local brewery, distillery, and coffee shop owners about them stocking coasters promoting our community survey, and got a great response. You can now see library coasters around town. Loon shared an image of the coasters on social media along with their new seasonal cocktail.
- Angelica and Cat brought the bookmobile and a spooky interactive storytime to Way Park in October for their annual neighborhood Halloween party. We had over 120 attendees at storytime and loved inviting costumed kids into the bookmobile.
- This week, we will host Rice County Historical Society, Northfield Historical Society, and Faribault public library (Buckham Memorial) staff for a program, **Getting Started with Local History, Where to Find and How to Access**. I will be sharing about local history and genealogy resources at NPL and we will hear about what is available to folks wanting to research at each of these local institutions.
- We elected new TAB leadership in October, giving a new swath of Northfield youth the opportunity to learn to lead as well as to shape the library to the needs of local teens.
- Cat and Natalie visited the Youth on Boards cohort, sharing with them the library's strategic plan and asking for their input on what the community needs as we evaluate the plan at its midpoint.
- Natalie and colleagues from Carleton's Gould Library, Maggie Epstein and Claudia Peterson, will be speaking with NCCC classes over the next couple of weeks about how area libraries can support their studies. We will also ask students to complete a survey and briefly introduce the grant-funded internship, with a plan to return at the beginning of the spring to recruit applicants.