


Fountaindale Public Library District

**Strategic Plan
FY2023-FY2027**





"I get giddy going
through the door."

Focus Group Participant

"The library is
the place for
everyone to
explore and go."

Focus Group Participant

Why

Fountaindale Public Library District is an innovative community institution committed to evolving with the needs of its patrons. To align its resources with the emerging priorities of the community, FPLD has undergone a comprehensive strategic planning process with feedback from the community and stakeholders. By implementing a new strategic plan, FPLD will be able to focus efforts on developing spaces, collections and services that enable patrons to discover, create and grow.

How

Fountaindale Public Library District initiated a strategic planning process in the Fall of 2021. Amanda E. Standerfer from [Fast Forward Libraries LLC](#) was engaged in November 2021 to facilitate the planning process in three phases: Learn, Dream, Do. The Learn phase entailed forming a Planning Team to guide the process, administering a community survey, holding staff feedback sessions, conducting a staff and Trustee survey and facilitating targeted community focus groups and interviews. In the Dream phase, the Planning Team discussed possible future pathways for the library. This strategic plan will guide FPLD through the Do phase, as the library executes its vision for the future.

Process Timeline

November 2021-August 2022

The Planning Team spent months learning about community needs and developing strategies to advance the library's mission over the next four fiscal years.

November '21	Planning Team Kick-Off
January '22	Community survey
February '22	Board and staff sessions and survey; focus groups and interviews
March '22	Learning Report
April '22	Planning Team retreat
May '22	Plan development and review
July '22	Presentation to board
August '22	Transition to implementation



Vision

Discover. Create. Grow.

Mission

We inspire lifelong learning, foster creativity and connect you to resources and to the community through our robust collection of books and technology, extensive services and knowledgeable staff.

Goal 1: Spaces

Invest in spaces that meet evolving and diverse community needs.

1.1

Investigate options to ensure the lobby and circulation desk is optimally configured to welcome people into the building and showcase library collections and services.

1.2

Consider ways to redesign and repurpose spaces that are underutilized or not functional.

1.3

Explore ways to update meeting spaces to accommodate multiple needs and group sizes.

1.4

Learn about how patrons flow through and engage with the building to inform updates to wayfinding signage.

Success looks like increased usage of the library building, meeting spaces, and collections; higher staff and patron satisfaction with library spaces; and easier wayfinding and resource access.

Goal 2: Collections

Continue to provide collections that exceed community expectations and encourage exploration.

2.1

Continue to develop opportunities to showcase and cross promote library collections and resources.

2.2

Expand collections with high growth potential and adjust other collection areas as needed to respond to community needs.

2.3

Investigate additional tools that use direct marketing to connect patrons to resources based on their interests.

2.4

Update collections to increase accessibility, navigation, and browsing.

Success looks like increased circulation in targeted collections; better utilization of collection materials; and increased community awareness of collections.

Goal 3: Services

Provide services that expand minds and create connections.

3.1

Continue to create programs that encourage learning, connecting and creating.

3.2

Identify and remove barriers to access and explore additional services to increase community engagement.

3.3

Connect staff with training and knowledge to effectively connect people with resources.

3.4

Explore additional ways to connect the community to services and resources outside of the library.

Success looks like targeted increases in program attendance and service usage, higher staff effectiveness, and stronger community partnerships.

The Path Forward

Implementation and Evaluation

After this plan is adopted by the Board, an activity plan will be developed and implemented by staff. Implementation is a continual process. The timing of certain activities will be determined by priority and influenced by various factors, such as funding and staffing. Review and adjustment of the activity plan will happen on a regular basis.

Evaluation of the plan will be ongoing once the plan implementation is underway. The status of the plan and its implementation will be reported regularly to the Board of Trustees.