

Anchorage Public Library

THE FUTURE OF OUR LIBRARY

LONG-RANGE PLAN 2016-2030

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

We live in a beautiful, active, and ethnically diverse city yet Anchorage faces numerous unique social and economic issues. The Anchorage Public Library's mission is to provide our community with educational and information resources to help live productive lives. We also serve as a catalyst for individual and community improvement. Our long range plan lays out services and programs that set a forward-looking strategy in which the Library is a "social first responder" - for education, workforce development, recreation, and as a community hub.

HISTORY

Library plans were drafted in 1977, 1984, 2001, 2007, and 2010. A Loussac specific plan was drafted in 2012 and a library staffing plan in 2013. All plans agree on one library branch or library delivery service point for every 30,000/40,000 people. The library staffing plan suggested increasing staffing levels to increase APL's capacity and efficiency.

PRIORITIES

Contribute to building the economy.

We build our community's capacity for economic activity and resiliency by providing opportunities for citizens to become literate and technologically savvy as well as offering equal access to digital resources.

Be an anchor for our community but flexible as community needs change.

We are fluid and flexible in engaging people of all ages with varied interests. We evolve and change as the communication and information sharing landscape changes and we also ensure we reflect and serve the diversity in Anchorage.

ROAD MAP TO OUR VISION

Z.J. Loussac Library

After 30 years of wear and tear, critical systems have reached the end of their lifespans. The entrance renovation is a first step but more work needs to be done. The next renovation project includes:

1. Completing energy efficient improvements and seismic, ADA, and life safety upgrades.
2. Renovating and expanding the fourth floor, children's and teen areas and adding public meeting rooms.
3. Creating a new service model for reference and computer assistance.
4. Aligning the parking lot for a stronger connection with Cuddy Park and
5. Developing a more attractive walking link to Cuddy Park and playground.

ROAD MAP TO OUR VISION

Services and Programs

Through staff, technology, and our collection (both digital and hard-copy) our services and programs meet the needs of our diverse community.

1. Economic Development

Provide equal access to computing equipment and robust resources for small business development, continuing professional education, and job skills and workforce development.

2. Education and Learning

Offer a wide variety of educational resources, virtually and physically, for all ages including materials, programs/events, and digital resources for academic and personal enrichment such as Lynda.com, Live Homework Help, Tumble Books, and Tutor.com.

3. Community-Building

Meeting rooms and public spaces, translated library materials, and well-trained staff that builds strategic partnerships connecting patrons with social services, career training, the arts and culture.

4. Making the Library Easier to Use

Recreating our website as a “virtual branch” and growing our sphere of influence online for easier communication and access to resources.

Neighborhood Libraries and Alternative Delivery Models

Neighborhood libraries are vibrant community centers that increase economic prosperity of surrounding neighborhoods. Along with developing partners for shared spaces and alternative delivery models, we recommend:

1. Existing Libraries

Increase staff and open hours at our existing branch libraries as well as maintaining and upgrading each facility every ten years.

2. Alternative Delivery Models

Experiment with drop-off/pick-up stations and/or pop-up libraries, service delivery on wheels, and book vending machines. Determine best methods of delivery.

3. New Neighborhood Libraries

Determine future branch libraries (South, West, Downtown) and points of service that are flexible to community needs.

4. Virtual Library

Create a modern web presence that better promotes access to information, services, and programs.

Funding

It is difficult to fund future growth for the Anchorage Public Library with the present operational budget funding model. We need community and political resolve to change to new models.

1. Research library district and tax credits with OECD and the MOA.
2. Develop revenue streams by leasing additional library spaces for short- and long-term tenants.
3. Seek national opportunities and develop stronger ties with our community for philanthropic gifts and organizational grants.
4. Work with MOA to pass a series of Library bonds.



For more information, please visit

www.anchoragelibrary.org