

Strategic Plan

2021-26



Concord
FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Cultural Heart of the Community *for 150 years*

Since its dedication in 1873, the Concord Free Public Library has proudly opened its doors to provide a warm, inviting place to explore, think, and gather in the heart of Concord. It serves as the thriving cultural core of our community.

The Library is the embodiment of treasured Concord values – culture, diversity, and civic discourse. It is the great equalizer – free, open, and accessible to all.

The Library continues to reimagine itself for future generations, seeking to protect its beloved spaces and cherished resources, while responding to the changing needs of the community in its newly expanded facilities.

PROMOTE

personal enrichment

CONNECT

community members

& INSPIRE

lifelong learning

ACCESS

We believe that our resources should be freely accessible to all; we respect privacy & confidentiality.

COMMUNITY

We connect community members to information, ideas, culture, unique historical resources, and each other.

EDUCATION

We promote an educated society with lifelong learning opportunities for all.

INNOVATION

We encourage creativity and exploration of ideas by providing resources for personal enrichment.

Mission & Values

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

We uphold intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources.

PRESERVATION

We preserve information in many media and formats to make our unique historical resources accessible to all.

INCLUSION

We value and reflect our community's diversity in our programming, partnerships, collections, displays and staffing.

STEWARDSHIP

We honor the resources placed in our charge by being fiscally, environmentally, and socially responsible.

SUSTAINIBILITY

We champion environmentally sound, economically feasible and socially equitable sustainability practices.

Strategic Priorities

Our strategic priorities are developed in collaboration with Library patrons and community stakeholders. Learn more at concordlibrary.org/about/how-we-work

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

We will continue to strengthen Concord by connecting people to ideas, each other, and other organizations within the community.

Identify and address emerging community needs of youth and parents, multicultural and intergenerational audiences, and those with community mental health and well-being needs.

Integrate Special Collections further into the community by serving as a resource to students and teachers, expanding our oral history outreach, and promoting the use of the archives for genealogy and local history research.

Connect people around shared interests by organizing user, book, and support groups, offering topical programs, and convening small group discussion salons. Offer programs with remote and hybrid attendance options for increased accessibility.

EXPLORATION

We will continue to explore ideas through learning and forums, and history through our Special Collections. We will continue to explore our historically rich yet vibrantly modern town of Concord, as well as books and other media to serve as windows to the world.

Foster community learning by hosting talks by local experts, hosting a Writer in Residence, and promoting information about the wealth of activities happening around town.



Open the Workshop makerspace and collaborate with local arts and cultural organizations and schools to offer classes, sponsor events, develop programs, promote community service, and achieve shared goals.

Celebrate the Library's 150th Anniversary in 2023, commemorating 150 years of proud service as the cultural heart of Concord.

Establish and then **integrate inclusion and social justice priorities into all Library operations**, including offering internships to foster diversity in the field of librarianship, pursuing training opportunities for staff, and offering educational programs to the community on topics of diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and access.

INNOVATION

We will continue to innovate in Library practices, services, technology and materials. We will innovate in how people use the Library, and provide the setting for our patrons to innovate for themselves.

Provide new services and opportunities in the expanded library facilities which now include 37% more square footage for gathering, collaborative and interactive learning spaces, and enhanced preservation of the historical assets in our collections.

Promote civic discourse and offer rich artistic and cultural experiences that delight audiences, while recording, broadcasting, archiving and distributing this unique digital content to broader audiences.

Encourage patrons to **use Library resources in new and innovative ways**, including offering new hands-on learning and technology literacy opportunities.

Invest in realizing the goals of the Library's Sustainability Plan by working closely with community partners and advisors to complete the Sustainable Libraries Initiative certification process.

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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concordlibrary.org | cfplcorp.org