

Frankfort Public Library District  
Strategic Plan Quarterly Assessment  
July 2024—September 2024

## Highlight of Completed Progress this Quarter



**Experience: Implement events and programs that promote community togetherness.**

September was Library Card Sign Up Month, which was promoted to encourage community members to come in and get their Library cards. In addition to other programs this quarter, the Library hosted local author Renee Galvin and the Mokena School of Rock. Both of these programs highlighted talented artists local to the Library community. The Youth Services Department also held their first grandparents program, a very popular program that indicated the community is excited about intergenerational programs and events. The storywalk in Prairie Park was updated with the book *You Have A Skeleton Inside of You*, to tie in with Fall. The community crochet from early 2024 was selected to be presented at the 2024 Illinois Library Association Conference. The staff members who developed the program for our library are hoping to inspire other libraries to hold similar programs to promote community togetherness. [Staff will continue to implement events and programs which promote community togetherness. In the next quarter, Staff are actively planning Get Informed: A Community Resource Fair, and joint programs with the police and Village in the form of a Trunk or Treat and Ghost Stories on the Green.](#) (E.1, E1.2, C.2, S.2)



**Communication: Create and deepen partnerships with local organizations to enhance the Library's presence in the community.**

In July, the Library participated in the annual Bluegrass Festival for the first time, doing storytime and crafts in the Kids' Area. It was wonderful to join with other community organizations for this event, and we hope to continue to be a part of Bluegrass Festival for years to come. In September, the Library once again participated in the Fall Fest Parade. It is always an amazing experience to have staff, Trustees, Friends of the Library, and volunteers represent the Library while walking through the streets of Frankfort and hearing the appreciation and support of community members. In August, the Library formalized an intergovernmental agreement with School District 161 to offer educator cards to SD161 staff for classroom use. Library staff hope that this agreement inspires similar agreements with other area schools. In light of the recent change by Illinois schools from the SAT test to the ACT, the Library promoted the availability of free ACT training resources for community students. The Library is currently working on future shared events with the Frankfort Police Department. The Youth Department also worked with local fitness group FIT4MOM Frankfort for a shared program for the first time. [Staff continue to seek out opportunities to both partner with other area organizations, and find outreach opportunities in the community, outside of traditional Library spaces. One potential future opportunity is advertising the Library's resources through the local Chamber of Commerce to local businesses who could utilize them.](#) (C.2)



**Space: Make intentional and meaningful changes that align with Library and community need.**

This quarter, the Library upgraded its remaining halogen parking lot lights to LED. This change supports the Library’s mission to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars to be good environmental stewards, and to maintain a safe and welcoming environment. In support of making intentional and meaningful building changes, Library Staff have been working on educating community members of the importance of not leaving cars in the book drop lane, to reduce risk to Library visitors, staff, and vehicles. A combination of marketing and new signage have yielded positive results. The Youth Department rearranged furniture to create more study space for middle grade students. Library study rooms are always in demand, and this quarter the Library received new modern study room furniture that better fits the available space, which was funded with grant funds. [The Board and Administration continues to utilize data from the budget, capital priorities, and facility assessment to address building maintenance projects as they fit the Library’s needs and budget.](#) (S.1)



**Access/Experience: Provide Library resources that engage and retain active library users through all stages of life.**

When a community member wanted to participate in an Adult Services program for learning new card games, but faced physical limitations, staff researched adaptive technology solutions to make sure she could have a full experience. This experience also inspired staff to consider what other intentional changes or adaptive technologies could be implemented to lower any barriers of access to Library programs and services. Recognizing a need for programs for children with sensory concerns, Youth Services debuted a new Sensory Storytime at Navarro Farms. Additionally, based on material usage and requests from Library visitors, the Youth Services Department reallocated budget funds to support a greater purchase of Spanish language titles for middle grade readers. [Staff are investigating ways to encourage community members to reach out with concerns about access, so that accommodations can be made to ensure that all members of the community have full use of the Library and all that it offers.](#) (A.2)



**Experience/Access: Expand Memory Care Support**

The memory care kit project developed by a local Girl Scout has been completed, and the kits are being processed to be added to the Library’s circulating collection. Once the kits have had some time to be discovered and circulating, staff will gather feedback from the community on what in the kits was helpful and what gaps exist that could be improved upon. [Staff will gather feedback from the community on how the kits do or do not support memory care for library users and their family or caregivers.](#) (A.1, A.2)

**Selected In Progress Items**



**Access: Make material organization changes to make the collection more browsable.**

Staff continue to evaluate Library collections and how their organization is meeting community needs. Ten years after teen nonfiction was reorganized to be Dewey-free,

staff are evaluating and updating the existing categories to make sure they are meeting the current needs of the community. Youth nonfiction is also being evaluated to see if there are changes that could make the collection easier for children to browse.



**Access: Web Accessibility**

With the release of new web accessibility standards, the Library is evaluating our current website and online presence, and also evaluating the procedures staff use when adding new content online. As staff learn more about making our website and digital offerings more accessible to all users, we have been making accessibility updates. A few examples include changing how we highlight links on our webpages and calendar, as well as learning how to effectively include alt text for all online images. Staff are continuing to seek out training to fully understand and implement the new web accessibility standards.



**Access: Identifying Unserved and Underserved Populations**

The Library is examining ways to evaluate who is currently utilizing the Library, in order to identify unserved and underserved populations and expand Library services and resources for all. As a first step in this project, the Library is developing a display to passively gather voluntary information about those who are already Library users, in order to identify gaps in audience.

**Selected Up Next Items**



**Space: Create a Welcoming Environment**

The Library will evaluate existing space usage and how sound moves throughout the Library, in order to provide a more inviting and productive environment for staff and visitors. During the busy fall quarter, staff will be asked to assess how sound effects the usage of space and document potential disruption.



**Space: Optimize Library procedures to foster environmental sustainability & stewardship.**

The Library will investigate the formation of a Green Committee to evaluate procedures and investigate ways to increase sustainability.



**Communication: Create and deepen partnerships with local organizations to enhance the Library's presence in the community.**

The Library will investigate holding a community networking event for local governmental agencies to increase collaboration and share information.