

THE TOWN OF INDIAN LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY LONG-TERM PLAN OF SERVICE

Adopted by the Library Board of Trustees, November 18, 2021

LIBRARY MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Indian Lake Library is to provide its patrons with cultural enrichment through materials and programming, access to information and technology, and the tools for lifelong learning, and to foster a love of reading.

TOWN OF INDIAN LAKE LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN

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Town of Indian Lake Board Members & Town Hall Employees
Indian Lake Department of Parks & Recreation
Indian Lake Chamber of Commerce & Welcome Center
Indian Lake Central School
Indian Lake Theater
Indian Lake Community Development Corporation
Hamilton County Department of Public
Health Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District
Adirondack Lake Center for the Arts
The Blue Mountain Center
The Adirondack Experience, The Museum at Blue Mountain Lake
The Wild Center
Southern Adirondack Library System

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Town of Indian Lake Public Library is a member of the Southern Adirondack Library System and is a Municipal Library under the Educational Laws of New York State. The Library serves the residents of, and visitors to the Town of Indian Lake, Blue Mountain Lake, and Sabael, all communities with historic ties to Central Adirondack history and culture.

Chartered in 1968, the Library has continually grown and evolved to serve its community now comprising of approximately 1,400 residents, both full time and seasonal. The Library is viewed as a key community partner and a gathering space that provides vital connections for the community.

With support from its Friends Organization, Town Board, Town Employees, and Patrons, the Library Staff and Board of Trustees implemented improvements to library facilities, budgets, collections, and services over the years to meet the evolving needs of our residents and visitors. Public sentiment has been consistently highly positive of the impact the Library has within the community.

To ensure Library services continue to meet the needs of our community, and help its members thrive, the Library developed this updated set of goals and objectives for the next several years. This plan is approved by the Indian Lake Public Library's Board of Trustees, and will span the next 5 years. It is considered a living document that will be evaluated and edited as needed to meet the needs of the community the Library serves.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

As of January 1, 2022, NYS Minimum Standards require public libraries have a published community-based long-term plan of service that is evaluated and updated every 3-5 years. The process requires public input be sought in order to develop a plan.

The Southern Adirondack Library System (SALS) developed an engaged planning strategic planning process to assist member libraries in this endeavor. The process uses tools developed for the American Library Association by the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation.

In early 2021, the Indian Lake Library Trustees approved using the engaged planning process and formed a strategic planning committee made up of staff members, trustees, and Library patrons.

The Indian Lake Library Strategic Planning Committee members (SPC) attended 4 separate trainings in the Spring of 2021 to learn the steps of the engaged planning process. The SPC's goals are to update the Library's plan of service and present the plan to the Library Trustees for approval, publication, and implementation.

Starting in May 2021 and continuing through mid-August, the SPC held several community gatherings with groups and individuals of different ages and backgrounds. The target was to reach a statistically significant percent of the population, and to chronicle the aspirations they have for the community and what needs they prioritize be addressed in order to have a thriving citizenry.

Responses were collated in late summer, then in September and October of 2021, the SPC reviewed the public responses to identify goals and ascertain which of those goals fall under the scope of the Library's mission and capabilities.

From that list of goals, the SPC identified obtainable objectives based on each of the major goals identified. The SPC then determined measurable outcomes to evaluate the success of the long-term plan.

SERVICE GOALS

Serve All Ages and Abilities in the Community

The Library will serve all in the community in a welcoming manner and will focus on outreach to underserved members of the community with opportunities for fulfillment at the library. The Library will continue to provide enrichment opportunities for school age children, but will increase opportunities for early literacy programs, teens, families, and seniors.

Promote Economic Opportunity for the Community

The Library will provide up to date technology assistance, and will provide programming for patrons to hone skills in the technology realm. The Library will partner with appropriate agencies to provide programming and instruction for business skills and personal development. The Library will provide resources for those economically disadvantaged and help persons searching resources find the proper venue for assistance through more community partnerships.

Provide Diverse Cultural Experiences for the Community

The Library will welcome all from diverse backgrounds and will provide cultural, literary, and artistic opportunities both at the Library venue and elsewhere in the community when appropriate. The Library will promote inclusivity, acceptance, and creative expression through its social climate, collections, outreach, and programming.

Provide Tools for Wellness, Healthy Lifestyles, and Sustainable Environment

The Library will partner with reliable entities, both within and outside the community to provide patrons and visitors with accurate information pertaining to health and wellness topics in order to promote the goal of a thriving, vital community and environment. Patrons of all ages will be engaged to participate in educational and cultural opportunities to promote a life-long pursuit of healthful living and care for the environment.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Serve All Ages & Abilities in the Community

Early Literacy Programs

- The Library will maintain a schedule of 3 or more programs offered seasonally for families with children birth to 4 years old.
- The Library will actively promote the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge, by providing resources for parents to use the library's digital and physical collections, and will provide guidance for families to participate and track their progress.
- The Library will continue to develop the children's area to reflect user friendly resources to enhance Library literacy programs and promote lifelong practices of readers and writers.

Multi-Generational Programs

- The Library will provide early, middle, and adult literacy opportunities and language rich experiences for both groups and individuals.
- The Library will investigate and create opportunities for mentorship among patrons that span all age groups and abilities.

Reach out to Underserved Populations

- The Library will develop an atmosphere that welcomes and encourages teens, and other community members to use the Library for resources, materials, and programs.

Goal 2: Promote Economic Growth for Community

Technology Education for Staff and Patrons

- The Library will continue to train staff to be up to date with new digital content and computer skills.
- The Library staff will continue create both one-on-one and group learning opportunities for digital content and computer skills.

Resources for Business Training and Skills

- The Library will collaborate with local civic entities to support community development and business acumen.
- The Library will promote and tutor patrons about its digital resources available to those who wish to enhance business, communication, and digital skills.

Goal 3: Provide Diverse Cultural Experiences & Inclusion

- The Library building will be an accessible space, whose staff is friendly and welcoming to all.
- The Library will strive to grow partnerships with other regional entities that support diversity and inclusion.
- The Library staff will create displays of the Library collections that relate to a wide range of subjects of interest: topical and seasonal themes, and singular issues.
- The Library will continue to grow its collections to reflect the above goals for inclusion, diversity, and cultural interest.

Goal 4: Promote Wellness, Health, & Sustainability in our Community

- The Library will partner with other local and regional entities to present programming and learning opportunities that promote wellness, healthy lifestyles, and sustainable living.
- The Library staff will create displays of the Library collections that support topics of health and wellness, and sustainability.
- The Library will continue to grow its collections to reflect the above goals for wellness and sustainability education.

MEASUREMENTS

The Library will continue to collect statistics on collections circulation, patron attendance for programs, and technology use and make those statistics available at its monthly Board of Trustee meetings, its published Report to the Community, and in its written Annual Report to New York State.

The goal is that within the 5-year scope of this Strategic Plan, statistics will show that more patrons are using the library collections, resources, and programs and that patron satisfaction level in all of these areas remain consistently above average to excellent when surveyed for feedback about their library experiences and services.

NEXT STEPS

By adopting this Strategic Plan, the Board of Trustees is affirming the goals and objectives presented in this plan.

The plan will be distributed to staff members, Board Trustees, Town Board members, Indian Lake Central School Board members and administration, and the Southern Adirondack Library System.

The plan will be made publicly available to our community by being published on the Library's webpage: www.indianlake.sals.edu

Library Trustees, in concert with the Library director and staff, will reallocate resources as necessary in order to ensure that the goals and objectives outlined in the plan are achieved.

The plan will be continuously evaluated and edited as necessary and will serve as a living document.