

**Frankfort Public Library District
Strategic Plan Quarterly Assessment
April 2025—July 2025**

Highlight of Completed Progress this Quarter



Experience: Implement events and programs that promote community togetherness.

This quarter, the Library implemented a number of events and programs that promoted community togetherness. The foremost of these were the Summer Reading Programs. The Adult Summer Reading Program had 359 active adult participants, which was a post-COVID record high for participation. The Youth and Teen Summer Reading Programs had 530 active participants, and incorporated a new program to implement learning best practices, focusing on multiple types of literacy and positive Library experiences, instead of only reading. Other programs of note included the Volunteer Fair, the Skyhawks toddler sports programs, Art in the Afternoons, and Creativity Connections, an art program with the Joliet Catholic Charities aimed at community members aged 60+.

[Staff will continue to implement events and programs which promote community togetherness.](#) (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.

This quarter, the Library's presence the community was enhanced through many continuing and new community partnerships. The Library served as a pop-up office hours location for State Representative Meyers-Martin in April. The Library worked closely with the area schools this quarter, including visiting with 2000 students to promote the Summer Reading Program, and adjusting an existing intergovernmental agreement with SD161 to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the school district and the Library. The Library facilitated a collaborative art project with local preschool students, which was hosted by the Village. Library staff were out and about in the community all summer long, including representing the Library at Fridays on the Green, the Community Showcase, and the Frankfort Bluegrass Festival. Library staff attended a Meals on Wheels Bingo Luncheon to share information about our Homebound Delivery Service. The Library also partnered with the Frankfort Police Department for a Coasting with a Cop bicycle event, and with the Jolly Giraffe for a book club. This quarter, the Library invited the University of Illinois Travelling Science Center to visit the Library, and 85 patrons of all ages were able to experience that interactive learning opportunity. The Library was a host site for two different charity drives this quarter, including a pet food drive run by the Girl Scouts and a school supply drive run by the Crisis Center of the South Suburbs.

Staff are continuing to strengthen their partnerships with the wider world of libraries, with one Library staff member joining the Illinois Library Association 2026 Annual Conference Committee, and four staff members planning to present on two different topics at the 2025 Illinois Library Association Annual Conference.

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. (C.2)

Connects to new IPL State Standard Programming 4: “The library partners with local educational, social, cultural, and recreational organizations in order to present programs that address the community’s needs.”



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

This quarter, the Library replaced it’s East End 1990s chiller and 1977 air handler with a modern roof top unit. This was a large project that was years in planning and was financed out of savings. Smaller space changes were also made, including relocating the public copier closer to other self-service technology to improve workflows for patrons. The Library also added new tables and chairs from another community organization to add better workspaces in the children and teen areas of the Library.

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. Staff will continue to assess Library usage and reorganize space as needs require and allow. (S.1)



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

Staff developed new user-friendly endcap signage for Youth Services non-fiction collections, which will make browsing easier for the Library’s younger users.

Connects to new IPL State Standard Access 8: “The library provides signage to identify collections, services, and amenities.”



Experience/Access: Utilizing Staff and Community Feedback to further develop our Library of Things Collection

This quarter, the Library of Things collection was expanded, based on feedback from community members and staff. New technology items were added, including a web cam and conferencing microphone and a region-free DVD player. New tools were added to the collection, including a bicycle repair kit, a blood pressure cuff, and a balloon pump. The Library of Things collection was also expanded to add more recreation items, including yard games, a golf rangefinder, and a light pad for tracing. Additional items, such as umbrellas and tote bags, are under discussion for potential future circulating items.

Connects to new IPL State Collection Management 7: “The library circulates physical objects and digital tools (a.k.a. “Library of Things”).”



Experience/Access: Expanding Museum Adventure Pass program based on community demand

Facing continued high demand for the Museum Adventure Pass, the Library was able to negotiate with the program facilitators to double the number of passes that the Library can loan to community members. This should help meet with the demand for particular partner museums and locations, such as the Brookfield Zoo.



Experience: Institute a public comment box, and evaluate program feedback forms to generate more feedback from attendees.

The Library has installed four comment boxes in throughout the building to collect feedback about programs and the Library in general. They are located in the main section of the building, the two meeting rooms, and The Lab. We will continue to monitor and respond to feedback submitted via these comment boxes.



Experience/Access/Communication: Outreach Vehicle Fundraiser

Staff have utilized a variety of communication tools to promote the Library's Fundraiser for an Outreach Vehicle, to great success. The Outreach Vehicle will be used to improve Library experience and access through Outreach services, as well as support partnerships with other area organizations. The Library is on track to secure 100% of our fundraising goal by the end of the calendar year.

Connects to new IPL State Standard Finance and Budget 7: "The library seeks non-traditional sources for fundraising (e.g., corporate sponsors/donations, endowments, investments) to supplement the annual budget."



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

This quarter, the Library made landscaping improvements that prioritized low maintenance and hardy plants, as well as native species when possible. The Library will continue to focus landscape improvements along these two priorities. Additionally, while planning Summer Reading prizes, fewer plastic tchotchkes were purchased in an effort to make the program more environmentally-friendly. Art programs this summer focused on utilizing donated, existing, and repurposed materials as much as possible. Finally, the space improvements mentioned above, such as the HVAC project, reduced the Library's environmental impact when cooling the building. The new furniture added to the Youth and Teen areas was repurposed from another institution, making it more environmentally friendly than buying new.

Connects to new IPL State Standard Building & Grounds 10: "The library strives to make its buildings and grounds as environmentally friendly as possible."



Communication/Access: Investing in new communication tools to make Library communications more accessible.

The Library recently subscribed to communication tool LibraryAware, which will be utilized to develop reading guides and self-directed reading pathways to help community members find books. The templates and support offered through LibraryAware will keep branding consistent and will optimize legibility for community members.

Up Next Items



Experience: Develop a staff culture statement and service philosophy.

The Management Team is developing a Workplace Climate Survey for September distribution and review at October Staff Day. This is a step to gather staff feedback and buy in when creating a staff culture statement.



Experience: Increase internal cross-department collaboration, in order to optimize program scheduling.

opportunities.

Staff are looking for opportunities to plan programming in ways that allow for events for multiple age groups to be occurring around the same times, to reach wider audiences and introduce different generations of Library visitors to new



Communication: Participate in the Scarecrow Showdown.

The Library plans to participate in an upcoming Chamber of Commerce decorating contest. The goal of participation is not only to increase the partnership between the Library and the Chamber of Commerce, but to also hopefully bring community members to the Library who are infrequent visitors.



Experience: Frankfort Public Library's 60th Birthday

The Library has a 60th anniversary in May of 2026, and staff are planning ways to celebrate this anniversary with the community through promotion and programming.



Communication: Develop School/Library communication and connection

Although the Library has strong connections to many schools in our service area, connections with other schools in our district are not as strong, depending on age group. The Library will try to develop new connections with these schools to increase the Library's presence at the schools and find ways that we can support one another.