

Key Assumptions

Excellence must be defined locally.

Communities face different needs and challenges—one size doesn't fit all.

Excellence is possible for both small and large libraries.

Success depends more upon commitment than on unlimited resources.

Excellence is a moving target.

Even when achieved, excellence must be continually maintained.



Defining Excellence

Technology, education, and economic changes confronting public libraries are profound and the very idea of a public library is changing in new and exciting ways. Today's libraries are places where the community connects with one another and with the world. They are cultural centers, gathering places for discussions, and yes, still places where you'll find books, but also eBooks, movies, educational toys, and so much more.

The Planning Process

To launch the strategic planning process, HPL sought input on community needs and challenges from library staff, trustees, and the public, through a Community Planning team of representatives, selected because their professional and/or volunteer work engenders a deep understanding of a section of the community: education, medical and human services, business and economic development, civic and political, arts and culture, ethnic, and other segments.

Our Community Planning Team included the following individuals: Ashanti Bethea, Jennie Bohlman, Fred Chaney, Kate Duff, Anisa Hussain, PJ Murray, Kate Purvis, Joyce Semmler, Zach Thomas, and Ann-Marie Webster

The Community Planning Team was guided through a number of exercises to define a shared vision for Homewood Public Library's future. As a final step, the group discussed the 18 PLA service responses and HPL's potential contribution.

Library staff and trustees also participated in the selection of service responses. After deliberation and discussion, the library selected six primary library services that reflect local priorities and best utilize HPL's strengths. The final Strategic Plan helps us more effectively plan for the future.

HPL's new Strategic Plan aligns with the Illinois Library Association's Standards for Illinois Public Libraries.

Questions?

Call 708.798.0121 ext. 214

Homewood Public Library Strategic Plan, 2017 - 2020



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we're trying to better serve
you, our patrons!

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Homewood Public Library's Service Responses

1. Be An Informed Citizen

Goal: The library will be a central source of information about the wide variety of events, services and activities provided by community agencies and organizations, including the information residents need to support and promote democracy; and to fully participate in community decision-making.

Objective: By June 2020, the library will establish quarterly meetings with community agencies/organizations for cross-promotional support.

Objective: By December 2018, the library will develop three new vehicles to promote and publicize library and community events, services and activities.

2. Make Educated Decisions

Goal: Library users will have the resources they need to identify and analyze risks, benefits and alternatives while making decisions centered on their pursuit of well-being.

Objective: From July 2017 through June 2020, the library will offer quarterly events and feature resources focused on health, wealth and other topics that impact library users' lives.

3. Connect to the Online World/Understand How to Find, Evaluate, and Use Information

Goal: Library users will be able to engage in the online world through convenient and reliable access supported by up-to-date technology and infrastructure. They will have the opportunity to learn the skills and knowledge needed to use library resources to find, evaluate, and utilize information to meet their needs.

Objective: From July 2017 through June 2020, the Library will create four topical vehicles each year to promote online literacy, including instructional opportunities and print materials

4. Celebrate Community

Goal: Library users will gain a greater awareness of their local and global communities through events, services and collections.

Objective: The library will enhance accessibility to the fiction collection by one-third each year, allowing library users and staff to locate culturally and socially relevant items.

Objective: From July 2017 through June 2020, each department will use library displays and events to highlight intersectional cultural and social awareness for a total of 144 events or displays.

5. Create and Support Young Readers

Goal: Children will have access to library materials, resources, and events that will build a foundation for lifelong reading.

Objective: The library will expand the youth technology area by including dedicated computers to connect literacy and technology awareness for the 2017-18 school year and beyond.

Objective: Youth Specialist staff will increase connections with elementary-aged youth and their families by creating three additional enrichment opportunities each year from July 2017 through June 2020.

6. Visit A Comfortable Place

Goal: The library will serve as an inviting place in the community for people of all ages to meet, to learn, and to engage with one another.

Objective: By March 2018, evaluate and create a plan for flexible-use spaces throughout the building while addressing acoustics, technology, and changing library user needs.

Objective: Initiate and complete approved plan by June 2020.

The Goals and Objectives listed on this page will guide decisions about developing the library's annual budget and implementing specific projects and initiatives. During the years of the plan, the library will monitor the progress of these goals and make adjustments accordingly.