

# Strategic Plan Summary



**STONINGTON  
FREE LIBRARY**



**EXPAND OUR REACH • REFRESH • RENEW • REIMAGINE • ENSURE OUR SUSTAINABILITY**

## Introduction

Over the last two years, the Stonington Free Library has undertaken an exercise in self-assessment and community engagement, resulting in a plan to more effectively serve the people of the Town of Stonington.

This strategic plan represents how we intend to advance our mission. It sets forth broad goals and identifies objectives and initiatives designed for long term success. Our overarching goal in constructing the plan is to remain a vibrant library and a center for community learning and engagement.



## Mission

Implementation, the ongoing refinement of the plan and decisions on priorities, will always be guided by the library's mission statement.

**The Stonington Free Library seeks to enrich lives and build community by bringing information, ideas and people together.**

*Adopted June 2017 by the Board of Trustees*





# Strategic Goals

Three distinct goals emerged from the strategic planning process. These goals will guide the library's ongoing operations, programs and fundraising efforts over the near and long term and as the fiscal condition of the library allows.

## **Goal A:** **Engage the Community** **and Extend the Reach of the** **Stonington Free Library**

The library has made significant efforts to engage and increase our reach into the community. We have expanded programmatic offerings, begun establishing collaborative relationships with other libraries and community organizations, augmented digital offerings, access and resources, and created a satellite location. This is just the beginning—the library will continue to extend its presence, provide more and better resources, collaborate effectively and consistently communicate with the entire Stonington community.

## **Goal B:** **Restore, Renew and Reimagine** **the Spaces of the Library**

In an effort to improve the community's access to the library, we looked critically at our space. We concluded that improvements to the physical and digital infrastructure were necessary to meet our functional goals and improve accessibility. The library will pursue approaches to restore, renew and re-purpose library spaces.

We are examining and implementing methods to optimize the library's physical space. With the assistance of an architect, we are carefully considering approaches to meet accessibility standards. We are culling our collection and exploring more effective, space efficient approaches to presenting our offerings. We are committed to modernizing our digital space, including expanding digital services and resources and improving the speed and strength of our internet connection. Implementation of these and other initiatives will make the library a welcoming and effective place to read, work and gather.



## **Goal C:** **Ensure the Sustainability of the** **Stonington Free Library** **for Future Generations**

The community, staff and volunteers are essential to the future of the library. To provide excellent programs and services, the SFL must attract and retain an exceptional staff. Also critical to our sustainability is engaging the wisdom, experience and financial support of our citizens. The library is committed to actively engaging the community, including identifying and cultivating future leaders and volunteers.



Our strategic plan will guide the library over the coming years as we continue to adapt and innovate our programs, services and physical structure to meet the needs and interests of the community we proudly serve. In everything we do, the Stonington Free Library is committed to the core belief that everyone should have free access to knowledge and information. Please find a full version of the strategic plan, including a description of the process, background and initiatives associated with each of the three strategic goals at [www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org](http://www.stoningtonfreelibrary.org).