

The Desmond-Fish Public Library 2023-2028 Long-Range Plan Summary

Adopted March 11, 2023

Welcome All Patrons and Sustain Our Library for the Future

Welcome with our Physical Environment

● Outdoors

- Create more outdoor areas that welcome and encourage people to gather and linger; for example:
 - Nature play area
 - Picnic Tables
 - Shaded areas
 - Outdoor meeting space in the form of a pavilion or hybrid barn
- Sustain, maintain, and expand the meadow and other plantings
- Improve walking access to library by continuing to work with Philipstown Trails Committee on possible trail access from the Garrison School and other points
 - Expand available pathways on Library property
 - Assess wall opening/walking access from Route 9D
- Support environmentally sustainable options including electric car charging stations and solar panels where feasible
- Explore installation of digital sign at corner of 9D and 403
- Stay current with required outdoor maintenance
- Pursue NYLA “Sustainable Libraries” Certification

● Indoors

- Conduct ADA audit of library building and take steps needed to make the building fully accessible
- Redesign main floor to maximize patron experience
 - Add electrical outlets to enable greater use of technology
 - Install new furniture configurations and more flexible seating/tables
 - Renovate the small rooms to the left and right of the main hall
 - Replace main floor carpeting
- Address needs of program room
 - Ensure program room is fully functional for remote meetings
 - Add study area/small seating area to program room
- Ensure Innovation and Learning Center is fully functional and welcoming for meetings and programs
 - Replace doors with clear glass

- Assess and install needed directional signage inside and outside; install multilingual signage
- Increase passive programming (e.g. craft projects on tables, etc.) that invites patrons to use and enjoy space
- Continue planned repairs and upgrades; review building checklist regularly
- Replace stained ceiling tiles, lighting, carpeting, and bathrooms
- Install new ADA opener on back door; consider back door replacement

Welcome with our Collections, Events, and Programming

- Continue to apply a DEI lens to all collections, events, and programs

- Continue offering wide ranging programming that meets community needs and wants
 - Focus on local history, the environment, digital literacy, community gatherings, and children’s programming
 - Ensure that programming and events meet needs of older patrons as well as tween and teen patrons
 - Explore coordination of programming with transportation from the Friendship Center in Cold Spring and the school bus from the Garrison School
 - Improve board and staff collaboration on programming

- Increase operating hours – begin opening on Sundays as soon as possible, and explore early or later opening hours as feasible

- Offer programming/activities in a variety of Garrison locations including Continental Village

- Explore adding transportation options to increase access to the Library

- Collections
 - Address needs of family collections
 - Analyze circulation of collection and assess allocation of resources
 - Assess accessibility of collection

Welcome With Our Technology

- Ensure that DFPL is community leader in technology services provision
- Maintain and enhance our physical technology assets according to an annual plan
- Offer digital education to patrons of different ages concurrent with their needs

Welcome with Our Communications

- Continue using all available forms of communications to reach Philipstown and beyond
- Improve board and staff collaboration on communications
- Continue building strong communications links with Garrison School
- Improve communications with local schools beyond the Garrison School (Lakeland, Manitou, Haldane, O'Neill)
- Publicize availability of space and make reserving space as simple as possible for both community organizations and individuals

Welcome Community Participation in Supporting the Library

- Continue adding to the diversity of our Staff and Board
- Continue transparent "Sources and Uses of Funds" financial reporting to the public
- Reinvigorate partnership with the Friends of the Library, with renewed involvement of Friends in community events, programming, and fundraising
 - Help attract young parents to participate in the Friends
- Create a Library Student Council for teens to advise on programming and volunteer for community events
- Invite civic leaders and community organizations for regular public forums at the library

Sustain Library/Staff Leadership and Development

- Continually review our policies and procedures to ensure best possible practices for patrons and staff
- Provide financial support for professional development for director and staff

Sustain Financial Health

- Financial planning
 - Closely monitor revenues and expenditures to ensure good financial health
 - Project future funding needs and plan for possible referendum when needed
- Fundraising
 - Continue Board leadership in planning and raising private funds for special projects
 - Provide meaningful opportunities for engagement and giving, with a range of events with different giving levels available

Library Identity

- Revise our mission statement to include emphasis on racial equity and social justice, incorporating language developed for the RESJ
- Continue addressing the challenges of the history of the library's founder and the library's name with openness and transparency and inclusion of community voices