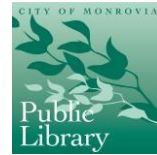




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services
Library Division

MEETING DATE: April 23, 2026

PREPARED BY: Carey Vance, Library Manager

AGENDA LOCATION: AR-1

TITLE: Library Strategic Plan Q2 2026 Progress Report

OBJECTIVE: To provide the Library Board with a progress report on the Strategic Plan as of Q2 2026

UPDATE: The Monrovia Public Library Strategic Plan 2017-2022 was officially recommended by the Library Board on July 27, 2017 and was approved by City Council on August 1, 2017. Quarterly updates to the Library Board on the progress of the goals and activities of the plan are just one way staff are ensuring that this plan is a dynamic and living document that shapes the Library's future far beyond its initial five year timeframe.

The plan originally had a total of 22 SMART Goals and 63 supporting Goal Activities. In April 2021, the plan was expanded to include an additional focus on diversity, meaningful access, virtual services, physical space redesign, and career resources. Adding these elements resulted in new or additional language for 6 SMART Goals and 5 goal activities as well as the creation of 3 new goal activities. As of Q3 2021, the plan now has 22 SMART Goals and 66 Goal Activities.

As of April 2023, there have been 60 goal activities completed, 91% of the total. Staff made great progress in the first few years of the plan and continue to review it to ensure the plan remains effective and compatible with the changing needs of the community. The remaining goal activities are either impacted by the pandemic or are connected to the progress of the Library Park Enhancement Project.

At the February 2021 Library Board meeting, staff presented information on strategic plan expansion items that highlight the changes that have come about over the past few years. These items will help continue the work outlined in the original strategic plan and its role as a "living document" that grows and changes with the needs of the community.

Five focus areas were discussed, including: 1. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; 2. Virtual Services and Programming; 3. Redesign of the Physical Space; 4. Meaningful Access; 5. Job Skills and Career Resources. As of April 2021, these elements have been incorporated into the strategic plan under the appropriate strategic goal areas with language or goal activities modified as needed. The ongoing status of these expansion items have been included with the quarterly updates, starting with the Q3 2021 progress report in July 2021.

Here is a brief snapshot of what has been accomplished as of April 2026:

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Enhance Experiences

Staff continues to make progress in programming, space planning, and supporting 21st century skills for youth as well as “Active Mind, Active Life” programming for adults, including:

- Staff hosted 147 programs for all ages in the first few months of 2026, including STEAM programs for kids in partnership with the high school’s Math & Science Academy students, candle making for adults, popup Makerspace for teens, and veterans ceramics workshops at Makers & Clay, for a total of 5,391 program participants (January-March 2026).
- The library hosted a number of events to highlight the library’s Library of Things collection. These included music classes led by local instructors, Yarn & Fabric Hangout events for adults using the library sewing machines, cooking classes with the Charlie Cart mobile kitchen, as well as crafts for One City, One Story using the Glowforge laser printer. These programs were enjoyed by 288 community members of all ages.
- In response to feedback from patrons, who are looking for ways to socialize after the pandemic years, the library introduced a series of game nights for adults, teens, and youth as well as a game collection that launched in late January 2023. In its third year, the collection’s items, which include Nintendo Switch video games, board games, and card games, have been borrowed 13,876 times by patrons.

Enhance Access

With the continued need for enhanced access to library resources, staff is working on ways to ensure new or expanded services are effectively promoted and improved upon moving forward, including:

- Staff continue to partner with the Recreation Division, to provide monthly traveling storytimes at local parks, with a total of 111 participants from January-March 2026. They enjoyed nature-themed stories before learning about animals and plants in Monrovia’s local forests from Park Naturalists. Programs like these take library services out into the community and provide access to programming for families that may not be able to easily visit the library.
- The library provides enhanced access to library materials and services via the Monrovia Reads Van, which has served a total of 1,197 people who borrowed 609 books and created 32 new library cards in the first few months of 2025 (January-March 2026).

Enhance Partnerships

All goals for this Strategic Direction were completed as of October 2022. Given the nature of meaningful partnerships, the goal activities will be ongoing and staff continues to expand existing partnerships to enhance services to the community, including:

- In partnership with Monrovia High School’s Math & Science Academy (MASA) and local youth organization WOW! That’s STEM, the library held special Innovation Labs in the winter for school-age children on a variety of STEAM topics. A total of 160 kids enjoyed learning about scientific concepts while making fun projects like rockets made from 2-liter bottles, art bots, and gingerbread structures to test engineering concepts during an earthquake.
- The library partnered with various businesses and organizations across the community for the inaugural One City, One Story (OCOS) program from January-March 2026. With programs built around the novel *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak that focused on themes of nature, connection, and legacy, staff offered programs for all ages that highlighted Monrovia’s unique place in nature. This

included special storytimes, craft programs, a workshop on bears, book discussions, and a veterans nature-painting event. The library hosted 25 OCOS programs for a total of 1,960 attendees of all ages.

- As part of the library's Veterans Resource Center, a County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) provides on-site support with office hours on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays while a representative from the Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) offers on-site service on Tuesdays, supporting veterans as they work with the VA and other governmental agencies. From January-March 2026, the CVSO held 172 appointments with veterans, the VPAN held an additional 99, while staff had 243 interactions for a total of 514 interactions with veterans and their families supported through the program.

Enhance Technology

All goals for this Strategic Direction were completed as of April 2019. Completion of this strategic direction illustrates the importance the library places on providing all community members with access to the most up-to-date technology and devices. This is not only meant to meet their evolving needs as technology changes but also ensure universal access for all, reducing the digital divide within Monrovia for community members of all ages and backgrounds.

The need for technology and online resources has become even more important throughout the years of the pandemic, resulting in the following:

- The Legacy Project's online historical collection had 11,088 searches from January-March 2026, a 59% increase over the same period last year (6,960 in January-March 2025). This resource provides access to students, researchers, and community members seeking to learn more about Monrovia's local history.
- PressReader, the library's online resource for digital newspapers and magazines, provided access to 781 issues in a variety of languages and formats from January-March 2026, while Kanopy, the online streaming service, had 491 visits during the same period.
- Staff streamlined the process for requesting 3D printing at the library and increased promotion of the service which has resulted in continued growth over the past two years, with a 29% increase in usage of the service in 2025 (304 requests in 2024 vs. 392 in 2025). The service's popularity continues to grow, with even more requests expected for 2026.
- With funding from the Library Foundation, a new microfiche machine was purchased in early 2026 to enhance historical research services provided by staff.

Enhance Image

Staff continues to work on marketing and promotion of library services and programs as well as engaging with community stakeholders:

- The Marketing Team has been working with staff to highlight collections and displays, post fun program re-cap pictures, and promote the upcoming 2026 Summer Reading Program.
- After careful review of Instagram's ever-changing algorithm and analytics, they created weekly "Coming Up At The Library" posts that give a quick review of the week's programs and events. This helps ensure library posts are better positioned within the followers' feeds.
- As of March 2026, the library's Facebook account had 1,881 followers and the Instagram account had 5,039 followers, while the library's YouTube channel had a total of 385 subscribers.

Enhance Staff Development

All goal activities for the Staff Development Strategic Direction have been completed. Continuous growth and lifelong learning are integral elements of Library and City culture and though the goal activities have been completed, progress continues on to this day. Learning Hours remain an integral part of all staff members' schedules.

Annual evaluation goals continue to align with strategic plan elements and ensure professional development remains an important focus for every staff member. The staff development program, Collab Lab, launched in early 2020, was modified due to the closures with virtual meetings among the staff teams. One team, collaborating on grant research, was able to successfully secure a Library Services & Technology Act Grant (LSTA grant) for the remote locker in Recreation Park as a way to expand access to library services for more members of the community. Several staff members also participated in a "Career Building & Advice" breakout session at the 2022 Staff Summit, as collaboration and mentorship continues among those farther along in their careers supporting and advising those who are new to the library field.

Virtual and in-person training opportunities have helped staff expand their skills on a variety of topics, including homelessness, mental health, customer service, leadership, and marketing. They also participated in the annual Staff Summit, which took place in September 2025. An all-day event, staff took the time to share, collaborate, and learn during a variety of activities including a tour of the Monrovia Historical Museum, group activities, games, and staff-led informational sessions. Staff recognize the importance of continual improvement and see it as one of the key ways to continue to provide premier levels of service to the community. This year's Staff Summit will be held on September 3rd.

Conclusion

Overall, much has been accomplished since the plan was introduced in 2017. Several major projects and new services were launched, including: the Monrovia Reads Van, the CENIC Broadband Network, the Marketing Team, the annual Staff Learning Summit, and the book locker at Recreation Park. With the introduction of virtual programming, remote work, and curbside services, staff was able to keep following the roadmap of the Strategic Plan during the closures and re-opening process in 2020 and 2021 so progress would continue. In the years since the library reopened, staff have continued to ensure library services and programs grow and change with the needs of the community. Staff looks forward to building upon their successes while moving forward and providing their very best for Monrovia.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Library Board move to receive and file **AR-1 Library Strategic Plan Q2 2026 Progress Report**.

LIBRARY BOARD ACTION REQUIRED: If the Library Board concurs the appropriate action would be a motion to: ***Receive and file AR-1 Library Strategic Plan Q2 2026 Progress Report.***

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