

Gloucester Lyceum and Sawyer Free Library

Strategic Plan FY2020 – FY2024

Executive Summary

Universally, participants in this strategic planning process were passionate about Gloucester, lovingly describing its quirky character, community ties, quality of life and especially the abundance of natural amenities and scenic beauty. They had a very strong sense of belonging, only desiring to increase their connections to place and people through more venues and vehicles to participate in community.

Participants were very supportive and enthusiastic about the library and held positive views for the vital role it plays in the community. It was described in various thematic terms as a “Secular Sanctuary,” an “equalizer: free – belonging to no *one* group,” a “community center: connecting Gloucester to itself,” an “access point to the world” of knowledge. They also shared aspirational desires for a library that was spacious, welcoming, comfortable, and inviting; respecting the past while meeting the technological and informational demands of an evolving community. People want a library that reflects themselves and their community values.

In the final analysis, the attributes of Place, Belonging and Connection are foundational values and desires of the Gloucester community. And Community is paramount. People care deeply about their community, history and institutions, and they are hopeful for a future in which diversity is embraced, children are safe and educated, and adults have opportunities to sustain both home and work lives. As a civic, egalitarian space, the library is a hub of their intellectual and communal lives. It is the community’s center for connection, access, and learning.

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Vision

To foster the values of place, belonging, and connection in the Gloucester community.

Mission

To be a place of learning, innovation, and creativity, to nurture and strengthen the community.

Goals

- Align library assets to inspire learning, drive development, grow social capital, and create opportunities.
- Provide access to content.
- Ensure the long-term sustainability of the public library.
- Cultivate leadership.

[Read more about the Strategic Plan.](#)

Approved by the Board of Trustees on September 25, 2018