

Long Range Plan FY 2006 – 2010

Hamden Public Library

General Information

Current Topics & Titles

Basic Literacy

Marketing & Advocacy

Building

Our Vision:

Hamden Public Library will become the anchor of the Town, a centering place for developing a community that invites people into our buildings and provides Internet - based services to those at home.

Our Mission:

The Hamden Public Library, the community's information center, provides a variety of library resources, access to innovative technology and a knowledgeable staff to improve the quality of life and meet the informational, educational and cultural interests of the entire Hamden community.

The Process:

The Hamden Public Library strategic plan will guide decision making through 2010. This plan was developed in collaboration with individuals throughout the town. The library sought to identify community needs and how the library might help to meet those needs.

We sought advice through focus groups from over 100 participants at 6 different focus group meetings. A 16 member Planning Advisory Committee guided the process, reviewed the information gathered and helped the library identify priorities for the future. This final plan is a combination of ideas and effort by the Planning Advisory Committee, the library staff, the Hamden Library Board and library consultant Elizabeth Mainiero. The Hamden Library Board approved the plan in September 2006.

In addition to providing our current high-quality library services, books, reference, databases, CDs and videos, etc., the plan calls for initiatives to expand our efforts in five key areas:

- General Information
- Current Topics and Titles
- Basic Literacy
- Marketing & Advocacy
- Building

GOAL 1:

GENERAL INFORMATION.

The library's skilled staff will continue to provide reliable and timely information to our diverse population through our extensive collection of books, other media and on-line resources.

Initiatives will focus on:

- Enhancing staff skills in providing information through workshops and training
- Maintaining a high-quality website with easy-to-use information and links to local resources
- Maintaining the technology infrastructure and applying new technologies to provide information both remotely and in-person
- Access to a relevant collection is addressed in GOAL 2

GOAL 2:

CURRENT TOPICS AND TITLES

Library customers will continue to have timely access to materials in various formats, services, and programs that satisfy their current recreational, educational, and cultural needs.

Initiatives will focus on:

- Providing access to a collection of high-demand popular and information materials in a wide range of formats
- Staff revising a collection development plan
- Developing a core collection of foreign language materials that will reflect Hamden's ethnic diversity
- Increasing information and resources for persons with disabilities through grants and gifts
- Providing opportunities to explore popular topics through programs such as book discussion groups and programs for residents of all ages through partnerships with the Friends and other town departments

GOAL 3: BASIC LITERACY

Library users aged birth through 17 years, their parents, and their caregivers will continue to have access to materials, services, and programs that support early and ongoing literacy. The library will provide literacy materials for adult new readers and make referrals to partner agencies for literacy training, ESL (English as a Second Language) and other programs.

Initiatives will focus on:

- Incorporating literacy-based activities into story times
- Giving parents and children from birth to age 5 workshops and activities as part of the Family Place at Miller and PACK activities at Brundage Community
- Implementing portions of the Public Library Association's program called "Every Child Ready to Read at Your Library"
- Distributing library card sign-up activity bags
- Expanding the Summer Reading program
- Coordinating library programs on early childhood literacy with the School Readiness Council
- Donating space for literacy classes and tutoring
- Maintaining and updating the adult new readers collection
- Partnering with Literacy Volunteers of Greater New Haven and the Greater New Haven Literacy Coalition

GOAL 4: MARKETING AND ADVOCACY

The library will continue to promote awareness of library services, programs and products. A community aware of the library services will become library advocates to ensure adequate funding through the town budget, grants and fund raising.

Initiatives will focus on:

- Developing a marketing plan with financial support from both the Friends and Library Board
- Continuing fund raising activities to provide additional services and enhancements to the physical plant beyond the operating support provided by the Town
- Continuing advocacy efforts to inform the community and the political bodies of the importance of libraries
- Searching for new and continuing grant opportunities to enhance library services

**GOAL 5:
BUILDING**

The Miller Building needs an expanded or enhanced facility to accommodate changes in service for the next 20 years. An inviting environment is necessary where people can meet, gather and share information and ideas.

Initiatives will focus on:

- Updating the Library Space Planning Guide by staff
- Selecting a building committee to develop a building program
- Hiring an architect to turn the building program ideas into architectural drawings
- Obtaining funding through a variety of sources including the State Library Construction grant and major fund raising activities

SUPPORT GOALS.

We are very proud of our public service staff. Their extraordinary service at check-out desks, reference desks, children's room and the branches is often applauded by the public. Less recognized are the support staff who make possible everything library users see and experience at Miller and the branches. Support services range from maintaining the computer system, the web site, purchasing and cataloging materials, maintaining our buildings, operating a central business office and handling thousands of other tasks.

Initiatives will focus on:

- Continuing our focus on customer service
- Continuing our annual staff development day
- Continuing our staff development efforts to send staff to training workshops
- Continuing to provide access to current information in electronic form with up-to-date computer services, software and equipment.

IMPLEMENTATION

Library staff and the Library Board will use these service directions to guide decision making as they develop annual budgets and design specific programs from 2006 to 2010. During this period the library will continue to monitor the priorities and concerns of our community as our services change to meet changing needs. The opening of the new middle school will present both opportunities and challenges.

THE LIBRARY WISHES TO THANK THE PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP

Jed Backus	Al Harary
Kirsten Bechtel	Craig Machado
Vivien Bergl	Marvin Michalsen
Louise Brundage	Kenneth Minkema
Laura Cannon	Rev. Carolyn Young
Dorothy Delaney	Bob Gualtieri, Library Director
Jackie Downing	Lester Hankin, Library Board Chair
Alan Grecco	Elizabeth Mainiero-Facilitator

THE HAMDEN LIBRARY BOARD

Lester Hankin- Chair
Peggy O'Brien- Vice Chair
Bernice Gillman
Evelyn Hatkin
Joan Zurolo

Bob Gualtieri, Library Director
Judith Lhamon, Associate Library Director

Darlene Butler-Board Clerk

**Approved by the Hamden Library Board
September 6, 2006**