Attention to patron and community needs drove progress on strategic plan projects during the first quarter of 2023. A new service, ongoing work on a facility plan and efforts to improve patron access to library resources moved OPL closer to achieving several objectives.

Goal 1: A Community-Driven Library

We are inspired by our community. We are committed not only to strategically using our resources to support community needs, but also to further existing initiatives.

Objective B: Gather, report and use data and information to guide decisions and evaluate services.

Preliminary work on a process for evaluating library programming led to reframing the project as a more comprehensive Program Manual to give clear guidance in developing and presenting programs to the public. Evaluation will be incorporated into that process. This project will serve as a pilot for new performance measures under development.

Objective C: : Respond to community needs by supporting existing or developing new initiatives.

Responding to patron and community interest, the library has started offering Everyday Tech, a twice-monthly combination of one-on-one general assistance and sessions that focus on common tech topics including email, smartphone basics, Facebook and digital photos.

Objective D: Increase and strengthen community partnerships to build the library's reputation as a trusted collaborator and a place where people and ideas come together.

A draft of a library Partnership Guide is complete and will be introduced for review by the Management Team in April.

Goal 2: A Library that Matters

We want our library to offer value to all community members, so we will stay attuned to people's lives and goals.

Objective B: Support each individual's goals with services that help them to grow and thrive through literacy, lifelong learning, participation in the workforce, access to community resources and participation in our democracy.

Improving access to the library collection helps to support the literacy goals of individuals and the community. A recent reconfiguration of the children's fiction collection is making it more appealing and easier for patrons to use. The redefined space and furnishings also create a more welcoming atmosphere and allow for more flexible programming options.

Objective D: Make the library building a desirable destination that meets the needs of patrons and community.

A space audit of the library building was completed by an outside consultant as work continues on a facility master plan. The report identifies challenges, opportunities for better use of space, ideas for housing collections and accommodating patrons and concepts that could lead to better meeting community needs. The report is under review to determine next steps for the planning process.

Goal 3: A provider of and connector to trusted information.

We are committed to creating, providing, and connecting the people of our community to trusted information. We will be our community's lifelong learning platform.

Objective B: Create trusted content that informs community members and showcases the library's unique skills and collections.

A behind the scenes project will help to improve public access to important local history information. Local history librarian Michael McArthur and Information Services page Christa Van Fleteren are working to organize and process uncatalogued donations, materials, and records related to the library, Oshkosh and community organizations. They include photos, local publications, scrapbooks, family histories, library records, and maps. By processing and arranging the items they can be added to the catalog, where they can be searched and utilized by the public. It also allows McArthur to identify preservation concerns and collections that might be of high public interest.