

ANNUAL REPORT

2018/2019

FROM THE DIRECTOR



The fiscal year 2018-2019 was a very busy, but fulfilling, year for the Sioux City Public Library. In July, we began bidding out the much-needed renovation project for the Morningside Branch Library, and construction began in October. Sioux City Public Library staff and the professionals at FEH Design and Brown Wegher Construction worked tirelessly to complete the building renovation. After eight long months, the Library was pleased to reopen the Morningside Branch to the public. A ribbon-cutting ceremony held on June 14 celebrated the reopening and thanked the organizations and individuals who supported the renovation.

While managing hectic schedules and increased workloads throughout the renovation, Library staff also focused on increasing outreach activities, offering more programs that appeal to adults, and developing new, meaningful partnerships with community organizations. Take a look at the highlights from the past year outlined in this report.

As I near my second anniversary as Director, I look forward to working on the Library's next three-year strategic plan that will guide and continue to improve the services found at the Sioux City Public Library.

Helen answers questions in the Children's Area at the newly remodeled Morningside Branch Library following a press tour.

Helen Rigdon
Library Director

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

“Our Library is the best! I've visited many libraries around the country, and our library is better than any I've used in the past.”

“I love having a community space that doesn't require money to use. The libraries are very welcoming and really helped me feel more like part of the community when I moved here.”

“I'm an avid reader and I am tired of buying books. It is expensive and after I pass them around to friends I have to store them or give them away. I love the Library and am going to use Morningside more than ever.”

“The Library offers tons of online books which I thoroughly enjoy. As a mother, I don't have a lot of time to read. This gives me the opportunity to listen to books in my car.”

MORNINGSIDE BRANCH RENOVATION

Major renovations transformed the look and functionality of the Morningside Branch Library, removing limitations the building imposed on modern library services.

To minimize the inconvenience of a temporary branch closure, the Library added Saturday hours to the Perry Creek Branch,

A centralized checkout desk in the remodeled space allows staff to quickly and efficiently answer questions originating from any area in the Library.



and staff moved popular materials to the Aalfs Downtown and Perry Creek Branch Libraries. The Morningside book drop was also moved to the parking lot so neighborhood residents could still conveniently return materials at the branch.

A City capital improvement project allocated \$900,000 to the renovation, and private donations and grants funded the remainder. The \$1.4 million update began on October 15 with a complete gutting of the structure and the replacement of failing HVAC, plumbing and electrical systems, as well as the roof and windows. The floorplan was reconfigured to include a study room and a small conference room, top requests from Library patrons. An expanded, interactive children's area, as well as a more defined computer lab, add to the improved functionality of the new layout.

Doors reopened to the public on June 3, revealing a brighter, more welcoming environment. Rearranged shelving increased browsability, and the building is now prepared to handle the technology needs of the 21st-century patron. Self-check stations are also a welcome addition to the service counter, reducing wait times. Nearly 8,000 library users ventured to the renovated Morningside Branch Library throughout June to see the improvements for themselves.



Before

The expanded Children's Area features a whimsical tree with colorful seating and an interactive wall, creating a visually interesting space for young minds.



After

Bright shelving and new energy-efficient lighting invite visitors to explore and browse.



REMOVING BARRIERS

Sioux City Public Library forgave fines on overdue items during the grand re-opening week for the Morningside Branch Library (June 10 – 15). With a quick visit to the Library, 559 patrons benefited from the promotion which removed access barriers to Library materials for many individuals. Fines waived for the week totaled \$4,362.88 system-wide.

A patron suggestion from the Pery Creek Branch prompted the Library to work with the owner of the building on installing handicap-accessible switches to the doors in June. All three Library locations are now accessible with the addition of automatic doors at the Pery Creek Branch.

ENGAGING LIBRARY USERS

In January, Sioux City Public Library expanded its partnership with KWIT-KOJI: Siouxland Public Media by adding a podcast, *The First Fifty Pages*, to its reader's advisory offerings. Librarians Jenn Delperdang and Kelsey Patterson connect with listeners in a conversational way by discussing what they're reading, what's popular in the community, and what's happening at the Library. With a goal of producing at least one episode each month, the podcast is reaching readers in an engaging new format.

Terry Fisk's *Iowa Ghosts and the Afterlife* presentation brought 140 people into the Library on October 14. He shared photos, case histories, eyewitness accounts and ghost lore from haunted locations in Iowa. This was one of the most popular programs the Library hosted, and enthralled attendees kept Fisk past his scheduled time with questions and stories.

SUMMER READING GROWTH

"A Universe of Stories" brought Sioux City youth to the Library for the Summer Reading initiative.

2,598 children and teens signed up and made 6,683 countable visits to the Library.

There was an **18% increase in participants who finished** the program, which is the most we've had finish since 2010.

The Summer Reading Challenge where young patrons earned a chance to win the grand prize for every 3 hours they read grew in popularity again.

A total of 2,147 cards were turned in, equaling 6,441 hours of reading—a 35% increase from 2018.

A new partnership with the Sioux City Explorers made the finale to Summer Reading extra special. Participants received a voucher for four tickets to the August 9 game as their second visit prize. We worked with the Explorers' marketing team to promote the Library



Summer Reading participants smile with excitement before running out to the field with Explorers' players for the national anthem.

throughout the night, including the first pitch thrown by Reader Services Specialist Kelsey Patterson, Summer Reading participants taking to the field with the players for the national anthem, on-field contests between innings, and a promo video that played on their scoreboard. Staff also issued six new Library cards before the game. **Explorers reported that over 1,600 people attended the game, and estimate around half to have been Summer Reading families.**

ENHANCING LIBRARY SERVICE

To improve the performance of the Library's wireless internet, in November the Library purchased seven additional wireless access points using Enrich Iowa Funds. Since their installment at the Aalfs Downtown Library, the Gleeson Meeting Room now has a reliable connection for groups using the space, and

wireless internet usage at the Library increased by 75% over the previous year.

In just five months, the Library's newest digital resource, Brainfuse, has logged 1,360 uses. The all-in-one suite of services designed for a wide range of educational, career, and veteran needs was added to our list of premium databases in February.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Sioux City Public Library staff focused efforts on increasing the Library's reach and engaging with the community to raise awareness of Library resources.

8,481 individuals attended Library outreach events—1,726 more than in 2018.



Volunteers gave **2,464 hours of service** to the Library, equating to almost two full time employees.



1,167 (-18%)* community uses of our public meeting spaces.



17,204 (+19%) people attended 594 Library sponsored events throughout the year.



Staff issued **3,595 (-17%)* new Library cards** this year.



369,079 (-7%)* items checked out, with digital items making up 20% of that total.



The Library welcomed **271,176 visitors (-7%)*** over the past year.

- 217,845 at Aalfs Downtown
- 26,855 at Morningside Branch
- 26,476 at Perry Creek Branch



The Library now holds **183,841 physical books and recordings** in three locations.

- 12,067 new items added
- 37,196 outdated or damaged items withdrawn

***** Numbers reflect Morningside Branch Library's temporary closure during its renovation (October 15, 2018 to June 3, 2019).

Creating opportunities for a lifetime of learning to empower and enrich our community.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees, June 2016

BUDGET SUMMARY

Operating Budget (Not Audited)

\$3,141,743 City Adjusted Budgeted Amount

Expenditures:

\$2,386,233 Personnel
\$248,922 Materials
\$506,588 Building/Operations/Equipment

Revenue:

\$86,093 Fines/Fees

Gifts and Grants Received:

\$76,885 Library Foundation Endowment
\$11,311 Gleeson Book Fund
\$64,500 Friends of the Sioux City Public Library
\$31,725 State of Iowa Funds
\$2,344 Other

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