

# NORTH SHELBY LIBRARY DISTRICT LONG-RANGE PLAN RESULTS

Oct. 1, 2019 through Sept. 30, 2024

## SERVICE RESPONSES

The North Shelby Library District is committed to providing superior collections, services and programs that address the needs and desires of the District citizens and patrons.

## INFORMATION NEEDS AND SERVICES

**Goal: The North Shelby Library will serve as a community resource for identified or underserved communities within the District**

**Objective 1: Senior Citizens need educational activities to keep their minds sharp, to learn ever changing technology and to navigate their financial hurdles.**

Seniors were surveyed in Spring of 2022 and the results were that they were most interested in art programming during the week. Since then, the library has held art programming for adults almost every month. In addition, many more history programs have been added to the rotation and we have hosted Dolores Hydock several times at both libraries. NSL has also developed a strong partnership with the Mary Ellen Estes Senior Center at Heardmont Park to provide programming and back-up programming space.

**Objective 2: Libraries exist due to authors and are intrinsically tied to their craft. NSL will provide learning opportunities for authors of all ages to develop their skills**

North Shelby Library received a grant through the Alabama Humanities Foundation to develop programming for aspiring writers for fiscal year 2020. Since October 2019, the libraries have hosted many writing workshops led by professional authors such as Emma Fox, Bill Norton, Judith Lunsford, Louisa Cornell, and K. B. Hoyle. These have included classes for Tweens, Teens, and Adults. NSL has had several writing contests for children and teens. North Shelby Library has promoted National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) each November since 2019 and will continue to do so. NSL hosts a monthly meeting of professional authors. Mt Laurel frequently invites local authors as Lunch & Learn guests and North Shelby allows local authors to use our meeting spaces for book launches with no charge.

**Objective 3: NSL will provide STEM and STEAM opportunities to encourage an appreciation for science and technology**

STEM activities are regularly offered for children at Mt Laurel Library and North Shelby Library. At North Shelby, Tech Tuesday offers a STEM activity every Tuesday afternoon for all ages. In addition, each library frequently hosts activities for youth which focus on STEM concepts. Miss Jan

of Dynamic Education Adventures is always a popular program at both libraries. The libraries also offer STEM kits that parents can check out to do science at home including telescopes, microscopes, and nature observations. Programs on various technology applications have taken place in both libraries including Hue Animation, 3D printing, Sphero robots, coding, and digital art.

**Objective 4: NSL will provide additional support to homeschoolers and their families**

The North Shelby Library offers Homeschool Hangout programs each month during the school year for children and teens. These programs run the gamut from educational to just fun often with subject matter input from the parents. Additional programs are added as demand indicates. For instance, an art class and a Chess Club was run after the regular Homeschool Hangout until attendance dwindled. After COVID, the art class became a take-home kit exclusive for homeschoolers. The North Shelby Library supports homeschoolers by offering a variety of non-fiction books about homeschooling, subscribing to the Practical Homeschooling magazine, providing curriculum support through purposeful purchases for our physical collection, and in our digital resources. Touch Type Read & Spell is an award-winning, multi-sensory online course that teaches typing, reading, and spelling which was added to our available resources via a request by a homeschool mom.

**Objective 5: NSL will be a resource for adults needing to relax and reduce stress**

Additional seating areas with more comfortable chairs have been added throughout the library. Digital resources for meditation are available through our Hoopla collection and were advertised by the Reference Staff. Meditation classes and group relaxation activities were offered prior to COVID but did not resume. Art classes continue to be offered.

**Objective 6: Mt Laurel Public Library will be the center of the Dunnavant Valley Community**

The Mt Laurel Library has become a thriving community center in the Dunnavant Valley area. The library hosts many community meetings and activities including Knitting Clubs, the Monday Mixers, HOA meetings, Double Oak Community Church activities, and Mahjong. The library frequently has programs featuring local residents. Monthly outreach programs are provided to the DOCC daycare and Hilltop Montessori.

**CAPITAL EXPANSION**

**Goal 1: Soundproof the North Shelby Library’s Children’s Department**

The Children’s Department underwent a total renovation starting in December of 2021 and finishing in May of 2023. The area was expanded and completely glassed in which has resulted in less noise coming from the Department. An activity room was also added which allows some programming to take place within the Department, lessening noise. The changing of the tile floor of the lobby to luxury vinyl tiles and acoustic panels installed down the hallway to the meeting room also has improved the noise level of the library.

**Goal 2: The Board will monitor circulation reports and discuss with the Friends to determine if**

**the size of the Mt Laurel Branch is appropriate for its usage.**

The Mt Laurel Library was expanded by 500 square feet in FY2022. This expansion added a large programming space, an additional bathroom, and a kitchenette.

**Goal 3: The Board will determine the best use of the 2,500 square footage that is currently being used as a library meeting space and office space for the Alabama Green Industry Training Center.**

The Board hired a commercial real estate company to determine the market rate for the space in the Annex. AGITC elected to remain in the space, renting the office and the computer lab. The rest of the space which includes a conference room and a classroom was then opened up for library use. NSL uses that space for programming and allows the public to rent the space for various uses.

## **STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

**GOAL 1: The Business Manager and Library Services Director will have outside vendors provide continuing education to the professional librarians and supervisory staff. They will also provide staff development for all staff.**

Staff development is accomplished through a variety of sources. When possible and feasible, the Library contracts outside vendors to do live sessions on the topics needed. Additional opportunities for continuing education are achieved by allowing professional staff to attend off-site conferences and webinars offered by outside vendors. During this time period the Library paid for access to Lynda.com, Niche Academy, and KnowledgeCity at various points. These databases allowed staff to train when it was convenient to them. The staff now has access to Niche Academy through APLS which includes access to both live and recorded webinars.

**Goal 2: The District will switch to performance-based raises rather than across the board so that superior performance is rewarded.** Implemented by September 2020

## **COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT**

**GOAL: To continue to increase the collection of books and materials, in a variety of formats, to meet the informational and recreational needs of the District.**

**Objective 1: Continue to weed collections.** Collections are weeded on an ongoing basis.

**Objective 2: Continue to explore with vendors for new digital products.**

Professional staff evaluate new database and digital products offered by our vendors as they are made aware of them. Recent trials have included Financial Fit from EBSCO and Gale Career Books.

**Objective 3: Continue to evaluate reference and informational needs and to explore how this content is best provided to and used by District citizens.**

Due to the changes in reference needs and publishing, the Reference Department has become much more digital. The collection of reference materials in print has lessened but access to online resources such as those available through the Alabama Virtual Library has increased.

**Objective 4: Establish and maintain the tracking of e-book usage figures to make sure our book and materials selections reflect and satisfy District citizen needs.**

Digital books and databases are tracked every month along with our print statistics. The Library attempts to satisfy District resident needs by purchasing requests and trying to ensure that ebooks have a 10-to-1 holds ratio. However, ebooks and digital audiobooks can be very expensive and the budget sometimes dictates when that ratio can be met.

**Objective 5: Maintain a collection that meets minimum APLS per capita standards (1.5 per capita).**

The North Shelby Library District serves a population of 54,151 people. There were 82,263 physical items and 80,459 digital items in our collections at the end of FY23 which gives us a collection of 3.0 library items per capita.