



# MEMO



**TO:** Albany Public Library Board

**FROM:** Eric Ikenouye, Library Director

**DATE:** February 28, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Director's Report

Board Members,

We have had a great February with our Black History Month programming partnership with Kids for the Culture. Every Saturday, unique events were held for patrons of all ages.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, we held our staff in-service day. We had a variety of training and activities. Thank you to all the board members that were able to attend.

Since the start of the year, we have added two new part-time assistants: Jon DeBruin started in January, and Marjorie Knox started in mid-February. They have both hit the ground running and are wonderful additions to the library. With the addition of new staff, we can expand our open hours at the Main Library. Starting in March, we are adding additional hours on Thursday and Friday mornings by opening at 10:00 a.m. rather than noon, and on Saturday, we will be opening at 11:00 a.m. instead of 1:00 p.m.

This month we welcome new board member Jaci Eiquihua, representing Ward 3.

If you are able, please consider attending Library Uncorked on March 4th. The Wine/Beer tasting, and silent auction, is a key fundraiser for the Friends of the Library. We are very excited to have this event in person again.

Thank you for your time,

Eric

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## Albany Public Library Priorities/Goals - DRAFT

There are three key goals that are relevant to each of the priorities set in our strategic plan. To that end, we will be focusing on these three in our first round of goals. In the interest of reducing a silo effect that occurs when we try to separate out, for example, inspiring young thinkers from celebrating diversity, we see distinct advantages to creating cross-departmental, library wide goals that within which we can assign specific tasks based on areas, staffing, or budget.

July 1, 2023-June 30, 2025

1. **Focus on intentional, inter-generational programming** with clear evaluative measures in place. Where are we putting our staff and financial resources, why, what are the outcomes of this adjusted approach, and how will we measure and report on those outcomes?

Examples:

- a. technology education (basic/advanced coding via SpheroBots, computer classes)
- b. artistic and creative expression with an emphasis on community skill and resource sharing (local experts provide instruction, we provide the materials. Successful iterations of this have included origami, quilt-making, and poetry workshops)
- c. creative thinking and problem solving (escape rooms, life size board games, puzzle competitions)
- d. imagination and education (college and vocational preparation, reading education, short story contests)
- e. cross cultural communication, celebration of diversity, international exploration

Short term goals (3-9 months): Plan quarterly programs for Fall 2023-Summer 2024, determine staff and budget needs, identify programming that can be replaced with these events.

Mid-range goals (9-18 months): Assess participation (qualitative, quantitative), survey community about satisfaction and ideas for programs or improvements, adjust programs for second pilot round Fall 2024-Summer 2025.

Long term goals (18-24 months): Purchase materials to support ongoing inter-generational programming that supports the five areas listed above, continue to assess how this programming fits into our mission statement, vision, and priorities.

2. **Creation of a Library of Things** – the expansion of a library beyond the expected books, DVDs, etc. expands our relevance, importance, and utility for our community. Other libraries have successful models where tools, kitchen materials, camping items, one day memberships, and electrical equipment have all been cataloged for short term circulation.

Short term goals (3-9 months): Research existing services at other libraries, poll community to begin a wish list, assess budget parameters, determine location for a prototype collection, plan circulation and cataloging strategies.

Mid-range goals (9-18 months): Build a starter collection, assess usage and any challenges that arise.

Long term goals (18-24 months): Establish permanent location such as a flexible technology lab/Maker Space, expand collection, assess statistics, survey community satisfaction, representative focus groups to additional materials needed.

3. **Mobile Library Branch** – we believe it is time that APL expands our services to a mobile library branch (our working title for a bookmobile). We have short term funding to assist with the purchase of an appropriate vehicle, and we recognize our service gaps in reaching folks who don't come to us or who may not be aware of the range of resources we offer.

Short term goals (3-9 months): What's out there – what is the range of sizes, purposes, costs, and benefits of what other libraries are offering, research Oregon bookmobile/van purchase options, staff development time for brainstorming what internal staff think that this mobile branch should house, what functions and services it should provide, and how it will be staffed. Preference towards hybrid or e-vehicle.

Mid-range goals (9-18): it is essential to understand what Albany wants from a resource like this. Surveys, interviews, brainstorming events, focus groups, and informal polling can all help us understand what the community needs. We can then take this back to our own internal data and budget restrictions. By the end of this time period, we can begin the purchasing process for the vehicle itself and what it will house.

Long term goals (18-24 months): Cataloging materials, training staff, doing outreach to promote this upcoming resource, further identifying specific design and organization. Unclear what waiting time-period will be for going from selection to having the vehicle available. Add e-vehicle charging station at APL, for public and outreach van use. Create an outdoor programming space in the south parking lot that can incorporate this mobile branch when it's not out in the community.