

# **Community Building Plan For Board Review 2026**

## **Purpose**

This plan outlines strategies to strengthen the library's role as a community hub through partnerships, outreach, and community-informed programming. The focus is on increasing visibility, engagement, and alignment with local needs.

## **Key Partnerships**

### **Churches**

- Secured partnership with Barb Blom to host the annual book sale, increasing accessibility and community participation.
- Maintain ongoing relationships with Assembly of God pastors (Sam and Joe), enabling collaboration on outreach and program promotion.

### **Businesses**

- We have a strong relationship with the Groton Central School District, one that many libraries do not have.
- Pending partnership with FNBG to distribute books at their community hot dog roast, expanding informal outreach and literacy promotion.
- Audrey Aloï, local hairdresser, generously donated pumpkins for the Halloween program, establishing a valuable connection for future community collaboration.

## **Community Engagement Initiatives**

### **Geranium Sale Fundraiser**

- Serves as both a revenue source and a community-building event.
  - Encourages local participation, volunteerism, and visibility for the library.

## **Strategic Approach**

### **Community-Led Model**

- Guided by principles from "The 12 Steps to a Community-Led Library" (Chicago Public Library initiative) & Building Community Based Summers (BCBS), emphasizing:
  - Listening to community needs
  - Building responsive services

- Expanding partnerships
- Working with the community

### **Programming Support**

- Utilize CSLP resources and explore partnerships (e.g., BCBS) to enhance summer and wellness-related programming.

### **Outreach Priorities**

- Increase presence at local events and partner locations to distribute books and library information
- Strengthen relationships with local organizations and leaders

### **Community Survey**

- Implement a survey to assess needs, identify service gaps, and guide future programming and partnerships.

### **Next Steps**

- Confirm FNBG event participation
- Finalize book sale logistics
- Launch geranium sale
- Develop and distribute community survey, initially in-house
- Identify new partnership opportunities

### **Expected Outcomes**

- Increased awareness of library services
- Stronger community partnerships
- Higher program participation
- Better alignment with community needs