



# Director's Written Report

Illustrating Elements of CRRL's Strategic Plan

**READ • LEARN • MEET • INNOVATE**

**June 1, 2022 - August 31, 2022**



# Director's Goals: Accomplishments June - August



## Public Relations:

- Appointed to a two-year term on the PLA Leadership Advocacy Committee
- Attended ALA annual conference in DC, along with 9 members of library leadership
- Attended the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce First Responders Appreciation Breakfast
- Met individually with several county supervisors and the new Stafford County Administrator
- Continued service on the *Public Libraries* Advisory Council
- Continued service as Chair of the Rappahannock Goodwill Industries Board of Directors
- CRRL's Adult Services Coordinator, Tracy McPeck, accepted into the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Fredericksburg Class of 2023



## Public Relations (continued):

- Completed term on the Local Government Committee for RUW
- Continued service on the Board of Directors of the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Conducted multiple interviews with reporters from *The Free Lance-Star* and *Potomac Local News* outlets
- Attended UMW's Leadership Colloquium's Coffee Talks
- Appointed to a three-year term on the Rappahannock Rotary Club Educational Foundation Board
- One staff member joined TRIAD and another staff member joined the National Notary Association.
- Promoted CRRL on Town Talk w/ Ted Schubel monthly; I appeared on August 26th.



## Organizational Development:

- Completed renovations at Montross Branch
- Purchased outside bookdrops for Newton and Montross Branches; this is a first for these locations; all library branches now have outside bookdrops
- IdeaSpace hours increased by 8 hours a week
- Continued meeting and working with Strategic Planner regarding CRRL's new Five-Year Strategic Plan
- Promoted focus groups and survey to CRRL customers
- Promoted community partner survey to the community
- Hosted a professional diversity trainer from the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities for staff-wide workshops



## Organizational Development (continued):

- Renovations to the Youth Services Programming room at Fredericksburg Branch are complete
- Three privacy pods/telehealth booths have been ordered for the Westmoreland branches using additional ARPA funds.
- Rappahannock Area Regional Adult Education (RARAE) purchased \$1,958 worth of books for Porter's new English Language Learners (ELL) Book Group. The books will become Book Group in a Bag kits that will be available throughout the system.
- Digital news coverage has expanded to include *The Free Lance-Star* and *America's News*, which includes 3,670 U.S. news sources.



## **Library Administration:**

- 2022 Employee Survey results were reviewed by library leadership, and staff discussion groups met to discuss the results and provide feedback.
- Visited every branch at least once per quarter
- Hired two full-time and 30 part-time staff for vacancies; hiring process continues
- Branches celebrated CRRL's 53rd birthday with pizza provided by the Friends of the Library.
- Accepted City of Fredericksburg's offer to use their stadium suite for a FredNats game and conducted drawing for staff to attend





## Financial Management:

- Annual audit has been scheduled for the week of September 19.
- Received necessary state aid waiver due to reductions in local funding
- Prepared fourth version of the FY23 budget upon notification by the Library of Virginia that CRRL's state aid will be increased by \$112,494, bringing the total to \$875,878, still the highest in Virginia
- FY24 budget wishlist presented to and approved by Library Board at June meeting
- Year-end financial reports prepared for Board Meeting



## Board Relationship:

- Answered Board questions regarding the library app in advance of Special Meeting
- Worked with Chair to plan 2nd annual Board Retreat held in July, including the Strategic Plan board focus group
- Worked with staff to address Board questions and concerns regarding library app
- Maintained regular contact with Board Chair
- Met with Board Chair to finalize agenda for September meeting
- Communicated regularly with entire Library Board



# Additional Highlights



# Rappahannock Area Regional Adult Education Grant

CRRL received a **\$1,958 grant** from Rappahannock Area Regional Adult Education (RARAE) for books for Porter Branch's new **English Language Learners (ELL) Book Group**. The English Language Learners Book Group is a new library initiative which offers virtual and in-person practice reading, speaking, and listening in English.



## ***Fredericksburg Parent & Family Favorites***

**WINNER:** Tutoring

**WINNER:** Best Indoor Activity

**THIRD PLACE:** Best Free Thing to Do

This is the 6th year in a row that CRRL's services have been chosen as FredParent Family Favorites!



# Customer and Partner Surveys and Focus Groups

CRRL enlisted a consultant to create opportunities for the public and partners to inform the library's new **five-year strategic plan** through surveys and focus groups. The new strategic plan will be presented to the Library Board at the December 12 meeting.



# Expanded IdeaSpace Hours

IdeaSpace: Making+Media **expanded hours, starting July 5**, and now offers high-tech equipment training and independent use of equipment **29 hours/week**. The latest innovation at the facility is IdeaSpace Presents, a program highlighting original music performed in the sound booth.



Director's Goal: Library Administration

# Library Speakers Consortium Author Talks

On July 7, the library began presenting an **ongoing series of virtual author talks** from *New York Times*-bestselling authors and thought leaders representing a wide variety of genres and topics, organized by the Library Speakers Consortium. Sponsored by the **Friends of the Library**.





# Music on the Steps

CRRL's 37th Annual Music on the Steps **summer concert series** was held on the front steps of Fredericksburg Branch. Sponsored by the **Friends of the Library**.



# Summer Reading: Off the Beaten Path

From June 1-August 1, **3,186 customers** signed up for CRRL's annual summer reading program.

Participating adults logged **6,748 books**. Children and teens logged **2.1 million minutes** reading.



Director's Goal: Library Administration

# Renovations for Montross Branch

Montross Branch received new flooring, shelving, and paint, as well as restroom renovations in June, made possible by Westmoreland County.





# Join Us for Lunch

In partnership with  
**Fredericksburg Regional  
Food Bank** and  
**Fredericksburg City Public  
Schools Mobile Cafe**, over  
**23,000 meals** were  
provided to youth 18 and  
under at multiple branches  
throughout the summer.



**FREDERICKSBURG  
REGIONAL FOOD BANK**

Locust Grove • Stafford • Caroline  
Spotsylvania • King George • the  
City of Fredericksburg

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**



**Director's Goal: Library Administration**

# Grow a Reader Packs

In July, the library launched Grow a Reader packs to get little readers started with **early literacy skills**.

Themes include singing, talking, writing, reading, and playing.



# Juneteenth Q&A

On June 18, the **Stafford County NAACP Youth Council** hosted a Juneteenth Q&A live on CRRL's Facebook.





# Flower Show

The **Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners** taught workshops in June leading up to an **All-ages Flower Show** on August 24 at Fredericksburg Branch.



## Lunch & Learn

This summer, the library's partners for the popular Friday series included **Downtown Greens**, the **R-Board**, and **Mary Washington Healthcare**.





# Kudos

I needed to get some documents notarized and the library notary was the only one available! I am going to donate to the Friends of the Library to help support the staff who were incredibly helpful and went above and beyond.

**Porter Branch Customer**

When I bring my kids to storytime, the staff are always welcoming and greet my kids by name. I am so thankful for the kind and hardworking people who make this library great.

**Fredericksburg Branch Customer**

I wish to extend my personal thanks to the staff who assisted me in getting a private room to work in while our at-home Internet was being repaired.

**Snow Customer**

We're very impressed with the changes here—the lower shelves, the open space, so inviting, and we love the paint job!

**Montross Branch Customer**

As far as I am concerned the Library is the very best value for our taxes than any other thing the government does.

**Howell Branch Customer**



