

# LIBRARY SERVICES

JANUARY 2024

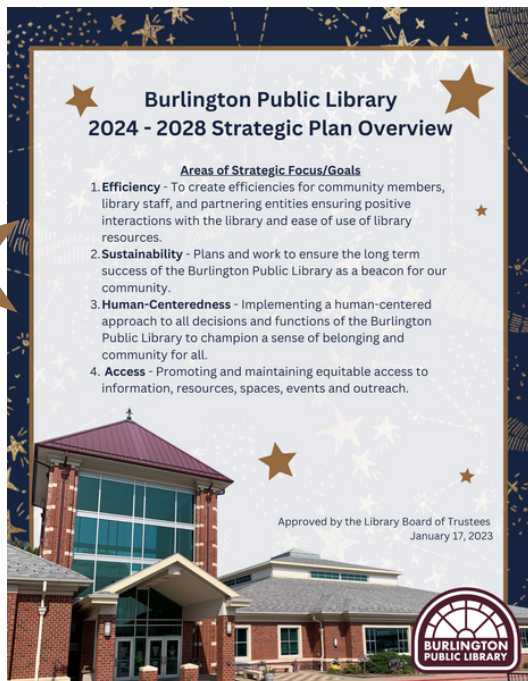
BURLINGTON  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Strategic Planning

The vision has been cast and a plan set in place with the Library Board of Trustees voting on the final version of the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan for BPL. This plan was a full team effort as input from the community, community leadership, the staff, and trustees all played an integral part in the creation of this 5 year roadmap.

With unprecedented challenges facing public libraries, from high needs patrons to statewide changes to local taxation, building in sustainability for BPL was a key component in this plan. The Burlington Public Library is a beloved institution and it was evident in the patron feedback we received.

The BPL team has already hit the ground running on several of the objectives and projects outlined in our plan, and look forward to a wildly successful 5 year run with this plan in place. Many thanks to all who participated in the creation of this plan - it really is a community document aimed to serve and ensure the success of our fabulous library!



## Outreach

In an ironic twist of events, the Frost Fair, originally scheduled to take place on January 15th, was rescheduled due to cold temperatures. BIG kudos to the programming team for their quick work and flexibility in securing a new date to host this fabulous event. The majority of events were moved to February 23rd, while ice skating at the Auditorium took place on January 26th.

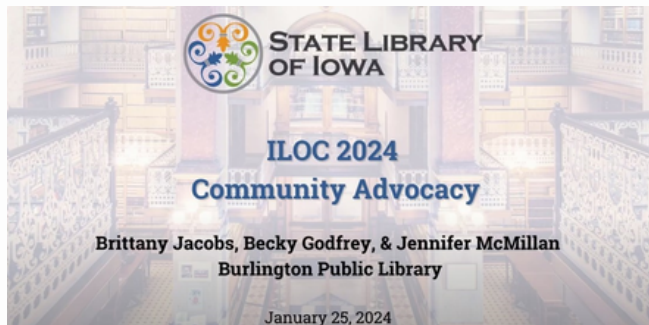


Our monthly senior outreach had folks experimenting with texture and tools as they painted white owls. In addition to the community that we foster with group activities like this, we're promoting brain engagement and sensory exploration. Cognitive development and engagement are not only for the young, but are vital for people of all ages. As the community resource center charged with creating opportunities for all people to connect, learn, and imagine, this type of outreach falls well within the heart of our mission.



## Advocacy

On January 25th, library director Brittany Jacobs, along with trustees Becky Godfrey and Jennifer McMillan gave a presentation on Community Advocacy for the Iowa Library Online Conference. As the board president with over a decade of trustee experience Becky was able to offer insight from the many ups and downs she has seen for Iowa libraries. As our newest board member with about six months under her belt, Jennifer was able to offer insight as a new library leader coming to the table during turbulent times. This session was an opportunity for us to share how we help to tell the library story here in Burlington and champion library services, funding, and support in creative and unique ways.



## January by the Numbers

**Total Checkouts: 22,992**

**Number of Programs: 67**

**Program Participants: 1,011**

**New Borrower Accounts: 102**

**Use of online databases: 6,429**

**WiFi & Computer Use: 3,561**

**Items borrowed & loaned through Inter Library Loan: 142**

**Meeting Room Reservations: 273**

**Door Count: 8,452**

## More News and Projects

As of January 2nd, library director Brittany Jacobs was appointed to the Iowa Library Association Executive Board to fill a 2-year seat. In addition to Brittany's appointment, Burlington is represented on a state level with Lois Blythe serving as the President of the Iowa Library Association Foundation, as well as on a national level with past employee Sam Helmick running for the presidency of the American Library Association.

With the legislative season starting up in January, all eyes are on Des Moines as both good and bad library bills are proposed to the floor. January also brings the final discussions on the city budget for FY25. With impacts of HB718 (2023) shrinking the general fund, many Iowa libraries are faced with difficult budget seasons this year, with even more turbulent waters on the horizon as we look out to FY28.

## Partnerships

This month we partnered with the following for programs, outreach, research and community-building:

- West Burlington
- Middletown
- Des Moines County
- Greater Burlington Partnership
- Burlington Community School District
- PiECES
- Bridges Out of Poverty
- Murray Foundation
- Oakview
- Local Historian, Terry Abrisz
- Kulture City
- Des Moines County Historical Society
- Addington Place
- Bickford
- Iowa State Extension Office
- Iowa STEM Council
- State Library of Iowa
- Des Moines County Master Gardeners
- Special Needs Foundation
- Iowa State University
- Network Nirvana
- Kid Zone
- Burlington YMCA
- Black Iowa News
- Iowa PBS
- University of Northern Iowa
- Fortepan Iowa
- The Capitol Theater

