



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORANGE COUNTY COMMISSION APPROVES PUBLIC LIBRARY 2013-2016 STRATEGIC PLAN

ORANGE COUNTY, NC (November 6, 2013)—The Orange County Public Library (OCPL) is pleased to announce the Board of Orange County Commissioners (BOCC) approved its 2013-2016 strategic plan, during the Tuesday, November 5, regular BOCC meeting.

“This is an historic moment for the library,” said OCPL Director Lucinda Munger. “Though the library has been in existence for more than 100 years, this is our first strategic plan. And it’s a clear, workable plan created expressly to improve library services for the residents and visitors of Orange County.”

The plan’s adoption is the culmination of more than one year’s worth of work. The strategic planning process began in September 2012 with a community needs assessment conducted by State Library of North Carolina consultant and University of North Carolina at Greensboro Library and Information Studies professor, Dr. Anthony Chow.

“A great community like Orange County deserves and expects a great library,” added Munger. “But the notion of what constitutes a great library is changing in the 21st Century as new technologies emerge, information consumption patterns evolve and user expectations shift. This strategic plan will guide our work over the next three years, sharpen our focus on customers, and extend our services into the community.”

With considerable input from the public, library customers, Orange County Government management and staff, community leaders and library staff, a draft plan was completed in April 2013.

The draft strategic plan was then shared with the public and elected officials in May 2013. Feedback on the initial vision and mission statements, as well as goals and objectives, were collected via focus groups and surveys.

Based on this round of feedback, library leaders revised the plan from June through August 2013 to ensure it reflected Orange County’s needs. Lydian Altman of the UNC School of Government and Dr. Colleen Bridger, director of the Orange County Health Department, provided valuable guidance during the revision process.

The BOCC reviewed the updated plan at a September 2013 Work Session, prior to the adoption and approval on November 5.

The plan identifies new vision, mission and values statements, as well as four strategic priorities, for OCPL.

The library's vision and mission statements are as follows:

Vision Statement

We empower people by providing a place and a face to explore, enjoy, and engage.

Mission Statement

Orange County Public Library aims to be the heart of the community by:

- Being a welcoming gathering place for all
- Having a clear focus on the future and responding with creativity and innovation
- Offering relevant services, programs, collections and technologies
- Serving the entire community through collaborative efforts with organizations, educational institutions, and town and County governments
- Providing free and equal access to the resources and materials community members need to be informed and engaged

OCPL's values are commitment to public service, inclusiveness, fostering fun and lifelong learning, collaboration, and respect.

The plan centers on the following four strategic priorities:

- Library Collections and Materials
- Community Connections
- Service and Community Space
- Technology Tools and Training

Each priority is comprised of specific focus areas with related action steps.

To review the full plan, please visit

http://orangecountync.gov/library/documents/OCPL_Strategic_Plan.pdf

Orange County Public Library serves the community seven days a week from the following three locations:

- *OCPL Main Library at 137 W. Margaret Lane in downtown Hillsborough*
- *OCPL Carrboro Branch Library (inside McDougle Middle School) at 900 Old Fayetteville Rd. in Chapel Hill*
- *OCPL Cybrary (inside The Century Center) at 100 N. Greensboro Street in downtown Carrboro*

OCPL is always open online at www.orangecountync.gov/library

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