

Goodnow Library

STRATEGIC GOALS

SERVICE

Offer an outstanding public service to all

This year's staff development focused on First Amendment Audit protocols and literacy training.
Added Notary Services
Expanded Passport Services
Added cashless payment for printing and copies
Reduced wait times for popular materials

Communication

USE A COHESIVE COMMUNICATION MODEL THAT EMPOWERS AND SUPPORTS BOTH PATRONS AND STAFF

Initiated Semi-Annual Library Trustee Reports

Access

UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

DEI

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion

Awarded a grant to fund development of Indigenous History Special Collection.
Awarded a grant to do a Race, Equity, and Inclusion audit.
In addition to an audit of current materials, the library will acquire tools to continuously track diversity of the collection.

Culture

ADAPTIVE, FLEXIBLE, AND MEANINGFUL WORK CULTURE

Benchmarked staffing compensation with comparable towns
Advocating for bringing staff compensation to a competitive level.

Adaptive

Adaptive programming, services and policies to meet the ever changing needs of our community.

Awarded a grant to increase add adaptive items to the Library of Things
Awarded a grant to develop a new collection emphasizing "Learn to Read" techniques.

now lab

future focused on sustainability and stes

Increased programming and access to the NOW lab
Advocating for a full-time NOW lab coordinator
Advocating for EV chargers for the library parking lot

Hub

The social hub for the Sudbury community.

Continued supporting community events - Earth Day, Pride Day, Winter Holiday Event

Programming and attendance at the library have increased past pre-pandemic levels. Demands for programs and services have increased, particularly in regard to digital content, and costs have increased commensurately.

The interest and need to prepare for climate extremes is emerging. The library serves as a safe place to stay warm or cool, and charge devices in comfort. We are providing educational programming and resources, and hope to have EV chargers in the coming year.

Collaborations: We continue to partner with our colleagues across departments. Examples include Truck Day, Earth Day, Family Pride, Holiday Village, Doing Good Fair, and projects with the Senior Center, Park & Recreation, and Health Department. The library frequently hosts community meetings, due to available meeting space and its broad schedule.

The demands on staff continue to increase. Staffing hours and salaries have remained static, while needs to accommodate changes in the community increase. For example, DEI, accessibility, literacy support, and regular requests to partner with any number of worthy, local organizations. Additionally, there has been a national trend of book challenges that Massachusetts has not been immune to; having the fourth highest number of challenges in the country according to the American Library Association. Another sign of the times have been disruptions such as Youtubers seeking to gain attention and revenue through so-called First Amendment "audits," that rattle staff and patrons alike.

Community Collaborations

Climate Tree

Library staff built a Climate Ribbon Tree installation in the atrium. Patrons were encouraged to write the answer to the following prompt on a ribbon and hang it from the tree: “What do you love and hope to never lose to climate chaos?” All the ribbons will be collected and mailed to the Climate Ribbon Archive in NYC at the end of the project. All told, 193 tied ribbons to the tree, creating a beautiful art piece in the library and stimulating thought and conversation about the climate.



Vaccination Clinic

Staying healthy in Sudbury! Turnout was high at the senior community flu clinic at Goodnow, an event held in partnership between the Library and the Sudbury Senior Center. The group pictured here includes Sudbury Health Department staff, Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative staff, and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. The best part? A string trio featuring Sudbury and Concord residents playing soothing music to help ease the sting.



Family Pride Day

In partnership with the Sudbury Cooperative Preschool and a number of community partners, such as churches, synagogues, banks and organizations, this year the event was expanded to include teen activities in addition to crafts for little children, resulting in an increase in activities and attendance.

Earth Day

This Town event included information tables from town committees and commissions, food vendors, and library programs. An estimated 300-500 people attended.

Dementia Friendly Sudbury

Dementia Friendly Sudbury was recognized by Dementia Friendly Massachusetts with a certificate acknowledging the local organization's work. The certificate was presented at the Sudbury Senior Center. The Library's Assistant Director Karen Tobin is also a Dementia Friends Champion and has given Dementia Friend Info Sessions to libraries, community groups, and volunteers. She also advises libraries across the state and beyond on getting involved in the Dementia Friendly movement.

New Initiatives

Expansion of Adaptive Services

The library was awarded a Sudbury Foundation Grant for \$15,000 to enhance adaptive services. This includes a set of Decodable Books for beginning readers and items for the Library of Things like wheelchairs, magnifiers, an adaptive video game controller, braille UNO cards, and more.



LSTA Grant: "Unearthing Sudbury's Indigenous History"

The library was awarded a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant for \$20,000 over two years to fund the collection of Native American documents and help support an oral history project involving local Nipmuc, Massachusetts, and Wampanoag elders.

Race Equity and Inclusion Audit

The library was awarded a Race, Equity, and Inclusion grant from the Sudbury Foundation for \$5,000 to analyze and report on the diversity of the current collection. In addition to the diversity audit, the library will acquire tools to continuously track the diversity of the collection as new items are added.

Yearbook Scanning

The Boston Public Library digitized the library's collection of Ephraim Curtis Middle School and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School yearbooks for free under a statewide grant.



New Programming

To better serve the changing needs of the community, special programming was added, including weekly English



Language Learning classes, a virtual 50+ Job Seekers Networking Group, which met monthly, and added programming for adults and teens in the Sara Sherman NOW Lab. In the Children’s department, chess and Pokémon clubs were added to replace those no longer offered by the schools. “Mini-makers” and “Crafternoons” offered STEAM learning for children. Chinese and Spanish story times for young children, and cultural celebrations such as Lunar New Year, Holi, Passover, Eid and Diwali were held.

Reading to Rico, a collaboration between the Library and the Sudbury Police Department offered early literacy support for children and gave the Town’s new comfort dog the opportunity to expand his literary horizons.

Added and Expanded Services

To better serve the community and its needs, the library continues to add services, including:

Notary Service: In 2023, three staff members became certified notaries. This service is offered as a courtesy and without a fee.

Passport Services: To accommodate the demand, passport service hours were expanded in 2023. The library also added a designated area to assist in the application process.

Launched cashless payment for printing: This allows Apple pay and debit and credit card payments for printing and copies.



Sara Sherman NOW Lab

Free Little Art Gallery

The Free Little Art Gallery continues to host and share community art. This year it underwent an upgrade to include two cabinets underneath. These cabinets hold art supply to-go kits. Thank you to Adrian John for his thoughtful Eagle Scout project.



New Laser Cutter



The library replaced its original laser cutter this year. The new laser cutter has been very popular, with many patrons eager to use it for creating tabletop gaming pieces, Christmas ornaments and presents, parts for model rockets, pieces for electrical circuits, signs, and much more. Training classes are offered monthly for training and certification.

New Art

To expand upon the library's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, a triptych of photographs by local Nipmuc artist Scott Foster was purchased and installed in the stairwell. These images depict contemporary Nipmuc citizens in regalia and a mishoon (canoe built with fire).



Volunteers

The library is indebted to its many community volunteers for their continued support, without whom many daily tasks at the library could not be accomplished, including processing requests for books, movies, and other items, assistance with program preparations, and many other unseen tasks that enable the library to provide excellent service to the community.



Goodnow Library Foundation



Annual GLF Giving	2023
Map Restoration:	\$5,000
Book Nook Funds (materials, books, staff appreciation, Children's Room programs):	\$7,500
Memorial Funds:	\$2,200
Digital Collection:	\$10,000
Grant Funds:	\$20,000
Director Discretionary:	\$10,000
Museum Passes:	\$7,000

The Library's Foundation (GLF) held its community gala in the library for the first time since 2019, hosted three author events, presented two popular Be Bold Speak Series programs, and held two huge book sales. The Foundation has been able to fund the Museum Pass Program, an expansion of the digital collection, Sara Sherman NOW Lab needs, maintenance of the Civil War Statue, the library director's needs, Children's Room activities, and staff appreciation events. Plus, the Foundation received a major grant from the Sudbury Foundation for new remote lockers.

As our community's needs evolve, the Foundation continues to serve an important role in supporting the Goodnow Library's focus on education and literacy, as well as providing a gathering place where everyone is welcome. The Foundation provides supplemental funding to the Library, much in the same way that Sudbury parent organizations support the schools. These funds support refurbishments, technology upgrades, director's requests, and other needs not covered by the town—amounting to 10–20% of the library's non-salary budget each year, on average.



Statistical Snapshot

Statistical Report

Materials include both print and digital materials for adult, teen, and children’s collections. Adult and Children’s print circulation increased, while that of audiobooks and CDs continued to decline. Digital content use has been consistently increasing. The number of people visiting the library is back to pre-pandemic levels. Attendance at Children’s programs has been climbing but still shows dampened numbers due to lingering COVID restrictions. Programming for Teens and Adults increased. General audience and self-directed programs, such as borrowing from the Seed Library, or taking a class in the Sara Sherman NOW Lab, were counted this year for the first

Financial Report

The Library Services Revolving Fund expenditure limit was \$10,000, and the Meeting Room Fund expenditure limit was \$10,500. The Library Services Fund supports many Library services, including costs to fund the public copiers, passport services, and other programs. The Meeting Room Fund supports the maintenance of the library’s meeting rooms. State Aid is awarded annually for maintaining minimum standards, such as providing service to all members who live, work or attend school in the Commonwealth, are open to the public a reasonable number of hours per week, including weekends and evenings, and that spend a minimum of the overall budget on purchasing books and materials for the collection.

FY23 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023)		
	FY2023	FY2022
Total Materials Held	240,967	219,226
Total Collection Use	456,643	473,783
Visitors	126,422	96,177
Number of Children's Programs	434	283
Attendance of Children's Programs	18,035	9,479
Number of Teen Programs	172	85
Attendance of Teen Programs	1,047	589
Number of Adult Programs	421	121
Attendance of Adult Programs	1,744	1,194
General Audience Programs	86	
General Audience Attendance	4,763	

FY23 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023)		
	Revenue	Expended
Library Services Revolving Fund	\$40,827.32	\$10,590.11
Meeting Room Revolving Fund	\$4,610.00	\$1,922.50
State Aid	\$47,259.51	\$45,741.75

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