

## Library Strategic Planning & Visioning Project Kickoff FAQs

What is the Strategic Planning Project? The Strategic Planning and Visioning project is an exciting program that has “kicked off” this month. The project was initiated by the library board in early 2012 and received funding for the project from the Columbus Library Foundation. The planning project was initiated for two reasons: 1) the library is required by the Nebraska Library Commission to complete a strategic plan to maintain their accreditation; 2) The plan is expected to provide a clear roadmap for library service to the community for the next five years.

When will the project start? The week of June 4th community leaders and stakeholders met to establish service priorities for the plan and a project timeline. The community wide participation to gather input on library services will begin the week of August 27-September 15, 2012.

Who can participate in the project? Everyone can participate... because the Columbus library provides service to all residents of Platte County. During the community outreach beginning on August 27th; we will encourage all residents to share with us their thoughts on library service. We will provide a survey online and in print form in both English and Spanish for each resident to complete. In addition, we will schedule community meetings during the week of August 27 for all to attend. We want to hear from all age groups and all neighborhoods across the county.

Do you really want to know what I think about library service? Yes we do! For the library to effectively serve all residents we need to know what we do well, what we need to do better, and what we are not providing to you. We look forward to hearing from everyone in the community through this process.

Who can I talk with personally if I would like to discuss the project? The Columbus Library Director is Jill Owens. She can be reached at her email address: [jowens@columbusne.us](mailto:jowens@columbusne.us). The library consultant for the project is MaryEllin Santiago. She can be reached at: [santiagome@comcast.net](mailto:santiagome@comcast.net). Jill and MaryEllin will both be happy to talk with you or make arrangements to speak to any civic group that you are affiliated with-Please contact us.

How can I share information on the project with friends and family? Getting the word out about the project to all residents is our goal. Please share this article with your friends, family, coworkers, Facebook and Twitter followers. The library website is [www.columbusne.us/library](http://www.columbusne.us/library) “Click” to find all the information on the project with links to all important project documents once drafted.

Is the project part of the Columbus Quality of Life process? No, this project has a different purpose. The focus of the strategic plan is to develop the service role priorities for the library along with the activities needed to continue to keep the library relevant in the community over the next five years. (BTW: The library director does serve on the Quality of Life committee.)

What happens next? Over the next few weeks we will be developing the documents and surveys that will be released to the community on August 27<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to outreach to groups about the project- so let us know if you need more information.

Recent donations to the Library Foundation include two more memorials honoring Eldred “Jan” Osten from Donna Ritter, and Roger and Nadine Lescelius. The Book Review Club memorialized Barbara Tucek. ServiceMaster by Kudron donated in memory of Fred Wachal, and Mike and Kathy Senior memorialized William Bartik.