

Library Board Core Values

Library Boards are responsible for the planning and programming of libraries. Thus, helping to establish core values that guide the current provision of services and resources to the community and the future planning of a library is necessary. Our core values reflect a commitment to serving the community, promoting knowledge, and fostering a welcoming environment as well as the broader principles of librarianship and engagement.

1. Community-Centric

- Collaborate with community organizations, schools, and local businesses to enhance library services and programs in Cottage Grove and support shared goals.
- Prioritize the needs and interests of the local community when developing collections, programs, and services.
- Actively engage with community members to understand their preferences and address their needs.
- Regularly assess and respond to the changing needs of the community through community input, surveys, and feedback.
- Create spaces that showcase and celebrate the artistic and cultural diversity of the community.

2. Accountability & Transparency

- Foster transparency in library operations and decision-making processes.
- Maintain open communication with the community, Village Board, and Village Staff and be transparent about decision-making processes.
- Operate with integrity, professionalism, and a commitment to serving the public interest.
- Be accountable to the community by regularly assessing and reporting on the library's impact and effectiveness.
- Stay adaptable and open to new ideas, encouraging creativity and experimentation.

3. Equitable Access & Inclusivity

- Ensure that library services, resources, and programs are accessible to all members of the community, regardless of age, background, or socioeconomic status.
- Create an environment that welcomes diversity and fosters a sense of belonging for all community members.
- Embrace diversity in all its forms and create inclusive spaces where everyone feels welcome.
- Celebrate and promote cultural diversity through collections, programs, and partnerships that reflect the community's richness.

4. Education, Literacy, & Lifelong Learning

- Support the development of information literacy skills and a commitment to lifelong learning among Cottage Grove residents.
- Provide resources and programs and accurate information that support formal and informal education, including literacy initiatives.
- Encourage residents to critically evaluate information sources and make informed decisions.

5. Resource Stewardship

- Prioritize responsible and transparent financial management.
- Embrace and leverage appropriate tools and technology.
- Cultivate strong relationships with donors, acknowledge the contributions of donors, and communicate the impact of donations effectively.
- Strive to increase operational efficiency and continuously identify and implement process improvements.

Our core values collectively contribute to the mission of libraries in serving as vital community hubs that foster education, information access, and cultural enrichment. We, as a Library Board, play the key role in upholding and promoting these values as they guide our strategic planning of the library in Cottage Grove.