

Forbes Library, Northampton, MA
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FY 2021 Action Plan



Community Hub

Forbes Library engages the community by providing a place and services that connect people and help bridge divides.

| Objectives | Actions | Timeframe for Activity | By Whom |
|--|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Leverage partnerships with local organizations | Work with Northampton Open Media to begin recording and streaming library programs | Summer 2020-Spring 2021 | Leadership Team |
| The Library's collection, services and programming will reflect the cultural, ethnic, religious, economic, and gender diversity of the community | Present a series of book discussions around the theme of Immigration through a grant by the Yiddish Book Center's "Coming to America" Reading Groups for Public Libraries program | Fall 2020 | Programming Committee |
| Provide opportunities for civic engagement | Present a series of programs exploring voting rights in America through a grant by the Mass Humanities' "The Vote: Exploring Voting Rights in America" program | Spring 2021 | Programming Committee |

Connecting Past, Present & Future

Forbes Library provides a connection to local history and documents today's history through our growing Special Collections, Hampshire Room for Local History, and the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library and Museum (CCPLM).

| Objectives | Actions | Timeframe for Activity | By Whom |
|--|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| Expand accessibility and engagement with the library's special collections | Relabel fine art collection with larger font for accessibility and added context where warranted | Summer 2020 | Information Services |

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|---|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Partner with local schools to offer a student research project based on the library's Special Collections | Spring 2021 | Information Services/ Children's |
| | Appoint Historian in Residence | Spring 2021 | Information Services |
| Increase digital access to, and awareness of, our collections | Train additional staff, create metadata guidelines and continue to develop and expand collection new digital archive of materials that originate online and document the ongoing history of our community | Fall 2020-Spring 2021 | Information Services |
| | Continue crowdsourced transcription project of the multi-volume Judd Manuscript. Scan and use new Library of Congress open source tools | Summer 2020 - Spring 2021 | Information Services |
| Upgrade the Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library and Museum in align with its mission and priorities | Submit StEPS Assessment of the CCPLM | Spring 2020 | Coolidge Standing Committee |
| Grow collections by engaging our community to make and document today's history in partnership with other organizations | Facilitate trainings on new Moving Memory Lab equipment at our grant partner organizations | Summer 2020-Spring 2021 | Information Services |
| | Offer programming on preservation topics, inviting patrons to bring and digitize their own materials | Summer 2020-Spring 2021 | Information Services |

Access & Innovation

Forbes Library connects all patrons to services, resources, and technology that are convenient, relevant, and accessible.

| Objectives | Actions | Timeframe for Activity | By Whom |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------|
| Increase access to library services | Remodel the Young Adult Room and create a new programming room for children and teens | Winter 2020 | Administration |
| | Create garden spaces that engage and provide peaceful reflection opportunities | Spring 2021 | Administration |
| Provide vibrant collections for all | Conduct a Diversity Audit of storytime books to ensure that our programming reflects the diversity of our world | Fall 2020 | Childrens |

Children & Teens

Forbes Library fosters the love of reading, and encourages the development of creative and critical thinking skills among children and teens, from early literacy through mature readership, by offering services that spark curiosity and nurture learning.

| Objectives | Actions | Timeframe for Activity | By Whom |
|--|---|------------------------|-----------|
| Actively engage with the community to increase access to and awareness of collections, programs, and services available to children, teens, and their families | Launch a monthly Sensory Playtime for children with and without disabilities to play, learn and grow together. | Winter 2020 | Childrens |
| Update and improve children and teen spaces to provide appropriate, fun, and safe spaces for all | Hire local children's book author and illustrator Jeff Mack to paint a mural in the Children's Department's bathroom depicting the five early literacy skills: Read, Write, Sing, Talk and Play | Summer 2020 | Childrens |
| | Add a new Teen Art Corner | Fall 2020 | Childrens |
| | Improve lighting in craft room and study spaces | Spring 2021 | Childrens |

Fun

Forbes Library enriches lives by providing free entertainment, recreational reading, access to the arts, and opportunities to create.

| Objectives | Actions | Timeframe for Activity | By Whom |
|--|--|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Celebrate and support authors and readers | Support Writer-in-Residence for 3rd year of residency | Summer 2020 - Spring 2021 | Administration |
| Inspire and encourage the community to explore and create | Partner with Northampton High School on gallery show | Spring 2021 | A&M |
| Provide opportunities to experience art and music | Host concerts and hands on musical experiences throughout the year | Summer 2020 | Childrens & A&M |
| Enhance library grounds for community building and education | Implement first stage of master grounds plan | Fall 2020 | Administration |