



TO: Plymouth District Library Board
RE: 2025 Objective Review

DATE: December 2, 2025
FROM: Shauna Anderson,
Director

GOAL 1: Foster connections between residents

OBJECTIVE 1: Facilitate at least 8 intergenerational opportunities before the end of the fiscal year in varying formats with over 50% of participants reporting enhanced sense of community as a result of participation.

COMPLETED: We facilitated 14 events during the first half of the year, and we continue to create more intergenerational opportunities going forward, due to the success of these initiatives. Highlights for this quarter include Juneteenth activities and an international storytelling event. Upcoming events include "Active Games for Seniors" in which teens plan and facilitate "minute to win it" games for seniors and "Save Your Parents—Escape Room" where kids have to work together on challenges to get to their parents by the end of the program.

OBJECTIVE 2: By year-end, launch a "Checkout an Expert" program at the library, offering at least five different topics for community members to explore. Achieve a minimum of 20 participants in the first three months and gather feedback to improve the program, aiming for a satisfaction rating of 85% or higher.

COMPLETED: While the Checkout an Expert program continues to grow, we have already surpassed our goal for the project. We continue to troubleshoot technology issues to make scheduling even easier, but eventually, we plan to embed this model for other resources like eBook support, tech help, and individualized demos with our maker equipment. Since the start of the program, 27 volunteer experts have held over 50 sessions.

GOAL 2: Enhance communication and information sharing

OBJECTIVE 3: Prototype a community-created newsletter for local news and information sharing. Publish at least 3 newsletters by the end of fiscal year 2025.

IN PROGRESS: *The Plymouth Express* was able to print 2 issues by the end of the fiscal year, but the group is settling in to a routine that will allow about 10 issues per year to be printed. The Community Journalism Club has developed into a committed and thoughtful group of diverse voices interested in telling stories about our community. The group is mentored by two community members with backgrounds in journalism and newspaper design. We expect that the readership of the paper will continue to expand through next year.

OBJECTIVE 4: Implement a system of rotating topical displays throughout the library, with a primary focus on civic engagement. At least 12 displays will be produced throughout the year to support a 5% increase in overall circulation.

COMPLETED: Throughout the year, we produced a number of displays and tried out new models through rigorous experimentation. Our most successful display experiment for FY2025 was the integration of the Most Popular circulation model into our collections. All age groups are now set up to provide high-interest titles for 1-week circulation with no holds or renewals. This allows patrons who are able to read at a faster pace to receive titles faster. This also removes many patrons from the holds lists for those same titles in the regular collection—allowing folks to get copies faster and creating a more satisfying experience for everyone. The Most Popular items alone have resulted in over 5,500 circulations since we migrated to our new ILS.

Additional display experiments throughout the year included the “Civic Zone” displays which were meant to highlight relevant social issues aligned with current events. Of the items put on these displays, about 22% were checked out. We are also currently hosting a large-scale “Holiday Boutique” in the lobby meant to help patrons find festive content for the winter season.

We continue to experiment with ways to track the effectiveness of our displays and highlight content for patrons—through lists on our new OPAC to utilizing locations and tags in our ILS. In terms of our circulation numbers, the timing of building renovations limited our growth in this area. A goal of 5% increase was unattainable with the closure schedule for each floor.

GOAL 3: Contribute to the character of our community

OBJECTIVE 5: Enhance the library's interior (including more meeting spaces to foster deeper community connections) in ways that highlight and celebrate the historic charm of our downtown neighborhood.

IN PROGRESS: We are currently finished with the majority of our building projects for the year, aside from the lower level play area. We are putting some finishing touches around the library with additional lighting and artwork while we wait for the final furniture pieces to arrive and complete our spaces. We anticipate that the youth department will be fully opened by March 2026.

OBJECTIVE 6: Facilitate at least 6 initiatives offsite, throughout the community centered on place-making-- creating vibrant, inclusive environments that foster social interaction and community engagement—with a goal of at least 50 participants per session.

COMPLETED: Throughout the year, library staff hosted 14 individual events focused on placemaking outside of the library that garnered participation from almost 2,800 people of all ages. We hosted a regular booth at the Downtown Farmer's Market, facilitated drop-in programs in neighborhood parks, provided a free craft at the Fall Fest, and collaborated with both the Township and Wayne County for offsite events.