



## **Richard Sugden Library Strategic Plan 2026-2031**

### **Mission Statement**

The Richard Sugden Library creates an open environment that brings the power of information, literacy, imagination and inspiration to all the people of our community.

### **Vision Statement**

The Board of Trustees and the staff of the Richard Sugden Library will work together to respond to our community's evolving needs and the changing nature of library services to remain relevant and vital to the public. The library is a significant resource and advocate for youth as they develop from birth to thoughtful inheritors of our community. The library has a special mission to promote and support literacy and foster a love of reading in people of all ages. Our space serves as a place to gather, engage and discover. The Richard Sugden Library is located in a beautiful historic building in the heart of Spencer. It is easily accessible and serves as a community center. The historical museum is housed in the building and is a repository for items of archival value and interest.

### **Planning Methodology**

Spencer residents were asked for input to develop the Town's 2024 Master Plan. Beginning in 2023 participants attended a visioning workshop, hundreds of respondents answered a survey and a community workshop was held. The data gathered was applied to the library's goals and aspirations.



## Goals

1. Raise awareness of library services and events.
  - Use local cable station to reach non-library users
  - Partner with community organizations and local schools
  - Send library staff out into the community to conduct and promote programs and services
  - Market library services through social media outlets
  - Cultivate a sense of belonging and pride by encouraging interaction and engagement including volunteerism
2. Strengthen the library's role as a lifelong learning and cultural community center.
  - Offer programs to enhance learning, cultural awareness and pleasure
  - Display exhibits that promote visual and educational enjoyment in collaboration with local organizations and individuals
  - Digitize historic documents and photos
  - Increase open hours and access to historical museum
  - Provide a vibrant collection of library materials including print, media and technology
  - Arrange spaces to encourage exploration and creativity
  - Create and maintain an inviting, accessible and safe environment
3. Support and promote literacy for people of all ages.
  - Expand materials and programs for children that address early literacy
  - Work closely with community agencies to maximize diverse programming
  - Reinforce literacy with afterschool programs
  - Encourage interactive play



4. Take a leadership role in providing education and access to current technology.
  - Acquire and maintain latest technology
  - Increase staff competency in new technology
  - Teach the community how to use current technology
  - Circulate mobile hotspots to give patrons internet access
  - Lessen the gap of the digital divide by providing users access and instruction
  
5. Maintain and improve the physical space of the library.
  - Repair deteriorating interior and exterior areas
  - Update air conditioning system
  - Improve and update lighting
  - Acquire interior security system including cameras



**Approved by the Library Board of Trustees 1/20/2026**