



April 2015

TRANSFORMATION SNAPSHOT

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF WHERE
WE'VE BEEN, AND WHERE
WE'RE GOING.



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TRANSFORMATION

change in form, appearance, nature, or character.



THE 21ST CENTURY LIBRARY



Andrew Carnegie gave away \$60 million to build public libraries. In fact, money from his foundation built a new home for the Flint Public Library in 1905. Carnegie believed public libraries were the best way to democratize knowledge, and to provide every citizen with access to information and education.

The purpose hasn't changed, but almost everything else about a library certainly has! The twenty-first century library is much more than just a place to find books. Interestingly enough, the library has become more, not less, important in today's high-tech world:

- helping people engage in continuous learning
- equipping families to create young readers and successful students
- providing universal free access to technology and tools
- encouraging civic engagement
- supporting entertainment, enrichment and creativity

Libraries across the United States are challenged to be more relevant, more intentional, and more supportive of the communities they serve. They are also challenged to do more with fewer resources.

Flint Public Library is responding to that challenge through a transformation plan.



"What libraries need is to be more intentional in the ways that they deploy resources in the community, and more deeply embedded in addressing the critical challenges facing the community. This will require collaboration...to redefine the role of libraries as institutions that inspire learning, drive development, grow social capital and create opportunities." (Aspen Report, 2014)

VISION AND SERVICE PRIORITIES

In July 2014, the Library embarked upon a transformation planning process with Library Strategies International, a team of nationally-recognized public library consultants. They led the Library through a process of identifying its most essential roles: those that are critical for Flint now and into the future.

No institution can do everything well with limited resources. After considering the Library's role in the community and the input received during the planning process, Library leadership carefully chose a vision for FPL that leverages the Library's unique skills and resources.



Our vision is to become Flint's "go to" place for learning across the lifespan.

That vision is supported by three key service priorities, which align with the City of Flint Master Plan, and the Flint and Genesee Literacy Network. Of course we'll still have books, and we'll still be the place for local genealogy and history. But we're going to focus most of our investments on the following three priorities.



INSPIRE CREATIVITY THROUGH DIGITAL LITERACY.

FPL will provide technology and media resources for people of all ages that encourage creativity, learning, entrepreneurship and innovation.

SUPPORT FAMILY LITERACY.

FPL will provide programs, services and resources to create young readers from birth to age 5, and to help students in grades K-12 succeed in school. We will also help parents become literacy-savvy, equipping them to continue their own learning and to support their children's learning at home.

ENCOURAGE INTERACTION IN A COMMUNITY SPACE.

FPL will reorganize and renovate the building. This will create an inviting, energized environment that welcomes individuals and groups. It will also support the Library's role as a valued civic space.



WHAT DOES TRANSFORMATION LOOK LIKE?

WE'RE EXPLORING A LOT OF ANGLES AND OPTIONS. WE DON'T KNOW ALL THE ANSWERS YET. BUT HERE ARE SOME OF THE BIG-PICTURE DIFFERENCES WE KNOW YOU WILL SEE.

FPL OF THE PAST....

Was renowned as a regional reference library

Required a physical visit to check out materials

Presented story times led by a librarian

Offered resources onsite to support student homework assignments

Collected historical materials.

Was a place where children were quiet and listened

Provided Internet access and business software

Was a quiet place for individual work

Offered resources for people who knew how to read

Had only a few meeting rooms for public use

Was dated and tired-looking

FPL OF THE FUTURE...

Will be Flint's best starting place for free learning, creative expression, and experimenting with technology

Will offer downloadable books and music, as well as online resources accessible anywhere, anytime

Will engage families in interactive learning that helps parents become their child's first teacher

Will provide much broader resources and technology, in the building and online

Will collect, archive and digitally preserve historical materials

Will welcome children to engage in imaginative play

Will offer access to digital media equipment, creativity software, and free online learning tools

Will include zones for both individual work and lively collaboration

Will have many resources to help people of all ages achieve literacy and enjoy lifelong learning

Will provide a variety of technology-rich formal and informal meeting spaces

Will be fresh, vibrant, updated and delightful



