



# **MOUNT VERNON PUBLIC LIBRARY LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC PLAN 2026—2029**

A Framework for Access,  
Innovation, and Cultural  
Stewardship

Prepared for the Board of  
Trustees and Library  
Director



# EXECUTIVE VISION

Position MVPL as a regional cultural institution, digital empowerment hub, community wellness partner, and steward of Mount Vernon's historical and cultural record.



# MISSION & VISION

**Mission:** Connect people, information, and technology to build community partnerships, preserve cultural heritage, and inspire lifelong learning.

**Vision:** A premier urban public library advancing equitable access, creativity, historical preservation, and civic empowerment.

# STRATEGIC PILLARS

1. Access, Equity & Digital Empowerment
2. Cultural Preservation & Archival Leadership
3. Youth, Teen & Workforce Pathways
4. Community Wellness & Lifelong Learning
5. Infrastructure, Governance & Sustainability

# PILLAR I: ACCESS, EQUITY & DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT

- Digital equity and broadband access – MVPL will expand free broadband availability, device lending, and public computing to ensure all residents can fully participate in the digital world. Special emphasis will be placed on closing access gaps for seniors, low-income households, and marginalized populations.
- AI and emerging technology literacy – The library will introduce educational programming focused on artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and emerging digital tools. These initiatives will prepare residents for evolving workforce demands and responsible technology use.
- Accessibility and multilingual services – MVPL will strengthen services for patrons with disabilities and non-English speakers through adaptive technologies and inclusive programming. This commitment ensures equitable access to information and services for all community members.
- Modernized digital platforms – The library will upgrade its website, digital collections, and virtual service models to enhance usability and reach. These improvements will expand access to resources beyond physical walls.

## PILLAR II: CULTURAL PRESERVATION & ARCHIVAL LEADERSHIP

- Local history and archival development – MVPL will formally advance its role as the central steward of Mount Vernon’s historical and cultural record. This includes expanding collections, improving storage environments, and increasing public research access.
- Oral histories and digitization – The library will document community narratives through structured oral history projects and digitization initiatives. These efforts will preserve voices, images, and records for future generations.
- Exhibitions and scholarly partnerships – MVPL will curate exhibitions and collaborate with academic and cultural institutions to interpret local and diasporic history. This will position the library as a regional center for cultural scholarship and engagement.
- Preservation and conservation planning – The library will implement professional preservation standards to protect rare and unique materials. Long-term conservation planning will ensure sustainability of collections.

# PILLAR III: YOUTH, TEEN & WORKFORCE PATHWAYS

- Teen innovation and media labs – MVPL will develop dedicated spaces where teens can engage in digital creation, research, and collaborative learning. These labs will support skills in media production, design, and emerging technologies.
- Youth publishing and film – The library will sponsor youth-led publishing and film initiatives that amplify student voices and creativity. These programs will cultivate storytelling, literacy, and career exploration.
- Career readiness and workforce credentials – MVPL will expand workforce preparation services, certifications, and job readiness training. Partnerships will connect residents to educational and employment pathways.
- Mentorship and leadership pipelines – Structured mentorship initiatives will link youth with professionals, educators, and cultural leaders. These pipelines will foster leadership, civic engagement, and career development.

# PILLAR IV: COMMUNITY WELLNESS & LIFELONG LEARNING

Mental health literacy – MVPL will continue to expand programs that promote emotional wellness, awareness, and community healing. These initiatives will connect residents to educational resources and supportive services.

Adult education and ESL – The library will strengthen literacy, ESL, and lifelong learning services to support academic and professional advancement. These offerings will address evolving adult education needs.

Healing arts and civic dialogue – MVPL will integrate the arts and facilitated dialogue into community programming to promote reflection and cultural expression. These efforts will foster civic understanding and community connection.

University and health partnerships – Strategic partnerships will extend the library's capacity in education and wellness services. Collaborations will support research, public programming, and service delivery.

## PILLAR V: INFRASTRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & SUSTAINABILITY

- Facilities modernization – MVPL will advance phased renovations to improve accessibility, technology integration, and user experience. These upgrades will support modern library service delivery.
- Capital and development planning – The library will implement long-range capital strategies and diversified funding initiatives. To assist with the Library's HVAC System and renovation of the Children Room. These efforts will ensure financial sustainability and institutional growth.
- Trustee development – Ongoing governance training will strengthen fiduciary oversight and strategic leadership. This will ensure trustees remain aligned with best practices and compliance standards.
- Policy and fiscal accountability – MVPL will maintain rigorous financial controls, transparent reporting, and updated policies. These practices will uphold public trust and operational excellence.

# EMBEDDED MVPL STRATEGIC DIVISIONS

- Cultural Heritage & Archives
- Media, Film & Public Humanities
- Youth Media & Workforce Pathways
- Community Wellness Programming
- Digital Equity & Emerging Technology
- Mills Law Library & Civic Empowerment

# ADA

## E-Accessibility, WCAG 2.1, Title II, and Your Library (in NY) Online

A core function of any library is providing access to content, often through web-based platforms. April 26, 2026, and April 26, 2027, are two deadlines for public institutions to ensure web content and mobile apps comply with the U.S. Department of Justice's 2024 Final Rule on Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which requires all web content and mobile applications provided or made available by public libraries to be accessible to people with disabilities. This involves complying with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1, Level AA, with limited exceptions for certain kinds of content.

The Mount Vernon Public Library is committed to serving the diverse needs of its community by providing equitable access to information, technology, and educational resources. Through the implementation of modern digital services, inclusive programs, and adherence to ADA and New York State accessibility standards, the library seeks to foster lifelong learning, cultural enrichment, and community engagement. By strengthening partnerships, expanding outreach, and continuously improving facilities and services, MVPL aims to be a welcoming, innovative, and responsive hub for all residents.



# FIVE-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

2026: Program Expansion & Infrastructure

2027: Institutional Growth & Regional Positioning

2028: Capital Advancement & Innovation

2029: Evaluation, Sustainability & Renewal

# CAPITAL & FACILITIES OUTLOOK

- Archives and special collections facilities
- Teen innovation and media spaces
- Children's library redevelopment
- Exhibition and community learning spaces
- Outdoor learning and cultural gardens

# GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Board oversight and fiduciary governance
- Annual operational plans
- Budget alignment and compliance
- Performance and impact reporting

# STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

- Increased digital inclusion
- Expanded youth engagement
- Preserved cultural heritage
- Strengthened community wellness
- Sustainable institutional growth



# BOARD ACTION

Adoption of the MVPL Long-Range Strategic Plan 2026–2029

Authorization for **implementation**, reporting, and funding alignment