

The process of gathering town support for building the New Ridgefield Library, opening in 2014, sparked a healthy debate about the relative worth of the Library, and about the future of libraries in general. At numerous public forums, on the sidelines, and in social gatherings we talked about the future of books, the social value of gathering to learn together, and how different citizens find value and solace in their local library.

When the people of Ridgefield voted to support the expansion through a \$5 million referendum, we could not have been more grateful, or more proud of our town. At the same time, we learned from the experience of having thought deeply together about the Library that this was an opportunity to look again at who we are and how we serve the town of Ridgefield as we move forward. The town has helped us to build a new building, and we are committed to making the institution which lives inside it responsive, efficient, and vital. Thus began our Strategic Planning process.

Since then over 600 community members participated in creating this new Strategic Plan. We conducted a town-wide survey, hosted numerous focus groups, researched best practices, and engaged board members and citizens in a thoughtful, thorough examination of our mission, vision, values, services and systems.

What we learned from the process of raising funds, going to referendum, and engaging in this planning process is that despite some beliefs to the contrary, Ridgefield needs a library now more than ever, one that is bold, responsive, and committed to the spirit of learning and discovery that have shaped libraries since their inception. With this new Strategic Plan and a beautiful new home, we can assure you that the Ridgefield Library will continue to be “the place where people go to read, discover, question, connect, and thrive.”

With best wishes,



Peter Coffin

*Chair, Ridgefield Library Board of Directors*

## vision

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To be the centerpiece of Ridgefield, an essential partner and destination of choice for our community: the place where people go to read, discover, question, connect and thrive.

## mission

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The Ridgefield Library is an intellectual and cultural gathering place, adapting to the changing needs of our community in an evolving world.

We commit to encouraging creativity, enrichment and lifelong learning, through:

- Expert and supportive staff
- Diverse and relevant programming
- Emerging and tested technologies
- Collections available in myriad formats

## values

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The Ridgefield Library is guided by these principles:

- To be a trusted community leader and partner, woven into the fabric of Ridgefield
- To be a fully welcoming, accessible and inclusive resource for all segments of the town
- To respect and value one another as staff, volunteers, visitors and patrons in all Library interactions

## objectives

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- Anticipate and Respond to the Evolving Needs of the Community
- Maximize Staff and Board Leadership Potential
- Assure the Financial Stability of the Library

# strategic plan 2013 | 2016

Ridgefield Library Board of Directors is grateful to the following individuals and groups for their participation in creating the Ridgefield Library Strategic Plan, 2013-2016.

## The Ridgefield Community, Focus Group and Survey Participants

Town-wide Survey ~ 487 respondents

Focus Groups ~ 127 participants

Staff workshop

Board of Directors input

## Strategic Planning Committee

Cloris Pearson, Co-Chair

Rebecca Bryan, Development Consultant and Co-Chair

Matt Byrnes, Library Board Member

Lorraine Mellon, Library Board Member

Christina Nolan, Library Director

Mary Rindfleisch, Assistant Library Director

Bob Whitton, Library Board Member

## Task Force Members {\*Task Force Leader}

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