

Note: # 3

WLS Board – Strategic Committee

June 14, 2021

In attendance:

Karen Zevin (District 1)
Jonathon Marshall (District 2)
Susan Morduch (District 6), Board President
Denise Matthews-Serra (District 11)
Karen Kelley (District 12)
Julie Mills-Worthey (District 13)
Francis Okelo (District 14), Committee Chair
Terry Kirchner, WLS Executive Director

Meeting began at 6:02 PM.

Francis Okelo reviewed the meeting agenda and reminded those in attendance that the focus for this meeting would be to review and revise the WLS Overview, Mission and Vision statements that were sent to the committee as a draft document.

Following the meeting notes are the initial draft document and the edited version that incorporated the suggestions presented during the meeting.

At the next meeting, it was recommended that we explore how WLS currently addresses and could address in the future issues such as shared goals with the member libraries, sustainability, short-term goals and long-term goals.

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, September 13, 2021, at 6 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM

Meeting notes submitted by Terry Kirchner

WLS Strategy Committee – Draft of Mission & Vision Statements for June 14, 2021 Meeting

Overview:

A focus on community engagement and outreach provides the framework for programs and services at WLS. It is through partnerships with the member libraries, governmental agencies, service organizations, community members and others that WLS is able to assist the member libraries in their efforts to create and grow welcoming, inclusive services and programs for all residents of their community.

WLS works to provide cost-effective approaches for administrative and technology support, cataloging assistance, delivery of materials, training of library staff and trustees, the sharing of digital resources. We do our work with a disciplined focus on equity and access, which gives our outreach programs and member library activities the broadest reach and relevance. We are committed to providing services for the interest, information and enrichment of all people in the communities we serve.

Proposed Mission Statement:

To empower their lives and communities, connect people with the resources, services and programs available through WLS and the libraries in Westchester.

Current Mission Statement:

The mission of WLS is to ensure that all residents have seamless access to excellent library service throughout Westchester County.

Proposed Vision Statement:

WLS will help strengthen the libraries of Westchester to share information and resources, become a welcoming environment to everyone in the community and to promote the love of learning and discovery of new opportunities.

Suggested Revision to the Proposed Vision Statement:

WLS will promote the love of learning, discovery of new opportunities and outreach to all. It will help strengthen the libraries of Westchester to share information and resources and, become a welcoming environment to everyone in the community.

Current Vision Statement:

WLS will serve as a center of innovation for the Westchester County library community. We will provide model programs, affordable and easy-to-use information technology, and support services that enable libraries to continuously improve service to their communities.

WLS Strategy Committee – Revised Overview, Mission & Vision Statements for September 13, 2021 Meeting

Overview:

A focus on community engagement and outreach provides the framework for programs and services at the Westchester Library System (WLS). It is through partnerships with the member libraries, governmental agencies, service organizations, community members, Westchester County and others that WLS is able to assist the member libraries in their efforts to create and grow welcoming, inclusive services and programs for all residents of their community and the County.

WLS works to provide cost-effective approaches for administrative and technology support, cataloging assistance, delivery of materials, training of library staff and trustees, the sharing of digital resources. We do our work with a disciplined focus on equity, diversity and access, which gives our outreach programs and member library activities the broadest reach and relevance. We are committed to providing services for the interest, information and enrichment of all people in the communities we serve.

WLS is one of New York State's 23 public library systems and was established by State Education Law in 1958. WLS is a membership organization comprised of the 38 independent public and association libraries within the geographic boundaries of Westchester County. Each of the member libraries is an independent organization with its own board of trustees, director, staff, policies and chartered service area. WLS strives to help each member library support the specific needs and interests of its community, while also encouraging the development of partnerships that result in more effective and cost efficient library services throughout the County. To that end, WLS provides ongoing training and professional development for library directors, staff, and library trustees fostering best practices in library services, community engagement, and fiscal responsibility. Additionally, WLS offers robust, community centered outreach programs collaborating with libraries, community agencies and nonprofits to serve the County's most vulnerable populations.

Proposed Mission Statement:

To empower lives and communities to connect people in Westchester County with the resources, services and programs available through WLS and the member libraries.

Current Mission Statement:

The mission of WLS is to ensure that all residents have seamless access to excellent library service throughout Westchester County.

Proposed Vision Statement:

WLS will promote the love of learning, discovery of new ideas and opportunities for all in Westchester County. It will help strengthen the member libraries of Westchester County to share information and resources, supporting a welcoming environment to everyone in the community.

Current Vision Statement:

WLS will serve as a center of innovation for the Westchester County library community. We will provide model programs, affordable and easy-to-use information technology, and support services that enable libraries to continuously improve service to their communities.