

# WLS Strategy Committee – Overview, Mission and Vision Statements

version 10

## 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. WLS also provides expert guidance in complying with NYS rules and regulations to member libraries. 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:

The mission of Westchester Library System (WLS) is to empower lives and communities by connecting 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:

Westchester Library System (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 by enhancing their ability to share information and resources and by supporting a welcoming environment to everyone in the community.

## Current Vision Statement:

9/20/2021  
TK

Formatted: Font color: Text 1

Formatted: Space After: 0 pt

Formatted: Space After: 0 pt

Formatted: Space After: 0 pt

Formatted: Space After: 0 pt

## **WLS Strategy Committee – Overview, Mission and Vision Statements**

version 10

*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.*