



Promoting all libraries in Indiana and fostering the professional growth of our members

Envisioning the Future of Indiana's Libraries and the Indiana Library Federation: Abbreviated Summary of 2/3/17 Session

Consensus from the Day and from the Evaluation Survey - The Consultant captured all written and emailed notes. Participants were asked to complete a post-event survey in the week with over half completing the survey as of February 8th. Preliminary feedback suggests:

- It was a great day! Nearly all felt the day met or exceeded expectations and that it was worth their investment of time. Kudos around organization, pace and goals of day.
- A highlight of the day for many was seeing common themes emerge across library types and a desire for more cross-sector work. There was genuine excitement about meeting people from other areas of state or types of libraries who share common vision, goals and challenges.
- Strong consensus exists for work on **statewide communications campaign** about the importance of libraries, strong **lobbying and advocacy work**, and **streamlining ILF structure** to carry out the vision and objectives with increased recognition of strengths and limitations of current structure.

Who? Seventy (70) individuals attended the Strategic Visioning session on Fri., Feb. 3, 9-3:30, at the Fishers location of the Hamilton East Public Library. Attendees included an intentional cross section of types of libraries, types of positions, age, ethnicity and diversity of geography, urban/suburban/rural, thriving/struggling communities. Each participant was asked to commit to pre-reading preparation, to be engaged the full day and to complete follow-up surveys and communications. The session was facilitated by Robert Hoke, an experienced planning and evaluation consultant who has worked with funders, nonprofits, higher education and workforce development.

What? The Strategic Visioning process that started in early 2016 and will continue through mid-2017. The Feb. 3 session was structured to start with big picture visions of the "perfect day in your library in 2027" and then to become more specific throughout the day. The objectives of the day were to:

- Identify 4-6 Primary Strategic Priority Areas (Buckets);
- Increase Understanding and Consensus about Future of ILF;
- Help the Strategic Visioning Committee and ILF Leadership be prepared to use the Day's insights for next steps; and
- Recommend Priority Activities for 1st Year Implementation.

How? Participants were assigned tables to ensure diversity of voices at each table. Notes were collected from each table, and high-level themes and ideas were shared by each table throughout the day. Participants identified and prioritized driving forces, supports and constraints and ways that ILF might play a role in achieving vision. Two activities included prioritizing specific ILF work plan activities for 2017-2018 and identifying activities that may be eliminated or streamlined.

Next Steps - The Steering Committee will review the full notes being summarized by the consultant and then will narrow and prioritize over the next few months. Engagement of other groups (retirees, Friends, trustees, key stakeholders) is planned for the late winter/early spring. Participants were asked for suggestions of other voices to include. The Steering Committee will make recommendations to the ILF Board of Directors in the summer. Participants were asked for suggestions of other voices to include.

Updates and progress will be posted at <http://www.ilfonline.org/page/strategic>.