



# Library Foundation

For Sarasota County

## Library Foundation for Sarasota County 2022-2024 Strategic Plan Executive Summary

The Library Foundation for Sarasota County celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021. With the generous support of our donors and local foundations, we have been able to raise more than \$8 million in support of our public libraries. At this milestone, the Foundation is looking ahead to set a direction for our “next chapter”. Foundation leaders have invested in the future by engaging in a comprehensive strategic planning process, informed by both data and input from our key stakeholders.

We are pleased to share the following major results of this strategic effort:

- **Inclusivity, Collaboration, and Stewardship** were identified as *core values* that guide our interactions and how we approach our work.

- We developed a *vision* which describes the desired future state of the community we are striving to bring about:

**We envision a well-loved and well supported Sarasota County Library System that is accessible to everyone, with resources and innovative programs to meet the evolving needs of our community.**

- We clarified the Library Foundation’s purpose through an updated *mission statement*:

**We champion strong public libraries, support innovation and help to extend the library system’s reach for everyone in Sarasota County.**

- Based on our review of data and input provided by our stakeholders, we established three *priority goals* for action:

- **To raise community awareness of the Library System’s value.**
- **To increase fundraising impact on the Library System’s innovation and reach.**
- **To strengthen our governance and organizational capacity.**

A clear path for accomplishing these goals has been laid out, along with a process for managing implementation that ensures the strategic plan remains a living guide for the Foundation's work and decision-making.

Some highlights of planned action include: digital communications and expanding and strengthening our advocacy team; increasing board fundraising capacity and involvement; examining methods to maximize grantmaking for library programs and measuring the impact of funded activities; updating our bylaws, expanding the diversity of our board, increasing staff capacity and establishing a permanent home from which the Foundation can base its operations.

---

*Special thanks to Gulf Coast Community Foundation's Invest In Incredible program for financial support and professional consulting expertise that made this process possible.*