



PUBLIC LIBRARY
115 Spokane Street
Kimberley, BC, V1A 2E5



KIMBERLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

PROVINCIAL PUBLIC LIBRARY GRANTS REPORT 2019

INTRODUCTION

The Kimberley Library continues to grow in popularity due to our welcoming staff, excellent customer service and popular children's programming. In 2019, the library doubled again the number of youths who benefit from the imaginative programs and activities. To keep up with the demand we hired an early education student to assist our two children's programmers with STEAM programming. With a generous grant from Columbia Basin Trust, the library purchased nearly \$100,000 of cutting-edge technology. Community members of all ages now access otherwise unaffordable equipment at no cost, making life more affordable and decreasing the divide between families who can afford current tech items and those who cannot. The technology we purchased has provided opportunities for patrons to explore personal and professional activities such as film-making, editing, computer competencies, art creation and photography, while being part of a supportive learning culture. Parents continue to enjoy the programming with their children, taking part in coding, computer building, circuitry and electronics, crafts, art, Lego, robotics, simple to complex engineering projects in teams, and more. In response to the popularity and demand for STEAM programming, we added a "Tech Programmer" position. Our Outreach coordinator accepted this new position which complimented her outreach duties, and our inventory of tech-items travel to schools where hundreds of children have benefitted from items such as Ozobots, Edison robots, circuitry kits and other tech-kits. The outreach coordinator/Tech Programmer provides instruction to the teachers, setting them up for success, and assists until they are confident in their skills to provide top notch programming to their classes. Numbers of class visits to the Library have grown significantly as well. Where we would see four a year, we are now seeing four a week. We are happy to say that children still continue to race to the library after school of their own accord.

The library has moved into the community in a noticeable way with our active involvement in community events, from farmer's markets & first Saturdays to fairs and festivals. Senior's facilities are served with rotating collections of resources that fit their needs and requests. Volunteers continue to enrich the lives of home-bound patrons by delivering and collecting resources with a friendly visit.

Kimberley, the highest city in Canada at 1120 metres continues to see growth, having recently surpassed 8000 residents. Many newcomers to Canada have made their home here. We have been pleased to see the growth at the library in the last year, where a number of new families start immersing themselves in the local culture of this unique community by becoming a member of the library.

Kimberley Library renewed its strategic plan in 2019:

Mission:

Support the intellectual, recreational, personal and cultural enrichment of our patrons by offering diverse resources to the community with an emphasis on literacy, while providing a neutral space for enhanced social connection.

Vision:

To inspire the love of reading and the pursuit of knowledge by offering resources, both physical and electronic, as well as relevant programming and services to our citizens throughout their lifespan.

OUR VALUES:

Intellectual Freedom:

The library supports the free exchange of information and ideas in a democratic society while facilitating and advancing access to information and resources.

Community:

The library is a valuable community resource and a public place where everyone is welcome. The library is committed to working together with community groups and organizations to develop sustainable partnerships.

Innovation:

The library is future focused, looking for better solutions to meet existing and emerging needs.

Stewardship and accountability:

The library is accountable to its patrons and funders, and practices effective stewardship of library resources. The library's decision-making processes are open and transparent to the community.

Safe and welcoming: The Library provides equitable service to a diverse community, with respect for the privacy and dignity of individuals.

PRIORITY 1

Improving Access

Library Goal that supports this priority: The library is a valuable community resource and a public place where everyone is welcome. The Library provides equitable service to a diverse community, with respect for the privacy and dignity of individuals.

EXTERNAL COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES: The three senior's villages in the community receive outreach service regularly, ensuring access to library resources to this less mobile group of community members. One facility receives a continuously restocked book cart for item sign out and return, and another receives door to door service to senior's residences. The Pines residence for individuals facing deeper cognitive challenges has a dedicated Library volunteer who reads out loud to a group of seniors who clearly look forward to her visit. Specially selected resources are provided through consultation with activity coordinators so patrons needs are met.

OUTREACH/ HOME SERVICE: For patrons who are unable to come to the library, we bring the library to them. This ensures that the library continues to serve the needs of our less-mobile citizens, offering them the full compliment of the library's resources. Resources are chosen through consultation with the patrons, and reader's advisory services.

TECH LOANS: To reach a larger audience, the Kimberley Library has started loaning technology throughout the community to classrooms and individuals. Hundreds more were provided with meaningful programming in 2019 with this mobile/shared tech model. With the cost of technology and tendency for some expensive items to be outdated before investment is returned, the sharing model through the library makes life more affordable for patrons.

NNELS: The National Network for Equitable Library Services provides patrons with print disabilities the opportunity to continue learning and enjoying literature through audio-book format. We also collaborate with CNIB, offering library services to our mutual clientele.

PRIORITY 2

DEVELOPING SKILLS

Library goal that supports this priority: The library is future focused, looking for better solutions to meet existing and emerging needs. The library supports the free exchange of information and ideas in a democratic society while facilitating and advancing access to information and resources.

STEAM PROGRAMMING: has become an exciting after-school activity for ages 4-12. Ozobots, Littlebits, Lego, Edisons, Marble run kits, biology activities, coding, in an inclusive, supportive and fun atmosphere. As planned, we added an additional STEAM program in 2019 due to the popularity of the program. Outcomes include increased participation and cooperation in all age groups, more advanced coding abilities, and noticeable leadership attributes in participants. Comments and feedback include local teachers' appreciation for the library's curriculum supporting programming, as the participants skills are transferring to their classrooms.

Outcome: A group of youth who were coming to the library after schools and on weekends who were using the time and space inappropriately, exhibiting disrespectful language and behaviour, became interested in the STEAM programming. These individuals now volunteer to assist the children's programmer with set up and also participate in the programming. Their behaviour has changed from offensive to respectful and helpful, and we look forward to seeing them almost every day we are open.

MEMOIR WRITING: The Friends of the Library, Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and the Library provided a free memoir writing workshop to 14 participants. A professional writer and workshop provider encouraged words and memories from a group of individuals who learned to find their voice with their own unique stories. A collaborative “Kimberley Memoir” book may result. This program complimented a Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy initiative.

WILDSIGHT: Kimberley’s WildSight organization and the library co-hosted its annual seed sharing event in Spring 2019. We also partnered to offer a seed-saving workshop, a well attended event that developed local seed saving skills. Through demonstration and hands on learning opportunities, seed saving techniques and processes were demonstrated for various types of plants. Outcome from these events have been the increase in viable local climatized seeds, as well as increased knowledge and confidence for gardeners and food growers. The seed library has also been re-stocked for community members to ‘check out’ packets of locally grown seeds.

CHILDREN’S STORY & RHYME TIME PROGRAMMING: Storytime and rhyme time are offered concurrently every week so that parents and children can choose the program that fits them best. Storytime for 3-5* years offers a more structured setting where attention is held for about 45 minutes. Rhyme time for birth to 3* years offers a more interactive free flowing program where children who have a harder time sitting still can enjoy the alternate programming. *The ages are a guideline and both age groups freely participate in both programs. Children are welcome to join the group that they feel comfortable in, and we see youngsters advancing to the more structured storytime when they are ready. The expectation for a youngster who reaches age 3 is replaced with a natural recognition of individual growth and development.

Facebook presence has managed to advertise these programs very successfully, and we are happy to be full to the maximum on most Wednesdays during these programs.

Outcome of note: Noticeable improvement in attention span and respectful group participation in many of the children. Teachers and parents note that transition to kindergarten was noticeably easier for those children who successfully moved from rhyme time to the more formal storytime. Parents also noted reduced stress for themselves and their children.

PRIORITY 3

Collaborating on Shared Goals

Library goal that supports this priority: The library is committed to working together with community groups and organizations to develop sustainable partnerships.

WORKBC & KOOTENAY EMPLOYMENT SERVICES: The library has made significant efforts to keep job seekers resources in the community, since the closure of our local employment services centre several years ago. Contractual changes resulted in the loss of these services in Kimberley for a time in 2018. Kootenay Employment Services took over the WorkBC contract for Cranbrook, and the partnership was established in 2019. These services have now returned to the Library. These expanded services include on- on-one counselling, job placement, resume building, interview and other job skill workshops here at the library. Kootenay Employment Services/Work BC has increased their hours here

in Kimberley from one day a week to three days a week, and the Library is well suited to support this group.

SELKIRK HIGH SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DIVISION, SENIORS HELPING SENIORS,

COLUMBIA BASIN ALLIANCE FOR LITERACY: Our “Tech-Savvy seniors” program was created in response to requests by local seniors who needed assistance with their devices. The international students from the High School helped participants gain the skills they needed with devices such as smartphones, tablets, laptops, e-readers. Specific goals were met such as how to email, download and listen to e-resources, create a document, etc. Seniors gained confidence and skills with their own devices while learning at the pace they were comfortable with. Outcomes we celebrated were not only the skill building, but also the multicultural, multigenerational exchanges that were meaningful for seniors as well as the international students.

CBAL COMMUNITY LITERACY PLANNING COMMITTEE: Key partners in the community continue to develop a local literacy plan in response to real and current issues and concerns. The networking and brainstorming created collaborations such as “Tech-Savvy seniors”, Food bank support, fundraising collaborations, reading event partnerships, increased awareness of community services and programs, and decrease in duplication of services and competing programs.

INDIGENOUS RELATIONSHIP BUILDING: Our children’s programmer, an honorary Haida Gwaii nation member, is respectfully developing relationships with local Ktunaxa to offer library services and programming, in library and out as appropriate. We continue to build relationships through attendance at events and workshops to increase understanding and demonstrate commitment to reconciliation on a local level. A staff member’s participation in the Kairos Blanket ceremony, created by elders to educate people on indigenous history and rights, was impactful.

RESOURCE SELECTION SERVICES: The library continues to serve local daycares by providing book bundles sourced from our own collection, through purchase and borrowed through inter-library loan. We have noted that teachers and caregivers often have little time to source materials, and without forethought leave no time to wait for interlibrary loans. Outcome: Highly relevant book bundles support and enrich learning for the very young. Teachers and caregivers are supported. Youngsters grow their enthusiasm for reading and enjoyment of books with the flow of new resources.

LIBRARY TOURS: School teachers are encouraged to bring classes for theme-based, curriculum supporting, hands-on learning tours of the library. These tours have increased in popularity since the travelling tech-kits have been introduced in schools. We enjoy partnering in learning with all the schools in our area.

COMMUNITY EVENTS: The library is a key supporter of our community’s “First Saturdays” events, participating in the planning as well as the event. The library supports these community initiatives and celebrations with theme based, literacy-building activities that entertain the children and inform the adults of the services and programs that the library has to offer. Crafts, stories and entertainment keep the children looking for our booth at these events.

CBAL: Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and the Library continued their partnerships in 2019. Our collaborative bookmark incentive for the 7-13 age group continued to see reluctant readers grow into enthusiastic book lovers. Book prizes were funded by CBAL and Friends of the Library. Feedback from parents continues to be positive. We will be continuing with this incentive program in 2020 due to the number of successes, and remarks from children, parents and teachers.

WILDSIGHT: Wildsight’s resources were catalogued by the library in 2019, and are now available provincially through interlibrary loan. Our joint goal was to increase availability and awareness of their

diverse collection of books. The catalogued collection is held at the Wildsight office and when interlibrary loan request comes in for any of these items, we pick them up and forward them to libraries throughout the province.

CENTRE-64: Our partnership with Centre 64 continues successfully. Each month a volunteer installs a new display in our showcase of a local artist's work. This increases awareness for the gallery and for the artist.

LOCAL MEDIA: is also a partner, providing us with free space for our weekly booklists, and are quick to include any library events or program updates for community awareness.

BOOKS FOR BABIES: In collaboration with Interior Health Services, Friends of the Library, Columbia Basin alliance for literacy, Kootenay Library Federation and BC Libraries Cooperative, we purchased and distributed literacy resources to educate new parents and encourage parents to read to their children from infancy.

PRIORITY 4

ENHANCING GOVERNANCE

The Library's strategic plan was updated in 2019.

Our library is fortunate to have a very diverse group of dedicated Board members, young professionals, retired professionals, entrepreneurs, and a former Municipal Politician who has been supporting the library as a board member, staying active as voting and non-voting member for almost 45 years. The dedication and retention of these members remains remarkable and noteworthy.

The Kimberley Library also has a Board member as Treasurer, a professional bookkeeper, and is professionally audited every year.

The library is accountable to its patrons and funders, and practices effective stewardship of library resources. The library's decision-making processes are open and transparent to the community.

LIBRARIES IN ACTION

Success stories from Kimberley

For the past 10 years we are proud to have provided a safe and welcoming area for our service men and women where they meet to support each other every month. Military Ames has members who travel several hours at times to participate in their uniquely meaningful exchange.

Our Tech Programmer provided the training and resources to McKim Elementary School teachers, that fulfilled their "applied arts and technology" curriculum requirement. The enhanced learning experiences for the students and the support for the teachers had extremely positive results and initiated another amazing partnership.

Interior Health had presence at the library in 2019, providing a safe place for community members seeking LGBTQ support, information, and family planning essentials. The library provides a central location with no social stigma for anyone entering the building, improving access for those seeking information.

SUMMARY

The STEAM programming has grown in popularity and participants again this year, to where we have to turn youth away due to lack of space and resources. One of our new initiatives is to share our coding, engineering, circuitry and robotics kits with schools, enlarging the impact that these amazing and current resources have on youth in our community.

The popularity of the programming has led to requests for adult STEAM programming, which we are now planning. This will be out of library and include Virtual Reality travel. Outcome being, new program creation in response to current demand.

With the addition of a social media presence, we no longer have a problem getting the word out to the community about what the library has to offer. We have seen a significant increase in patrons coming out for programming and events.

Taking the library into the community, our enhanced Community Outreach services are modernising the community's understanding of what libraries have to offer. This marketing has strengthened community awareness and increased usage of the library.

The addition of a Tech Programmer to our staff who keeps current with technology, enables us to assist patrons more efficiently. Other staff members also benefit from ongoing Tech Programmer support, helping us all keep up with technological advancements.

Having loanable technology for patrons makes life more affordable, and using the sharing model, helps the planet by decreasing the amount of technology that ends up recycled or wasted.

The Staff, Board of Directors, and dedicated volunteers continue to expand and grow our services and programs, and look forward to providing exceptional service to our community in 2020.

