

BOWEN ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Connecting Islanders to each other and to the world.

STRATEGIC PLAN

2022 - 2024



WELCOME

Bowen Island Public Library is pleased to present our 2022-2024 strategic plan. We see this plan as an opportunity to review how the Library has navigated the past few tumultuous years, and to direct that growth into future success as an essential Bowen Island organization.

We conducted a community survey in October and facilitated two strategic planning sessions with library trustees and staff. We heard directly from Bowen Islanders that the need for connection and social interaction on the island is key to feeling like a member of the vibrant Bowen community. The Library is excited to provide space for everyone to come together, learn, grow, and connect once more. When we asked what kind of community Bowen Islanders wanted to live in, you responded with the words inclusive, caring, and supportive. With this strategic plan we hope to contribute to that kind of community, where people of all experiences and abilities feel welcomed by the Library and are supported in finding the resources they need to take the next step in life, or a great new title to enjoy.

Bowen Island Public Library is located on the traditional, unceded land of the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish) nation. The main library building was built in 1926, and now here we are in 2022 to present a bright future filled with safe connections, inspiring stories, and wonderful new spaces.

Thank you all for being with us on this journey.

**Jennifer
Streckmann**

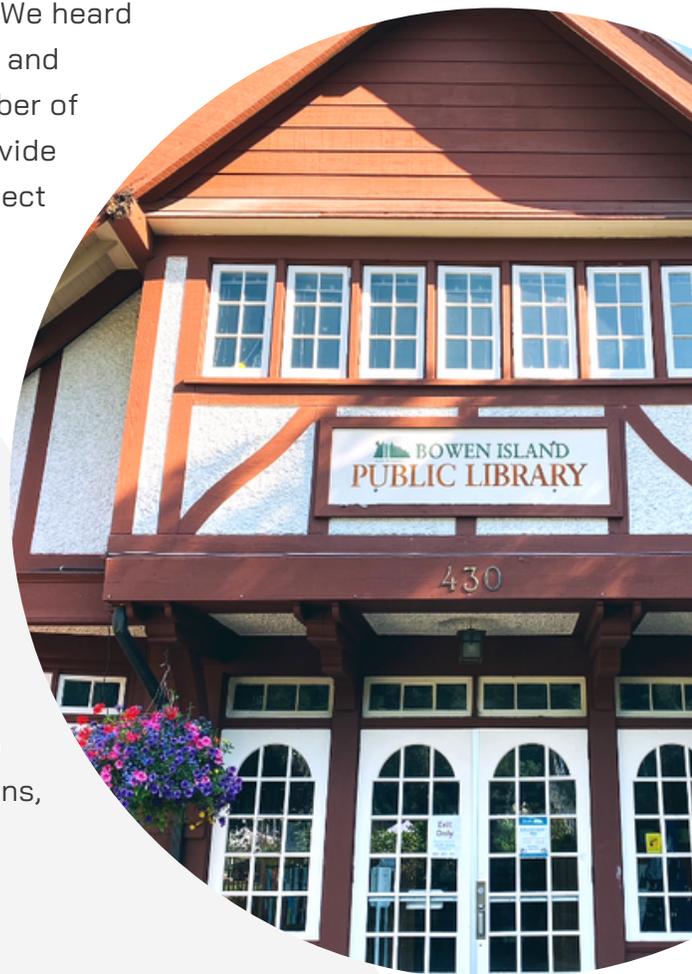
INTERIM LIBRARY
DIRECTOR

**Susan
Munro**

LIBRARY BOARD
CHAIR

**"Keep on thriving,
Bowen Library!"**

- 2021 Survey response



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Where we will focus and invest over the next three years:

1. Being Nimble, Staying Current

2. Connecting With the Community

3. Discovery and Learning

4. Creating Welcoming Spaces

5. Effective Financial Management

6. Social Responsibility

Our commitment to environmental sustainability, equity, and furthering reconciliation is applied through all strategic priorities.

Vision:

Connecting islanders to each other and to the world.

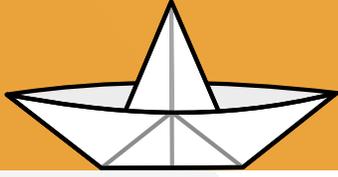
Mission:

Bowen Island Public Library nurtures discovery and learning for all ages, through the sharing of ideas, knowledge, skills, and resources.

Guiding Principles:

A Place for Everyone
Respect
Reading, Literacy, and Lifelong Learning
Knowledge and Culture
Intellectual Freedom
Service
Collaboration
Responsive and Accountable
Meeting the Future
Preserving the Past

1. BEING NIMBLE, STAYING CURRENT



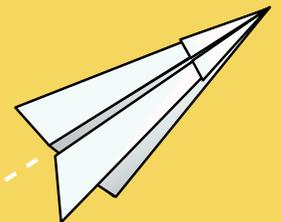
"Love the Library here on Bowen. I appreciate that it is so vibrant and continually evolving."



- 1.1 Offer modern services and spaces that encourage patron engagement and reduce barriers to library use.
- 1.2 Continue to develop policies, responsive governance, and a culture of flexibility to prepare for unpredictable challenges.
- 1.3 Provide staff with training on new technologies, systems, and library-related fields in order to maintain excellent, patron-centered service.

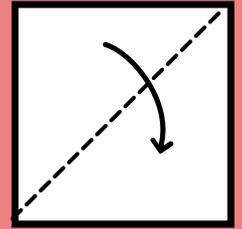
2. CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

"Thanks for seeking community feedback and being thoughtful about the role the Library can play in creating a more connected, inclusive (anti-racist) and thriving community."



- 2.1 Identify and meet the changing needs of Bowen Islanders through collections and library services.
- 2.2 Maintain positive and productive relationships with Mayor and Council.
- 2.3 Tell the story of the Library through effective communications, and ensure the community knows about the Library's services and programs.
- 2.4 Foster ties with community partners to strengthen the network of service providers on Bowen.

3. DISCOVERY AND LEARNING



"The Library is our most precious resource on the island. Anyone who wants to can be educated and entertained through our library resources. A gift that is not to be underestimated."

3.1 Maintain a strong physical collection to support Bowen Islanders' love of reading, while continuing to develop new resources and digital materials.

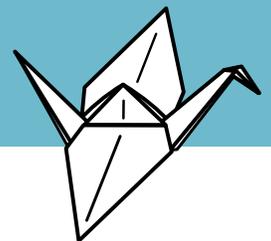
3.2 Position the Library as a resource to help community members adapt to changing technologies.

3.3 Focus on programming and services for children & families, seniors, and teens.



4. CREATING WELCOMING SPACES

"The Bowen Island Library welcomed my family the week we arrived. This library has continued to support my children's love of reading. It is invaluable to this community."



4.1 Effectively utilize the new outdoor programming spaces and Annex to further the Library's mission and vision.

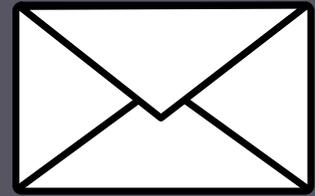
4.2 Work towards safely bringing back in-person programming and events where community members of all ages can gather and connect.

4.3 Reflect diverse voices and cultures in our collections and programs, and ensure that patrons of all abilities feel comfortable accessing our spaces.

4.4 Create user-friendly digital spaces that are intuitive and easy for patrons to navigate and find information.

5. EFFECTIVE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

"The Library has been a focal point of Bowen for the entire 25 years I have lived on this Island. It is a central lynchpin of the many moving parts that make up this island and the people that live here."



5.1 Create a plan that prioritizes financial expenditures for 2022-2024.

5.2 Explore additional funding opportunities such as grants, facility rentals, and fundraising campaigns in order to supplement the Library's Municipal budget.

5.3 Position the Library as an organization that supports staff, and is a reliable employer in the face of rising cost of living and the ongoing housing crisis.

6. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

"I want to foster a community where diversity and cultures can be experienced even though we live on a small island."



6.1 Reduce the Library's contributions to global warming, and work towards awareness of and solutions for climate change.

6.2 Reflect and include the varied ethnicities, cultures, abilities, and genders that make up our community and world in our policies, collections, programs, and services.

6.3 Work to advance the community's knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, celebrate Indigenous authors and creators, and decolonize the library space, collections, services, and policies.



THANK YOU!

To the staff, trustees, and patrons who contributed to this plan, and who help make the Library a vibrant community space on Bowen.





BOWEN ISLAND
LIBRARY
