February 2024 Board President Report

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February 18, 2024

Strategic Planning Engagement

We embarked on our strategic planning journey with Stillwork Consulting in late 2023. To ensure its success, we require Board Members to actively participate in the Strategy Team, which will meet bi-weekly. The process is divided into three phases:

1. **Assessment Phase (4 Meetings):** Focus on consensus-building around Lifecycles Capacity, covering areas such as programs, governance, financial health, management, and policies. This phase aims to finalize our assessment and strategize on presenting our findings, fostering a culture of honesty and teamwork.
2. **Discovery Phase (4 Meetings):** Engage in setting up and conducting interviews/focus groups, formulating relevant questions, and analyzing findings to identify areas for improvement. This phase is crucial for uncovering actionable insights and is expected to last about two months.
3. **Planning Phase (6 Meetings):** Dedicate efforts to developing and refining strategic pathways and strategies, including planning a Board/Staff retreat and Community Open Houses for wider engagement. This phase also involves gathering and incorporating staff feedback on implementation strategies, culminating in a public presentation of our strategic pathways. This final phase is projected to span up to three months.

Your participation is vital for the impact we aim to achieve. **Please email me by February 23, 2024 if you would like to participate.** We also plan to dedicate a segment of each Board meeting to discuss strategic highlights and address any concerns.

Strategic Planning Progress Update

We have initiated the foundational steps for OCPL's strategic planning, involving data collection, survey preparations, and collaboration with Stillwork Consulting. Efforts are underway to design surveys for both internal and external stakeholders, with teams of Board members and staff leading the charge in survey design and strategic planning.

Board Composition and Engagement

Attempts to fill vacant Board seats through the County Executive's Office have been unfruitful. A fully constituted Board is essential for productive governance and robust strategic planning, underscoring a critical need for our collective action.

Generative AI in Libraries

As we delve into strategic planning, the role of technology, particularly AI, cannot be overstated. The Urban Libraries Council's report: RELEASE: Public Libraries Set the Stage for Integration of Artificial Intelligence in their Services and Resources (urbanlibraries.org) offers invaluable insights. It recommends practical AI application, prompt engineering expertise, enhanced information literacy, AI-focused digital inclusion, and responsible AI advocacy. These recommendations can help guide our discussions on leveraging AI to enhance OCPL's service delivery and innovation. If you are interested in this, please let me know and we can add a future agenda item specifically about Generative AI.