

December 2024 Board President Report

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December 10, 2024

As we approach the end of the year, I wanted to reflect back on the initial priorities I set in January and our progress to this point.

1. **Strategic Planning Initiative** - we launched this early in 2024 and have completed a large portion of the work. Thanks to staff and the Board for participation to this point, as well as the team from Stillwork Consulting. What we know is that this community values its libraries and that there are opportunities to continue to expand OCPL's presence. OCPL staff across City and member libraries are dedicated to the mission and there is opportunity to further engage them. Looking to 2025, we'll move to implementing the plan and I look forward to partnering with you there.
2. **Supporting Dawn's Vision and Succession Planning** - Dawn has led OCPL admirably since her appointment to the Executive Director position. Based on Dawn's announcement last month that she will retire early in 2025, she's also done work in the preceding months to make sure the organization was in a good place to eventually hand off to the next leader. As we look to find the next Executive Director for OCPL, the Board should continue the work to define, support, and ultimately expand the influence of the Executive Director for OCPL.
3. **Enhancing Relationships with Community Partners and Stakeholders** - feedback on the strategic planning surveys indicated that OCPL already has relationships with many organizations in the area, and there is only opportunity to expand and define partnership more clearly, which is a good thing. Additionally, we've been able to make some progress on coordinating with the County Executive's office when it comes to ensuring a full slate of Board Members. At this point in time, we have no current vacant seats. There is more work to ensure the process for ensuring we always have a good backlog of potential Board Members that support the mission of OCPL.

In all - at the conclusion of 2024, I am excited about OCPL's future and grateful for the work of Dawn and her team and broader OCPL staff across City and Member libraries.