

MANATEE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

ANNUAL PLAN OF SERVICE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027

Mission

Our mission is to welcome all members of the community to learn, grow, and connect at the Library.

Vision

Manatee Library will be the living, breathing center of your neighborhood.

Values

We are guided by these shared values in everything we do:

- **Connection** – space and activities for people to connect and build community.
- **Belonging** – a respectful and supportive environment where everyone feels welcome and represented in library collections and services.
- **Access** – we remove barriers to access inside and outside of our facilities.
- **Creativity** – we provide space and resources for everyone to create. The Library will not be bound by the past; we want the Library to meet current and future needs.
- **Trust** – we trust our library users; there is no wrong way to Library.
- **Joy** – we believe in and value the joy of reading for pleasure.

Theme for FY27: Elevate Staff Training and Consolidate Community Relationships

In FY26 our focus was, and continues to be, expanding library services into areas of the County through the launch of the Bookmobile and targeted outreach, as well as creating a stronger collection. For FY27, our theme unites staff growth, collection enhancement, and community advocacy and engagement. We will achieve this by recalibrating and updating our Marketing Plan, upgrading staff training, building new community partnerships, and strategically rebuilding our library collection.

Goal 1

Engage with community partners to grow programs, both inside our buildings and in the community.

- Launch the Bookmobile in early December 2026 to extend services into underserved neighborhoods, schools, and community hubs.
- Create new partnerships with literacy advocates and support groups to increase programs that empower children and adults with the essential reading, writing, and language skills they need to thrive in our County.

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Goal 2

Seek expanded Investment in the Library's physical Infrastructure. Create projects of record for additional locations to bring Manatee Library to state recommended levels.

- Update aging facilities to improve ambiance, ADA compliance, and user experience.
- Facilitate development of the Rocky Bluff expansion project.

Goal 3

Seek expanded Investment in the Library's print and online resources.

- Re-allocate funds from underperforming services toward high-demand resources.
- Reduce average shelf life and publication age of circulating books.
- Expand centralized selection and deselection practices using LibraryIQ (a real-time data analytics platform built for public libraries).
- Highlight the value of the collection through marketing and user engagement campaigns.

Goal 4

Expand and Improve Community Awareness of Manatee Library

- Amplify our ability to market library services by expanding our social media posts to new platforms and using our digital signage platform (Yodeck) effectively.
- Employ the Bookmobile to reach community members unfamiliar with the library's resources and services.
- Increase and strengthen community advocacy for our libraries by working closely with the Library Foundation and among our Friends of the Library groups to carry this out, and by using our marketing tools to support it.

Goal 5

Increase funding for Library staff through County or external funding, with a focus on improved, effective, and appropriate staffing levels. Support staff through training and support. External funding would not be expected to be in perpetuity but would establish the value of the investment.

- Conduct ongoing staff training in both hard and soft service skills. Require all staff to complete customer service training determined by the library administration.
- Plan a Staff Development Day (January 19, 2027) centered on developing soft and hard service skills.

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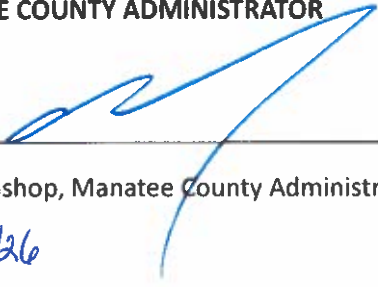
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Approved by the Library Advisory Board on 19th day of August 2026.

Adopted with a quorum present and voting the 22nd day of September 2026.

MANATEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

By:  _____

Charlie Bishop, Manatee County Administrator

9/22/26

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Approved in Open Session 9/22/26
Manatee County
Board of County Commissioners

September 22, 2026 - Regular Meeting

Subject

Approval of Manatee County Public Library System Annual Plan of Service for FY27, Andy Sulavik, County Librarian – Countywide

Category

CONSENT AGENDA

Briefings

Briefing Provided Upon Request

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Molly White, Director, Sports and Leisure Services, x6007

Andy Sulavik, County Librarian, x6301

Action Requested

Approval of Manatee County Public Library System Annual Plan of Service for FY27 and Execution of said Annual Plan of Service by the County Administrator.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

FL Statute, Chapter 257

Applicable Advisory Board

Library Advisory Board reviewed and approved on August 19, 2026.

Background Discussion

Each year we have an underlying theme to the shared goals and activities; In Fiscal Year 2026 our focus was, and continues to be, expanding library services into areas of the County through the launch of the Bookmobile and targeted outreach, as well as creating a stronger collection. For Fiscal Year 2027, our theme unites staff growth, collection enhancement, and community advocacy and engagement.

Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Instructions to Board Records

Please email approved agenda item to; molly.white@mymanatee.org,
andy.sulavik@mymanatee.org, brooke.frasca@mymanatee.org,

Distributed 9/25/26, RT

Cost and Fund Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs
N/A