

# 2020-2025 LONG RANGE PLAN



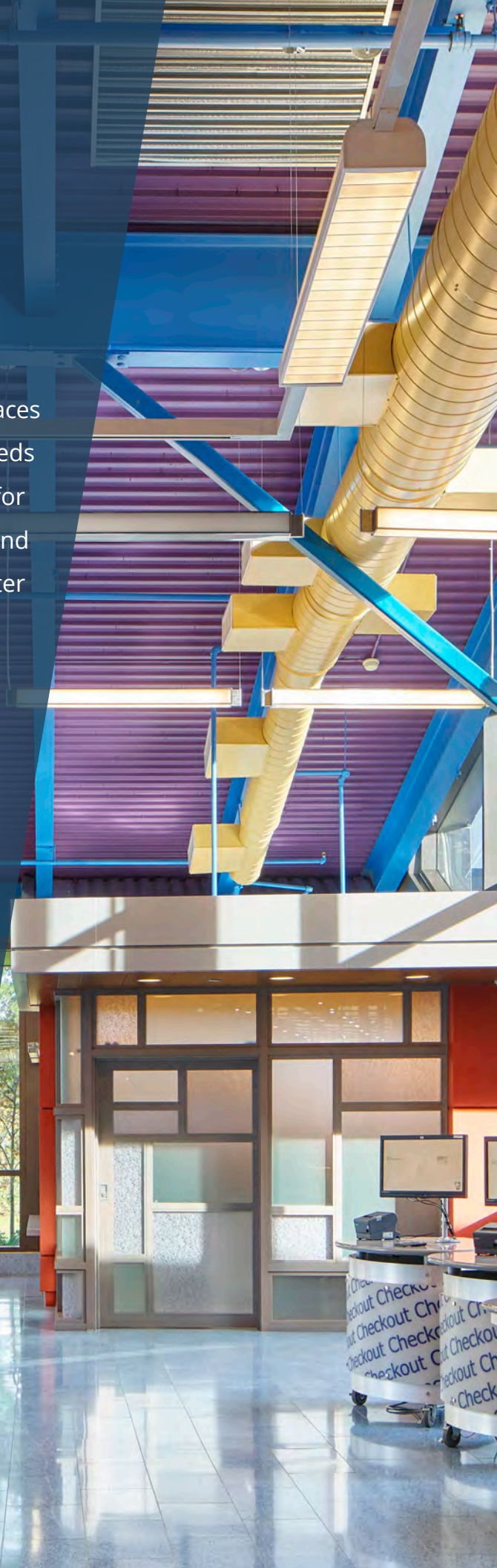


# VISION

It is the vision of the Middle Country Public Library to be a pillar of its community; a welcoming destination that embraces the cultural, educational, technological, social and civic needs of its citizens at every stage of life; a place of opportunity for both patrons and staff; inclusive, innovative, easy-to-use and welcoming; a model of library excellence; and a sought-after partner by other groups and organizations.

# MISSION

Middle Country Public Library is a dynamic center for life-long learning that provides access to a wide range of programs, services, technology, and resources to meet the needs of a diverse community. A skilled and enthusiastic staff, visionary leadership, outstanding facilities, and collaborative partnerships enable the library to deliver comprehensive services. The library welcomes all and strives to enhance the quality of life for the community and beyond, by supporting literacy and economic development, creativity and cultural enrichment, family health and wellness, as well as the development of regional and national model services.







# Letter From The DIRECTOR

**Welcome.** I am pleased to share with you the Middle Country Public Library's Long Range Plan for 2020-2025. This plan was developed based on the results of a library patron survey, feedback and suggestions that we've received from our community at our public service desks and programs, input from our Board of Directors and a full-day staff retreat. During this process, we also took the opportunity to revise the library's mission and vision statements to reflect the changing needs of our community.

I've had the pleasure of working in Middle Country for twenty-three years. I've seen the library transform to reflect the needs and interests of the community and we've come a long way since we opened our doors in 1957. The Selden Library, first located in the former Nature's Garden clubhouse on Middle Country Road in Selden, allocated \$3,200 to its first book budget and was open fifteen hours per week. By 1961, the Board set out to look for an additional location to be used as a branch to the existing library in Selden. In 1963, a building was leased at 8 Dawn Drive in Centereach and in 1968, the name changed to the Middle Country Public Library (MCPL) due to the consolidation of the school district.

As the number of school-aged children surged in the district, it was evident that the library needed to expand to accommodate the growing population. In 1972, a new 19,000 square foot building was built on the corner of Eastwood Boulevard and School Street. In 1983, the district offered the unused Selden Elementary School to the library and after remodeling it, the Middle Country Cultural Center at Selden was open to the public at 575 Middle Country Road. The library underwent three more renovations, currently encompassing 107,000 square feet between both buildings.

Today, MCPL is one of the busiest and largest libraries on Long Island. Our goal is to enhance the community's quality of life, striving for excellent customer service, consistent community engagement, and collaborative work with local and national organizations to enrich our community. By identifying emerging trends and areas of interest, we've spearheaded new services and provided training and educational opportunities for patrons to expand their skills. Some of our most innovative initiatives include: Family Place Libraries™, the Miller Business Center, the Nature Explorium, Museum Corner and the Teen Resource Center. We welcome you to MCPL and hope that you enjoy the many resources, programs, events and spaces that we have to offer.

**SOPHIA SERLIS-MCPHILLIPS**

*Library Director*

# Current OBJECTIVES

## Provide A Safe, Welcoming, Vibrant And Barrier-Free Environment

*Provide library spaces* that are inviting, stimulating, comfortable, clean and safe.

Continue to *assess and review* security needs and safety plans at both locations.

Periodically *review space and function* allocations to reflect community needs.

Maintain and *improve facilities*, enabling easy and effective access to library facilities and services.

*Strengthen* our organizational culture of sustainability and continue to assess and minimize the library's environmental impact related to our facility, operations, and technology.

## Be A Model For Innovative, Inclusive And Equitable Programs, Technology, Services And Resources

*Position* the library as a place where the community comes together for engagement, social interaction and information.

*Develop and implement* programming that is responsive and adaptable while offering opportunities for creativity, collaboration, critical thinking skills and cultural enrichment.

Continue to *solicit the wants and needs* of current library users and non-users for patron and community focused programs and services.

Update and *enhance technology* to provide dynamic public computing, technology, and innovation spaces to youth, teens, and adults.

*Administer and arrange* a fully up-to-date, accessible, and secure computer system for both the staff and the public.







## Develop Comprehensive Collections That Meet The Needs Of All Ages And Abilities

Provide a diverse array of *educational and recreational resources* for patrons of different backgrounds, abilities, ages, and interests to ensure that the library's collection has something for everyone.

*Continually evaluate* the demand for various material formats.

*Keep developing* the library's digital offerings to reflect new and emerging resources, and investigate new technology platforms and services as they become available.

*Keep up with the demand* for popular materials and ensure that patron wait times are as short as possible.

Continually *refine workflows* for selecting, ordering, processing, and maintaining collection materials.





## Be a User-Centered Library

Re-imagine a *user-friendly website* that is easy to navigate and accessible to patrons of all abilities.

*Expand library services* into the community through outreach efforts.

Create *multimedia tutorials* demonstrating how to access and utilize the wide range of library resources and technology including databases, digital products and *Library of Things* collections.

Increase *community outreach* to those with access barriers and establish a culture of community inclusion.

Monitor changing demographics in the community and continue to *evaluate programs and services*.

## Establish A Strong Community Presence Within The Middle Country Community And Beyond

Maintain a *leadership role* in the area of early childhood development and family engagement, and continue to be a national model through Family Place Libraries™.

*Promote economic development*, workforce literacy, and adult literacy skills for Long Island through the Miller Business Center.

Continue to *provide health and human service referrals* to Long Island residents through the 211 Long Island Database.

*Connect the community* to the history of Middle Country and Long Island through collections, genealogical resources, photographs, ephemera and oral histories.

*Strengthen existing partnerships* within the community and seek new collaborative opportunities.

Optimize *library resources and programs* through the use of public, private and grant funding.

# Library INITIATIVES



## Family Place Libraries™: A National Initiative

**Family Place Libraries is a regional and national initiative** of Middle Country Public Library that provides training and assists libraries in replicating

Middle Country's family-centered programs, services and collections. The network of children's librarians embrace the fact that literacy begins at birth, and libraries can help build healthy communities by nourishing families. The Family Place Libraries network currently includes more than 500 libraries in 31 states and continues to grow. A proven change agent, Family Place Libraries transforms libraries into community centers for early literacy and learning, parent education and engagement, and family support. Working in collaboration with community agencies, Family Place librarians reach out to parents and caregivers to provide the resources to nurture their children during the first years of life and ensure they enter school ready to learn. Please visit [www.familyplacelibraries.org](http://www.familyplacelibraries.org) for more information.







## Enjoy the Outdoors in the Nature Explorium

Middle Country Public Library is proud to be the **first library in the nation to offer the Nature Explorium**, an outdoor learning space for children and families.

Developed in collaboration with and certified by Nature Explore, the Nature Explorium contains a variety of areas, all geared toward connecting children to a different aspect of nature. Whether they're reflecting on a poem under a willow tree, climbing on a tree stump, or expressing artistic talent through song and dance on the Play It stage, children will discover the gift of nature. By providing this outdoor area for the community, the Library offers a unique way to connect literacy, learning and an appreciation for nature as a regular part of the library visit. Please visit [www.natureexplorium.org](http://www.natureexplorium.org) for more information on the Explorium.



## Play and Learn at the Museum Corner

**The Museum Corner, an interactive exhibit space** located in the Youth Services Department at the Centereach building, is a specially designed area that features changing hands-on exhibits and programs for children and their families. To enhance the museum experience, vast opportunities for creative expression and intellectual exploration are provided – props for dress-up, science experiments, historical artifacts and art activities. The Museum Corner invites visits by families, schools and community groups to explore, experience, share and create in a safe, fun environment. Please visit [www.themuseumcorner.org](http://www.themuseumcorner.org) to learn more about the Museum Corner.



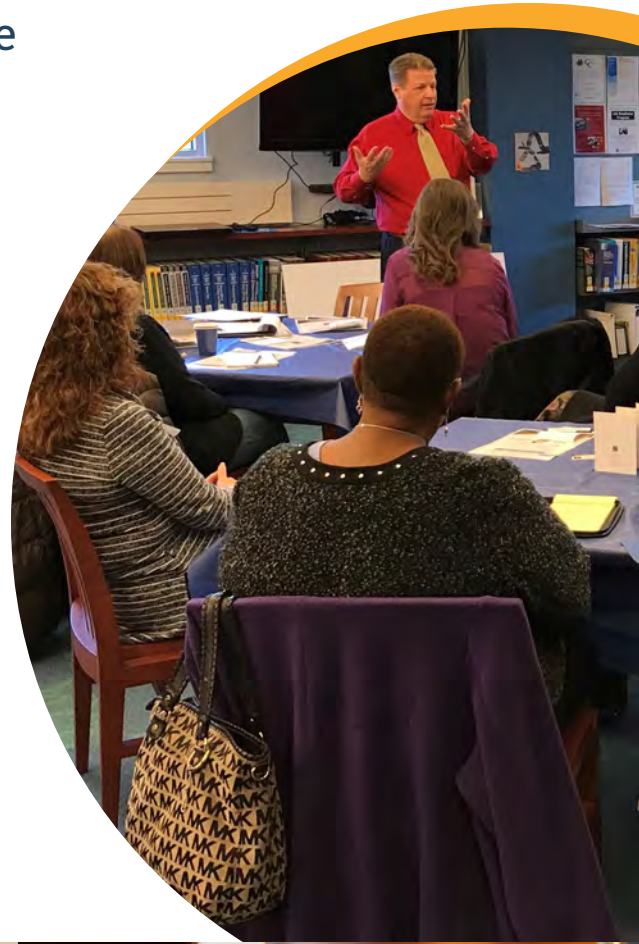




## Meeting the Needs of the Business Community

**The Miller Business Center** serves as a regional resource for businesses, independent entrepreneurs, not-for-profit organizations, and individuals. Located within the Middle Country Public Library, the Miller Business Center offers access to extensive and specialized business resources as well as personalized business research and reference assistance. The goal of the Miller Center is to support regional economic development by meeting the information needs of the business community, promoting a literate and job-ready workforce, and providing employment information and career exploration opportunities. It sponsors networking and training events and works in partnership with Long Island business support organizations to provide greater public access to the information and services they offer.

Long Island businesses and entrepreneurs can visit [www.millerbusinesscenter.org](http://www.millerbusinesscenter.org) to learn more about becoming members of the Miller Center.






**211**

Long Island Region

## Get Connected. Find Help



**211 Long Island** is a free, non-emergency, information service that connects Long Island residents to health and human services they may need on a daily basis or during a time of crisis. Available online, the 211 Long Island database provides web visitors with detailed information on over 10,000 community resources for help and assistance in a wide range of areas, including emergency financial assistance, health care, housing, food assistance, financial and legal counseling, child care, elder care, mental health, addiction, transportation, and volunteer opportunities.

The 211 Long Island Database can be accessed at [www.211longisland.org](http://www.211longisland.org). Users may also access 211 Long Island by dialing 2-1-1 or by calling 1-888-774-7633 outside of Suffolk and Nassau counties. To schedule an in-person training or a demonstration, please email [211LongIsland@mcplibrary.org](mailto:211LongIsland@mcplibrary.org).

The 211 Long Island database has been managed by Middle Country Public Library for ten years and, prior to the launch of 211 Long Island, the database served the region for 25 years as the Community Resource Database of Long Island. 211 Long Island is a project of United Way of Long Island and the Middle Country Public Library.







**Middle Country  
Public Library**



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