

# *Community Engagement*

The library district's community is integral to any decision made concerning library operations. Libraries and communities have an interdependent relationship. Local communities provide libraries with funding, collaboration opportunities and advocates. A library contributes to the economic health of the community, preserves the memories of the community, and provides a place where people can explore, access resources, share ideas, and be transformed. The library is also a valued asset in addressing community-wide problems.

## **Standards**

1. The library board and staff search for opportunities to cooperate with other community organizations including all types of libraries, governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector, in order to embed themselves in the community and ensure healthy communities that understand the value of libraries.
2. The library district uses a variety of means to reach out and cooperate with the community in order to stay knowledgeable about its needs. In addition, opportunities for community involvement within the library are made available to volunteers. Cooperation may include sharing of resources, staff expertise, training opportunities, or other joint activities. Staff representation in other community organizations is also essential.
3. The library has a Friends group and/or a Foundation that assists the library in fundraising, advocacy and reaching out to the community. Resources from these organizations do not replace the operating budget.

## **Guidelines**

- \_\_\_ 1. Library staff understand the importance of community-wide connections by supporting and meeting with local groups. *Standard #1, #2, #3*
- \_\_\_ 2. The library district establishes cooperative agreements with other local governmental agencies for shared services. *Standard #2*
- \_\_\_ 3. Library staff collect, organize, and provide information about community organizations and issues. *Standard #1*
- \_\_\_ 4. Library staff participate in cooperative planning and programming with community agencies and share associated costs. *Standard #1, #2*

- \_\_\_ 5. Library staff participate as both active members and leaders of community organizations and groups. *Standards #1,# 2*
- \_\_\_ 6. The library district welcomes community volunteers as defined by a written volunteer policy. *Standard #2*
- \_\_\_ 7. The library district has a staff person who is responsible for volunteer coordination and training. *Standard #2*
- \_\_\_ 8. The library maintains a formal Friends or foundation group that meets on a regular basis with a staff liaison present. *Standard #3*
- \_\_\_ 9. The library staff, the library board and the community are involved in cooperative long-range plans and fundraising activities. *Standards #1, #2,#3*
- \_\_\_ 10. Friends and foundation funds are kept separate from library funds. *Standard #3*
- \_\_\_ 11. There are clear, written distinctions about the responsibilities of a Friends group versus a foundation. *Standard #3*
- \_\_\_ 12. The library district collects statistics and conducts output and outcome measures, customer surveys, community studies, citizen surveys, and other means appropriate to the service program and resources of the library in order to remain relevant to the community. *Standards #1,#2*
- \_\_\_ 13. Library staff actively seek new partnership opportunities. *Standards #1,# 2*
- \_\_\_ 14. The library district participates in cooperative community literacy efforts. *Standards #1, #2, # 3*