

O'FALLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Community Engagement

Session 1

November 6, 2025



TOGETHER O'FALLON
BE A PART OF WHAT'S NEXT
O'FALLON PUBLIC LIBRARY



TOGETHER O'FALLON
BE A PART OF WHAT
O'FALLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Welcome!

Community Workshop #1
Nov. 6, 2025

**Please introduce yourself
to others at your table**

**Put on a nametag
Sign in at your table**

Why We Are Here:



**Engage in meaningful
dialogue and discussion**



**Gather community
feedback**



**Inform a plan for the
future of our library**

Engagement Team

- Lexi Baysinger
- Sara Belvin
- Rebecca Corless
- Melissa Doetsch
- Melissa Fanning
- Emily Fieker
- Diane Gederman
- Jennifer Goetz
- Cathy Green
- Regina Ireland
- Ankur Patel
- Eric Pratum
- Todd Reichelt
- Allison Schaal
- Cari Schaefer
- Larry Strube
- Gabriella Wells



Community Leadership



PROCESS CHAIRS

- Lexi Baysinger
- Todd Reichelt

COMMUNICATIONS

- Emily Fieker
- Cathy Green

DOOR-TO-DOOR OUTREACH

- Rebecca Corless
- Cari Schaefer

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Sara Belvin

Library Board

- **Suzanne Rupright - President**
- **Linda Mitchell - Vice-President**
- **Doug Distler - Treasurer**
- **Charla Morton - Secretary**
- **Liz Jennings - OMA Officer**
- **May Brown**
- **Vern Hamm**
- **Judy Nicholson**
- **Beth Rowling**
- **Paige McIntosh - Student Trustee**





OUR CHARGE

- **Listen** to community ideas and concerns about a new library.
- **Identify** what residents value most in library services and spaces.
- **Foster** open, two-way dialogue with the community.
- **Build awareness** and strengthen relationships with key stakeholders.
- **Keep planning grounded** in what matters most to the community.

WHAT YOU WILL DO IN THIS PROCESS

- **SHARE INPUT:** Provide your perspectives on the library's strengths, challenges, and priorities
- **LEARN TOGETHER:** Gain a clear picture of current programs, services, resources, and facilities
- **COLLABORATE:** Join discussions that build stronger communication and partnerships across the community
- **EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES:** Consider future-focused programs and opportunities for our library
- **HELP PRIORITIZE:** Weigh in on resources needed to grow and maintain facilities and sustain strong programs and services

Why It Matters

Your voice will help shape the future of our library for generations to come.



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Community Engagement Workshops

- **PARTICIPANTS** •

Any Resident
Can Participate

- **WORKSHOPS** •

Designed And Led By
Engagement Team

- **TOPICS** •

Relevant To The Library
Planning Process

- **DISCUSSION** •

Dialogue In Small
Group Setting

Together O'Fallon Process Calendar

DATE		WORKSHOP TOPIC
2025		
Nov. 6		Welcome To Together O'Fallon & Introduction To Our Library
2026		
Feb. 5		Together O'Fallon Workshop #2
March 4		Open House/Q&A Session
March 19		Together O'Fallon Workshop #3
Throughout March		Library Tours
Early June		Board Presentation



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Stay Informed

Website: ofpl.info/togetherofallon

Social Media: facebook.com/ofallonlibrary

Phone Number: (618) 206-4342

Email: ryan@ofpl.info



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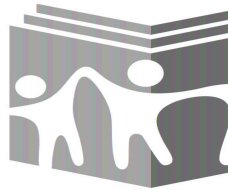
Session Documentation



**Collective Decisions Used In
Formation Of Recommendations**

Have A Question or Comment?

- Complete a form
- Call: 618-206-4342
- Email: ryan@ofpl.info
- Ask during small group work time



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This is a sample of the 'I HAVE A QUESTION!' form. At the top left is a QR code. To its right is the 'TOGETHER O'FALLON' logo, which includes the tagline 'BE A PART OF WHAT'S NEXT' and 'O'FALLON PUBLIC LIBRARY'. The main heading of the form is 'I HAVE A QUESTION!'. Below this is a sentence: 'I would like to be contacted by a Together O'Fallon representative who can respond to this question/comment:'. This is followed by five horizontal lines for writing. Below these lines is a disclaimer: 'Your question or comment may be directly related to the community engagement project or any other matter regarding the library.' At the bottom of the form are four labeled fields: 'Name:', 'Address:', 'Phone:', and 'E-Mail:', each followed by a horizontal line for input.

Sign In



Community Engagement Session #1 | 6:00 p.m.
November 6, 2025

Sign-in Sheet | Table # ____

Please sign in as a record of your participation in this session.

Name	Mailing Address	Phone Number	Email	Check All That Apply
1.				☐ Library Card Holder ☐ Staff ☐ City Resident ☐ Business Owner ☐ Other _____
2.				☐ Library Card Holder ☐ Staff ☐ City Resident ☐ Business Owner ☐ Other _____
3.				☐ Library Card Holder ☐ Staff ☐ City Resident ☐ Business Owner ☐ Other _____
4.				☐ Library Card Holder ☐ Staff ☐ City Resident ☐ Business Owner ☐ Other _____
5.				☐ Library Card Holder ☐ Staff ☐ City Resident ☐ Business Owner ☐ Other _____
6.				☐ Library Card Holder ☐ Staff ☐ City Resident ☐ Business Owner ☐ Other _____
7.				☐ Library Card Holder ☐ Staff ☐ City Resident ☐ Business Owner ☐ Other _____
8.				☐ Library Card Holder ☐ Staff ☐ City Resident ☐ Business Owner ☐ Other _____

Tonight's Presentation

- **Setting the stage for tonight's small group work activity.**
- **You'll use the information learned to complete activities together.**
- **This won't answer every question, but it will give us a shared starting point.**
- **Future workshop topics will be shaped by what we hear tonight.**
- **Notice that the *Together O'Fallon* calendar doesn't yet list topics, we'll set them together.**



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O'FALLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Overview



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Great Libraries Build Community



Core Mission:

- Information
- Literacy
- Connection



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A Community That Shows Up



- **136,523 in-person visitors**
- **4,205 new library cards issued**
- **62% of O'Fallon households have at least one library card**



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A Place That Connects and Inspires



- **422 events hosted**
- **8,818 attendees**
- **778 kids participated in Summer Reading**
- **600+ families helped with their taxes**



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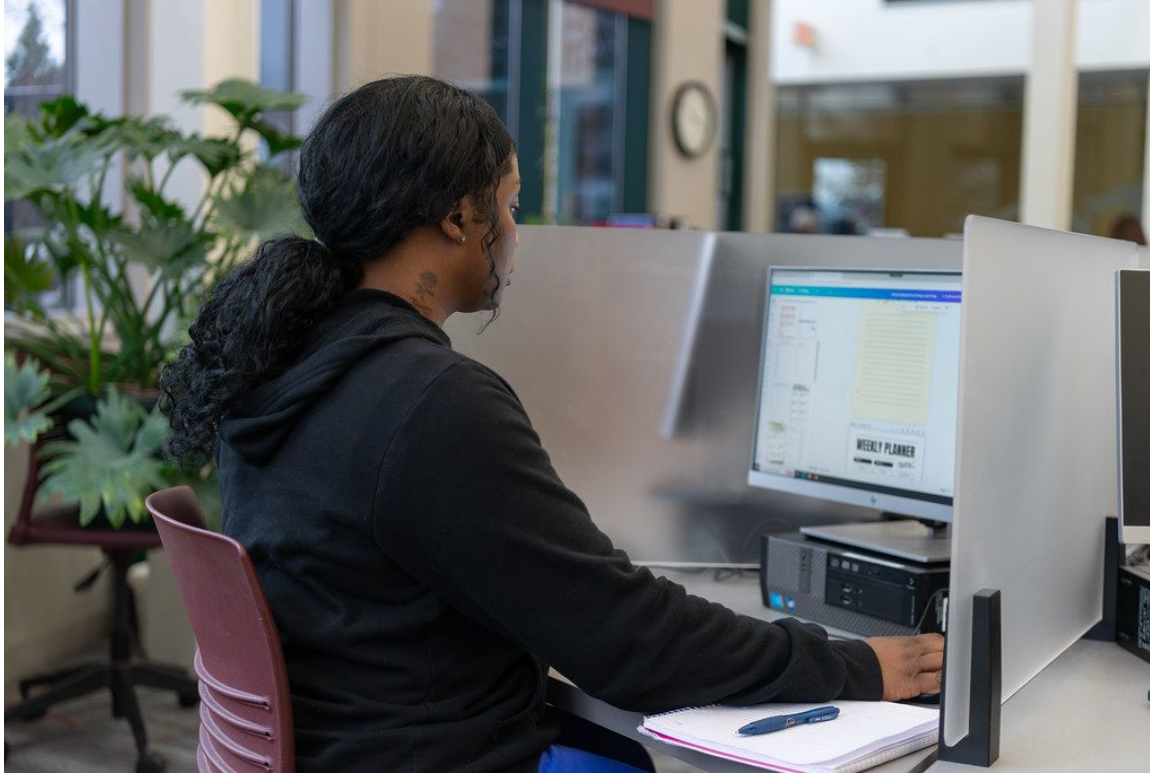
Calendar Snapshot

7	Preschool Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am Register Library Board Meeting 6:00pm - 7:00pm	Brain Boost: Puzzle Mastery 10:00am - 11:00am Register Read to a Dog 4:00pm - 5:00pm Register Friends of the Library Meeting 5:00pm - 6:00pm	Fingerstyle: Ukulele Basics 11:00am - 1:00pm Register Reader's Theater 4:00pm - 5:00pm Register Creative Writing Club 6:00pm - 7:00pm Register Moonbird Yoga 6:30pm - 7:30pm	FIRST LEGO League Robotics Club 4:30pm - 5:30pm Teen Anime Club 6:00pm - 7:00pm Register	Toddler Tales 9:30am - 10:30am Register Toddler Tales 10:30am - 11:30am Register	Mat Yoga with Diana 9:30am - 10:30am Register Teen Dungeons and Dragons Club 1:00pm - 3:00pm Register
14	Preschool Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am Register Gentle Chair Yoga with Diana 1:00pm - 2:00pm Register Library Book Club 7:00pm - 8:00pm	FIRST LEGO League Robotics Club 4:30pm - 6:00pm Finding the Clues: Then and Now with Steve Burns 7:00pm - 8:00pm	Fingerstyle: Ukulele Basics 11:00am - 1:00pm Register Makerspace 3:30pm - 5:00pm The Grief Resilience Series 6:00pm - 7:30pm Register	FIRST LEGO League Robotics Club 4:30pm - 6:00pm Teen Game Night 6:00pm - 7:00pm Register	Book Babies 9:30am - 10:30am Register Book Babies 10:30am - 11:30am Register	Chess Club - Youth (Ages 5 - 14 years old) 10:00am - 11:30am Register NEW - Adult Chess Tournament - Ages 15 and Up 12:00pm - 2:00pm Register



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A Hub for Learning and Opportunity



- **8,584 hours of public computer use**
- **11,583 hours of study room use**
- **191,291 physical checkouts**
- **80,311 digital checkouts**



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More Than Stats, a Story

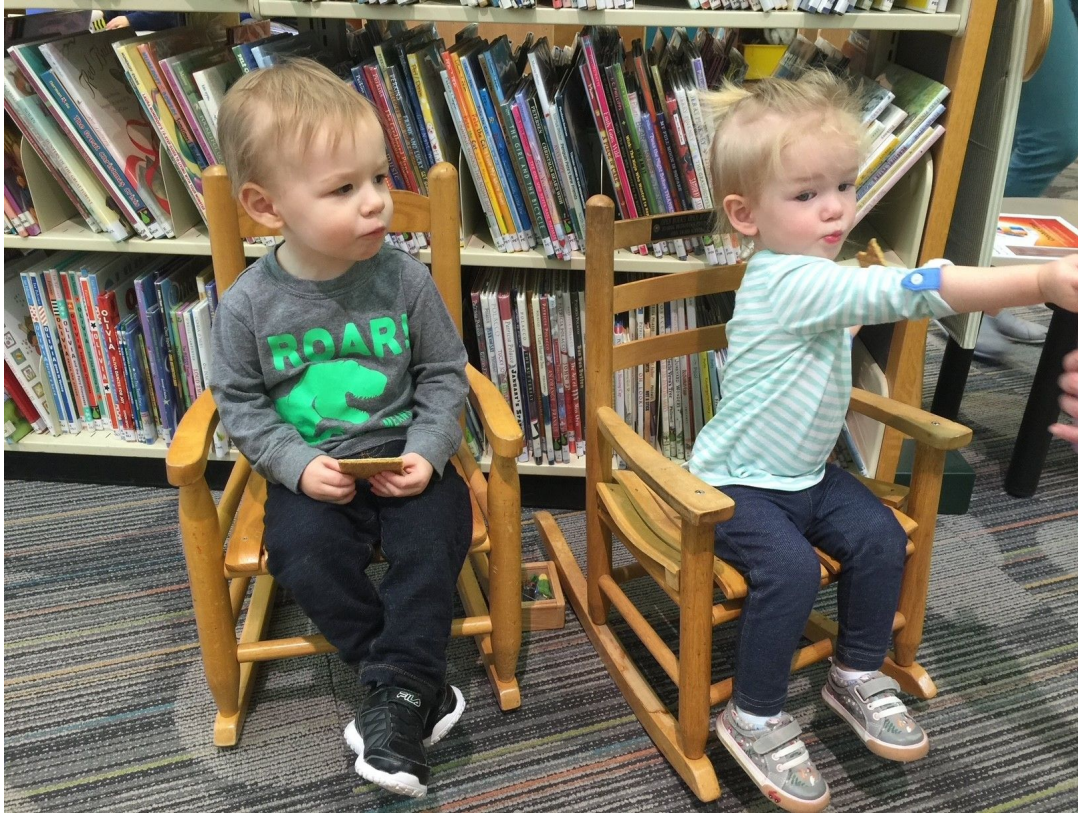


- **Three generations of impact**
- **New friendships**
- **Special bonds created**



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More Than Stats, a Story



- **Early friendships**
- **Parental supports**
- **Memories created**



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More Than a Service, an Impact



- **Reaching beyond library walls**
- **Comfort and connection**
- **Delivering more than books**



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More Than a Program, A Dream Realized



- Empowering the journey
- Knowledge, confidence, and connection
- First citizenship prep program south of Chicago



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Why Now?

Master Plan Findings

Comprehensive study showed significant identified key challenges:

Children's area
too small
(collection &
activity room)

Need more multi-
purpose space

Location may not
suit city growth

More study rooms
& seating needed

Poor acoustics

High demand for
outdoor space



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Possible Options

Option 1: Add On

- About \$12m for additional 6k sq ft
- Deemed not cost-effective
- Wouldn't fix location problem

Option 2: Build New

- Recommendation for 40k sq ft to meeting current and future needs
- Projected \$25m build using 2027/2028 dollars

Vision: Inviting Shared Workspaces



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Vision: Creation Lab



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Vision: Dedicated Work and Study



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Vision: What's Next?



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Now We're Turning It Over To You



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Small Group Work Activity

1. **Select a Recorder and Spokesperson**
2. **Recorder Responsibilities**
 - Complete the information on the group's worksheet
3. **Spokesperson Responsibilities**
 - Facilitate Discussion
 - Keep Group Focused/On Task
 - Report Group's Information

Task #1: Key Takeaways

Based on the information you learned tonight, what is your group's biggest surprise about our library?

What are the top 2 - 3 "roses" and "thorns" of the current state of the library?

Roses:	Thorns:

What services, programs or amenities would you like at your library?

☐ More multipurpose space	☐ More senior adult programming
☐ More study/work space	☐ More children/teen programming
☐ Banking	☐ More crafting classes
☐ Mailing services	☐ More cultural events
☐ Workforce support	☐ Other _____
☐ Café/Coffee shop	☐ Other _____
☐ Museum space	☐ Other _____
☐ Outdoor learning and event spaces	

Do you use the library at least once a month? If yes, why? If not, why?

Did you know about the library's services before this evening?

Small Group Worksheet

- **Information recorded should reflect consensus/ general agreement of group members**
- **Monitor progress to complete all tasks in allotted time**
- **Group recorder will document on the worksheet**



Small Group Work Activity

Task #1 Key Insights and Engagement

- Based on the information you learned tonight, what is your group's biggest surprise about our library?
- What are the top 2 - 3 "roses" and "thorns" of the current state of the library?
- What services, programs or amenities would you like at your library?
- Do you use the library at least once a month? If yes, why? If not, why?
- Did you know about all of the library's services before this evening?
- How much do you think the owner of a \$275,000 (median value home in O'Fallon) home pays in taxes for the O'Fallon library?
- As the library exists now, are there barriers that limit your use of library services?



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Small Group Work Activity

Task #2 Key Questions

Step 1

What issues or topics should we discuss further? List the ones you feel are most important for our process.

Step 2

Take the list from Step 1 and prioritize each topic as High, Medium, or Low importance. (Include only topics your group generally agreed upon.)

Step 3

Start with your highest-priority topics.

What key questions or comments does your group want addressed for each topic?



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5:00

Small Group Work Activity Reporting



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THANK YOU!

Community Engagement Session #2

Feb. 5, 2026

Knights of Columbus

6:00 p.m.



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