

# Best Life - Strategies

## Schools

- Idea: bringing art back into schools – identify needs
- Idea: participate in teacher in-service days
- School snack program – perhaps scale up
- Communicate with schools in a better, more fluid way

## Digital Branch

- We could advertise via social media
- Build a community archive (go local, do the work the universities and local history groups aren't doing)
- Be the information hub about what is going on in Topeka

## Marketing

- Communicate
- Targeted surveys – idea
- Share information about what is going on at the library

## Community conversations

- Convene conversations to help people figure out best life
- Foster conversations about civic issues
- Work within active ways with groups hosting civic conversations
- Asking out community
- How could we provide place for conversation/ collaboration with local groups (e.g. art programming)
- Making connections with parents with information from birth
- Foster civic engagement opportunities

## Collections

- Curated collections
- Curate – subjects, exposure
- Diverse collections
- Curated content
- Provide resources
- Visibility with curated content
- Book lists (e.g. Black Lives Matter reading lists)
- Best life means more than just reading
- Figure out a way to combine resources and audiences

## Programs

- More programming
- Computer classes
- Make sure programs we offer are diverse and inclusive
- Classes
- Educate
- Educate people about legislative issues that impact them
- Have a "Life Skills" series (work with partners)
- Have a "Financial Literacy" series
- Offer library programs about library services and how to use library
- Have a "Best Life" series
- Meaningful programming
- Kansas Leadership center training for staff and community to facilitate social change
- Choose partnerships with organizations who are doing meaningful programming

## Working differently

- We need to figure out our organizational "WHY" and that will make defining other "whys" so much easier
- Scaling up is challenge
- Learn to piggyback off of others
- Be a neutral space
- Fostering empowerment AND advocacy
- Foster a writing community
- Fostering the continuance of learning and information sharing
  - ↑Also at other major life events
- Librarians facilitating this work around the country
- Be involved with enrichment
- Change definition of library from place to activity
- Available 24/7 (and people know this)
- How do we predict what will resonate with people?
- Focus on our facilitation efforts as way to scale up
- Remove barriers to computer use

## Job and career ideas

- Career exploration
- Job assistance
- Career counseling

## Grassroots / DIY ideas

- Take a grassroots approach
- Pop-up story times
- How do we provide chances to explore before you have to pay for it? (e.g. art classes)

## Community experts

- Develop partnerships (NIAs)
  - Speakers ↓
  - We provide space
- Get to know experts in our community
- Find ways to Not reinvent the wheel

## Partnerships

- Meeting often with partners to know resources
- Building a true partnership with collaboration
  - Extension Service
  - Parks and Recreation
- Have a variety of social services agencies embedded at the library
  - Work with homeless – Rescue Mission
  - Have contact with all groups in our community (African American, Native American, Hispanic, ...)
  - How to connect with policy makers
  - Idea: could we designate space for workforce center, especially after 5PM?
- Build network with realtors and apartment managers