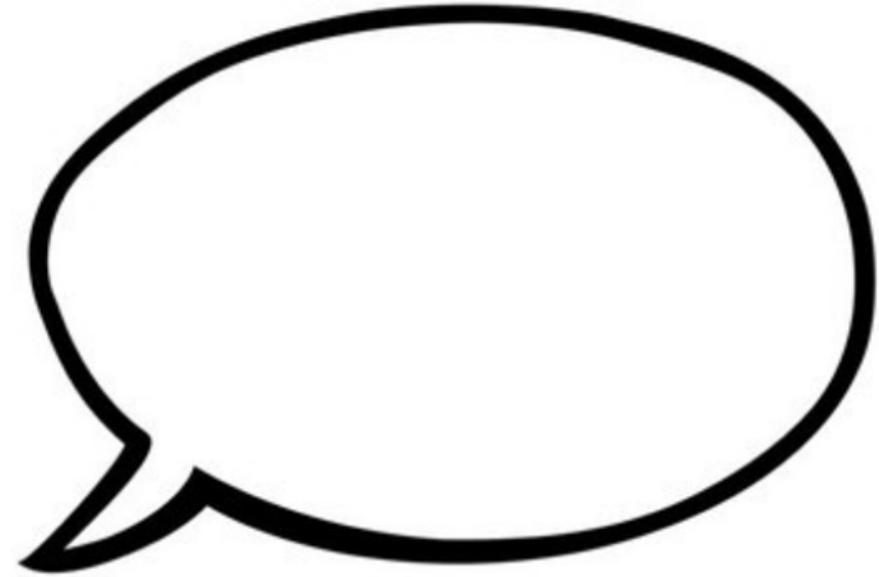


# ENGAGED PLANNING



Erica Freudenberger  
Southern Adirondack Library System

Mary Lou Willits  
Pawlet Public Library

Vermont State Library May 2019



**RED HOOK PUBLIC LIBRARY**



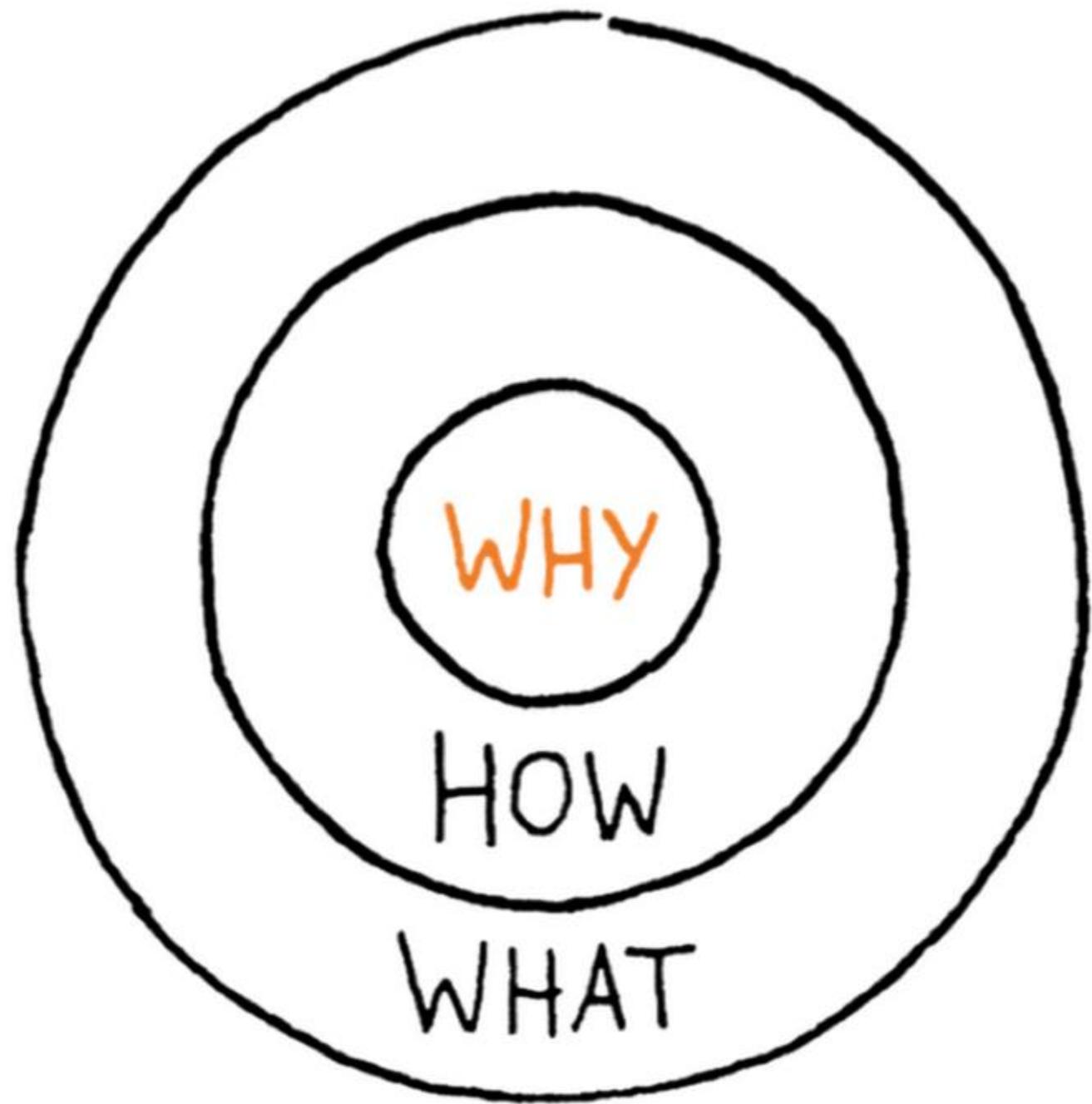
**SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK  
LIBRARY SYSTEM**



**ALA** American  
Library  
Association



**LIBRARIES  
TRANSFORMING  
COMMUNITIES**



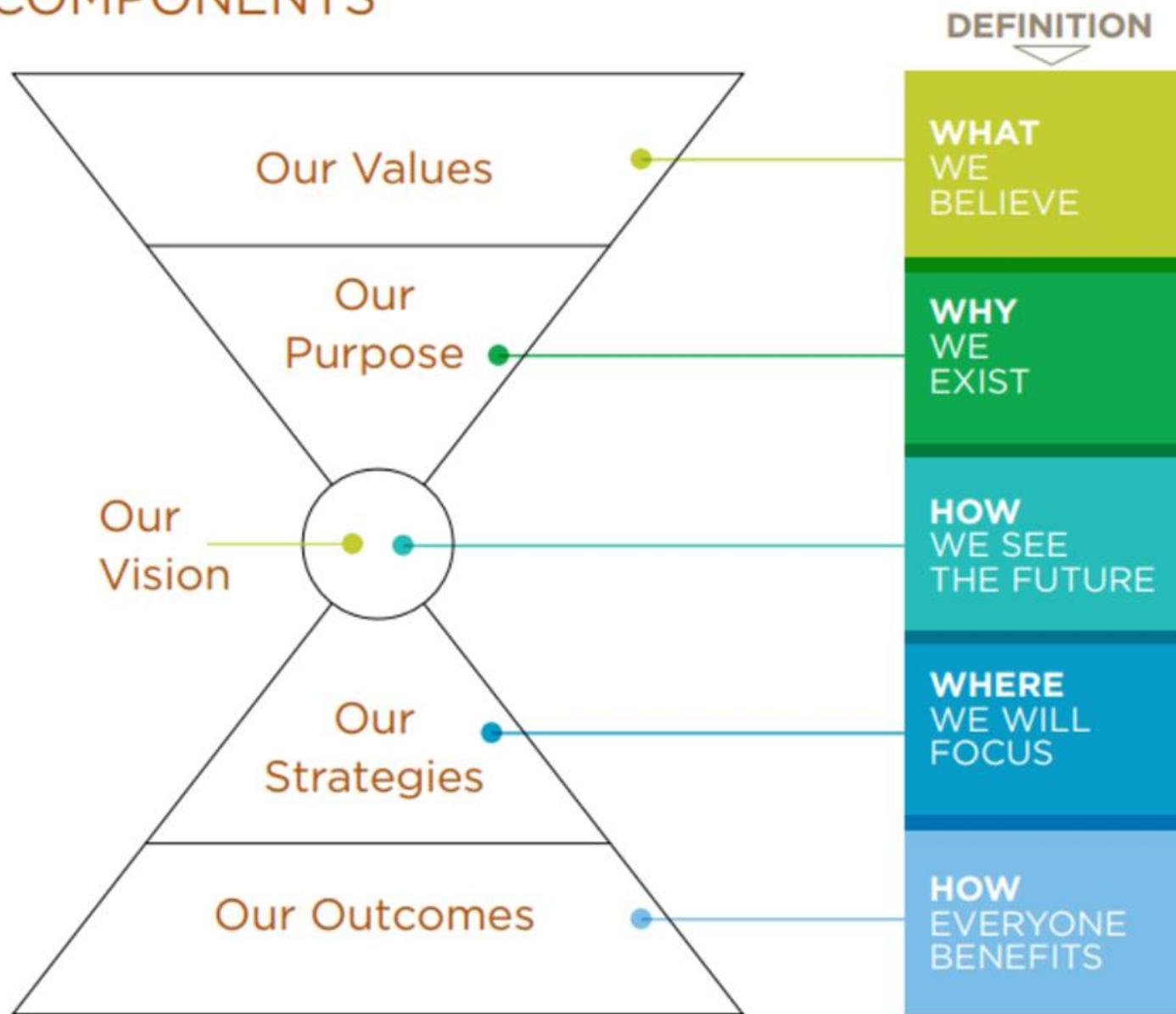


**Vote  
Yes**

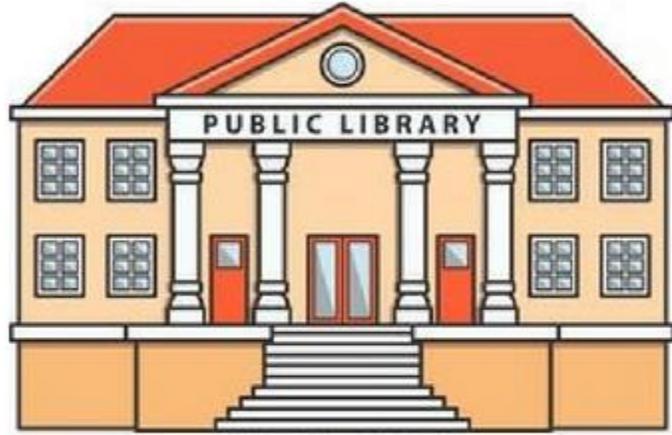
**on May 20  
Proposition #3**

Public Library

# CORE COMPONENTS



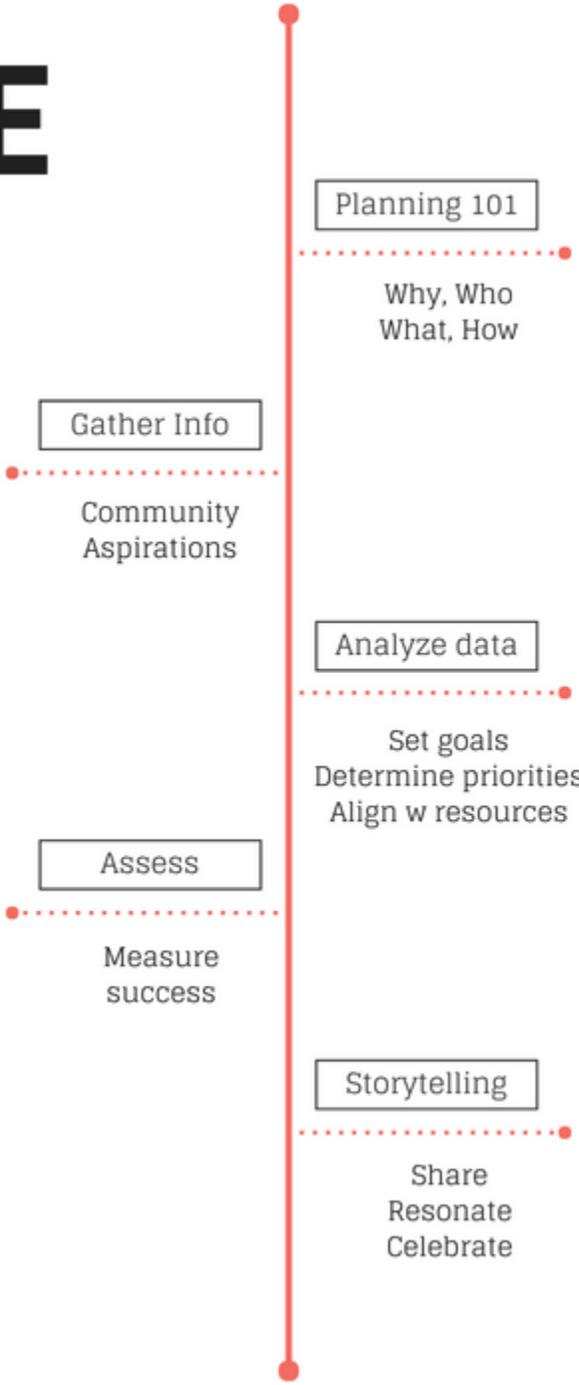
# Traditional Planning



# Engaged Planning



# TIMELINE



We are here

# PLANNING COMMITTEE



- Trustees
- Director
- Staff
- Community members

# PLANNING TO THRIVE

- Assessment
- Identify community aspirations
- Determine priorities
- Allocate resources
- Measure success
- Celebrate



# ASSESSMENT

- Where are you?
- How did you get here?
- How do you make decisions about priorities and resources?
- What are your strengths & capabilities?





**IDENTIFY COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS**



**EXPERT KNOWLEDGE**



**PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE**

# ASPIRATIONS EXERCISE

What are your aspirations for your community?

What challenges do we face in reaching these aspirations?

What changes do we need to make in our community to reach our aspirations?

Who do you trust to take action on these issues?



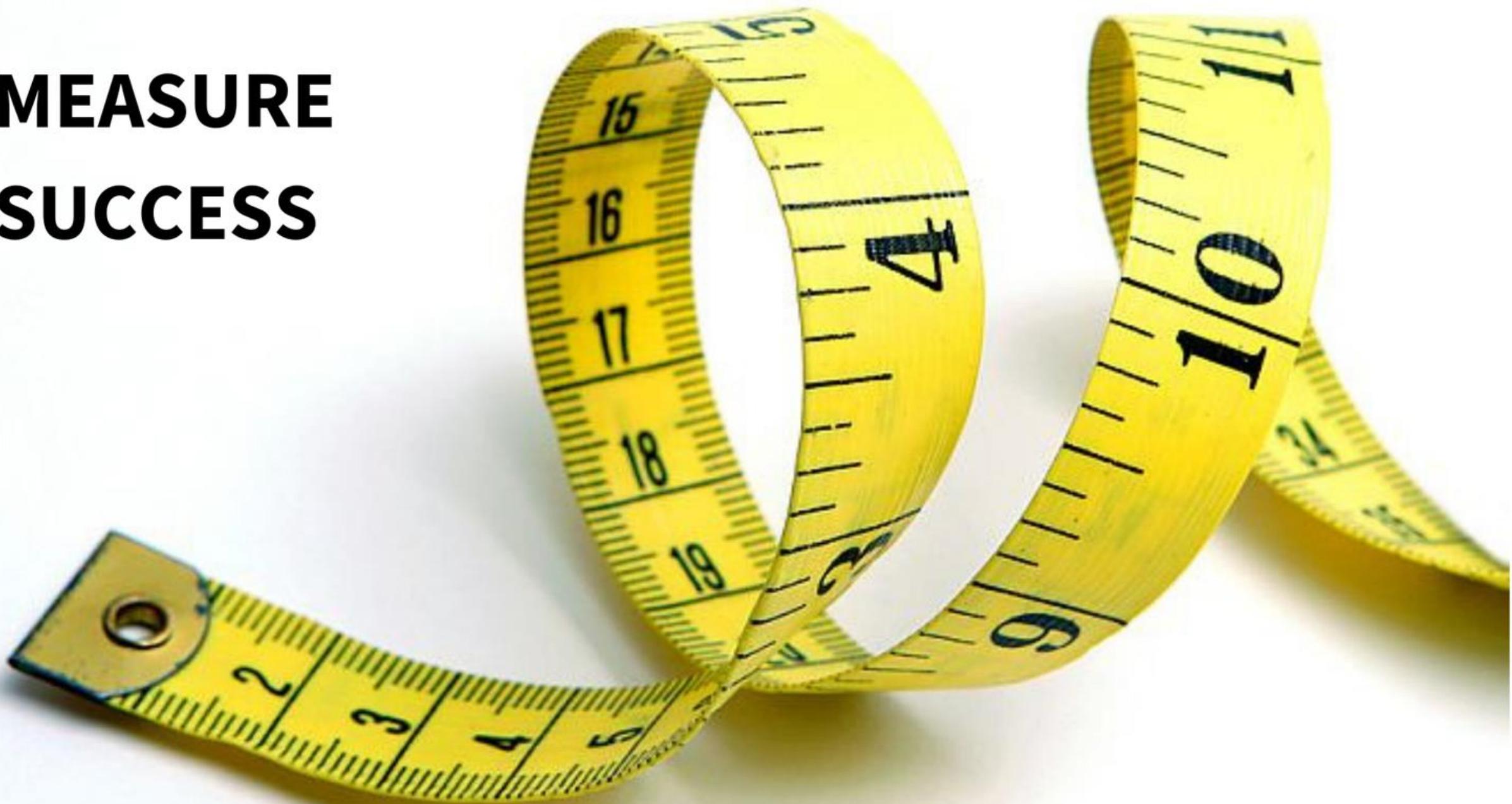
**DETERMINE PRIORITIES**



# ALLOCATE RESOURCES



**MEASURE  
SUCCESS**





**CELEBRATE!**



**THEORY**



**PRACTICE**



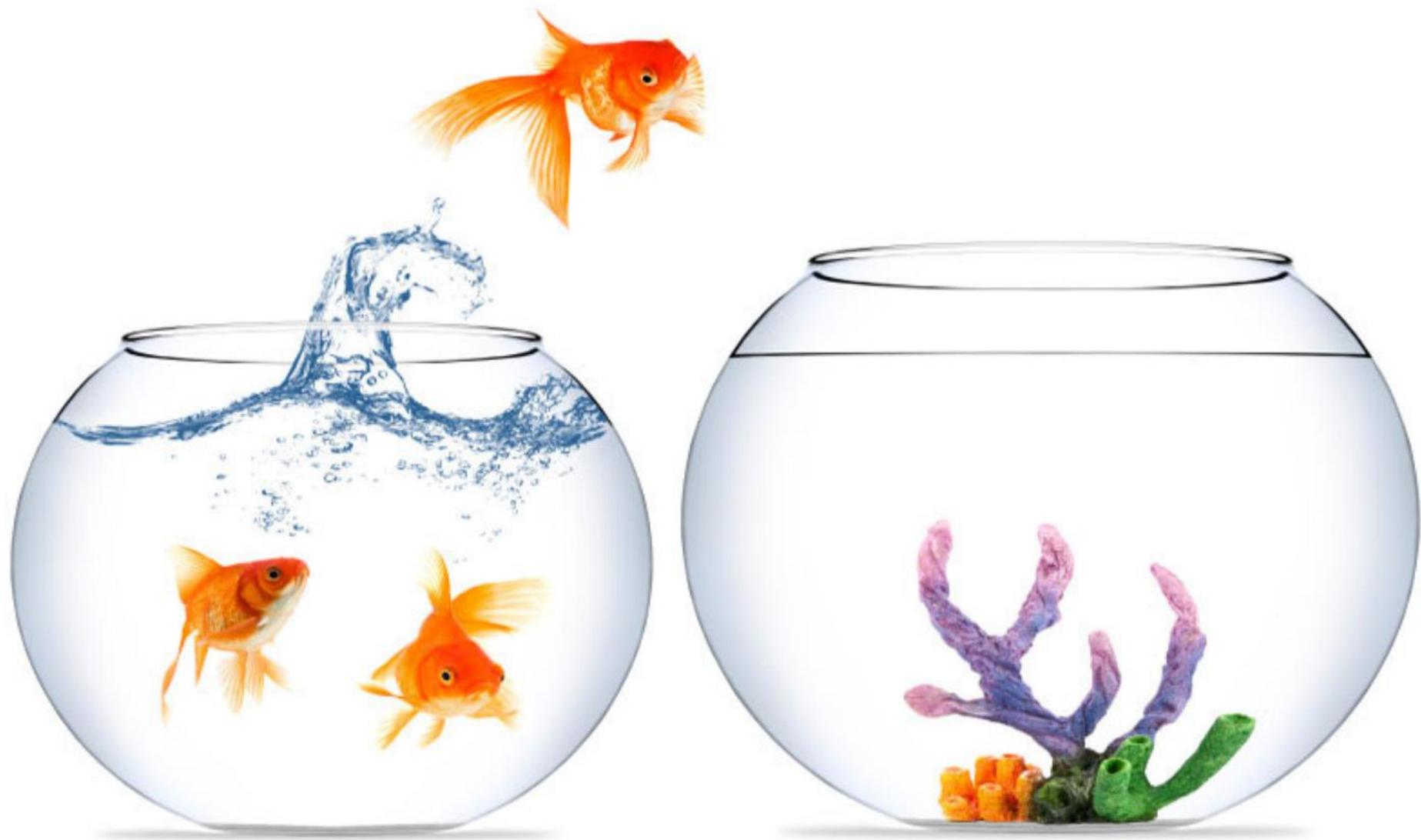
PAWLET PUBLIC LIBRARY

141

OPEN

Small text sign on the wall near the entrance.





# PROCESS

Step 1: The Board designated Planning Committee

Step 2: Planning committee receives training

Step 3: Planning committee collects public knowledge

Step 4: The Planning Committee analyzes data & recommends service priorities for the library.

Step 5: The Library Board approves service priorities

Step 6: The Planning Committee presents a draft of plan to the community



# COMMUNITY INPUT

- Bone Builders
- Home School Parents
- Mettawee Community Church
- Mettawee Community School
- Rupert United Methodist Church
- Pawlet Community Church
- Pawlet Library Volunteers
- Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department
- Pawlett Historical Society
- Town of Pawlet Planning Commission
- Town of Pawlet Select Board
- St. Frances Cabrini Church
- Pawlet Library Strategic Planning Committee & Board Members

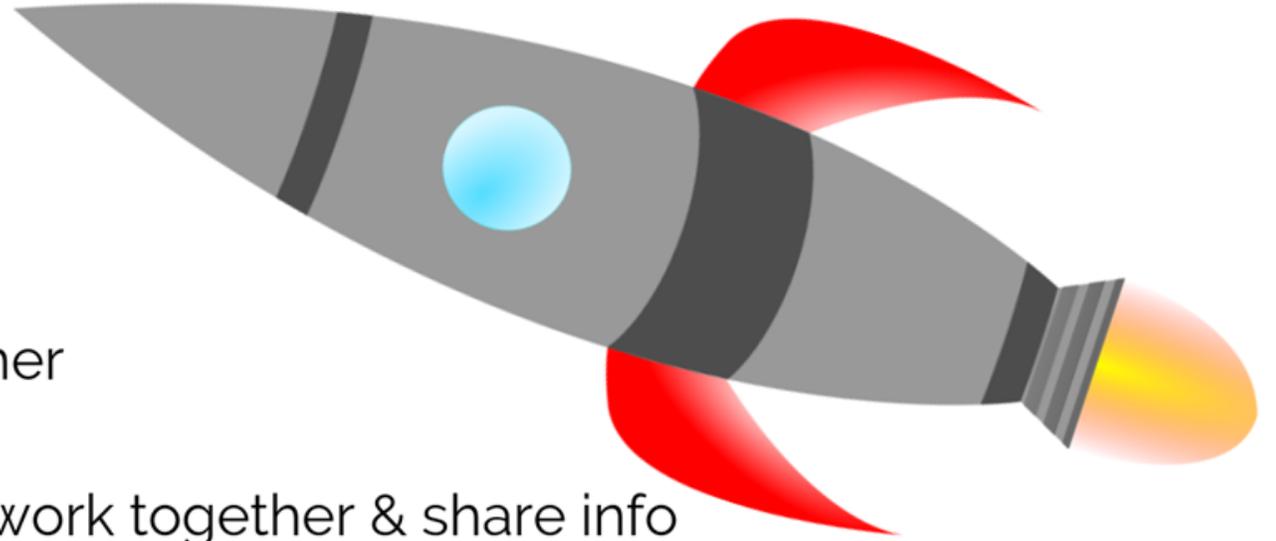
Individuals representing Pawlet Food Cupboard, farmers, retirees & newcomers



The word "Surprise" is rendered in a large, white, 3D sans-serif font. It is centered horizontally and appears to be floating above a white surface, casting a soft, light gray shadow. The word is surrounded by a dense, scattered cloud of small, rectangular confetti pieces in various colors, including blue, yellow, red, and magenta. The confetti is most concentrated around the base of the letters and extends outwards, creating a sense of celebration and surprise. The overall composition is clean and festive against a plain white background.

Surprise

# Top 10 Aspirations



- 1: More activities to bring people together
- 2: A place to gather
- 3: Town and community organizations work together & share info
- 4: More participation & volunteers in organizations & town government
- 5: Individuals and groups bridge divides
- 6: Retain & attract young people
- 7: A healthy local economy with opportunities for small businesses and jobs
- 8: Embrace, celebrate, and conserve rural character and natural areas
- 9: Transportation to connect seniors and those without cars to goods and services
- 10: A safer intersection in Pawlet, organized & ample parking, safer walking paths

# Top 10 Challenges

Challenge #1: Lack of leaders or an organization to facilitate community efforts

Challenge #2: Divisiveness & disconnection

Challenge #3: Local economy weakened

Challenge #4: Economic demands curtail volunteerism

Challenge #5: Lengthy commutes limit opportunities

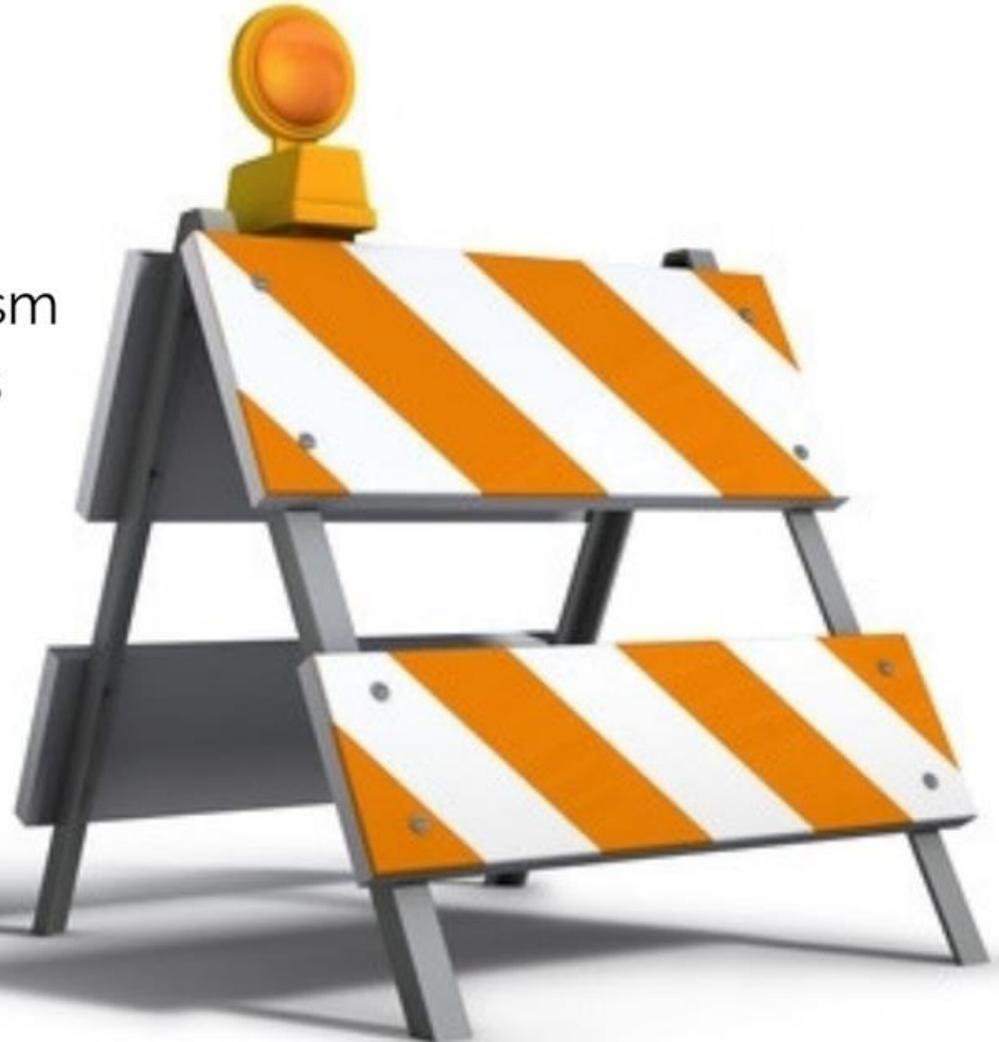
Challenge #6: Volunteer base aging & dwindling

Challenge #7: Town's limited financial capacity

Challenge #8: Technology leading to social isolation

Challenge #9: Need to attract young families

Challenge #10: Lack of affordable housing and jobs



# Top 10 Changes

- 1: A lead organization connects Town & community organizations
- 2: A place for inclusive, intergenerational community activities
- 3: A central multi-platform monthly newsletter about community
- 5: Address economic development, traffic, parking & walking paths
- 6: Market the community
- 7: Support local businesses
- 8: Increase collaboration with state and regional resources
- 9: Cultivate and support new leaders
- 10: Opportunities for young families to interact

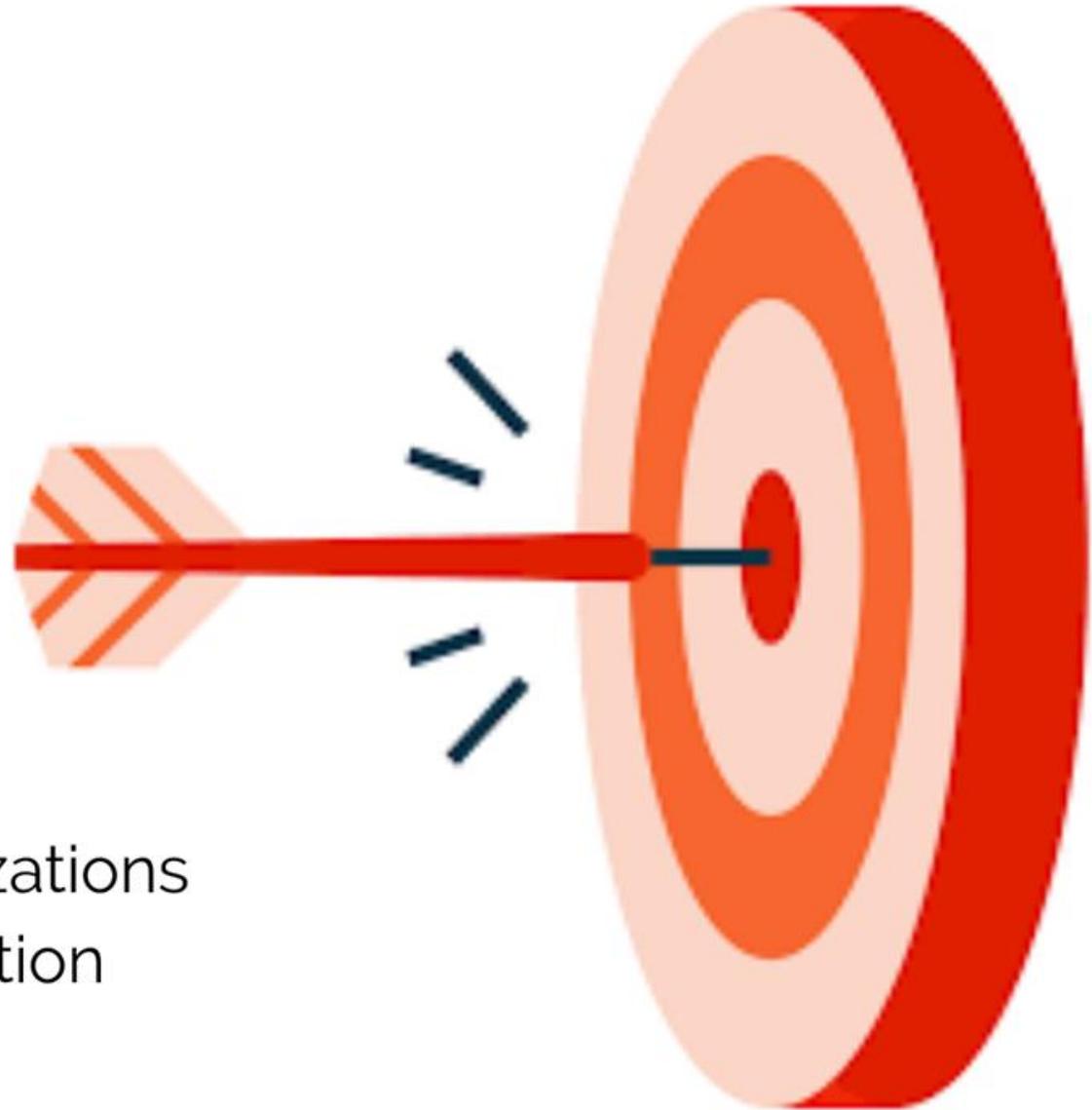


# Strategic Priorities

1: Provide a place to gather for social activities & community discussion.

2: Offer programs & activities that bring people together & bridge community divisions.

3: Facilitate Town & community organizations in working together by sharing information and resources with each other and the community.



## VISION

The Pawlet Public Library is an essential player in sustaining and celebrating a vibrant, revitalized, and resilient community.

## MISSION

The Pawlet Public Library's mission is to provide a leadership role in unifying the community through shared resources and meaningful experiences for all generations.

# MOVING FORWARD



Community Engagement  
shifts the conversation  
from the library being the  
heart of the community to  
the community being the  
heart of the library.

Emily Bunyan  
Knox County Public Library







# Thank You!

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