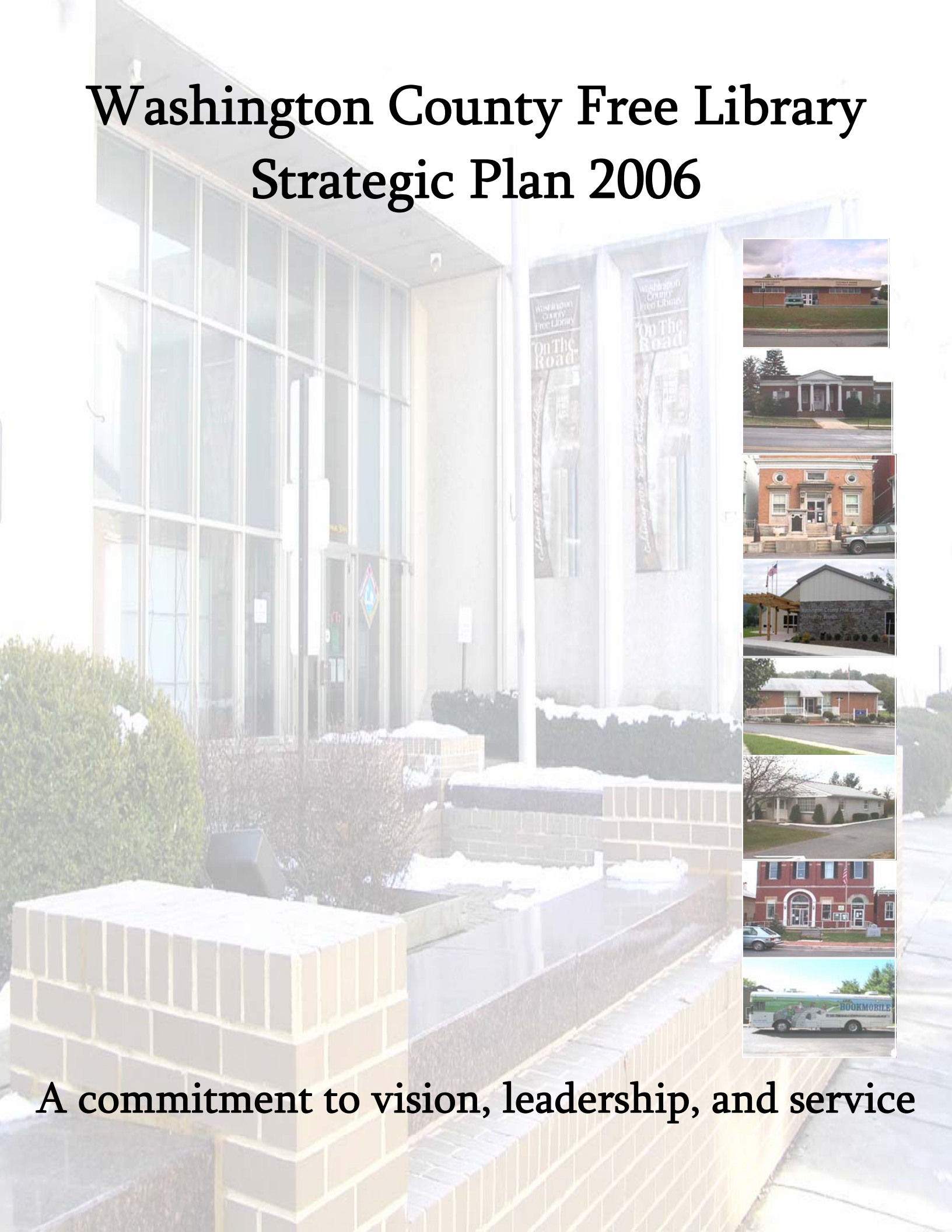


Washington County Free Library Strategic Plan 2006



A commitment to vision, leadership, and service



John R Hershey III
President, Board of Trustees



Mary Baykan
Director, WCFL

A message from your Library Board President and Library Director:

In this first decade of a new century your library is redefining and broadening who we are, what we do, and our strategic place in the fabric of our community. We recognize and cherish the library's rich history of service, innovation, and outreach to the families of our county. The library is a key partner in education. We recommit to providing Washington County residents with the current information they need to work, to pursue an education, and to help them make informed decisions that will enhance their quality of life. We recognize that we have a special and vital role to play in helping our children develop a love of reading. We pledge to help our children be good readers so that they can have the literacy skills necessary to live productive and successful lives. We also recommit to providing our citizens with library materials and resources in the formats they want when they want them.

It is also the library's role to help build a strong sustainable community for our current citizens and for the generations that will come after us. A community is sustainable if it has quality public spaces, invigorating and enriching cultural and educational choices, and access to new ideas and technologies. Citizens need a "community living room," a great good "third" place where they can go and where civic engagement should and can take place. Your library, whether it is our Central Library on Potomac Street or one of our branches is pledging that we will become Washington County's "great good place." Working with other stakeholders in our community, we will successfully meet new economic and social challenges as we continue to grow and change, becoming more diverse and global.

We are proud of and value the rich intellectual capital we have in our staff and pledge to provide the resources they must have to do their job. We will continue to have a dedicated and well trained staff delivering quality service to all our customers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John R. Hershey III".

John R. Hershey III, President
WCFL Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary C. Baykan".

Mary Baykan, Director
Washington County Free Library

Our Mission: The Washington County Free Library is a catalyst for community and cultural regeneration

To meet our mission, we have set the following goals:

Goal 1. The library will be the “third place” for Washington County citizens, where they want to be when they are not at home or at work.

Our citizens will be served by community focused libraries whose physical facilities contain comfortable amenities to stimulate reading, education, research, and cultural activities.

Goal 2. The community will recognize the library as a vital and valued essential resource.

The library will be reaching out to all our citizens to provide services and programs designed to meet a growing, changing, and more diverse population. Taking a leadership role and partnering with other community leaders and organizations, the library will provide a welcoming and stimulating environment for learning, exploring new ideas, and promoting civic interaction and discourse.

Goal 3. The library will continue to provide twenty-first century service to all citizens, and will target currently underserved populations with services that meet their needs.

The library strives to serve everyone in our community. We pledge to work proactively to make our resources and services accessible to all; especially those for whom library use is difficult or unfamiliar.

Goal 4. Citizens and staff at all library locations will have access to effective and efficient technology solutions responsive to their needs.

The library will provide technology that makes using the library and its resources a simple and easy experience. We will seek out new technologies that will improve and enhance library services in the future.

Goal 6. Dedicated staff will provide a first-class library experience to all citizens throughout our county.

Citizens can expect an inviting, comfortable, stimulating and safe environment at every library with a staff that is friendly, responsive and well trained.

In working through the strategic planning process, exploring why we needed to, and most importantly what direction the library should take and what strategic roles we should play in serving our county and the people who live and work here, the library turned to business, education, and community leaders, library users, and staff for guidance, help, and vision. We wish to thank the following:

Community Leaders

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Ms. Sondra Hoover
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Mr. Charles Sekula
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