

# BULVERDE AREA RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICT

## Strategic Plan 2022-2023

### MISSION

The mission of the Bulverde Area Rural Library District is to promote literacy, inspire a lifelong love of learning, and support the arts, science and literary needs of our community.

### VISION

Our vision is to provide welcoming, flexible and blended spaces, where community members can gather and have access to valuable resources, learning, and leisure pursuits, no matter what age or stage of life.

### OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

- Lead the community as a center for literacy and lifelong learning
- Foster a culture of exploration, innovation and forward thinking by creating environments that support learning and growth
- Provide easy access to materials and information for all ages, through responsive professionals, engaging programs and state-of-the-art technology in a safe and friendly environment
- Anticipate & respond to changing community needs

### WHERE ARE WE NOW

In January 2000 a special election established the Bulverde Area Rural Library District (BARLD) in the western portion of Comal County, funded by a ½ % sales tax, per [Texas Local Government Code 326](#). The Library District does not receive any property taxes and only benefits if you shop in the district. A five member elected Board of Trustees governs the District. Each year an election is held for either two or three Trustee positions.

There is currently only one library in the District, the Mammen Family Public Library, located in western Comal County near the intersection of Highway 281 and SH46. The recently expanded facility is approximately 33,000 square feet with over 200 parking spaces on almost 7 acres. The grounds include a butterfly garden and a small area called Eagle Scout Park, created by Eagle Scout projects, with benches and a swing. The building has a rainwater catchment system for landscape irrigation. The exterior includes two large patios, one at the front of the building and one behind the children's area that connects to Eagle Scout Park.

The interior of the library includes flexible meeting spaces, study rooms, a makerspace and dedicated areas for teens and children. Community members can drive up for window services as needed. The library utilizes RFID technology and has an automated material handling system and self checkout kiosks generously funded with a grant. The makerspace is supplied with over \$250,000 of maker equipment, including 3D printers, laser printers and a large variety of other equipment funded through grants from the TSLAC and IMLS.

The building naming rights funds were designated by the donor, the Mammen Foundation, exclusively for library programming and ensure the community will continue to benefit from literacy and learning opportunities for many, many years to come.

The library also has an outreach vehicle, the Trekker, which enables staff to take programming and materials to seniors, youth and others in need at locations throughout the community. The Trekker was purchased through the Foundation of the BARLD and maintenance is funded by the Friends of the BARLD, both active 501(c)3 organizations supporting long and short term funding in areas not met by the BARLD funds.

#### WHERE ARE WE GOING

We will continue to evolve our services to, as safely as possible, meet the needs of our community. With that in mind, our strategic plan is purposely short term as our world changes almost daily.

As our service community grows at a rapid pace and as funds allow, we will address the next steps in our 2016-2026 Facilities Master plan. The initial step was the library expansion. The next step includes providing services in areas of our District that are more than 15 minutes from the library. Options include lockers or kiosks for picking up and dropping off materials and/or some type of branch, either in a retail space or a stand-alone building.

#### HOW WILL WE GET THERE

We will continue to work closely with our Friends and Foundation in grant writing and fundraising. The BARLD Trustees will continue to exercise prudence in their fiscal responsibility with community funds. Our staff will continue to closely monitor the budget and optimize resources to best serve the community.