

LOCAL ISSUES: HOW DOES THE LIBRARY ADDRESS MATTERS OF LOCAL CONCERN?

- **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:**
 - Host Town Halls, assist with public surveys and focus groups, governmental agency meetings
 - Voter Registration, Early Voting and Election Day Polling Site
 - Programs such as the *Bill of Obligations* and *Dialogues on Race* help foster dialogue on democracy
 - Work with local community organizations in every service area
- **ADDRESSING POPULATION LOSS:**
 - Enriching / enhancing local quality of life for all ages, all segments of the population
 - Special programming geared for young adults aged 20 – 30 years
 - BTR campaign, BRING IT campaign
- **CRIME:**
 - **Best to PREVENT crime through educational and career opportunities, counseling, diversion**
 - Cool Careers for Kids series
 - Free tutoring till midnight
 - Outreach to at-risk students in failing schools
 - Home Library Pilot Project
 - Partnering with BR Parents et al to create an Outreach Library at the new Howell Park Inspiration Center
 - **Work with public officials in law enforcement and justice sectors**
 - Outreach Library for teens located at the Juvenile Services Center
 - Library commits to funding a youth service library/program space in a new Center, once approved
 - Deposit book collections sent to the Parish Prison
 - Library hosts regular “First Appearance” meeting before trial
 - **Serving adults and their families who are in RE-ENTRY, moving back into society**
 - Career exploration, help for job seekers
 - Job training, especially in vocational skills
 - Assistance with starting their own businesses
 - Support for community helper service providers through research, meeting space, programs, etc.
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**
 - **Career Center** provides personalized career exploration and workforce / skills development
 - Assessment, Resume’ Help, Interview Coaching, Application Assistance
 - Job Fairs hosted at the Library or attended elsewhere
 - Free Workshops for job seekers on a wide variety of career opportunities
 - Online learning platforms for soft skills, digital and technical skills, and vocational skills
 - Robust EBRPL-produced video library with information and tips related to local employers
 - **Small Business Service served 2,020 patrons in 2024**
 - Personal “concierge” service to small business and entrepreneurs
 - Premium platforms of online business resources
 - Business Plan development, market intelligence, distribution lists, forecasting
 - Workshops for business owners and entrepreneurs
 - Small Business Incubator/Workforce Development Center planned for re-purposed Delmont Gardens facility
- **INFRASTRUCTURE:**
 - Upgrading all technology: patron facing connectivity, as well as back of house features
 - New website just rolled out; new ILS project begins in 2025
 - Wi-Fi hubs at all locations; continue to increase capacity at each location
 - Circulating HotSpots help fill in the gaps, whether due to economic or location reasons
 - Site facilities along transit corridors
 - EV infrastructure planned, to go along with state-wide target
 - Generator hook ups in all new projects, for flexibility in a future disaster
 - Bookmobile shoreline hook ups for new projects, for flexibility in a future disaster
 - Research, meeting spaces, public awareness assistance for agencies and organizations
- **FLOODING AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT:**
 - Research, meeting spaces, public awareness assistance for agencies and organizations
 - LEED design in Main Library and other locations includes features to reduce stormwater runoff

- **EDUCATION:**
 - **Early literacy and school readiness addressed through a broad range of services and programs**
 - Press Start! Ready Set Read! Initiative designed to prepare children to meet state standards
 - 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
 - Storytime, including Lapsits, Toddler Time, Pre-school Storytime, Sensory Storytime
 - **School Age students:**
 - Whether home-schooled or in a formal program, the Library is an extension of the classroom
 - Broad range of print and online resources, including online tutoring till midnight
 - 1,000 Books After Kindergarten
 - Library staff visit area public, private and parochial schools
 - Home Library Pilot Project serves at-risk 3rd graders in 6 local schools
 - Students visit libraries regularly; some libraries are designated school drop-off centers for school busses
 - Rebuilding the student ecard program which was obliterated due to LA 25:225
 - Summer Reading Challenge to help fight the summer slide
 - **Adult literacy, including digital and computer literacy: in-house and online training**
 - **Lifelong Learning: everything from computer training to gardening to music to history to hobbies**
 - Local History/Archives
 - Genealogy Assistance
 - **ESL: English as a Second Language population continues to grow**
 - Already provide online training to help non-English speakers become employable
 - Developing in-house programs
 - Working with Churches and non-profits to educate ESL workers and their family members
- **SOCIAL CONCERNS → CITIZENS IN CRISIS:**
 - **Community engagement:**
 - Library maintains the BR City Key database and Community Information Database
 - Work with / present to local groups and organizations to demonstrate resources, assist with research needs
 - **Consumer education: in-house programs, online and physical resources, reference assistance**
 - Host rental assistance program, financial literacy, Super Tax Day, Money Moves BR, Bank On Baton Rouge
 - **Food security:**
 - Food pantries at 2 locations
 - We Care Bag meals distributed to 100 students each Friday (donated by St James Episcopal Church)
 - Summer Feeding at all branches served by EBR School Systems
 - Community Garden education, seed swaps, food preparation demos, Farmer's Market site
 - **Health and wellness:**
 - In-house programs, online and physical resources, reference assistance, research
 - Blood Pressure stations and circulating kits
 - Work with Healthy City BR, Pennington, Woman's Hospital, BR General, OLOL, Lane, Ochsner, Children's Hospital, Blue Cross, Humana, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, Alzheimer's...
 - **Disaster Preparedness and Response:**
 - MOHSEP assistance as required
 - Host Red Stick Ready, promote preparedness resources all year
 - Host GOHSEP, FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, SBA, Blue Roof, and other emergency response teams
 - Serve as needed as a Cooling Center, Warming Center, Charging Center, Temporary Evacuation Shelter
 - Emergency Health Supplies Pod and Oxygen Distribution Center
 - Bookmobile brings resources to Shelters
 - **Social wellness:** public programs, research, assistance to helping organizations, staff training
 - VOA Social Worker on site at many library locations to assist patrons with their needs
 - Social isolation: public programs, outreach, library staff provides telephone assistance
 - Special needs: CAAN, Sensory/public programs, research, assistance to helping organizations, staff training
 - Veterans: Special services geared for Veterans, special public programs to honor Veterans, oral history
 - Mental illness: public programs, research, assistance to helping organizations, staff training
 - Addiction: public programs, research, assistance to helping organizations, staff training, Narcan
 - Homelessness: public programs, research, assistance to helping organizations, staff training
- **LITTER:**
 - Community programming and education; Litter Task Force participation
 - Pick Up Litter Kits circulate
 - Research, meeting spaces, public awareness assistance for agencies and organizations

• **PERSONAL, CONSUMER INFLATION AS FACTOR:**

- Library realizes that many of our citizens are struggling
- The proposed millage factors in anticipated inflation costs to the library for operations and construction but also accounts for inflation borne by the homeowner; therefore, we reduced the millage from a 11.1 mills Renewal, as in 1995, 2005, and 2015, to 10.5 mills for 2025
- The estimated factor for infrastructure-related inflation is actually higher than the rate for estimated growth and consumer inflation; however, we will make it work
- Library services are a hedge against inflation, offering a tremendous range of services & resources
 - **Last year, the value of materials checked out exceeded \$ 26,232,800**
 - This does **not** include the value of over 1 million eBooks downloaded, or any other digital resource
 - The value of other resources and services used by our patrons are beyond calculation
- **ROI**→ Positive **Return on Investment**: see below

ROI for Just a <i>FEW</i> SERVICES or RESOURCES:	COST TO LIBRARY'S PATRONS	APPROXIMATE COST TO BUY <u>YOURSELF</u>
Make data-informed decisions with Statista Data Platform - used constantly by local business owners, students, and researchers	FREE	\$ 11,508 annually
Research the competition with Data Axle Reference Solutions (Reference USA) - used constantly by local business owners, investors, and individuals researching companies and individuals	FREE	\$ 5,000 annually
Language Learning with Mango Languages for adults and Muzzy for the kids (similar to Rosetta Stone or Duolingo)	FREE	Duolingo \$120; Rosetta \$240 annually
Take an online class through LinkedIn Learning (Formerly Lynda.com)	FREE	\$ 75 – \$ 450 per course
Check out a Book and enjoy some “me time” with a new bestseller	FREE	\$ 25 per title
Bring home a Movie to watch – whether a new blockbuster or a film classic	FREE	\$ 19 per DVD
Download an eBook – over 200,000 to choose from, available anywhere, any time	FREE	\$ 5 – \$ 30 per title
Upgrade your job prospects at the Career Center: receive assistance in preparing your resume'	FREE	\$300 - \$1,000 per resume'
Get personalized job coaching at the Career Center	FREE	\$ 150 per hour
Use library computers with access to the Internet, printing, and Microsoft Office	FREE	\$ 69.99 annually for Microsoft Office
Bring in your own devices to use in the Library and take advantage of free Wi-Fi at the Library (or spend \$35 per month for Home Wi-Fi or between \$ 80 - \$ 110 per month for Gigabit Fiber Home Internet service)	FREE	\$ 80 - \$ 110 per month for equivalent speed service
Find your family's story: Get personalized assistance from the Genealogy Staff in Special Collections	FREE	\$ 150 per hour
Check out a Hotspot	FREE	\$ 30 - \$ 95 per month
Check your blood pressure, either in the library or with a circulating blood pressure kit	FREE	\$ 50 – 150 per device
Learn Vocational Skills such as welding, plumbing or HVAC repair with SkillMill's or Transfr's AR/VR technology	FREE	\$ 2,146 per 12 credit hours
Enrich your life: Attend a performance or program on cultural, historical, or leisure topics for every interest	FREE	\$ 20 per event
Stay involved: schedule and attend your organization's monthly meeting	FREE	\$ 100 per meeting
Keep up with technology: receive computer training online or in person	FREE	\$ 75 – \$175 per class
Learn how to use all kinds of equipment in one of the Library's MakerSpaces	FREE	\$ 500

Get fast and dependable answers with Library Information Service: in person, or by phone, text, mail, or chat	FREE	\$ 25 per hour
Raise your score on standardized tests such as the ACT or PRAXIS in Learning Express or Mometrix	FREE	\$ 75 – 125 per hour
Connect with an online tutor on any topic and for any grade via Homework Louisiana, any day till midnight	FREE	\$ 30 – 125 per hour
Upgrade your skills with workforce development and leisure learning online	FREE	\$ 450 per class
Listen to an audiobook	FREE	\$ 10 - \$ 30 per title
Use Ancestry to research your family's genealogy yourself	FREE	\$ 229 annually
Read the <i>New York Times</i> , <i>Wall Street Journal</i> , <i>Washington Post</i> online, at your convenience	FREE	NYT \$ 300 annually Post \$204 annually WSJ \$468 annually
Read <i>The Economist</i> at your convenience	FREE	\$ 400 annually
Stream 10-15 documentaries and indie films per month on Kanopy	FREE	\$ 3 - \$ 5 per digital movie rental
Share a book with your child: 15 minutes a day changes everything! Track it in 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten	FREE	\$ 10 - \$ 30 per book
Borrow materials of your choice at any of 15 locations: return to ANY location	FREE	\$ 2.90 per gallon/gas
Try something new: check out an Arduino kit or digital microscope	FREE	\$ 45 - \$ 450
Stay current: Access technology with full-service business, technology, and upgraded computer resources	FREE	\$ 20 - \$ 50 per month
Make the Library your Homeschooler's classroom, either in person, or online, on demand	FREE	\$ 125 per class
Bring the family together for game night: check out a game or family activity kit	FREE	\$ 15 - \$ 60 per game
Research and even preserve your local history through the BR Room and the Digital Archive	FREE	\$ 75 per hour
Create your Business Plan with personalized assistance from the Small Business Service	FREE	\$ 75 – \$ 125 per hour
Download an audiobook from Libby	FREE	\$ 8 per month on Audible
Print out up to 20 pages of your research paper or homework	FREE	\$ 0.21 per page
Download 7 tunes a week from Freegal	FREE	\$ 10 per MP3 album
Improve your skills at Pickle Ball via HiveClass	FREE	\$ 30 per class
Learn how to play a musical instrument on ArtistWorks	FREE	\$ 50 per lesson
Figure out how to finish that family quilt with Craftsy	FREE	\$ 30 per class
Host a job fair for your company	FREE	\$ 500 - \$2,500 for a venue
Get your kiddos Kindergarten-ready with Press Start! Ready, Set! Read!	FREE	\$ 10 per issue
Develop pre-literacy habits in Storytime	FREE	\$ 25 per event
Run a property title search	FREE	\$ 75 - \$ 200
Research an old lawsuit in Lexis Nexis	FREE	Individual subscription to LexisNexis \$3,876 annually
<i>Go old school and make black and white copies - \$ 10 cents at the Library versus \$ 0.21 at commercial retail establishment</i>		
Cost to study for 4 hours at the Library, versus at a local coffee shop		\$ 10 - \$ 15 for coffee and snacks