

## TUCKER FREE LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018



TUCKER FREE LIBRARY

2018 NHLTA LIBRARY OF THE YEAR!



**T**FL KIDSpace: A PLAYGROUND FOR THE MIND! has been attracting families and small groups to the library to enjoy our large collection of STEAM manipulators. Whether the kids or grandkids are science-minded, artistic, or musically inclined, there is something for everyone. The staff of the Tucker Free Library participated in an 18-month national grant to create a space for community engagement.

**D**irector Piotrowicz won a national grant to attend the American Library Association annual conference in New Orleans in June. Piotrowicz attended several workshops on creating spaces to facilitate community conversations.

**O**n November 1, 2018 the Henniker community gathered at the Tucker Free Library to celebrate the achievement of LIBRARY OF THE YEAR status. Representatives of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association (NHLTA) were on hand to present the award to library trustees and staff.

“Receiving this award reflects the efforts, teamwork and imagination of its dedicated trustees, talented library director and dedicated staff, its Friends of the Library, and its committed and engaged patrons and community members,” said Mary Castelli, President of the NHLTA at the celebration.

Founded 114 years ago with the generous legacy gift by George Tucker, the Tucker Free Library has remained fresh and current; adopting technologies to bridge to the future like enhancing its library website, and being a resource to other libraries on its technological achievements.

TFL is a welcoming, friendly gathering place where all ages come together to share a sense of community – where the quality of lives is enhanced and where learning, involvement, and creativity of all ages are sparked.

**G**oing forward. The trustees are considering adding an elevator to the building because the existing vehicle (Garaventa Lift) is at the end of “its life cycle.” To replace the Garaventa with a new model is not a viable option.

The most viable solution under consideration include the addition of an elevator. We also hope to add public restrooms that are easily accessed and safe. Currently, someone requiring mobility assistance must use two separate lifts to get to the one bathroom. One must also move through the area where our youngest patrons gather, often interrupting scheduled programming and distracting the children from their learning activities.

Finally, our engaging & growing programs require that we look at innovative ways to utilize space. Trustees are taking into consideration the only undeveloped space in the library, the third floor and how it may be used in the future. As outlined in our goals for the feasibility study, any new mechanical solutions for accessibility should reach all levels of the library.