



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is my pleasure to present the Strategic Plan for the Eastern Shore Public Library for 2022-2027; it hinges on our vision for our future – enabling “lifelong learning, historical knowledge and entertainment.” The last years have been both a challenging and exciting time for ESPL, as staff for all of our facilities have sought to serve our community’s needs in spite of limitations posed by the recent pandemic. They have done so admirably, as our system has embraced a library’s many roles that go beyond books. That is where we are today; this Plan addresses where we are going in the years ahead. It is intended to be a living document, providing a continuing touchstone for staff while being flexible enough to change as our community evolves.

Our planning process has included community input through continual efforts to reach out to our citizens and through the invaluable contributions of our Friends’ organizations and our other community partners. Both our Trustees and staff members have held planning retreats, and a Strategic Plan Committee has met on a regular basis to coordinate information and finalize the document. The Plan includes a detailed explanation of the process.

As we look to the future, we eagerly await the completion of our new facility in Parksley, which will include the Eastern Shore of Virginia Heritage Center. Our Plan includes the mission, vision and value statements for this unique addition to our library system. Both Accomack and Northampton Counties have rich and complex histories, and the Center will be a source of historical stewardship, providing opportunities for gathering, preserving and sharing documents, images and rare published materials. A major focus of our Plan is the ability to sustain this valuable resource, or as it states, “to ensure that the past has a future.”

Our planning process has been lengthy and demanding. On behalf of our Trustees, I thank all of our participants for sharing their time and their talents in this effort. We realize the pressures our staff members have faced in past months and underscore our gratitude for their selflessness. As we move forward, we continue to be aware of - and appreciative for - the critical role our Counties’ leaders and our community at large play in the life of Eastern Shore Public Library.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Fooks Holland".

Joyce Fooks Holland. Chair  
ESPL Board of Trustees