

# PROGRAM GUIDE

Summer  
2026



# Program Registration

All programs require registration unless marked with a \*. Scan the QR code to register for upcoming events or call (708) 672-8017. All programs are in person, unless marked as for  zoom or  for recording.



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## Stay Connected!



[cretelibrary.org](http://cretelibrary.org)



Crete Public Library District



[cretepubliclibrary](https://www.instagram.com/cretepubliclibrary)



Crete Public Library

### Library Staff

**David Sieffert**  
Library Director

**Tiffany Amschl**  
Assistant Director / Adult & Teen  
Services Manager

**Samantha Wilhoyt**  
Patron Services Manager

**Keely VerHaar**  
Business Manager

**Michelle Rarick**  
Youth Services Manager

**Elise Tarrant**  
Marketing & Communications  
Coordinator

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### Library Hours

Monday-  
Thursday  
9:30 am- 8:00 pm

Friday & Saturday  
9:30 am-5:00 pm

Closed Sunday

Upcoming  
Closings

June 2: Closing at  
4 pm for Summer  
Reading Kickoff Party

4th of July Weekend:  
July 3 & 4



# A STRANGE AND UNUSUAL SUMMER READING: Uncover the Uncanny

## KICKOFF PARTY!

## Summer Reading

Tuesday, June 2  
6-8 PM  
Open to All Ages!

### Featuring:

- Mike Darnell Magician
- Laser Tag
- Pony Rides & Petting Zoo
- Face Painting
- LWSRA Sensory Mobile
- Squid Splat Game
- Love on a Leash
- Crete Park District
- Imagination Library of Will County
- South Suburban Humane Society
- Enduring Strings Suburban Youth Orchestra
- & More!



### Food:

- Pizza (1 slice per person)
- Snow Cones from Old Plank Community Bank

Summer Reading is upon us, and our theme for this year is...

### **A Strange & Unusual Summer Reading: Uncover the Uncanny**

Summer Reading will run from Monday, June 1 through Saturday, August 1, with our first weekly check-in beginning Monday, June 8.

Summer Reading is open to everyone, with separate reading challenges for youth (birth-12), teens (13-17), and adults (18+). Stop by the Library beginning June 1 to pick up your reading log and *start uncovering the uncanny*.

Disclaimer: Weekly check-ins are not required, but the more you check in, the more chances you'll have to win fun prizes. Check in anytime during regular Library hours or online.

# Library Passport

Get ready to travel! This year, the Library is participating in the *Explore the Suburbs: 2026 Library Passport Adventure*, where patrons can explore libraries across the Chicago suburbs. Visit 35 participating public libraries and discover what makes each one unique; from collections and programs to spaces and services.

The Passport Adventure runs from May 26 through September 5.

Here's how it works:

- Pick up a passport from your home library
- Visit libraries on the passport list and collect a stamp at each location
- Return your passport to your home library with your library card to earn 1 prize ticket entry for every 5 libraries visited

Chances to Win:

- \$100 Amazon gift card
- CPLD prize basket



Take a road trip, discover new communities, and celebrate the joy of public libraries. Your next favorite library might be just a short drive away!



# Pet Food Donation Drive

The Library is proud to partner with the South Suburban Humane Society to host a Pet Food Donation Drive this summer. We will be collecting both dog and cat food, with a particular need for cat food. The drive will run from June 1 through August 8.

To encourage participation, donors will receive prize tickets for their contributions. Each donated item of dog food will earn one ticket, while each item of cat food will earn two tickets.

Donation boxes will be located in Patron Services, where prize tickets will be distributed.

Join us in supporting pets in need and making a positive impact in our community. We look forward to a pet-filled summer!

# New Logo & Website

We're excited to unveil the Library's fresh new look, including a brand new website and logo!

The website offers a more user friendly, accessible experience with improved navigation and helpful features to make it easier to find the information and resources you need. Our new logo ties to the library's architecture and captures our identity as a welcoming, unique, safe, hospitable, vibrant, and creative space.

We're thrilled to share this transformation and invite you to explore what's new!

# YOUTH PROGRAMS



## **Stories & Snacks in the Park\***

*Tuesdays: Jun. 2-30 & Jul. 7-28 from 3-3:30 pm* | All Ages  
The Crete Park District and Crete Public Library are teaming up again this summer for Stories & Snacks in the Park! Join Ms. Kerry every Tuesday for interactive story time and a free snack for children.

## **Strange PJs Storytime\***

*Wednesdays: Jun. 3 & 17 & Jul. 1 & Monday, Jul. 13 from 6-7 pm* | All Ages  
Join us at the Library in your PJs and slippers for some strange and silly stories.

## **Pokemon Club\***

*Saturdays: Jun. 13, Jul. 11, Aug. 8 from 3-4:30 pm*  
Bring your Pokemon cards to trade and battle or just hang out and have some Pokemon fun! (Try to defeat Gym Leader Dan for a prize!)



## **Poison Garden Creations**

*Thursday, Jun. 4 from 1-2 pm* | Ages 6-8  
*Thursday, Jun. 4 from 2:30-3:30 pm* | Ages 9-12  
We'll be designing our own Poison Garden just like Millie Fleur from our StoryWalk book, *Millie Fleur's Poison Garden*. We'll create an assortment of wonderfully weird plants!



## **Pre-K Creepy Crawly Storytime**

*Monday, Jun. 8 from 10-11 am* | Ages 3-5  
*Monday, Jun. 8 from 1-2 pm* | Ages 3-5  
Join in on our storytime where we read, sing, and craft about all things creepy crawly. This is a caregiver and child class. Please only sign up for one session (morning or afternoon.)

## **Paddy Lynn: Chillers Spooky Stories**

*Wednesday, Jun. 10 from 1-2 pm* | Families  
Join storyteller Paddy Lynn for silly, creative "not so spooky" stories that spark laughter and imagination while inviting children to help tell the tales!



## **Make Your Own Cryptid**

*Thursday, Jun. 11 from 1-2 pm* | Ages 6-12  
Across time and around the world, people have shared stories of mysterious creatures called cryptids. Join us as we create our own—where imagination has no limits!

# YOUTH PROGRAMS

## **Baby Creepy Crawly Storytime**

*Monday, Jun. 15 from 11-11:30 am | Ages 0-2*

Snuggle, bounce, and bond with your little one as we share rhymes, songs, and stories about creepy crawlies for ages 0-2 and their caregivers.

## **Curiosity Cabinets**

*Tuesday, Jun. 16 from 1-2 pm | Ages 4-6*

*Tuesday, Jun. 16 from 5-6 pm | Ages 7-12*

Join us for a fun afternoon of building and filling our own collection of odd ornaments and weird and wacky trinkets!

## **Istvan & His Imaginary Band**

*Wednesday, Jun. 17 from 11 am-12 pm | Families*

Istvan's fun, interactive kids' concert is a hit for all ages, mixing music, humor, and small lessons the whole family will enjoy. Don't miss this PBS Learn & Play artist live!

## **Magic Sparkle Unicorn Day**

*Saturday, Jun. 20 from 11 am-12 pm | Ages 6-12*

It's time to SPARKLE at our Magic Sparkle Unicorn Day. Unicorn lovers unite for fun crafts and games galore.

## **The Frog Lady**

*Monday, Jun. 22 from 6-7 pm | Families*

Explore the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians in one-of-a-kind herpetology programs that will educate and entertain! You will enjoy learning about animals from around the world while seeing them right up close.

## **Family Folk Song Fireside**

*Tuesday, Jun. 23 from 6-7:30 pm | Families*

Join us for a fun-filled night as we learn new folksongs, revisit old favorites, play some games, and enjoy some snacks!

## **Summer-ween**

*Wednesday, Jun. 24 storytime from 10:30-11 am | All Ages*

*Drop-in activities will run from 11 am-3 pm*

"We love Halloween so much, we celebrate it twice!" Join us for a Summerween storytime at 10:30 am, plus trick-or-treating and activities after. Costumes encouraged, not required.



## **Strange Sensory Play**

*Monday, Jun. 29 from 11 am-1 pm | All Ages*

Families can experience some strange (and not so strange) sensory play and activities. From blind touch boxes, to mixing "potions" and digging around for "worms," there is bound to be some sensory fun for everyone. Come dressed for messy play, just in case.

## **Design a Labubu**

*Monday, Jun. 29 from 4-5 pm | Ages 6-8*

*Monday, Jun. 29 from 6-7 pm | Ages 9-12*

Design the Labubu you've always dreamed of.



## **Insect Taxidermy**

*Wednesday, Jul. 1 from 2-3 pm | Ages 6-12*

Insect displays are a popular oddity to grace people's walls. Join us for a fun filled afternoon of creating our own taxidermy insect displays with pizzazz and flair. Please note: No real insects will be harmed.

## **Scary-Ka-Dabra**

*Monday, Jul. 6 from 1-2 pm | Families*

Join us at Scary-Ka-Dabra! Mr. Firu will delight families with his skillful and funny magic show using bats, ghosts, and skeletons. This show proves that magic tricks are the best treat!

## **Nessie's Water Wonderland**

*Wednesday, Jul. 8 from 6-7 pm | Families*

Nessie loves to play in her loch in Scotland, and we love to play in the water here in Crete! Join us at Nessie's Water Wonderland for a splashtacular evening of family fun! Come dressed for mess!

## **Monster Mystery**

*Saturday, Jul. 11 from 10 am-12 pm | Families*

A monster is posing as a guest at our fancy dinner and turning people into clucking chickens. Help us unmask the culprit before the soirée becomes a feathered fiasco!

## **Firefly Family Theater**

*Tuesday, Jul. 14 from 6-7 pm | Families*

Join Spark the Firefly and her friends for a summer night in Firefly Grove. Gather around the campfire to sing songs, listen to stories and watch the stars.

# YOUTH PROGRAMS

## Mothman Mayhem

Wednesday, Jul. 15 from 6-7 pm | Ages 8-12

On December 15, 1967, a bridge collapsed on the Ohio/West Virginia border, preceded by sightings of the Mothman. Join us to build a bridge strong enough to withstand it and create fun Mothman crafts!

## Pre-K Monster Mash Storytime

Thursday, Jul. 16 from 10-11 am | Ages 3-5

Thursday, Jul. 16 from 1-2 pm | Ages 3-5

Join in on our monstrous storytime where we read, sing, dance, and craft about all things monsters. This is a caregiver and child class. Please only sign up for one session (morning or afternoon.)

## K-Pop Pop-Up Party 2: K-Pop Demon Hunters

Saturday, Jul. 18 from 12-2 pm | All Ages

Back by popular demand, it's our K-Pop Demon Hunters party! Join us for a fun filled night of K-pop Demon Hunters activities! We'll have sing-alongs, dancing, and crafts! It's "gonna be gonna be golden!"

## Baby Monster Mash Storytime

Monday, Jul. 20 from 11-11:30 am | Ages 0-2

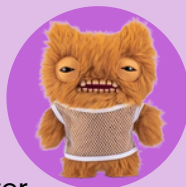
Snuggle, bounce, and bond with your little one as we share monstrous rhymes, songs, and stories for ages 0-2 and their caregivers.

## Make Your Own Fuggler

Monday, Jul. 20 from 4-5 pm | Ages 6-8

Monday, Jul. 20 from 6-7 pm | Ages 9-12

Create your own unique, funny, ugly monster.



## Lore & Legends

Tuesday, Jul. 21 from 6-7 pm | Families

Stories have been shared for generations, from fact to folklore. Join us for an evening of North American legends, from Johnny Appleseed to Bigfoot!

## Bigfoot Hunt

Wednesday, Jul. 22 from 5:30-7 pm | Families

BIGFOOT SPOTTED! The elusive cryptid has been seen in Crete, IL, and we need your help to find him. Bring your crew as we learn about this mysterious beast and track him down!



## I Got My Eyes on You: Google Eye Fun!

Thursday, Jul. 23 from 1-2 pm | Ages 6-8

Thursday, Jul. 23 from 2:30-3:30 pm | Ages 9-12

We've got eyes everywhere...google eyes that is. In this program we'll be making all sorts of crafts with everyone's favorite medium, google eyes!

## Spooky Stuff Sleepover

Wednesday, Jul. 29 from 5-5:45 pm | All Ages

Bring your stuffed animal for a not-too-spooky storytime, then leave them for a library sleepover. Pick them up the next day to see their spooky adventures!

## Paint the Parking Lot: Glow Edition\*

Friday, Jul. 31 from 6-8 pm | Families

Come dressed for the mess as we continue our annual Paint the Parking Lot event. During this drop-in event, you will get to paint a masterpiece on the pavement. Though the paint is washable, please wear clothes and shoes that can get paint on them.

## Desk Pet Habitats

Monday, Aug. 3 from 6-7 pm | Ages 6-12

Craft your own habitats for your little desk pet. Toy pets will be provided to all participants.

## Toddler Vet Clinic

Thursday, Aug. 6 from 10-11:30 am | Ages 6 months-

5 years old

Our pretend furry friends need your help! Join us at our imaginary veterinary clinic to explore being a veterinarian. This is a child and caregiver program.

## We Love Our Pets Storytime

Tuesday, Aug. 11 from 11-11:30 am | Families

Join us for a storytime all about pets. Whether you prefer ones that woof, purr, ribbit, glub, or squack -- there's no compETition as all types of pet-enthusiasts are welcome.

## Puppy Palooza

Thursday, Aug. 13 from 1-2 pm | Families

Are you the ulti-mutt dog lover? Join us at Puppy Palooza for a fun-filled afternoon celebrating our favorite furry friends! It's sure to be a paw-sitively amazing day!



# TEENS, TECH, & MORE!

## Teens

### Mimic the Masters: Teen Art Club

Monday, Jul. 20 & Wednesday, Jul. 22 from 1-4 pm  
Explore and create art from methods used by master artists or art movements. All supplies are provided.

#### Activity:

Create your own Ray Harryhausen inspired monster stop motion animation in this two-part session. Once you register for the first session, you will automatically be registered for the second session.

### Teen Volunteer Thursday

Thursdays: Jun. 11, Jul. 9, Aug. 13 from 3-5 pm  
Middle and high schoolers earn hours for their school community service requirements while making something for others at the Library.

#### Activities:

June: Alphabetize DVD collection  
July: Make dog toys for South Suburban Humane Society  
August: Make "Back-to-School" Kits



## Tech

### Intro to Spotify

Tuesday, Jun. 23 from 10-11:30 am



Loved the podcast class? Try a beginner-friendly intro to Spotify—explore music, podcasts, and playlists. Bring your device or just come ready to discover!

### Drop-in Tech Help\*

Tuesday, Jul. 28 from 10-11:30 am

Have a quick tech question? We can help! Visit the Library during our Tech Help Drop-In session to answer your questions.

### Online Safety & Security

Tuesday, Aug. 25 from 10-11:30 am

New scams pop up daily—learn simple tips to spot threats and stay safe online.

## All Ages

### Minds of All Kinds: Exploring ADHD, Autism, and Neurodiverse Experiences

Saturday, Jun. 13 from 2-4 pm

Join the Chicago Neurodiverse Social Club and CAYR Connections for a presentation and Q&A on neurodiversity. Learn about different neurotypes and how they shape experiences and explore helpful resources.

### Friday Night at the Movies\*

Fridays: Jun. 5, Jul. 17, & Aug. 21 at 8:30 pm

Join us for a family-friendly movie tied to our pet extravaganza theme! G or PG films will be shown after sunset at the Jan Heideman Pavilion, weather permitting. Bring a blanket/chair & snacks for a night under the stars!

## Teens & Adults

### Book Edge Painting

Saturday, Jun. 20 from 2-4 pm

Sprayed edges have taken over new books, but old favorites can be just as pretty! Bring in a copy of your favorite book from home, and we will provide all of the supplies to decorate the page edges to give a glimpse of the story within. A limited selection of books will be available for those who need one.

### DIY Pet Toys

Dogs: Wednesday, Jul. 15 from 11 am-12 pm

Cats: Tuesday, Aug. 25 from 6:30-7:45 pm

Come to one or both classes to make toys for your dogs and/or cats from everyday household items. Take toys home or leave them to donate to a local shelter.

### DIY Pet Treats

Tuesday, Jul. 28 from 6:30-7:45 pm

Making healthy treats from simple ingredients for your pets doesn't have to be complicated! Participants will have the opportunity to make a couple of different treats to take home for their dogs or cats.

### Fleece Blankets for Pets

Wednesday, Jul. 29 from 10 am-12 pm

Join us to make blankets for the cats and dogs of the South Suburban Humane Society. Materials will be provided to make no-sew fleece blankets.

# RECURRING ADULT PROGRAMS

## Activities & Resources

### Adult Writing Group\*

Mondays: Jun. 1, Jul. 6, & Aug 3 from 6-7:30 pm

### Trivia Nights at Evil Horse\*

Thursdays: Jul. 9 & Aug. 13 from 7-9 pm

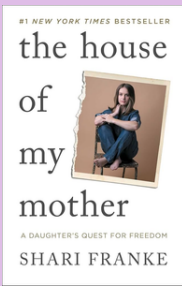
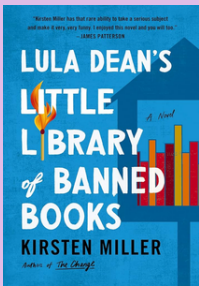
### Knot Just for Knitters\*

Thursdays: Jun. 4, Jul. 2, & Aug. 6 from 1-4 pm  
 Thursdays: Jun. 18, Jul. 16, & Aug. 20 from 6-7:30 pm

## Book Clubs

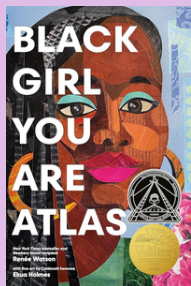
### CPLD Book Discussion Group\*

Mondays: Jun. 8, Jul. 13, & Aug. 10 from 6:30-7:30 pm



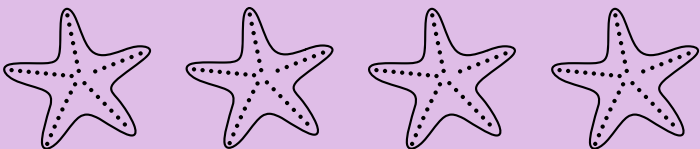
### Young Adult (for Adults) Book Club\*

Tuesdays: Jun. 16, Jul. 21, & Aug. 18 from 6-7 pm



### Silent Book Club\*

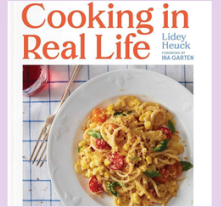
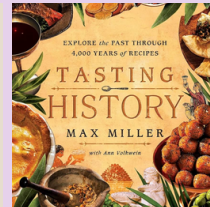
Wednesdays: Jun. 3, Jul. 1, & Aug. 5 from 6-7:30 pm  
 No assigned reading, choose your own book.



### Book Appétit Cookbook Book Club

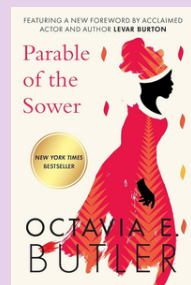
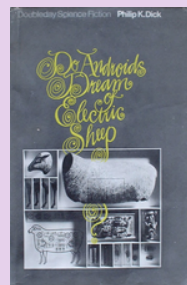
Mondays: Jun. 29, Jul. 27, & Aug. 31 from 6-7:30 pm

Bring a dish from the book to share and discuss.



### Sci-Fi Book Club\*

Wednesdays: Jun. 3, Jul. 1, & Aug. 5 from 6-7:30 pm



## Movies

### Film Club: Summer Series\*

Thursdays from 5:30-8 pm  
 Jun. 18: The Third Man  
 Jun. 25: Strangers on a Train  
 Jul. 16: The Big Sleep  
 Jul. 23: The Maltese Falcon  
 Aug. 20: Sunset Boulevard  
 Aug. 27: Double Indemnity



### Retro Movie Fridays\*

Fridays at 2:30 pm  
 Visit [cretelibrary.org/retro](http://cretelibrary.org/retro) for our summer schedule.



## Cooking Classes



### Virtual Cooking Classes with Kristyn Slick

Wednesdays from 6:30-8 pm  
 Jun. 17: Steakhouse at Home  
 Jul. 8: Southern Shrimp Boil  
 Aug. 12: Summer Salads



# ADULT PROGRAMS

## Tai Chi: Gentle Fitness

*Saturday, Jun. 13 from 10-11:30 am*

Improve balance, flexibility, and reduce stress with gentle, flowing movements in this relaxing, low impact class for all fitness levels.

## Community Popup Clinic

*Tuesday, Jun. 16 from 10 am-2 pm*

The Will Grundy Medical Clinic will be at the Library, giving patrons the opportunity to receive: A1c Testing, Lipid Testing, Glucose Test, & Blood Pressure Test.

## AARP Safe Driver Course

*Thursday, Jun. 25 & Friday, Jun. 26 from 9:30 am-1:30 pm*

Take the AARP Smart Driver™ classroom course and save on auto insurance! This 2-day class for ages 50+ refreshes driving skills, reviews road rules, and shares safe driving tips. Cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for nonmembers, due on day one.

## Pet Photos

*Saturday, Jun. 27 from 12-2 pm*

Want a professional photo of your pet? Join our Pet Photos program for high quality portraits of your furry friend.

## UFO Disclosure: Social Dilemmas & More

*Wednesday, Jul. 8 from 6-7:30 pm*

Explore the current and historical challenges surrounding UFO disclosure in this engaging program led by Sam Maranto, State Director of the Illinois Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

## It's Alive! The Birth of Universal Monsters

*Wednesday, Jul. 15 from 6:30-7:30 pm*

Founded by Carl Laemmle, Universal Monsters rose to fame by embracing audience demand for thrills and becoming a leader in horror films. Join us to explore the studio's legacy.

## Illinois Assistive Technology Program

*Friday, Jul. 17 from 11 am-12:30 pm*

The Illinois Department on Aging and Illinois Assistive Technology Program offer free support for safe, independent living, including assistive devices, training, funding, and resources.

## The George Burns and Gracie Allen Radio and Television Show

*Monday, Jul. 20 from 6-7:30 pm*

If you love classic radio and TV and remember George Burns and Gracie Allen, you'll enjoy this presentation.

## Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

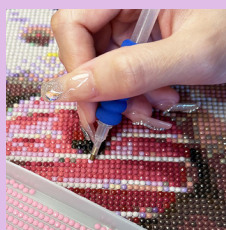
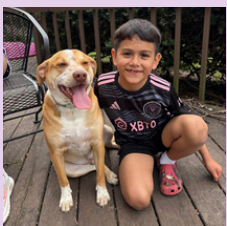
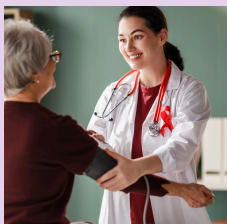
*Saturday, Jul. 25 from 1-3 pm*

Teams will compete to complete a 300-piece jigsaw puzzle in the fastest time. Each team's puzzle will be the same picture. Teams can have up to 4 members maximum. Only 1 person per team should register.

## Remember Bedazzle? Meet Diamond Art Painting!

*Saturday, Aug. 1 from 2-3:30 pm*

Join us for a relaxing Diamond Art program! Create a sparkling masterpiece using tiny gems.



# ADULT PROGRAMS

## Sew for Charity

Wednesday, Aug. 12 from 10 am-2 pm

Join us for a sewing workshop to make walker bags for local nursing and veterans homes through Quilters Plus.

## DIY Bird Feeder

Wednesday, Aug. 12 from 6:30-7:45 pm

This program is for teens and adults. Join us to make a homemade bird feeder using simple supplies from around the house or yard.

## Monthly Meditation Group

Saturdays: Jun. 6, Jul. 25, & Aug. 29 from 10-11 am

Join us for guided meditation focused on mindfulness, stress reduction, self-compassion and wellness.

## Loom Knitting

Saturdays: Jun. 13, Jul. 11, & Aug. 8 from 10 am-12 pm

Come learn the basic knit stitch, or if you already know it, learn to purl.

## Summer Concert Series

Concerts will run from 6-7 pm  
Wednesday, Jun. 17: Caught on Cline

Monday, Jul. 13: Big Dog Mercer

Thursday, Jul. 30: Dave Rudolf

Wednesday, Aug 19: Swing 33

## Fun with Fido Series

Tuesdays: Jun. 16-30 & Jul. 7 from 10-11 am

Join us for a four week series of classes with fun activities for dogs and their owners.

## Crete's Favorite Pet Photo Contest

It's a pet-themed summer! Do you have the cutest kitten, the smartest dog, the naughtiest pony or the funniest chicken? Then submit a photo to enter them in the very first Crete's Favorite Pets Contest!

One photo of each pet may be submitted via email to [contest@cretelibrary.org](mailto:contest@cretelibrary.org) or in person at the Library between July 13 and August 1. Voting by the community will begin on August 10 and run through August 29. May the paws be ever in your favor!

## Crete Creative



Crete Creative  
Gallery & School

### Diane Lee Show

Saturday, Jun. 27 to Saturday, Aug. 15

#### Opening Reception & Art Market:

Saturday, Jun. 27 from 11 am-1 pm

Born in Korea, Diane Lee is a former art teacher now completing her MFA at Columbia College Chicago. Her textile-based work explores family memory, emotional inheritance, and loss.

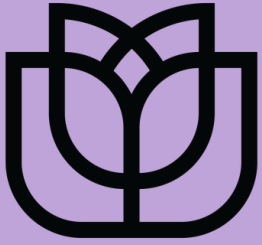
### Kristy Lausten Show

Saturday, Aug. 22 to Saturday, Oct. 3

#### Opening Reception & Art Market:

Saturday, Aug. 22 from 11 am-1 pm

Kristy Lausten is a Chicago-area fine artist whose work is inspired by overlooked beauty and inner worlds. She holds a BFA from Columbia College Chicago and completed the Mastery Program at the Milan Art Institute.



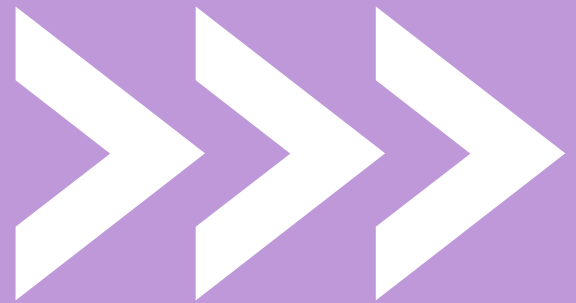
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# STRATEGIC PLAN

# 2026-2028



## ***A message from Library Director, David Sieffert:***

We're pleased to share the Library's new strategic plan, now available on our website! This plan, covering 2026 through 2028, reflects a thoughtful process designed to align library services with the evolving needs of the Crete community. Beginning in early 2025, the project was organized into three phases: Learn, Dream, and Do. Insights from our community, staff, and Board helped shape a clear purpose centered on providing a welcoming space for exploration, growth, and creativity.

The plan outlines three key priorities: expanding awareness of library services and partnerships, improving spaces and services to better meet community needs, and fostering collaboration and diversity to support a strong, vibrant organization. Each priority includes targeted goals to increase outreach, enhance programs and facilities, and ensure staff are well-prepared and reflective of the community.

We're grateful to everyone who contributed their time and input to help bring this plan to life, and we look forward to continuing to serve the residents of Crete through 2028 and beyond.