

The Seattle Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
12:00 p.m. Thursday, June 29, 2023

Howard S. Wright Family & Janet W. Ketcham Meeting Room 2, Level 4
1000 Fourth Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

Remote Listen Line:

Dial: 213-282-4570 / Phone conference ID: 757 289 495#

Watch Live:

<https://www.microsoft.com/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>

Meeting ID: 268 017 283 214 Passcode: ZXU8mJ

- To submit public comment in writing, email: library.board@spl.org.
 - To provide public comment in person at the Central Library, sign up in the meeting room.
 - To provide public comment remotely, join meeting with link above and enter your full name in Q&A.
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Agenda

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- C. PUBLIC COMMENT
- D. CONSENT
 - 1. Minutes of May 25, 2023 Library Board Regular Meeting
 - 2. May 2023 Finance Reports
- E. CHIEF LIBRARIAN REPORT
 - 1. Chief Librarian Report
 - 2. System Report
 - a. 2023 Global Reading: Jenny Craig, Global Reading Challenge Librarian
- F. OLD BUSINESS
- G. NEW BUSINESS
 - 1. Library Foundation and Friends of the Library Updates
 - 2. Updates from Library Board Members
- H. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- I. ADJOURN
- J. NEXT LIBRARY BOARD MEETING: July 27, 2023

(For more information, call Laura Gentry, head of the Communications Office, at 206-915-9028.)

Unapproved Board Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting
The Seattle Public Library
May 25, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of The Seattle Public Library (SPL) Board of Trustees was held on May 25, 2023. Library Board President Carmen Bendixen called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Trustees Jay Reich, Ron Chew, and Yazmin Mehdi were in attendance. Vice President Tali Hairston was unable to attend. The meeting was conducted with a remote attendance option via video conference.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as published; the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was accepted via email, in person at the Central Library, and online in the remote meeting. There were no public comments.

CONSENT

It was moved and seconded to approve the consent agenda as published; the motion carried with two votes and one abstention.

CHIEF LIBRARIAN REPORT

Chief Librarian Report

Executive Director and Chief Librarian Tom Fay said the strategic planning project is in the engagement phase, connecting with internal and external stakeholders, and a survey would be out soon. He said there has been a lot of good participation. He said the Core Team is working to rethink and define the Library's internal and external values. He said the consultant's illustrators have been working on a draft illustration of concepts that will provide visual learners with a quick conceptual idea of what the Library is trying to do. Mr. Fay said there will be a full-day Core Team meeting in July to address bigger issues around theory of change and impacts the Library wants to see based on input received. He said this phase of the work will continue through the summer.

Mr. Fay said the Library launched its Books Unbanned program and is excited with results so far, having well over 2,000 sign ups. He said the Library appreciates the Foundation's support, as well as the work of the Communications and Marketing team.

Mr. Fay said the Library celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Soul Pole on April 29. He said there was amazing turnout for the event, and librarian Taylor Brooks did an excellent job working with the community and bringing folks in. He said he appreciated all of the work that was done as well as the support from community and organizations that worked with the Library to restore the Soul Pole. Mr. Fay said it is evident how much the Soul Pole still means to the community.

Mr. Fay said he attended the Urban Library Council's CEO Roundtable in New York where leaders of 150-160 large library systems representing about 30-40 million residents in North America came together for interesting discussion on hard topics including difficulties in library spaces, staffing challenges, book bans, and censorship. He said an interesting presentation on responsible artificial

intelligence (AI) was presented by Dr. Chirag Shah from the University of Washington. Mr. Fay said he also gave a presentation on foresight and how it can help with strategic thinking.

Mr. Fay said the Foundation had to cancel a recent fundraiser, featuring Ron Chew at the Wing Luke Museum, due to a power outage. He said it will be rescheduled and thanked staff for their work on the program. Library Board Trustee Ron Chew said the Foundation did a wonderful job planning the program, and many people were already on site when the program was canceled. He said attendance had been capped at 100 due to room capacity, and there were 50 people on the wait list. He said many people who arrived early made donations to the Foundation despite the program's cancellation. Mr. Chew said the program would be rescheduled on September 30, and they are hoping to use a larger space in the museum to accommodate high interest.

Mr. Fay said he gave a talk at Mirabella Seattle about what is happening at the Library, and he asked Jonna Ward, Executive Director of the Foundation to join him. He said 80-85 attendees included retired librarians, doctors, attorneys and nurses, and he had interesting discussions with the attendees and the Mirabella librarian, as well as a tour of the Mirabella library. Mr. Fay said he and Ms. Ward also attended a program called "Defining our Future AI for Community Impact" at the Microsoft Redmond campus. He said it was a very good presentation including several sessions on Microsoft efforts and their new "Copilot" AI tool. He said the tool has great potential as well as concerns. He said ChatCPT, a generative chat tool, has had 100 million users in less than 90 days. He said, to put that in context, it took 16 years for cell phones to reach 100 million people, and 4.5 years for Facebook to get 100 million users. He said the rapid use of AI tools will see great use and potential, but also a lot of concerns including those about validity of sources and biases, which libraries and librarians are in a good position to help navigate. He said the Library needs to be thinking about this now because it's happening quickly. He said the City has some concerns around it from a public disclosure request standpoint in terms of what is being created generatively and what is content created by humans. Mr. Fay said the Library is beginning discussions with the City on potentially creating public programs around AI with the City's IT department.

Mr. Fay said he and a group of Library staff met with staff from the YMCA of Greater Seattle about a number of potential partnerships and collaborations. He said he has also had meetings with CEO Loria Yeadon over the past few months to talk about Library work and opportunities for partnerships. He said Ms. Yeadon graciously sent information about Books Unbanned to her networks through the YMCA which serves communities nationwide.

Mr. Fay said Administrative Services Director Alex Yoon's last day was Friday, and Human Resources Director Ludy Marz' last day will be in early June. He said the Library will be exploring internal interim leadership options for a few months while recruiting for the permanent positions. He said he has hired Jessica Smith to fill the Strategy and Policy Advisor position. He said Ms. Smith comes to the Library from the City. He said she has done great work in a number of efforts, and he looks forward to welcoming her on June 7.

Mr. Fay recommended the Board read reports in the meeting packet on the Tax Help program, the Communications Office report, and a report on older adult programming. Answering a question from Library Board Trustee Yazmin Mehdi regarding hiring to replace the two directors, Mr. Fay said he would be seeking internal interest for filling interim positions while conducting a search for permanent hires. He said recruiting for the positions will be challenging, but SPL has strong teams in place. He said he will oversee the Finance Office through the budget process.

Mr. Chew said Books Unbanned and SPL's leadership is appreciated by many community members. Ms. Mehdi concurred. Mr. Fay said the Library and the Foundation have received a lot of positive feedback. He said GiveBIG donations to the Foundation were up, while donations to other

organizations were down, which is likely partly due to Books Unbanned. He said comments included with sign-ups are both heartwarming and heart wrenching. He said the program is helping people to connect to banned books, access titles on topics they aren't able to check out in their own libraries, and access books when they live in remote areas far away from a library. He said there is a spectrum of reasons people are signing up for the program, and their statements are powerful.

Library Board President Carmen Bendixen said the summer Book Bingo program kicked off today and she looks forward to participating. Ms. Mehdi said both Seattle Reads author Julie Otsuka and author Amanda Gorman have had their books banned; she said it would be terrific to have statistics from Books Unbanned to guide future decisions while there is a trend for policy takeover by state governments in Texas, Florida, and other parts of the country. She said she is very proud of SPL's Books Unbanned program and she heard from others who are also thrilled about it. Mr. Fay said one of Ms. Otsuka's books is one of the most checked out through Books Unbanned, and Ms. Otsuka addressed the issue in her comments at Seattle Reads events. Mr. Fay said there is an effort to try to bring other library systems into the program under one banner to make the program stronger. He said efforts to ban and censor are well-organized, well-orchestrated, and well-funded, so libraries need to look at the issue nationwide. He said groups like the Urban Libraries Council are also talking about the issue. He said libraries need to look at how to use private funds and advocacy networks to interject and counter the activity to keep intellectual freedom first and foremost in mind and hopefully derail some of the attempts to ban and censor. He said Books Unbanned is a bridge to an ultimate solution. Library Board Trustee Jay Reich said he seconds all of the comments and agrees that Books Unbanned is a fantastic program.

NEW BUSINESS

The Seattle Public Library Equity Statement

Mr. Fay said the equity statement has been a long time in the making. He said he has spoken often about an equity road map; and wanted to have something that addressed how the Library moves forward as well as formalizing a statement about equity and what it means to the Library, the Library's definition of equity, and how the Library sees it being applied in its work both from an external perspective and also internally as an organization. He said the Library will look at how to continue to make needed changes to break down racial and other intersectional barriers that interfere with access to information and Library services. He said a lot of work has been done by many SPL staff to get to this stage. He said Assistant Director of Equity Learning and Engagement Services Valerie Garrett-Turner started work on the statement with Library Programs and Services Director Andrew Harbison and a staff committee to create something for the Library Programs and Services division. He said the Library's equity statement builds on the great work they did for their division. He said many other staff and the Library's Race and Social Justice Change Team have also provided input and feedback. Mr. Fay said the Library's Communications team has been brilliant in tying all of the pieces together, and Digital Communications Strategist Bennett Barr worked with Mr. Fay to draft a document that is meaningful. Mr. Fay said the document is a beginning, and is not the end-all of equity at the Library. He said the Library will continue to grow, learn, and adapt, and will have the opportunity to bring it back to the Library Board to push the work farther. He said an external piece will be on the website for the public and patrons.

Mr. Fay said, after 19 years, the Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) is no longer an initiative; he said this is the Library's work. He said the organization is not perfect and there is a lot of internal and external work to do to make sure the Library becomes the institution it wants to be in the next ten years. He said ultimately, there will be no equality in this country without equity. He said it may take the country a long time to figure that out, but the Library knows that there can be no equality without true equity, which is something the Library will strive for through its programs and internal work.

Mr. Fay said the Board had in their packet a preamble, the statement, and priorities for the year which will be updated year-to-year. He said this will be a public statement of the Library's annual priorities, and the public website will also be updated for transparency, and so that people can see results and accountability. He said the Library will continue to develop, recognize where there are deficiencies, move the work forward, and move equity work to a larger scale. He said work has been done in pilots and smaller groups, and resources are largely committed to running a very large information operation with books, materials, and branches. He said this work is equally and maybe more important, and the Library will need to look at creating new revenue sources or reallocating resources to move the work forward in the future. He said it is reflected in the strategic planning work that is currently happening as the Library talks about centering the community and being the ultimate community connector. He said that work will require additional resources.

Ms. Mehdi said she is interested to see how the Library puts the equity statement into action and how it will mesh with the work plan for the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Mr. Fay said the priorities are included in the document after the statement. He said those are the elements the Library is working on now that will be updated yearly. He said the Library will report on its successes as well as failures. He said this doesn't address everything happening at SPL; these are some of the higher level pieces being worked on. He said staff in all locations, as well as the Equity, Learning and Engagement Services team, are all doing incredible work, and those pieces are not reflected in this document. He said the goal is to make sure the larger systems and issues are represented; and even those will continue to build and change over time. Ms. Mehdi asked if Mr. Fay foresees the efforts coming together so that one can see the progress being made. Mr. Fay said that is his goal. He said this work would be identified, along with the work that goes into the annual RSJI reports for the City Council, so that the Board is fully aware where the Library is making progress and where it is not.

Mr. Chew asked, as the Library advances its work in this area, if other city departments are on a parallel track, and if the Mayor's Office is driving advancement in this area. Mr. Fay said SPL is in touch with city discussions and efforts. He said the Mayor's Office wants an external focus, and the Office of Civil Rights also wants to make sure there is an internal element. He said the City is still working on how to mesh all of that together. He said these are the kinds of discussions that happen every day at the Library and the City. He said the work needs to move forward from a patron, citizen, and resident perspective so that the public is getting the services they need. He said the Office of Civil Rights is in the same portfolio as the Library, under Deputy Mayor Wong. Ms. Mehdi said the statement seems to focus on how the Library wants to improve the lives of those who have been historically marginalized. She said it is important to know that by improving the lives of those who have been historically marginalized, everyone is better off. She said there are proven data points about issues such as adding women and people of color to corporate boards having a direct relationship with the bottom line of those corporations. Ms. Mehdi said the Library should also put that kind of lens to this work in a statement that reflects that by improving the lives of historically marginalized folks, it improves all of our lives and creates a better society. Mr. Fay said that is a great point and is one that can be included as the Library creates the website and makes sure that the context is in the preamble. He said the Library will be sharing success stories and challenges around its efforts; he said the Library is lifting up all voices because it lifts us all up together. Mr. Fay said the Communications team is listening to the meeting and will make sure that context is provided. Ms. Mehdi said when the Library adds books and resources from unrepresented communities, everyone now has access to that information and is enriched by it, not only the people who might feel better reflected in those sources. Mr. Fay agreed and said people learn from other cultures. He said it's also a good way for the Library to think about and look at outcomes and impacts. He said data points can reflect how changes make things better for everyone.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Statement on Equity, Race and Social Justice as published; the motion carried unanimously.

2023 First Quarter Levy Report

Levy Administrator Jan Oscherwitz thanked Mr. Fay and Ms. Bendixen for presenting the 2022 annual report to the City Council's Public Assets and Homelessness Committee the week before. She said the report was well received, and the Council was interested in the Library's new social services team. Ms. Oscherwitz reviewed the information presented in the "1st Quarter 2023 Levy Report" memo in the meeting packet. She said, under the Hours and Access levy promise, the Library did not meet its goal to add an additional weekday hour Monday through Thursday because patron input in 2021 indicated much more interest in adding hours on the weekends over adding late evening hours. She said although the Library didn't meet the commitment in that area, it is providing a significantly higher level of service on the weekends.

Ms. Mehdi asked how carefully the Library needs to adhere to specific promises made in the levy. Ms. Oscherwitz said the legal requirement is different than what the Library had provided in its proposal, and the Library has flexibility in terms of implementation. She said in the ordinance, the intent was clear that the Library would add an hour during the week. She said, however, circumstances have changed since 2019, and the Library has the flexibility to respond to that.

Ms. Mehdi asked how the Library is thinking about future efforts to give people digital access beyond hot spots. Mr. Fay said the Library's Information Technology (IT) team is looking at that issue. He said the Library has many long-standing IT infrastructure issues including a need for resources to support staffing, consulting, equipment, networking, hardware and software. He said the Library needs to consider business functions, such as the integrated library system (ILS) that does all the check-ins and check-outs and provides the basis for the catalog. Mr. Fay said the IT team is working on upgrading the ILS as well as integrating new technologies to be more efficient and effective. He said IT is following developments in AI and potential uses for the public, as well as what other hard technologies SPL may be able to provide. He said SPL has deferred IT infrastructure improvements, so it is currently catching up before being able to offer new services and technologies.

Mr. Reich said there is flexibility built into the legal documentation for the Levy; he said the Library should be careful about saying it failed in a commitment when in fact, the goals were modified as result of changed circumstances. He said, in keeping faith with the voters, SPL made changes based on new information, which is not failure, but the reality of implementation over a long period of time. He said the characterization is important because the Library is meeting commitments and can explain modifications. Mr. Fay agreed. He said the Library has also augmented open hours with new technology through lockers, which is a meaningful new option to access materials before or after open hours, which extends the range of services and options for patrons. Mr. Fay said the Library has achieved huge success coming out of the pandemic, facing staffing challenges, and addressing an increase in challenges in Library spaces, while also providing open hours. He said public input was sought as circumstances and user preference changed through two years of a pandemic. Mr. Reich said the standard of success is increasing access to materials and services, and the modalities shifted due to circumstances, but the Library has been successful. Ms. Bendixen agreed.

It was moved and seconded to approve the First Quarter 2023 Levy Report as published; the motion carried unanimously.

Library Foundation and Friends of the Library Updates

Ms. Bendixen said Friends Board member Kim Love ran the meeting; she said the Friends are rotating meeting hosting among board members to develop leadership. She said they are updating

their meeting packet format to improve the distribution of information. She said the Friends Board reviewed first quarter financials which showed a positive bottom line. She said the second half of the meeting was reserved for committee work.

Mr. Fay said at their meeting, the Foundation Board covered their first quarter 2023 financials. He said investments are up 5% and they are starting to see a reversal of trends, but are still taking a conservative approach to investing. He said the Foundation's 2022 financial statement audit was completed with no issues found, and Chief Financial Officer Kay Odrosky was acknowledged for her high standards of accounting principles and practices. He said as of May 3, the Foundation has fundraised \$893,000, which is 29.3% of their goal. He said on Library Giving Day, they raised \$267,000, which was 99% of their goal; and they raised \$92,000 for GiveBIG, which was 102% of their goal. He said the Books Unbanned initiative is resonating with donors. Mr. Fay said construction cost estimates for air conditioning and electrification projects at the Southwest and Northeast branches had nearly doubled, and the Library has asked the Foundation for \$500,000 capital investment to complete the projects. He said he has been speaking with Councilmember Pedersen about the Northeast project, and he expects both projects to be finished around November. He said supply chain issues, equipment challenges, and converting from fossil fuels to electric are complicated. He said other entities are required in addition to the general contractor. He thanked the Foundation for supporting the construction work in addition to supporting Books Unbanned.

Mr. Fay said Institutional and Strategic Advancement Director Rick Sheridan presented the 2022 Foundation Grant Spending Report, showing how funds were expended and explaining underspend. He said the Library had a great program year and expended 92-93% of the funds. He said the Foundation Board is in their final review of the three-way Partnership agreement between the Library Foundation and Friends and hope to vote at their July 12 meeting. Mr. Fay said the Friends Board and Library Board also plan to vote at their July meetings. He said he is very happy to see the work and partnership continuing to develop and more collaboration occurring between all three entities.

Mr. Fay said the Foundation Board elected three new members: Karen Conover, Roy Hamrick and Matt Hillman; and also approved a motion to include DEI as the 5th priority of the Foundation Strategic Plan: 'Organizational Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.' He said the Foundation Board has been developing its DEI practice and awareness of how to think about the practices through every aspect of their organization, and has done some very good work.

Updates from Library Board Members

Mr. Chew said he participated in an interview with consultant Greg Netzer for the strategic planning effort. He said he is impressed with the work that is being done and excited about where the process will lead. Mr. Fay agreed that he likes Mr. Netzer's approach and willingness to listen. He said Mr. Netzer has been challenged by the process of bringing in so many contributors to the community engagement, including representatives from the Deaf Blind community, and he enjoys the challenge of listening and engaging in different ways with different community members.

Ms. Bendixen said Mr. Chew and Mr. Hairston would be attending the American Library Association Conference in Chicago in June. Mr. Reich said he would also be attending. Mr. Fay said several SPL staff members would be attending as well. Mr. Reich asked Mr. Fay to suggest sessions he thinks may be particularly valuable; he said there are hundreds of sessions, and it is difficult to choose.

ADJOURN

Board President Carmen Bendixen adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.



The Seattle Public Library

Memorandum

Date: June 29, 2023

To: The Seattle Public Library Board of Trustees

From: Tom Fay, Executive Director and Chief Librarian
Nicholas Merkner, Finance and Operations Analysis Manager

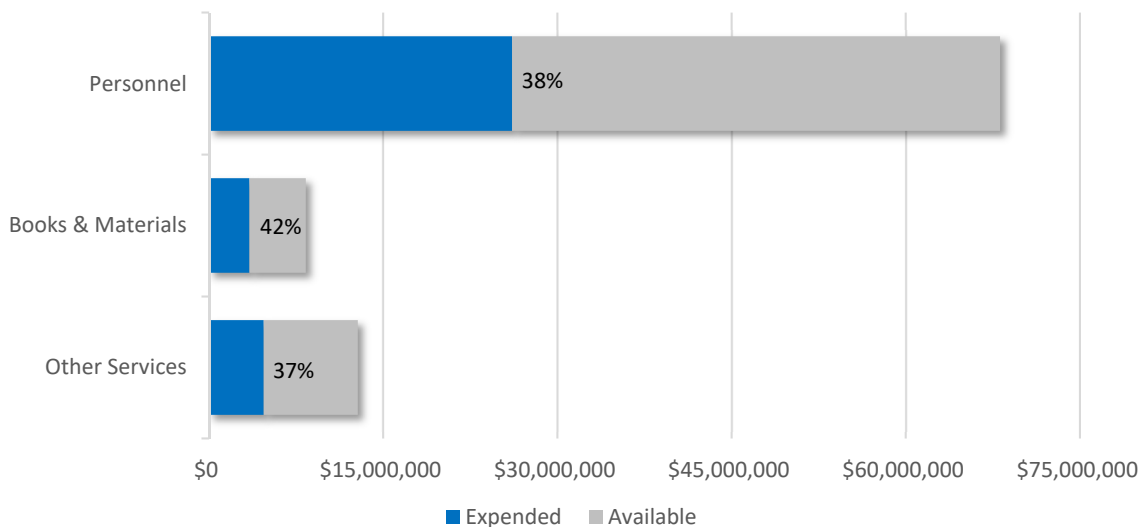
Subject: **May 2023 Financial Reporting**

Overview

Overall, the Library has expended **39%** of its operating budget with **41%** of the year elapsed. This is in line with the prior year when the Library had expended **38%** of the operating budget. Total expenditures at the end of the month were \$34 million.

The chart below provides a high level overview of year-to-date spending by budget group, and also helps to illustrate relative sizes within the Library's operating budget.

YTD Spending vs. Budget (% Spent)



Personnel Services

Personnel costs represent the largest category of expenses at the Library and make up 76% of the revised operating budget. As of this report there have been **eleven pay periods processed**, so we expect 41% of the personnel budget to be expended—spending is largely on target at **38%**.

Non-Personnel Services

The largest individual category of expenditures within the non-personnel budget is related to library books and materials—this category represents 9% of the revised operating budget. Spending is as expected at **42%**.

Other accounts which represent 15% of the adopted budget—and include equipment, services, and supplies—are **37%** expended.

Revenues

Library generated revenues for the period under review are **\$68,000**—bringing year-to-date collection to **\$309,000 (53%** of our target).

As has been noted on previous reports—but is still important to identify from a longitudinal stability perspective—the Library’s 2023 revenue budget of \$584,000 is \$282,000 short of the Library’s pre-COVID revenues of \$866,000. This \$282,000 delta has been funded through use of accumulated Library Fund Balance. With the Library trending ahead of 2023 projections, it means this use of Fund Balance can be preserved for use in future budget periods.

Action Requested: Library Board consideration of May 2023 Operating Budget financial reporting for approval at June 29, 2023 meeting. Comments or feedback are welcome.

Expenditure Control for May 2023

Amounts in \$1,000s	Revised Budget*	Current Month Expenditures	Year to Date Expenditures	% Expend	Balance of Budget
Personnel Services					
Salaries	44,459	3,385	16,763	38%	27,696
Benefits	23,659	1,857	9,330	39%	14,330
Personnel Services Sub-Total	\$68,118	\$5,243	\$26,093	38%	\$42,025
Books and Library Materials					
Books & Materials	8,338	679	3,489	42%	4,849
Books and Library Materials Sub-Total	\$8,338	\$679	\$3,489	42%	\$4,849
Other Services and Charges					
Central Costs	2,814	236	1,178	42%	1,636
Equipment - IT & Facilities	2,041	524	828	41%	1,213
Office Supplies, Printing & Postage	304	39	106	35%	198
Operating Supplies	509	52	191	38%	318
Other Expenses	492	49	90	18%	402
Other Maintenance	758	105	214	28%	544
Phone, Wireless & Internet	546	12	165	30%	382
Professional Services	564	41	189	33%	375
Software	857	(15)	273	32%	584
Staff Training & Travel	207	16	54	26%	153
Vehicle Costs	280	30	138	49%	142
Facilities - Space Rental & Utilities	1,768	184	922	52%	846
Facilities - Building & Grounds Maint	1,223	153	341	28%	883
Facilities - Garage Debt Service	450	-	23	5%	427
Other Services and Charges Sub-Total	\$12,814	\$1,427	\$4,710	37%	\$8,103
TOTAL LIBRARY OPERATING BUDGET	\$89,270	\$7,348	\$34,293	39%	\$54,977

Footnotes:

* Includes \$1.2M in prior year encumbrance and grant budget authority

Revenue Control for May 2023

	Revenue Budget	Current Month Revenue	Year to Date Revenue Collected	% Collected
Operations Plan Other Library Revenue				
Lost Material Fees	110,000	6,999	54,661	50%
Central Library Parking Garage Fees	235,000	29,372	127,498	54%
Copy Services/Pay for Print	110,000	7,119	37,457	34%
Space Rental (Private & Inter-Departmental)	81,050	20,050	54,887	68%
Book Sale Consignment	45,000	5,092	34,202	76%
Coffee Cart & Miscellaneous (vending machines, etc.)	3,000	137	811	27%
TOTAL LIBRARY GENERATED REVENUES				
	\$584,050	\$68,768	\$309,516	53%

Footnotes:



The Seattle Public Library








Date: June 29, 2023
To: Library Board of Trustees
From: Tom Fay, Executive Director and Chief Librarian
Re: June 2023 Chief Librarian's Report

1. On May 27, Brave Books and author Kirk Cameron rented a room at the Central Library for a private event featuring a children's book reading. The Library has received feedback from community members who oppose rental of the room to the author due to statements he has made about the LGBTQ+ community. The Library has also heard from those in support of upholding intellectual freedom who have thanked us for allowing the room booking per Library policy. Following this private event, the Library was denied a table at the Seattle Trans Pride celebration on June 23. The Library respects the decision of Trans Pride organizer Gender Justice League and we hope to have the opportunity to speak with them further about these issues after Pride month celebrations. The Library is working to create space for staff to discuss these issues and discussing how best to support the principles of intellectual freedom, equity, and inclusiveness at the Library. The Library also actively welcomes communication and discussion with affected community members and organizations.
2. On June 3, I was honored to present the keynote address for the University of Washington's Information School and a graduating class of approximately 700 graduates and 3,000 of their friends and families. The event was broadcast live and is also available on YouTube.
3. June 10-13, I attended and presented at the International Public Library Fundraising Conference (IPLFC) in Austin, TX. The IPLFC was co-founded by The Seattle Public Library Foundation and Carl Bloom Associates in 2017 for public library development professionals to explore common areas of interest, network with others who successfully raise money for their libraries, and hear from other fundraising experts. The conference has steadily grown, and is now attended by library fundraisers and library directors from throughout North America.
4. On June 15, I spoke at a breakfast fundraiser and friend-raiser at the Columbia Tower Club, hosted by Foundation Board member Jeanette Flory-Sagan. My speech covered a high-level overview of the Library, current capital improvement efforts, and the Books Unbanned program. The talk was well-received and I appreciate the work of the Foundation Board to continue to develop interest and support for the Library in their networks and beyond.
5. Following the departure of the Library's Director of Administrative Services in late May and the Director of Human Resources in early June, the Library opened internal opportunities for

interim leadership while we recruit for permanent hires. Heather Delaney has stepped into the role of Interim Director for HR, having a lengthy career in human resources support and management, and seven years in positions of increasing authority at SPL. A hiring decision for interim leadership of Administrative Services is forthcoming.

Meetings and events during this reporting period:

- a. Board Meetings: Monthly Library Board of Trustees meeting; Monthly calls with Library Board President; monthly meeting of Friends of the Library's Board; monthly meeting of Library and Friends leadership.
- b. Standing Meetings: Compensation Committee; Senior Management Team; Monthly Managers meeting; Union/Leadership meetings; Long-Term Sustainability meeting; Foundation CEO/Chief Librarian bi-monthly meetings; Strategic Planning Core Team meetings.
- c. Library Talks, Meetings, Interviews and Visits: KCLS Director meetings; Metro area library director meetings; Meetings with Washington library directors and State Librarian; Urban Libraries Council Director/CEO meeting; Puget Sound Library Directors quarterly meeting; Meeting of US urban library directors on library funding and foundations.
- d. City Meetings, Events and Programs: Mayor's Monthly Cabinet.

LIBRARY AT A GLANCE			
Active Users – Last 12 Months	 278K 1%	Monthly Users – Digital	 98K 8%
		Monthly Users – Physical	 41K -3%
Monthly Questions Answered	 59K -5%	Monthly Circulation – Digital	 601K 0%
		Monthly Circulation – Physical	 495K -1%

The percent of change is a comparison to prior month data. Physical circulation includes renewals.

IN FOCUS: Hot spots

Hot spots continue to be the most popular item the Library circulates.

Overview: Hot Spots

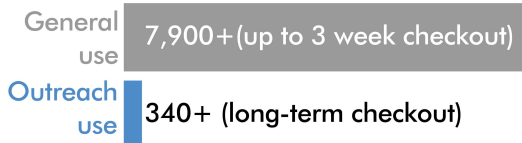
The Library offers portable WiFi hot spots. These devices are not limited to a specific location and are utilized by patrons as a temporary internet solution. Patrons can borrow these devices for a duration of three weeks.

The Library also lends hot spots to community organizations on a long-term basis, who in turn use the devices to support operations, distribute to clients, and provide internet service at tiny house villages and encampments.

In the past 12 months, hot spots have circulated over 8,000 times, surpassing the circulation of any other physical material in the Library collection.

Hot Spot Devices and Checkouts

Checkouts from June 2022 through May 2023

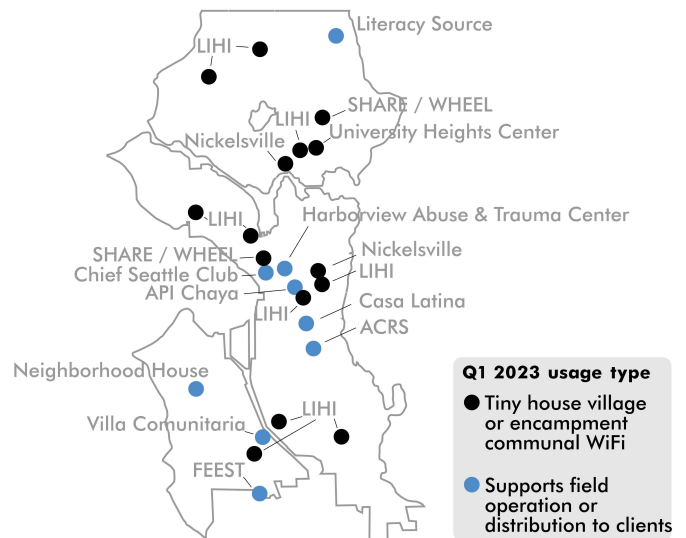


of devices by program



Over 1,700 people borrowed hot spots in the last 12 months, with 70% checking out devices two or more times. More than 3 out of 4 of patrons who responded to our hot spot survey told us they do not have home internet.

Hot Spots Support Community Organizations All Over Seattle



The Library works with community organizations to place hot spots in the hands of those who need them most. Library staff worked with residents of authorized encampments and tiny house villages to place hot spots in strategic locations to provide internet service for their use.

What Patrons Say

"I really appreciate being able to get a hot spot from the Library. It really improves my life!"

"This is a tremendous service to the community. Thank you."

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Expanding Access: Hybrid Meeting Technology

June 29, 2023

Charles Wesley, Library Technology Officer

During the height of the pandemic, our community learned to embrace remote communication out of necessity. We learned that building bridges beyond our immediate physical surroundings can connect people in different and impactful ways. Removing the barrier of being in-person allows for greater representation and access to information. As in-person programming returns, it's important to keep the connection to remote patrons open. To this end, the Library has invested in adding hybrid meeting capabilities to our portfolio. Hybrid meetings allow people to be seen and heard regardless of physical location. Media carts with hybrid technology have been deployed to the Central Library and select branches in every region to allow staff the opportunity to explore this technology. Initial pilot efforts focused on internal staff communication and collaboration with an eye towards bringing this capability to public programming. Informed by these early successes, the Library now working on making more public events hybrid. Recent events included a multi-day conference of Washington state library directors, regular Board meetings, and select events at the Central Library.



Washington State Library Director's Meeting



Hybrid staff meeting during initial pilot of hybrid tech.

How Hybrid Carts Work

Each hybrid cart has a large display screen, an integrated speaker bar with camera, microphones, and a touch screen. Supporting both Microsoft Teams and Zoom, these carts are able to connect remote participants to people attending the meeting in person. For example, a remote attendee can turn on their camera and microphone on their computer and share their screen to present information equally accessible to all meeting participants. In person attendees are not required to have their own technology in hand, and can be seen and heard by remote participants.

Because the carts are mobile, they can be used in different rooms and different configurations. They have been used in small conference rooms with only a few people up to large a conference space with 40 people in attendance in-person.

So far, this technology has allowed for a remote presenter to share information to a hybrid audience, enabled a moderated panel discussion with remote and in person speakers, as well as supporting recent Board meetings. Additionally, the new hybrid technology was used to connect remote American Sign Language interpreters providing support for an in-person event open to the public.

Evaluation and Future Outlook

Information Technology and Public Services staff are actively planning to continue to expand the use of this technology through the end of the year. This technology is an important piece of the puzzle. Empowering patrons to experience and participate in Library programming remotely or in person removes barriers and increases programming's reach.

The Information Technology department is actively reviewing lessons learned through early programming to inform future investment in audio/visual upgrades planned for the Central Library and branches alike with an eye towards supporting hybrid and virtual programming. The future of this technology is bright as staff and patrons continue to adapt to a hybrid world.

Southeast Region Weekly Report – June 2023
Submitted by Richard Council, interim Southeast Regional Manager

Written in large part by:
Tina Mat – Beacon Hill Branch Adult Services Librarian
Khotyjah Amath – New Holly Branch Library Associate II

One of the ways staff in the Southeast Region (SER) do outreach is to strengthen relationships through support for community-led programs. Last month the Cham Refugee Community (CRC) hosted a health fair event and it was just this sort of opportunity.

New Holly Branch LA2 Khotyjah Amath and Beacon Hill Branch Adult Services Librarian Tina Mat are long-time and highly regarded staff in the SER and are themselves of Cham heritage. Khotyjah and Tina brought their talents, expertise, and identities to a truly equity focused event, one requiring operational preparation, schedule changes, and adaptive problem solving between SPL departments. Sharing in the community's identity, Khotyjah and Tina took SPL deeper into community space and they offer the following reflection in their own words:



“I just want to send a quick CRC Health Fair event report out to you all and with appreciation for making sure this happened the way it did, along with approvals on schedule changes (thanks, Richard) and extra CEED hours and advocacy for staffing (thanks Nadiyah & Samsyah).

It was a very well attended and super Southeast Seattle community oriented and community centered event. For communities where mental health is often stigmatized, it is also so refreshing to see such a holistic approach, with tables dedicated to behavior counseling, mental health, Muslim health and mind-body spiritual wellness. The library can play such an instrumental part, as we intersect in many different aspects of life here in Seattle. Someone spoke of us being that ‘third space.’”

The Seattle Public Library table (if I’d say so myself) was absolutely the most popular after blood glucose and blood pressure checks. So popular that other partner tables (WIC, United Healthcare, Muslim Health Professionals, ICHS and Swedish Family) all came to check in with us after seeing swarms of folks (really, all age groups) flooding to the SPL table. They were jokingly asking us

“what we brought to the table” (pun intended, but maybe it was heat changing pencils?). Over the 5 + hour period, we engaged with about 115 people (of all age group), some longer conversations and dialogue, some shorter with just brief questions & answers. This ranged from library services, programs, hot spots, hours of operations, jobs to suggestions and accolades about the library. We also had much dialogue about services and community in a post pandemic era with other vending partners.

Needless to say, Khotyjah and I definitely had some overwhelming but meaningful moments. Some kids were so excited about library presence that they kept coming back to bring their friends (Khotyjah will agree this was another layer of managing on its own-ha!). I also want to say that we heard multiple comments from folks that said they have actually never seen “librarians in hijabs” and that it was really great to see the representation. The Cham community is a multilingual and ethnically diverse community due to our indigenous roots throughout SE Asia and connections with the Arab world via religion and trade and through larger immigrant community connections. At times, Khotyjah and I toggling between Cham, Khmer and English or Chamglish!

This is where I’d actually like us to continue more dialogue in, how to better coordinate and align cultural/language/identity specific outreach and staffing events to reflect cultural needs/identity and knowledge of community when possible and asked for. This is an area we need more investment in. I understand that this is not always possible, and there’s a trade-off, because there’s also the aspect of tokenization & capacity of BIPOC staff that is also real. However, if folks have the energy, the synergy, creativity and capacity to do so, then I do think all support mechanisms can be made available. I was impressed to see many other community based organizations and nonprofits also intentional with their representation.”



Thank you Khotyjah and Tina! Tina also shares this from the CRC website:

“Cham Refugees Community first opened its doors to serve the ethnic Cham population from Vietnam and Cambodia more than 30 years ago. Today, it is a non-profit agency serving the local Muslim refugee and immigrant communities in Seattle and the surrounding areas by providing family and community-focused services. The organization continues to serve ethnic Cham populations, and newly arrived refugees from East Africa, Iraq and Burma (Rohingya). Through its case management services, Cham Refugees Community assists low-income, limited English speaking clients to meet all social service’s needs, including: System navigation; referral services; family support services including youth programs and senior services; and cultural services such as language classes and community events.”

Southwest Region Weekly Report – June 2023

Submitted by: José García, Southwest Regional Manager

Introduction

With the reintroduction of in-person programming, the Southwest Region has been diligently working at re-establishing the programs and services that our communities have come to rely on for their educational and cultural enrichment. This in conjunction with our outreach efforts, have placed in a good position to meet our equity goals.

Bilingual Play & Learn

Area of Focus > Literacy, Learning and Achievement: Providing assistance to support the personal pursuit of educational, informational and recreational interests for formative and lifelong learning.



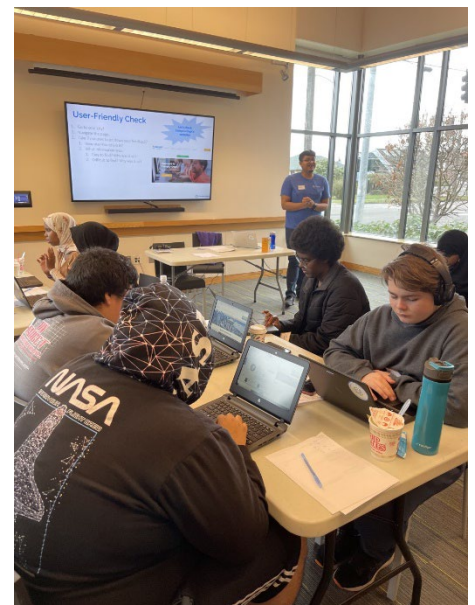
In Fall 2022, South Park hosted a Spanish-bilingual Play and Learn in partnership with [Villa Comunitaria](#) and facilitated by Xiomara Melgar, our longtime Spanish-language story time presenter. Weekly attendance averaged 10 parents and children. According to Xiomara: “Our play group targets all areas of child’s development by providing activities related to early literacy, math concepts, language, fine and gross motor skills, social emotional self-help, problem solving, and art. It also gives families and caregivers ideas on how to incorporate elements of learning in their daily routine. Attendees are benefiting from our bilingual English/Spanish playgroup and have already learned the opening song in both languages! Children recognize and engage in familiar group activities to the point that they lead themselves in the

activities, such as throwing scarves while counting to make colorful rain. One of our babies just started walking a month ago--it was so exciting to see her taking her first steps during circle time!”

Learn2Earn - Technology Enrichment Immersion for High School

Area of Impact > Technology and Access: *Serve as Seattle's primary point of access to information, lifelong learning, economic development, and creative expression through innovative use of technology and digital resources.*

In Fall of 2022, the High Point Library hosted the Learn2Earn Compudopt Program. The program is for high school students grades 9-12 who have an interest in gaining tangible technology skills for the workforce today. In this enrichment program, students worked with real-world programs and technology up close and personal, in addition to learning about education and employment opportunities. Students not only learned to code and program in relevant languages, but also get hands-on experience with computer hardware, networks, and website design. At the end of the program, each participant received a refurbished laptop computer to keep.



Community Explorers West Seattle Exhibit

Area of Impact > Seattle Culture and History: *Connect our community with our diverse local culture and history through compelling collections, expert assistance, innovative partnerships and engaging programs.*

COMMUNITY EXPLORERS

Visit Seattle Public Library branches across the Duwamish Peninsula to learn the stories of West Seattle, White Center and South Park.

Summer 2023



WELCOME WINDOWS: THE DUWAMISH PENINSULA	WHITE CENTER: FOOD AND COMMUNITY	SOUTH PARK: WHAT MAKES A NEIGHBORHOOD
West Seattle Branch 2306 42nd Ave SW	Southwest Branch 9010 35th Ave SW	South Park Branch 8604 8th Ave S



www.loghousemuseum.org

West Seattle Adult Services Librarian, Jennie Diaz, partnered with the West Seattle Historical Society to host a traveling exhibit. The exhibit centered around West Seattle speaks to four themes: landing stories, the built environment, plants that feed, and industry & innovation. In this way, the exhibit answers the questions: What draws people to West Seattle? What impact do we leave behind on the community and land that we live on? When the West Seattle exhibit has finished traveling, it will become a permanent window exhibition at the Log House Museum. The exhibit exploring White Center focuses on food, culture, and community from 1900 - 2020. It tackles food accessibility, how migration patterns influence food landscapes, and the interconnections between food, place, and culture. As part of the White Center exhibit, the historical society is interviewing between 4 and 6 restaurant owners in White Center to strongly tie history in with our present and understand how food experts think about place and community while creating their menus. Lastly, the exhibit centered around South Park hones in on preserving neighborhood history and community. South Park is an area of Seattle that is often targeted for industrialization. This exhibit explores the impact that kind of growth has on the people who live there, the history of the neighborhood, and celebrates how citizens preserve their neighborhood

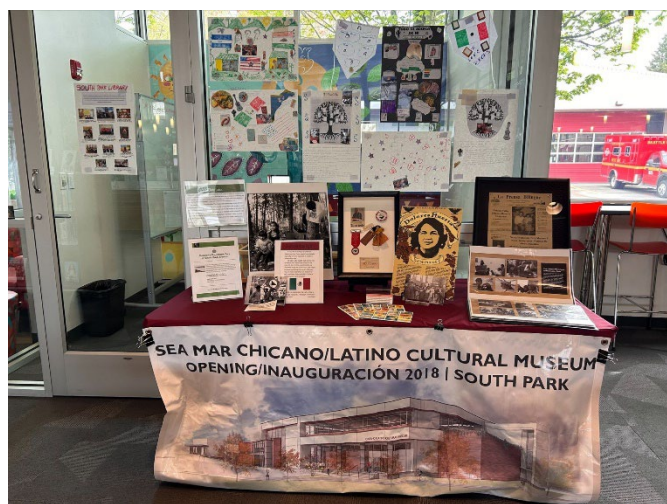
community and culture through grassroots movements.

Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros/Children's Day/Book Day

Area of Focus > Cultural Enrichment: *Providing learning opportunities through programming and outreach that support cultural understanding and awareness*

South Park staff hosted its annual Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros/Children's Day/Book Day celebration on May 4 in partnership with [Sea Mar Museum of Chicano/a Latino/a Culture](#). Families created mini museum exhibits of their history and stories as inspired by a pop-up display loaned by the museum. The intent of the program was to show that family histories are valuable and contribute to community history.

Eight of the 10 families attending were Spanish-speaking. They shared interesting stories about their families, home countries, and favorite activities. It was an engaging evening of intergenerational sharing that centered the families we hoped to reach. Their exhibits were displayed in the branch alongside the museum pop-up for several days. Each child also got to take home two free books from our book giveaway.



This program was supported by the McNeil/South Park Community Enrichment Programming Fund.



The Seattle Public Library

NEWS RELEASES

Date			Title
05	15	2023	The Seattle Public Library Seeks Community Feedback on the Development of a Mobile App
05	19	2023	The Seattle Public Library Offers Free Credit Workshops and Consults
05	24	2023	June 2023 Author Readings And Community Events with The Seattle Public Library
05	25	2023	Book Bingo Launches Today With The Seattle Public Library and Seattle Arts & Lectures



The Seattle Public Library
MEDIA COVERAGE

Date			Organization	Headline	Details	Link
05	01	2023	<i>Twitter.com</i>	@jodipicoult	Author Jodi Picoult shared a link to our new Books Unbanned teen library card application	https://twitter.com/jodipicoult/status/1653081002690985985
05	01	2023	<i>South Seattle Emerald</i>	News Gleams: Gov. Jay Inslee Will Not Seek Fourth Term; Seattle Public Library Joins National Fight Against Censorship	“Following the lead of Brooklyn Public Library (BPL), the Seattle Public Library (SPL) will now join the fight against censorship by joining BPL’s ‘Books Unbanned’ initiative, which originally began last year. Teens and young adults aged 13 to 26, who are living anywhere in the country, will now be able to sign up for free access to all 900,000+ e-book and e-audiobook titles available through SPL’s OverDrive collection.”	https://southseattleemerald.com/2023/05/01/news-gleams-gov-jay-inslee-will-not-see-fourth-term-seattle-public-library-joins-national-fight-against-censorship/

05	03	2023	<i>The Seattle Medium</i>	Seattle Celebrates 50th Anniversary Of The Soul Pole	“The event titled ‘Preserving Neighborhood Character in the Central District: The Soul Pole at 50 Years’ featured speeches from various community members, including Tom Fay, Chief Librarian of the Seattle Public Library, and Elijah Mu’ied, the son of Raqib Mu’ied, who was formerly known as George X and served as the Rotary Club’s Art Director and led the project during its inception. The event also included library staff and provided an opportunity for community members to share their stories.”	https://seattlemedium.com/seattle-celebrates-50th-anniversary-of-the-soul-pole/
05	03	2023	<i>Book Riot</i>	Seattle Public Library Grants Free Access to Banned Books	“While attempts at censorship haven’t been as prevalent in Washington state as they have been elsewhere, the overall amount of book banning attempts are at an all time high. These bans overwhelmingly target books by and about queer people and people of color.”	https://bookriot.com/seattle-public-library-grants-free-access-to-banned-books/
05	04	2023	<i>Open Culture</i>	The Seattle Public Library Gives Students Free Digital Access to Books Getting Banned Across the United States	“We believe in your right to read what you want, discover yourself and form your own opinions,” writes the [Seattle Public] library. “Teens and young adults ages 13 to 26 living anywhere in the U.S. can access our entire collection of e-books and audiobooks.”	https://www.openculture.com/2023/05/the-seattle-public-library-gives-students-free-access-to-books-getting-banned-across-the-united-states.html
05		2023				

05	04	2023	<i>CBS News</i>	Seattle Public Library joins Books Unbanned initiative	“Seattle Public Library is the second library to join Books Unbanned which started last year in Brooklyn as a way to counter censorship among books and library resources. It is a program geared toward teens and young adults ages 13-26 across the country who can sign up for a free Books Unbanned card to give them access to the Library's e-books and e-audiobooks.”	https://www.cbsnews.com/seattle/news/seattle-public-library-joins-books-unbanned-initiative/
05	05	2023	<i>LEX 18 (Lexington, KY)</i>	Libraries giving youth access to titles amid wave of book bans	“The Seattle Public Library believes that access to banned books should be granted, and they're part of a growing movement across the country.”	https://www.lex18.com/libraries-giving-youth-access-to-titles-amid-wave-of-book-bans
05	06	2023	<i>KING 5</i>	Seattle Public Library launches program to allow teens to access banned books	“The new privately funded program allows teens from across the country to access books through their online system. It is the second library in the nation to do this.”	https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/seattle-public-library-books-unbanned-program/281-664b8fe8-2233-475a-b31b-fd5d034a9c4c
05	06	2023	<i>YouTube KING 5 Seattle</i>	Seattle Public Library launches 'Books Unbanned' program	“The Seattle Public Library is now the second library in the nation to give teens across the country access to the library's online books.”	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uawhw3WfA-U

05	07	2023	<i>The Watchdog: The Student Voice of Bellevue College</i>	Youth Nationwide are Now Able to Access Banned Books Digitally through the Books Unbanned Initiative	<p>“Seattle Public Library summarizes their views in their online statement, saying that ‘We support intellectual freedom and uphold the right of all people to freely and confidentially access information as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. We oppose any attempt to censor or restrict public access to information and ideas. Our resources and services are available to everyone equally.’”</p>	https://thewatchdogonline.com/youth-nationwide-are-now-able-to-access-banned-books-digitally-through-the-books-unbanned-initiative-35219
05	08	2023	<i>My Northwest</i>	Seattle Public Library announces plan for young adults nationwide to access banned books	<p>“According to the site, anyone in the U.S. between the ages of 13 and 26 can get a card to check out up to ten books at a time and to put five books on hold.</p> <p>The library said that no one will be told about what books are checked out.”</p>	https://mynorthwest.com/3886395/seattle-public-library-announces-plan-for-young-adults-nationwide-to-access-banned-books/

05	08	2023	<i>KIRO 7</i>	Seattle Public Library announces plan for young adults nationwide to access banned books	<p>“Seattle Public Library has announced a plan for teens and young adults across the United States to access books and audiobooks, including books that may have been banned in their local community.</p> <p>The program is called Books Unbanned and it invites teens and young adults, aged 13 to 26, to access the library’s entire collection of thousands of e-books and audiobooks.”</p>	https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/seattle-public-library-announces-plan-young-adults-nationwide-access-banned-books/WUYSIUA6MV DLLNY6SWOHALCEGQ/
05	08	2023	<i>Seattle Channel</i>	Seattle Public Library takes a stand with Books Unbanned initiative	<p>“With a rapid rise in banned and challenged books across the nation, the Seattle Public Library has joined the Brooklyn Public Library in its Books Unbanned initiative. The initiative makes the library’s entire digital collection available to young people, aged 13-26, throughout the United States.”</p>	https://www.seattlechannel.org/videos?videoid=x148684
05	10	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	Rant and Rave: A picture is worth a thousand trips to a licensing office	<p>“RAVE to the Seattle Public Library for allowing access for e-books to youth all across the country and for bringing ‘social service’ librarians to our libraries.”</p>	https://www.seattletimes.com/life/lifestyle/rant-and-rave-a-picture-is-worth-a-thousand-trips-to-a-licensing-office/

05	11	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	Seattle Public Library's citywide book club, Seattle Reads, turns 25	"Other than the renaming, the program hasn't changed all that much in a quarter century, said Stesha Brandon, literature and humanities program manager for Seattle Public Library, who's assumed stewardship of the program since Higashi's retirement in 2016: A book is selected, an author comes to town, readers gather. 'We know that people come together and engage with literature through the program, and engage with one another,' she said, 'and that can be community-building and community-changing.'"	https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/books/seattle-public-librarys-citywide-book-club-seattle-reads-turns-25/
05	10	2023	<i>South Seattle Emerald</i>	Celebrating Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month 2023	"Seattle Public Library's Seattle Reads program encourages all Seattleites to participate in what is essentially a yearly book club with related programming, and it selected <i>The Swimmers</i> by Julie Otsuka as its 2023 pick. It has curated an exhibit at the Central Library and four programs with the author on Friday, May 19, and Saturday, May 20."	https://southseattleemerald.com/2023/05/10/celebrating-asian-american-native-hawaiian-and-pacific-islander-heritage-month-2023/

05	10	2023	<i>Real Change</i>	Hole-y roads, Batman, my commute ICE flights resume in King County Scorching Quite the shock	“Places for people without air conditioning to escape the heat are few and far between. Branches of the Seattle Public Library system are popular places to find refuge, although some older locations — such as the University Branch — also lack it. In the last major heatwave in 2022, that branch and eight others shut down to the public.”	https://www.realchangenews.org/news/2023/05/10/hole-y-roads-batman-my-commute-ice-flights-resume-king-county-scorching-quite-shock
05	12	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	Seattle-area cooling centers open ahead of unusually hot weather	“Most libraries within the King County and Seattle Public Library systems should be open and can be used as cooling spaces, the regional authority said.” [Library locations with AC and hours also listed]	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/weather/seattle-area-cooling-centers-open-ahead-of-unusually-hot-weather/

05	13	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	Up against the wall, librarian	<p>“It sets up yet another ‘sanctuary’ situation, a wormhole across the hardening red-blue curtain. Just as there’s an underground railroad of sorts to here from states like Texas and Idaho for reproductive health services, now distant readers can also come here, electronically, to get banned books — or any book they want.</p> <p>Come they are. In the first two weeks alone, readers teleported in to Seattle’s library from all 50 states and Puerto Rico. They’ve already checked out more than 1,000 titles, including frequently banned books like Margaret Atwood’s ‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ and Suzanne Collins’ ‘The Hunger Games.’ The top title so far is ‘The Swimmers’ by Julie Otsuka, who had a previous book about the internment banned because it lacked ‘American perspective.’</p> <p>Fay said the program is privately funded by the Seattle Public Library Foundation. The out-of-state library cards also are limited in scope, so as not to impact local library use.”</p>	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/up-against-the-wall-librarian/
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05	17	2023	<i>South Seattle Emerald</i>	News Gleams DOH Tracks Harmful PFAS Content in Drinking Water; PACE Seeks Cohort Members	“The Seattle Public Library Hosts Sessions With Historian Mary Henry and Writer Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah”	https://southseattleemerald.com/2023/05/17/news-gleams-doh-tracks-harmful-pfas-content-in-drinking-water-pace-seeks-cohort-members/
05	18	2023	<i>Curiosity</i>	Check out Washington: You can visit state parks for FREE using your library card	“Normally a Discover Pass will cost you \$11.50 for a day or \$35 for a year. If you’re planning to visit multiple state parks in a year, purchasing a Discover Pass is definitely an economical choice. But if it’s not in the budget or you’d just rather save some cash, you can still use one without paying a cent! The Seattle Public Library has 27 Discover Passes available for you to use.”	https://curiosity.com/free-discover-pass-seattle-public-library/
05	18	2023	<i>Christian Post</i>	Kirk Cameron to release new kids’ book, ‘Pride Comes Before the Fall’	“Although the attempts by Cameron and Brave Books to hold readings of his books at public libraries were initially met with hostility, the publishing company announced on its Twitter account that Cameron is scheduled to hold a story hour at Seattle Public Library on May 27.”	https://www.christianpost.com/news/kirk-cameron-releases-kids-book-pride-comes-before-the-fall.html

05	18	2023	<i>West Seattle Blog</i>	You asked, so we asked: Local library battles bed bugs	<p>“After containment and cleaning, staff have not seen additional bedbugs for over a week. The book drop has reopened.</p> <p>The Library conducted a chemical treatment of the branch on Tuesday evening as a precautionary measure. It is considered safe to enter the treated space two hours after chemical treatment, but we let the branch sit overnight as another extra precaution. The pest control company we are working with will return at the end of the month to examine the branch and ensure the issue is fully resolved.”</p>	https://westseattleblog.com/2023/05/you-asked-so-we-asked-local-library-battles-bed-bugs/
05	19	2023	<i>NW Asian Weekly</i>	Seattle Reads in its 25th year and will feature Otsuka’s ‘The Swimmers’	<p>“Otsuka, the only author who has been selected twice for Seattle Reads, enjoyed her first experience with the program back in 2005, with her debut novel ‘When the Emperor Was Divine’—and is excited to be back.</p> <p>‘I love going to Seattle,’ she said, adding that there is something special about the local Japanese American community and that she also has some personal ties to the area.”</p>	https://nwasianweekly.com/2023/05/seattle-reads-in-its-25th-year-and-will-feature-otsukas-the-swimmers/

05	19	2023	<i>Christian Headlines</i>	Kirk Cameron to Release New Kids Book, Pride Comes Before the Fall	“Last week, Brave Books announced on Twitter that Cameron is scheduled to host his storybook hour at Seattle Public Library on May 27.”	https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/milton-quintanilla/kirk- cameron-to-release- new-kids-book-pride- comes-before-the- fall.html
05	19	2023	<i>The Advocate</i>	Kirk Cameron's Anti-LGBTQ+ Children's Book to be Released On First Day of Pride Month	<p>“His next scheduled reading will take place at the Seattle Public Library, which has received criticism for hosting an anti-LGBTQ+ author.</p> <p>‘Many of you are asking why we would allow this booking, citing the author’s views on abortion, LGBTQ+ rights, and more,’ the library said in a statement on Twitter. ‘We understand these questions. We are committed to intellectual freedom, even when viewpoints expressed do not align with our values.’</p> <p>‘We oppose censorship in all forms,’ they added in a follow-up tweet.”</p>	https://www.advocate.com/books/kirk-cameron-new-book
05	20	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	Rant and Rave: A wave, smile or nod goes a long way for this reader	“RAVE to Seattle Public Library for giving cardholders credit toward photocopies.”	https://www.seattletimes.com/life/lifestyle/ rant-and-rave-a- wave-smile-or-nod- goes-a-long-way-for- this-reader/

05	22	2023	<i>The Center Square</i>	Seattle Public Library carried over unspent levy funds for construction in 2023	<p>“Approximately \$18.6 million was dedicated to major maintenance and construction related to the library in 2022. However, only \$2.6 million, or 14%, was used, with leftover funds carrying over to 2023.</p> <p>‘We did have to delay a few projects and move some money into 2023 due to the cost of construction and also, in some cases, the inability on the supply-side to be able to get equipment that we might need,’ Chief Librarian Tom Fay said in a Seattle City Council Public Assets and Homelessness Committee meeting on May 17.”</p>	https://www.thecentersquare.com/washington/article_784f7a10-f8ca-11ed-a670-f79e50947b88.html
05	22	2023	<i>South Seattle Emerald</i>	NEWS GLEAMS New State Laws Enhance Election Security and Participation	<p>“The Seattle Public Library (SPL) is presently working on developing a mobile phone app to ‘improve access to the Library system, enhance the online patron experience, and attract new audiences,’ according to an SPL press release.”</p>	https://southseattleemerald.com/2023/05/22/news-gleams-new-state-laws-enhance-election-security-and-participation/

05	25	2023	<i>Queen Anne & Magnolia News</i>	Seattle Public Library conducting library app survey	“To guide the library in this project, patrons and community members are invited to share their opinions on what a new Library app should offer. Visit spl.org/App to take the approximately 5-minute survey, which is available in multiple languages. Printed surveys are also available at all Library locations.”	https://queenannene.ws.com/news/2023/may/25/seattle-public-library-conducting-library-app-survey/
05	26	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	2023 Summer Book Bingo	“It’s now that happy time of year for readers: Summer Book Bingo! You can download the card for Adult Summer Reading Book Bingo, presented by Seattle Public Library and Seattle Arts & Lectures, here.”	https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/books/2023-summer-book-bingo-download-your-cards-here/
05	26	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	6 new books for your summer 2023 reading	“Well, yes, you could go do outdoorsy things this summer. Or you could read. For those of us who see sunny days as opportunities for well-lit book time, here’s some good news: Summer Book Bingo is back, presented by Seattle Arts & Lectures and Seattle Public Library; fill out your bingo card over the summer (deadline is Sept. 5) and be eligible for prizes.”	https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/books/moira-macdonald-recommends-6-new-books-for-your-summer-2023-reading/

05	28	2023	<i>Fox News</i>	Seattle protesters tell patriotic Kirk Cameron he's 'growing to be a real pain'	"Speaking at the Seattle Public Library on Saturday, actor-writer Kirk Cameron encountered a small group of protesters who objected to his pro-faith, pro-family and pro-country messages during his children's book event..."	https://www.foxnews.com/lifestyle/seattle-protesters-kirk-cameron-growing-real-pain
05	30	2023	Seattle Met	Love Letters: SPL's Libby App Has a Hold on Me	"Seattle Public Library's e-reader platform is low-key, free, and makes my life immeasurably better."	https://www.seattlemet.com/news-and-city-life/2023/05/love-letters-seattle-public-library-libby-app
05	30	2023	<i>Washington Examiner</i>	Coach Kennedy joins Kirk Cameron at Seattle library to promote 'humble story of faith'	"Kirk Cameron took his latest faith-based children's book <i>Pride Comes Before the Fall</i> to the Seattle Public Library where he was joined by Joe Kennedy, the high school football coach who was fired for praying with students at games."	https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/joe-kennedy-kirk-cameron-seattle-library-humble-faith
05	31	2023	<i>Publicola</i>	Council Candidate Backed Republican Smiley for Congress, Kirk Cameron's Anti-"Woke" Event Spurred Successful Protest Fundraiser	"At one point, according to the attendee, 'Cameron pointed to the sky and asked the audience, 'who loves you the most?' and a kid in the audience yelled 'Obama!'"	https://publicola.com/2023/05/31/council-candidate-backed-republican-smiley-for-congress-kirk-camerons-anti-woke-event-spurred-successful-protest-fundraiser/