

The Seattle Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
12:00 p.m. Thursday, October 26, 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: 509 897 423#

Watch Live:

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

Meeting ID: 264 964 195 251 / Passcode: tE9wJV

-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.

Agenda

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

D. CONSENT

1. Minutes of September 28, 2023 Library Board Meeting
2. September 2023 Finance Report

E. CHIEF LIBRARIAN REPORT

1. Chief Librarian Report
2. System Report
 - a. Friends of the Library Update – Amy VanderZanden, President, Friends of The Seattle Public Library Board
 - b. Library Foundation Update – Justo González, President, The Seattle Public Library Foundation Board

F. OLD BUSINESS

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Updates from Library Board Members

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION

I. ADJOURN

J. NEXT LIBRARY BOARD MEETING: November 16, 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

September 28, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of The Seattle Public Library (SPL) Board of Trustees was held on September 28, 2023. Library Board President Carmen Bendixen called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Vice President Tali Hairston and trustees Jay Reich and Ron Chew were in attendance. Trustee Yazmin Mehdi 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 unanimously.

CHIEF LIBRARIAN REPORT

Chief Librarian Report

Mr. Fay said air-handling projects are underway at the Northeast and Southwest branches which will require building closures. He said there will also be periods of time when meeting rooms may be needed for equipment and construction materials. He said the Southeast Branch will have a shorter closure time while the Northeast Branch will be closed for 30 to 40 days. He said while the projects will have some public impact in October and November, the branches will benefit from having air conditioning next summer. He said he will share closure dates and finalized details as they become available.

Mr. Fay said the construction project at the Green Lake Branch is coming along well. He said the basement floor has been torn out and excavated to increase the space below, and structural steel is being added for seismic stability. He said he will share photos of a recent visit with the Board.

Referring to the Chief Librarian report in the meeting packet, Library Board Trustee Jay Reich asked whether Mr. Fay's visits with staff in different regions brought up different or similar concerns and conversations. Mr. Fay said the Southeast Region visit has been rescheduled, but he had visited the Mid-City West and Northwest Regions. He said many of the issues discussed were similar, and many staff have concerns about safety and security. He said the Library has implemented a variety of options and the security team is doing a great job. He said staff have been working hard and are tired. He said there are a lot of infrastructure and planning projects in motion, and long term projects that include input from staff. Mr. Fay said the Library is working to build systems, programs, and projects from the ground up and he hopes that staff feel the input they have had. Mr. Fay said some concerns are consistent and some will vary from branch to branch. He said many staff travel between branches, so if they don't experience incidents in some locations, they may experience them in others. He said staff also feel concern for their colleagues. He said staff throughout the system share the burden.

Regarding the report on Homework Help, Mr. Reich said the graphic is nice. He said the text says the Homework Help programs are all related to Title 1 schools, and he asked why there is an enormous variance in the number of students participating. Mr. Fay said the Library built up six locations last year, so their programs are stronger this year. He said the lower numbers are programs that are just coming online this year. Mr. Fay said the Library has observed that restarting programs after the pandemic closure requires outreach to get participants re-engaged. He said this is especially true when a large portion of the audience is tweens and teens. He said program participation is starting to slowly rebuild as the school year gets underway and the word gets out. Mr. Fay said the Lake City Branch has always had the highest level of participation in Homework Help, partially due to the density and the number of Title 1 schools in the area, in addition to having an established program team. He said the Library also has a number of new staff who have joined the system and need to make school visits and acquaint themselves with teachers and school librarians, and those efforts take time as the Library works to bring programmatic components back up to speed following the pandemic.

Mr. Reich congratulated Ballard Branch staff for holding “Coffee and Conversations” meetings with members of the community to hear interests directly from them. Mr. Fay said the program will be expanding to several locations including the Central Library. He said the program was begun in response to the death of a homeless patron who was very well known in the Ballard community. He said, following the patron’s death, the team asked what they could do, and the community said they needed a space. He said the Ballard Branch opened the meeting room and provided snacks and coffee. He said community members were able to talk with one another and the Library, and it started to build another level of trust with the community. Mr. Fay said the Ballard staff has done a great job with this program and have learned the stories and contributions of several patrons who frequent the Ballard Branch. He offered kudos to the Ballard staff team and Northwest Regional Manager Hayden Bass. He said the success is indicated not only by how patrons are responding, but also how colleagues see the value of this type of engagement.

Mr. Fay said the Library will soon be conducting finalist interviews for the Administrative Services Director and moving through the interview process for the Human Resources (HR) Director. He said interviews will likely occur in October and November. He said there are some candidates for the Library Programs and Services Director position, and he is looking for a few more in order to have a fuller screening process with more candidates. Mr. Fay said he has asked HR to put the job posting out again and to post in other areas to attract more candidates. He said the position can be tough to fill, but he is hopeful the Library will be able to move through a candidate screening process before Thanksgiving and into finalist interviews in December. Library Board President Carmen Bendixen asked if the director positions have been advertised nationally, and Mr. Fay said they have. Mr. Fay thanked the HR team and Shawna Dennard for supporting him in the process; Executive Assistant Amy Lawson for coordinating the large scheduling effort; and Strategic Advisor Jessica Smith and Institutional and Strategic Advancement Director Rick Sheridan for helping with screening interviews.

Systems Reports

SPL Digital Equity Strategy Report

Mr. Fay said the Digital Equity Strategy Report will be incorporated into the Library’s strategic planning, and he introduced Community Engagement and Economic Development (CEED) Services Manager Kristina Darnell. Ms. Darnell said CEED staff led a cross-divisional team to create an updated digital equity strategy the Library can use to plan programs and services to increase digital inclusion in the City of Seattle. She the report builds on work done in 2014 when SPL staff drafted a technology and access white paper. She said since that time, new concepts about digital equity and digital inclusion have emerged; she said the team wanted to focus on what digital equity means in Seattle, how it can be increased, and what the Library’s role is. She said the national Digital Inclusion Alliance defines digital equity as “the state possible when

digital inclusion exists.” She said for digital inclusion to exist, five components must be true: people need to be able to access Internet reliably; people need to have devices to be able to access the Internet; people need to have digital literacy to be able to navigate what they're seeing online; people need quality technical supports; and people need to be able to have applications and online content that are going to support their various needs. Ms. Darnell said the team worked with that definition to consider why digital inclusion is important and what elements exist in Seattle that would benefit thinking about digital inclusion and from a racial equity outcome point of view. She said the team used some information from the City of Seattle Technology Access and Adoption Study done in 2018, and another study is coming out soon in the fall of 2023. She said the 2018 report gave the team insights into access to sustainable Internet in Seattle. She said people at the greatest risk of not having access align with the Library’s priority audiences.

Ms. Darnell said when considering a strategy, the team looked at what the Library is hearing from community during the strategic foresight and strategic planning processes. She said there has been a lot of opportunity to connect with community members, community partners, and other library organizations to ask about what is important. She said the team listened to Library staff, including The Race and Social Justice Change Team. She said there were several opportunities for staff engagement while crafting the report to hear from patrons about their digital equity needs. She said the team considered where there may be opportunities that are not already being addressed by other city departments or by other organizations the Library partners with. She said the team also considered how the Library will center racial equity in the work.

Ms. Darnell said the team looked at the roles the Library needs to play with regard to different needs, and when the Library’s role might change. She said sometimes the Library may be the provider of service, while other times it may be acting as a convener or a curator of resources. She said at times it may make sense for the Library to be a referrer or a facilitator, and other times an advocate. She said sometimes there may be more than one role to play as the Library moves through a project strategy.

Ms. Darnell said the report contains different elements. She said it includes a gap analysis to consider what needs are not currently being met and how to get a more holistic picture of needs across Seattle and the region. She said the report covers a ‘good, better, best’ model of thinking about what the Library might do in the short term, medium term, and over the long term of five or more years. She said the Library will think about what kinds of resources are needed to achieve each of the recommendations and what funding opportunities may exist for each. She said the team thought about a roadmap model to lay out the order of efforts and which pieces might overlap or build on others. She said the report’s roadmap section looks out five years and considers potential levy funding. She said the team thought about advocacy opportunities, particularly where there are other organizations and partners focusing on digital equity for whom SPL may be an advocate in the areas of broadband access, digital equity, and other opportunities.

Ms. Darnell said the report contains eight recommendations including: (1) Advocate for policies, practices and initiatives internally and externally - at the local, state, and national levels - that build equity in digital access and participation; (2) Design a Digital Equity program of service through a community informed process that supports and advances community-identified priorities while leveraging library expertise and resources; (3) Support SPL staff at all levels to work with community based organizations (CBO) to support the digital equity goals of these CBOs; (4) Be a known and trusted resource in the community for digital skills learning and training resources; (5) Take on a more active role in designing and developing the SeaKing Digital Equity Asset Map; (6) Promote available community tech support options via a deeper "just in time" support model; (7) Amplify Library Equal Access Program staff's ability to support people with disabilities to use technology; and (8) Create an access plan for those who need support to participate in the Library's virtual programming and services. Ms. Darnell said the

report highlights where there are different funding needs and opportunities which are categorized into advocacy, capacity building, improving community access to resources, supportive technology, and achieving an at-scale service model. She said as the Library conducts its strategic planning processes during a time of pandemic, when the effects of the digital divide are being so profoundly felt by communities kept farthest from digital inclusion, the Library is in a unique position to radically shift how it approaches planning programs and services to increase a state of digital equity in the city.

Mr. Reich asked who will receive the report and when specific plans or programs would be seen. He also asked who the Library's most important partners are in this work. Ms. Darnell said the City of Seattle and the Digital Equity Learning Network are doing coalition building and there are many opportunities to work with that group. She said the Washington State Broadband Office is in the process of releasing their digital equity strategy, and their strategy is very much in alignment with the Library's, so they could be a potential partner in the Library's work. Ms. Darnell said the team's report was meant to be recommendations to SPL leadership about how SPL might move forward based on what the team is seeing from a community connections and programmatic point of view. She said the team relayed ideas about when community listening might happen, what key points may need a second look, and where the report goes next. She said the report has been presented to the Senior Management Team. Mr. Fay said the report is being shared with the Library Board as well as the Friends and Foundation so they understand where this work might go. He said Ms. Darnell also sits on the Strategic Planning Core Team and has been doing work on the literacy impact the Library hopes to have in its strategic planning. He said literacy is multifaceted and includes everything from health and medical literacy to financial literacy, to basic literacies including digital literacy and equity. He said this work will be integrated into strategic planning work to determine what bodies of work and what resourcing should be included in the next seven year levy.

Library Board Trustee Ron Chew said there are many community members who are aged 70 or older, who may be in nursing care facilities, or who may be isolated after family or friends have passed away. He said these people can be isolated from their communities as well as access to information, without a technical advisor to assist. He asked how the Library will reach this population. Ms. Darnell said there are different kinds of needs and groups of people to be considered when talking about digital equity. She said the Library's report team included its Older Adults Services program manager, and the conversations she had across her connections in the older adults community informed how the team created recommendations. She said older adults will be important in helping the Library shape what services it will be provided and resourced. Mr. Fay thanked Ms. Darnell for the effort and thoughtful presentation on a big topic.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Budget Process Update

Mr. Fay said the Mayor recently delivered his budget speech laying out his plan for 2024. Head of Finance and Accounting Nick Merkner said the purpose of the Budget Process memo included in the meeting packet is to give an update on the Library's progress with the city's budget and the Foundation, and the remaining timeline of that process. He said the Mayor's budget contains a \$90.3 million operating budget authority set aside for the Library. He said of that, \$25 million is associated with the 2019 Library Levy, and the budget largely represents a continuation of the 2023-2024 endorsed biennium budget plan. He said the Library is directing some accumulated prior year savings to preserve and support staffing, programs, and services. He said there is \$5.9 million included for the capital budget, which is almost entirely made up of Library Levy resources. He said there is a very small amount of real estate excise tax resources for about \$78,000. Mr. Merkner said the Library submitted a high level scorecard to the Library Foundation

requesting about \$4.4 million, which is subject to the discretion of the Foundation's Board of Directors, which is independent from the Library.

Mr. Merkner said the Mayor delivered his speech and the budget has been turned over to the City Council to deliberate their own balancing packages. He said the Council will hold budget deliberations October 10 through 13. He said the Library will bring a draft of the Operations Plan to the Library Board in their October 26 meeting. He said the Councilmembers will vote on final budget legislation and adopt the budget on November 21. He said the Council adopts the budget at the highest level for the Library, and the Library builds its Operations Plan, which is the guiding financial document that the Library Board of Trustees approves. He said the Library Board has exclusive control over Library resources. Mr. Merkner said the Library Board will vote on the final version of the Operations Plan on December 14.

Mr. Reich asked if the Library requested supplemental funding or if it was content to continue into the second part of the biennium. Mr. Merkner said there were limited discussions, but having a balanced budget and not being asked to put forward reduction proposals or underspend targets was considered a win for the Library during this budget cycle. Mr. Merkner offered kudos to the team at the City Budget Office as allies for the Library throughout the entire process. Mr. Reich said there was much talk in local news of lack of revenues, increased costs, and potential cutbacks. He asked if the Library expects any problems as the budget moves through Council deliberation or into the next quarter. Mr. Fay said he believes the Library is in a pretty strong place for 2024. He said a few things that could change that include coalition bargaining and local bargaining which could have an impact in 2024. Mr. Fay said the city believes it is on pretty stable footing for 2024. He said the City has also been very clear about structural deficit issues that will create impacts in 2025 and 2026. He said those numbers are anticipated to be up to \$400 million. He said the past quarter was strong for city revenues with Major League Baseball, Taylor Swift and Beyoncé concerts, and a return of tourists. Mr. Fay said there are issues on the horizon that might lead to cuts in 2025 and 2026, but this is the first time in his nearly nine years at SPL he hasn't been asked to do a biennial budget to identify potential reductions, which is positive.

Mr. Reich asked what the most stressful area of programs and operations is in terms of funding. Mr. Fay said the Library has stress in three areas. He said one is staffing: the Library needs to have minimum staffing as well as the right types of staff in each of the buildings to have more safety and security. He said programming is a stressor as there aren't enough people or time to carry all of the programmatic work. He said the report presented today starts to lay out some what the Library needs. He said it is not possible to split people in different ways to be both community engagement specialists and librarians, and to cover other priorities. Mr. Fay said another piece that is a considerable stressor is security. He said the Library needs additional security officers, without a doubt. He said the Library is looking at creative ways to accommodate that, and he has also talked to the Mayor's Office. He said he will talk with the mayor further to reiterate that as they look at the 2025-2026 budget, the Library needs support for safety and security, not just from the levy, but from general funds, to support the six million people who walk through Library doors in a year. He said Library security needs to be prioritized in the 2025-2026 biennial budget process. Mr. Reich thanked Mr. Fay and said it is very important for the Board and the Library to clearly articulate where the stresses are. He said the Library appreciates the budget it is allocated, and inherent in the limited budget are stresses such as the equity rollout and security. He said as the Library takes pride in how it spends its money and shepherds public funds, it also should take every effort to consistently reinforce stress points. Mr. Fay agreed.

2024 Operations Plan Framework

Mr. Merkner said the Library is soliciting broad brush strokes of feedback directionally for the Operations Plan. He said the conversation that just occurred is helpful in framing the draft plan. Mr. Reich said when he was reading the materials, including the levy report, he was thinking of

the stress issues. He said some of them are covered in the documents, including the percentage of SPL's reliance on a levy and increased costs of e-materials. He said he wants to make sure the Library talks about the difficulty of the cost of the upkeep of aging facilities as well as security costs. He said the Library should keep reinforcing the need for increased security funds. Mr. Fay said every case the Library makes for its needs builds toward the next levy. He said the Library needs to let the community know that for the work and hours to continue, for libraries to be safe and welcoming spaces, and for buildings to be maintained by skilled tradespeople, it may mean additional funds toward a levy. Mr. Merkner thanked the Board for their thoughts and guidance.

Second Quarter 2023 Levy Report

Levy Administrator Jan Oscherwitz said as she presents the report, she will point out pressure points. She said she tries to include those in the report as well as focusing on accomplishments. She said the Library is in year four of a seven year levy. She said the levy provides 37% of the Library's revised budget of \$132 million, and the Library had spent about 30% of its 2023 allocation at the end of the second quarter. Ms. Oscherwitz reviewed the information presented in the "Second Quarter 2023 Levy Report" memo in the meeting packet. With regard to Hours and Access, she said the Library expanded hours in 2023, resulting in a 7% increase in scheduled open hours compared to pre-2019 Levy. She said challenges in this area include security and staffing, as well as having to modify summer hours for branches that do not have air conditioning to minimize unplanned closures due to high temperatures. With regard to Collections, she said use of digital materials continues to grow, presenting a challenge in that e-materials are three to five times more expensive than print materials, so it is a challenge to meet demand. In the area of Children's Programming, Ms. Oscherwitz said increasing Play and Learn sessions creates a challenge as the cost of operating the programs is higher than the Library expected. She said the Library is confident it can meet expectations in 2024, but it will be a challenge to provide the Play and Learn program beyond 2024 with levy resources. She said in the area of Maintenance there are challenges with security in terms of incidents and vandalism, and the Library has implemented early morning patrols at several branches to make sure facilities are safe at opening. She said the Capital Improvement Program is one of the Library's biggest financial challenges. She said as the Library works through the Green Lake and University seismic projects, it anticipates a \$5 to \$6 million shortfall. She said the Library hopes to identify funding to fill the gap, but it may have to defer the third seismic project at the Columbia Branch outside of the levy period.

Mr. Reich thanked Ms. Oscherwitz for the report and for integrating challenges to help adequately identify and explain stress points.

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

Library Foundation and Friends of the Library Updates

Library Board Trustee Tali Hairston said the Foundation is in a good position in terms of fundraising and financials. He said the Foundation Board unanimously accepted the 990 IRS form for 2022. He said the Foundation Board reviewed their draft DEI statement and engaged in conversation around the statement which aligns with SPL's equity statement. He said the finalized version will be posted on their website. Mr. Hairston said an interesting discussion for the Library Board to have at some point in time would be about equity statements. He said Foundation Board members will visit all Library locations October 10 through 25 to express their gratitude for Library staff work with deliveries of snack boxes. He said all Foundation and Emeritus Board members are invited to tour the Maintenance and Operations Center in October. Mr. Hairston said advocacy outreach to City Council candidates has occurred, and the Foundation wants to keep the Library top of mind for City Council. Mr. Hairston said there is excitement for Ron Chew's event at the Wing Luke Asian Museum, and there is also sadness for recent violence and damage to the

museum. He said the Foundation's Legacy Society Lunch will be held October 23, and Foundation Executive Director Jonna Ward will participate on a panel program at the Urban Libraries Council Annual Forum on October 25.

Mr. Fay said the Friends Board met on October 18. He said Will Livesley-O'Neill, from Foundation staff, attended the Friends Board meeting to provide an update on advocacy efforts. He said the Friends' Annual Meeting will be held on November 4. He said the Friends Board has proposed a new meeting schedule for 2024, alternating Tuesday mornings and Tuesday afternoons, to be voted on at the next meeting. Mr. Fay said the Friends Board went into executive session to discuss the operating agreement between the Friends and the Library which is close to being finalized. He said the Library is excited to have the Friends approve their operating agreement next month. He said SPL and the Friends will begin talking about lease renewal early next year, and the new lease will be attached as an addendum to the operating agreement.

Updates from Library Board Members

Mr. Reich said he recently tried to return a book at the Central Library and was told by staff that there is no longer a conveyer belt to return items. He said that was the first manifestation he saw of the change in materials handling, and he asked for an update on that work. Mr. Fay said the new automated materials handling system was implemented and the changeover was made toward the end of July. He said staff spent a year in a change management process to implement the new system that is now working in every branch and the Central Library. He said the old sorter has been removed from Level 2 of the Central Library, and the new sorter is located at the Maintenance and Operations Center in the Georgetown neighborhood. Mr. Fay said the de-installation of the old sorting machinery at the Central Library was anticipated to cost \$300,000, but the Library's incredible building maintenance and facilities crew figured out how to do the work themselves and saved the Library a direct cost of about \$300,000. Mr. Fay said he is very proud of the team and the care that they took in the work. He thanked Building and Maintenance Supervisor Derek Gjertsen, his team, and every member of the Facilities team who contributed.

ADJOURN

Board President Carmen Bendixen adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.



The Seattle Public Library

Memorandum

Date: October 26, 2023

To: The Seattle Public Library Board of Trustees

From: Tom Fay, Executive Director and Chief Librarian
Nicholas Merkner, Head of Finance and Accounting

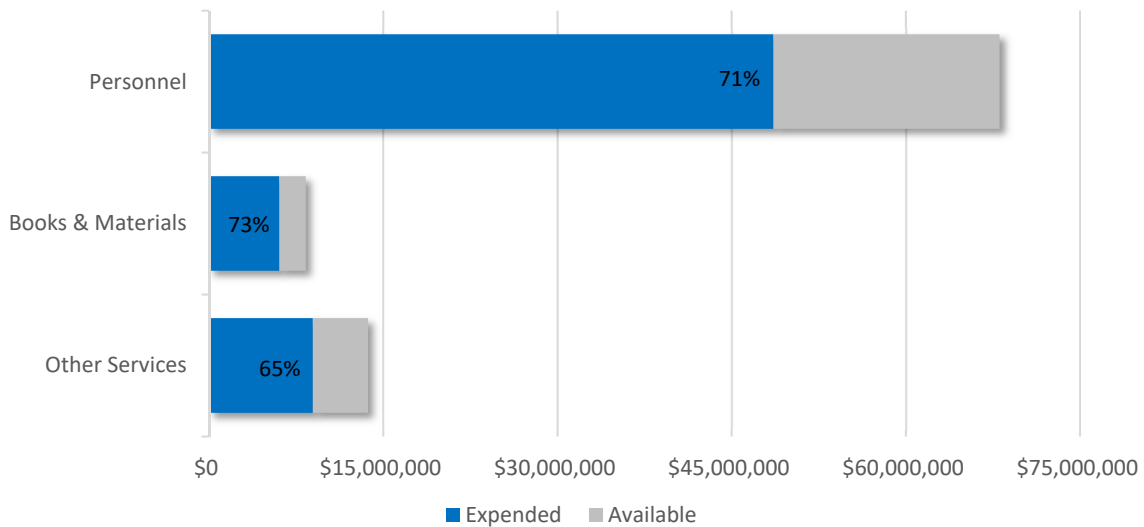
Subject: **September 2023 Financial Reporting**

Overview

Overall, the Library has expended **71%** of its operating budget with **75%** of the year elapsed. This is slightly ahead of the prior year when the Library had expended **69%** of the operating budget at this point in the year. Total expenditures at the end of the month were \$63 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 **20 pay periods processed**, so we expect 75% of the personnel budget to be expended—spending is slightly behind target at **71%**.

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 **73%**.

Other accounts which represent 15% of the adopted budget—and include equipment, services, and supplies—are **65%** expended.

Revenues

Library generated revenues collected during the period under review are **\$65,000**—bringing year-to-date collection to **\$586,000 (100%** 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. This means our revenue collections during Q4 will directly offset use of Fund Balance, preserving it for use in upcoming budget periods.

Action Requested: Library Board consideration of September 2023 Operating Budget financial reporting for approval at October 26, 2023 meeting. Comments or feedback are welcome.

Expenditure Control for September 2023

Amounts in \$1,000s	Revised Budget*	Current Month Expenditures	Year to Date Expenditures	% Expend	Balance of Budget
Personnel Services					
Salaries	44,418	3,265	31,520	71%	12,898
Benefits	23,659	1,918	17,092	72%	6,568
Personnel Services Sub-Total	\$68,078	\$5,183	\$48,612	71%	\$19,466
Books and Library Materials					
Books & Materials	8,338	532	6,066	73%	2,272
Books and Library Materials Sub-Total	\$8,338	\$532	\$6,066	73%	\$2,272
Other Services and Charges					
Central Costs	2,814	233	2,108	75%	706
Equipment - IT & Facilities	2,558	8	1,419	55%	1,140
Office Supplies, Printing & Postage	304	21	186	61%	117
Operating Supplies	509	23	352	69%	157
Other Expenses	526	35	277	53%	249
Other Maintenance	758	7	542	72%	215
Phone, Wireless & Internet	546	9	291	53%	256
Professional Services	764	65	563	74%	201
Software	857	19	456	53%	401
Staff Training & Travel	334	11	90	27%	244
Vehicle Costs	280	29	260	93%	19
Facilities - Space Rental & Utilities	1,768	213	1,515	86%	253
Facilities - Building & Grounds Maint	1,223	33	494	40%	729
Facilities - Garage Debt Service	450	363	386	86%	64
Other Services and Charges Sub-Total	\$13,692	\$1,069	\$8,939	65%	\$4,753
TOTAL LIBRARY OPERATING BUDGET	\$90,108	\$6,784	\$63,617	71%	\$26,491

Footnotes:

* Includes \$1.2M in prior year encumbrance and grant budget authority; \$838k in legislated carry-forward and mid-year supplemental auth

Revenue Control for September 2023

	Revenue Budget	Current Month Revenue	Year to Date Revenue Collected	% Collected
Operations Plan Other Library Revenue				
Lost Material Fees	110,000	7,151	93,321	85%
Central Library Parking Garage Fees	240,000	26,576	260,491	109%
Copy Services/Pay for Print	110,000	9,092	70,172	64%
Space Rental (Private & Inter-Departmental)	76,050	12,551	100,455	132%
Book Sale Consignment	45,000	4,621	53,863	120%
Coffee Cart & Miscellaneous (vending machines, etc.)	3,000	4,883	7,299	243%
TOTAL LIBRARY GENERATED REVENUES				
	\$584,050	\$64,873	\$585,601	100%

Footnotes:

The Library's 2023 revenue budget is \$282,000 below pre-COVID revenues of \$866,000



The Seattle Public Library

Date: October 26, 2023
To: Library Board of Trustees
From: Tom Fay, Executive Director and Chief Librarian
Re: October 2023 Chief Librarian's Report

1. On September 30, the Foundation hosted a fundraiser at the Wing Luke Asian Museum featuring Library Board Trustee Ron Chew reading from his recently published memoir, *My Unforgotten Seattle*. The program was sold out, with a full room of attendees, and overflow attendees able to watch the reading on a screen in a second room. Mr. Chew gave a moving reading of two chapters of his book to donors and Library supporters. Each attendee received a copy of the book, generously underwritten by Emeritus Board member Grace Nordhoff.
2. Library management has been extra busy this month working through the interview process for filling the Administrative Services Director position. We have also held screening interviews for the Human Resources Director position and will move into the larger interview process in early November.
3. On October 13, Director of Institutional and Strategic Advancement Rick Sheridan and I met with Olimpia Bartolucci, Director of the Umbria Library System in Perugia, Italy. We discussed strategic planning, as Ms. Bartolucci's library system is also preparing to undertake a strategic planning effort. Following our meeting, Library Programs and Services Assistant Director Darth Nielsen provided a tour of the Central Library and spoke about Library programs and services. Seattle and Perugia are sister cities, and Chief Librarian Marcellus Turner visited the library in Perugia five years ago for the 25th Seattle-Perugia Anniversary.
4. On October 16, members of the Foundation Board, Emeritus Board, and Library Board visited the Maintenance and Operations Center in the Georgetown neighborhood for a tour of the Mobile Services unit and the new automated materials handling system. Mobile Services Assistant Manager Robin Rousu and staff members Tyler Bosma and Carrie Fox provided in-depth information on the Library's bookmobiles, books by mail, and home services, and Materials Distribution Manager Jason Hayes provided an overview of the new automated materials handling system.
5. On October 17, the Library Board held a special meeting to discuss an early draft Strategic Plan. The work continues with deep engagement from trustees, management, and staff, in addition to community outreach and input.

6. I attended the Mayor's Cabinet retreat on October 19 and 20. The two day meeting of city department directors focused on creative leadership and on long term planning around the city's core priorities for 2024 and beyond.

Meetings and events during this reporting period:

- a. Board Meetings: Monthly Library Board of Trustees meeting; Monthly calls with Library Board President; Friends of the Library Board meeting; 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.
- d. City Meetings, Events and Programs: Mayor's Cabinet retreat; monthly meeting with Deputy Mayor; Mayor's Emergency Executive Board meeting.

LIBRARY AT A GLANCE		
Active Users – Last 12 Months 288K ↑ 1%	Monthly Users – Digital 92K ↑ 1%	Monthly Users – Physical 43K ↓ -4%
Monthly Questions Answered 52K ↓ -9%	Monthly Circulation – Digital 622K ↓ -1%	Monthly Circulation – Physical 484K ↓ -6%

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

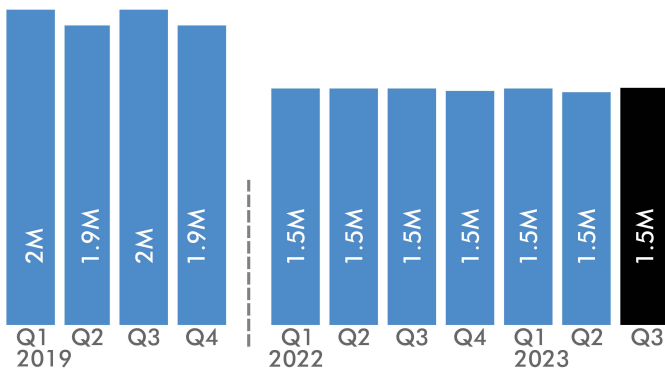


IN FOCUS: Quarterly Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Q3 saw record digital circulation, steady physical circulation and increased total users.

Physical Circulation

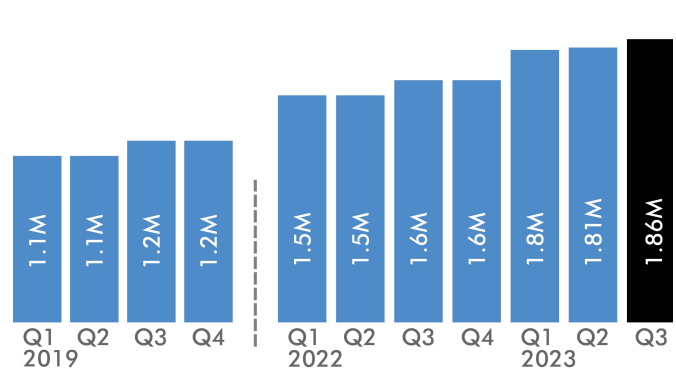
Number of items circulated or renewed



Physical circulation held steady but is below pre-COVID levels.

Digital Circulation

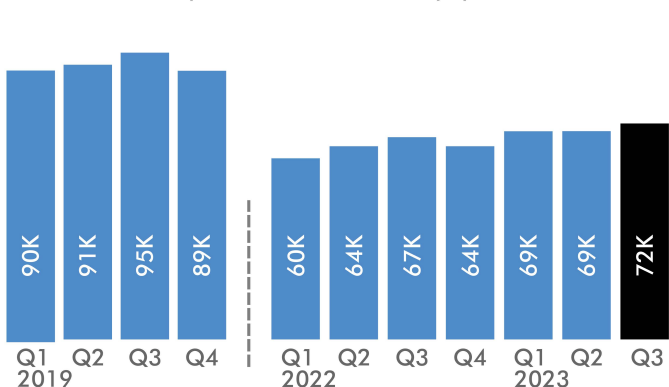
Number of items circulated



More digital materials circulated in Q3 than in any previous quarter. This count includes 28K checkouts from Books Unbanned users.

Quarterly Borrowers - Physical

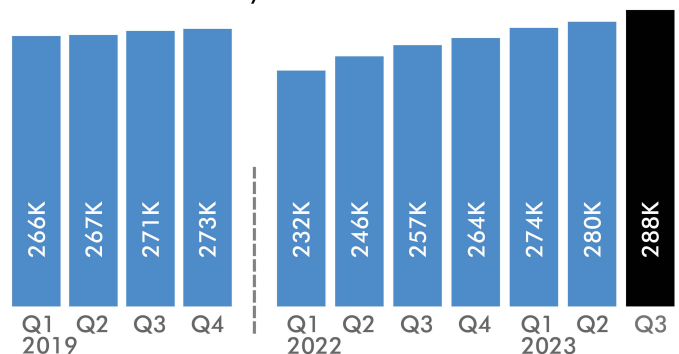
Number of patrons who borrowed physical materials



Unique users who checked out physical materials in Q3 continued increasing, but is still lower than pre-COVID levels.

Active Library Users

Number of patrons who checked out materials or logged in to use a Library resource in the last 12 months



Active users reached an all-time high at the end of Q3, driven primarily by growth in e-content use. This count does not include Books Unbanned users.

Collections and Access Services Technical Services

October 11, 2023

Kate Sellers, Technical Services Manager

Impact Areas

Access: *Making sure our public has access to all that we offer. This means encouraging everyone to get Library cards, providing great collections that serve every age and making sure patrons have access to our staff, resources, programs and services.*

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

Critical Cataloging: Applying an RSJ lens to cataloging Library materials

Since 2015, the Library's Cataloging unit has been working to apply a Race and Social Justice (RSJ) lens to our work, to increase the accessibility of materials in our catalog and provide our patrons, especially those in our prioritized audiences, with a collection that uses respectful and updated terms to describe marginalized or underserved communities and topics. [Critical cataloging](#) focuses on mitigating the ways in which traditional cataloging and knowledge management has organized information in a way that supports systems and hierarchies of oppression. While we will always focus on patron access as the main goal of cataloging, in 2023, we have entered a new phase of this work and want to share what we have accomplished so far, and what we plan to do in the future.

Past accomplishments:

- Manual removal of the subject heading "Illegal Aliens" from our catalog. Before 2016, this subject heading was the official Library of Congress (LOC) heading to use when describing materials about undocumented immigration or non-citizens. Because the Library uses a process called "Authority Control" to make sure that our records match Library of Congress Subject Headings, a new process had to be created around this heading and several related headings to make sure it was manually removed from any new records which had it added as part of our authority control process. Now that LOC has updated the official subject heading to "undocumented noncitizens," we have retired this manual process, but this was our first foray into exploring ways beyond the usual scope of our work to apply a racial justice lens to cataloging.

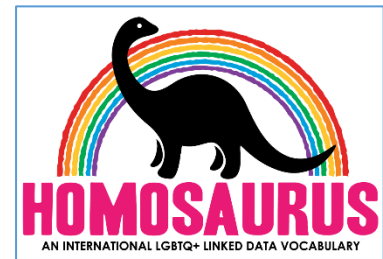
Subject and genre	SUBJECT
	Wang, Qian Julie, 1987- — Childhood and youth.
	Chinese Americans — New York (State) — New York — Biography.
	Wang, Qian Julie, 1987- — Family.
	Immigrants — New York (State) — New York — Biography
	Undocumented noncitizens — New York (State) — New York — Biography.
	Shijiazhuang Shi (China) — Biography.
	Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.) — Biography.
	GENRE
	Autobiographies

- Updating author names with NACO. The Name Authority Cooperative program from the Library of Congress trains and authorizes catalogers from approved libraries to update the official authorized form of an author's name in the LOC authority files. For trans or non-binary authors, this authorized form can sometimes be delayed in getting updated for some time, leaving us with the use of a "dead-name" in our catalog and a potentially painful experience for authors or patrons looking for their work. We applied to be a NACO library, and our cataloging librarians have all been trained to do this updating. We have changed several authority records so far

to make sure author names appear as they should in our catalog records, and in catalog records for all libraries who use LOC name authority files. This benefits all authors with any kind of name update, but is especially impactful for trans and non-binary authors.

Current projects & practices

- When cataloging materials about or by people in our prioritized audiences, or about subjects very closely related to or affecting people in our prioritized audiences, catalogers take extra care. We do not just accept the subject headings, descriptions, or access points that are available in previously done records for these works, but scrutinize them to make sure they are the best (most specific, and non-harmful) language possible. We add headings so items are findable by patrons, and use language that is not harmful or outdated whenever possible.
- Alternative controlled vocabularies. While we cannot change Library of Congress subject headings without running into problems with our authority control process, we can add other headings from different controlled vocabularies. We currently use several alternatives to find better access points for materials about and by queer people and indigenous people (the [Homosaurus](#), and various resources from [UBC](#)).
- Using specific headings instead of general ones. Instead of using the larger heading from the Library of Congress titled “American Indian”, we use the names for the specific tribe or nation in the item. This avoids using outdated language for indigenous peoples and still provides access to anyone searching for these materials.
- Patron input. Because of the size of our collection and our workload of new materials, we cannot find and fix every time the wrong language was used to describe an item in the past. We do have a way for patrons (and other staff) to report problems in the catalog, and frequently are able to fix things when they are reported to us that we otherwise would not have seen. It’s an important extra safety net and allows patrons to be more involved with the collection. Not every request has an easy or quick answer, but being open to this feedback is an important part of our work.



Future Work

There is still much to be done to progress in this work, and many of the changes championed by critical cataloging are hard to implement individually as one library system, given the cooperative and interconnected nature of cataloging standards and authority control. Our goal is to continually review our own practices to look for ways where we can make small changes with a big impact, and shift the way cataloging is perceived and practiced in our system.

Government Relations & Community Partnerships
October 11, 2023

Kiersten Nelson, Manager Government Relations & Community Partnerships

Access: *Making sure the public has access to all that The Seattle Public Library offers.*

Equity: *Developing an environment where patrons have access to quality programs and services, no matter their demographic background, through public policy development at the local, state, and federal levels of government.*

Sustainability: *Educating government officials on the need for sustainable funding to ensure the Library will continue to operate and fulfill the needs of our community for today and the future.*

Educating public officials about The Seattle Public Library and Building community through partnerships.

Over the past year, Government Relations and Community Partnerships have been busy working to educate elected officials, push for state and federal funding, while building partnerships across the City after the end of the pandemic public health emergency.

Council Relations

Under Chief Librarian Tom Fay's leadership, The Seattle Public Library continues to build strong relationships with members of the City Council. This fall will see the election of at least four new members of the nine-member council and the potential to see as high as eight new members. Factoring this in, the Library plans for a full-throated education campaign at the start of 2024. There will be a new Council President and committee assignments and chairs will switch based on the makeup of the new Council.

Councilmember Andrew Lewis, current chair of the Public Assets and Homelessness committee, which oversees The Seattle Public Library, remains a strong Library advocate and extremely responsive to the Library's needs. The committee consists of Councilmembers Andrew Lewis, Lisa Herbold, Tammy Morales, Andrew Pedersen, Deborah Juarez, and Teresa Mosqueda. Councilmembers Lisa Herbold, Andrew Pedersen, Kshama Sawant, and Deborah Juarez are not running for re-election this fall and Teresa Mosqueda is running for a seat on the County Council.

Councilmembers receive weekly emails updating them on various items of interest surrounding the Library from the past week. These emails include upcoming events, awards/grants won, program summaries, extreme weather event responses, Levy reports, and data metrics similar to those provided during Board of Trustee meetings. Councilmember Pedersen receives regular updates on the status of the Northeast and Southwest HVAC upgrade installations and the Library attended weekly meetings with Councilmember Strauss about the reopening and reactivation of the Ballard Commons. Those meetings paused during the summer and resumed in the fall. Tom Fay also spoke with Councilmember Lewis on his podcast discussing the launch of Book Bingo, Summer of Learning, our URM project at Green Lake, and several other topics.

Council Concerns

Through our strategic efforts to build strong relationships, councilmembers now reach out to the Library directly when they or their constituents have concerns regarding SPL. This allows us to provide more insight into the matter than what the constituent may know and allows councilmembers to respond more meaningfully.

As a result of the funds that City Council appropriated to the Library for HVAC upgrades at the Northeast and Southwest branches, Councilmember Pedersen has an acute interest in the progress and schedule. Throughout the year, both Government Relations and Tom Fay have had in depth conversations with the Councilmember and his staff on challenges for the project. He has engaged directly with Seattle City Light, the Department of Construction & Inspection, and the Preservation Board to expedite delays surrounding paperwork and processing.

State and Federal Outreach

With the leadership of Tom Fay and in partnership with The Seattle Public Library Foundation (SPLF) and Friends of The Seattle Public Library (Friends), government relations used 2023 as a year to engage with legislators at the state and federal levels in a more impactful way. This began with participating in the Washington Library Association's lobby day in February. Through this day of advocacy, Tom Fay, members of SPLF, the Friends, and myself met with numerous legislators and their staff. We met in-person with Senators Frame and Saldana as well as Representatives Alvarado, Berry, Farivar, Macri, and Reed.

The importance of developing these relationships became visible almost immediately. During our February visit, Senator Frame suggested we submit a request for funding through a discretionary legislators' fund, administered by the Department of Commerce, for a new holds pick-up locker at the Greenwood Branch. This was submitted as part of their legislative funding package, which was ultimately passed, and now Greenwood will receive nearly \$100,000 to install the new equipment before June of 2024.

In June, we hosted a tour with State Representative Julia Reed, an avid Library user at the Greenwood Branch. We highlighted the broader work the Library does in the community from youth programs to workforce development. We thanked her for her support of the funding for the holds pick-up locker and helped her locate several Peak Pick books that would also mark off squares on her Book Bingo Card.

During Congress' August District Work Period, US Representative Adam Smith visited the Columbia Branch. Deputy Mayor Wong, SPLF Board Member Sharon Hemmel, Tom Fay, and Regional Manager Richard Council provided the Congressman with a tour and a robust discussion on the Library's efforts to address teen mental health through our partnership with the University of Washington and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), our youth workforce development programs, and paid internships. We also reiterated our partnership with the City in submitting an outstanding community funded project request that leads to the next point.

The Library worked closely with the City of Seattle's Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR) to develop two community funded project requests (formerly known as earmarks) that were selected by the City to be a part of the requests they pushed in Congress. The Senate received our proposal for funds to support our Youth Workforce Development program. This request was not advanced due to the House of Representative's very clear directive that they would not support funding programs of this nature. In the House, Representative Jayapal advanced our request for funding to support updates at the University Branch. With a last minute pivot away from our initial committee request through the Department of Education budget, we instead submitted the request via FEMA's budget as part of their Hazardous Mitigation fund. To date, that request has passed through the Homeland Security Appropriations subcommittee and is awaiting a vote from the full appropriations committee and then the full House of Representatives. We will continue to partner with OIR to submit requests for the 2025 fiscal year and beyond.

Community Partnerships (Museum pass increases, new MOA framework, reestablished Seattle Public Schools)

Throughout the pandemic many of our community facing programs and partnerships shutdown. As vaccinations became accessible and treatments grew, these outside organizations began to reopen and offered the Library an opportunity to focus on areas that would provide the greatest impact.

The much-loved Museum Pass program suffered greatly during the pandemic. Not only were museums closed but people were not venturing out to enjoy the few organizations that remained in the program. Efforts that began in 2022 continued in 2023 with nearly all museums increasing the number of passes offered through the program as well as adding three new organizations to the program. Pass usage statistics show that nearly all passes are in use on any given day.

Community partnerships are part of the fabric of the work we do. The Library is more than the books we loan out and, to paraphrase Andrew Carnegie, we are a never failing spring in the desert. A process that began last year to streamline SPL's Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding (MOA/MOU) paperwork began beta testing at the end of September. Through staff attrition, the launch was delayed, however, we are able to use the transition to the new SharePoint sites

and Microsoft forms in an electronic process that promises to offer more transparency, ease of inventorying our partners, and increased collaboration with departments to simplify various processes that surround our partnerships.

Over the past twelve months, our Youth and Family Learning Services team (YFLS) have been working hard to invigorate our partnership with the Seattle Public Schools (SPS) system. Meetings continue to occur between our staff and SPS to ensure that the programs we offer meet their needs, we have clear goals and objectives, and simplification of our complicated and wide reaching partnership. Prior to Andrew Harbison's departure, we worked together to create a new MOA with SPS that streamlined the need for additional background checks and paperwork from our staff to participate in our SPS based programming, outlined at a high level the programs we would offer, and laid out objectives and goals by which we would measure our success.

The Seattle Public Library Foundation Liaison

The Seattle Public Library Foundation supports many aspects of the Library's work. The Library works closely with SPLF staff to ensure that the Foundation is using the same messaging as the Library and their advocacy priorities align with those of SPL. Additionally, SPL provides regular reports to SPLF on the status of grant spending as well as quarterly meetings to go over spending with the ELES team, where the bulk of grant funding is channeled. This allows the Foundation to know how we are using the funds they provide as well as serving as a reminder to Library staff to ensure funds are spent in a timely manner. The Library conducts weekly meetings with various SPLF leadership members to cover a range of topics from providing updates on programs the Foundation funds to assisting with scheduling meeting room access.



The Seattle Public Library

NEWS RELEASES

Date			Title
09	05	2023	All Locations of The Seattle Public Library to Open at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12
09	07	2023	The Seattle Public Library's 2022 Impact Report Highlights Return of In-person Programs, Rebound of Print Circulation
09	12	2023	The Seattle Public Library's Free Homework Help Now Available at 9 Branches
09	12	2023	El Programa De Ayuda Con La Tarea Escolar De La Biblioteca Pública De Seattle Ofrece Tutorías Gratuitas Después Del Horario De Clases en Nueve Sucursales
09	14	2023	Prepare for the Solar Eclipse Doubleheader With The Seattle Public Library
09	25	2023	Tale of Two Entrepreneurial Cities: the Seattle Public Library Brings Together Small Business Champions From Seattle and Minneapolis on Oct. 11
09	29	2023	October 2023 Author Readings and Community Events With The Seattle Public Library



The Seattle Public Library
MEDIA COVERAGE

Date			Organization	Headline	Details	Link
09	05	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	James McBride's grandmother, friend inspired characters in his new novel	"McBride, in a telephone interview from the road on his book tour (he'll be in town to speak at Seattle Public Library on Sept. 12)"	https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/books/james-mcbrides-grandmother-friend-inspired-characters-in-his-new-novel/
09	05	2023	<i>South Seattle Emerald</i>	The South End Fall Activities and Back-to-School Resource Guide 2023	"The Seattle Public Library has numerous programs to help students of all ages with success in school. Library Link is a program that allows Seattle students to access online resources using a student ID."	https://southseattleemerald.com/2023/09/02/the-south-end-fall-activities-and-back-to-school-resource-guide-2023/
09	09	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	Fall 2023 author events to catch in the Seattle area	"In honor of the birth of the author of "No-No Boy" on Sept. 23, 1923, Seattle Public Library is presenting several events this fall."	https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/books/fall-2023-author-events-to-catch-in-the-seattle-area/
09	13	2023	<i>West Seattle Blog</i>	Returning: Southwest Library back to 'regular' hours starting today	"It was one of four Seattle Public Library branches around the city that had special summer hours these past three months 'to reduce heat-related closures and provide more cooler morning open hours for patrons by opening and closing these branches two hours earlier two days a week.'"	https://westseattleblog.com/2023/09/new-hours-southwest-library-back-to-regular-hours-starting-today/
09	14	2023	<i>Fox 13 News</i>	Seattle Public Library holding homework help program	"All students need to bring is their homework."	https://www.fox13seattle.com/video/1279928

09	14	2023	<i>Capitol Hill Seattle Blog</i>	New HVAC installation to close Capitol Hill Library next week	“Construction projects will close two area branches for periods this month including Harvard Ave’s Capitol Hill Library. The Seattle Public Library says it will add service hours at other nearby branches to try to help but the closures will be significant for regular patrons.”	https://www.capitolhillseattle.com/2023/09/new-hvac-installation-to-close-capitol-hill-library-next-week/
09	14	2023	<i>West Seattle Blog</i>	Want to grow your small business? 2 chances for free info @ West Seattle Coworking	“At noon Friday, September 22nd, West Seattle Coworking is hosting “a presentation from master librarian Jay Lyman on the vast collection of business tools available for free to Seattle Public Library patrons.”	https://westseattleblog.com/2023/09/biznote-want-to-grow-your-small-business-2-chances-for-free-info-west-seattle-coworking/
09	15	2023	<i>The Urbanist</i>	Seattle’s Public Libraries Chart a New Strategic Direction	“At its core, the strategy is built on the idea that ‘the library makes a difference in people’s lives and in the greater community.’”	https://www.theurbanist.org/2023/09/15/seattles-public-libraries-chart-a-new-strategic-direction/
09	19	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	Seattle workers rally for new contract, express outrage over city proposal	“Anne Cisney, a librarian and president of the Seattle Public Library Employees Union, said city workers average about \$73,000 to \$75,000 a year, but many make much less.”	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/seattle-workers-rally-for-new-contract-express-outrage-over-city-proposal/

09	20	2023	<i>Northwest Asian Weekly</i>	Seattle pays tribute to native son John Okada on his 100th birthday	“To celebrate what would be Okada’s 100th birthday, Seattle Public Library will host three programs that will explore the novelist’s life, place, and work. The programs kick off Sept. 26 and have been organized by guest curator and Okada biographer Frank Abe.”	https://nwasianweekly.com/2023/09/seattle-pays-tribute-to-native-son-john-okada-on-his-100th-birthday/
09	21	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	On John Okada’s centennial, Seattle marks legacy of ‘No-No Boy’ author	“And this fall, Okada and ‘No-No Boy’ are being celebrated, in honor of the centennial of the author’s birth on Sept. 22, 1923, in three special programs at Seattle Public Library, co-presented by University of Washington Press and the local Japanese community newspaper North American Post.”	https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/books/on-john-okadas-centennial-seattle-marks-legacy-of-no-no-boy-author/
09	22	2023	<i>Queen Anne & Magnolia News</i>	Seattle Public Library prepares for solar eclipse doubleheader	“Nationally recognized astronomy educator Dennis Schatz is partnering with the Library to offer free eclipse education programs at Library locations.”	https://queenannenews.com/news/2023/sep/22/seattle-public-library-prepares-for-solar-eclipse-doubleheader/
09	24	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	Rant & Rave: Reader sensitive to car air fresheners	“RAVE to Seattle Public Library for providing children’s story times. The librarians at these events are so welcoming and engaging. In addition to reading books aloud, the librarians lead songs and hands-on activities for the young audiences. Thanks, SPL, for encouraging a new generation of readers.”	https://www.seattletimes.com/life/lifestyle/rant-rave-108/

09	25	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	Fentanyl in King County: Join The Seattle Times for a live discussion	“On Oct. 16, we invite you to join us, along with experts in the field, for a discussion around how to improve our community’s response to the drug and connect people to sustainable care. The event will be held at Seattle Public Library’s downtown location, at 1000 Fourth Avenue, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.”	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/mental-health/fentanyl-in-king-county-join-the-seattle-times-for-a-live-discussion/
09	28	2023	<i>WBZ News Radio 1030 (Boston)</i>	Boston Public Library Joins Books Unbanned Initiative	“BPL is just the third in the country to join the Brooklyn Public Library’s Books Unbanned initiative along with Seattle Public Library.”	https://wbznewsradio.iheart.com/content/2023-09-28-boston-public-library-joins-books-unbanned-initiative/
09	28	2023	<i>Random Lengths News</i>	LA County Library to Expand Digital Library Access	“Meanwhile, library officials are talking to the Brooklyn Public Library and officials in Seattle’s library system, which have expanded digital access well beyond their cities.”	https://www.randomlengthsnews.com/archives/2023/09/28/digital-library-access/46635
09	28	2023	<i>Boston Globe</i>	Boston Public Library joins ‘Books Unbanned’ initiative, opening digital collection to teens, young adults across US	“Boston is the third library system to join the network, which also includes the Seattle Public Library”	https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/09/28/metro/boston-public-library-books-unbanned/
09	28	2023	<i>Times of San Diego</i>	San Diego Public Library Joins Campaign to Protect Access to Banned Books	“Books Unbanned was first started by the Brooklyn Public Library in 2021 and was soon joined by a similar campaign by the Seattle Public Library. In June, Los Angeles County supervisors moved forward with an effort to make frequently banned books available to all Californians.”	https://timesofsandiego.com/life/2023/09/28/san-diego-public-library-joins-campaign-to-protect-access-to-banned-books/

09	28	2023	<i>Seattle Channel</i>	The John Okada Centennial: A celebration of his life and work	“‘No-No Boy’ is the great Japanese American novel, one that was years ahead of its time in capturing the raw emotion and anger of a dislocated people returning to Seattle from four years of wartime incarceration,” says Abe. “It’s also a great novel of Seattle, with passages evoking the buildings and alleyways of Chinatown that still exist today. Okada once worked at the old Central Library, so it’s fitting the Library as an institution that promotes reading and community should recognize the 100th anniversary of his birth with a reconsideration of his life and legacy.”	https://seattlechannel.org/videos?videoid=x151232
09	28	2023	<i>Hoodline</i>	Boston Public Library Joins Anti-Censorship Crusade with Books Unbanned Initiative	“Launched by the Brooklyn Public Library in 2022, the BPL now aligns with the Seattle Public Library in their commitment to intellectual freedom, as reported by the Boston Globe.”	https://hoodline.com/2023/09/boston-public-library-joins-anti-censorship-crusade-with-books-unbanned-initiative/
09	29	2023	<i>West Seattle Blog</i>	Southwest Artist Showcase time! Bring your art to the library starting Tuesday	“In 2023, the Southwest Artist Showcase is back for its 31st year! This free, month-long event at the Southwest Branch of the Seattle Public Library features artists from all over Southwest Seattle. We welcome submissions from people of all ages and experience levels.”	https://westseattleblog.com/2023/09/south-west-artist-showcase-time-bring-your-art-to-the-library-starting-tuesday/

