

The Seattle Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
12:00 p.m. Thursday, September 28, 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: 952 529 091#

Watch Live:

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

Meeting ID: 234 185 273 700 / Passcode: stJ64w

-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 August 31, 2023 Library Board Meeting
2. August 2023 Finance Report

E. CHIEF LIBRARIAN REPORT

1. Chief Librarian Report
2. System Report
 - a. SPL Digital Equity Strategy Report: Kristina Darnell, Community Engagement and Economic Development Services Manager

F. OLD BUSINESS

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2024 Budget Process Update
2. 2024 Operations Plan Framework
3. Second Quarter 2023 Levy Report
4. Library Foundation and Friends of the Library Updates
5. Updates from Library Board Members

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION

I. ADJOURN

J. NEXT LIBRARY BOARD MEETING: October 26, 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

August 31, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of The Seattle Public Library (SPL) Board of Trustees was held on August 31, 2023. Library Board President Carmen Bendixen called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Vice President Tali Hairston and trustees Jay Reich, Ron Chew, and Yazmin Mehdi were in attendance. 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

Executive Assistant Amy Lawson said the Library Board received one public comment via email regarding a public disclosure request. She said each trustee received the comment in full in their email accounts. Executive Director and Chief Librarian Tom Fay said the Library is reviewing the request and working with the individual and will keep the Board apprised.

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

Mr. Fay said work continues on strategic planning. He said that he, Strategic Policy Advisor Jessica Smith, and the Core Team have been working with a consultant on a qualitative analysis of input received from internal and external stakeholders, community-based partners, and staff. He said the group is looking through input to test assumptions and determine what will add to the richness of desired impacts and outcomes. He said this is the messy part of planning. Mr. Fay said he will bring the Library Board together in a retreat for a couple of hours in September or October to take a deeper look at the work with members of the Core Team. He said there will also be a Town Hall meeting with Library staff on September 12 to let them know where the process is and to queue up staff for various input opportunities that will be available as the plan continues to come together. He said in the September 12 event, staff will be asked to participate in a couple of rapid flash surveys as the team moves through the plan presentation. He said the Board will also have an opportunity for additional input into the planning process and to ask additional questions at the retreat. He said he would prefer the meeting be held in person. Answering a question from Library Board Trustee Yazmin Mehdi, Mr. Fay said the Library Board should not attend the staff Town Hall, which is intended for staff only so that staff feel comfortable expressing themselves and asking questions. He said he wants staff voices to be heard.

Mr. Fay said he has been trying to spend time with some newer city department directors. He said he and Seattle Parks Superintendent AP Diaz met in July to visit the Northgate and Lake City Branches to talk about similar issues and challenges that the Library and Parks are seeing in their environments that affect their staff, facilities, and patrons. He said the Library and Parks have adjacencies in several neighborhoods. Mr. Fay said Mr. Diaz comes from the Los Angeles area and has varied experience and possible ideas for additional partnerships between the departments.

Mr. Fay said the Library welcomed two visiting Councilmembers from Yokohama, Japan. He said he and Youth and Family Services Managing Librarian Soraya Silverman-Montano met with one councilmember, and Ms. Silverman-Montano and Institutional and Strategic Advancement Director Rick Sheridan met with the other. Mr. Fay said the same week the Library also hosted visitors from the Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) New York (the architecture firm that designed the Central Library) and a Japanese engineering firm. He said he and Head of Buildings and Capital Improvement Projects Dennis Reddinger provided an in-depth tour of the Central Library for the visitors, and a comprehensive view and extensive look at the building and its HVAC and other engineering systems. He said it was a good exchange of information. Mr. Fay said the Yokohama Councilmembers are building a new library and were very interested in youth programming and community engagement. He said they extended an invitation to visit Yokohama, if there is ever the opportunity.

Mr. Fay said Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has expanded to include all of Washington State. He said the program provides one free book per month for children aged birth to five years whose families enroll. He said Ms. Parton has been running the Imagination Library program for about twenty years and makes a difference in communities with small libraries or no libraries. He said it is a great way for a family to start a personal library for their children. Mr. Fay said he attended the celebration event where Ms. Parton gave a presentation and sang a couple of songs for the attendees. Library Board Trustee Jay Reich asked how to contact the organization to participate. Mr. Fay said his office will send information to the trustees. Mr. Reich asked how far the program is penetrated throughout Washington. Mr. Fay said the event had attendees from all over the state, including librarians and educators, and he expects there to be a broad reach. Mr. Fay said the program is funded by the legislature as well as private funding efforts statewide.

Mr. Fay said he met with new Town Hall Executive Director David Song. He said Mr. Song spoke highly of Ms. Mehdi, who also serves on Town Hall's board of directors. Mr. Fay said he and Mr. Song spoke about possible partnerships as the organizations move out of the pandemic mindset and begin to set new strategies. He said it was a good discussion, and he provided a tour of the Central Library to Mr. Song.

Mr. Fay said the Library is conducting recruitments for Administrative Services Director, Human Resources Director, and Library Programs and Services Director. He said there has been a positive response by applicants to the position postings. Mr. Fay said seven applicants have been screened for the Administrative Services Director position and finalists will be moving to the next stage of the recruitment in the coming weeks. He thanked Human Resources Manager Shawna Dennard for her work and careful screening of 60 to 70 sets of application materials to find the candidates who best match the qualification requirements. He also thanked Ms. Smith and Mr. Sheridan for their assistance in conducting the seven candidate screening interviews with him.

Ms. Mehdi said there are a few places in the written reports in the meeting packet that mention Library partnerships with the Parks Department. She gave kudos to the Library for working with other city departments to better serve the community and said it makes sense to share efforts. Referring to OMA New York's visit to the Central Library, Ms. Mehdi said there were likely no overlaps between the team who visited and the team that actually designed the library, and she asked if the OMA visitors had any reflections on how the building has aged and whether they had any thoughts about how other buildings they designed in the same era have implemented maintenance programs. Mr. Fay said that was not part of their discussion, but they did speak about the realities of a building like the Central Library, and the hard costs associated with it. He said the architects have visited at various times, and the building was designed to be modified and remodeled as the organization changed. Mr. Fay said the building is very iconic, so people are always afraid to touch it, but it was designed to move with the times. He said the building does some great things and was built at a time on the cusp of changes to library services and technologies. He said the Library continues to replace engineering elements and technology in the

building. He said the Central Library is approaching its 20 year anniversary, so having a vision of where the Library wants to go with it will be key to keeping up with the times.

Mr. Fay said reports in the meeting packet contain good information on Books Unbanned and digital materials circulations. He said as the Library starts to see the spread between physical and e-material usage, it must also look at budget sustainability around e-materials. He said a team meeting is planned to discuss approaches to materials buying in advance of budget planning for 2025-2026. Mr. Fay said the packet contains a report from Human Resources on recruitments, and information on a Library Magic staff award. He said another report discusses Library partnerships with the Parks Department and the Seattle Housing Authority. He said the Library just wrapped up the Summer of Learning Program, and once again partnered with the Burke Museum for the culminating event. He thanked the Burke Museum for their support, beautiful facility, and amazing staff who make the day a wonderful experience for kids and families.

System Reports

Social Services Team Overview

Daniel Tilton said he is the assistant managing librarian for the Quick Information Center which includes the Social Services Team and the Community Resource Program. Mr. Tilton said prior to the pandemic, the Library contracted social workers through the Downtown Emergency Services Center. He said, under that model, the Library's social workers primarily provided direct service, responding to patrons in crisis. He said they offered drop-in hours, worked with patrons on accessing services, and made referrals. He said it was very challenging to support branches, having only two social workers for 27 locations. He said it was also difficult to retain community resource specialists, as the staff in the roles were fantastic, but there is very high turnover in the social services field, as well as a need to navigate to complex organizations.

Mr. Tilton said the Quick Information Center (QIC) is located on Level 5 of the Central Library and is where most of the public technology and ready reference are located. He said there is a large service desk and public area on the Mixing Chamber floor. He said calls to the main Library phone line go to QIC and most questions are answered there. He said most questions from Library email and the online "Ask Us" service are also directed to QIC. Mr. Tilton said the newest part of the team is the Social Services Team which has three core members: (1) a senior community resource specialist who acts as the program manager for Social Services to create partnerships, identify and offer training, and who will eventually be presenting to various stakeholders; (2) a young adult (YA) community resource specialist that reports to the senior community resource specialist and primarily does direct service at the Central Library, working with adults and helping to coordinate programming and social services for adults and young adults; and (3) a social services librarian who is the adult services subject specialist for social services reference and referral that the Library offers from traditional information service points. Mr. Tilton said these are all new roles, having begun within the last year and a half.

Mr. Tilton said the three main areas of focus of the Social Services Team are direct service, partnerships, and building staff capacity. He said there is a lot of overlap between the areas. He said "direct service" is public service, and all Library staff are already involved in this work, working with patrons in crisis and using de-escalation skills to manage situations. He said the Library is not asking frontline staff to be case managers or to be clinicians, and the Social Services Team is in place to better support the work that staff are already doing. Mr. Tilton said the team also provides information and referral services from traditional information service points. He said a great additional service offered through the Social Services budget is emergency supply distribution to provide socks, hats, gloves, emergency blankets, snacks, hygiene kits, hand warmers, and other items to people in need. He said the service has been very useful in making positive engagements with patrons. He said many patrons with behavioral health challenges can be in an escalated state because a basic need isn't being met. He said the Library can provide a snack, dry socks, or comfortable clothing that may make a difference in whether the patron can

be successful in the Library. Mr. Tilton said the Library has created various partnerships to bring partners onsite to do “warm handoffs” so that the Library knows a connection is being made. He said there is a certain amount of stigma attached to walking into a Social Services agency, and the Library can be a neutral space to make connections and know outcomes. He said the Library may not want to bring every partner on site, but having more information and understanding about various agencies can be helpful to let patrons know what to expect, or to help facilitate contact.

Mr. Tilton said the Social Services Team is focused on building capacity among frontline staff. He said the social service librarian keeps resources up to date and does resource mapping. He said the team is developing a reference interview tool, based on the reader advisory model. He said reading interests are highly personal, but the Library has a way to determine a patron’s interest in a particular work through a series of questions, so the team is developing a tool like that for social services. He said, for example, if the Library is helping to connect a patron to a service, questions can help determine the patron’s individual needs in terms of sobriety, pets, referrals, lockers, and other considerations. He said the Library wants to support trauma informed care practices, and has convened a system-wide Social Services workgroup with representatives from every region, and from the Security and Community Engagement teams. He said team members are working together to build partnerships, share best practices, and multiply services throughout the system.

Mr. Tilton shared a “resource map” created by a Teen Services librarian at the Central Library. He said the front of the page shows a map of the downtown area with resources noted, and the back has information about where young adults can access food, shelter, healthcare, and other services. He said the Library prints out this useful tool quite often. He said the Library also has a resource map for the University District. He said branch staff are using the map template to have the most pertinent information on hand to help patrons.

Mr. Tilton shared a slide with the CDC’s “six guiding principles to a trauma-informed approach” which include: safety, trustworthiness and transparency, peer support, collaboration and mutuality, empowerment mutuality, empowerment, and cultural, historical and gender issues. He said the national work group for social services in libraries is called Whole Person Librarianship. He said staff are trained to avoid exclusion and to make spaces safe and welcoming for everyone, particularly the most vulnerable patrons. He said SPL wants to make sure it is not overpromising services that might not be available. He said SPL wants to make positive engagements and treat every patron with respect and dignity. He said the Library wants to create programs where patrons can build peer support networks and explore possibilities for having peer navigators. He said SPL wants to work with patrons to create programs and services that are responsive to their needs. He said the Library has “YA Drop-in” and “Coffee and Conversations” programs so the Library can hear directly from patrons experiencing homelessness how SPL can be responsive to their needs. He said the Library is working to develop and expand cultural competency trainings, along with equity work to provide programs that nurture everybody's interests in a culturally responsive way to the communities the Library serves. Mr. Tilton said the Social Services team wants to bring social services up to a core service and to expand the concept of the Library as a third space. He said the team would like to think outside the box for opportunities to use the spaces in ways to better connect patrons to services throughout the city, while building relationships and making connections. He said the team wants to understand what services are available, and to treat every patron as a whole person and meet as many needs as possible.

Library Board Trustee Jay Reich asked Mr. Tilton about his background and how he came to this job, and also asked how the Library is doing in terms of measuring aspirational goals against reality. Mr. Tilton said he has been with SPL for 16 years. He said he started as a teen services librarian, was then a supervising librarian, and has been in his current role for two years. He said, prior to library school, he worked in social services as a residential counselor and supervisor in a residential group home for adults experiencing mental illness. He said he also did case management in a community guardianship program. He said when he entered library work, there

seemed to be a lot of overlap. He said before SPL, he worked for Brooklyn Public Library as a teen services librarian. Mr. Tilton said there is a natural overlap between urban public libraries and social services, and if the social services librarian position existed when he started, it would have been an ideal job. Answering Mr. Reich's second question, Mr. Tilton said it took a while to create and fill the new positions, and he feels like the right people are currently in them, with complementary skill sets. He said his colleagues' experience includes clinician work at Harborview and other locations, and work at the University of Washington's Office of the Youth Protection Coordinator. He said their experience includes a direct service model as well as environments where there aren't traditionally social workers, but there is a lot of overlap. He said some of the team's partnerships happened very quickly, for example with the United Way of King County for low income rental assistance. He said the team is working with Catholic Community services to sign people up for ORCA LIFT reduced price public transportation services, and the Library also had free smart phone and service enrollment for a while. He said the team was able to set up some partnerships very quickly, and social workers have been out in the field quite a bit to build relationships. He said a lot of referrals have been made, and the Library also has on site providers. He said the social services workgroup has new resource tools and has great members on the team. He said the team has a lot of pieces in place, an overall vision, and they are moving forward.

Library Board Trustee Tali Hairston said the whole person approach is the fundamental best practice for evidence based practices, and he was very pleased with the information. He asked Mr. Tilton to speak further about core services. Mr. Tilton said every SPL employee who works a public service desk has training on areas like reader advisory and business reference, but the Library does not have specific training on social services. He said social service reference and referral has been a regular piece of urban public library work for many decades. He said, although libraries haven't necessarily looked at it that way, it is work they are already doing. He said SPL now wants to do that work in a way that better supports staff and patrons as well. Mr. Tilton said he favors looking at social service as a core service and dedicating the same amount of resources and efforts as the Library dedicates to other areas it considers to be core service.

Ms. Mehdi thanked Mr. Tilton for his presentation and said she is pleased the Social Services team is on board. She asked how much SPL is innovating in this area so that the work SPL is doing can be applied elsewhere. Mr. Tilton said the most innovative aspect of the program is the system-wide work group approach. He said he has spoken with other social workers out of state who have felt a lot of opposition from staff who feel the work belongs to the social worker. He said SPL's organizing model includes people who are already passionate about the work and will show that the work can be done and is already being done. He said as SPL shows the work it does and how it can be done better, the effort will grow and spread. He said the resources and partnerships that SPL is putting together are demonstrating that. Mr. Tilton said identifying specific trainings is also helpful. He said the SPL team is hoping to roll out trainings in mental health first aid and non-violent crisis intervention. He said the Library could also expand its de-escalation training. He said the Library will focus on specific skills sets that can be added to frontline staff toolkits.

Ms. Mehdi asked if places like the UW Information School (iSchool) are training students to come to public libraries ready to do this kind of work, already having some of these skills. Mr. Tilton said there is more emphasis in the iSchool than there has previously been. He said a lot of people going into urban public libraries don't necessarily have an understanding of what the day-to-day work looks like. He said the iSchool has recently had more of a focus on the reality and conveying that there is a broad scope of resources the Library looks to. He said he thinks the iSchool and the School of Social Work could work much more closely together. He said SPL is working with the School of Social Work to add practicum students soon, which is very exciting. He said there is so much natural overlap, the Library would like to build that relationship.

Mr. Fay said there are interesting possibilities. He said the Board received information last month about directed fieldwork students from the iSchool who are working with the Library. He said there is the possibility for coordinated work with other students if the Library can find the right combination of projects, people, and interest. Mr. Fay said he is very proud of the work that Mr. Tilton and his team have been doing. He said having staff with social services skills is going to make the program be more successful. Mr. Fay said the work that Mr. Tilton and his team are doing is an example of the “community connector” or “community hub” piece that has been talked about in the strategic planning effort. He said the Library is not always going to be the end provider, but it can be a trusted entity in the community to bring resources together. He said as the Library brings together a strong network of providers with the Library in the middle, it will create a community hub or connector, and will leverage the great work being done to bring about larger impacts. Mr. Fay said that is the kind of work that Mr. Tilton and his team are shaping and moving forward. He said that kind of work done on a larger scale with a variety of other types of programs and services is where the Library hopes to move in terms of being a connector. Ms. Bendixen thanked Mr. Tilton for his report. She said social services have been a hot topic, and it is good to see and hear more about what is happening, as well as the structure and process.

NEW BUSINESS

E-Rate Program – Public Use of the Internet Policy Update

Library Technology Officer Charles Wesley said the Library is working toward implementing filtering as part of the E-rate program. He said the Library Board approved a policy update in April 2023 that aligned the policy with practices that will be implemented to be compliant with the E-rate program. He said, since that time, the Library has continued planning the technical details of implementation. He said the Library’s intent is to apply the change as narrowly as possible to minimize unintentional impacts to patrons or users who are not subject to the policy. Mr. Wesley said the version of the policy the Board previously approved is slightly broader than necessary. He said the proposed update eliminates a portion of the policy that would apply to adults who are not subject to the E-rate program requirements. He said the update is narrower in scope and aligns the policy with the technical implementation.

Ms. Mehdi asked if the Library needs to do any education for patrons around the filtering requirements to qualify for E-rate funding. Mr. Wesley said the team is having internal conversations around messaging and information that patrons will see, particularly in the unlikely event that some of their content was filtered. He said wide outreach is not currently planned, but patrons will be informed of the change.

It was moved and seconded to approve the updated Public Use of the Internet Policy Update as published; the motion carried unanimously.

Library Foundation and Friends of the Library Updates

Ms. Bendixen said neither the Foundation Board nor the Friends Board met in August.

Updates from Library Board Members

Mr. Reich said he visited the “Black Activism in Print” exhibit on Level 8 of the Central Library. He said the exhibit is terrific and features the work of Black artists Charles White and Elizabeth Catlett, along with poetry inspired by the artworks. He said the original works are a part of the Library’s collection and were funded by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, who has been an important sponsor of the Library’s African American collection. He said the exhibit also contains a 1974 petition outlining allegations of systemic and overt racism by the Library at that time. He said it is very forceful and sobering. He said around the same time, the Yesler Library was renamed the Douglass-Truth Branch following a community survey to rename the building. He said the exhibit and information is well worth experiencing if trustees haven’t yet had the opportunity.

Mr. Reich said a lawsuit has been filed against a vote in Columbia County, WA to defund the public library. He said the suit argues that the vote itself is unconstitutional. He said there is a podcast in which Secretary of State Steve Hobbs takes a very strong position against banning books. Mr. Reich said the Library can be hopeful that the reaction to the attempts to ban books and punish librarians will overcome the action, and there will be an affirmation within the state of Washington about intellectual freedom.

Library Board Trustee Ron Chew said he will be reading from his memoir at a Library Foundation fundraising program at the Wing Luke Museum on September 30. He said Mr. Fay will introduce him, and he is hopeful there will also be an opportunity for attendees to tour the International District/Chinatown Branch. He said there will be food from Phnom Penh Noodle House and attendees will receive a copy of his memoir. Mr. Chew said the program has been graciously underwritten by Library Foundation Board member Grace Nordhoff. He said it will be the first program at which he is giving a reading from his book.

ADJOURN

Board President Carmen Bendixen adjourned the meeting at 1:04 p.m.



The Seattle Public Library

Memorandum

Date: September 28, 2023

To: The Seattle Public Library Board of Trustees

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

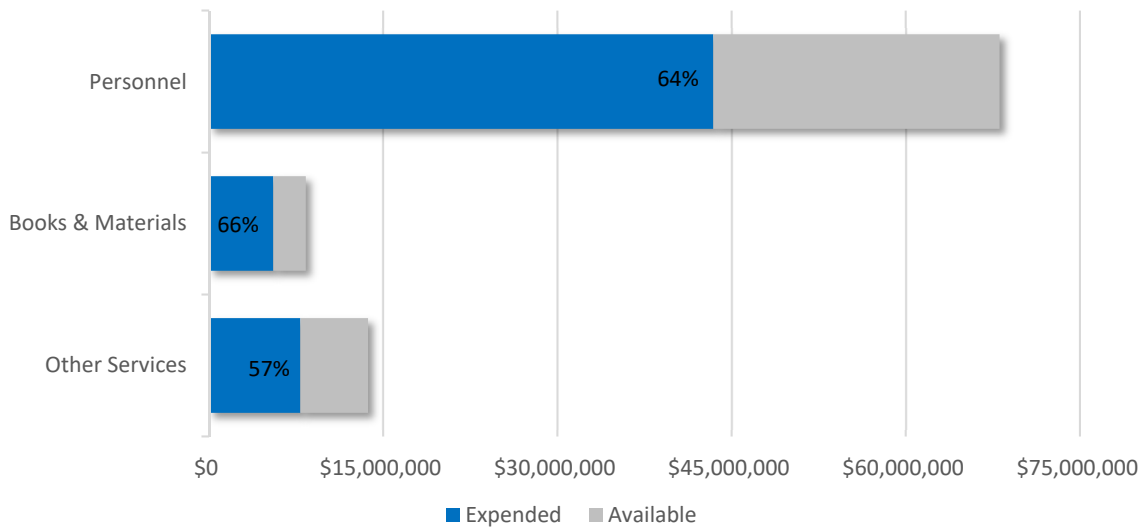
Subject: **August 2023 Financial Reporting**

Overview

Overall, the Library has expended **63%** of its operating budget with **67%** of the year elapsed. This is slightly ahead of the prior year when the Library had expended **61%** of the operating budget at this point in the year. Total expenditures at the end of the month were \$57 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 **18 pay periods processed**, so we expect 67% of the personnel budget to be expended—spending is slightly behind target at **64%**.

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 **66%**.

Other accounts which represent 15% of the adopted budget—and include equipment, services, and supplies—are **57%** expended.

Revenues

Library generated revenues collected during the period under review are **\$70,000**—bringing year-to-date collection to **\$508,000 (87%** 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 August 2023 Operating Budget financial reporting for approval at September 28, 2023 meeting. Comments or feedback are welcome.

Expenditure Control for August 2023

Amounts in \$1,000s	Revised Budget*	Current Month Expenditures	Year to Date Expenditures	% Expend	Balance of Budget
Personnel Services					
Salaries	44,418	4,940	28,255	64%	16,163
Benefits	23,659	2,210	15,174	64%	8,486
Personnel Services Sub-Total	\$68,078	\$7,150	\$43,429	64%	\$24,649
Books and Library Materials					
Books & Materials	8,338	706	5,535	66%	2,804
Books and Library Materials Sub-Total	\$8,338	\$706	\$5,535	66%	\$2,804
Other Services and Charges					
Central Costs	2,814	233	1,876	67%	939
Equipment - IT & Facilities	2,558	116	1,410	55%	1,148
Office Supplies, Printing & Postage	304	16	166	55%	138
Operating Supplies	509	42	329	65%	180
Other Expenses	526	22	241	46%	285
Other Maintenance	758	64	536	71%	222
Phone, Wireless & Internet	546	29	281	52%	265
Professional Services	764	28	498	65%	266
Software	857	34	437	51%	420
Staff Training & Travel	334	5	78	23%	256
Vehicle Costs	280	32	231	83%	49
Facilities - Space Rental & Utilities	1,768	153	1,303	74%	466
Facilities - Building & Grounds Maint	1,223	18	461	38%	763
Facilities - Garage Debt Service	450	-	23	5% (A)	427
Other Services and Charges Sub-Total	\$13,692	\$791	\$7,870	57%	\$5,822
TOTAL LIBRARY OPERATING BUDGET	\$90,108	\$8,647	\$56,833	63%	\$33,275

Footnotes:

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

(A) The City is expected to post the entire Garage Debt Service cost in Q4 2023

Revenue Control for August 2023

	Revenue Budget	Current Month Revenue	Year to Date Revenue Collected	% Collected
Operations Plan Other Library Revenue				
Lost Material Fees	110,000	6,259	86,171	78%
Central Library Parking Garage Fees	235,000	48,991	233,915	100%
Copy Services/Pay for Print	110,000	6,561	61,080	56%
Space Rental (Private & Inter-Departmental)	81,050	999	75,624	93%
Book Sale Consignment	45,000	5,929	49,242	109%
Coffee Cart & Miscellaneous (vending machines, etc.)	3,000	1,152	2,416	81%
TOTAL LIBRARY GENERATED REVENUES				
	\$584,050	\$69,892	\$508,447	87%

Footnotes:



The Seattle Public Library

Date: September 28, 2023
To: Library Board of Trustees
From: Tom Fay, Executive Director and Chief Librarian
Re: September 2023 Chief Librarian's Report

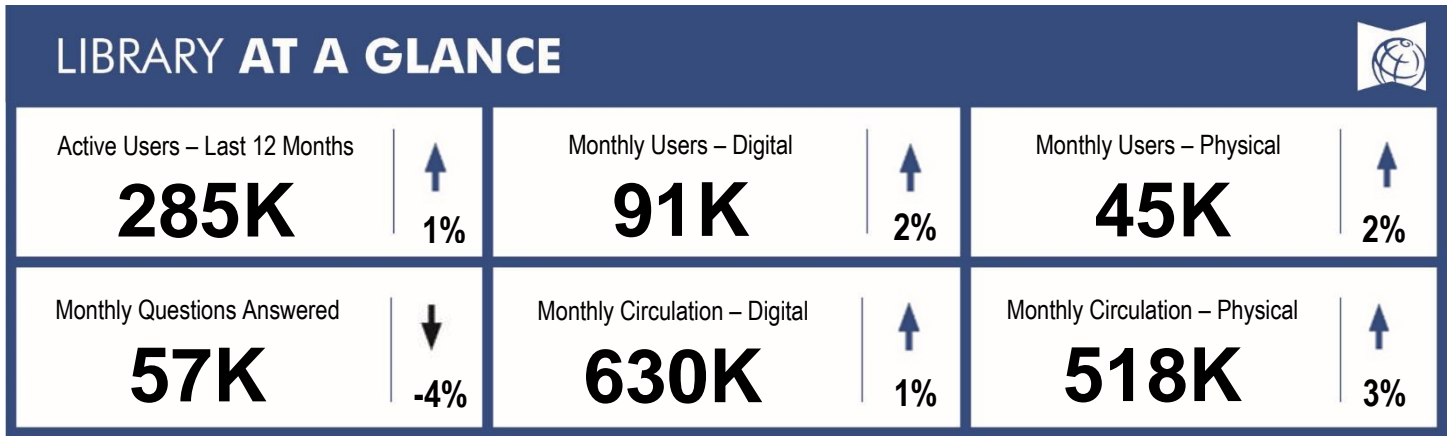
1. On September 12, the Library delayed opening all locations until 3:00 pm to accommodate a strategic planning town hall meeting for all SPL staff. The town hall meeting covered a look back at the foresight project and a presentation on the work to date on the strategic plan. There were several opportunities provided for staff input including pre-event polling and a number of staff survey questions conducted during the event using a Mentimeter digital engagement tool. The full presentation and survey links were posted to the Library's SharePoint site for staff who were unable to attend the event in real time. The polling and surveys remained active through September 22 to give additional opportunity for staff to engage and participate. The Strategic Planning Core Team will use information gathered in the staff town hall to continue to inform and shape the Library's next strategic plan as the development process continues.
2. On September 15, I attended the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce's 141st Annual Meeting. The event was an opportunity to hear from local leaders about regional challenges and successes, as well as to discuss opportunities to create an equitable and inclusive economy in our community.
3. Strategy and Policy Advisor Jessica Smith and I have been undertaking visits, by region, throughout the library system to meet with managers and staff to discuss issues specific to individual locations. On August 30, we visited locations in the Mid-City West (MCW) Region with MCW Regional Manager Hayden Bass; on September 22, we visited locations in the Southeast Region (SER) with SER Regional Manager Richard Council; and on September 27, we visited locations in the Northwest Region (NWR) with NWR Manger Dawn Rutherford.
4. On September 28 and 29, I will attend a two-day meeting of the Washington Public Library directors in Spokane. This group of directors meets twice per year to discuss issues, challenges, and opportunities pertinent to public libraries in our state. The group aims to share insights, resources, and best practices to benefit the profession as a whole in our state. I will be attending the September 28 Library Board meeting remotely from Spokane.
5. The Library continues to coordinate with the Urban Library Council who will hold their Annual Forum in Seattle in October 2023. The ULC Annual Forum is a gathering of directors and CEOs of library systems, library foundations and friends groups from

throughout North America to discuss current and emerging issues of importance facing the library profession. The Library will host a reception for attendees at the Central Library on the evening of October 26.

6. Interview processes are under way for the Library's Administrative Services director and Human Resources director positions. Recruitment work is also active for the Library Programs and Services director position.

Meetings and events during this reporting period:

- a. Board Meetings: Monthly Library Board of Trustees meeting; Monthly calls with Library Board President; Library Foundation Board Meeting; Friends of the Library Board meeting; Emeritus 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; Puget Sound Library Directors quarterly meeting; OCLC Public Library Directors Roundtable; Washington State Public Library Directors meeting.
- d. City Meetings, Events and Programs: Mayor's Monthly Cabinet; monthly meeting with Deputy Mayor; bi-monthly meeting with Deputy Mayor and department heads.



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

IN FOCUS: Homework Help

September marks the start of the homework help season at neighborhood library branches.

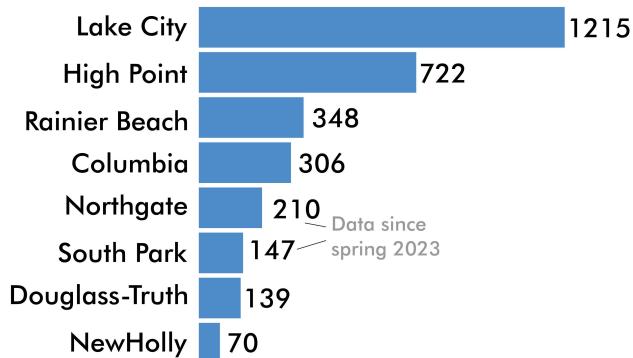
Overview

The Library offers Homework Help to children and teens during the school year. Trained volunteers offer one-on-one assistance after school in subjects such as math and reading.

The Library resumed Homework Help at six locations last fall and expanded service to two additional locations in spring 2023 and one in fall 2023.

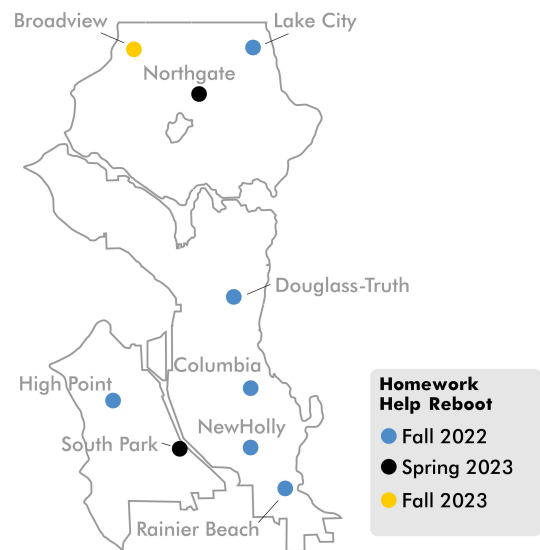
All of the libraries selected to offer Homework Help are near public schools that are Title 1 schools or that have a high number of children living in underserved neighborhoods. Library staff promote homework help during outreach visits to these schools.

3000+ One-on-one Homework Help Sessions in 2022-2023 School Year

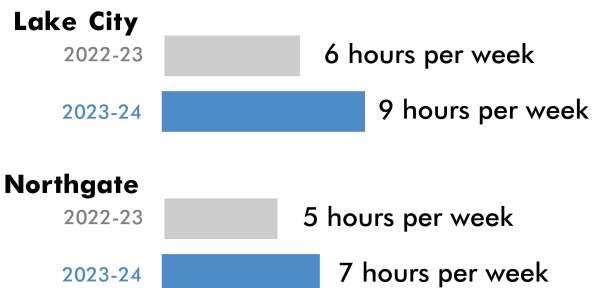


The top two elementary schools by count of students using Homework Help are Olympic Hills Elementary and West Seattle Elementary, both of which are designated as Title I schools.

Library Homework Help Locations in 2023



Expanded Service at Two Locations



To meet expected demand, both Lake City and Northgate branches have expanded Homework Help hours with an additional weekday this fall.

Mid-City Weekly Report

September 2023

Taylor Brooks, Douglass-Truth Branch Adult Services Librarian, African American Collection & Community Engagement
Hayden Bass, Mid-City West Regional Manager

Community Engagement Impact: Access to opportunities becomes more equitable in our community

Outcomes:

- Community members with barriers to opportunity* are able to use library services, materials, and programs.
- Library services, materials, and programs address specific needs and interests of people with barriers to opportunity.



MID-CITY EAST: BLACK ACTIVISM IN PRINT

The Black Activism in Print exhibition opened this summer at the Central Library and will close on September 15th at Central as it moves to open at the Douglass-Truth Branch Library. Mid-City East librarian Taylor Brooks and Downtown Region librarian Emily Grayson curated the exhibit with funding support from the TEW Foundation. The exhibition has continued community partnerships with the Delta Upsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the African American Writers Alliance, the Black Heritage Society of

Washington State, and 4Culture. We have received some survey responses from exhibit visitors; some state about the exhibition: "So enlightening; appreciated the multimedia approach - very rich; substantive exhibit; a beautiful tribute to the masters and new generation of artists. Another visitor states, "I loved the honesty and honoring of the Black community and African American history in the United States."

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Historian Crystal Bell remarked, "This exhibit is the first of what I hope will be many more to come. I think our Librarian, Taylor Brooks, can affirm that there is much more to uncover and explore within the collections of the Alpha Kappa Alpha African American Collection [at the Douglass-Truth Branch]. For my sorority, the exhibit allows us to share with the community of today the beginnings of the history of our collection and how members of our Sisterhood inspired a community -- its artists, businesses, and political leaders -- to unite as a collective and work together to save a part of the Seattle Central Area that represents a significant piece of the larger story of Black culture in our State. Our collection contains over 10,000 pieces, which is the largest collection available regionally. Alpha Kappa Alpha is honored to have the shared responsibility with SPL and the Douglas-Truth staff to care for the collection and ensure it continues and will exist for future generations."

Read more about the exhibit [from KUOW](#).



Elizabeth Catlett's "Sharecropper," one of the pieces featured in the Seattle Public Library's "Black Activism in Print" exhibit

MID-CITY WEST: COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS

In February 2023, Ballard staff wanted to better understand the needs and interests of their community post-pandemic. They were especially interested in connecting with patrons dealing with poverty and housing instability, and hearing how the library could best offer them support. But sometimes it can be hard to break down barriers and interrupt the power differential between staff, who can be seen as authority figures, and patrons—especially patrons in crisis. Staff decided to try inviting the neighborhood over for coffee and snacks on Thursday afternoons for a new weekly program they called “Coffee & Conversations.”

Initially imagined as a simple four-week experiment in community listening, Coffee & Conversations is now in its ninth month and going strong. Both housed and unhoused patrons attend regularly, with attendance between about 20 and 40 each week. Ballard staff of all classifications have participated, as well as visiting staff from many other branches and departments. Neighborhood partners and service providers attend to connect with patrons and with each other. In this informal environment, patrons feel more empowered to share their stories and interests, and make suggestions for how the library can better meet their needs.



Ballard librarian Lynn Miller (right) chats with patrons during Coffee & Conversations

Outcomes

- **New and deepened relationships.** Many attendees have noted that homelessness can be isolating and lonely – and that the isolation can be dangerous. Having a regular point of connection to staff, service providers, and to each other can make a huge difference.
- **New opportunities for peer-to-peer counseling.** The program creates space for attendees who have more stability in their lives to mentor and support those with less.
- **Decreased safety and security incidents.** While staff still sometimes deal with challenging behavioral issues, incidents have become less common and are often easier to de-escalate.
- **Increased connections to information and resources, including housing.** In addition to regularly connecting attendees with needed supplies (blankets, socks, water, etc.), in several instances staff have been instrumental in connecting unhoused patrons with permanent housing opportunities.

Next steps

- **Movement toward patron-led programming.** Regular attendees now play a leadership role in the program, and offer additional ideas. They have identified a monthly movie program as their next priority, and Ballard librarians are following their lead to start the program this fall.
- **Coffee & Conversations at other locations.** The Social Services Team has now replicated this program at Central Library, and other SPL branch locations are exploring implementing similar programs.

A recent moment with a regular C&C attendee summed up what is special about the program. He raised his ice cream cone in the air, inviting his neighbors to join his toast, and said, “Do we have a great community or what!”

Marketing and Online Services

September 2023

Helen Tapping- Head of Marketing and Online Services
 Leo Galvez- Marketing and Online Services Project Manager

Marketing and Online Services (MOS) ensures the consistency of an outstanding patron experience across our external communication channels. MOS owns and maintains the Library’s website, email communication to patrons, social media, digital signage, advertising, and systemwide marketing campaigns. We work closely with internal stakeholders to promote programs and services on these channels. MOS also designs and distributes informational and operational communications in print and digital media and well as leading our efforts in wayfinding and branded spaces. We focus on communications to our harder-to-reach prioritized audiences, by using various targeted marketing strategies, tactics and channels. MOS also leads the work for our Library Language Access Plan.

Project Highlights

Books Unbanned/Free to



Teens and young adults ages 13 to 26 living anywhere in the U.S. can access our entire collection of e-books and audiobooks. We believe in their right to read what they want, discover themselves and form their own opinions. With this in mind, we were excited to launch [Books Unbanned](#) as well as supporting materials and an outreach kit.

Our 2023 library Card Sign up Campaign: [Free to...](#) builds on the concept of Intellectual freedom with multilingual content online as well as printed outreach items.

Book Bingo / Bingo de Libros



Every summer we partner with Seattle Arts & Lectures (SAL) to provide a [Summer Book Bingo card](#) for adults. Every year, our staff curates booklists for each of the Book Bingo categories, giving participants a variety of [reading recommendations](#) to read to enhance their experience. We also produced a Spanish version of Book Bingo, although this year the board is completely different since we employed a strategy to create a board with the goal of being more relevant to Hispanic/Latino culture: [Lotería de Lectura](#)! We worked with a young Latinx artist, Esmeralda Vasquez, who produced wonderful vibrant artwork based on Mexican Talavera tiles. During the duration of the program, the English and Spanish web pages received a

combined total of 107,262 views.

Seattle Reads 25 Years & Exhibit



In March we launched promotions for Seattle Reads 2023, which was the 25th anniversary of the program. We created a new [web page for Seattle Reads 2023](#) and updated the main Seattle Reads page with information about the 25th anniversary and history of Seattle Reads. The book was announced & advertised via Library news, Authors & Books newsletter, home page hero, social media and paid advertising. During Q2, the Seattle Reads pages received 11,837 views. MOS also supported and promoted the [Seattle Reads 25th Anniversary Exhibit](#) which took place in the Central Library Level 8 Gallery from April 24 to June 26, 2023.

Pride / LGBTQ+ Communities



In June we celebrated LGBTQ+ Pride with new outreach items, [a website highlighting Library Pride events](#), and Instagram posts from the Capitol Hill branch & Pride Trivia at Optimism brewery.

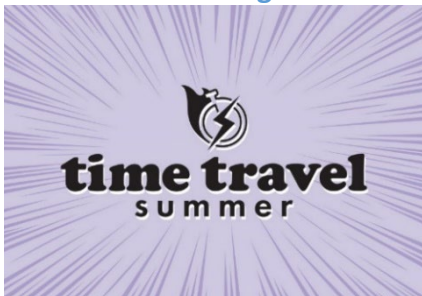
Our Pride celebration involved multiple staff from across the system with LGBTQ+ identities, which allowed us to develop messages and outreach items that resonated with the audience. The “Be Gay Read Books” and “Read the Rainbow” holographic stickers were very popular with both patrons and staff. The Pride page received 1,067 views during Pride month.

“Fiesta en la Biblioteca” – Summer Party at South Park Branch



On Saturday, July 15, 2023, the South Park Branch hosted a bilingual summer event – titled “Party at the Library,” or “Fiesta en la Biblioteca” -- that was organized by MOS, the Communications Office, the South Park Branch, and the Spanish-language radio station El Rey 1360 A.M. The event aimed to attract Latinx families to the Library during the summer, and inform El Rey listeners about the Library’s offerings. The fiesta was held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For three hours, a steady stream of people – mostly, but not all, families with children – came by and enjoyed refreshments, chatted with staff, found out about Library programs and services and participated in activities.

Summer of Learning



This year’s Summer of Learning program invited youth to explore their past, present and future; exploring where they’ve come from, where they are right now, and where they hope to be years from now. To complement the program, we created [multilingual downloadable materials](#), available online or at local branches throughout the summer. This year marks the 104th anniversary of our summer youth programming.

We found [three wonderful artists](#) with very different visual viewpoints to collaborate with us in creating our illustrations for our Summer of Learning materials. From launch to date, the Summer of Learning pages have received 5,162 views.

Calendar Optimization

We launched our optimized [event calendar](#) during the first quarter of 2023, giving patrons a more streamlined, consistent and scannable experience, especially on mobile. We also expanded language access by including fully translated event content and calendars when relevant, allowing our patrons with limited English proficiency to access our in-language programs more equitably. For example, www.spl.org/Eventos (for events in Spanish) and www.spl.org/CacChuongTrinh (for events in Vietnamese).

SPL Mobile App Project – Discovery & Functionality Phases

After completing the discovery phase in early 2023, which involved hiring a consulting firm Headwater People to facilitate staff and patron focus groups, we were able to determine a list of mobile app features that were important or very important to the community and to prioritized audiences in particular.

With this in mind, in July 2023, we began the functionality phase of the [App project](#). The list of mobile app features was the foundation of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development of the mobile app. The RFP was released in August 2023. We anticipate selecting a vendor and beginning the design and development phase in early 2024.





The Seattle Public Library

Memorandum

Date: September 28, 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: **2024 Budget Process Update**

The City held to the 2023-2024 biennial budget this year, with the Library's endorsed 2024 budget providing structure for conversations with the City Budget Office. As such, the standard mid-biennium phases took place with a baseline review in the winter, and budget conversations occurring in the spring and summer. The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on our progress with the City's 2024 budget, Foundation enhancement grants, and the remaining budget development schedule.

City Budget Update

Mayor Harrell presented his proposed 2024 budget and capital improvement plan to the City Council on September 26, 2023. The Council is now engaged in its review, with only certain departments scheduled to have meetings with the Budget Committee (the Library not being one of those identified). As in years past, Council staff represent the interests of Councilmembers through discussion and requests for information to the Library, by way of the City Budget Office.

The 2024 proposed budget includes **\$90.3 million in operating budget authority**. Of this amount, **\$25 million** is provided by the \$219.1 million, 7-year Library Levy that was overwhelmingly approved by Seattle voters in August 2019. This budget represents a continuation of the 2023-2024 endorsed budget plan, which directs accumulated prior period savings to preserve our staffing, programs, and services.

The budget also includes **\$5.9 million in capital budget authority** for the Library. These resources are critical in ensuring the Library's 28 facilities are in good repair and preserved for future generations, while also supporting large IT infrastructure projects. The Library will use **\$5.9 million** in levy support for major maintenance and asset preservation projects, while also providing resources for capital IT infrastructure. Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) collections are directed to the Library to supplement 2019 Library Levy funding for additional building upgrades—the amount of REET included in the 2024 proposed budget is \$78,000

Foundation Grant Update

The Library reviewed submittals from each division to determine which privately funded programs will continue for 2024, and what opportunities exist related to new bodies of work.

Taking into account the lingering impacts of the pandemic, the majority of work underway in 2023 has been requested for continuation to 2024. Requests were viewed through an equity lens, while also being aligned with the Library’s Strategic Direction.

Operating within the guardrails of the Foundation’s grant making guidance, the Library identified and submitted a budget package in the amount of \$4.426 million. Final approval of the grant is subject to the discretion of the Foundation’s independent Board of Directors; the Library has requested the following approximate levels of investment for 2024:

Community Priority	Amount
Hours and Access	\$1,322,450
Providing Books and Materials	\$1,588,500
Technology and Online Services	\$327,750
Literacy and Early Learning	\$697,500
Reimagined Spaces (CIP)	\$210,000
Administration	\$280,200
Total	\$4,426,400

Key Remaining Dates in Budget Process

A summary of the remaining key milestones and schedule to complete the 2024 budget development process are provided below.

September

- **Thursday, September 28th – Library Board 2024 Budget Update (City & Foundation)**
Library Board review of Operations Plan Framework

October

- Wednesday, October 10th through Friday, October 13th – Council Budget Deliberations
- Monday, October 16th – First draft Operations Plan submitted for Board review
- Monday, October 23th through Monday, November 3rd – Council Budget Actions and SLIs
- Friday, October 27th – Councilmember proposed amendments made public
- Thursday, October 26th – SPLF Finance Committee reviews grant requests from the Library
- Thursday, October 26th – Library Board reviews first draft of Operations Plan

November

- Thursday, November 2nd – SPLF Executive Committee final review of revenue and expenses
- Monday, November 13th – Councilmembers discuss proposed amendments
- Tuesday, November 14th to Wednesday, November 15th – Councilmembers vote on amendments
- Monday, November 10th – Councilmembers vote on final budget legislation and technical amendments
- Tuesday, November 21st – City Council Adopts Budget

December

- Thursday, December 7th – Operations Plan submitted for Board review
- Thursday, December 14th – Library Board adopts Operations Plan

Action Requested: Presented for informational purposes only. Comments or feedback are welcome.



The Seattle Public Library

Memorandum

Date: September 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: **2024 Operations Plan Framework**

The development process for the 2024 budget is underway, part of which is bringing forward the framework for the annual Operations Plan for Board review and feedback. The Operations Plan provides the Library Board, staff, and the public with an overview of the Library's financial resources and spending plan for the coming year. The Operations Plan is intended to map out a vision and context for funding decisions, while also documenting changes to the Library's base operating and capital budgets.

The 2024 Operations Plan is expected to include:

- Information on key changes/reductions/investments for 2024
- An overview of funding sources at the Library (including sub-sections on the General Fund, Library levy, library generated revenues, and private funds)
- Identification of risks and opportunities

This framework is intended to provide an avenue for soliciting broad brush strokes of feedback on the direction of the Operations Plan. Information included is for illustrative purposes only and is subject to change in the ensuing versions.

Attachment: 2024 Operations Plan Framework

Action Requested: Presented for informational purposes only. Comments or feedback are welcome.



The Seattle Public Library

2024 Operations Plan - Framework

The Seattle Public Library's 2024 Operations Plan reflects the second year of the City's biennial 2023-2024 budget cycle and the fifth year of a seven-year, voter-approved, \$219.1 million Library Levy. This plan summarizes information about ongoing Library operations. This opening will also include a high level overview operational improvements to set the Library up for success in 2024.

The Library Board of Trustees is responsible for monitoring Library funds appropriated through the City's budget. The Library Board Policy on Race and Social Justice and the City of Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative—a commitment to eliminate racial disparities and achieve racial equity—help guide the use of these funds and all aspects of Library operations, with a particular emphasis on ensuring programs and services equitably serve communities of color.

Council Budget Actions

Any council budget actions taken will be discussed here.

Overview of the 2024 Operations Plan relative to the Adopted 2023 Plan

Section provides a brief overview of how 2024 compares to 2023. A summarized view of year-to-year changes will be provided in the attachments.

I. Racial Equity Impacts and Budget Development

Information on steps taken by the organization related to racial equity impacts in developing the 2024 budget will be shared here.

II. Priority Areas within Library Operations

Based on input gathered from a 2021 community survey and previous community needs assessments, the Library identified five fundamental areas of our operations. The Library is undertaking a strategic review of operations, which could influence how these priority areas overlay with our operations. Additional information as it relates to each of these areas, along with notable 2024 investments will be discussed in the proceeding sections.

A. Hours and Access

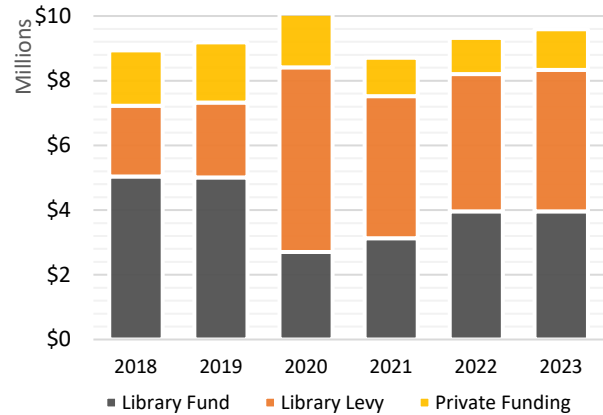
Library open hours mean access to technology, collections and resources, programs and knowledgeable staff for information and referral. To this end, Public Services staff are versed in the role the Library plays in creating a more equitable community with increased opportunity for low income and historically marginalized individuals and families in Seattle. The Library's largest expenditure is related to personnel, representing \$xx million, or xx% of total Library resources. Some impactful changes related to access and Library operations are as follows:

\$TBD for item A (*Funding Source*)

B. Books and Materials

When considering the purchase of materials to be added to the collection, the Collection Services team applies an equity lens that factors in audiences, categories and formats while also focusing acquisitions on titles that reflect underrepresented voices, including those from people of color, the LGBTQ+ community and other marginalized groups. Over the course of the past year, monthly circulation trends are once again nearing pre-pandemic volumes—over xx million items circulated per month.

Figure 1: Materials Budget by Funding Source



The Library provides \$xx million (xx% of the overall budget) to support the purchase of books and materials, and the movement of those materials across the system. These resources are provided via a combination of General Fund, Library Levy and private gifts (a summary of which can be seen in Figure 1). Key changes to the 2024 books and materials budget include:

\$TBD for item A (*Funding Source*)

\$TBD for item B (*Funding Source*)

C. Technology and Online Services

The digital environment provides increasing opportunities to participate in the information society, although some individuals and families can face serious barriers to access. These barriers, often referred to as the “digital divide,” may include a lack of affordable internet connectivity, lack of internet ready devices, or a lack of skills, knowledge or means to access digital resources. The Library plays an important role in helping bridge the digital divide by providing access to patrons who lack this capability at home.

According to a survey conducted by the Library, one-third of Seattle residents said they relied on Library computers or Wi-Fi networks to access the internet and other digital resources. The Library provides free access to digital devices (desktop computers, laptops and tablets) that can be used to search online resources, connect to the internet, or use popular software. Our wireless internet access is provided free to patrons and has experienced exponential growth as patron preferences shift toward mobile access. Additionally, patrons can use their Library card to check out a portable Wi-Fi hot spot. A key investment in this area for 2024 includes:

\$TBD for item A (*Funding Source*)

\$TBD for item B (*Funding Source*)

D. Literacy and Early Learning

Libraries play an important role in fostering literacy, particularly for those who have historically faced barriers to access, such as immigrants and refugees, and those just developing literacy skills, such as preschool and elementary students. Key investments in this priority area for 2024 include:

\$TBD for item A (*Funding Source*)

E. Building and Facility Support

As part of the 1998 Library's for All capital campaign, the Library remodeled and replaced a number of our branches. Many of these renovations and buildings are now over 20 years old and in need of ongoing and careful oversight and maintenance to protect the public investment. The Library utilizes an internally developed and actively managed Comprehensive Facilities Plan to surface and direct where investments are needed throughout the system. However, resulting from budget reductions taken during the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of building maintenance projects were deferred to future periods. This is not an optimal approach, as timely and ongoing maintenance is less expensive than emergency repairs and replacements—this is particularly salient when considering the iconic and unique buildings that are present in the Library property portfolio.

Our buildings provide a forum where patrons can read or study in a comfortable environment, listen to interesting and engaging speakers, participate in meaningful community events, or find daytime respite. \$xx million, or xx% of Library resources, support keeping our facilities open, clean, functional, and welcoming to all. Key investments in our facilities for 2024 include:

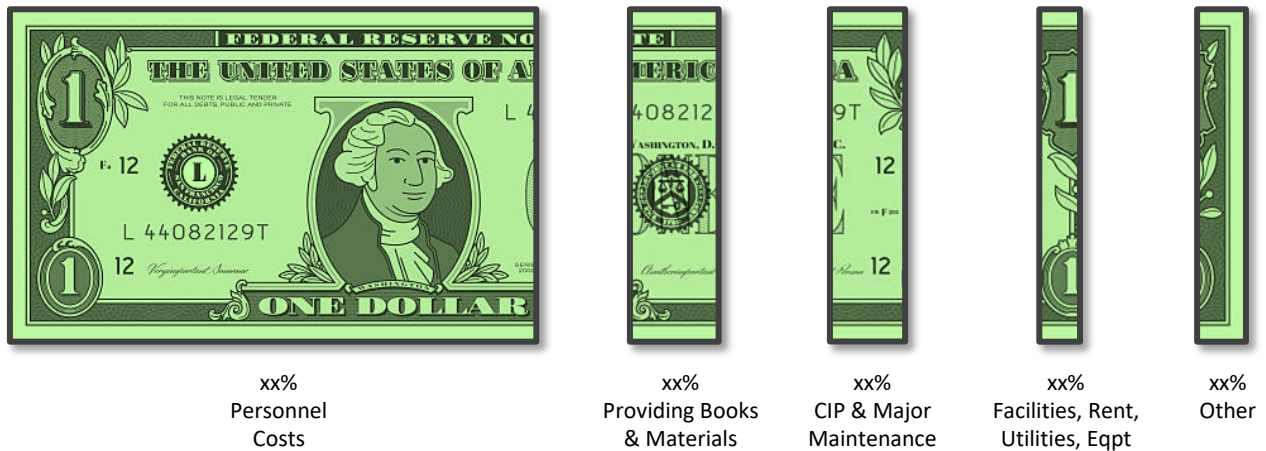
\$TBD for item A (*Funding Source*)

\$TBD for item B (*Funding Source*)

III. Operations Plan Overview by Personnel, Collections, and Buildings

There is an overarching and larger scale framework within which our priority areas fall, these consist of: 1) personnel, 2) books and materials, and 3) buildings. Relative investments of Library resources among these categories are shown below, along with an illustration of how \$1.00 is spent at the Library through this lens. Due to the unique nature of Library services and how they are provided to the public, Library work is inherently people-oriented. Additional department level budget information can be seen on Attachment 1.

Figure 2: How \$1.00 is spent at the Library and the Proposed Budget (to be updated)

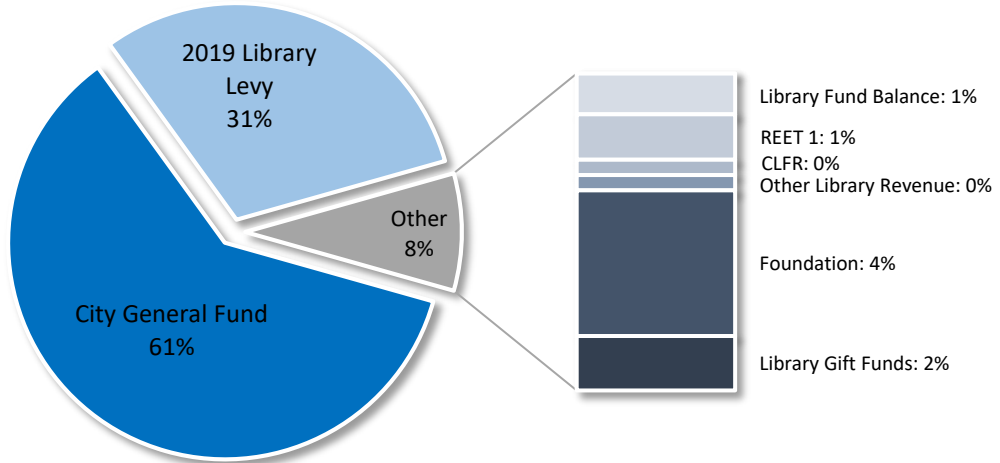


Amounts in \$1,000s	2024 Proposed	%
<i>Personnel</i>		
Public Services, Collections & Access		
All Other Departments		
<i>Personnel Sub-Total</i>		
<i>Providing Books & Materials</i>		
Books & Materials Collection		
Collection Processing & Distribution		
<i>Providing Books & Materials Sub-Total</i>		
<i>Buildings</i>		
<i>Capital Improvements & Major Maintenance</i>		
<i>Utilities, Maintenance, Rent, Equipment</i>		
<i>Other</i>		
Direct Programming Supplies		
City Central Costs		
Software		
Other		
<i>Other Sub-Total</i>		
Total		

IV. Operations Plan Overview by Funding Source

The design and development of the Library budget occurs against a backdrop of equity impacts associated with the City’s Language Access Plan (Library plan included as Attachment 3), as well as the City’s Race and Social Justice Initiative and the Library Board policy on Race and Social Justice (Attachment 4). Library operations are supported by three main funding sources: City appropriation of General Fund support, an annual allocation from the seven-year, voter-approved Library Levy, and private gift funds—which include annual grants from The Seattle Public Library Foundation.

Figure 3: Operations Plan by Funding Source



Amounts in \$1,000s	2023 Adopted	2024 Proposed	% Change
<i>Operating Fund</i>			
City General Fund (Operating)	\$60,105		
2019 Library Levy (Operating)	\$24,079		
Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery	\$553		
Other Library Revenue	\$31		
Interdepartmental Support	\$3,331		
Use of Library Fund Balance	\$0		
<i>Operating Fund Sub-Total</i>	<i>\$88,099</i>		
<i>CIP</i>			
2019 Library Levy (CIP)	\$8,894		
REET I (CIP)	\$948		
JumpStart Payroll Expense Tax (CIP)	\$1,000		
<i>CIP Sub-Total</i>	<i>\$10,842</i>		
<i>Gifts and Grants</i>			
Seattle Public Library Foundation*	\$4,425		
Gift Funds (Balch, Bunn, other)	\$1,416		
<i>Gifts and Grants Sub-Total</i>	<i>\$5,841</i>		
Total	\$104,782		

* Grant awards approved by The Seattle Public Library Foundation Board of Directors

A. General Fund

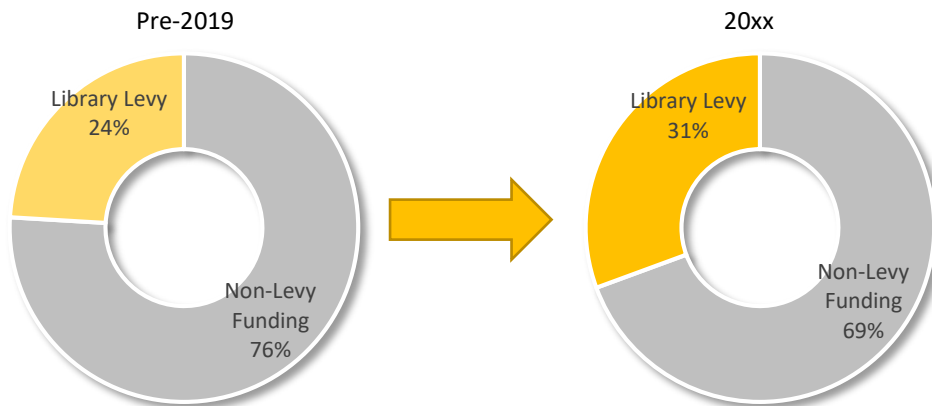
Section to provide information and description of changes related to the General Fund.

Amounts in \$1,000s	2023 Adopted	2024 Proposed	% Change
Hours & Access	\$26,746		
Providing Books & Materials	\$13,502		
Technology & Online Services	\$4,349		
Literacy & Early Learning	\$539		
Building & Facility Support	\$7,559		
Administration	\$4,591		
City Central Costs	\$4,819		
Total	\$60,105		

B. 2019 Library Levy

In August 2019, Seattle voters approved a seven-year, \$219.1 million 2019 Library Levy renewal to support, maintain, and expand core Library services, renewing a \$122 million Library Levy that was first passed in 2012. With the passage of the 2019 Library Levy, the Library increased our dependence on time-limited voter-approved funding. In 2024, the levy will provide xx% of the Library’s total budget, which is up from 24% pre-2019 Library Levy.

Figure 4: Pre-2019 Library Levy Budget % Compared to Current-Year Budget %



Each year, the Library Board of Trustees allocates available levy funds through the Operations Plan. More information on 2019 Library Levy categories, including how they map back to the budget can be found on Attachment 5.

Amounts in \$1,000s	2023 Adopted	2024 Proposed	% Change
Hours & Access	\$13,283		
Providing Books & Materials*	\$5,800		
Technology & Online Services	\$2,563		
Literacy & Early Learning	\$301		
Building & Facility Support	\$1,832		
Major Maintenance (CIP)	\$7,747		
Major Maintenance (IT)	\$1,147		
Administration	\$300		
Total	\$32,973		

Levy – Operating Fund

Section to provide brief overview of levy operating support.

Levy – Capital Improvement Program

Section to provide brief overview of levy capital support.

C. Other Capital Improvement Program Support

Capital improvement projects may carry large fund balances as timelines shift and are influenced by external factors (such as COVID-19), project complexity, and the availability of qualified contractors in a competitive local construction market (especially related to historically-landmarked buildings). Projects require ample planning and are often multi-year in nature—as a result, the Library may have carryforward resources that span multiple fiscal years. A long-term capital improvement program is submitted to the City Budget Office each year and is included as Attachment 7. Additional capital funding sources provided by the City are covered in the proceeding sections.

Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) – Capital Improvement Program

Section to provide brief overview of REET capital support.

D. The Seattle Public Library Foundation

Section to provide brief overview of Seattle Public Library Foundation support.

Amounts in \$1,000s	2023 Adopted	2024 Proposed	% Change
Hours & Access	\$1,197		
Providing Books & Materials	\$1,642		
Technology & Online Services	\$318		
Literacy & Early Learning	\$779		
Major Maintenance (CIP)	\$200		
Administration	\$289		
Total	\$4,425		

E. Library Gift Funds

Section to provide brief overview of Library Gift Funds.

F. Other Library Earned Revenue

Section to provide brief overview of Other Library Earned Revenues.

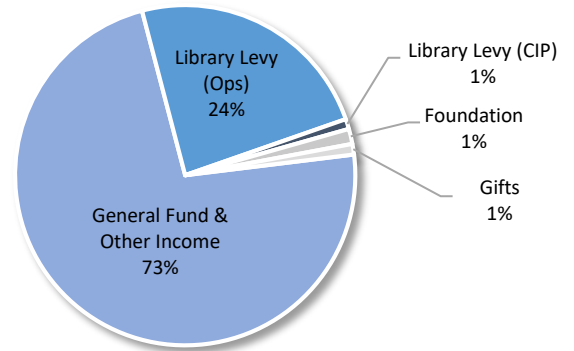
Amounts in \$1,000s	2023 Adopted	2024 Proposed	% Change
Lost Material Fees	\$110		
Central Library Parking Garage Fees	\$235		
Copy Services/Pay for Print	\$110		
Space Rental	\$50		
Consignment Fees	\$45		
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$3		
Total	\$553		

V. Staffing Levels by Funding Source

The 2024, the Library budget contains xx positions (xx FTE)—funded via multiple sources (Figure 5).

Figure 5: FTE by Funding Source

	2023 FTE	2024 FTE	% Change
General Fund & Other Income	440.9		
Library Levy (Operations)	143.6		
Library Levy (CIP)	5.8		
Foundation	8.7		
Gift Funds (Bunn & Balch)	6.1		
Total	605.1		



Vacancies

Section to provide brief overview of library vacancies.

Separation and Retirements Payouts

Section to provide brief overview of library turnover and separation payouts.

VI. Potential Risks

In any given year, the Library is faced with risks that can range from changing economic conditions to operational restrictions. Two to three high priority risk areas are analyzed as part of this section.

VII. Opportunities

While the Library is faced with risks each year, we are also presented with opportunities. Two to three priority opportunity areas are analyzed as part of this section.

Closing Summary

Brief overview of 2024 landscape of future horizon.

Attachments

1	2024 Operations Plan compared to 2023 Adopted Budget
2	Key Changes in 2024 relative to 2023 Adopted Budget
3	Library Language Access Plan
4	Library Board Race and Social Justice Policy
5	2019 Library Levy Categories & Budget Cross-walk
6	2024 Capital Improvement Projects
7	Long-Term Capital Improvement Program Plan
8	Library Gift Fund Project Listing
9	Library Organizational Chart



The Seattle Public Library

Date: September 28, 2023

To: Library Board of Trustees

From: Tom Fay, Executive Director and Chief Librarian
Jan Oscherwitz, Library Levy Administrator

Re: **Second Quarter 2023 Levy Report**

Background

We are in the fourth year of our seven-year \$219.1 million 2019 Library Levy. This report, which covers activities and spending for the second quarter of 2023, continues the series of ongoing updates for the Library's leadership team and board of trustees to document implementation of the levy priorities and accomplishments. This report describes the way the Library has responded to changes in how our patrons use the Library and how we are using levy resources to support the levy investment areas of Hours and Access, Collections, Technology and Online Services, Children's Programming, and Maintenance.

2023 Second Quarter Levy Report

The 2019 Library Levy provides 37% of the Library's revised total budget of \$132 million in 2023. The Library recorded spending of \$14.5 million of the revised 2023 levy budget of \$49 million through the second quarter, or 30% of the revised levy budget. Much of the lag in spending budget authority is associated with the capital program, which continues to experience pandemic-related delays. This report also provides information on the remaining \$1.7 million of budget authority from the 2012 Library Levy.

Hours and Access: We promised to keep libraries open when patrons need them

By early April, we expanded Library hours to fulfill many promises made to voters in 2019. Our implementation looks slightly different than planned due to what we learned about patron preferences in our [2021 survey](#) and the necessity of increased staffing requirements in a post-pandemic era. In developing our new schedules, we have prioritized levy promises to historically marginalized communities. To reduce the impact of unplanned closures during extreme heat conditions, in June, we implemented special summer hours at four branches that lack air-conditioning.

Collections: We promised a robust collection of books and materials

We continued to make significant investments in both digital and physical materials. We also added an array of materials as a result of our collection diversity audits. We continue to enhance our physical collection by buying more copies of popular materials, including Peak Picks, our popular no-hold, no-wait collection of high-interest titles. We made e-book and e-audiobook copies of our 25th Anniversary pick "The Swimmers" by Julie Otsuka available on demand for two months leading up to programming in May. Increasing demand for e-books and e-audiobooks and the high cost of those materials are putting pressure on the Library's budget.

Technology and Access: We promised to improve computer and online services

We continued to loan hot spots through the general catalogue and our partnerships with community organizations. We began using hybrid meeting carts with staff in preparation for making the equipment available to the public.

Children's Programming: We promised to add more programming for children ages 0-5.

We continued weekly Play and Learn sessions at five libraries and restarted in-person story times in Q2. We offered over 180 story times at the Central Library, 18 branches and in the community in Q2.

Maintenance: We promised to maintain buildings for the next generation

Our facilities and custodial staff completed over 1,400 work orders in Q2. Our security staff began early morning patrols at Ballard, Lake City and several other branches to help ensure our building were safe and secure as they opened each day.

As noted earlier, our Capital Improvement Program continues to experience unfortunate delays due to widespread supply chain issues and labor shortages. Despite these challenges, we continued construction on the Green Lake seismic retrofit project and substantially completed the roof replacement at the Queen Anne Branch, exterior access improvements at the Douglass-Truth Branch and high-priority ADA access restroom improvements at five branches. In April, we also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Soul Pole at Douglass-Truth branch. Re-installation of the Soul Pole, after a successful conservation project, occurred in 2022.

Action required/requested: Board review and consideration of 2nd Quarter 2023 Levy Report for approval at the September Library Board meeting.

2023 Q2

The Seattle Public Library

LEVY REPORT



Inez and Elsa Craven on a 1924 Mt. Rainier outing (Special Collections)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Expanding services

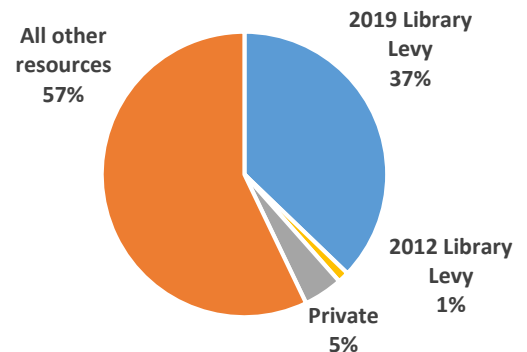
Levy background

In August 2019, Seattle voters overwhelmingly approved (76%) a seven-year, \$219.1 million property tax levy to maintain and enhance Library services from 2020 through 2026, renewing a seven-year \$122.6 million levy that expired at the end of 2019.

In 2023, the 2019 Levy accounts for \$49 million (37%) of the Library's total revised budget of \$132 million.

The 2012 Levy provides \$1.7 million (1%). Other sources including the City's general fund, state and federal grants, private funds and Library fund balance account for the remainder. As part of its proposal to voters, the Library **laid out a clear framework for how 2019 Levy proceeds** would be used to maintain services that had been funded by the 2012 Levy and provide additional services and programs over the seven-year levy period. This report, which covers levy activities and spending for Q1 2023, continues the series of quarterly levy updates the Library has provided for the Board of Trustees and the public since 2013.

2023 Library Revised Budget (\$132M)



Beyond renewing 2012 levy commitments, the 2019 Levy provides support for additional Library hours; elimination of overdue fines; improved collections and technology; safer, cleaner buildings; specialized programming and services for children; and development of a plan for the future of library service.

Q2 2023 highlights: Expanded hours and strategic planning

During Q2 2023, the Library continued to adapt to meet the needs of Seattle residents in the levy investment areas of Hours and Access, Collections, Technology and Online Services, Children's Programming, and Maintenance.

As you'll read in this report, in Q2, we continued to restore Library services for Seattle residents and significantly expanded Library hours. By the end of March, libraries were open at 94% of our hours before the pandemic and 96% of our 2019 hours. By the first week of April, we had added 90+ hours per week over 2019 levels, for an overall increase of 7% in operating hours. The allocation of these hours was informed by our [2021 public survey](#) and our continued effort to provide safe conditions for our patrons and staff. To support new hours, we are in the process of hiring two additional security officers to ensure our branches are safe and welcoming environments.

Beyond expanding hours in Q2, we continued in-person Play and Learn sessions for pre-K children and parents at five branches and restarted in-person story times, with a special emphasis on serving children and families most impacted by the pandemic. We also celebrated the 25th Anniversary of our Seattle Reads program in May, with Julie Otsuka, author of “The Swimmers,” who was returning to Seattle Reads for the second time. Many programming activities are supported in part by The Seattle Public Library Foundation. We continually seek to leverage levy funds with funding from other sources to stay connected and nimble in service to the residents of Seattle.

Strategizing for the future

In early 2023, Executive Director and Chief Librarian Tom Fay presented annual Goals and Priorities to the Library Board of Trustees for the remainder of this year. This work includes:

- developing a sustainable building improvement strategy;
- creating and implementing an organizational roadmap that advances equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility;
- engaging with community members to inform the future of Library services;
- preserving intellectual freedom in Library collections, programs and services, and championing intellectual freedom more broadly through a national anti-censorship initiative;
- maintaining safe and inclusive spaces where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

“I am a long time resident of Seattle but have not had a SPL library card in years! Thank you for making it so accessible and easy! I'm looking forward to looking through all the resources and exploring the library again.”

With the [Strategic Foresight](#) process complete, the Library has moved forward with a strategic planning process that invites community partners, staff and other key Library stakeholders to envision ways to implement the preferred future as the Library evolves over the next 10 years. In June, the Library hired Strategy & Policy Advisor Jessica Smith to help steer the development of the plan, among other responsibilities. She has been working closely with the Library's Strategic Plan core team and Territory, a consultant firm specializing in strategic plans, to engage internal and external stakeholders and design the plan.

Additionally, we hired Práctica Consulting to perform qualitative analysis on the stakeholder engagement interviews, focus groups, and employee survey results that occurred between April and June 2023. This independent, third-party analysis will help to reduce Library bias, facilitator bias, and employee bias as we incorporate direct feedback from our valued stakeholders into the design and refinement of the strategic plan. Through the fall, the Library will continue to engage patrons, staff, stakeholders and community in discussing the future of the Library through facilitated discussions, interviews and surveys.

A draft plan will be presented to the public, Library stakeholders, and the Library's Board of Trustees in late 2023. The levy allocated \$200,000 toward this planning effort. Additional financial support is being provided by Library gift funds.

Increasing access

The Hours and Access category of the 2019 Levy supports operating hours in neighborhood branches and the Central Library; providing access to Library programs and services in the community; and outreach and engagement services throughout the city. Many elements of this levy category relate to increasing access to Library services through measures such as eliminating late fees and adding open hours. The revised levy budget in 2023 for the Hours and Access category is \$13.3 million.

In early 2020, we eliminated overdue fines and started opening our branches one hour earlier on Sundays, the first step in what was intended to be more than 10,000 new Library hours each year funded by the levy. In the wake of COVID closures, restrictions and related staffing challenges, it took us several years to restore open hours to pre-pandemic levels and begin expanding hours to fulfill this levy promise. With hours added in late March and early April, our libraries are now scheduled to be open 7% more hours than they were open in 2019. When the Green Lake Branch opens after its seismic retrofit renovation, the Library will have increased open hours by 10% (see Table 1. Weekly hours in 2023 compared to 2019 baseline and pre-pandemic services levels).

With our new schedule, most branches are open more hours per week than in 2019, though some branches have experienced minor reductions as the Library prioritizes meeting levy commitments to serve historically marginalized communities, while balancing the need for higher staffing levels to operate in a post-pandemic environment.

Library hours have expanded the most (compared to 2019) at the South Park, Delridge, NewHolly, International District/Chinatown, and High Point branches. At the Beacon Hill, Northeast and Rainier Beach branches, which have seen slightly reduced weekly open hours, we have installed pickup lockers to provide 24/7 access to physical holds. Pick-up lockers are now in five locations and a sixth locker will be installed at Greenwood Branch later this year with funding from the State.



Pickup locker at Broadview Branch

Our [2021 community survey](#) revealed that patrons preferred additional weekend hours over weekday evening hours, so, we focused on adding weekend hours in the spring of 2023. Every

branch is now scheduled to be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Starting in June, we made further adjustments to weekday schedules at several branches that lack air-conditioning (Fremont, NewHolly, Northeast, and Southwest branches) to take advantage of the cooler morning hours. This seasonal adjustment resulted in fewer unplanned closures due to extreme heat than in the summer of 2022. Evening hours at those branches will resume in September.

Keeping Library spaces clean and safe is another important levy priority. Due to the increased severity of security incidents in and around our buildings, the Library allocated levy funds from prior year savings to hire two new security officers through the remainder of the levy period. As of mid-September, we are still actively recruiting. We have undertaken other initiatives to enhance the safety and cleanliness of our facilities. In March 2023, we installed air-quality sensors in all Lake City Branch public restrooms to alert staff to possible drug smoking activity, as well as signage to inform patrons of the monitoring. Since the installation of the sensors and signage, drug activity in the Lake City Branch restrooms seems to be decreasing and we are evaluating whether this technology would be useful in other locations. Our security staff have also begun early morning patrols at high-incident branches to ensure our buildings are clean and safe before opening. Finally, we are in the process of upgrading our security cameras at the Central Library and installing new cameras at Ballard, Capitol Hill and Lake City branches. We are hoping to have cameras installed by the end of the year.

In-house social services team

In Q2, we continued to build our in-house Social Services team by hiring a new senior community resource specialist who will serve as the program manager for our social services program. She will directly supervise and work closely with our young adult community resource specialist.

The Social Services team provided 152 referrals and support in Q2 to patrons at the Central Library for housing, food, clothing, mental health, employment and other areas. The team also distributed emergency supplies through branches and the Central Library Level 5 Mixing Chamber to over 100 individuals. Our community resource specialist works with patrons daily to connect them to resources, providing assistance that can be life altering. One patron, concerned about accessing traditional social service organizations due to stigma shared, "This means so much to me. I'm going to cry. All my life I've been using libraries but I've never gotten help like I have from you. There should be social workers in every library."

"I like coming here. I'm homeless but nobody gives me a hard time. I feel safe and don't have to worry about being bothered. I get to relax."

The Social Services team has successfully convened a system-wide workgroup with representatives from all over the Library. The workgroup met twice in Q2 to share resources, develop a staff survey and create reference tools for frontline staff to support patrons in need of social services reference and referral and communicates on a daily basis. Workgroup members, who serve as social services leads in their respective units, bolster reference and referral services provided by the Social Services team.

In-person and virtual programming and services

In Q2, we continued to offer in-person Tax Help sessions in partnership with United Way of King County at the Central Library, including 23 sessions in the post-filing season between May and July. Through April, over 3,000 tax returns were filed at Library locations this year.

In early February, we expanded our free after-school Homework Help to eight locations, adding two Homework Help sessions a week at South Park and Northgate branches. We also increased the number of days we offered Homework Help at Rainier Beach, Columbia and High Point branches. By the end of June, we were offering about 16 sessions a week system-wide and students had visited over 2,400 times since the beginning of the year.

The Central Library hosted 25 public events during Q2, including an event and exhibit celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Seattle Reads, the Library's citywide book group, featuring Julie Otsuka, the only author whose books have been selected for Seattle Reads twice. At programs at the Central Library, Lake City branch and two senior centers, Otsuka read from her latest book "The Swimmers" and engaged with local experts about dementia and Japanese American history. Our marketing staff began promoting the events in March and created a separate webpage for [Seattle Reads 2023](#). Nearly 600 patrons attended in person events and the event at the Central Library was live-streamed. The 25th Anniversary of Seattle Reads was also celebrated with an [exhibit](#) in the Level 8 gallery at the Central Library which ran from April 24-June 26, 2023. Seattle Reads was the first program of its kind and has been replicated throughout the world, from Dublin, Ireland, to Bucheon, Korea. Seattle Reads is supported with funding from The Seattle Library Foundation.

For the last nine years, with support from The Seattle Public Library Foundation, we've partnered with Seattle Arts & Lectures (SAL) to provide a Summer Book Bingo program for adults. Every year, our staff curates booklists for each of the Book Bingo categories, giving participants a variety of reading recommendations to read to encourage and enhance their experience. We also produced a Spanish version of Book Bingo, [Lotería de Lectura](#), focused on passion points of Hispanic/Latino culture in an effort to reach this target audience.



As we expand our in-person programs and services, we continue to offer essential services and programs in virtual or hybrid formats. We offered over 60 virtual programs in the second quarter, including author talks, business workshops, English circles and citizenship classes. We also offered 250 videos on our official SPL YouTube channel, including 10 new programs published in the second quarter on topics ranging from author readings to workshops for small business owners. Overall, our videos were viewed more than 10,000 times. Our most popular new recording was the Seattle Reads event at the Central Library with Julie Otsuka, author of "The Swimmers." This video, available only for two weeks after the Seattle Reads event in May, was viewed over 260 times.

Building robust collections in print and digital formats

The 2019 Levy commits resources to maintaining and expanding the Library’s collection of physical and digital materials. The levy includes additional funding for e-books, e-audiobooks and streaming services; continuation of Peak Picks; and funds to support the acquisition and digitization of local history items. In 2023, the 2019 Levy provides \$5.9 million in the Collection category, including \$4.6 million for books and materials.

Demand for digital collections increasing, and costing us more

More and more patrons are accessing electronic resources at SPL. Over 116,000 patrons downloaded more than 1.3 million digital books (e-books and e-audiobooks) through OverDrive in Q2, an increase of 18% in users and 15% in items checked out compared to Q2 2022. While use of e-audiobooks and e-books soared, use of SPL streaming services declined, with 8% fewer patrons using Kanopy, a video streaming service, and 10% fewer using Hoopla, a service for streaming music and comics, compared to Q2 2022.

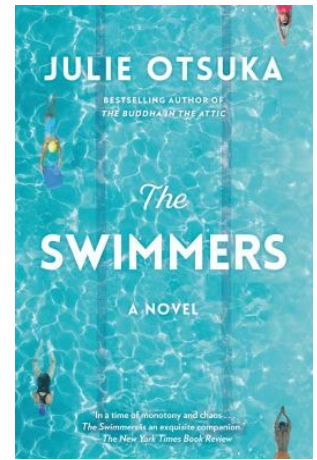
“I recently figured out how to download an audio book to my phone. I love your books, your magazines, DVDs, special events, displays, librarians!”



In April, with funding from the Seattle Library Foundation, the Library joined Books Unbanned, an initiative started by Brooklyn Public Library in 2022 that offers teens and young adults across the nation a digital library card for free access to SPL’s e-book and e-audiobook collections. The card, available via a simple online form, is intended for 13- to 26-year-olds outside the Library’s service area. Books Unbanned, which helps counter the series of increasingly coordinated and effective efforts to

remove books from public and school libraries across the nation, supports the Library’s core value of intellectual freedom. The Library’s Books Unbanned program received widespread media interest from the day it was launched, with stories in the biggest media outlets locally (KUOW, the Seattle Times, including this [Danny Westneat column](#), King 5, Seattle Channel) and many nationwide outlets. Media coverage seems to have been a big driver of Books Unbanned signups – as of the end of June, the program had more than 3,000 signups from all 50 states and Puerto Rico, and Books Unbanned cardholders checked out more than 13,800 digital items.

The Library acquired 28,000 digital copies from OverDrive during Q2 2023, a quantity similar to the amount we acquired in Q2 2022. Our sustained investment in digital materials keeps our collections current and relevant to our patrons and we have worked creatively to make titles available when patrons want them. For example, during Q2, with levy funds, the Library offered “always available” access to both the e-book and e-audiobook editions of “The Swimmers” by Julie Otsuka, the 25th Anniversary Seattle Reads selection. Through this licensing arrangement, patrons were able to check out the digital versions of title over 6,600 times in the two months leading up to the Seattle Reads programming events.



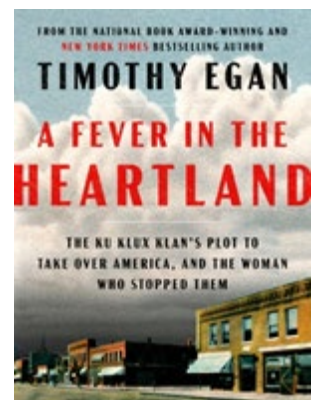
However, increasing demand and the high cost of e-materials has put a lot of pressure on Library budgets. E-books and e-audiobooks are often 3-5 times more expensive than their physical counterparts, and, depending on the licensing, often need to be repurchased each year to keep in the collection. The Library is actively looking for solutions to manage the costs of e-materials.

Notable Q2 acquisitions include 180 digital books for adults in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian and Vietnamese and 170 digital books for children in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. Highlights include popular “Big Nate” comics in French, “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” volumes in Chinese and German, “Dogman” comics in Spanish, and “The Little Prince” in Arabic.

Building physical collections

Demand for physical materials is holding steady as e–book checkouts grow. In Q2, we circulated nearly 1.4 million items, about the same as 2Q 2022. As patrons request materials in a variety of formats, we continue to deliver on our levy promise of more materials when patrons want them.

[Peak Picks](#), the Library’s popular no-holds, no-wait collection of high interest titles, continues to be popular in its sixth year with nearly 37,000 Peak Picks checked out in Q2, an increase of nearly 8% from the same quarter in 2022. The most popular Peak Picks title during this period was the nonfiction thriller “A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan’s Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them” by Timothy Egan, a bestselling Seattle author.



We added 30 Peak Picks titles and over 4,600 copies in Q2. Highlights include the historical thriller “The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder” by David Grann; the celebratory “Project 562: Changing the Way We See Native America” by Swinomish and Tulalip photographer Matika Wilbur; and the triumphant memoir “Pageboy” by transgender advocate Elliot Page.

In the second quarter we added more 300 titles and 1,000 copies to the print and digital collections that amplify the voices and experiences of historically marginalized and underrepresented groups with titles that focused on deaf studies; neurodivergence; and Hawaiian and Polynesian culture). We also re-furbished print classics for adults, including those by

LGBTQIA+ authors, along with new copies of books by luminaries such as Toni Morrison, James Baldwin, and Zora Neale Hurston. We also added a mix of picture books, chapter books and nonfiction for children, including “Resistance Stories from Black History for Kids: Inspiring People and Events that Every Kid Should Know” by Rann Miller and “An Asian-American ABC: A Children’s Guide to Our History” by Cathy Linh Che

In 2022, a comprehensive diversity audit of our physical and digital collections revealed that our collections are among the most diverse found in North American public libraries.

Adding to local history collections

In Q2, we completed work on our Washington State Digital Heritage Grant, which supported the addition of materials to our Black Culture and History Collection. In April we added over 100 items created by the Seattle Urban League from the 1940s to the 1970s, which covered topics such as the League’s efforts to improve race relations and combat racial discrimination in the areas of education, housing, health and employment. Over the course of the grant, we also digitized selections from the Samuel McKinney, LeEtta Sanders King and Maid Adams collections, adding a total of 297 new items and scanning 1,958 pages of content. Digitization helps bring these materials together and makes them more easily accessible and searchable for patrons researching Seattle’s Black community.



Also during Q2, the Library acquired seven photograph albums that document early hikes and climbs organized by the Mountaineers, an outdoor recreation organization established in 1906. The photographs, taken between 1910 and 1924, provide a unique view into the early years of recreational hiking and climbing in Washington State and include many photos of women members. Highlights include photographs of a Glacier Peak climb in 1910 showing numerous women on the trail, images of women hikers during a 1924 Mt. Rainier outing and a photograph of Mabel Furry, daughter of Seattle City Councilman George Furry. Mabel was awarded the Mountaineers "Six Peaks Pin" in 1924 for having climbed Mt. Olympus, Baker, Rainier, St. Helens, Adams and Glacier Peak.



Mabel Furry on a 1911 outing in the Olympic mountains

Keeping our technology up to date

The 2019 Levy promises around technology include dedicated funding to support the Library's digital equity efforts; replacing infrastructure for public internet access; replacing outdated technology for acquisition and circulation of books and materials; and maintaining and upgrading public technologies and the spl.org website. The levy provides \$2.4 million to support technology operating expenses in 2023 and \$6.4 million, including \$5.2 million in carryforward, for the technology capital program.

Digital equity and the HotSpot circulation program

Internet access is a critical need for everything from job-seeking help to social connection to remote learning. The 2019 Levy is the primary funding source for our HotSpot program. The Library offered 1,130 hot spots in the second quarter of 2023, including 850 that were available to all patrons via our catalogue, 30 that were available through our Mobile Services team and an additional 250 available to patrons and community partners through our outreach team. Hot spots in our catalogue were checked out more than 1,500 times. Average wait times for hot spots increased because we were replacing older hot spot devices with newer models, but hot spots still have the lowest holds to items ratio for any item in the Library's collection. By 2024 Q1, all older models will be replaced by newer models and wait times should go down again. Hot spot devices see heavy usage at the Library and have a lifespan of about three years.

“Thank you for making the very dependable hot spot available to senior citizens.”

We also made 138 new loans of outreach hot spots for long-term access. Our ongoing partnerships with SHARE/WHEEL, API Chaya, FEEST and Chief Seattle Club continue to support long-term access to internet and resources benefiting people disproportionately impacted by the digital divide. The Library has recently developed a digital equity strategy and is working on creating a community informed process that advances community-identified priorities while leveraging library expertise and resources. In order to allow space for that work, no substantial changes or additions to the Outreach Hotspot Program or partnerships will take place through 2023.

Library staff continued in-person outreach with Tiny House Village communities in Interbay, South Lake Union, and the Central District. Based on residents expressed interests, staff shared information about upcoming writing programs at the Library, Your Next Job, tax help, discounted Orca cards, and Homework Help. One resident was excited that the Library could help them learn about resources for publishing a children's book. We look forward to continuing to work towards equitable access to Library resources and trustworthy information in our city.

Expanding access to computers, scanners and more

In Q2, more than 16,000 people used Library computers over 84,000 times, with 4% more people and 13% more sessions than Q2 2022. Laptop checkouts alone more than doubled, with 1,400 bookings in Q2 2023 compared to less than 600 in Q2 2022. Over 400,000 pages were printed through our printing stations in Q2.

In the second quarter, we continued to modernize and improve patron-facing technology, including upgrading all the public computers at Fremont and Madrona Sally-Goldmark branches. Last year, we upgraded self-checkout stations at 11 branches. This equipment continues to perform well. System-wide, patrons used self-checkout over 290,000 times to borrow close to 760,000 physical items in Q2.

In an effort to create opportunities for high-quality hybrid staff meetings and public programming, the Library has deployed 17 hybrid carts throughout the system. These carts include 4K High definition cameras, 75-inch displays and meeting control touchscreens which allow for hybrid (in person and online) meetings at Library locations. We have tested the functionality of the carts at several staff meetings and began planning for an all-staff Strategic Planning town hall in September. As we test these carts and learn more, we are preparing to use this technology for public programs at the Central Library and at neighborhood branches. Our goal is to offer accessible hybrid options for our communities going forward.

We have also been upgrading our data management systems. By the end of June, we installed technology for counting in-person visits at 20 of our 27 locations. We anticipate that we will have new equipment operating in all locations by the end of September. This new technology, which replaces obsolete wireless devices on our security gates, is located in the ceilings above our entrances, providing for more accurate and maintenance-free tracking of in-person visits. It also allows us to track entrances and exits at each location by hour, giving us new insight into how long patrons visit the Library.

“I’ve been using your email to print service fairly often over the last year or so and I just want to express my thanks for how simple and reliable that system is. Some free pages is also a nice plus!”

LEVY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: SUPPORTING CHILDREN

Expanding early learning options for children

Play & Learn continues, in-person story time resumes

The 2019 Levy promised additional support for Library early learning programs for children ages 0 to 5, providing about \$300,000 in 2023. A key element of our early learning program is our continued support for the Kaleidoscope Play and Learn program, which offers drop-in neighborhood-based play groups for the Family, Friend and Neighbor Care (FFN) community. Weekly sessions, facilitated by early childhood educators, are available to children up to 5 years

old. Parents, caregivers, and children are guided through a variety of developmental activities that promote early learning. The Library partners with local community-based organizations and agencies to offer these programs by providing meeting room space, program supplies, website promotion and early literacy support from our children’s librarians. The levy provides direct funding to support local community-based organizations and evaluate programs and services provided.

Working with long-time partners, Denise Louie Education Center and Chinese Information and Services Center, the Library continued in-person programs at Beacon Hill, Columbia, Lake City, Rainier Beach branches and a Play and Learn group with Villa Comunitaria at the South Park Branch. Providing these high-quality early learning experiences year round ensures participants have continued access to programs with minimal disruptions and provides host branches opportunities to promote other library summer programs such as Summer of Learning. Beginning in September 2023, the Columbia Branch will begin delivering Play and Learn sessions in both Amharic and English. Bilingual programs are already offered at Beacon Hill (Chinese and English) and South Park (Spanish and English) branches. We are excited to begin promoting this new opportunity to targeted audiences.

We are continuing to evaluate how we can best support the expansion of programming for children 0-5. This fall, we intend to use levy funds and resources from other sources to expand programming with a new partnership with East African Services Center to offer Play and Learn in Somali and English at the NewHolly Branch and, potentially, at Delridge Branch, by offering a second Spanish and English Play and Learn group with Villa Comunitaria. The new group at the NewHolly Branch will start this fall with outreach and engagement to prioritized communities in the NewHolly community with broader community outreach once the program has operated for several months. If we proceed with a second Spanish Play and Learn group at the Delridge Branch, we will follow a similar outreach and engagement model.

While we have had success in bringing back most Play and Learn partners and establishing new partnership, the financial landscape has changed for our service providers. Due to inflation and the need to pay higher wages to program facilitators, our annual costs to support Play and Learn groups has outstripped annual levy resources. We intend to use levy savings to support Play and Learn providers through 2024, but to continue the same level of service in 2025 and beyond, we may need to find resources beyond the levy.

In April, we brought back in-person story times and other early learning programs for the first time since the pandemic as part of a tiered rollout for children ages 0-5, and their caregivers. With over 160 new Library staff since 2022, the tiered rollout allowed new(er) staff to learn alongside colleagues to build skills and knowledge. In developing our early learning programs for 2023, the Library is listening to and working with community groups to develop programs that advance our



equity goals, are culturally appropriate, and, when possible, community-led. During Q2, we offered over 180 story times at 18 branches, the Central Library and in the community. In October, we will be re-introducing in-person Fire Fighter story time at the Central Library and Lake City and South Park branches with plans to add the program to our regular story time monthly rotation at branches throughout the system.

Beyond in-person programming, we continued to offer a robust menu of virtual programs through our Kids' YouTube channel, including over 180 different videos of story times, Play and Learn programs, and children's activities online that are available to the public to enjoy at any time. Although we are not currently creating new content for our Kid's YouTube channel as we once again focus on in-person children's activities, some of the videos we created during our in-person programming hiatus have generated sustained interest from our youngest patrons. Our virtual fire station tours in English and Spanish and our video "What Firemen Wear" were viewed an average of 90 times per day in the second quarter.

LEVY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: MAINTENANCE

Protecting our investments

The 2019 Levy promised to maintain Library buildings, preserve funding for major maintenance and add resources to undertake earthquake retrofits for the [historic Columbia, Green Lake and University branches](#). The 2019 Levy provides about \$1.9 million in 2023 to support routine maintenance and \$18.4 million to support major maintenance and seismic work.

Routine maintenance: Keeping our facilities clean and safe

The Levy provides \$1.9 million in 2023 budget and prior carry-forward authority to support enhanced levels of routine maintenance. In Q2, our facilities and janitorial team faced unique challenges and opportunities for keeping the Library clean, safe, and accessible. They completed over 1,850 work orders in Q2, and continued to address an increase in incidents of vandalism and drug use at our locations. As described in the access section, we have also taken a number of steps to ensure our facilities are safe for staff and patrons, including installing air sensor equipment in the restrooms at Lake City, having security staff conduct early morning patrols at branches in neighborhoods that experience high levels of illegal activity during the hours we are closed, and preparing for the installation of security cameras at the Central Library and Ballard, Capitol Hill and Lake City branches.

Major maintenance: Preserving libraries for the next generation

The 2019 Levy provides \$7.6 million in 2023 budget authority and \$10.8 million in carryforward authority for major maintenance and seismic work. The 2012 levy provided an additional \$1.3 million in carryforward authority. In Q2, the Library spent nearly \$2.2 million of 2019 levy funds on seismic, major maintenance and IT capital work and over \$10,000 of 2012 levy funds.

In Q2, the Library made progress on several of the largest projects in our capital improvement program funded by the levy. Construction for the Green Lake Branch seismic retrofit project is underway and will continue through early 2024. Permitting has been submitted for the University Branch seismic retrofit; the public construction bid is tentatively scheduled for late 2024. Architect SHKS has also been retained for a rough scope and cost estimate for the Columbia Branch seismic retrofit due in mid-2023.

However, these projects have also experienced challenges and delays. Widespread supply chain issues have slowed -- or temporarily suspended -- progress. Material scarcity and exponential increases in construction inflation continue to add pressure to already tight project budgets. The University Branch is scheduled for electrification and HVAC upgrades concurrent with its seismic retrofit. That project does not yet have final cost projections, but the cascade effect of several large project bids exceeding architectural estimates could lead to a 5 or 6 million dollar shortfall. In combination with REET revenue reductions, these factors could push the third scheduled seismic levy-funded project – the Columbia Branch retrofit – beyond the current 2020-2026 levy period.

Progress on other significant projects in Q2 include the roof replacement at the Queen Anne Branch and exterior access improvements at the Douglass-Truth Branch, which are both substantially complete. Sewer issues at Douglass-Truth Branch (unrelated to the prior exterior construction) have necessitated separate site work. The Library's new Automated Materials Handling System (AMHS) went live at the Maintenance and Operations Center (MOC) in early Q3, transitioning from Level 2 at Central Library. The new system features upgrades such as a tote de-stacker, two bulk induction systems and handheld scanners that will increase efficiency in the materials handling process.

Finally, construction was completed on the Capitol Hill Branch roof; HVAC/mechanical systems units are tentatively scheduled to arrive in September. Permits have been approved for electrification upgrades for the Northeast and Southwest branches, which notably include the addition of air conditioning; the lead-time for equipment will delay construction, with completion expected by the end of 2023. We also completed high-priority ADA restroom access improvements to Madrona-Sally Goldmark, Capitol Hill, Montlake, Northeast and Rainier Beach branches in Q2.

Soul Pole 50th anniversary celebration: In April 2023, a public celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Soul Pole being installed at the Douglass-Truth Branch was held in partnership with Historic Seattle. Speakers included Elijah Mu'ied, son of Raqib Mu'ied (formerly Gregory X), who designed the Soul Pole with Rotary Boys Club youth in the late 1960s; Taelore Rhoden of Historic Seattle; Stephanie Johnson-Toliver of the Black Heritage Society of Washington State; as well



New roof at Queen Anne Branch



Family members of Raqib Mu'ied at Soul Pole celebration

as African American Collection librarian Taylor Brooks and Chief Librarian Tom Fay. The event was filled with people who had turned out to celebrate "50 years of community at this corner," including many family members of Raqib Mu'ied and Soul Pole artist Brenda Davis, as well as leaders from organizations including Alpha Kappa Alpha and the Northwest African American Museum.

Risks, opportunities and the path ahead:

As you'll read in our 2023 third quarter report, our staff continue to adapt, enhance, and launch services and programs to help our community. Here's a quick preview:

- Continued challenges at non-air conditioned branches
- Cost of digital materials
- Summer of Learning 2023

2023 Financials

The 2019 Levy accounts for \$49 million (37%) of the Library's total revised 2023 budget of \$132 million. The 2012 Levy accounts for \$1.7 million. The City's General Fund, and other sources, including The Seattle Public Library Foundation, state and federal grants fund the remainder.

Spending tables below show the 2023 Operations Plan Budget plus encumbrances and unspent budget authority from 2022 in the revised budget columns. Unspent prior year budget authority of \$16 million from the 2019 levy and \$1.7 million from the 2012 levy are available for spending in 2023.

	2023 Ops Plan Budget	2023 Revised Budget*	2023 YTD Exp.	Available	% Revised Budget Spent
2019 Levy					
Hours & Access	13,283,000	13,327,302	5,709,602	7,617,700	43%
Collections	5,800,000	5,907,076	3,059,162	2,847,914	52%
Technology & Online Services	2,563,000	2,403,817	1,088,831	1,314,986	45%
Children's Programming	301,000	297,308	105,629	191,679	36%
Maintenance	1,832,000	1,873,460	842,876	1,030,584	45%
Administration	300,000	292,916	226,445	66,470	77%
Capital Improvement Program	8,894,000	24,904,429	3,441,874	21,462,555	14%
Total	32,973,000	49,006,309	14,474,420	34,531,889	30%

*Includes \$23k in operating carry-forward and \$16M in capital carry-forward budget authority. There is an additional \$474k associated with legislated carry-forward that will be included in the Q3 financials.

	2023 Ops Plan Budget	2023 Revised Budget*	2023 YTD Exp.	Available	% Revised Budget Spent
2012 Levy					
Technology & Online Services			42,672	(42,672)	N/A
Maintenance					
Capital Improvement Program		1,684,622	675,829	1,008,793	40%
Total		1,684,622	718,501	966,121	43%

* Entire 18100 budget consists of carry-forward budget authority. There is an additional \$267k associated with legislated carry-forward that will be included in the Q3 financials.

Table 1. Weekly hours in 2023 compared to 2019 baseline and pre-pandemic services levels

Location	2019 Baseline	Jan. 1 - Mar. 13, 2020	Jan. 1 - Mar. 20, 2023	Mar. 21 - Apr 2, 2023	Apr. 3, 2023 until Green Lake Opens	When Green Lake Opens
Ballard Branch	60	61	59	62	62	62
Beacon Hill Branch	60	61	57	57	56	56
Broadview Branch	60	61	57	62	62	56
Capitol Hill Branch	60	61	55	55	62	62
Central Library	62	62	54	62	62	62
Columbia Branch	60	61	53	53	56	56
Delridge Branch	39	40	40	40	56	56
Douglass-Truth Branch	60	61	55	55	62	62
Fremont Branch	39	40	40	48	48	48
Green Lake Branch	39	40	33	CLOSED	CLOSED	56
Greenwood Branch	60	61	61	61	62	62
High Point Branch	46	47	47	47	62	62
International District/Chinatown Branch	46	47	42	42	62	62
Lake City Branch	60	61	61	61	62	62
Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch	39	40	40	40	48	48
Magnolia Branch	39	40	33	48	48	48
Montlake Branch	39	40	40	40	48	48
NewHolly Branch	39	40	33	33	56	56
Northeast Branch	60	61	57	57	56	56
Northgate Branch	60	61	57	56	56	56
Queen Anne Branch	39	40	35	48	48	48
Rainier Beach Branch	60	61	59	59	56	56
South Park Branch	46	47	47	47	62	62
Southwest Branch	60	61	45	45	56	56
University Branch	46	47	47	47	48	48
Wallingford Branch	39	40	40	48	56	48
West Seattle Branch	60	61	45	45	56	56
Total Weekly Hours	1,377	1,403	1,292	1,318	1,468	1,510
Hours as a % of 2019 baseline		102%	94%	96%	107%	110%
Hours as a % of pre-pandemic		100%	92%	94%	105%	108%



The Seattle Public Library

NEWS RELEASES

Date			Title
08	09	2023	Celebrate The Seattle Public Library's Summer of Learning with a Free Day at the Burke Museum on Sunday, Aug. 27
08	11	2023	The Seattle Public Library Announces Additions to the Black History and Culture Digital Collection
08	28	2023	Celebrate the Centennial of the Birth of John Okada, Author of 'No-No Boy,' This Fall With The Seattle Public Library
08	29	2023	September 2023 Author Readings and Community Events With The Seattle Public Library



The Seattle Public Library
MEDIA COVERAGE

Date			Organization	Headline	Details	Link
08	02	2023	<i>Seattle Medium</i>	Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Seattle Public Library Present "Black Activism In Print"	"According to Taylor Brooks, the African American Collection and Community Engagement Librarian at the Douglas Truth Library, the collection is significant in that it not only showcases the work of the artist, but it also ties into the social activism that they represented at the time."	https://seattlemedium.com/alpha-kappa-alpha-sorority-seattle-public-library-present-black-activism-in-print/
08	05	2023	<i>South Seattle Emerald</i>	What Are You Reading? How to Win The Seattle Public Library's Summer Book Bingo	"Get started by downloading your Book Bingo card in English, designed by Monyee Chau, at www.SPL.org/BookBingo or www.Lectures.org/Book-Bingo ; or a "Lotería de Lectura" card in Spanish, designed by Esmeralda Vasquez, at www.SPL.org/Loteria . Book Bingo and Lotería cards are also available at any library location."	https://southseattleemerald.com/2023/08/05/what-are-you-reading-how-to-win-the-seattle-public-librarys-summer-book-bingo/

08	09	2023	<i>Crosscut</i>	Forget banning books — a rural WA county may close its library	Photo caption: “Books on LGBTQ+ topics on display at the Seattle Public Library, Southwest Branch. Calls to ban books at public libraries have been increasing nationwide, including in Washington, where, according to the American Library Association, the number of titles challenged has skyrocketed from 10 in 2017 to 42 in 2021.”	https://crosscut.com/news/2023/08/forget-banning-books-rural-wa-county-may-close-its-library
08	11	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	Streaming services just can’t deliver all the extras of an actual DVD	“I value the Seattle Public Library for many reasons, not the least of which is its commitment to maintaining a vast collection of DVDs for patrons to check out.”	https://www.seattletimes.com/pacific-nw-magazine/streaming-services-just-cant-deliver-all-the-extras-of-an-actual-dvd/

08	11	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	For DVD aficionados in Seattle, the last Blockbuster is the local library	<p>“Thankfully, SPL and other libraries in the Puget Sound region continue to maintain and curate a vast collection of DVDs for those who either cherish the medium or don’t want to be burdened by the cost of a streaming service (or five). The only streaming service Joseph Butler uses is a free one, Kanopy, which he accesses through his Seattle Public Library card. Butler, a part-time Metro driver who also makes doorbells for a living, lives with his wife and their 12-year-old son near the West Seattle Branch in the Admiral neighborhood. ‘I can actually see it from my apartment,’ he says. ‘That’s one of the reasons why we chose this apartment.’”</p>	https://www.seattletimes.com/pacific-nw-magazine/for-dvd-aficionados-in-seattle-the-last-blockbuster-is-the-local-library/
----	----	------	--------------------------	---	--	---

08	14	2023	KUOW	Seattle Library's 'Black Activism in Print' exhibit puts city's history on display	“The Douglass-Truth Branch of the Seattle Public Library has been a staple of Seattle's Central District and a decades-long meeting hub for Seattle's Black community. It's also home to the West Coast's largest African American collection. Among its treasures: works by Elizabeth Catlett and Charles White, who were prominent artists and activists in the mid to late 1900s. Many of these pieces have been tucked away — until now.”	https://www.kuow.org/stories/seattle-library-black-activism-print-exhibit-puts-citys-history-on-display
08	15	2023	KUOW	Stay cool Seattle: Today So Far	Photo caption: “Taylor Brooks admires ‘Nocturne,’ an offset lithograph print from the portfolio of Charles White, on July 26, 2023. Brooks, Seattle's African American Collection and Community Engagement librarian, curated an exhibit at the Central Library, featuring White's work alongside prints from artist Elizabeth Catlett. The prints are part of the African American Collection housed at SPL's Douglass-Truth Branch.”	https://www.kuow.org/stories/stay-cool

08	16	2023	<i>Northwest Asian Weekly</i>	CID library vandalism	<p>“Seattle police are investigating a string of vandalism incidents at the International District/Chinatown Branch of the Seattle Public Library. Since mid-July, someone has thrown rocks through the library’s glass windows and doors, creating at least \$6,000 in damage. There have been at least five separate incidents at the building on 713 8th Avenue South. Supervising librarian Esperanza Stewart told the Northwest Asian Weekly that nothing has been taken from the library.”</p>	https://nwasianweekly.com/2019/08/cid-library-vandalism/
08	17	2023	<i>Reddit</i>	Seattle Public Library appreciation post	<p>“I just wanted to take a moment to thank the library that operates in our city for forgiving fines a while back. Because of that I have been a regular SPL user and enjoyed all the perks that come with that for a while now. I've been able to check out all sorts of ebooks using Libby and learn quite a bit. There's also plenty of things that I never knew our library does that I have been benefiting from.”</p> <p>(Many other positive comments too)</p>	https://www.reddit.com/r/Seattle/comments/15t6r4o/seattle_public_library_appreciation_post/?rdt=34390

08	17	2023	<i>Queen Anne & Magnolia News</i>	Celebrating library's Summer of Learning	Library's press release reprinted	https://queenannene.ws.com/news/2023/aug/17/celebrating-librarys-summer-of-learning/
08	24	2023	<i>Seattle's Child</i>	StoryWalks Magnolia	"StoryWalks Magnolia is featuring picture books by Indigenous authors. It's a collaboration by Seattle Public Library, Seattle Parks & Recreation, Daybreak Star Preschool and Magnolia Farmers Market. The stories rotate among five locations and will be available, on varied days and times, through Aug. 31."	https://www.seattlechild.com/events/story-walks-magnolia/
08	24	2023	<i>Queen Anne & Magnolia News</i>	Seattle Public Library adds to black history digital collection	Library press release reprinted	https://queenannene.ws.com/news/2023/aug/24/seattle-public-library-adds-to-black-history-digital-collection/
08	28	2023	<i>KUOW</i>	Tiny house villagers get internet in Seattle	The Seattle Public Library and King County are donating Wi-Fi hotspots to help villagers get online without having to leave their tiny houses.	https://www.kuow.org/stories/seattle-library-helps-tiny-house-villagers-connect-to-better-internet
08	28	2023	<i>KING 5</i>	Try these book picks from the Seattle Public Library - New Day NW	"Librarians Misha Stone and Genesee Rickel from the Seattle Public Library recommend some of their favorite books to check out this year."	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ap_M7saSMOs
08	30	2023	<i>The Seattle Times</i>	King County libraries to further expand hours next month	"Seattle libraries similarly expanded their hours at most branches this spring, thanks to a \$219 million levy."	https://www.seattletimes.com/entertainment/books/king-county-libraries-to-further-expand-hours-next-month/

08	30	2023	<i>My Northwest – 97.3 KIRO News Radio</i>	Local Black history is booming in the Evergreen State	“The Seattle Public Library (SPL) was awarded a Digital Humanities Grant from the Washington State Library, which funded the digitization through hi-resolution scanning of 300 items or about a thousand pages of material dating from the 19th century to the 1960s.”	https://mynorthwest.com/3925906/local-black-history-is-booming-in-the-evergreen-state/
08	30	2023	<i>Seattle’s Child</i>	How do you spell student success? PUBLIC LIBRARIES	“Access these resources online from home or at any SPL or KCLS branch location. You’d be hard-pressed to find better help for students than the public libraries in King County. SPL has received the highest ranking possible for libraries, the coveted 5-star award, for ten consecutive years.”	https://www.seattlechild.com/student-resources-public-library/
08	30	2023	<i>South Seattle Emerald</i>	News Gleams Auburn Resident to Be Sentenced for Jan. 6 Capitol Attacks; Events at Seattle Public Library	“The Seattle Public Library has shared their September schedule of free public events and author readings; most take place at the downtown Central Library, with some exceptions. Full calendar and registration can be seen at SPL.org/Calendar .”	https://southseattleemerald.com/2023/08/30/news-gleams-auburn-resident-to-be-sentenced-for-jan-6-capitol-attacks-events-at-seattle-public-library/