

Homework help participation declined 38% after 2010 budget reductions reduced open hours.



At a Glance 2011

- 128,536 patron visits
- 277,764 materials checked out
- 2,462 story time participants
- 700 homework help students
- 26 public computers
- 72 community meetings
(down from 294 in 2009)

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Columbia Branch

Residents in the vibrant Columbia City neighborhood still feel the effects of the 2010 hours cut that closed this branch on Fridays and Sundays and reduced weekday hours. The hours cut led to a 38% decline in homework help participation, limited availability of the community meeting room and reduced access to computers and the Internet. Columbia Branch patrons attended all three of the Library's January community meetings to ask for more open hours, particularly for the neighborhood children who attend story times in English and Vietnamese, get homework help and take part in Play & Learn early learning sessions. Staff members serve teens through a Teen Advisory Group and teen gaming programs and support five book groups. The branch also assists people who use the nearby Washington State Service for the Blind, by providing a specialized computer work station for the visually-impaired.

Needs: Residents were adamant that they needed more access to Library service and the levy responds by opening the Columbia Branch seven days a week. The extra hours will allow the branch to increase programming, provide more access to computers, and better serve the neighborhood through more partnerships with key community groups. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance also is included.

What this means for patrons:

- Open the Columbia Branch seven days a week
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children's collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom updates, major maintenance

Programs:

Story time, Teen Advisory Group, Play & Learn, book groups, homework help, tax help, gaming for teens

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special features:

One of six Carnegie libraries in Seattle, the Columbia Branch is in the Columbia City Landmark District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.