

## West Seattle Branch

One of six Carnegie libraries in Seattle, the West Seattle Branch is a treasured building in the community, and the favorite neighborhood reading room for many residents. Families with children and retirees are the most regular visitors, and this is reflected in programming that ranges from story times to opera previews. A variety of community groups rely on the large meeting room for their events and activities. These historic branches require extra care and maintenance and pose significant challenges when technology and other services need to be updated.

**Needs:** The levy will provide important maintenance funding to preserve this beautiful Carnegie library building. 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.

### What this means for patrons:

- Preserve current hours
- 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, book group, computer classes, Library skills classes, opera previews

### Currently open:

Seven days a week

### Special features:

The branch was originally designed by W. Marbury Somervell and Joseph S. Coté and opened in 1910. It was the first permanent branch building in Seattle. It is listed on The National Register of Historical Places.

In 2011, West Seattle Branch patrons checked out over 455,000 items.



### At a Glance 2011

- 192,292 patron visits
- 455,269 materials checked out
- 3,262 story time participants
- 16 public computers
- 234 community meetings

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