

The Seattle Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
11:00 a.m. Thursday, September 25, 2025

Washington Mutual Foundation Meeting Room 1, Level 4
1000 Fourth Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

Remote Listen Line:

Dial: 213-282-4570 / Phone conference ID: 443 757 525#

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- 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.
 - To submit public comment in writing, email 24-hours in advance of the meeting: library.board@spl.org.
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Agenda

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

D. CONSENT

1. Minutes of August 28, 2025 Regular Library Board Meeting
2. July 2025 Finance Report

E. CHIEF LIBRARIAN REPORT

1. Chief Librarian Report
2. System Report
 - a. Library App Update – Helen Tapping, Head of Marketing and Online Services
 - b. Central Library Plaza Maintenance – Rob Gannon, Director of Administrative Services

F. OLD BUSINESS

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2026 Library Budget Development Process Overview
2. 2025-2026 Biennial Budget Impacts
3. Union 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: Oct. 30, 2025

(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 28, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of The Seattle Public Library (SPL) Board of Trustees was held on August 28, 2025. Library Board President W. Tali Hairston called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Vice President Yazmin Mehdi and Trustees Carmen Bendixen and Ron Chew were in attendance. Trustee Faith Pettis was unable to attend. The meeting was conducted with a remote attendance option via video conference.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

CONSENT

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

CHIEF LIBRARIAN REPORT

Chief Librarian Report

Executive Director/Chief Librarian Tom Fay said Congressmember Pramila Jayapal recently visited the University Branch construction project. He said Foundation CEO Brian Lawrence, Foundation Board President Sarah Stanley, SHKS architects David Strauss and Matt Inpanbutr, and the Library's Capital Improvements team attended. Mr. Fay said Congressmember Jayapal appreciated seeing the extensive work at the site, which shows the importance of reinforcing Carnegie buildings. Mr. Fay said the Library appreciates the Congressmember's time to visit, as she was instrumental in getting an earmark for the branch. Mr. Fay said he also joined a meeting at the King County Library System with Representative Kim Schreyer which was an opportunity to discuss library issues and funding concerns in Western Washington and across the state.

Mr. Fay said he, Lake City Teen Librarian Nancy Garrett, and Youth and Family Services Program Manager Shelley Mastalerz joined UW Libraries Dean Simon Neame at the Allen Library on the University of Washington campus to welcome participants to UW Libraries/SPL Summer High School Internship program. He said the program is a great experience for high school students who attend sessions on campus and learn about career opportunities in libraries. He said the SPL Foundation funds the program which has been running for a number of years.

Mr. Fay said the Library is kicking off a citywide survey that will run from August 25 through September 24. He said the survey is available in print and online, and is translated into Spanish, simplified and traditional Chinese, Vietnamese, Amharic, and Somali. He said the survey was mailed to 15,000 households, and the Library's community engagement consultant Olympic Research and Strategy is offering participants a chance to win one of twenty \$50.00 Visa gift cards for participating. Mr. Fay said the survey is part of a year-long multifaceted community engagement effort and follows several workshops held in the spring at the Capitol Hill and Greenwood branches. He said more than 30 community-based organizations and a number of city departments participated in workshop sessions. He said survey results will be shared in the fall.

Head of Marketing and Online Services Helen Tapping said the Library Card Signup Month campaign will launch next week. She said this year's campaign is titled "Here For You" and has multiple pieces. She said the campaign aims to show all the different ways that the Library shows up for patrons, from good books to resume help to empowerment and self-care, and the web page will have language translations. Ms. Tapping said in a new effort, inspired by the Library's 2004 Passports for All Passport campaign, the Library has created collectible postcards for each branch. She said the postcards were created by the marketing team, in collaboration with three local artists, and with input from branch staff who contributed highlights and information about the uniqueness of each branch. She said an envelope has also been created that will fit the full collection of cards and also has spaces to collect branch stamps. She said the team wants to encourage participants to tell their Library story and their experience with SPL through interactions like where they took a selfie, picked up holds, or attended an event, making it a very personalized experience. Ms. Tapping showed examples of some of the postcards and said the Library hopes that patrons will enjoy finding and collecting them and telling their Library stories. She said the Library will promote the campaign starting in September with multilingual campaigns on the website, in branches, on bus transit ads, and in local media.

Library Board President Tali Hairston said the package is wonderfully done. Library Board Vice President Yazmin Mehdi agreed and said the postcards are beautiful and the project has multiple layers of referencing the many ways that the Library supports the community. Ms. Mehdi asked about the artists, and Ms. Tapping said the three community artists involved were Jeremy Goody, Sloane Miller, and Victoria Urrutia, all of whom have worked with the Library previously on Summer of Learning projects. She said the Library's graphic designers Annie Vasquez and Danny Ramirez and digital marketing strategist Joe Gustav also worked on the project which was an enjoyable and large undertaking. Library Board Trustee Ron Chew said the project was wonderful and asked how the idea came about. He said the younger folks he interacts with have been getting interested in postcards. Ms. Tapping said her team held a retreat and brainstorm earlier in the year. She said the team had heard from many staff and patrons their love of the passport program, and the team wanted to modernize the effort with the same intent of getting folks to visit branches. She said the team felt that postcards had more flexibility, and postcards appeal to the younger generation because of the many uses for them as display art, art projects, mailings, and more. She said they also allow more flexibility than the passport for people who may want to collect only one or a few, rather than all 27. Ms. Tapping said she is proud of the work of her team and the artists, and she hopes for a positive reception from patrons.

Mr. Fay thanked Ms. Tapping and project the team. He said folks may not realize how much work it takes to put this kind of project together, from preparation to engagement, creating the copy, and working with artists. He said it's a great body of work and the postcard format is very interesting. He said he was recently at an Urban Libraries Council forum in which participants wrote inspiring postcards to participating colleagues which were mailed 30 days later. He said receiving the postcard was much different than receiving a thumbs up on social media, and was an impactful and meaningful experience. He said there are a lot of interesting opportunities that can be explored with this project.

Library Trustee Carmen Bendixen asked how often the Board will receive updates on the University Branch project. Mr. Fay said there will be an update in the next month or two as the team works through emerging issues. He said working on 100-plus-year old Carnegie buildings can lead to interesting developments, such as the discovery of an old boiler that wasn't noted and had to be removed, some issues with the roof, and some work done in the 1980s that actually made issues worse and needed to be fixed. He said the schedule has been impacted somewhat and an update should be available soon. Mr. Fay said there were funding contingencies to address the found issues, and the team is posting photos to the SPL website as the project proceeds.

Ms. Medhi said the Human Resources report in the meeting packet is very helpful in showing the amazing amount of hiring that has happened. She said the list of 110 position hires this year is remarkable, and the HR team must be working very hard. She said the report also contains some very good resources available to Library staff including employee support and mental health offerings. She said, in her experience, those support resources were very important during the pandemic, and it is good for employees to know these resources are available.

Ms. Mehdi said she was also intrigued by the Staff Reads program and said the book choice sounded interesting. Mr. Fay said the Library has a strong HR team, which is also currently hiring for a couple of positions. He said while HR Director Brian Sharkey was on parental leave for several months this year, Shawna Dennard stepped into the interim role. Mr. Fay said Ms. Dennard did a great job participating in Senior Management Team and E-Team meetings and their bodies of work, while also attending to her own body of work. He said the great teamwork in the HR division is greatly appreciated. Mr. Hairston said “Wellness Wednesdays” mentioned in the report are a great idea, and he gave kudos to the Foundation for supporting the high school intern program. He said this internal work is critical, and the future of libraries is in the hands of young people like these high school interns from diverse backgrounds.

Systems Reports

ILS RFP Update

Mr. Fay introduced Library Technology Officer Charles Wesley to discuss the Integrated Library System (ILS) request for proposals (RFP). Mr. Fay said the ILS is the backbone of the Library system. He said it is a critical business platform, and the primary platform for the Library. Mr. Wesley also introduced IT Program Manager Khamis Hammoudeh, who joined SPL two weeks prior and will be leading the selection and implementation of ILS replacement project.

Mr. Wesley said the RFP was posted on July 31. He said vendors had an opportunity to ask questions on a call or in writing, and several vendors joined a session on August 13 to ask questions. He said the window for questions closed on August 20. He said vendor proposals are due to the Library on September 10. Mr. Wesley said, unlike in building construction, there are only a handful of companies that operate in the library technology space, and the ILS market in particular. He said the Library does have some choices, and is expecting to have a good basis for comparison between the different bids. He said vendor demos will be scheduled in September and October to see the products, ask questions, and provide an opportunity for staff to participate and provide feedback. He said the Library will incorporate a comprehensive review of materials, demos, and questions into the selection of a vendor. He said the hope is to move into contracting by October and wrap up by the end of the year so that implementation can begin in January.

Ms. Mehdi asked what additional functionality the Library is hoping to get from the new ILS. Mr. Wesley said the ILS is like the central nervous system for many things. He said it is a customer information system and inventory management system, and the current system has older underlying technology. He said the biggest thing the Library is looking for, which is expressed in the requirements, is a modern system that is able to leverage modern-day technology. He said one can think of the ILS as an ecosystem, as it is a core element that many other things use. He said by making this change, the Library will be able to leverage existing technology it has in new and different ways that the old system would not support, which opens up opportunities to modernize or improve some services. He said everything has a lifespan, so the goal is interoperability with other systems and the ability to leverage newer technology to optimize functions so that Library operations can run smoothly for patrons and staff. Mr. Wesley said he is excited about what the proposals will show and how the Library will be able to move forward. Ms. Mehdi said seamless migration and interoperability makes sense to her. Mr. Wesley agreed and said the Library will take advantage of opportunities to streamline and improve processes, as well as opportunities to consolidate technology. Ms. Mehdi asked about the involvement of the Library’s cybersecurity

professional in safeguarding the system. Mr. Wesley said the Library's RFP had an entire section on cybersecurity in the requirements that the Library's cybersecurity analyst contributed to, and he will also be a part of the review. He said the Library is asking vendors to speak to cybersecurity in addition to providing supporting documentation to attest to them meeting the requirements.

Mr. Fay said the Board will be kept up to date. He said it will be a huge change management project for the organization, as it has not happened for many years. He said it will be a lot of work, but will create opportunities to provide different types of service, better business integrations, and more efficiencies. Mr. Hairston asked about the selection date. Mr. Wesley said proposals are due on September 10, and Mr. Hammoudeh will be building out a more detailed project schedule for the reviews and the process. He said Mr. Hammoudeh's position was created and funded to oversee this body of work. He said future updates will include a more detailed project plan.

NEW BUSINESS

2nd Quarter 2025 Levy Report

Levy Administrator Jan Oscherwitz said the Library is in year six of its seven-year \$219 million levy. She said she has been working with the Library's Communications team, led by Digital Communications Strategist Elisa Murray, to create a public quarterly report that is more visually engaging and reader friendly. Ms. Oscherwitz said the levy continues to fund core and essential Library services and accounts for 38% of the Library's revised total budget in 2025. She said through the second quarter, SPL has spent \$14.7 million or 27% of the budget. She said the lag in spending is due to multiple-year capital projects, such as the University Branch seismic retrofit.

Ms. Oscherwitz highlighted progress made in each of the levy categories. In the area of Hours and Access, she said the Library continues to operate on the schedule established in January 2025 which increased hours across the system above 2019 levels and ensured that all locations not under construction are open at least six days per week. She said the schedule will remain in place through 2025 and hours are tracked in a table on page 18 of the report. She said the table contains branch open hours which are color-coded and shows that the majority of locations have more open hours than they did in 2019. Ms. Oscherwitz said the new schedule has remained stable, and there were only five unexpected branch closures in the second quarter, which is significantly fewer than a year ago. Ms. Oscherwitz said page 3 of the report shows quarterly usage statistics which were previously shared in monthly Board meeting packets, but are now integrated into the quarterly report for more context and comparison.

Ms. Oscherwitz said the number of active SPL users continues to grow, in part because of a new, easier Library card signup application. She said the Library has a new system for online signups, and SPL saw the highest monthly total of new Library card signups in June with the simplified application. She said the Library saw a dip in usage in second quarter 2024 which was due to the cyberattack. Ms. Oscherwitz said the report also highlights programming, much of which is supported directly or indirectly by levy funds. She said levy funds support Social Services staff and programming, as well as nine of the Library's 22 security officers. She said the report also contains a description of the new Community Use Agreement Policy that the Board adopted in May 2025 with an effective date of August 1, 2025. She said each section of the report also includes quotes from members of the public.

Ms. Oscherwitz said in the levy category of Collections, the Library added 26,500 new copies of digital titles in the second quarter, as well as adding 31 titles and 5,300 copies of books to its popular Peak Picks collection which is entirely funded by the levy. She said the report features information and graphics on the Library's local history collection, as well as information and an image of recently digitized historical newspapers.

Ms. Oscherwitz said in the area of Technology and Access, the report highlights the ILS replacement as well as the new mobile app that launched in April. She said, as of the publication of this report, the app had been downloaded more than 12,000 times on Android and Apple devices.

She said in the area of Supporting Children, the report highlights the Play and Learn Programs which provided 80 sessions in the second quarter at the Beacon Hill, Columbia, Delridge, Lake City, NewHolly, Rainier Beach, and South Park branches. She said the Library offered more than 250 story times at more than 20 branches in the second quarter, and said more than 35% of SPL children and teen librarians are funded by the levy.

Ms. Oscherwitz said in the area of Maintenance, the big story is the University Branch renovation, and the report contains a photo from the demolition phase. She said there is a lot of content in the report, which the team hopes is more visual and accessible to the public. She said the team would appreciate any suggestions for additional improvements.

Ms. Bendixen said she appreciated the definition of the ILS in the section about Technology. She asked about a reference to the 2012 levy and asked what funds are remaining. Ms. Oscherwitz said this is the final appropriation of the 2012 levy. She said levy funds trickle in for years because there are delays in property tax payments and penalties that come in for a number of years. She said some funds hadn't been fully appropriated in the operations plan, but were appropriated in the final supplemental budget. She said now that the funds are fully appropriated and the Library has spent \$350,000, there is not quite \$600,000 left which will trickle over into next year if not fully spent in 2025. She said remaining 2012 levy funds are fully appropriated.

Ms. Mehdi asked about the five unexpected closures in the second quarter and asked for context. Ms. Oscherwitz said the Library increased hours in second quarter 2024; however, it was at the same time as the most intense part of the City hiring freeze, so there were times during second quarter 2024 when the Library simply didn't have available staff to open branches as scheduled, which created last-minute closures. She said staffing has been much more stable in 2025 due to many new hires. Mr. Fay said unexpected closures can result from staff sick calls as well as power outages or weather-related issues. He said there are many things that might create a challenge to opening a branch or may cause an early closure. He said hot weather can be a challenge, but the Library has been able to add air conditioning to more buildings which has decreased the number of heat-related closures.

Ms. Mehdi asked if the Library is still subject to a hiring freeze. Mr. Fay said the Library looks at every vacancy. He said the City still currently has a freeze. He said the Library sits outside of that, and hiring vacancy decisions rest with him. He said, due to concerns around budget reductions and the need to carry a 5.5% budgeted vacancy, the Library requires that every single vacancy is looked at to determine whether it can be hired or needs to wait. He said vacancies that affect the Library's ability to maintain hours of operation are reviewed and moved through quickly. Mr. Fay said the E-Team provides guidance and all vacancies are reviewed to make the best decision possible at the time. He said because of budget reductions, decisions are made very carefully.

Ms. Mehdi said the new report with the mix of text and visuals is terrific. She said it is very helpful to have key statistics and strategic plan information integrated in the report, making it a wonderful one-stop resource for all the work the Library is doing to meet its many commitments.

Ms. Mehdi asked about the 128 interactions of the Social Services Team. She said, at a future point, it would be good to have an understanding of where those interactions tend to happen and how they deal with issues outside of the Central Library. She said she had the same questions about the Security Team. Ms. Mehdi said the model of security officers being in branches where they get to know patrons and have a better understanding of how to diffuse and de-escalate situations is fantastic.

Ms. Medhi asked about the process of verifying patron addresses for Library card signups at a time when people are worried about privacy and security. Mr. Fay said the Library usually uses a third party for verifications, and he will get more information to Ms. Mehdi on the process. Mr. Fay thanked Ms. Oscherwitz, Ms. Murray, and the team members from Communications, Marketing, and Strategy and Performance who all work on areas of this report. He said a lot of work goes into this and they do a great job of making the information very consumable. Ms. Oscherwitz said Ms. Murray has taken the lead in making a lot of the improvements and deserves a lot of credit for it.

It was moved and seconded to approve the 2025 Second Quarter Levy Report as published; the motion carried unanimously.

January through June 2025 Summary Report on Foundation Funded Projects

Community Partnerships and Government Relations Program Manager Kiersten Nelson said, as of June 30, the Library has expended about 34% of the Foundation's 2025 grant awards. She said the number is at 43% when including encumbered expenses, which is on par with spending for the past several years. She said the Library has expended the Foundation's grant at nearly 100% for the last several years, so there are no current concerns. She said several programs are at, or near, full allocation of their funds, including Seattle Reads, Raising A Reader, Summer of Learning, public computing, and Tutor.com. She said the Library has a digital equity grant from the Foundation that is nearly expended.

Ms. Nelson said, in acknowledgement of the 20-year anniversary of the Libraries for All campaign, the Foundation dedicated \$90,000 to branch programming. She said there are currently a number of end-of-summer events occurring at branches, and programming will continue through the summer and into the fall as kids and families prepare for the school year.

Ms. Nelson said SPL's funding has not been impacted by federal cuts at the same level as the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the Washington State Library, and the Washington Talking Book and Braille Library. She said the Library has a \$50,000 grant with about \$22,000 left to be reimbursed, and the Library is in the process of trying to realize that reimbursement. She said the Library also received a grant from the Carnegie Foundation for almost \$500,000 which will fund English language learning programs over the next two years.

Ms. Nelson said, due to an issue with the City's Workday system, an estimated \$250,000 in labor costs will be corrected and charged back to the Foundation by the end of the third quarter.

Resolution Directing Library Staff to Prepare a 2026 Library Levy Renewal Package

Mr. Fay said because the Library is in year six of the 2019 levy, it is at the point of considering a levy renewal, and determinations will be made as the Board has discussions and the Library looks to partner with the Mayor's Office and City Council moving forward in 2026. He said Institutional and Strategic Advancement Director Rick Sheridan, Policy and Strategy Advisor Jessica Smith, and Levy Administrator Jan Oscherwitz have worked on a resolution which authorizes the Chief Librarian and his team to work with the Mayor's Office, City Budget Office, and City Council to move forward in considering a levy renewal in 2026. Mr. Sheridan said a memo in today's meeting packet outlines the history and interest of the Library in a levy renewal. He said a draft resolution is included for the Board's consideration and potential approval.

Mr. Hairston said he, Mr. Fay, and Ms. Mehdi have been in conversation regarding a potential levy. He said he is in full support of what has been laid out in the document and affirming the resolution.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Resolution Directing Library Staff to Prepare a 2026 Library Levy Renewal Package as published; the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fay said he would update the Board as the Library enters the process and engages with the Mayor's Office. He said he and Mr. Sheridan will soon be meeting with the Deputy Mayor for preliminary discussions. He said he also hopes for a briefing with the Mayor in October, and will keep the Board up to date as Library leadership begins to build what the renewal might look like.

Union Report

Mr. Hairston said President of AFSCME Local 2083 Jessica Lucas was away from the office, and her written report in the meeting packet would stand. Ms. Medhi said Ms. Lucas' report raises some concerns about staffing levels, and Ms. Mehdi said she would like to reiterate her earlier note that Library HR has resources available for staff support. She said that even being respectful of the City's hiring freeze, there is an incredible amount of hiring happening at the Library. She said the low number of closures in the second quarter points to an incredible effort by SPL to meet and ensure appropriate staffing levels to keep operations open. Mr. Fay said one of the Library's strategic priorities is to work toward a holistic wellness program. He said Wellness Wednesday is a kickoff to start working toward what that might mean and what other resources might be made available. He said SPL has a Staff Support Team and an Employee Engagement Committee that work together in parts of this effort. He said it is important that staff feel they have resources when they have needs. He said everyone brings their entire self to work and it can be very difficult not to have a lot of other concerns that are related to news and lives outside of work. He said there is a lot of good work started and there is more to come.

Library Foundation and Friends of the Library Updates

Mr. Hairston said the Foundation Board and Friends Board did not hold meetings in August. Ms. Medhi said the Friends Board held a social gathering at Volunteer Park that she was unable to attend. Mr. Hairston said the Library's work and relationships with the Foundation and Friends continues to thrive, and he thanked his fellow trustees who serve in connection with them.

Updates from Library Board Members

Mr. Chew said he recently attended a memorial service for Dan Asher who was the financial advisor to the Tateuchi Foundation, and had also been a financial advisor to a number of other local families who have been very philanthropically generous toward the Library. Mr. Chew said at Mr. Asher's memorial service he also learned that Ina Tateuchi had passed away ten days earlier. He said Ms. Tateuchi, who had served on the Foundation Board, made a major gift that was an incredible part of the Libraries for All campaign. Mr. Chew said long-time Foundation Board members Ted Collins and Anne Farrell also passed away recently. He said these were peers with whom he worked in the fundraising that helped establish the SPL Foundation and really made it a powerhouse. Mr. Chew said the effort started with Faye Alan, Paul Alan's mother, and a small group of folks who had the vision that the Library should be embedded in all of the neighborhoods, and so "Libraries For All" came to be based in the neighborhoods. He said during the Libraries For All effort, the city got a new branch in Beacon Hill and, for the first time ever, got an International District/Chinatown Branch. He said it was an amazing campaign. He said it would be good to honor that legacy in some way as the Library does branch anniversary celebrations and perhaps try to learn from these experiences. Mr. Chew said he is in touch with some of his other colleagues, some of whom are in very poor health. He said there may be some oral history to capture which could spur the creative thinking that will enable the Library to move into the next generation and piggyback on efforts to launch a new levy effort. He said the Libraries for All campaign was really based on the notion of raising money and support from the community that would be an equal part of the equation to make libraries for all possible.

Mr. Fay said that was a good idea and the Library could look to see where it may have some of those oral histories that could be incorporated. He said SPL will work with the Foundation on a list of folks who participated in Libraries For All, as there is less corporate knowledge as time

moves on, and will endeavor to highlight all of the work that went into making the Library system into what it is today.

Mr. Hairston said he has reviewed a draft condolence letter honoring the life of Ina Tateuchi that will be sent from the Board and Mr. Fay and recounts her impact on the Library. He said a copy of the final letter will be shared with the full Board. Mr. Chew thanked Mr. Hairston and said he had also recently been in touch with the children of the late Maria Koh, who had also been thinking about their mother's contribution to the Library as a Foundation Board member and supporter. He said many folks are still around and still very supportive of the Library, and there are ways to rekindle that energy and bring added energy to the Foundation in acknowledgments of these relationships.

Ms. Mehdi said she and Ms. Bendixen had a great meeting the day prior with the Foundation's strategic planning consultant Laura Pierce. Ms. Mehdi said she appreciated the Foundation engaging the Library Board in discussions around their strategic planning effort. She said she and Ms. Bendixen discussed the incredible leap the Foundation made during Libraries For All in their level of fundraising and giving to the Library, as well as the effort they made to reach out to the incredible community of supporters like Ms. Tateuchi, Ms. Farrell, and Mr. Collins. She said as the Library thinks about work ahead related to a future levy, it is a good time to remember the initial group of donors who contributed to LFA and really made a success out of the bond levy because it was leveraging all those public dollars, which was a remarkable achievement.

Chief Executive Officer of The Seattle Public Library Foundation Brian Lawrence said he wanted to echo Mr. Chew's comments and thank him for being a great partner. Mr. Lawrence said the last few months have been a hard time as the Foundation has lost some very influential people who helped shape the Library. He said he is encouraged by the people who are currently involved and who continue to step up to support the Library. He said the Foundation will be looking at ways to ensure they are documenting the history and contributions of all the individuals who make the Library so special with the Foundation and also the Friends, as the Library system has two great support organizations. Mr. Lawrence said the Foundation takes these comments to heart and will be working with Mr. Fay and others to see how they can memorialize the impact that people have had over time in the Library. Mr. Fay encouraged folks to let him or Mr. Lawrence know if there are community members it would be important for Mr. Lawrence to connect with.

ADJOURN

Library Board President Tali Hairston adjourned the meeting at 12:19 p.m.



The Seattle Public Library

Memorandum

Date: September 25, 2025

To: The Seattle Public Library Board of Trustees

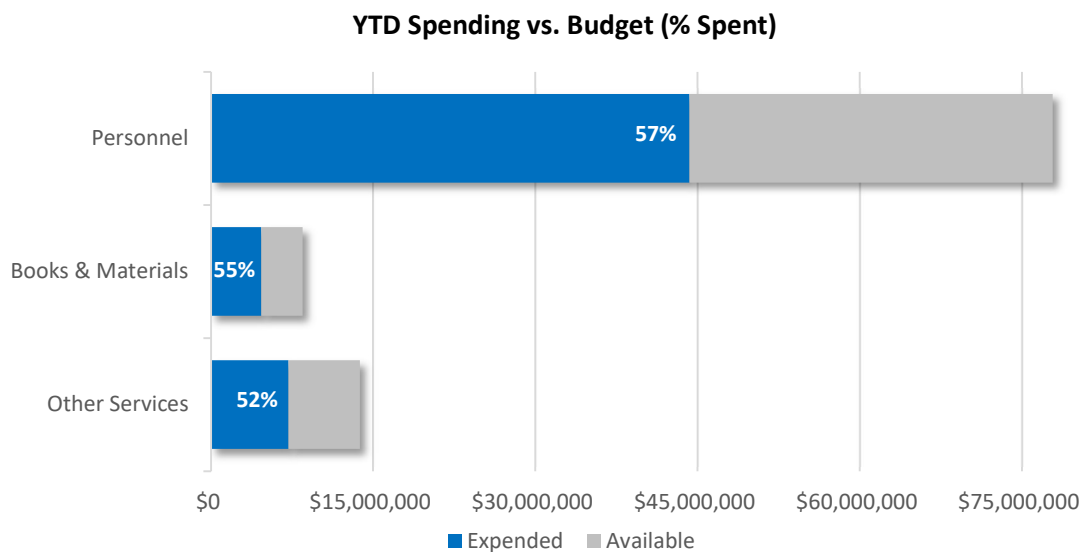
From: Tom Fay, Executive Director and Chief Librarian
Rob Gannon, Director of Administrative Services
Nicholas Merkner, Head of Finance and Accounting

Subject: **July 2025 Financial Reporting**

Overview

Overall, the Library has expended **56%** of its operating budget with **58%** of the year elapsed. This is in line with the prior year when the Library had also expended **56%** of the operating budget (excluding retroactive Annual Wage Increase payments). Total expenditures at the end of the month were \$56 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.



Personnel Services

Personnel costs represent the largest category of expenses at the Library and make up 78% of the revised operating budget. As of this report there have been **fifteen pay periods processed**—as such we expect 57% of the personnel budget to be expended. Spending is on target at **57%**.

Non-Personnel Services

The largest individual category of expenditures within the non-personnel budget is related to library books and materials—this category represents 8% of the revised operating budget. Spending is as expected at **55%**.

Other services which represent 14% of the adopted budget—and include equipment, services, and supplies—are **52%** expended. Within this category, there is \$1.2 million associated with prior year grants, contracts, and other ongoing bodies of work that had budget authority continue into 2025. These amounts are reflected as part of the attached Expenditure Control report.

Revenues

Library generated revenues during the month of July were \$62,000, with total year-to-date collections at **\$444,000**—representing a 52% collected rate. As noted during previous months, the Library has yet to restore access for digital payment acceptance related to lost material fees. We anticipate that once this functionality for patrons has returned, revenues will realign in this category through the remainder of the year.

Action Requested: Library Board consideration of July 2025 Operating Budget financial reporting for approval at September 25, 2025 meeting. Comments or feedback are welcome.

Expenditure Control for July 2025

Amounts in \$1,000s	Revised Budget*	Current Month Expenditures	Year to Date Expenditures	% Expend	Balance of Budget
Personnel Services					
Salaries & Wages	50,740	5,813	29,007	57%	21,733
Benefits	27,105	2,607	15,262	56%	11,843
Personnel Services Sub-Total	\$77,845	\$8,420	\$44,269	57%	\$33,576
Books and Library Materials					
Books & Materials	8,483	722	4,674	55%	3,809
Books and Library Materials Sub-Total	\$8,483	\$722	\$4,674	55%	\$3,809
Other Services and Charges					
Central Costs	3,305	276	1,932	58%	1,373
Equipment - IT & Facilities	1,686	75	583	35%	1,103
Office Supplies, Printing & Postage	304	25	198	65%	106
Operating Supplies	606	57	327	54%	278
Other Expenses	666	151	515	77%	151
Other Maintenance	930	85	574	62%	356
Phone, Wireless & Internet	507	57	203	40%	304
Professional Services	523	147	331	63%	191
Software	934	65	503	54%	431
Staff Training & Travel	180	4	25	14%	155
Vehicle Costs	358	20	190	53%	168
Facilities - Space Rental & Utilities	2,093	144	1,237	59%	856
Facilities - Building & Grounds Maint	1,279	58	544	43%	735
Facilities - Garage Debt Service	404	-	8	2% (A)	397
Other Services and Charges Sub-Total	\$13,775	\$1,165	\$7,171	52%	\$6,603
TOTAL LIBRARY OPERATING BUDGET	\$100,103	\$10,307	\$56,115	56%	\$43,989

Footnotes:

* Includes \$1.2M related to prior year encumbrances and grant carry-forward

(A) The City will post Garage Debt Service chargeback in Q4

Revenue Control for July 2025

	Revenue Budget	Current Month Revenue	Year to Date Revenue Collected	% Collected
Operations Plan Other Library Revenue				
Lost Material Fees	120,000	8,529	45,947	38% (A)
Central Library Parking Garage Fees	377,000	31,298	210,637	56%
Copy Services/Pay for Print	100,000	12,729	83,040	83%
Space Rental (Private & Inter-Departmental)	177,000	5,268	72,790	41%
Book Sale Consignment	85,000	4,322	30,338	36%
Coffee Cart & Miscellaneous (vending machines, etc.)	3,000	353	1,296	43%
TOTAL LIBRARY GENERATED REVENUES	\$862,000	\$62,499	\$444,049	52%

Footnotes:

(A) Library lost material fees have not been collectible via electronic payment since the cybersecurity breach in May 2024



The Seattle Public Library

Date: September 25, 2025

To: Library Board of Trustees

From: Tom Fay, Executive Director and Chief Librarian

Re: September 2025 Chief Librarian's Report

1. On September 6, I attended the grand opening celebration of the new Waterfront and assisted Jenny Ku and Marshall Bender at the Library's table. The event was very popular, with a wonderful turnout. The Library's table was also popular. More than 30 people signed up for new Library cards in less than two hours, and we ran out of many of the giveaways.
2. I am pleased to announce that DeVante' Daniels joined the Library on September 15 as our new Director of Inclusion and Belonging. DeVante' will be leading the development of a new Office of Inclusion and Belonging for the Library. DeVante' brings more than 11 years of experience working across state, local, and county government. For the past four years, DeVante' has led countywide community engagement efforts, centering access, listening to communities often left out, and working toward systems and services that better meet the needs of both government employees and the most vulnerable residents. He has delivered DEIA trainings for leadership and staff, supported strategic planning efforts, created and updated policy, conducted legislative reviews, and helped teams deepen their equity practice using tools, resources, and shared knowledge. We are excited to welcome DeVante' to our team and look forward to important work ahead.
3. At the time of the September Library Board meeting, I will be attending the Washington State Public Library Directors meeting. Meetings are held twice a year at public libraries around the state, and this one is being hosted by the Loon Lake Library, which also holds the administrative offices for the Libraries of Stevens County in Eastern Washington. These semi-annual meetings are a valuable opportunity for public library directors around the state to discuss service issues and challenges as well as opportunities for collaboration and engagement.

Meetings and events during this reporting period:

- a. Board Meetings: Monthly Library Board of Trustees meeting; bi-monthly meeting of the Foundation Board of Directors; Friends of the Library monthly Board meeting; monthly meeting of Library and Friends leadership; monthly meeting with Library Board President and Vice President; meeting with Foundation Board Co-Vice President.

- b. Standing Meetings: Compensation Committee; Senior Management Team; E-Team; Monthly Managers meeting; Union/Leadership meetings; Foundation CEO/Chief Librarian bi-monthly meetings.
- c. Library Meetings, Talks, Interviews and Visits: Puget Sound Library Director quarterly meeting; lunch meeting with Tacoma Public Library Director; Washington State Public Library Director's bi-annual meeting in Loon Lake, WA.
- d. City Meetings, Events and Programs: Mayor's Cabinet meeting; Deputy Mayor bi-weekly meeting; meeting with Deputy Mayor/SPL for preliminary levy discussion.
- e. Other: HistoryLink's annual HistoryLunch fundraiser.

Marketing and Online Services

September 2025

Helen Tapping - Head of Marketing and Online Services

Joe Gustav – Digital Marketing Strategist

Marketing and Online Services (MOS) ensures the consistency of an outstanding patron experience across our external communication channels. We own, maintain and optimize the Library's website, new App, 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, merchandising 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.

Key Strategic Project Highlights

SPL Mobile App Project – Launched in April 2025

We developed our mobile app to increase access to the Library system, enhance the online patron experience and attract new audiences.



We launched a beta version of the SPL mobile app on April 7. Since then, the app has been downloaded almost 20,000 times to date on Apple and Android devices. Our development process included five phases. Input from our community was crucial at every step of development to help make our mobile app as inclusive, accessible and useful as possible. We will continue to improve the mobile app to meet the needs of patrons and communities we serve and are still soliciting feedback. We plan to add additional features once the ILS replacement project is complete.

Phase 1: Discovery and Community Engagement

Based on focus group conversations and survey responses from over 3,000 people, we developed a list of mobile app features that are important to our community, in particular our prioritized communities.

Phase 2: Functionality

This list of features informed our Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development of a mobile app. We released this RFP in 2023, and staff evaluated four vendor demo apps. From this evaluation we shortlisted two apps for patron testing.

Phase 3: Design & Usability Testing

We asked patrons to help us by participating in usability testing studies. We were especially interested in hearing from people with disabilities and communities most impacted by the digital divide, including communities of color, seniors, low-income communities, and limited proficiency or non-English speaking communities. We hired a local human-centered design consultancy focused on government agencies, nonprofits and enterprises with a social-impact mission. They conducted demo app testing with patrons at several Library locations in September 2024. The results from these usability tests, combined with staff feedback, informed the development of our app.

Phase 4: Implementation

In early 2025, our development partner, Communico, built our new mobile app. We tested functionality and customized content throughout the process to create an intuitive and accessible app experience.

Phase 5: BETA Feedback & Localization

During the public beta testing period, April - July 2025, many patrons tried out the app and shared feedback. We reviewed each comment and added some features and improvements to our future roadmap. We also created localized versions of the app interface and catalog search functionality to further increase accessibility and personalization for our patrons. This is available in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Traditional and Simplified Chinese.

Library Card Sign-up Month Campaign and beyond!



Here for You: Whether you need a good book, a place to hang out, help with your resume, or a way to get involved in your community, our doors are open to you.

For Library Card Sign-up Month, MOS created a campaign, “Here for You,” to target both new and existing patrons. We also created postcards for all 27 locations to celebrate the different ways each location serves our city.

The “Here for You” tagline and concept speaks to how our patrons are inundated with change - economic, social and technological - and are craving stability, comfort and ways to empower themselves in uncertain times.

We built a landing page www.spl.org/HereForYou to highlight programs and resources (including some in language) that demonstrate ways the Library is here for patrons. We also share ideas and activities about what to do with the postcards (create a collage; collect them; advocate for libraries; etc.).

We are promoting this campaign (including in-language versions) on channels including:

- Social media
- Local media buys (including in-language channels)
- Transit ads
- Window clings and desk signage in buildings
- Owned channels (newsletters, website, digital signage, etc.)

Collectible Postcards and Stamp Challenge

Using the “Libraries For All” passport as inspiration, we developed collectible postcards for each branch. The goal of these postcards is to highlight what’s unique about each of our locations: the space, the history, and the way each branch serves its community. We sought input from each location to define these branch highlights and then used this information to develop creative briefs for local artists and photographers to capture our branches with their own unique creativity.

The designs are collages of these photographs and illustrations, because the way our patrons experience our locations - and the ways our staff serve our patrons - is so multi-faceted. Just as we’re here for our patrons in different ways, we’re encouraging patrons to use these postcards in the way that best suit their needs, whether it’s collecting them; creating art or crafting with them; connecting with others; or using them to advocate for causes they believe in. Postcard design and copy was created by MOS team members **Joe Gustav**, **Danny Ramirez** and **Annie Vasquez** in collaboration with local artists **Jeremy Goodie**, **Sloane Miller** and **Victoria Urrutia**.

The postcards come with a corresponding “envelope” that includes our tagline and ideas on how to enjoy the postcards. Inside, the envelope features space for patrons to collect branch stamps, helping to tell the story of their Library experience, and how their branch - and the Library as a whole - is uniquely there for them.

While the University Branch is closed, patrons can use the pop-up stamp station outside and University Branch postcards are available at 6 nearby branches.

We launched this campaign in September to coincide with Library Card Sign-up Month, but the ideas and activations will continue to be developed into 2026.

Ballard Branch Coffee and Conversations

August 21.2025

By Lynn Miller, Adult Services Librarian, Jonathan Koroshec, Adult Services Librarian, Fabiola Sotelo, Children Services Librarian, Ballard Library

Additional Ballard staff involved in Coffee & Conversations include:

Shampree Fritz, Ela-Frances Jefferson, Sami Mello, Connie Cheng, Chris Herzberg,

Margot Hieggelke, Jamar Melrose, Nico Zeller

And volunteer, Evelyn Strawn

Impact

Increased connection between staff and BAL unhoused community

Increase the BAL insecurely housed communities feeling of belonging and feeling welcome in the library

Increased connection between BAL unhoused community and service providers

Increased sense of trust between BAL unhoused community and library staff

Outcome

Noticeable change in our relationships: how we interact with people and can approach people using their name, draw upon established relationships

Coffee & Conversations is a weekly program which started at Ballard Branch Library in February 2023. It is held in the library meeting room. In the summer months, we also set up tables on the library plaza adjacent to the meeting room. With Foundation funding we provide coffee, tea, lemonade, and light snacks. In the summer months there are ice cream treats. We regularly have between 25 and 50 people stop by.

This program grew out of two things: the death by overdose of a 29-year-old patron on the Ballard Library plaza in January 2023 and the years of Covid that separated our library staff from knowing the most vulnerable patrons who use the library.

We asked ourselves: How to change course and make connections? Who counts in the library? We discussed economic apartheid. Why is it that as soon as someone loses their place among the housed can they be subject to the worst sorts of discrimination and treatment? Why are they ignored and overlooked? We saw the library as having a crucial role in changing that by valuing each member of our community with our programming. We had to change ourselves in this process.

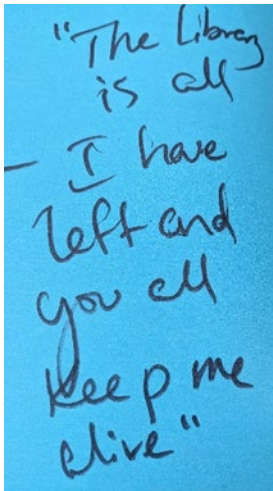


In Feb 2023, it started with 4-week pilot and a handful of attendees. In February 2025 when we reached 100 Coffee & Conversations, we celebrated with a Little Caesars Pizza Party. We had more than 50 people help us celebrate 2 years of conversations.

We celebrated knowing everyone's name and their knowing our names. We celebrated connections and friendships that we could not have imagined before. We celebrated the sense of belonging we all felt.

Our conversations began with small talk. Small talk is something we all do. We start with the weather and "How are you?" The significance of small talk is that it can be the building block of trust. Can I trust you with these simple things? If so, maybe I can trust you with critical information, maybe even the trauma happening in my life.

Small talk led to trust that led to making important connections. There was a patron who lived in their car who was threatened with being towed. We connected them to Jenn Adams of Vehicle Residence Outreach who prevented that from happening.



These conversations led to our restarting our movie program at Ballard Library that is now weekly and has been going for 2 years. The group of movie watchers helps decide what movies we'll show.

These days -- in addition to Ballard -- Coffee & Conversations can be found at Central Library & Capitol Hill Library. Other branches are also piloting the program.

Coffee & Conversations in English has inspired Spanish speaking librarians to consider starting a similar program Café con Pan (Coffee with Bread) for Spanish speakers.

We have learned that getting out from behind the desk puts us on equal footing with our community which in turn opens up many possibilities for the library to work in collaboration with our community. Conversations are at the heart of it all.



Photo by Anthony Martinez for the SPL Foundations Newsletter

Follow this link for more about Coffee & Conversations

<https://supportspl.org/2024/04/coffee-and-conversations-bring-ballard-together/>



The Seattle Public Library

Memorandum

Date: September 25, 2025

To: The Seattle Public Library Board of Trustees

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

Subject: **2026 Budget Process Update**

The City's 2026 budget development process operated in similar form to how it has in the past with a baseline phase, issue identification, and department proposed budget submittals occurring in the first half of the year. The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on our progress with the City's 2026 budget, Foundation enhancement grants, and the remaining budget development schedule.

City Budget Update

Mayor Harrell presented his proposed 2026 budget and capital improvement plan to the City Council on September 23, 2025. The Council is now engaged in its review, with select departments to have meetings with the Budget Committee; the Library is not currently identified as one of the presenting departments. 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 2025-2026 proposed budget includes **\$102.5 million in operating budget authority**. Of this amount, **\$35.7 million** is provided by the \$219.1 million, 7-year Library Levy approved by Seattle voters in August 2019. The City is facing a General Fund revenue forecast insufficient to cover all anticipated city-wide costs. As a result, the Library was required to identify a budgetary reduction \$5 million for 2026. As part of our submittal to the City, the Library proposed deferring the Columbia Library seismic retrofit project and redeploying \$5 million in capital resources as a one-time offset for a commensurate level of General Fund reduction. We are fortunate these proposed cuts do not require us to eliminate any positions, make changes to our level of service hours, or take additional cuts to the Library materials collection.

The budget also includes **\$2.6 million in new 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 **\$2 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 2026 proposed budget is \$605,000.

Foundation Grant Update

The Library reviewed submittals from each division to determine which privately funded programs will continue for 2026, and what opportunities exist related to new bodies of work. Requests were viewed through an equity lens in addition to alignment with the Library’s draft strategic plan.

Operating within the guardrails of the Foundation’s grant making guidance, the Library identified and submitted a budget package in the amount of \$5.6 million. Final approval of the grant is subject to the discretion of the Seattle Public Library Foundation’s independent Board of Directors and will be brought forward to this body as part of the 2026 Operations Plan.

Key Remaining Dates in Budget Process

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

September

- **Thursday, September 25th – Library Board 2025-26 Budget Update (City & Foundation)**
- Thursday, September 25th through Tuesday, September 30th – City Council Department Presentations

October

- October – SPLF Finance Committee reviews grant requests from the Library
- Monday, October 14th – Operations Plan Framework submitted for Library Board of Trustees
- Wednesday, October 15th through Monday, October 20th – City Council Central Staff presentations on policy considerations
- Thursday, October 30th – Library Board of Trustees reviews Operations Plan Framework

November

- Beginning of November – SPLF Board of Directors approves grant award to the Library
- Monday, November 3rd – Preliminary Operations Plan Draft submitted for Library Board of Trustees
- Wednesday, November 5th – City Council Budget Chair Balancing Package Presentation
- Thursday, November 13th – Library Board of Trustees reviews Preliminary Operations Plan Draft
- Friday, November 14th and Monday, November 17th – City Councilmembers discuss and vote on proposed amendments
- Thursday, November 20th – City Councilmembers vote on final budget legislation and technical amendments
- Friday, November 21st – City Council adopts 2026 budget

December

- Thursday, December 4th – Operations Plan submitted for consideration by Library Board of Trustees
- Thursday, December 11th – Library Board of Trustees takes action on 2026 Operations Plan

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



The Seattle Public Library

Date: September 25, 2025
To: Library Board of Trustees
From: Jessica Lucas, President, AFSCME Local 2083
Re: **Monthly Union Report**

In past board reports, we have tried to give a balanced overview of staff experiences to keep things from feeling too negative. Lately things have been extremely challenging, and it is becoming harder to find positive experiences. Between the new programming forms that have created guidelines and deadlines that have made responding to community needs challenging, to continued safety concerns, to concerns in the current direction of the library, to bedbugs in the Southwest Region, to staffing shortages, staff are not doing well. As for Union Leadership, we have found the lack of communication with management and the resistance to following the MOU around scheduling disheartening and demoralizing. We are all doing our best but when we are burned out, it is a struggle.

Union Leadership has been maintaining our part of the partnership agreement, but it's hard to do so when every discussion between us becomes about management rights and not about our human colleagues. In negotiations we had a shared interest in improving staff morale, through which the Union hoped would create a better work-life balance for staff, and management hoped to gain better retention and work performance. Now it seems that staff morale is no longer an interest of management, and we cycle through hiring for positions over and over again.

We appreciate all of our colleagues' work in these difficult times. The world looks very different from 6 years ago and we hope that there is more that can be done for the mental and physical well-being of all our members.

Action required/requested: Informational only.



The Seattle Public Library

NEWS RELEASES

Date	Title
25-Aug-25	The Seattle Public Library wants to hear from you
22-Aug-25	Jumpstart your business at a free networking event at North Seattle College on Sept. 12
7-Aug-25	“Rooted and Rising” Exhibit Spotlights Archival Materials from the African American Collection
6-Aug-25	Silent Reading Party, A New Exhibit, and More August Arts Events at The Seattle Public Library



The Seattle Public Library
August 2025 Media Coverage

Organization	Date	Headline	Details
KUOW	29-Aug-25	Seattle author Lynda Mapes shares her love of old-growth forests, from their quiet to their 'fructifying funk'	"Mapes joined KUOW's Katie Campbell for a live conversation at the Seattle Central Library, the final in a three-part summer series in partnership with Seattle Public Library."
Daily Journal of Commerce	29-Aug-25	Seattle Public Library seeks community feedback	"How do you feel about The Seattle Public Library's spaces, collections, programs and services? Take their brief survey and let them know! Not a library user? They still want to hear from you."
KUOW	28-Aug-25	How to get out of a reading rut, according to one of Seattle's most decorated readers	"Meet Me Here co-host Katie Campbell recently interviewed Stesha Brandon from the Seattle Public Library about getting out of a reading rut."
The Facts Newspaper	28-Aug-25	The Seattle Public Library wants to hear from you	"Everyone in Seattle is invited to take a brief community survey that will help shape the Library's future"
West Seattle Blog	28-Aug-25	Two afternoon community meetings, free film screening, library party with free cake, more for your West Seattle Thursday	End of summer party at the West Seattle Branch, plus magic at the Library.
KUOW	27-Aug-25	Books: How to Get Out of a Reading Slump	"Seattle Public Library's Stesha Brandon joins us for some literary hot takes, tips for getting out of a reading rut, and she explains why walking your cat is a perfect time to listen to audiobooks."
West Seattle Blog	25-Aug-25	Survey: Seattle Public Library has questions for you	"Whether or not you use the Seattle Public Library, its new community survey is meant for you."
The Seattle Times	22-Aug-25	Seattle Public Library members can visit more museums for free	"All it takes to secure your pass is a visit to the library's online reservation system, search by museum or date, and you'll be able to reserve two to four adult tickets."

Books+Publishing	21-Aug-25	Seattle Public Library: Breaking down barriers	"To meet contemporary demands and needs, the library has a range of offerings aside from books, such as other media available for borrowing, resources for immigrants, refugees, and jobseekers, and more. Through this, the library tries to offer resources, learning opportunities, and creative ways to engage and connect with those in the community who may not consider themselves readers."
Secret Seattle	19-Aug-25	Two Seattle Attractions Have Been Added To The Library Museum Pass Program, So Now You Can Visit For Free	"You can now visit the Seattle Japanese Garden and the Volunteer Park Conservatory for free using the Seattle Public Library museum pass."
Fox 13 Seattle	18-Aug-25	Seattle Public Library's free Museum Pass adds 2 new perks	"The Seattle Public Library has expanded its Museum Pass program to include free admission to the Seattle Japanese Garden and Volunteer Park Conservatory, allowing library cardholders to reserve passes for up to fifteen museum locations in Seattle."
The Stranger	18-Aug-25	Stranger Suggests: Art That Makes You Feel Like You're Inside the Internet, Delayed Gratification Hilarity, and a Really Good Baked Potato	Recommends Isabel Cañas author reading at Central Library
KUOW	18-Aug-25	Old trees matter.' Seattle author Lynda Mapes is writing to save them in her new book	"The KUOW Book Club is continuing its summer reading series with Seattle Public Library this month. We're reading environmental journalist and author Lynda V. Mapes' new book, 'The Trees are Speaking: Dispatches from the Salmon Forests'."

Seattle Medium	13-Aug-25	New Library Exhibit Connects Seattle's Black History With The Voices Of Today	"“Rooted & Rising: Stories from the African American Archive,” a new exhibit at the Seattle Public Library’s Central Library Level 8 Gallery, is now open to the public. The exhibit, which runs from Aug. 11 to Oct. 5, invites visitors to explore the city’s rich Black history through art and storytelling and highlights one of the Library’s most distinctive collections — the African American Collection, which is located at the Douglass-Truth Branch. Built by Seattle’s Black community, the collection, which is maintained with ongoing donations from Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, saved the branch from closure in the 1960s.”
Queen Anne & Magnolia News	12-Aug-25	Seattle Public Library hosts programs for kids and families	Library's press release reprinted
The Seattle Times	12-Aug-25	Travel through time with these 4 historical fiction novels	"The Seattle Public Library loves to promote books and reading. This column, submitted by the library, is a space to share reading and book trends from a librarian’s perspective. You can find these titles at the library by visiting spl.org and searching the catalog."
Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce	08-Aug-25	Arts events at Seattle Library	"The Seattle Public Library is hosting a variety of free arts and literary events throughout August at multiple branches and venues across the city."
KING 5 News	06-Aug-25	New Day NW: 4 summer reads to keep kids engaged	"Warren Chin from the Seattle Public Library shares four books that'll keep kids reading during summer vacation."
The Seattle Times	04-Aug-25	Locals share their tips for staying cool during Seattle’s heat waves	Photo caption: Fans keep the Seattle Public Library Northeast Branch cool on Sept. 2, 2022.
KUOW	04-Aug-25	Summer book club concludes with reflection on irreplaceable old-growth forests	"The KUOW Book Club and Seattle Public Library are continuing our summer reading series this month with Lynda V. Mapes' latest work, 'The Trees Are Speaking: Dispatches from the Salmon Forests'."

KUOW	01-Aug-25	Step into author Kim Fu's 'dream version' of the PNW	"This month, the KUOW Book Club read Kim Fu's surreal short story collection "Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century." Fu joined KUOW's Katie Campbell for a live conversation at the Seattle Central Library, the second in a three-part summer series in partnership with Seattle Public Library. "
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