

The Seattle Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
11:00 a.m. Thursday, May 28, 2026

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

Remote Listen Line:

Dial: 213-282-4570 / Phone conference ID: 158 697 734#

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Meeting ID: 272 537 560 936 166 / Passcode: dA3rR9Ui

Public Comment: comments must be directed to matters on the agenda.

-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.

Agenda

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

D. CONSENT

1. Minutes of April 28, 2026 Special Library Board Meeting
2. Minutes of April 30, 2026 Regular Library Board Meeting
3. April 2026 Financial Report

E. CHIEF LIBRARIAN REPORT

1. Chief Librarian Report
2. System Report
 - a. 2026 Global Reading Challenge – Jenny Craig, Youth & Family Learning Services Librarian

F. OLD BUSINESS

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Quarter 2026 Levy Report
2. Art Review Committee Charter
3. Union Report
4. Library Foundation and Friends of the Library Updates
5. Updates from Library Board Members

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION

J. ADJOURN

K. NEXT LIBRARY BOARD MEETING: June 25, 2026

(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

April 28, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of The Seattle Public Library (SPL) Board of Trustees was held on April 28, 2026. Library Board President Yazmin Mehdi called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. Vice President W. Tali Hairston, PhD and trustees Ron Chew, Carmen Bendixen, and Faith Pettis were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

NEW BUSINESS

Library Seattle Household Survey

Strategy and Performance Supervisor Jessica Smith said the Library began a survey process in March of 2025. She said the Library hired Olympic Research and Strategy to help with presurvey work, a statistical survey, public survey and analysis. She said presurvey work included service design workshops with organizational partners, community partners, and users of public meeting rooms. She said information from those workshops and a workshop held with executive leaders around the city informed the survey design. Ms. Smith said the Seattle Household Survey was a statistically significant survey. She said the mailed survey included an online survey link, a paper survey, and a business reply envelope. She said data was collected between August 25 and September 24, 2025 from Seattle residents aged 17 and above. She said the sampling was randomized to 10,000 households with an equal number selected in each of the seven Council Districts, supplemented by an oversample of 5,000 households in census tracts with a high incidence of those living below poverty level and people of color. She said 452 surveys were returned online and 615 were completed by mail, for a total of 1,067 which is a response rate of seven percent. She said the survey was sent in English with directions to take it in another language. She said three surveys were returned in Spanish and three in Chinese, and 25% of respondents indicated they use additional languages at home. Ms. Smith said the survey had a 95% confidence level in reliability, as a sample size of 1,067 is reliable within plus or minus three percent. She said PINs allowed for survey tracking. She discussed the differences between the 2018 and 2025 survey methodology and survey respondent demographic characteristics.

Ms. Smith walked through a Power Point slide deck presentation outlining the survey results. She said responses from patrons indicate a favorable connection with the Library and positive feelings about the Library and its offerings. She said the survey revealed overall positive results from patrons regarding the value of the Library.

Library Board Trustee Ron Chew said there are differences between how older folks think and respond, in comparison with younger Library users. He asked about possible future opportunities such as leading classes for non-traditional library services. He said older adults' participation is affected by weather, daylight, acoustics, and transportation concerns. He asked if the Museum Pass program might be able to include musical performances. He said the Library might consider

opportunities for partnership with transportation services for better access, and said suggested the Library follow up with older age groups to determine if there would be interest in virtual options.

Library Board Trustee Carmen Bendixen asked about doing an analysis to determine on what locations would be most appropriate for kiosks or book lockers. She asked if there is a way to relate that information back to survey respondents on who are interested in evening hours, for example. Ms. Smith said the survey has crosstabs for all respondents by demographics, branch, region. She said results show broadly which interests exist for people in a particular region. She said the information is shown at the regional level rather than branch level. She said granularity down to branch level would not be statistically significant.

Library Board President Yazmin Mehdi said the survey data is a starting point. She said the Library should apply the information to the Strategic Plan to see where intersection points are to match responses to patrons and determine the appropriate ways to interact with them.

Executive Director and Chief Librarian Tom Fay said phase one of this work is to move through the proposed 2026 Library Levy process. He said phase two includes a Comprehensive Facility Plan and will consider how the Library can provide the services desired. He said the processes will become very localized.

Ms. Smith said her team is putting the information together to determine overarching themes and distilling data to add to what is already known. She said the Strategic and Performance team will glean from the survey results the main takeaways of what the Library could do going forward.

Library Board Trustee Faith Pettis asked about a recommendation to grow the variety and selection of print books. Ms. Mehdi asked about book lockers meeting the needs of the community when the Library can't be open. Mr. Fay said book lockers are for materials access only and do not meet the physical needs of an open location.

Mr. Chew asked if the survey results contained any surprises. Mr. Fay said it was interesting to see the types of programming that people want, including maker spaces and spaces to learn tangible and digital skills such as radio and podcasts. Ms. Mehdi asked how the Library can meet some of these community needs through partnering with external organizations. She said the Library should consider how it is thinking about what it has learned from the survey, what resources a potential levy would give the Library, and how those fit together.

Mr. Fay said the Library will push to do as much as possible with programming over the next seven years. He said the Comprehensive Facilities Plan needs to be completed in the next three years. He said it is not yet known if the Library could be able to staff maker spaces, but a capital levy might allow the Library to commit to maker spaces by region. He said the funding would need to line up, as it is not currently allocated for in General Funds or with the Library Levy. He said the Library will be looking to add an Assistant Director of Programming and will be working to strengthen reference and online support and referral to partners.

Answering a question from Ms. Pettis regarding how the survey responses will be used, Ms. Smith said the Library has used the information to develop regional profiles. She said the information has been pulled together into a three-slide presentation for each region. She said Mobile Services was combined with the Central Library due to the smaller number of respondents. She said the regions contain a demographic overview, how frequently people visit, and feedback quotes specific to that region. She said Library Experience and Engagement Assistant Directors will work with their teams

to go through region-specific dashboards and determine how SPL can better tailor services, taking an equity approach.

Mr. Fay said the Library will be building on research, community conversations, surveys, and service design workshops to refine and respond. He said the survey results will mostly be used internally by Library leadership and staff. He said as the Library looks at the Comprehensive Facility Plan, it can share relevant information with consultants and partners, looking at different needs in different areas across the system.

Ms. Smith said information is also used to frame prioritized audiences through broad discussions about demographics and groups of people, to frame and explain how the Library is setting up services for success in the future. Ms. Mehdi asked about prioritizing audiences. Mr. Chew said looking at the survey data, the total landscape is nuanced, but is aligned in the same direction. He said the data collection can be presented as a way to fine tune Library services. Mr. Fay said leadership is working through it. He said Director of Inclusion and Belonging DeVante' Daniels is doing work to find where inclusion and belonging intersects, and how the Library determines audiences to spend time and resources engaging with to ensure they feel that they belong.

ADJOURN

Library Board President Yazmin Mehdi adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Unapproved Board Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

The Seattle Public Library

April 30, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of The Seattle Public Library (SPL) Board of Trustees was held on April 30, 2026. Library Board President Yazmin Mehdi called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Vice President W. Tali Hairston, PhD and trustees Ron Chew, Carmen Bendixen, and Faith Pettis 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 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 and Chief Librarian Tom Fay said, for the sake of time, there would not be a Chief Librarian report at today's meeting. He said there were two good reports in the packet from the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Building Maintenance team and the Collections and Access Services team. He said the Collections and Access Services team's report explains how patron accounts are managed and cleaned up. He said this is important work that is not often mentioned, and getting the patron database cleaned up means that only good data will carry over in the Integrated Library System (ILS) migration. He said the CIP and Building Maintenance report speaks to the amount of work those teams do every day to maintain Library spaces.

Library Board President Yazmin Mehdi agreed that the CIP report is important in reflecting the amount of work that team accomplishes. She said the University Branch project is coming along quickly, having been closed for seismic and HVAC work. She said the planning and work has been remarkable to address the unreinforced masonry in a Carnegie building. She asked that future reports from the CIP team include how their work fits into Strategic Plan goals so that it is included in tracking the Strategic Plan implementation. Ms. Mehdi also asked for a future report on the Library's planned remodel of Level 2 at the Central Library, following the move of the Automated Materials Handling System out of the building. Ms. Mehdi said the Collection report shows that due to clearing and unsuspending accounts, 95% of patrons have full access to the Library. She said under the leadership of Mr. Fay and his predecessor, the Library has made a concerted effort to ensure that patrons have access even if they can't pay late fines, which is important so that people can use Library services to access resources for job searches and housing in a down economy. She said the Library fills that important resource need.

Mr. Fay said the Library's Circulation Services Manager, Bo Kinney, leads The Lending Committee, which is very focused on how to simplify processes and reduce barriers so that people can sign up for cards. He said that team has done amazing work over the years which often goes unnoted, and they are the reason the Library has fine free borrowing.

Library Board Vice President W. Tali Hairston, PhD asked how far the architectural design work on the Columbia Branch will go before work is paused for a potential new levy to kick in. Mr. Fay said the Library will get as much of the planning done as possible so that if the levy is approved, the work can move forward without delay.

Referring to the media report at the end of the meeting packet, Ms. Mehdi said one of the links contained a resource list created by libraries to support a show featured at the Seattle Repertory Theater. She said this is just one great example of the work Library staff do to support the local arts community and the culture sector.

Systems Reports

Integrated Library System Update

Library Technology Officer Charles Wesley said a lot has been happening with the Integrated Library System (ILS) update, and his team will provide more frequent updates between now and the “go live” date. He said the ILS replacement is a levy funded project from the 2019 levy, and the Library is finishing up some of this work it committed to. He said ILS Program Manager Khamis Hammoudeh recently joined the Library and is doing a great job of helping to facilitate this project.

Mr. Hammoudeh said he’d like to talk about recent wins, current focus, and the training plan. He said the Library kicked off an RFP process last July, and a cross-divisional staff team evaluated and scored vendor proposals. He said Polaris was chosen as the preferred vendor, and a contract was negotiated and signed. He said work began execution in January and has been quite busy. He said workflows have been documented across Circulations and Collections, and a business analyst has been supporting the work to help the team understand how staff use the existing ILS and what current challenges are. He said the team has access to an early Polaris demo environment, which is cloud-based, so staff will be using a browser to interact with patron and collection information with multiple tabs.

Mr. Hammoudeh said right now the team is working on data mapping. He said the Collections report that Mr. Fay referred to earlier dealt with some of the inventory work that has been done as the team looks at what kind of cleanup can be done as part of the ILS migration. He said this time is an opportunity to do data cleanup and work on integration plans for when the system integrates with the sorter and all of the various services that the patrons are accustomed to using. He said the team is designing the training, so they have an understanding of what the training content will look like as well as how that training material is fanned out as staff train other staff in branches.

Mr. Hammoudeh said, on the project timeline, the project is currently exiting the discovery phase. He said the project is beginning data mapping and looking at the first data load. He said the team pulled out the data from the Library’s current ILS and successfully got it into the Polaris data format. He said now the team has to do that data mapping of 400 collection codes, which they want to narrow down to over 100. He said they are currently considering how to do that and which ones to map to what.

Mr. Hammoudeh said the team is entering the development phase and in May, the vendor will come on site to demonstrate options for newer, better, more streamlined operations utilizing the new ILS. He said the team will use this information to configure workflows, and will begin testing later this summer. He said once the data is mapped and shows up in an early version of the new system, Library staff will review it to ensure that everything mapped correctly, and to consider what changes they may want to make before the cutover in September. He said the cutover will begin over Labor Day weekend to take the old ILS down, pull the data from it, and put the data into the new format and into the new ILS. He said there will be some disruptions to patrons during that time. He said the team is working on a matrix of anticipated patron impacts so that it can be communicated out ahead of time. He said disruptions should be limited to the month of September.

Mr. Hammoudeh said a major focus now is on how to design the training. He said the training will be a multi-pronged approach and will emphasize a practical confidence, not memorization. He said use of the ILS will be role-based, and staff such as catalogers who are in the ILS for the majority of their job will get hands-on training from the vendor to see how the system works. He said staff such as Circulations staff who are in the ILS less than 100% of their job, but who are also interacting patrons and moving materials around, will be trained by Polaris Peer Champions who will be a staff team that are being nominated by managers across all locations and various teams in the Central Library. He said the Peer Champions will attend a full day of training, and will then take material they will create together as a group into the branches in July and August to train staff ahead of go live date in September. Mr. Hammoudeh said there will be ongoing support as well as 90-second videos that staff can watch as “just in time” training for refreshers on how to look up a patron record, for example. He said there will also be office hours for more complex issues that happen once the system goes live. He said this represents the training plan in a nutshell and he would be happy to share additional resources with the Board that go into a little more detail, if they are curious.

Mr. Wesley thanked Mr. Hammoudeh for his presentation. He said a lot of work has been done across the organization to get the project to this point. He thanked everyone who has put so much time and effort into the project. He said more staff will be involved as the training comes forward, and more updates will come as well.

Library Board Trustee Ron Chew asked, when this ILS has been implemented at other libraries, if there have been other implications in terms of needing to hire new staff with specific skills at the administrative level. Mr. Wesley said it is an established system that a lot of libraries have used. He said while SPL’s system is old, it is not unreasonably different. He said there will be different ways in which staff will work which will impact some of the workflows. He said there will also be changes on the technology side, so the Library is looking at how it can implement newer technologies or different approaches to accomplish a lot of the same work. He said SPL may look for some of those types of skills and abilities in new hires, but he does not think it is likely the Library will need dedicated new positions or to reclassify or restructure a large number of people. Mr. Wesley said long term changes may come about because the newer, more modern system can integrate with existing tools in new and different ways, and there may be technology or other things that SPL has not been able to take advantage of because of incompatibility with the old system. He said there may be new options to discuss. He said it will be a big change for everybody, particularly for staff who have only worked in Horizon; however, it will be a gradual change in many ways, and will inform longer-term discussions and decisions that have yet to happen.

Library Board Trustee Faith Pettis said systems changes can be painful, and asked if the Library is planning on running both systems for a period of time in parallel to ensure the new system is working well before the cutover. Mr. Wesley said these types of migrations all have pain points and opportunities. He said the old system and new system cannot run in parallel. He said the minutiae will be worked through in the detailed transition phase, but the transition will move directly from the old system to the new. He said in the training and Q&A phase, the Library will work on validating as much as possible ahead of time. He said that is why the data mapping and data work that is happening now is very important. He said the team is considering how they can measure data quality, what the test plans look like, and how the team can validate the outcomes of the tests and to be able to remediate or identify any defects ahead of time. He said there will be a lot of work done to try to mitigate challenges, but the systems cannot be run in parallel, and it will be a hard switchover from one to the other.

Ms. Pettis asked if the Library has considered taking everything down for a day or two to make sure it works before it goes back up. Mr. Wesley said yes, there will be patron impacts that will include a period of time where circulation will essentially be offline. He said there will be some

transition time during a period where Library operations will need to be modified to accommodate the changeover. He said that is in line with what other systems that have migrated from Horizon to Polaris have experienced. Mr. Wesley said SPL has been speaking with those systems to learn from them about how they handled the transition. He said the benefit of having an older system is that many libraries have made this journey ahead of SPL, so the Library is following a path rather than blazing a trail. Mr. Fay said it is important to note that in the data mapping work and quality assurance components, there is a sandbox in which this is all being developed and tested on, which means that as the team pulls data, it is the Library's real data, which gives the team a chance to actually test it before they start moving into production.

Ms. Mehdi asked, regarding the training for staff and peer training, if the Library has used this model before, and if there is an example. Mr. Wesley said when he joined the organization, SPL was in the process of transitioning to a new automated materials handling system which required staff training on the new processes. Mr. Fay agreed that transition was the largest recent process change. Mr. Fay said there will also be training available after the cutover, with refreshers. Ms. Mehdi said the cutover phase will likely be challenging, but it sounds like the team is doing a great job of understanding and learning from the experiences of other systems who have already made the transition to the Polaris ILS. She said this is also the same IT team that got the system through the ransomware attack, and she has high confidence in them.

Ms. Mehdi asked about plans for communication to the public in advance of the cutover. Mr. Wesley said the project team, the Marketing and Online Services team, and the Communications team are working together and anticipating a robust communications plan. He said more will be shared as the details come together in the coming months. Mr. Fay said Mr. Hammoudeh's succinct and informative internal updates are also very helpful and appreciated.

OLD BUSINESS

Executive Director & Chief Librarian Vacation, Merit and Executive Leave Policy

Ms. Mehdi said the Executive Director and Chief Librarian is the only employee affected by this policy edit. Human Resources Director Brian Sharkey said the proposed change eliminates a single line of text from the existing policy. He said that line creates a joint cap of paid time off accumulated by three different types of leave: executive leave, merit leave, and vacation. He agreed with Ms. Mehdi that the Executive Director Chief Librarian is the only employee who falls under the jurisdiction of this policy. Mr. Sharkey said that each of the three leave types actually has a separate and independent cap. He said four days per year of executive leave are automatically granted to an FLSA exempt or salaried employee; a maximum of six days per year of merit leave is granted to the Chief Librarian by the Board; and those two combined can have a maximum of ten days per year. Mr. Sharkey said, according to policy, each year the Chief Librarian is granted 30 days of vacation leave, with the ability to carry over up to 15 additional days of leave, creating a maximum total cap of 45 days of vacation that the Chief Librarian can carry. Mr. Sharkey said while each of the leave types has its own cap, the policy line proposed for elimination sets an additional cap that lowers the ceiling on how much leave balance the Chief Librarian can carry. He said for a Chief Librarian like Mr. Fay, who doesn't take a lot of vacation each year, the policy line in question means that at the end of the year, the Chief Librarian is not actually able to carry over 15 days, as provided for in the policy because of the combined cap with merit and executive leave. Mr. Sharkey said eliminating the combined cap allows the individual caps to exist while also allowing the vacation hours carry forward that is already allowable under the existing policy.

Ms. Mehdi said by making this change, the Library Board can also correct a mistake they made in not acting on a merit leave grant to the Chief Librarian in 2025. She said it only changes the combined cap that was somewhat artificial. Ms. Pettis said it is an elegant solution to rectify the

Board's mistake, but it only works because Mr. Fay is not taking enough vacation. She encouraged Mr. Fay to use earned vacation time. Mr. Fay said he would definitely like to use it.

It was moved and seconded to approve proposed changes to the *Executive Director & Chief Librarian Vacation, Merit and Executive Leave Policy* as published; the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Union Report

President of AFSCME Local 2083 Jessica Lucas said the Library is beginning an interest-based bargaining process, which is different from traditional bargaining in that the teams start from a place of mutual interest and try to find ways to reach agreements that are mutually acceptable and to the benefit of Union members and the Library. She said the Union team had a fairly successful training earlier in the week and will continue with bargaining in May. She said the Union is hopeful that the teams can work together to get to a strong and equitable contract. Ms. Lucas said she and others appreciate all of the communication about the ILS migration. She thanked Mr. Wesley, Mr. Fay, and everyone involved in that project. She said the Union would like to keep moving forward, building momentum and making positive changes. Ms. Mehdi thanked Ms. Lucas for noting the importance of the levy and the work with the Mayor and City Council in her report. She said having Union support is crucial in that work.

Library Foundation and Friends of the Library Updates

Mr. Chew said the Foundation Board did not meet this month. He said many representatives from the Foundation staff and Board participated in advocacy work with the City Council to move the levy forward.

Ms. Pettis said the Friends were also very active at the City Council meetings. She said in April the Friends Board held their first in-person meeting in quite some time at the new Georgetown facility. She said they held a social hour before beginning the meeting, and it was great to meet many members in person whom she had only met virtually. She said much of the meeting was focused on recapping the levy work. She said the Friends also covered their financial report for 2025 and needs going forward. She said it is impressive to hear about all of the volunteer efforts to win friends for the Library. Ms. Pettis said the Friends Board hosted a fantastic tour of the Library's Maintenance and Operations Center (MOC) to view the automated materials handling system and learn how materials are sorted and move between locations. She said Materials Distribution Manager Jason Hayes was delightful and engaging and it was easy to see how the team would thrive under his leadership in that space. She said Mr. Hayes demonstrated the sorting machines and let the tour participants participate in using the equipment to sort materials. She said it was very impressive. She said Mr. Hayes took the group on a tour of the rest of the facility including storage and operational spaces. She said the group also saw the new fleet of electric vehicles and the bookmobiles. Ms. Pettis said it was a fantastic tour and thanked the Friends of The Seattle Public Library for organizing it.

Ms. Mehdi thanked the Friends and thanked Ms. Pettis for her report. Ms. Mehdi said from this point forward, the Library Board cannot talk about the levy, due to ethics rules. She said it had been a key part of the Library Board's work to get the levy through the brand new mayor's office and then through the City Council. She said the Board had the great support of the Friends and Foundation as well as that of Mr. Fay's remarkable leadership team. She said she wanted to celebrate that the levy will now be in front of voters. She said Library Board Trustees could now work on levy in their personal capacities as members of the public. She said they will not be able to discuss it at Library Board meetings, but she wanted to acknowledge that much of the work that was discussed in today's meeting was funded by the 2019 and 2012 levies. She said the

Library needs funds from a 2026 levy to continue work that is already underway, including reinforcing unreinforced masonry buildings and implementing big systems changes. She said collections and programs are also key elements of a new levy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board held an executive session at 11:46 a.m. to review the performance of a public employee. No decisions were made during the closed session.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Librarian Performance Review and Compensation

Board President Yazmin Mehdi reconvened the public meeting at 12:50 p.m. Ms. Mehdi said the Board had reviewed Chief Librarian Tom Fay's performance and discussed compensation during the executive session. She thanked Mr. Fay for the remarkable and successful work he has done leading the Library. She said, in recognition of his work and successes, the Board would like to increase his compensation. She said the Board had done a market analysis of comparable library systems, as well as looking at the compensation of other City of Seattle department heads, and taking into account annual wage increases received by employees of The Seattle Public Library. She said, as an employee of the Library, Mr. Fay should also receive annual wage increases, and the Board would like to award him with annual wage increases over the term of his tenure, going back to when he first became the Chief Librarian. She said, additionally, in recognition of his many successes, the Board would like to award Mr. Fay a 9.9% pay increase. She said that motion is on the table.

Dr. Hairston asked to clarify if the motion is prospective, not retrospective. He asked if the Board was not going back and awarding increases as if, but would rather add them to the current matrix for his salary.

It was moved and seconded to award annual wage increases to the beginning of Mr. Fay's term as Executive Director and Chief Librarian, and to award a 9.9% pay increase; the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Mehdi said Mr. Chew had to leave the meeting during the executive session, but had expressed his support for the motion. She said the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Mehdi said she would be out of town in May, and that Vice President Dr. Hairston would run the May meeting.

ADJOURN

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting; the motion carried unanimously.

Board President Yazmin Mehdi adjourned the meeting at 12:53 p.m.



The Seattle Public Library

Memorandum

Date: May 28, 2026

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

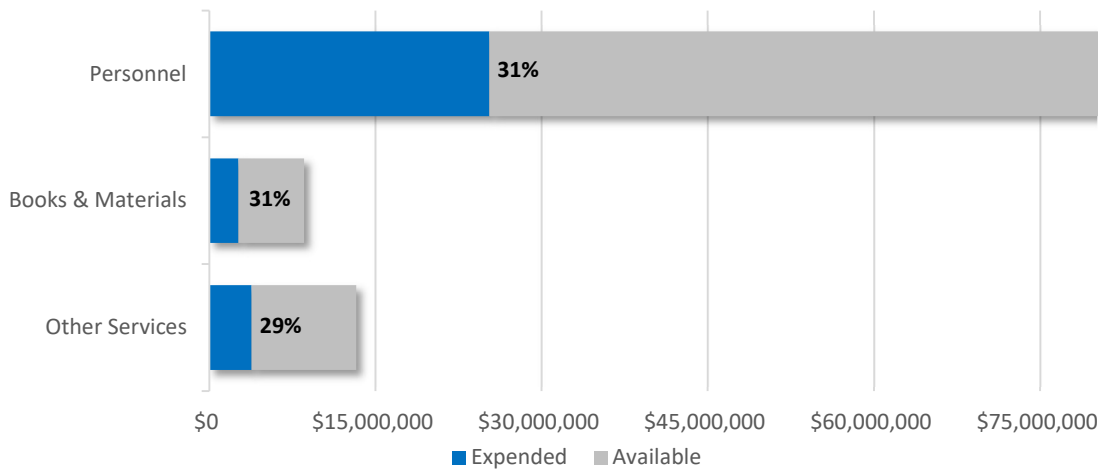
Subject: **April 2026 Financial Reporting**

Overview

Overall, the Library has expended **31%** of its operating budget with **33%** of the year elapsed. This is in line with the prior year when the Library also expended **31%** of the operating budget. Total expenditures at the end of the month were \$32 million.

The chart below provides a high-level overview of year-to-date spending by budget group and 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 79% of the operating budget. As of this report there have been **eight pay periods processed**—as such we expect 31% of the personnel budget to be expended. Spending is on target at **31%**.

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 **31%**.

Other services which represent 13% of the operating budget—and include equipment, services, and supplies—are **29%** expended.

Revenues

Library generated revenues during the month were \$74,000, with total year-to-date collections at **\$285,000**—representing a 32% collected rate. This \$285,000 represents a \$32,000 increase in revenues compared to the same period from 2025. As has been previously reported on, this increase is mostly attributable to the Library restoring access to digital payments for lost materials fees.

Action Requested: Library Board consideration of April 2026 Operating Budget financial reporting for approval at May 28, 2026 meeting. Comments or feedback are welcome.

Expenditure Control for April 2026

Amounts in \$1,000s	Adopted Budget	Current Month Expenditures	Year to Date Expenditures	% Expend	Balance of Budget
Personnel Services					
Salaries & Wages	52,944	4,059	16,292	31%	36,651
Benefits	28,535	2,238	8,989	32%	19,546
Personnel Services Sub-Total	\$81,479	\$6,297	\$25,282	31%	\$56,197
Books and Library Materials					
Books & Materials	8,557	557	2,662	31%	5,895
Books and Library Materials Sub-Total	\$8,557	\$557	\$2,662	31%	\$5,895
Other Services and Charges					
Central Costs	3,561	304	1,223	34%	2,338
Equipment - IT & Facilities	1,471	103	368	25%	1,103
Office Supplies, Printing & Postage	308	33	112	36%	196
Operating Supplies	620	23	127	21%	493
Other Expenses	744	69	184	25%	559
Other Maintenance	703	109	249	35%	454
Phone, Wireless & Internet	410	9	77	19%	333
Professional Services	542	4	49	9%	493
Software	1,030	129	349	34%	681
Staff Training & Travel	177	19	35	20%	142
Vehicle Costs	361	21	76	21%	285
Facilities - Space Rental & Utilities	2,085	389	796	38%	1,290
Facilities - Building & Grounds Maint	1,261	101	197	16%	1,064
Other Services and Charges Sub-Total	\$13,273	\$1,312	\$3,843	29%	\$9,430
TOTAL LIBRARY OPERATING BUDGET	\$103,309	\$8,166	\$31,786	31%	\$71,522

Footnotes:

Revenue Control for April 2026

	Revenue Budget	Current Month Revenue	Year to Date Revenue Collected	% Collected
Operations Plan Other Library Revenue				
Lost Material Fees	150,000	7,240	37,377	25%
Central Library Parking Garage Fees	390,000	35,110	124,670	32%
Copy Services/Pay for Print	140,000	15,907	55,080	39%
Space Rental (Private & Inter-Departmental)	127,000	10,264	47,500	37%
Book Sale Consignment	67,000	5,621	18,965	28%
Coffee Cart & Miscellaneous (vending machines, etc.)	6,000	250	1,520	25%
TOTAL LIBRARY GENERATED REVENUES				
	\$880,000	\$74,392	\$285,113	32%

Footnotes:

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The Seattle Public Library

Date: May 28, 2026
To: Library Board of Trustees
From: Tom Fay, Executive Director and Chief Librarian
Re: May 2026 Chief Librarian's Report

1. On April 23, the Library held our annual All Staff Day. Again this year, rather convening in one location, the 2026 event was held in a local format with teams gathering at Library locations throughout the system. All buildings were closed to the public while staff had the opportunity to attend a hybrid system-wide training, learn about resources and skills to help in everyday work, connect with colleagues, and build community among work teams. Public Services teams also worked together on an inventory project, which is a critical preparation piece in advance of the ILS replacement. Congratulations to all the winners of this year's Staff Recognition Awards! Also, a big thank you to Library Experience & Engagement Division leadership, the Division Operations team, the Public Scheduling Office, the Communications team for their work on planning the day, and to all of the Library directors, managers, and supervisors who planned an engaging day for their teams.
2. On April 24, the Senior Management Team was invited to join The Seattle Public Library Foundation leadership and staff for a half-day retreat. Participants completed a Myers-Briggs survey prior to attending the facilitated retreat that focused on leadership, collaboration, work styles, and team building.
3. On May 3-5, I attended the Urban Libraries Council's fourth annual CEO Roundtable in Chicago, IL with library leaders from across North America. This year's event centered on "Libraries and the Renewal of Civic Trust", exploring how library CEOs can sustain and elevate public trust through intentional decisions about space, partnerships, and investment during a time of strained confidence in public institutions.
4. On May 13, I attended the University of Washington iSchool's Dean's Club Dinner. The dinner was held for members of the iSchool's community in appreciation for shared leadership and collaboration. The event featured researchers behind some of the iSchool's most impactful initiatives. For the second year running, SPL loaned a vintage card catalog cabinet to the event organizers for use in the library-themed celebration.
5. On May 14, Special Collections Managing Librarian Sean Lanksbury and I hosted Seattle Police Chief Shon Barnes for a Special Collections visit. The Chief had been out of town for a recent Library Foundation event that highlighted some of the Library's rare treasures,

including an Arrowsmith map and works by Edward S. Curtis, and the Library was pleased to be able to offer the Chief the opportunity to experience the holdings. The Library greatly appreciates its partnership with the Seattle Police Department and their support in maintaining the Library locations as safe spaces for our community members.

Meetings and events during this reporting period:

- a. Board Meetings: April Library Board of Trustees meeting; April Special Library Board Meeting; monthly meeting of Library and Friends leadership; Friends Board May meeting; Foundation Board Executive Committee Meeting.
- 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: KCLS Director meetings; Metro area library director meetings; Presentation at ULC CEO Roundtable in Chicago, IL.
- d. City Meetings, Events and Programs: Mayor's Cabinet meeting; Councilmember Rivera monthly meeting; Special Collections visit with SPD Chief.

2025 Library Communications Report

May 13, 2026

About the Communications Office

The Communications Office delivers timely messages to internal and external audiences on behalf of the Library. We develop strategic messaging, provide internal consultation, and manage media relations, storytelling, systemwide reporting, project updates, public disclosure. We are:



Laura Gentry
Head of Communications



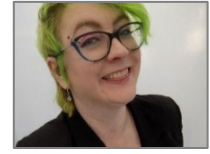
Elisa Murray
Comms Specialist



Bennett Barr
Comms Specialist



Karly Williams
Public Disclosure Officer



Deborah Barnard
Administrative Specialist

Media Relations & Storytelling

Our work with local, national, and international media is significant each year as public interest in the Library is high. In 2025, we helped prompt, respond to, or otherwise facilitate over 300 media stories. Fielding media inquiries and pitching stories requires responsiveness, internal and external relationship building, a commitment to transparency, and a deep understanding of the Library’s operations. In recent years, we have also told dozens of stories about the Library’s impact using our own channels, including the Library’s ShelfTalk Blog and social media channels, managed by the Library’s Marketing and Online Services (MOS) team. More highlights are available in **Attachment A** of this report.

Highlights of media work in 2025 include:

- announcing positive news like [hours expansion](#) at nine locations, the return of [Museum Pass](#), [LEED-gold certification](#) for Green Lake, expansion of [Book Bingo](#), and a [\\$450,000 Carnegie grant](#) to expand ESOL programs.
- working with Readers Advisory Services librarians to produce a [monthly column for the Seattle Times](#);
- promoting the Library’s great author and community events [each month](#);
- highlighting the work of SPL’s excellent [material distribution team](#) in a Seattle Times feature and [on our blog](#).

Highlights of storytelling work in 2025 include:

- telling impact stories about our [Older Adult Services](#), [Mobile Services](#), [Library to Business program](#), [Social Services team](#), and more;
- writing Q&As with [authors](#), the Library’s [artist in residence](#), and [patrons](#);
- reporting major milestones like [5 years of fine-free borrowing](#), [50 years of ‘Douglass-Truth’](#), [20th anniversary of the Greenwood Branch](#), [1 million Books Unbanned checkouts](#);
- hosting special guests like [Pramila Jayapal](#) at the University Branch, the [NHL Mascot ‘Breakfast Club’](#) at the Green Lake branch, and [Bill Gates](#) conducting a story time at the Northeast Branch (his childhood library).

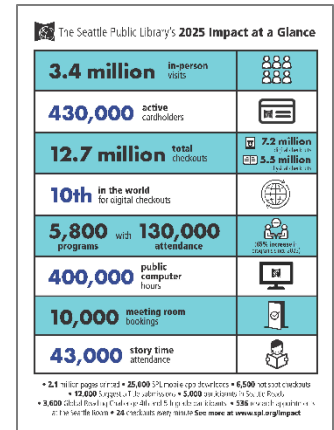


Photo Album: Celebrating 50 Years of Community at Douglass-Truth

Public Information: Reports, Statements, Project Updates, and More

Our public information work focuses on transparency and accountability to the public. We produce:

- annual [Impact Reports](#) informed by all SPL divisions and designed by MOS;
- [levy reports](#) with help from Strategy and Performance, informed by all divisions;
- project updates, such as [University Branch renovations](#), launch of SPL's [mobile app](#), progress reports on the Library's [strategic plan](#), and more; and
- statements about relevant news, such as [this statement](#) and [this op-ed](#) about the defunding of the IMLS.



In 2025, we finished a 2-year project with MOS to update branch architecture and history information for all 27 locations on spl.org. This update included more accessible language to improve readability and make translation of content easier.

Internal Communication

Strong and steady internal communication is critical to the Library's success. Here are just some ways we kept Library staff in-the-know in 2025:

- **Policy/Procedure Updates:** Provided support on updated policies and procedures, including the Library's new Community Use Agreement, incident report form and guidelines; SPL's Crisis Notification Plan; Immigration Enforcement protocols; and more.
- **Monthly Office Hours** with leadership: Hosted a monthly virtual meeting space for staff to hear updates, ask questions, and discuss issues. Based on staff feedback, we retooled these as "Monthly Coffee Chats" to provide deeper discussions with one Library team at a time to learn more about them, their work, and priorities.
- **Weekly Staff Updates:** Produced a weekly newsletter consolidating systemwide communications into one easy-to-access and scan email. In 2026, we added a "TL;DR" summary to further synthesize information. We know Library staff are busy people who are asked to track of a lot of information every day!
- **Coffee Date Q&As:** Conducted interviews with Library staff to help their colleagues get to know them (and their warm beverage preferences) a bit better.
- **Calendar of Cultural/Heritage Observances:** Developed and maintained a calendar to help Library staff keep track of cultural and heritage observances each month as they plan their programs, displays, book lists, etc.

Public Disclosure

In 2025, the Library responded to 46 requests for public records, which involves reviewing and processing thousands of records for responsiveness and exemptions to the WA State Public Records Act. We also:

- worked with HR teams at the Library and the City to include SPL wage data in the City's Open Data platform;
- developed a presentation to help staff learn more about the Public Records Act, presenting to the Senior Management Team, and the Southeast and Southwest regions. In 2026, we are presenting to many more!
- partnered with Security to provide role-play training for staff who may be fielding First Amendment audits or in-person disclosure requests, or who may be assisting escalated patrons who are filming at service desks.

2026, So Far

New work includes supporting the 2026 Library Levy proposal; replacement of the ILS; installation of new HVAC systems and EV chargers at multiple locations; hours changes in Mid-City East and Northeast regions; a new brand for summer programming; updating art history information for all locations on spl.org; and more as this exciting year progresses!

2025 Library Communications Report: Attachment A

Storytelling and Media Highlights

In 2025, through media engagement and use of Library channels, the Communications Office told the Library's story of public service and impact. Here are some highlights:

JANUARY

- **Jan. 9: Seattle's Child:** [Seattle Public Library increases adds hours at nine branches](#)
 - + [NW Asian Weekly](#), [Q13 Fox](#), [ShelfTalk](#)
- **Jan. 14: ShelfTalk:** [Digital inclusion in action at the Delridge Branch](#)
- **Jan. 16: UW Daily:** [University Branch slated for renovation, closing doors until late 2026](#)

FEBRUARY

- **Feb. 3: Seattle Times:** [The Seattle Public Library announces 2025 Seattle Reads pick](#)
- **Feb. 6: ShelfTalk:** ["A huge load off my shoulders": 5 fine-free years, part 1](#)
- **Feb. 11: ShelfTalk:** [A sweet 20th anniversary for the Greenwood Branch](#)
- **Feb. 11: Bill Gates' Instagram:** [Bill Gates visit and story time at the Northeast Branch](#)
- **Feb. 13: ShelfTalk:** [6 ways we're expanding access: Fine-free anniversary, part 2](#)
- **Feb. 14: Seattle Medium:** [Library offers free Tax Help at 12 locations](#)
- **Feb. 20: Seattle Met:** [When in doubt, trust a Peak Pick](#)

MARCH

- **March 3: ShelfTalk:** [Caring for each other better: Podcast features Social Services Team](#)
- **March 13: Seattle Times:** [Librarian hears 20 years later how 'her kids' felt they belonged](#)
- **March 24: ShelfTalk:** [IMLS provides invaluable support to libraries](#)
- **March 25: Seattle's Child:** [Seattle Reads: All-city reading event starts this week](#)
- **March 30: NHL Instagram:** [NHL Mascot Breakfast Club at the Greek Lake Branch](#)

APRIL

- **April 10: ShelfTalk:** [Branches in bloom: Photos of spring at the Library](#)

- **April 12: Seattle Times Op-Ed:** [Libraries, which inspire, inform, are now expendable](#)
- **April 15: ShelfTalk:** [Libraries, our anchors to civic life, are under threat](#)
- **April 22: ShelfTalk:** [With wheels instead of walls: Mobile Services](#)

MAY

- **May 6: Seattle Public Schools:** [Queen Anne Elementary wins Global Reading Challenge](#)
- **May 7: ShelfTalk:** [University Branch construction underway](#)
- **May 12: Pacific Magazine:** [Central Library is a showcase of art, architecture, community](#)
- **May 19: Seattle Times:** [Summer Book Bingo celebrates 10 years](#)
 - + [Seattle's Child](#), [Seattle Emerald](#), [The Stranger](#), [ShelfTalk Blog](#)

JUNE

- **June 2: KUOW:** [KUOW Book Club and SPL partner for live author series](#)
- **June 5: ShelfTalk:** [Green Lake Branch renovation project achieves LEED-Gold certification](#)
- **June 10: ShelfTalk:** [Free English language programs to expand with Carnegie grant](#)
- **June 18: Seattle Medium:** [Read, learn and grow with SPL's 106th Summer of Learning](#)
- **June 20: ShelfTalk:** [12 ways to enjoy summer at the Library](#)

JULY

- **July 2: KOMO News:** [SPL offers Narcan, fentanyl test strips to combat overdose epidemic](#)
- **July 16: Seattle's Child:** [WPZ & SPL celebrate families and individuals with disabilities](#)
- **July 18: ShelfTalk:** [Staying cool at the Green Lake Branch on the hottest day of 2025](#)

AUGUST

- **August 1: ShelfTalk:** [Magic, music, movies: Late-summer Library programs for kids](#)
- **August 6: ShelfTalk:** ['My one happy place': The Library that saved a life](#)
- **August 7: ShelfTalk:** [The Young Adult Resource Fair \(YARF\) brought all the things](#)
- **August 13: ShelfTalk:** ["Rooted & Rising" Explores the African American Collection](#)
- **August 15: ShelfTalk:** [U.S. Rep. Jayapal gets a look at University Branch renovations](#)
- **August 19: Secret Seattle:** [Museum Pass program is back and bigger than ever](#)

- + [Seattle Times](#), [Q13 Fox](#), [ShelfTalk Blog](#)
- **August 19: ShelfTalk:** [Q&A with Vaquero Azul, SPL Artist in Residence](#)
- **August 28: ShelfTalk:** [The Library's 2024 impact, in numbers and stories](#)

SEPTEMBER

- **Sept. 3:** Seattle Times: [Seattle Public Library resources for a great school year](#)
- **Sept. 7:** Seattle's Child: [A postcard for every library: Seattle's latest collector challenge](#)
 - + [ShelfTalk Blog](#)
- **Sept. 15:** American Libraries Magazine: [Road to recovery: Preparing for a ransomware attack and building a support network can improve library response](#)
- **Sept. 18:** ShelfTalk: [Why Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tessa Hulls loves the library](#)
- **Sept. 26:** ShelfTalk: [Nourishing Minds equips libraries to support teen mental health](#)

OCTOBER

- **Oct. 8: UW Daily:** [Seattle on Hold: Exploring the Wallingford Library](#)
- **Oct. 9: ShelfTalk:** [Books Unbanned: 1 million checkouts](#)
- **Oct. 17: KOMO News:** [Thousands of teens, young adults sign up for 'Books Unbanned'](#)
- **Oct. 22: UW Daily:** [Seattle on hold: Exploring Green Lake library](#)
- **Oct. 29: ShelfTalk:** [Major progress on the University Branch seismic retrofit](#)

NOVEMBER

- **Nov. 1: Seattle's Child:** [Need homework help? SPL has your kids covered](#)
- **Nov. 2: Seattle Times:** [How Seattle, King County libraries get books into your hands](#)
- **Nov. 7: CascadePBS:** [Mossback's Northwest: Seattle's Skid Road led to a literary city](#)

DECEMBER

- **Dec. 5: UW Daily:** [Seattle on Hold: Exploring the Northeast library](#)
- **Dec. 12: The Facts:** [SPL Celebrates 50 Years of 'Douglass-Truth'](#)
 - + [Seattle Times](#), [Seattle Medium](#), [Art Beat](#), [ShelfTalk Blog](#)
- **Dec. 18: Seattle Times:** [What Seattle read in 2025: SPL's most popular books](#)

Equity, Learning and Engagement - Community Engagement Services
May 6th, 2026
Emily Billow, Older Adult Program Manager

Strategic Direction:

Literacy: Maintain and expand programs supporting financial, digital, educational, medical, and other literacies.

Empowerment: Accessible and inclusive collections, programs, services, and spaces. Expand outreach, engagement and programming capacity to provide more programs, classes, and workshops for older adults.

Older Adult Programming Pillars of Programming:

Healthy Aging, Aging in Place, and programs designed with community.

Ducks in a Row Workshops - [Ducks in a Row Workshops | The Seattle Public Library](#)

For the past five years I have been working with [People's Memorial Association](#) (PMA) to offer an end-of-life planning series called Ducks in a Row (DIR). This three-part series covers estate planning, funeral options, and advance care directives. This series was held one time in 2021. Then, during the pandemic, this series was held online and only in English: in 2022 the series had 312 patrons in attendance over the three programs.

Given the success of the program in English, both PMA and I wanted to expand to communities speaking other languages; the community wanted this as well. Boliver Choi, the director of the Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC) Senior Center, [The Sunshine Garden](#), mentioned that he would love to host in Chinese. In the beginning of 2023, I engaged the Department of Neighborhood's (DON) Community Liaison (CL) team. This is a group of community members who contract with DON to help the city with both interpretation and translation as well guidance on the cultural competencies for public services. We translated all the session materials into Chinese and worked with both elders at the senior center and the CLs to make sure the content was appropriate. We learned about the nuances of death, dying, finances, and legacy for those older adults and used that to shape the series. The first DIR two-part series in Mandarin and Cantonese with simultaneous interpretation was held in June of 2023. We had 101 patrons attending the series both in-person at CISC and online. The photo to the right is from our first session.



The next year looked similar. Through conversations in early 2024 at the [Lake City Senior Center](#), we found that [Sea Mar](#) would also like to offer DIR in Spanish. The process began again. I worked with Martha Acuna, a Senior Advocate with Sea Mar at the Lake City Senior Center and the elders there to learn more about end-of-life traditions, burial, and taboo topics for Latino communities. We found that they would rather have one table and engage with each other in conversation throughout the entire presentation, striking the importance of program delivery. El Final de la Vida (DIR in Spanish) started in June 2023 with four sessions and 95 patrons attending the series. The photo to the left is from our first session. Huge thanks to Lake City Librarian Josie Avila for helping with outreach and language support!

At the end of 2024 CISC reached out again but wanted to do things a little differently. They wanted three sessions since they continued to get questions on end-of-life planning and wanted to have a recording to show participants. We did too! We also added a funeral option to the DIR in Chinese. During this series we were lucky enough to be joined by a local Attorney who speaks Mandarin and focuses on estate planning. The recorded sessions can be [found here](#).



We've always wanted to expand DIR in other languages and through some underspend funds I was able to get DIR translated into Vietnamese (shoutout to Leo Galvez in Marketing and Online Services for helping with those and all the other languages as well!). This was in response to patrons at both High Point and NewHolly Seattle Housing Authority programs. This series was a little harder to find a host site for; we reached out to a few sites in 2025, but due to funding constraints and partner capacity we were not able to host it. Through a current partnership that Mobile Services has with [Asian Counseling and Referral Services](#) (ACRS), Bonita Chang at the [Club Bamboo Senior Center](#) agreed to be our host site. We found that participants at the Club Bamboo speak Vietnamese, Mandarin and Cantonese. Since running three languages during a session can be challenging, both for language access and also cultural competency, we split up the sessions: we held the first Chinese session on March 14th and we held the first Vietnamese session on March 31st. These sessions are

always evolving to meet the needs of the community, based on patron feedback. For the following sessions this year we will combine to have all three languages at once because some patrons listen and read in separate languages. The first two sessions had nearly 50 patrons in attendance. The photo to the left is from the first session at ACRS.

Some might ask what community is up next and that is yet to be decided! Several organizations working with East African and Somali participants have inquired about hosting the program. Depending on capacity and funding I would love to keep reaching more patrons with this information.

This type of community-based programming takes time, trust building, and a considerable amount of funding. Each year nearly two thirds of the older adult programming budget goes towards translation, interpretation, and cultural review. These programs wouldn't be possible if it weren't for deep collaboration both from within SPL, with outside partners and from the patrons themselves; it would be a long list if I had to name them all here! We play a very important role in helping provide this type of neutral, relevant education so that our patrons can make the right choices for themselves and make decisions that reflect both individual and cultural preferences.



The Seattle Public Library

Date: May 28, 2026

To: Library Board of Trustees

From: Tom Fay, Executive Director and Chief Librarian
Rick Sheridan, Director of Institutional and Strategic Advancement
Jessica Smith, Strategy and Policy Advisor
Elisa Murray, Digital Communications Strategist
David Christensen, Business Analyst and Policy Advisor

Re: **Q1 2026 Levy Report**

Background

We have entered the final year of our seven-year \$219.1 million Library Levy. This report, which covers activities and spending for the first quarter of 2026, 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.

Q1 2026 Levy Report

In 2026, the 2019 Levy accounts for \$57.1 million (39.8%) of the Library's total revised budget of \$143.5 million, while remaining resources from the 2012 Levy provide \$53,000. The Library spent \$9.6 million from the 2019 Levy and \$75,000 from the 2012 Levy in Q1 2026.

In its 2019 levy proposal to voters, the Library laid out a clear framework for how levy proceeds would be used to maintain and enhance Library services in the areas of Hours and Access, Collections, Technology and Online Services, Helping Children, and Maintenance. In Q1 2026, the Library made progress on delivering key levy promises, including making steady progress on both the University Branch renovation and the transition to a new integrated library system (ILS).

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

During the first three months of 2026, Library use continued to grow by key measures. The number of active Library users increased by 12% compared to the first quarter of 2025, and our 27 Library locations welcomed 900,000 in-person visits, a 7% increase compared to Q1 2025. We made modest changes to open hours at three branches in the Mid-City East region.

Our Social Services team, which includes a levy-funded community resource specialist for youth and young adults, continues to connect patrons to lifeline resources and community through daily interactions, referrals, and welcoming programs such as Coffee & Conversations and Crafternoons.

Collections: We promised a robust collection of books and materials

We continued to make investments in both digital and physical materials while responding to increased interest in digital books. In Q1, digital checkouts continued to grow, with an increasing share of checkouts due to e-audiobooks. We purchased 29,000 copies of digital titles, and 41,000 copies of physical titles, including 5,400 copies of Peak Picks titles, the no-holds, no-wait collection that is 100% levy funded.

The Seattle Room added 211 items in Q1, responded to more than 460 email inquiries, and welcomed over 500 visitors to the Seattle Room. We launched a new digital collection celebrating Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Culture and History. This quarter, almost 49,000 users visited our digital Seattle Room collections, collecting 141,000 pageviews.

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

We concluded successful contract negotiations with Clarivate and announced the selection of their Integrated Library System (ILS), [Polaris](#), as the future replacement of Horizon, our decades-old ILS. This was a major milestone, and we have now shifted into the implementation phase of the project.

Patrons used 102,000 computer hours in Q1, printed almost 600,000 million pages on Library printers, and used ScanEZ to scan almost 153,000 pages.

Our levy-funded hot spot program provided 80 new long-term hot spot loans through our outreach program to people impacted by the digital divide, and patrons checked out hotspots 2,000 times from our general collection.

Helping Children: We promised to add more programming for children ages 0-5

In Q1 2026, we offered around 80 in-person weekly Play and Learn programs at seven locations. Sessions were conducted in Chinese, English, Somali, and Spanish. We also offered over 340 story times at our locations and in the community.

Maintenance: We promised to maintain buildings for the next generation

In Q1 2026, the Library made steady progress on the University Branch renovation, including completing the seismic retrofit portion of the project. The branch is expected to reopen in Q3 2026. HVAC Installations at the Fremont and West Seattle branches received their final permits in Q1 and will be publicly bid in Q2. We also began replacing the aged HVAC system at the Rainier Beach Branch with an energy return ventilation system.

Our facilities and janitorial/custodial teams completed more than 3,300 orders in Q1. Their work is essential to keeping our spaces safe and welcoming.

Administration: We promised to plan for the future of the Library

In Q1, we continued to make progress on [Strategic Plan initiatives](#), including expanding language access, refining our new processes for planning and promoting Library programs, enhancing security training, and finishing up the first year of the Story Squad literacy project.

2026 Library Levy proposed

On March 10, 2026, Mayor Wilson proposed a \$410 million Library Levy to provide supplementary funding from 2027 through 2033 in the areas of Hours and Access, Collections, Technology & Online Services, Building Maintenance and Administration. At the end of Q1, the proposal was reviewed and amended by a select committee of the Seattle City Council, chaired by Councilmember Maritza Rivera. On April 14, the City Council approved a \$479.76 million replacement levy to be on the August 2026 ballot. See highlights of the approved proposal at www.spl.org/2026levy.

Action required/requested: Board review and consideration of the Q1 2026 Levy Report for approval at the May 2026 Library Board meeting.

Q1 2026
The Seattle Public Library
LEVY REPORT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Q1 2026 levy report

Levy background

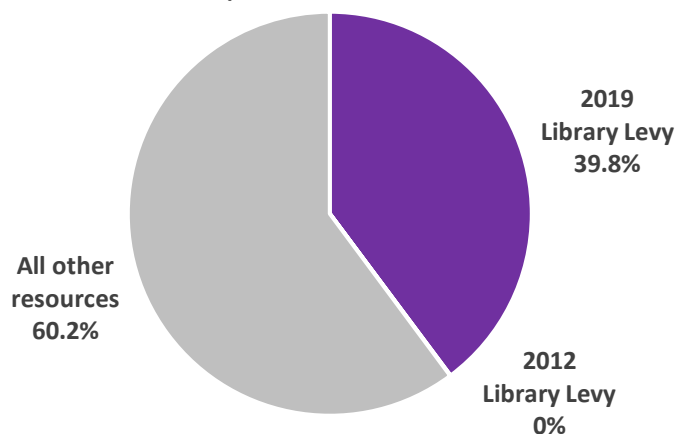
In August 2019, Seattle voters overwhelmingly approved (76%) a seven-year, \$219.1 million property tax levy to maintain and enhance Library services from 2020 through 2026. This year will be the final year of the 2019 Levy.

In 2026, the 2019 Levy accounts for \$57.1 million (39.8%) of the Library's total revised budget of \$143.5 million, while remaining resources from the 2012 Levy provide \$53,000. Other funding sources include the City's General Fund, state and federal grants, private funds, and Library fund balance.

As part of its 2019 Levy proposal to voters, the Library laid out a clear framework for how levy proceeds would be used to maintain services 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 2026, continues the series of [quarterly updates](#) the Library has provided for the Board of Trustees and the public since 2013.

The 2019 Levy has provided support for additional open hours; elimination of overdue fines; improved collections and technology; safe, clean, and well-maintained buildings; specialized programming and services for children; and Library strategic planning.


2026 Library Revised Budget
\$143.5 million



Did you know?

The Levy supports a **quarter of all positions** at the Library, including 35% of children and teen service librarian positions.

Q1 2026 highlights

Strategic plan update: In Q1, we continued to make progress on [Strategic Plan initiatives](#), including the Integrated Library System replacement, expanding language access, refining our new processes for planning and promoting Library programs, enhancing security training, and finishing up the first year of the Story Squad literacy project with Seattle Public Schools. Throughout this levy report, you'll notice that Strategic Plan initiatives are marked with .

Growing Library use: During the first three months of 2026, Library use continued to increase by many key measures. The number of active Library users increased by 12% compared to the first quarter of 2025, with 340,000 patrons active within the last 12 months. Our 27 Library locations welcomed 900,000 in-person visits in Q1, a 7% increase compared to Q1 2025. While the number of physical checkouts slightly declined, digital checkouts continued to grow.

What is an “active Library user”?

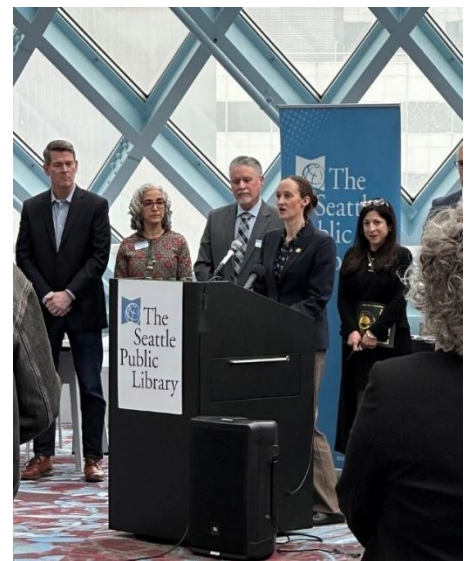
It refers to the number of patrons who have used their Library card at least once in a certain time period.

University Branch retrofit progress: In Q1 2026, the Library made steady progress on [Levy-funded safety upgrades and renovations](#) at the landmarked University Branch. The seismic retrofit of the branch was completed, and the final structural support components successfully installed. The renovation also includes the installation of a modern electric HVAC system, interior and exterior accessibility improvements, and the addition and modernization of public spaces inside the branch. The branch is expected to reopen in Q3 2026.

🟢 **Contract finalized with new Integrated Library System (ILS) vendor:** In Q1, we concluded successful contract negotiations with Clarivate and announced the selection of their ILS, [Polaris](#), as the future replacement of Horizon, our decades-old ILS. This is a major milestone. With contracting completed, we shifted into the implementation phase of the project, and began laying the groundwork for system configuration, data migration, and process alignment with staff from across the organization.

AANHPI Seattle Room Digital Collection: The Library’s Special Collections team launched a new digital collection celebrating [Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander \(AANHPI\) Culture and History](#), which includes 200 items related to Seattle and the Puget Sound area. Highlights include [Chinese Community newsletters](#) and materials related to Japanese American forced removal and incarceration during World War II, such as an [accession register](#) of books held at the Minidoka Library. This quarter, almost 49,000 users visited our digital Seattle Room collections, with 141,000 pageviews.

2026 Library Levy proposed by Mayor Katie Wilson: With the 2019 Levy set to expire at the end of 2026, the Library worked with Mayor Wilson to shape a replacement levy package, guided by community input and the Library’s 10-year strategic plan. On March 10, 2026, Mayor Wilson proposed a \$410 million Library Levy to provide supplementary funding from 2027 through 2033 in the areas of Hours and Access, Collections, Technology & Online Services, Building Maintenance and Administration. At the end of Q1, the proposal was reviewed and amended by a select committee of the Seattle City Council, chaired by Councilmember Maritza Rivera. On April 14, the City Council ultimately approved a \$479.76 million replacement levy to be on the August 2026 ballot. See highlights of the approved proposal at www.spl.org/2026levy.



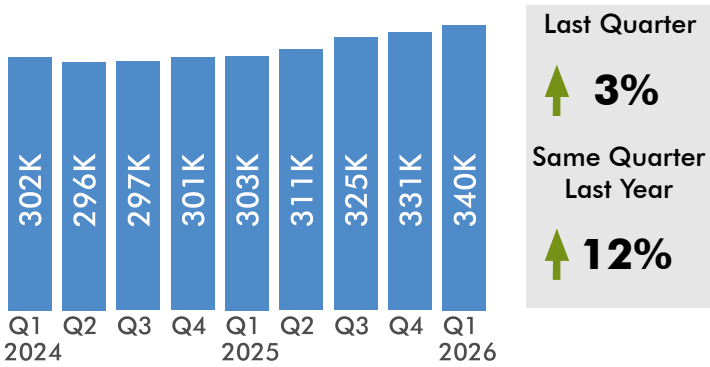
LEVY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: HOURS AND ACCESS



IN FOCUS: Quarterly Usage Trends

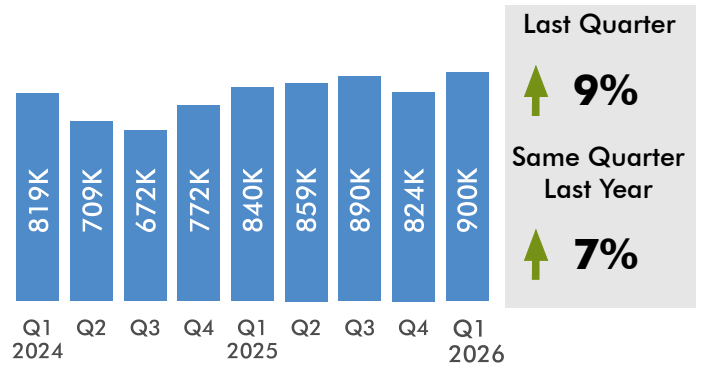
Active Library Users

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



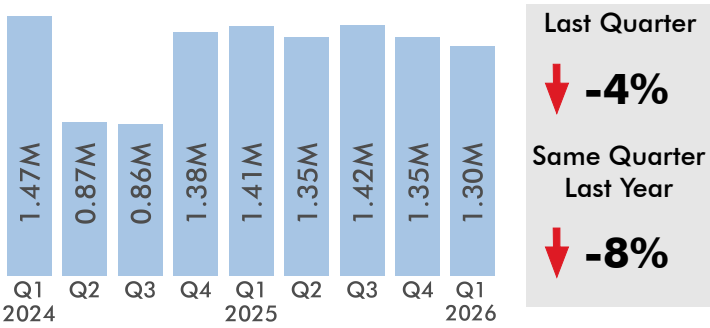
In-Person Visits

Number of in-person visits. Estimates applied at some locations due to sensor outages.



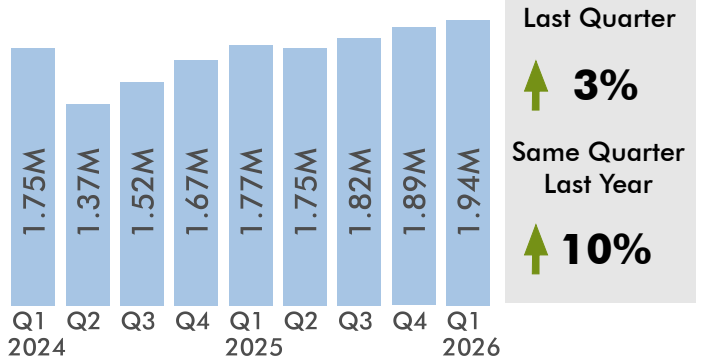
Physical Checkouts

Number of physical checkouts (including renewals)



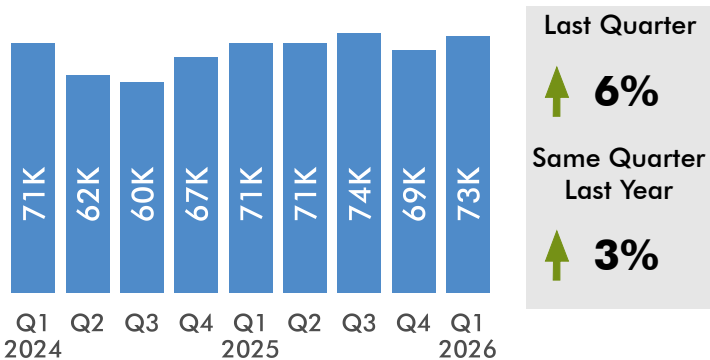
Digital Checkouts

Number of digital checkouts (including streams and views)



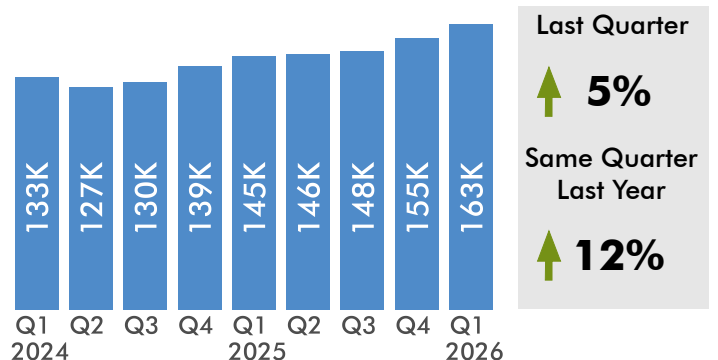
Borrowers - Physical

Number of patrons who borrowed physical materials



Borrowers - Digital

Number of patrons who borrowed digital materials



A ransomware outage significantly disrupted borrowing and overall library use from May to September 2024. Data from and following this period may change as delayed or corrected records are incorporated.

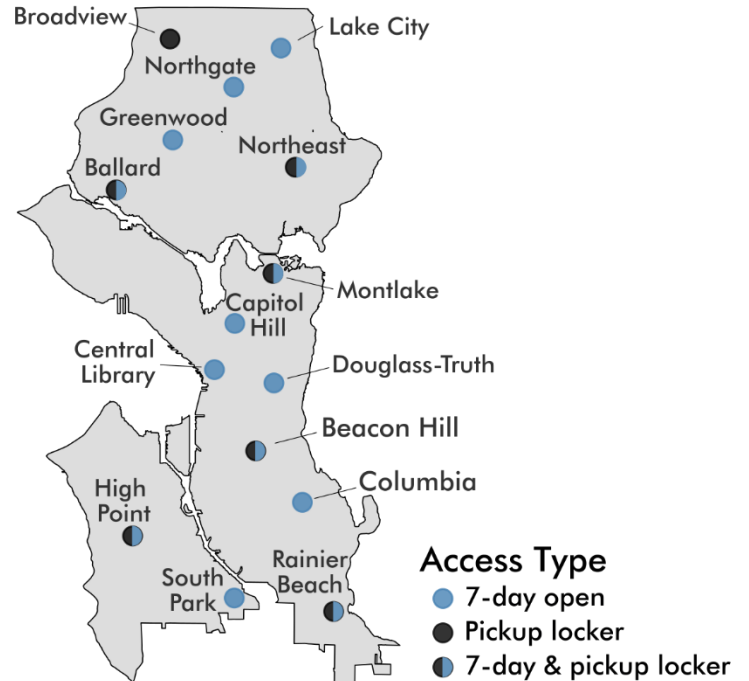
Stable open hours, strong Library use

The 2019 Levy provides \$22.6 million in 2026 for investment in Hours and Access, and total Levy spending in Q1 for this category was \$5.1 million. This funding supports open hours at our 27 libraries; community access to Library learning programs and services; and citywide outreach and engagement. We expand library access in many ways, including adjusting open hours to meet community need and removing barriers to access. The levy-funded elimination of late fees in 2020 restored access for 18,000 library users, and continues to have a positive impact on patrons, while not affecting the rate at which materials are returned.

14 branches with daily service: Starting on Jan. 27, the Library [added Monday service](#) at the Montlake Branch, which expanded the number of libraries that are open seven days a week from 13 to 14 locations. To accommodate the addition of hours at the Montlake Branch, we slightly reduced open hours at the Capitol Hill and Douglass-Truth branches, which helped improve staffing stability at these locations.

All locations, with the exception of the University Branch which is closed for renovations, continue to be open at least six days a week. (See the table on page 19 for details.) Pick-up lockers are available at seven locations, and use of lockers for 24/7 holds pick-up continues to grow, with 9,800 locker-supported checkouts in Q1.

7-Day Branches and Pickup Lockers



Increased Library use: Around 340,000 people used their Library cards over the last year to check out books, access resources, and attend online programs. This is a 12% increase since Q1 2025. During the first quarter of 2026, 19,500 patrons signed up for a Library card, taking advantage of our simplified Library card signup process, which we redesigned in 2025.

Welcoming back patrons: To make our borrowing practices more equitable, last year we approved a change to clear unpaid patron fees older than three years. In December, we cleared fees for 10,000 active patrons, and in Q1, we notified these patrons that their account access was restored and welcomed them back. Patrons were invited to share comments via a short survey, and we received many positive responses.

Programs and services

In Q1 2026, the Library held more than 2,300 public programs and events. The Seattle Public Library Foundation supports many of the direct costs for some Library programs such as the Global Reading Challenge and author programs. The levy provides direct financial support for a limited number of programs (Kaleidoscope Play and Learn and youth-focused social services programming), and funds much of the staffing that helps make many other programs possible.

Central Library programs: In Q1, we held more than 330 public Library programs at the Central Library. Bestselling author Michiko Aoyama discussed "Hot Chocolate on Thursday," guest curator artist Amber Flame kicked off a new series that included a "meet cute" night of love poetry on the Red Floor; and the second annual [KUOW Book Talk series](#) featured two events with local authors. The Central Library also hosted 60 private programs, including nonprofit and mission-driven organizations to whom we provided the space for free. We saw many repeat bookings for organizations needing a low-cost location for training, cultural programming, and large-scale gatherings.

One Book, One Coast: We launched the first year of One Book, One Coast, a shared reading initiative organized by LA County Library that brings together more than 190 library systems to encourage millions of people to read and discuss "[They Called Us Enemy](#)," the bestselling graphic memoir by actor and activist George Takei. We created a [webpage](#) as a hub for information about the program, and will offer unlimited e-copies of the book starting in Q2.



Meeting spaces: The Levy supports the use of community meeting spaces that are free at 22 neighborhood branches. In Q1, Library meeting rooms were used almost 3,200 times by crafters, nonprofits, public agencies, Scout troops, music groups, and many other community groups.

● **Literacy and learning:** In Q1, we held more than 340 story times across 27 locations and in the community, as well as around 80 levy-funded Play and Learn sessions. We continued our Story Squad pilot program with Seattle Public Schools, delivering a set of books to Bailey-Gatzert Elementary to support classroom topics such as letter-writing.

Community Voices: Restored access

"I have been battling cancer for the last year, and finances are very tight, so **having access to library resources means a lot.**"

- Patron whose account was reinstated

Global Reading Challenge: On March 31, a team of fourth graders from John Stanford International School with a creatively spelled team name, the Global Bananana Pancake Group, became the [31st Global Reading Challenge city champions](#). In sum, 3,700 fourth and fifth graders from 71 SPS elementary schools participated in the program, which is supported by The Seattle Public Library Foundation.

◆ **Increasing language access:** In Q1, our Marketing and Online Services team worked to improve language access for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs, with a goal of helping more people access services in their own language. We used city and library data to assess emerging language needs, focusing on our six prioritized languages in Phase 1. We then selected 10 more languages in which to expand our print and digital materials (Phases 2 and 3). We have created ESOL Fliers in Phase 1 and 2 languages and are working on Phase 3 languages as well as creating additional language hubs on the website.

A bookish Super Bowl bet: When the Seahawks beat the Patriots in the Super Bowl LX, the Library won a [bookish bet](#) against Boston Public Library (BPL). The prize? BPL shared an SPL-created list called [“Seattle Picks for Patriots Fans”](#) on their social accounts. The Central Library was a prime parade-watching destination during the Feb. 11 Super Bowl parade, with 4,100 people visiting the Central Library, the busiest day of the year by far.



The Global Bananana Group with their well-earned Global Reading Challenge trophies.

Social Services: Connecting patrons to community and care

Library staff who focus on social service referrals include a Social Services librarian, a senior community resource specialist, and a Levy-funded community resource specialist focused on youth and young adults. Their work connects patrons to community and Library resources, and to Seattle’s civic and cultural communities. Here are highlights of their work in Q1.

Connecting patrons to resources: We recorded 186 Social Services-focused interactions with patrons, 150 of which involved referral to services such as shelter, food, and housing. During a Tier 3 Severe Weather activation in mid-February that resulted in large-scale shelter opening at Seattle Center, our team worked to alert people to weather and shelter information, which resulted in 43 conversations about emergency shelter.

Community programs: We welcomed more than 470 people to 10 Coffee and Conversations at the Central Library this quarter, which many attendees cite as a highlight of their day. Six Crafternoon events supported community, connection, and creativity for 87 attendees, including a passionate group of crocheters who asked for “a crochet corner at SPL for the people!”

Community partnerships: We began a new partnership with Minority Veterans of America (MVA), which now tables at three branches monthly, raising awareness about MVA services, including transitional housing, case management and other supports. An ID Clinic at the Ballard Branch helped 10+ patrons get low-cost IDs, needed for accessing many human services. We partnered with the Benefits Law Center to offer a Social Security Overpayment Legal Clinic at the Central Library.

Lifesaving supplies: Beginning in January, we began distributing intramuscular naloxone to patrons, as well as nasal naloxone. Like nasal naloxone, intramuscular naloxone is a safe, FDA-approved, over-the-counter medication that reverses overdoses, with an application similar to an EpiPen or insulin injection. In Q1, the Library distributed around 1,370 naloxone kits. Community resource specialist Ly Huynh received the Washington Library Association’s 2026 Outstanding Service Award for her work bringing [free naloxone](#) to the SPL system.

Staff training: A new staff program, titled “Focus On...” offered informal learning and sharing on topics related to social services, such as shelter, housing, and crisis response options in Seattle.

Community Voices: Social Services

“You are so nonjudgmental. Thank you! I never feel like you are judging me or my situation.”

“If it weren’t for you all and the Library, I wouldn’t be here.”



This bird-themed zine was created by a patron at a Crafternoon event, and then added to the Library’s ZAPP collection.

Ensuring Library spaces are safe and welcoming

The levy funds about one-third of the positions on our security team, which oversees the security of Library buildings and public spaces. In Q1, the Security team achieved meaningful progress across technology, staffing, access control, and training initiatives.

Security infrastructure improvements: The Library's Security and IT teams replaced non-functioning security cameras at the Central Library that were impacted by the 2024 cybersecurity event. They are installed and fully operational in 25 locations at the Central Library, and the Security Team has already been able to use the cameras to address security breach concerns and identity thefts.

Issues with the Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch ADA button and the Capitol Hill Branch locking systems were fully resolved, improving safety, accessibility, and reliability.

◆ **Building the security team:** Two additional Security officers were hired in Q1, with the hiring of two more officers planned for Q2. A contract was secured in Q1 to support long-term training partnerships for the security team, which will provide ongoing instruction on tactics that help us safely manage situations that pose risk of physical violence, as well as on customer service and security refresher training.

◆ **Community Use Agreement and incident reporting.**

The Security team continues to support staff in implementing the [Community Use Agreement](#) (CUA), which became the Library's new code of conduct in 2025. To enhance consistency across branches, a focus group was established to improve staff communication and training related to Incident Report writing and applying the CUA.

Coffee & Conversations collaboration: Security officers have been more involved in the weekly Coffee and Conversations events at the Central Library, helping identify patrons who might benefit from the program. The program provides a low-stakes way for patrons to meet our Social Services team and ask questions in a warm, welcoming environment. Referrals from Security have resulted in better connections with patrons and fruitful connections to resources.



Community Voices: Safety

"I love the Library because they create a **safe space where people can just be**. Books, computers, tools, resources, and places for people to build community."

Building robust collections

The 2019 Levy commits resources to maintain and expand the Library's collection of physical and digital materials. This includes funding for e-books, e-audiobooks, streaming services, the Peak Picks collection, and the acquisition and digitization of local history materials. In 2026, the 2019 Levy provides \$7.15 million for Collections, and total levy spending on Collections in Q1 was \$1.8 million. Here are highlights of our levy-funded Collections work in Q1.

Digital checkouts continue to grow: Checkouts of digital materials were 1.94 million in Q1 2026, 10% higher than Q1 2025 (see page 3). Because of the high cost of digital books, the Library has [made changes in recent years](#) that have helped us support growing digital checkouts while managing spending. We did see a slight increase in spending on high-demand purchases and renewals (the cost of repurchasing a license to keep a digital title in our collection) in Q1. But these increases are relatively modest and expected. We added nearly 29,000 copies of digital titles in Q1.

Physical collection: While checkouts of physical materials decreased slightly compared to recent quarters, the number of patrons checking out physical materials grew by 6% in the last quarter. We purchased around 41,000 copies of print materials in Q1.

Peak Picks: Peak Picks, our popular no-holds, no wait collection of high-interest print titles, is fully funded by the levy. In Q1, we added 31 [Peak Picks titles](#) and 5,400 copies, with almost 32,000 Peak Picks checkouts.

🟢 **Expanding language access:** In Q1, the Library added 580 books to our [World Languages Collection](#) in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese, including Traditional Chinese cookbooks that had high patron interest. With support from The Seattle Public Library Foundation, we also added 414 World Language titles for adults and 165 titles for teens in 11 languages and launched a Portuguese digital book collection with 50 titles for adults and 30 titles for teens.



Did you know?

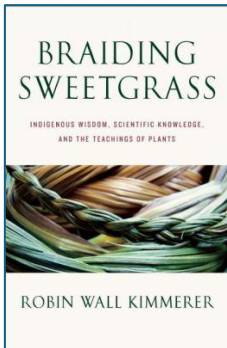
Libraries can't purchase most e-book titles as we do physical books. Instead, publishers require that we buy licenses that expire after a certain amount of uses or time. If there is still patron interest, we then have to renew the license. This is partly why **e-books are 3-5 times as expensive as physical books** for libraries.

E-audiobooks gaining popularity

In recent years, Seattle library patrons' preferred format has become digital books, and increasingly, e-audiobooks.

In 2025, the Library's e-audiobook checkouts were 49% of digital books, with **adult fiction and nonfiction e-audiobooks outpacing e-book checkouts** for the first time.

5 most popular e-audiobooks in 2025 at The Seattle Public Library



1. "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer (Always Available)
2. "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett
3. "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver
4. "Onyx Storm" by Rebecca Yarros
5. "The Women" by Kristin Hannah

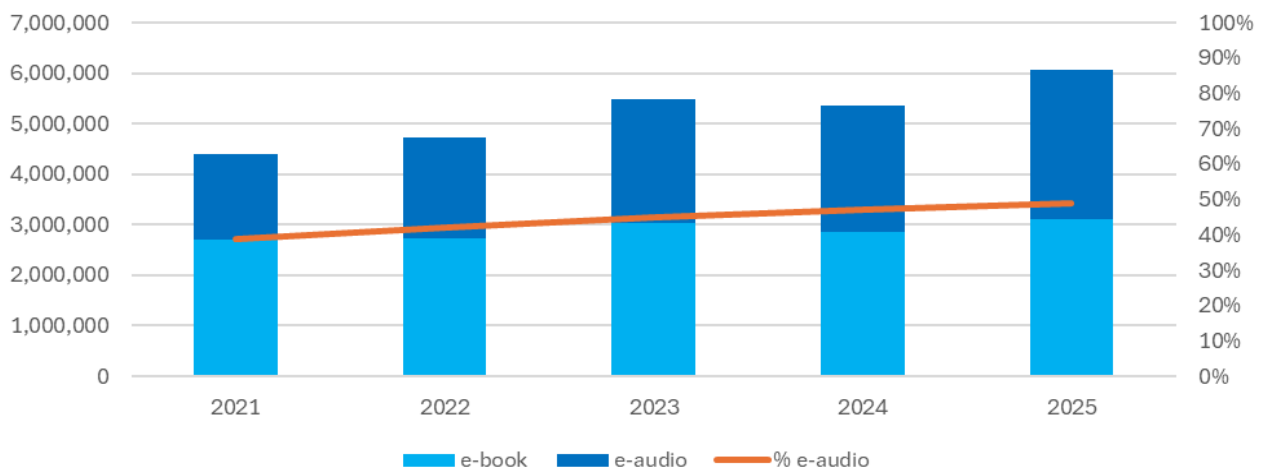
Why e-audiobooks?

- ❖ There is a growing trend of audio listening, including the rise of podcasts.
- ❖ Increasingly sophisticated production values, such as full-cast recordings, attract new listeners.
- ❖ Audiobooks have been more available in "Always Available" formats than e-books.

E-audiobook costs

- ❖ Digital books are 3-5 times more expensive for libraries than print books.
- ❖ While costs vary depending on the license, libraries typically pay even more for e-audiobooks.

E-audiobooks' share of digital checkouts grew to 49% in 2025



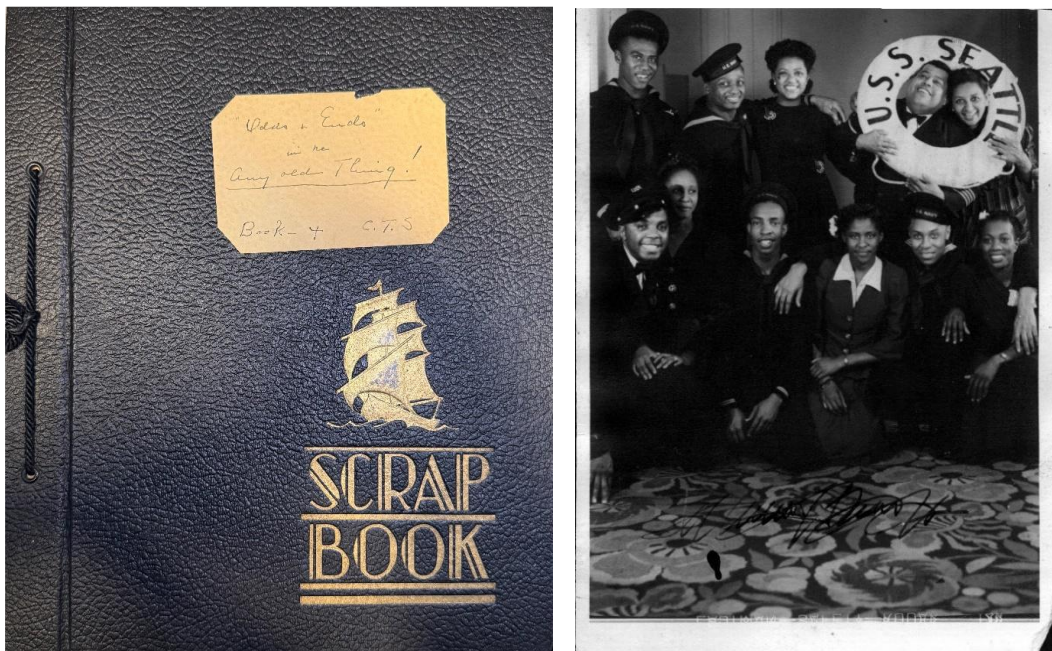
Local history collections

The [Seattle Room](#), located at the Central Library, provides in-person access to local history materials, including local manuscripts, menus, photos, postcards, books, and more. Our [digital Seattle Room collections](#) make Seattle history easier to access for students, researchers, historians, and others. The Seattle Room curator and Special Collections digital librarian positions, both funded by the 2019 Levy, help researchers and community members use these unique collections to understand Seattle's rich and varied history.

In Q1, Seattle Room staff continued to steward and provide access to Special Collections materials by responding to more than 460 email inquiries and welcoming over 500 visitors to the Seattle Room for activities ranging from in-depth research appointments to introductions to the space and its resources.

Seattle Room curators purchased 211 items in Q1, including 24 original photographs of Seattle's Black community taken by Al Smith. He captured weddings, church and community gatherings, sporting events, and concerts, shedding light on life in Seattle's vibrant Central District between the 1940s and '60s.

We also acquired a number of publications related to leisure activities from the early 20th century, including Seattle Yacht Club annual magazines, a 1931 "Gazetteer of Northwest Yachts and Who's Who Among the Yachtsmen," and a 1917 Seattle Golf Club yearbook, which lists early members such as Edwin A. Strout (1862-1928). Coincidentally, we also acquired a scrapbook created by Edwin's wife Cora Taylor Strout (1869-1940), which we reunited with scrapbooks that were already part of our Strout Family Collection, circa 1901-2003.



Highlights of Q1 Seattle Room purchases include a set of photos by Al Smith depicting life in the Central District (above right); and a scrapbook created by Cora Taylor Strout, which will be added to the Strout Family Collection.

Seattle Room Digital Collections

In the first quarter, we introduced a new digital collection celebrating [Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander \(AANHPI\) Culture and History](#) with over 200 items related to Seattle and the Puget Sound area. The bulk of the collection includes material related to Chinese, Filipino, and Japanese communities, including [Chinese Community newsletters](#) produced between 1964 and 1970; two [issues of Bamboo Magazine](#), a 1950s periodical created by Filipino American community leaders Dorothy Laigo and Fred Cordova during their time at Seattle University; and materials related to the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, such as an [accession register](#) of books at the Minidoka concentration camp's library.

In conjunction with this new collection, we also added 138 AANHPI images to our existing [Seattle Historical Photograph Collection](#), which include images from Chinese, Filipino, Hawaiian, Korean, Japanese, Samoan, and Vietnamese communities. Digitization helps us amplify voices in the AANHPI community and bring together historical materials that are spread across multiple locations and collections into one easily searchable spot. This quarter, almost 49,000 users visited our digital Seattle Room collections, with 53,000 sessions and 141,000 pageviews.

Date	Number	AUTHOR	TITLE	PUBLISHER	Year	Cost	REMARKS
	51	Hongozawa, B.	Sei Ninuuta no kanshū (yo)		1920	\$2.00	1915.28
	52	"	(yo)		1921	2.00	"
	53	Saito, J.	Ninuuta no oshiki no kanshū		1921	2.00	"
	54	Hongozawa, B.	Reidenshūka		1922	2.00	"
	55	Yoshida, G.	Shinnyūki jūten no kanshū		1923	2.00	"
	56	Nakayama, M.	Banka shūkyōshū gashū		1923	2.00	"
	57	Okamoto, S.	Dōji jūkyū		1923	2.00	"
	58	Matsu, S.	Rōtan saku	Shūnyūkyōshū	1923	2.00	1915.23
	59	Okamoto, S.	Niwa kyōka		1924	2.00	"
	60	Nakayama, J.	Reidenshūka		1925	2.00	"
	61	Yoshida, G.	Reidenshūka		1925	2.00	"
	62	Saito, J.	Shitōkyō kengai		1925	3.00	"
	63	Hongozawa, B.	Jōkyū shū		1925	3.00	"
	64	Yoshida, G.	Ninuuta no shōrin		1926	3.00	"
	65	Yoshida, G.	Jōkyōshū (Haka)		1926	3.00	"
	66	Matsunaga, E.	Reidenshūka		1926	3.00	"
	67	Nakayama, J.	Reidenshūka		1926	3.00	"
	68	Saito, J.	Ninuuta no kengai		1926	3.00	"
	69	Saito, H.	Reidenshūka		1926	3.00	"
	70	Saito, H.	Jōkyōshū		1926	3.00	"
	71	Nakayama, J.	Uta no kengai		1926	3.00	"
	72	Yoshida, G.	Jōkyōshū		1926	3.00	"
	73	Yoshida, G.	Jōkyōshū		1926	3.00	"
	74	Yoshida, G.	Jōkyōshū		1926	3.00	"
	75	Yoshida, G.	Jōkyōshū		1926	3.00	"



Highlights of the new AANHPI digital collection include an accession register of books held at the Minidoka Library (above), and two issues of Bamboo, a 1950s periodical created by Filipino American community leaders Dorothy Laigo and Fred Cordova.

Keeping our technology up to date

The 2019 Levy promised dedicated funding for digital equity offerings, updated infrastructure for public internet access, updated technology for acquisition and circulation, and continued maintenance and upgrading of public technologies and the [spl.org website](https://spl.org). The Levy provides \$2.7 million of operating budget authority related to technology and online services in 2026 and \$4.3 million of unspent technology capital budget authority from prior years. Total Levy spending in Q1 for technology operating expenses was \$500,000 and \$143,000 for Capital IT infrastructure.



Digital equity and the HotSpot program

The 2019 Levy is the primary funding source for our [HotSpot program](#), which provides internet access through our general collection and through focused outreach with community organizations.

In Q1, the Outreach Hotspot Team facilitated 80 new long-term hotspot checkouts with community partners serving people disproportionately impacted by the digital divide in Seattle. We have 250 hot spots in our outreach collection.

Through ongoing engagement tailored to each community served, library staff and community partners also raised awareness of library offerings such as virtual library programs, workshops, tutoring sessions, research databases, and online learning platforms.

The 900 hotspots in our general circulation collection continued to be popular, with 2,000 check-outs in Q1 2026. Our vendor is providing an updated hotspot model, the A70, and we have begun to replace our older hotspots with newer models as needed.

Community Voices: Hotspots

“The hotspots helped my students tremendously. They were able to register for college, complete schoolwork, attend virtual meetings/appointments, and any job-related activities.”

- South Seattle College, Justice-Involved Solutions Unit

Maintaining access to technology

Robust technology use: The first quarter of 2026 saw steady or increased use of the Library’s technology services. Sixty-five thousand patrons used computers for 102,000 hours, comparable to recent quarters. Around 31,000 patrons printed almost 600,000 pages on Library printers, a 17% increase compared to Q1 2025. Patrons used ScanEZ to scan almost 153,000 pages, an increase of nearly 19% from the previous quarter, and 46% from Q4 2025.

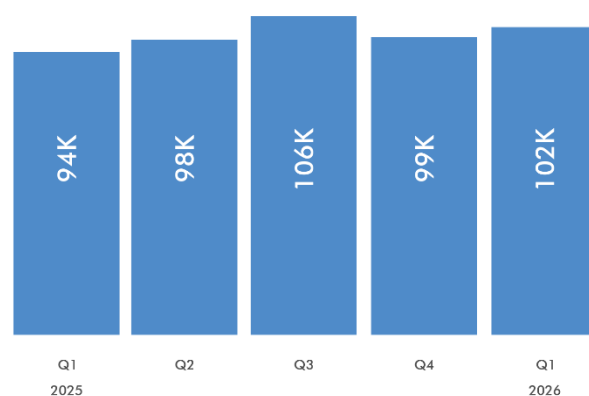
Integrated Library System progress: The 2019 Levy included \$4 million to support the replacement of the existing Integrated Library System (ILS), the Library’s central digital platform for managing collections materials, checkouts, patron accounts, and other services.

In Q1, we concluded successful contract negotiations with Clarivate and announced the selection of their ILS, [Polaris](#), a major milestone. With contracting completed, we shifted into the implementation phase of the project, and began laying the groundwork for system configuration, data migration, and process alignment with staff from across the organization.

Mobile app: Since its April 2025 launch, our [mobile app](#) has been downloaded more than 27,000 times on Apple and Android devices. Users can navigate the app in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Traditional and Simplified Chinese.

Cybersecurity program: SPL IT continues to advance the Library’s cybersecurity protection by adopting industry best practices across identity management, infrastructure security, user education, and email protection. In Q1, to improve our general technology and cybersecurity infrastructure, we upgraded and replaced network connectivity in four branches, and made our network more secure by upgrading the firewall.

Public Computer Hours Used Each Quarter



Community Voices: printing

“Thank you for making space available without pressure to buy something. Also, the complimentary printing is so helpful.”

LEVY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: SUPPORTING CHILDREN

Expanding early learning options for children

The 2019 Levy promised additional support for Library early learning programs for children, ages birth to 5, providing about \$574,000 to support this effort in 2026. Total Levy spending in Q1 for supporting children was \$88,000.

The Levy directly funds Kaleidoscope Play and Learn, drop-in neighborhood-based programs that provide opportunities for young children and caregivers to gather in community spaces and participate in quality early learning experiences.

Kaleidoscope Play & Learn creates community spaces to learn, engage, and connect for young children and their caregivers.

In Q1, the Library offered around 80 levy-funded Play and Learn programs in four languages and at seven locations: the Beacon Hill, Columbia, Delridge, Lake City, NewHolly, Rainier Beach, and South Park branches. We also added a new Play & Learn group at the Northgate Branch, facilitated by Denise Louie Education Center, through funding from Best Starts for Kids King County.

Villa Comunitaria, which facilitates Play and Learn sessions at the Delridge and South Park branches, reported that Spanish-language play continues to be a central draw, particularly for multi-generational families seeking to engage in bilingual learning in a way that is both joyful and accessible. Grandparents, parents, and children participate together, strengthening cultural connections while supporting early language development.

Denise Louie Education Center, which facilitates sessions at the Columbia, Lake City, and Rainier Beach branches, reported an increase of 6.1% in the overall attendance/retention at Play and Learn compared to Q1 2025, with the Lake City Branch session experiencing the largest increase. The average age of the children attending the sessions is 24 months.



A Play and Learn session facilitated by Villa Comunitaria.

Protecting our investments

The 2019 Levy provides \$1.5 million in 2026 budget authority and \$15.3 million in carryforward authority for major maintenance work. This includes \$9.5 million for crucial work on the Library's historically landmarked Carnegie buildings, including the seismic retrofit of the University Branch, which is currently underway, and planning and design for the future retrofit of the Columbia Branch, which is a major capital project included in the [2026 Library levy proposal](#). It will also fund the replacement and modernization of HVAC control panels at the Columbia, Fremont, Queen Anne, Rainier Beach, University, and West Seattle branches.

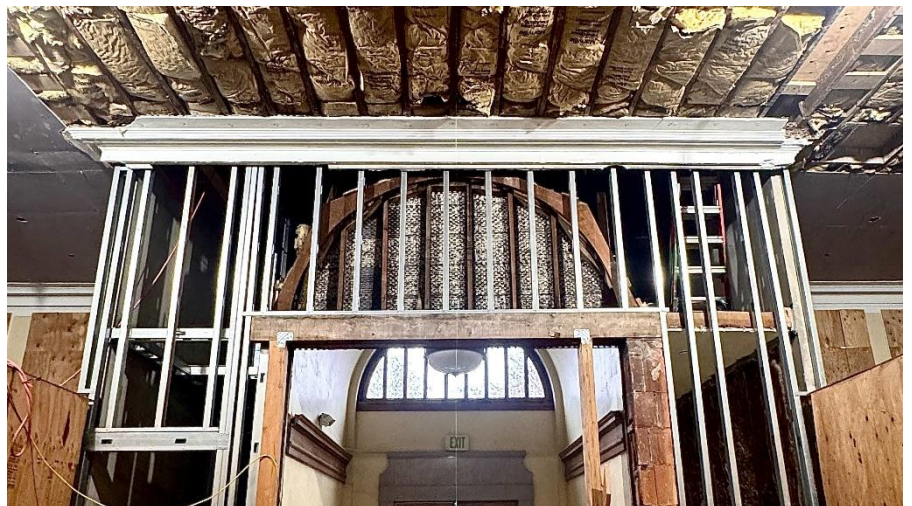
In Q1 2026, the Library spent \$1.3 million in 2019 levy funds on major maintenance and seismic retrofit work, with an additional commitment of \$3.5 million incurred by the end of Q1 for future work this year.

Did you know?

The renovation of the University Branch has given us an opportunity to repair and restore historic features of the 115-year-old landmarked building. See [our recent update](#) for details.

Major maintenance: Preserving libraries for the next generation

Seismic retrofit complete: The University Branch renovations and seismic retrofit, which began in January 2025, [progressed steadily](#) and on schedule during Q1, with the seismic work completed at the end of the quarter. The branch's comprehensive overhaul includes a seismic retrofit, the installation of a modern electric HVAC system, interior and exterior accessibility improvements, and the expansion and modernization of public spaces inside the branch. This project is now entering its final phase and is on track for substantial completion in Q3.



The University Branch retrofit includes a steel moment frame at the front entrance.

Reducing carbon footprint, adding cooling: When the University Branch reopens, 23 of 27 SPL locations will offer [air-conditioned public spaces](#). Partial funding for the remaining HVAC

installation projects at the Columbia, Fremont, Queen Anne, and West Seattle branches is included in a \$5.2 million Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazardous Mitigation Grant awarded to the Library in 2024. This grant does not cover the entire cost of each project and supplemental levy funding has been necessary.

HVAC installations at the Fremont and West Seattle branches received their final permits in Q1 and will be publicly bid in Q2, with construction scheduled for Q3. Architectural design and permitting for the HVAC installations at the Columbia and Queen Anne branches was in the Request for Qualifications phase during Q1. The Library continues to pursue federal and state funding opportunities to supplement levy funding for both seismic retrofit and HVAC/electrification projects. The processes of applying for, monitoring, and reporting on federal and state funding require substantial staff time. Timeliness of funding decisions varies and is dependent upon factors beyond the Library's control.

Also during Q1, we began replacing gas heaters with heat pumps at the Library's Materials and Operations Center and replacing the aged HVAC system at the Rainier Beach Branch with an energy return ventilation system. Both projects should be completed during Q2 and each will reduce the Library's carbon footprint. We are grateful to the City's Office of Sustainability and Environment for supporting these projects.

The Library also began updating mechanical system controls for the Central Library and all neighborhood branches during Q1. This long-term project will begin with the Central Library and include the Fremont, Rainier Beach, University, and West Seattle branches, timed to coincide with planned work on their HVAC systems. Finally, planning and design phases were underway for remodeling the space on Level 2 of the Central Library, which housed the original Automated Materials Handling System (AMHS) before a new AMHS was installed at the MOC.



Children reading at the Rainier Beach Branch, which will get a new HVAC system in Q2.

Routine Maintenance

Q1 was another busy quarter for the Library's Facilities and Janitorial/Custodial teams, with both teams remaining understaffed despite onboarding and training new staff members. Combined, these teams responded to a total of more than 3,300 work orders, including 1,200 for routine and/or scheduled maintenance, and 2,100 requests from Library staff.

Risks, opportunities and the path ahead

Here is a quick preview of Q2 2026:

- Focus on Wi-Fi hotspots
- Update on the Integrated Library System project
- Update on HVAC installation projects

Q1 2026 Financials

The 2019 Levy accounts for \$57.1 million (39.8%) of the Library's total revised 2026 budget of \$143.5 million. The 2012 Levy accounts for \$53,000. The Library spent \$9.6 million from the 2019 Levy and \$75,000 from the 2012 Levy in Q1 2026.

Spending tables below show the Library's 2026 Operations Plan budget plus encumbrances and unspent budget authority from prior years in the revised budget columns. Carryover budget authority of \$19.3 million from the 2019 Levy and \$53,000 from the 2012 Levy was designated for spending in 2025.

2019 Library Levy

	Operations Plan	Revised Budget	YTD Expenditures	Remaining	% Spent
Hours & Access	22,478,000	22,563,374	5,143,215	17,420,159	23%
Providing Books & Materials	7,150,000	7,149,591	1,827,601	5,321,990	26%
Technology & Online Services	2,851,000	2,724,456	499,678	2,224,778	18%
Literacy & Early Learning	468,000	573,667	88,308	485,359	15%
Building & Facility Support	2,061,000	2,135,266	400,773	1,734,494	19%
Administration	737,000	736,603	203,012	533,591	28%
Major Maintenance	1,508,000	16,864,088	1,320,458	15,543,630	8%
Capital IT Infrastructure	474,000	4,346,272	143,150	4,203,121	3%
Total	\$37,727,000	\$57,093,317	\$9,626,194	\$47,467,123	17%

Includes \$138k in operating carry-forward and \$19.2M in capital carry-forward budget authority

2012 Library Levy

	Operations Plan	Revised Budget	YTD Expenditures	Remaining	% Spent
Hours & Access			75,174	(75,174)	0%
Major Maintenance		53,392		53,392	0%
Total	\$0	\$53,392	\$75,174	(\$21,782)	141%

Includes \$53k in capital carry-forward

Appendix 1. Scheduled weekly hours in 2026 compared to 2019 baseline

Location	2019	Jun 19, 2024 – Sept. 24, 2024	Sep 25, 2024 – Jan. 28, 2025	Jan. 29, 2025 – Jan. 26, 2026	Current as of Jan. 27, 2026
		<i>Dark blue: > or = 2019; Light blue: < 2019</i>			
Ballard Branch	60	62	62	62	62
Beacon Hill Branch	60	56	56	56	56
Broadview Branch	60	54	54	54	54
Capitol Hill Branch	60	60	60	60	56
Central Library	62	62	62	62	62
Columbia Branch	60	48	56	56	56
Delridge Branch	39	48	48	48	48
Douglass-Truth Branch	60	62	60	60	56
Fremont Branch	39	40	40	48	48
Green Lake Branch	39	CLOSED	48	48	48
Greenwood Branch	60	62	62	62	62
High Point Branch	46	58	56	56	56
International District/Chinatown Branch	46	46	48	48	48
Lake City Branch	60	54	62	62	62
Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch	39	32	40	48	48
Magnolia Branch	39	40	40	48	48
Montlake Branch	39	37	40	48	56
NewHolly Branch	39	40	48	48	48
Northeast Branch	60	48	48	60	60
Northgate Branch	60	40	48	58	58
Queen Anne Branch	39	40	40	48	48
Rainier Beach Branch	60	56	56	56	56
South Park Branch	46	62	58	58	58
Southwest Branch	60	48	48	48	48
University Branch	46	40	40	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wallingford Branch	39	40	40	48	48
West Seattle Branch	60	48	48	48	48
Total Weekly Hours	1,377	1,283	1,368	1,398	1,398
% of 2019 baseline		93%	99%	102%	102%



The Seattle Public Library

Date: May 28, 2026

To: Library Board of Trustees

From: Tom Fay, Executive Director and Chief Librarian
Kai Tang, Library Experience and Engagement Director
Sean Lanksbury, Special Collections Services Manager

Re: **Art Review Committee Reactivation and Charter Updates**

Background

The Seattle Public Library’s Art Review Committee (hereafter “ARC” or “Committee”), whose charter was established by the Board of Trustees (“Board”) following the 1998 Libraries for All levy and active through subsequent levies. The charter was last updated December 2, 2008. This committee fell into dormancy over the past decade. The Committee is a core element of standing SPL Administrative Procedure, “Standards for Collection and Management of Public Art” (2015-01-21). In the charter and administrative procedure, activities related to the collection, management and deaccession of the art collection are guided by recommendations of the Art Review Committee to the Executive Director and Chief Librarian and the Library Board. ARC meetings historically are scheduled twice annually with additional meetings scheduled as necessary.

Update and Summary of Recommended Charter Adjustments for Review and Vote

Work over the past year to reactivate the committee with recommendations for minor adjustments to the charter has met the goal of readiness for Board review and vote upon these recommendations and notice to the Board that candidates are referred to the Executive Director and Chief Librarian (identified in the 2008 charter as “City Librarian”) for review before approval by the Library Board of Trustees. Two ex-officio members already identified in the charter are the Office for Arts & Cultural Affairs project manager for the Library and the Art Collections Manager, a non-voting Chair position overseeing logistics that has typically been held by, but is not technically limited to, The Seattle Public Library’s Special Collections Manager. The representatives historically named to these two positions have confirmed their commitment to fulfill those duties.

Recommended adjustments to the charter include:

- Clarifying that the management role is limited to the Public Art Collection and not other art or artful aspects of the Library’s spaces.
- Addition of a member of the Capital Improvement Program, in an ex-officio capacity.
- Adjusting the term lengths and cadences of Community Representative appointments to conform to the expectation of “a new committee member is appointed each year” while

retaining one representative with one year's experience and another with two years' experience following the initial reactivation cadence.

The Special Collections Manager, in their role as Art Collections Manager has a tentative goal to send out the call for a Library Foundation Board member interested in joining the committee plus Staff and Community applicants for the respective open slots on Monday, June 1, 2026 with an expectation that receipt and review of applicants for candidacy to be completed and delivered to the Executive Director and Chief Librarian in early to mid-August of 2026 for ultimate Board approval in a subsequent Library Board meeting. Seeking a goal of full committee activation at start of FY2027, with potential for a preparatory meeting in late 2026 if practical.

Action required/requested:

Request Board review and consideration of recommended charter updates for approval at May 2026 Library Board meeting.

Seattle Public Library Art Collection Management Policies & Procedures

Art Review Committee Charter

The Art Review Committee evaluates artwork in the Library Art Collection, proposed acquisitions of new works **within defined boundaries** for the **Public Art** Collection and de-accessions of works no longer appropriate for the collection using the Library Art Collection Vision, and the Acquisition and De-Accession Policies and Procedures. The **Public** Art Collection Manager **acts as a non-voting facilitator** providing ~~es~~ guidance and support to the ARC. The ARC makes recommendations to the City Librarian and the Library Board of Trustees concerning the disposition of artworks. Recommendations may include accessioning, re-siting, de-accessioning, storing, loaning to institutions for display, or other actions that benefit the Library's **Public** Art Collection. The ARC may consult with other agencies, library staff, community groups, or arts professionals to aid in making their recommendations.

Membership

The Art Review Committee **membership may range in size from 9 to 10 members with varying terms of service and** consists of the **Public** Arts Collection Manager (non-expiring), two Library staff **(two-year terms)**, ~~at least~~ one to two members of the Seattle Public Library Foundation Board **(two-year terms)**, and three members of the community **(three-year terms)**. **Project coordinating delegates from the library's Capital Improvements Program and a library projects manager** from The Office for Arts & Cultural Affairs ~~project manager for the Library will~~ serve as ~~an~~ ex officio members of the ARC **and are to be continually assigned to the committee through their respective organizations.** ~~Each member, with the exception of the Arts Collection Manager, is appointed for a two-year term.~~ The terms of service for the **staff, board,** and community members are staggered so that a new committee member is appointed each year. **To maintain staggered terms, shorter interim appointments may be determined by the manager to establish a cadence or complete a position that is vacated early.** Candidates are referred to the City Librarian for review before approval by the Library Board of Trustees.

Requirements for **the** appointment of the three community members include an excellent knowledge of the arts and familiarity with local Northwest arts. An understanding and appreciation of the role art will assume in a public library is highly desirable. Any conflict of interest¹ in the activities of the ARC with the personal or professional activities of the members **will not be tolerated.** Community members shall serve on the committee without compensation.

The Art Collection Manager is Chair of the ARC, and provides all necessary logistical support for the ARC, scheduling meetings, preparing study materials, and writing draft recommendations for review.

Meeting schedule

Meetings are scheduled twice annually with additional meetings scheduled as necessary.

¹ Conflict of interest is defined as a close relationship through business, romance, intimate relationship or strong dislike.

Seattle Public Library Art Collection Management Policies & Procedures

Art Review Committee Charter

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The Seattle Public Library

Date: May 28, 2026
To: Library Board of Trustees
From: Jessica Lucas, President, AFSCME Local 2083
Subject: **May Union Report**

Dear Library Board of Trustees,

We would like to show appreciation to Library Leadership for choosing to support for Library staff who were working in stressful situations in recent months. You listened and understood the issues and made things whole for our members in those situations at Rainier Beach, Capitol Hill, and Greenwood.

The Union continues to face negotiation efforts with optimism and look forward to working collaboratively as we continue Interest Based Bargaining.

We are hoping for more improvement in communications between Library Leadership and front line staff. We have seen improvement around system wide updates and changes, which is a good start. We will continue to give feedback and hope for more improvements. Thank you.

Action required/requested: Informational only.



The Seattle Public Library
April 2026 News Releases

Date	Title
30-Apr-26	24 Checkouts a Minute: The Seattle Public Library publishes its 2025 Impact Report
29-Apr-26	May 2026 Author and Community Events at The Seattle Public Library
16-Apr-26	All locations of The Seattle Public Library will close Thursday, April 23 for staff in-service day
13-Apr-26	“Living With Conviction: Sentenced to Debt for Life in Washington State” Opens at Two Locations of The Seattle Public Library
10-Apr-26	Spring Break 2026: Activities at The Seattle Public Library
02-Apr-26	One Book, One Coast Programs Explore Stories of Japanese American Incarceration and Resistance



The Seattle Public Library
April 2026 Media Coverage

Organization	Date	Headline	Details
IndiaWest	30-Apr-26	Pramila Jayapal Champions Resolution To Protect Library Workers Amid Federal Cuts	"Tom Fay, chief librarian of Seattle Public Library, said library workers make a meaningful difference in people's lives by helping them access information, resources and a sense of community."
NW Asian Weekly	30-Apr-26	West Coast libraries unite to read one powerful story	"This spring, Seattle Public Library (SPL) isn't just recommending a book—it's joining a coastwide conversation. The first-ever One Book, One Coast program brings together nearly 200 library systems across Washington, Oregon, and California—including almost 60 in Washington—to read and discuss "They Called Us Enemy" by George Takei."
KUOW	27-Apr-26	Queering classics out of cliché with Seattle author Molly Olgún	"Olgún joined KUOW's Katie Campbell live at Seattle Central Library last week to talk about folklore, fairytales, and the power of queering classic stories."
KUOW	26-Apr-26	Bonus: Rewriting the classic fairytale script with Molly Olgún	"The KUOW Book Club read Molly's collection of short stories in April. KUOW's Katie Campbell sat down with her on April 23 in front of a live audience at the Seattle Central Library to talk about folk lore and fairytales and the power of queering old stories."
KOMO	26-Apr-26	Seattle mayor signs \$480M library levy proposal, doubling amount sought from taxpayers	"The proposed levy is estimated to increase property taxes by about 19 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value in its first year, bringing the total rate to \$3 per \$1,000 of assessed property value."
The Seattle Times	23-Apr-26	Seattle Public Library closed Thursday for staff training	"All Seattle Public Library branch locations are closed for staff training and team-building, the library system said."
South Seattle Emerald	20-Apr-26	South End Life: It's National Library Week; Time to Check Out South End Branches	Includes interviews with SPL staff at Beacon Hill, Columbia, International District/Chinatown, NewHolly, South Park, and Rainier Beach branches.

Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce	20-Apr-26	Libraries to close for training day	All 27 locations of The Seattle Public Library will be closed on Thursday, April 23, for the library's annual in-service day for systemwide staff training and team-building. No Library materials will be due on that day.
Seattle's Child	19-Apr-26	This Hits Home: News that impacts Seattle-area families	"I guess the Seattle City Council did not listen to me when I urged members earlier this month to vote "no" to sending a \$480 million library renewal to voters in August."
MSN	17-Apr-26	Seattle Public Library to close all branches for staff training on May 1	"All locations of The Seattle Public Library will be closed on Thursday, May 1, for the library's annual in-service day dedicated to systemwide staff training and team-building." [article with wrong date is deleted as of May 11, 2026]
South Seattle Emerald	17-Apr-26	Seattle City Council Sends Library Levy to Voters, With Funding for Columbia City Branch	"The Seattle City Council hopes that come August, cash-strapped voters will renew their faith in local libraries and agree to a \$480 million library levy that will continue fine-free borrowing and pay for a seismic retrofit for the Columbia City library branch."
West Seattle Blog	16-Apr-26	Closure Alert: Seattle Public Library staff in-service day on April 23	"West Seattle has four SPL branches, Admiral (formally known as West Seattle), High Point, Delridge, and Southwest."
KVI 570	16-Apr-26	Seattle's \$480M 'Library Levy' Is Funding Homeless Services	"This levy isn't just about libraries anymore. It's about whether Seattle continues to quietly shift homelessness-related costs into other parts of the budget—without clearly telling voters what they're paying for."
West Seattle Blog	16-Apr-26	Follow Up: Half-billion-dollar library levy finalized for your primary-election vote	"[T]his levy is larger... because it takes into account cuts that the library has absorbed over the last several years.' [Councilmember Dionne] Foster said... she voted to increase the levy in order to incorporate HVAC systems, English for Speakers of Other Languages classes, and other retrofits"

Washington State Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises	15-Apr-26	Seattle Public Library (West Seattle Branch) Carnegie Cooling Center	<p>"BID DATE 5/6/2026 @ 10:00 AM. Project Description: The Project consists of the renovation of an existing 2-story concrete and unreinforced masonry building listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a City of Seattle historic Landmark. The scope of work focuses on building systems modernization and full electrification. Work includes removal of existing fossil fuel-fired mechanical and plumbing equipment and replacement with high-efficiency, all-electric systems. Mechanical work includes complete replacement of the existing HVAC systems with electric heating and cooling equipment. Plumbing work includes removal of gas-fired domestic hot water and other fuel-based systems and installation of electric domestic hot water equipment and associated distribution modifications. Electrical work includes upgrades to the building's electrical infrastructure to support new electrified loads, including associated branch circuitry. Low-voltage and security system modifications will be performed in coordination with the Owner's vendors. Interior and exterior repairs and modifications are limited to those required to accommodate the new work. As the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, all work shall comply with applicable historic preservation standards and review requirements. Work must comply with FEMA Build America. The building will be closed during a portion of construction; refer to Section 01 11 00 Summary of Work for a description of the building closure period and the project documents for additional requirements. Estimated Value: \$1,195,000."</p>
My Northwest	15-Apr-26	Seattle City Council unanimously approves \$480M library levy for ballot	<p>"For homeowners, the levy would cost 19 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. Wilson's office said that would amount to about \$163 a year for a home valued at \$872,000, the median value in Seattle. The 2019 levy currently accounts for one-third of the library's total budget."</p>

KIRO 7	15-Apr-26	Seattle City Council approves \$480 million library levy renewal proposal for 2026 ballot	"Mayor Wilson said the seven-year plan would maintain hours at all 27 branches and fund security, earthquake-safety upgrades, building maintenance, new books, and enhanced technology."
KOMO News	14-Apr-26	Seattle City Council votes to put 2026 library levy renewal on Aug. 4 ballot	"Under the proposed levy, qualifying low-income seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities who own their primary home within Seattle would be exempted from the new levy if it passes."
The Seattle Times	14-Apr-26	Seattle council sends library tax proposal to ballot	"If passed by a simple majority, the seven-year levy would replace the \$219 million measure overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2019 that is expiring at the end of this year. The owner of a home worth \$872,000 — the estimated median value for 2027 — would pay \$163 next year."
Seattle's Child	13-Apr-26	Is now the time for a \$480 million library levy?	"Asking homeowner families to cough up double for libraries 'just crazy'"
The Facts Newspaper	11-Apr-26	100 days into new era at city hall	"The mayor also introduced a new library levy..."

Washington State Office of Minority & Women's Business Enterprises	11-Apr-26	Seattle Public Library (Fremont Branch) Carnegie Cooling Center	<p>"BID DATE 5/11/2026 @ 10:00 AM. Project Description: The Project consists of the renovation of an existing 2-story concrete and unreinforced masonry building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The scope of work focuses on building systems modernization and full electrification. Work includes removal of existing fossil fuel-fired mechanical and plumbing equipment and replacement with high-efficiency, all-electric systems. Mechanical work includes complete replacement of the existing HVAC systems with electric heating and cooling equipment. Plumbing work includes removal of gas-fired domestic hot water and other fuel-based systems and installation of electric domestic hot water equipment and associated distribution modifications. Electrical work includes upgrades to the building's electrical infrastructure to support new electrified loads, including a new or upgraded electrical service, switchgear, distribution panels, feeders, and associated branch circuitry. Interior and exterior repairs and modifications are limited to those required to accommodate the new work. As the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, all work shall comply with applicable historic preservation standards and review requirements. Work must comply with FEMA Build America. The building will be closed during construction; refer to project documents for requirements. Estimated Value: \$775,000."</p>
Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB)	11-Apr-26	A new program unites West Coast readers for stories of Japanese American incarceration	<p>"Between now and May, library patrons of participating systems — such as Multnomah County Library, Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries and Seattle Public Library — will have access to unlimited digital copies of "They Called Us Enemy" in both English and Spanish. Readers can check out copies through their online library account."</p>

AOL	11-Apr-26	Seattle Public Library offering slew of spring break activities for families	"The Seattle Public Library (SPL) unveiled a new list of youth and family programming scheduled for spring break, running from Monday, Apr. 13, through Friday, Apr. 17. Organizers say this initiative aims to provide students and caregivers with high-quality, community-focused activities while schools are out of session."
FOX 13	11-Apr-26	Seattle Public Library offering slew of spring break activities for families	"The Seattle Public Library (SPL) unveiled a new list of youth and family programming scheduled for spring break, running from Monday, Apr. 13, through Friday, Apr. 17. Organizers say this initiative aims to provide students and caregivers with high-quality, community-focused activities while schools are out of session."
My Northwest	9-Apr-26	Committee votes to boost Seattle library levy by \$70M	"Despite voting for the measure, Select Committee on the Library Levy Chair Maritza Rivera voted against the amendments that increased its size. 'This is not about who loves the libraries more,' she said at the committee meeting on Wednesday. 'This is about fiscal responsibility and our ability to pay for all our needs.' 'Any pennies we pinch now will cost us dollars seven years from now,' said Councilmember Alexis Mercedes Rinck."
Yahoo	9-Apr-26	Committee votes to boost Seattle library levy by \$70M	"Despite voting for the measure, Select Committee on the Library Levy Chair Maritza Rivera voted against the amendments that increased its size. 'This is not about who loves the libraries more,' she said at the committee meeting on Wednesday. 'This is about fiscal responsibility and our ability to pay for all our needs.' 'Any pennies we pinch now will cost us dollars seven years from now,' said Councilmember Alexis Mercedes Rinck."
The Chronicle	9-Apr-26	Seattle's proposed library levy could grow by \$70M	"Rinck framed her support for the additions in terms of coming challenges for the city. 'I expect hard times ahead for Seattle's economy,' she said. 'This levy presents us with an opportunity — and to my mind a responsibility — to increase our investments to ensure safe community spaces are in every neighborhood in our city.'"

KUOW	08-Apr-26	A new program unites West Coast readers for stories of Japanese American incarceration	"Between now and May, library patrons of participating systems, like Seattle Public Library, will have access to unlimited digital copies of "They Called Us Enemy" in both English and Spanish. Readers can check out copies through their online library account."
West Seattle Blog	08-Apr-26	Election 2026: City Councilmembers enlarge library levy before their second-to-last vote on it	"The levy that'll go up for a final council vote next Tuesday (April 14) is now \$480 million. Councilmembers approved this list of 11 amendments, including two by District 1 Councilmember Rob Saka, who was not at the meeting; his amendments support "digital skilling" for teens at High Point and South Park libraries and encourage the library system to work with the Admiral-based Washington State Black Legacy Institute."
Seattle City Council Blog	08-Apr-26	Amended Library Levy approved by committee	Councilmember Maritza Rivera (District 4) statement: "I want to thank my colleagues for contributing to a smooth and timely process that allows us to bring this package to the voters in time for August's primary ballot. And I am grateful to the Mayor's Office for their collaboration. The 11 amendments passed today, which I did not feel comfortable supporting, added \$69.7 million to the Mayor's original proposal of \$410 million, for a total package of \$479.7 million. Given how close we are to the City's levy capacity, Seattle's looming budget deficit, and the City's larger affordability issues, I did not think it was financially responsible to add to a levy that was already 50% more than the last one, even after accounting for inflation. Nonetheless, throughout this renewal process, we have been aligned in our love for Seattle libraries and the incredible value they provide to all of Seattle. That is why I voted to pass the package out of committee."
Seattle Red 770 AM	07-Apr-26	Seattle homeowners face doubling library taxes as City Council pushes record \$468M levy	"Seattle homeowners could see their library taxes double under a series of new spending proposals from Mayor Katie Wilson and the City Council. The Mayor's plan calls for a \$410 million tax levy to fund the Seattle Public Library over the next seven years. This is nearly twice the amount of the 2019 levy currently in place."

The Seattle Times	07-Apr-26	Seattle library levy renewal shouldn't break taxpayers	"The Seattle Public Library levy renewal represents a gut check for local politics."
Everett Post	04-Apr-26	The portion of property taxes that go to Seattle libraries could double	"Under Wilson's \$410 million library tax plan, residential property owners in Seattle with a median house value of \$850,000 would pay \$163 dollars per year in library taxes from 2027 to 2033. That's up from the average \$85 annually that homeowners now pay from a 2019 levy, which expires this year."
PubliCola	03-Apr-26	Rivera Plays Grinch to Library Supporters, Saka Holds Committee Hostage for Extended NBA Rally	"Wilson's proposal represents about a 47 percent increase over the 2019 levy, adjusted for inflation; the council's amendments, which include funding for maintenance at the beautiful but hard-used downtown library, a seismic retrofit at the Columbia Branch library, built in 1915, and cooling systems, would push the total closer to half a billion dollars. (Dan Strauss declined to provide a price tag for his three amendments). Rivera acknowledged that some amendments will probably make it through over her objections. She wanted to make it clear that she supports libraries, she added, lest she become a victim of online 'cancel culture.'"
The Seattle Times	02-Apr-26	Seattle students crowned Global Reading Challenge champions	"Tuesday night was the culmination of months of hard work for 10 teams of Seattle Public Schools fourth- and fifth-graders. The teams huddled up one last time in the auditorium of Seattle Public Library's downtown children's library, buzzing with nerves. Seattle Mayor Katie Wilson opened the evening by sharing how reading made her into the person she is today."
The Urbanist	02-Apr-26	Library Levy Amendments Would Expand Mayor's \$410 Million Proposal	"A slate of amendments proposed by councilmembers would bump up the proposed \$410 million renewal for the Seattle Public Library levy closer to half a billion, addressing everything from programming to materials to building maintenance. With 80% of the total seven-year levy proposed last month by Seattle Mayor Katie Wilson set to fund day-to-day operations across the library system, library advocates argue that the adds are essential to manage a beloved and well-used library system in a growing city."

KUOW	01-Apr-26	KUOW, Seattle Public Library series continues with Seattle author's 'queer garden of love, grief, and longing'	"The KUOW Book Club is reading 'The Sea Gives Up the Dead' by Molly Olgúin in April 2026. Olgúin will join KUOW's Katie Campbell for a live discussion at the Seattle Central Library on April 23, 2026."
PBS	01-Apr-26	Extended Cut: How Skid Road Birthed a Literary City	Co-hosts Knute Berger and Stephen Hegg explore the origins of Seattle's libraries.