

A PLAN FOR THE PRESENT,
A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

LIBRARIES
FOR ALL



Proposed 2012 Library Levy

 The
Seattle
Public
Library

In the fall of 2010
a 6-year-old
girl wrote:

*“Dear Library,
I want to share my
allowance money so
you can stay open.
I am 6 years old.
Here is \$11.”*



Libraries for All: A Plan for the Present, a Foundation for the Future

Proposed 2012 Levy for
The Seattle Public Library
Submitted Friday, March 23, 2012

To Seattle City Council, Mayor of Seattle,
and the People of Seattle

By City Librarian Marcellus Turner
and Library Board President
Marie McCaffrey

Our Vision for Seattle:

A city where imagination and opportunity thrive.

Our Mission:

The Seattle Public Library brings people, information and ideas together to enrich lives and build community.



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“In 1998, Seattle overwhelmingly embraced a bond measure to renovate or replace every neighborhood library - and add four new ones. Every day, our libraries enrich thousands of lives and provide a path to a secure future. In 1998 we pledged to deliver libraries for all - today, let’s make sure we keep our promise.”

**- Gilbert W. Anderson,
Library Board trustee,
1998-2009**

“Our neighborhood libraries are a bridge to lifelong learning. They ensure open and free access to a vast range of educational, cultural and technological resources. The Seattle Public Library is a classroom for students of all ages - a valued asset we must protect.”

**- Norm Rice,
former mayor,
City of Seattle**

A Letter from the City Librarian and Library Board President

March 23, 2012

Mayor Mike McGinn
Seattle City Council

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you Libraries for All: A Plan for the Present, a Foundation for the Future. This proposal grew out of a two-year process that involved the thoughtful contributions of tens of thousands of Seattle residents, who recognize that libraries are the city’s classroom for both individuals and the community.

What we present to you today is the product of those discussions and a collaborative effort by the Library and city to stabilize the Library budget. The plan we recommend - a Library levy for operations and maintenance - will help ensure we can provide essential Library services now and for the next generation of users.

As you know, we are at a critical juncture. For four years, we have cut our budget in response to declines in city revenues, at a time when children, families, seniors, businesses, immigrants and job seekers rely on our libraries more than ever.

The cumulative cuts threaten the vision set in 1998 when nearly 70% of voters passed the Libraries for All bond measure to expand, renovate or build new branches in every neighborhood in the city. Our residents couldn’t have spoken more loudly to show their widespread support for access to learning and equity in opportunity.

Now that access and equity is at risk.

We’ve drastically cut the number of hours our branches are open. Our books and materials budget - the heart and soul of our system - is down more than 13 percent. The Library is a crucial bridge over the digital divide, but we don’t have the money to replace public computers on a timely cycle and we can’t upgrade our 10-year-old technology infrastructure. The capital budget that pays for major maintenance of our 27 buildings - many award-winning for their architecture and green and sustainable features - is less than half of what it was just four years ago.

For 2013, we face our fifth year of budget cuts, this time for an estimated \$5 million. Without a levy, a cut of that size could mean shuttering five of the branches we invested in during Libraries for All and cutting the books and materials budget in half.

Our plan recommends the people of Seattle invest \$17 million annually over the next seven years through a Library levy funded by an increase in the property tax. Like the 1998 bond measure for buildings, this plan will benefit people in every neighborhood in the city.

The levy addresses four critical areas of need:

- Keeping libraries open when people need them
- Providing a robust collection of books and materials
- Improving computer and online services
- Maintaining our buildings for the next generation of users.

With this investment, we'll be able to preserve and strengthen our relationships with our partners in education, business, culture and civic life, helping people look for jobs, preparing children to compete in a global economy, offering people of all backgrounds access to author readings, concerts and films, and providing a community center for civic discourse and democracy.

The city will continue to provide the bulk of the Library's funding. The levy allows us to preserve current services that otherwise would be cut in light of the estimated \$5 million budget cut in 2013, restore services cut in previous years, and meet the growing needs of the community.

The good news is that Seattle residents support a strong Library system.

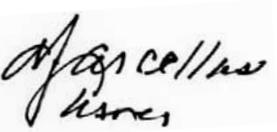
People flock to our libraries, as evidenced by more than 14 million visits last year. The majority of Seattle residents have Library cards and use them regularly, accounting for the more than 11.5 million items checked out in 2011. And we believe these numbers prove why Seattle is consistently ranked as one of the most literate cities in the nation.

A number of people deserve our most sincere thanks for helping us get to this point. Most certainly, we are grateful to Councilmember Richard Conlin, whose leadership and support initiated an investigation of alternative funding options. As well, we thank the entire City Council for making sustainable Library services a priority in its 2012 Action Plan. And, we are pleased to have Mayor Mike McGinn, as a partner with the council and Library on this effort.

Finally, we are thankful for the work of the Library trustees, the Strategic Plan Advisory Committee, participants in the Civic Leaders Workshop on the Library Levy, the Friends of The Seattle Public Library, The Seattle Public Library Foundation, and the nearly 39,000 residents who participated in open houses, meetings, focus groups and surveys over the last two years. Their work, participation and engagement were instrumental in helping shape this plan.

We recommend placing a \$122.6 million Library levy before voters in the Aug. 7, 2012 primary election.

Most appreciatively,



Marcellus Turner
City Librarian



Marie McCaffrey
Library Board President



Marcellus Turner
City Librarian



Marie McCaffrey
Library Board President

Our libraries attract patrons of all ages

In 2011, there were
nearly 7 million
patron visits to
the Central Library
and branch libraries.

There were
another 7.6 million
virtual visits.

*“Libraries are not just
places for books - they are
places to learn, meet and
exchange knowledge and
community experiences.”*
- Ballard Branch patron

LIBRARIES FOR ALL

A Vision at Risk

Four years of budget cuts have eroded Library services at the same time as demand for services soared. The Seattle Public Library can't keep up. Today, we have a critical need to stabilize and continue the investment that the community made in 1998 when Seattle voters overwhelmingly supported a bold vision to renew the city's aging Library buildings. The Libraries for All bond measure resulted in the world-renowned Central Library and new and renovated branch libraries in every neighborhood of the city. The successful 10-year rebuilding program was completed on time and on budget, reinvigorating Seattle's love of learning and reading.

Seattle is now consistently rated one of the most literate cities in the nation. The "Seattle Reads" program, where residents are encouraged to read and discuss the same book, has been replicated worldwide. Our beautiful libraries provide modern, safe and accessible educational centers for youth, families, job seekers and all Seattle residents.

Seattle's libraries: The challenges

No one anticipated the remarkable surge in use after the building program was completed. Circulation of books and other items nearly doubled between 1998 and 2007. During this same time period, in-person visits increased by 57%. Today nearly 67% of Seattle residents have a Library card.

When the economy tumbled, even more people came to the Library to look for jobs and improve employment skills, check out books, movies and music, use free computers and attend free literary and educational programs.

But the Library was feeling the same economic pain as the public, and years of budget cuts driven by declining city revenue forced us to reduce services. Every neighborhood in the city has been hurt by the cuts.

- More than half our branches are closed two days a week.
- The entire system will shut down for an entire week for the fourth consecutive year in 2012.
- We have fewer early learning programs.
- The budget to buy books and other items has been cut by more than 13% since 2009, which affects our ability to buy books, music, movies and the electronic content that this tech-savvy city demands.
- We cut the number of holds people can place on items.
- We bought fewer copies of popular titles and waiting times went up.
- There isn't enough money to replace our aging public computers or technology infrastructure.
- The capital budget, which funds major maintenance of our 27 buildings, is half of what it was in 2009.

The outlook for 2013 also is grim. The city anticipates a budget gap that will mean cutting another \$5 million from the Library budget. There is no way we can absorb a reduction of that size without severe impacts, such as closing branches and cutting even deeper into the budget to buy books and other items.

Creating opportunity for all patrons

Libraries provide access to lifelong learning and economic, social and cultural benefits for all. They are the safety net for the middle class. They are where people show up for opportunity. They are where students get homework help, unemployed residents come for job resources and those without access to technology learn how to use computers.

To ensure these resources are accessible and available when the public needs them, the Library needs a stable source of funding to sustain ongoing operations. We currently do not have this.

Protecting the vision

Through an extensive public engagement process, the Library has identified four essential services that will protect the vision of Libraries for All:

- Keep libraries open when patrons need them
- Provide a robust collection of books and materials
- Improve computer and online services
- Maintain buildings for the next generation

These service areas support the Library's exciting new Strategic Plan. They are core elements that ensure Seattle - a city of readers - has excellent Library services and resources. They provide the framework for achieving the Library's new mission: Bringing people, information and ideas together to enrich lives and build community.



2011 Statistics for The Seattle Public Library

Facilities

- Central Library, 26 branches and Mobile Services

Circulation

- 11.5 million items

Patron visits

- 14.3 million

Service levels and programs

- Nearly 1 million reference questions answered
- Nearly 206,837 people attended 6,433 programs

Volunteers

- 471 individuals contributed 18,413 service hours

Operating Budget

- \$51.8 million

**Our libraries
are important to
the community**

**Nearly 39,000
people offered
comments online or
at community
meetings to help
shape priorities.**

*“Thanks for taking feedback
from the public!”*

- Green Lake Branch patron

LIBRARIES FOR ALL

A Plan Built By the Community

This proposal reflects the public priorities for essential Library services now and for the next generation of users. Nearly 39,000 comments were gathered over the last two years.

A new strategic plan

In 2010, The Seattle Public Library launched a process to develop a new strategic plan. Seattle’s residents shaped the plan through:

- Five open houses across the city
- Citywide forum on technology and the future of libraries
- Citywide panel discussion on the “Library User Experience in the 21st Century”
- Community Survey
- Discussions with community partners serving key user groups such as children, older adults and immigrants
- 19-member Strategic Plan Advisory Committee

This effort, which included the participation of nearly 33,000 residents, identified four priority areas that mattered most: open hours, the collection of books and materials, computers and online services and building maintenance. It also resulted in a Strategic Plan that supports reading, personal growth, education, access to information, empowerment of Seattle’s neighborhoods, building partnerships and innovation.

City recognition of fiscal challenges

In 2010, the City Council recognized the city’s fiscal challenges and declining tax revenues were affecting Library services to the public and directed the Library and city staff to explore alternative funding to help stabilize the Library’s budget.

After examining the options, the City Council and mayor directed the Library to engage with the community to further define priorities for a potential property tax levy and come back with recommendations.

The community speaks

In December 2011 and January 2012, the Library asked the public to comment on potential priorities to support open hours, books and materials, computers and online services and building maintenance.

Because the Library has a presence in every neighborhood, we reached out to public and private schools, teachers, principals, school librarians, PTAs, day care providers, literacy groups, senior centers, social service agencies as well as neighborhood district councils, businesses, civic and cultural organizations, the media, neighborhood blogs, Strategic Plan participants and all active Library card holders.

Special efforts were made to reach non-English speaking populations.

More than 325 people attended citywide meetings at the Central Library, Beacon Hill Branch and Northeast Branch. Another 4,800 submitted comments on the potential priorities on paper or via the Library’s website.

The Library Board also convened a group of civic leaders to give feedback on the priorities. Civic leaders included representatives from the Seattle School District, business, technology, culture and the immigrant and refugee community.

Library Levy at a Glance

The final recommendations

In response to the people of Seattle, on Feb. 22, 2012, the Library Board approved specific service recommendations for a potential levy addressing the four essential priorities:

- Keep libraries open when patrons need them
- Provide a robust collection of books and materials
- Improve computer and online services and
- Maintain buildings for the next generation.

The levy also protects current core services. The recommendations are further detailed in the remaining pages of this booklet.

Proposed Levy Funding for Library Services in millions	
Estimated Allocation of Levy Proceeds	Average Annual Levy Amount
Improve Open Hours & Services	3.8m
Improve Collections	2.5m
Improve Technology	1.5m
Improve Maintenance:	
- Improve Daily Maintenance	1.5m
- Improve Major Maintenance	2.2m
Preserve Current Core Service Level	5.6m
Levy Administration	0.2m
Total	\$17.3m

- \$122.6 million over seven years (about \$17.3 million annually)
- 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value
- \$52 per year for median home owner



Major planning milestones:

- **Community open houses**
March 2010
- **Community survey**
May 2010
- **Public forums**
May - June 2010
- **Focus groups**
April - June 2010
- **Strategic Plan adopted**
February 2011
- **Community meetings and online feedback**
December 2011 - January 2012
- **Civic Leaders Workshop**
February 2012
- **Library Board presents levy proposal to City Council**
March 2012

4 LEVY COMPONENTS: OPEN HOURS, COLLECTIONS,

**Seattle residents
rely on and regularly
use the Library**

**92% of residents
ages 20-34 are
Library card holders.**

**62% of all
respondents to a
Library survey said
they visit the Library
2 or more times
a month.**

– 2010 Community Survey

“I would like to see the hours restored to the libraries which lost Friday and Sunday openings. My library, the Columbia Branch lost both Friday and Sunday service. I find it disheartening.”

- Columbia Branch patron



Open Hours

PROPOSAL FOR OPEN HOURS

**Keep libraries open when
patrons need them**

Limited hours create barriers that prevent people of all ages and backgrounds from getting the resources and information they need to succeed. In community discussions, people told us they wanted more equitable and consistent hours systemwide. Women and young people said they weren't comfortable taking a bus across town at night to use other branches, while working parents or families found the reduced hours inconvenient. Under this proposal, all libraries would be open on Sundays and two branches - one each in north and south Seattle - would expand from five-day to seven-day operations.



Impact of cuts

Reduced city revenues and continued economic decline have resulted in cuts to all areas of operations, including access to Library buildings, resources and staff.

Since 2009, 190 hours a week of service systemwide have been cut - the equivalent of closing four branches. The results:

- 15 branches operate only 35 hours a week and are closed Friday and Sunday
- Eight branches have no on-site reference staff
- The public lost an average of 90 hours free Internet access a day, systemwide
- The community lost access to meeting rooms in 11 neighborhoods

In addition, the Library has shut down for an entire week for four consecutive years, which means all branches and book drops were closed, people couldn't place items on hold and most services were unavailable.

In 2013, we face deeper cuts. The city anticipates a budget gap that will mean cutting another \$5 million from the Library budget. There is no way we can absorb a reduction of that size without severe impacts, such as closing branches and cutting even deeper into the budget for books, technology and maintenance.

What the levy means for the public:

- Restore 6,551 open hours per year when people most need them
 - Eliminate annual one-week shutdown of entire Library system
 - Add Sunday hours to 15 branches now operating only five days a week, meaning all libraries will be open on Sundays
 - Add equitable access in north and south Seattle by restoring seven-day-a week service at the Columbia and Northgate branches
- Restore on-site reference staff at the eight branches that lost it in 2010
- Restore 1,613 hours each week of free internet access, systemwide
- Preserve current core services
- Add Central Library staff to assist with demand of people who need help with computer literacy
- Increase security staff to help ensure safety and to enforce Library behavior rules systemwide
- Add a librarian to help people research local history in the popular Seattle Room at the Central Library



Proposed funding for open hours:

\$26.9 million (about \$3.8 million annually) **22% of levy**

Complete financial information on pages 49-50.



Annual visits to Seattle's libraries grew 45% from 2000-2011. But now 15 branches are open only 5 days a week.

The proposed levy will restore 6,551 open hours in 2013, giving every community access to the Library on Sundays.

4 LEVY COMPONENTS: OPEN HOURS, COLLECTIONS,

Our libraries provide important resources people need

The 2010 Community Survey found that an overwhelming 93% of respondents rated books and materials as their top priority for funding.

“Without The Seattle Public Library, I never would have become the avid reader I am today and my life would be missing a lot.”
- Greenwood Branch patron



PROPOSAL FOR COLLECTIONS

Provide a robust collection of books and materials

A reduced book budget cuts into the heart and soul of the Library. It means less depth in the collection and longer wait times for holds. Last year, people placed nearly 4 million holds. Total circulation of books and other materials exceeded 11.5 million items. Demand for print books remains strong, and the Library projects the circulation of e-books and audio books alone will exceed 1 million by 2013. People told us they want to cut the wait time for popular materials and be able to place more items on hold. People also want a variety of materials in print and other formats, including e-books, digital media, DVDs, CDs and podcasts. This proposal addresses all those areas.



Impact of cuts

Reduced city revenues and continued economic decline have resulted in cuts to all areas of operations, including print and electronic materials. The results:

- A 13% cut in the budget to buy books and materials since 2009
 - Approximately 27,000 fewer books and materials purchased per year
 - Longer waits for popular titles
 - Number of books and materials a person may place on hold reduced from 100 to 25
 - Unable to keep pace with skyrocketing demand for digital content and e-books

In 2013, we face deeper cuts. The city anticipates a budget gap that will mean cutting another \$5 million from the Library budget. There is no way we can absorb a reduction of that size without severe impacts, such as closing branches and cutting even deeper into the budget for books, technology and maintenance.

What the levy means for the public:

- Strengthen the collection
 - Restore variety and depth by increasing the number of new titles per year by 7,000
 - Buy more copies of popular materials to shorten wait times
 - Increase e-content by as many as 12,000 new files annually
- Buy more subscriptions to give people free online access to resources such as homework help, business data, investment research, car maintenance manuals, language programs, consumer research, test preparation, health information and encyclopedias
- Preserve current core services
- Increase the number of items a person may place on hold to 50
- Put more Seattle Room special collections online so people can access the information from a computer anywhere



Proposed funding for collections:

\$17.3 million (about \$2.5 million annually) **14% of levy**

Complete financial information on pages 49-50.



COLLECTIONS = QUALITY

There has been a 13% reduction in the budget to buy books and materials since 2009.

The proposed levy will increase new titles added per year by 14% and expand investment in e-content by 45%.

4 LEVY COMPONENTS: OPEN HOURS, COLLECTIONS,

**Our libraries
advance
employment**

**42% of all Seattle
users surveyed
reported they
had used Library
resources for
employment or career
help in the last
12 months.**

– 2010 U.S. Impact Studies Report

“When I was unemployed for almost a year, the Wi-Fi at The Seattle Public Library was my lifeline to finding a job. This is probably the most important service any library has ever provided to me.”

- Broadview Branch patron



Technology

PROPOSAL FOR TECHNOLOGY

Improve computer and online services

Aging computer equipment and outdated online services put Library patrons at a digital disadvantage. The pace of change brought about by new technology has a significant effect on the way people live and work. Having access to up-to-date computers and being technology literate are requirements in today's society. The Library plays an important role in bridging the digital divide in our community by serving youth and adults without computers, people who cannot afford broadband, or do not have wireless access or printers. The Library currently offers free access to about 1,000 computers and offers free Wi-Fi at all locations. In addition, the Library educates people who don't understand the Internet - including the unemployed who may never have completed an application online, patrons who need to research medical information, or are required to pay bills online. This learning occurs through free classes and individual assistance. Seattle is known for being a technology leader throughout the world. Its public libraries should have the technology resources patrons need to ensure their success in all stages of their lives, whether they're a student needing online homework assistance, or a senior just discovering the wonders of the Internet.



Impact of cuts

Reduced city revenues and continued fiscal challenges have resulted in cuts to all areas of operations, including computers and online services. Restricted budgets have resulted in:

- Lack of funding to replace computers on a timely schedule
- Inadequate updates to critical technology infrastructure

- No update to website design and navigation since 2003
- No improvements to heavily used copiers or printers since 2008
- Limited ability to improve access to digital materials and resources such as e-books

In 2013, we face deeper cuts. The city anticipates a budget gap that will mean cutting another \$5 million from the Library budget. There is no way we can absorb a reduction of that size without severe impacts, such as closing branches and cutting even deeper into the budget for books, technology and maintenance.

What the levy means for the public:

- Ensure timely replacements and upgrades for:
 - Public computers and software
 - Public printers and copiers
 - Computer instruction labs and meeting rooms
- Ensure high-speed Internet access and network reliability in every neighborhood
- Make it easier to use Library digital materials and resources by creating a true “virtual library” with improved website design, functionality, integration and accessibility
- Preserve current core services



The Library’s computers logged over 1.5 million user sessions in 2011, offering a technological lifeline during hard times.

The proposed levy will ensure timely replacements and upgrades for the Library’s technology system, software, printers and copiers.

Proposed funding for technology:

\$10.6 million (about \$1.5 million annually) 9% of levy

Complete financial information on pages 49-50.

4 LEVY COMPONENTS: OPEN HOURS, COLLECTIONS,

Our libraries are full every day

The Central Library hosts approximately 2 million visitors annually, and the 26 branches see another 5 million visitors.

Even the smallest branch has more than 61,000 people walk through the door each year.

“As a homeowner I know if you don’t invest in your infrastructure now, you’ll end up paying even more to replace it before the end of its natural life span.”

- Library patron



Maintenance

PROPOSAL FOR MAINTENANCE

Maintain buildings for the next generation

The 26 branches and Central Library are essential neighborhood anchors and sources of great pride for our community. In 1998 the people of Seattle overwhelmingly voted to replace or renovate every library in the system, and add four new branches. People flocked to the new and remodeled buildings in remarkable numbers. Now, 14 years later, mechanical systems, roofs and interior finishes all require periodic attention to protect the public’s investment and keep the buildings functional. During our discussions with the community, people told us they want to ensure the buildings are properly maintained for the comfort and enjoyment of all residents now and into the future. Residents also told us to continue our volunteer program to help with landscape maintenance.



Impact of cuts

Reduced city revenues and continued fiscal challenges have resulted in cuts to all areas of operations, including the maintenance of our 27 buildings, many award-winning with green and sustainable features. Cuts have resulted in:

- Lack of money for major maintenance, which will result in deferral of standard work. The budget has been cut by 50% since 2009 and is now just \$820,000 for all 27 buildings.

- Lack of money for daily maintenance to keep pace with the large number of people who use our libraries
- No money earmarked to replace furniture or provide specialized cleaning

In 2013, we face deeper cuts. The city anticipates a budget gap that will mean cutting another \$5 million from the Library budget. There is no way we can absorb a reduction of that size without severe impacts, such as closing branches and cutting even deeper into the budget for books, technology and maintenance.

What the levy means for the public:

- Fully fund a responsible program of repairs to extend the life of all libraries in Seattle
 - Maintain building roofs and exteriors
 - Periodically update heating, cooling, plumbing and other systems
 - Replace or repair flooring, restrooms and other high-wear interior elements as needed
 - Maintain critical equipment, such as the automated book sorter that helps process holds
- Ensure libraries are clean, welcoming and functional
 - Provide adequate specialized cleaning
 - Repair and replace public furniture as needed
 - Regularly service heating, cooling, plumbing and electrical systems so buildings are energy-efficient and comfortable for patrons



Proposed funding for daily maintenance:

\$10.7 million (about \$1.5 million annually) 9% of levy

Proposed funding for major maintenance:

\$15.3 million (about \$2.2 million annually) 13% of levy

Complete financial information on pages 49-50.



MAINTENANCE = SUSTAINABILITY

Today maintenance funding is half of what it was in 2009

The proposed levy will fully fund the capital maintenance program to preserve and maintain the community investment in Libraries for All.

Over 8,868 children each year participate in story time at the Ballard Branch.



"I feel personally that a public library is very important for all, no matter the age. When I moved here with no job and no Internet...I was elated. I am in walking distance from my Ballard Library."

-Ballard Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 434,036 patron visits
- 926,335 materials checked out
- 8,868 story time participants
- 38 public computers
- 218 community meetings

Address: 5614 22nd Ave. N.W.
Seattle, WA 98107
Phone: 206-684-4089

Ballard Branch

The Ballard Branch recently surpassed 3 million visitors, making it the most visited branch in Seattle. Designed with extensive neighborhood involvement, the building celebrates the community's maritime history and features a number of ecologically conscious design elements such as a "green roof" planted with more than 18,000 low water-use plants. The branch serves a wide variety of people, including adults and many families with children. In addition to popular story time and Teen Space programs, the branch showcases the annual Ballard High School Art Show each spring. Author events and poetry programs like the It's About Time writers program and Poetry Potluck make the Ballard Branch the literary center of the community.

Needs: Books, computers and staff are in high demand at this busy branch. People who live outside the area also use the Ballard Branch because hours at their home branches have been cut. Seats are filled, computers are in constant use and programs are packed. A crowd always gathers outside the main doors at opening. The levy will relieve service pressures at this branch by expanding hours at other locations. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance - protecting the investment in this treasured building - is also included.

What this means for patrons:

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

Programs:

Story time, Teen Space, poetry programs, author events, book groups, tax help

Currently open:

Seven days a week

Special features:

The Ballard Branch houses an extensive maritime collection for use by professional and recreational sailors. It is co-located with a City of Seattle Neighborhood Service Center.

Beacon Hill Branch

The Beacon Hill Branch is often filled to capacity with people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. This elegant, light-filled facility offers an amazing array of programming, including book groups, story times and computer classes in English, Chinese and Spanish, Talk Time, ESL classes, and a homework help program that is bursting at the seams. Branch staff members have strong community connections and partner effectively with key neighborhood groups to provide bilingual programs and workshops for immigrants and refugees. The branch functions as a community space for people who speak a variety of languages and provides access to multilingual books and newspapers and Internet computers.

Needs: Always a busy location, the Beacon Hill Branch has seen a spike in usage as a result of the reduction in open hours at the nearby Columbia Branch. Children and teens fill every seat after school and evenings for homework, study time, and a place to read and connect. The levy will relieve service pressures by expanding hours at the Columbia Branch and other locations. Computers and printers essential to support students, immigrants and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance for this beautiful building is also included.

What this means for patrons:

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

Programs:

Computer classes and story times in English, Chinese and Spanish, basic Library skills classes, adult ESL classes, workshops, book groups, homework help, Talk Time, Play & Learn, health care workshops

Currently open:

Seven days a week

Special features:

The Beacon Hill Branch has a World Language magnet collection that includes books, movies and music in Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. Bilingual staff members are available to help patrons. The branch also offers a community space currently leased to the nonprofit Beacon Hill Resource Center.

In 2011, the 28 computers at the Beacon Hill Branch had almost 80,000 computer sessions. They were the most intensively used computers of any branch.



“As a commuting college student, having an accessible library is a key to keeping my grades up and having a cohesive environment to study in.”

-Beacon Hill Branch student

At a Glance 2011

- 286,055 patron visits
- 418,067 materials checked out
- 2,471 story time participants
- 1,104 homework help students
- 28 public computers
- 182 community meetings

Address: 2821 Beacon Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98144
Phone: 206-684-4711

In 2011, over 1,700 children and their caregivers participated in Play & Learn early learning programs at the Broadview Branch.



"I'm a low-income disabled senior. At home I'm limited to a free dial-up ISP. I rely on my neighborhood branch library for high speed internet access."

-Broadview Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 303,250 patron visits
- 525,459 materials checked out
- 759 story time participants
- 811 homework help students
- 39 public computers
- 244 community meetings

Address: 12755 Greenwood Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98133
Phone: 206-684-7519

Broadview Branch

The open, airy and bright design of the Broadview Branch draws in neighbors and encourages them to stay and read. The branch serves a large senior community and sees intensive use by families with children, which drives much of the programming. Homework help sessions are full and the computers are in constant use with over 75,000 computer sessions in 2011. People rely on the branch's large magazine collection and a quiet room where they can read or study without interruption. Residents of a nearby treatment center for new mothers also regularly visit the branch. Recently, the Broadview Branch partnered with Horn of Africa Services to provide homework help in Amharic, an East African language spoken by a growing number of patrons.

Needs: Seniors, families, children, new mothers, immigrants - the community flocks to this branch, occupying every seat and using every computer. The levy will relieve service pressures at this branch by expanding hours at other locations. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance to protect the public's investment in this building is also included.

What this means for patrons:

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

Programs:

Play & Learn, story time and bilingual story time, homework help, book groups, tax help

Currently open:

Seven days a week

Special features:

Green features of the new facility include downspouts that drain into retaining planters laid with gravel to help delay the discharge of runoff into storm drains.

Capitol Hill Branch

The Capitol Hill Branch shows the wear and tear that comes with years of rigorous use in a diverse urban neighborhood. A favorite of adults and families with children, the branch is currently expanding its teen offerings through a partnership with Garfield Teen Life Center. Librarians are skilled at helping people find the information and resources they need and directing them to beneficial classes, such as literacy programs and housing seminars. Now 9 years old, the branch is in need of increased maintenance and larger improvements.

Needs: The levy funding for ongoing and major maintenance is especially important for this busy urban branch. The levy also will relieve service pressures by expanding hours at other locations. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved.

What this means for patrons:

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

Programs:

Story time, teen programs, book group, workshops

Currently open:

Seven days a week

Special features:

The branch has a small but robust gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered collection, highlighting fiction and nonfiction materials about or by members of the GLBT community.

Nearly 3,800 people attended story times at the Capitol Hill Branch in 2011.



"I often see patrons sitting outside the library when the library is closed typing on their laptops, using the library's Wi-Fi.... BUT sadly the children, or others, who want to check out a book to read, cannot when the library is closed."

-Capitol Hill Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 292,784 patron visits
- 534,228 materials checked out
- 3,797 story time participants
- 21 public computers
- Over 400 community meetings

Address: 425 Harvard Ave. E.
Seattle, WA 98102
Phone: 206-684-4715

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



"Since I work full-time, I find it difficult to get to my branch before it closes. Not having it opened on Fridays or Sundays is a pain in the neck. I wish that there could be longer hours on Wednesdays or Thursdays, or open on Friday or Sunday."

-Columbia Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

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

4721 Rainier Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98118
Phone: 206-386-1908

Columbia Branch

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

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

What this means for patrons:

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

Programs:

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

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special features:

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

Delridge Branch

The Delridge Branch is situated in a dynamic and diverse neighborhood. The branch serves as a popular meeting spot for neighbors and groups of all ages, incomes, and backgrounds, including young professionals, immigrants, and longtime Delridge residents. Mornings begin with the arrival of seniors, as well as caregivers who bring babies and preschoolers for story time. Afternoons hum with students from nearby schools and the local community college who come to the branch to study, use computers and get homework help. A large number of people use holds to reserve books and materials. The Delridge Branch is showing the wear and tear that comes with 10 years of intense use. Because this neighborhood is isolated geographically and has limited bus service, the 2010 cut in open hours dramatically affected residents, limiting access to books, computers and the community meeting room.

Needs: Adding Sunday hours restores critical Library services for Delridge residents who do not have easy access to other branch locations. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers, seniors and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance also is included.

What this means for patrons:

- Open 1-5 p.m. Sunday
- Restore basic on-site reference staff
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children's collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom updates, major maintenance

Programs:

Story time in English and Vietnamese, homework help, computer classes, gaming for teens, tax help

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special features:

In addition to a large ESL collection, the Delridge Branch is known for its fabulous book displays highlighting elements of the branch's collection and for its creative programming and outreach efforts. The branch is co-located with the Vivian McLean Place apartments, an affordable housing complex developed by the Delridge Neighborhood Development Association.

In 2011, 674 students participated in homework help programs at the Delridge Branch.



"We RELY on the library for our children and for ourselves as one of the ONLY walkable resources around. We have no bus service up to High Point or West Seattle proper so we are basically cut off from other nearby libraries."

-Delridge Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 66,461 patron visits
- 94,572 materials checked out
- 11 public computers
- 1,170 story time participants
- 674 homework help students
- 102 community meetings

Address: 5423 Delridge Way S.W.
Seattle, WA 98106
Phone: 206-733-9125

In 2011, there were over 80,000 computer sessions on the 33 public computers at the Douglass-Truth Branch.



“In my neighborhood, a small crowd of people gathers in front of our library every day waiting for it to open. (It’s) Like our library is a popular restaurant or night club.”

-Douglass-Truth Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 250,951 patron visits
- 310,948 materials checked out
- 33 public computers
- 3,494 story time participants
- 847 homework help participants
- 480 community meetings

Address: 2300 E. Yesler Way
Seattle, WA 98122
Phone: 206-684-4704

Douglass-Truth Branch

The expanded Douglass-Truth Branch is an important resource for children, youth and families in Seattle’s Central District. Monday through Friday, the branch hosts a tidal wave of teens after school lets out and study time begins. Story times are so popular that the branch added a Saturday session to accommodate working parents and also added story time for babies. The public computers are always busy and in 2011 the community booked 480 meetings in the free meeting room space - more than any other branch.

Needs: The levy will relieve service pressures by expanding hours at other locations, allowing this branch to continue its effective service to the children and youth who rely on it. The levy also will provide ongoing and major maintenance for this historic, heavily used urban facility. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved.

What this means for patrons:

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

Programs:

Story time for children and babies, homework help in Spanish and English, tax help

Currently open:

Seven days a week

Special features:

The branch houses one of the largest collections of African-American literature and history on the West Coast. The Libraries for All building expansion in 2006 provided additional space for the collection.

Fremont Branch

Opened in 1921, this unique Carnegie library is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and named a landmark building by Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board. It features gable and hip roofs, clay roof tiles and stucco cladding, ornamental metal and arched openings. Remodeled in 2005 as part of Libraries for All, the branch is a historic portal to Library service, which dates back to 1902 when The Seattle Public Library took over the Fremont Reading Room Association.

Needs: Adding Sunday hours and on-site reference staff mean Fremont residents will no longer need to travel to other neighborhoods for access to Library services. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance of this historic Carnegie building is also included.

What this means for patrons:

- Open 1-5 p.m. Sunday
- Restore basic on-site reference staff
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children's collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom updates, major maintenance

Programs:

Book group

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special features:

During the Libraries for All building renovation, the Library coordinated with Seattle Parks and Recreation to add a wheelchair ramp that leads from an adjacent park to the branch's lower-level meeting room.

After open hours at the Fremont Branch were reduced in 2010, the branch saw a decline in visits from 136,235 to 78,167.



"I live in Fremont and have not set foot in the Fremont Library branch in more than a year because of the infrequent hours of business (and because it's closed on both Fridays and Sundays.)"

-Former Fremont Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 78,167 patron visits
- 166,350 materials checked out
- 13 public computers
- 76 community meetings

Address: 731 N. 35th St.
Seattle, WA 98103
Phone: 206-684-4084

After hours were reduced in 2010, there was a 28% reduction in visits to the Green Lake Branch.



"I really miss the Sunday hours at the Green Lake Library - for those of us who work long hours during the week, weekends tend to be the best times to use those services."

-Green Lake Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 203,203 patron visits
- 307,850 materials checked out
- 1,565 story time participants
- 18 public computers
- 121 community meetings
(down from 228 in 2009)

Address: 7364 E. Green Lake Dr. N.
Seattle, WA 98115
Phone: 206-684-7547

Green Lake Branch

The Green Lake Branch is a popular neighborhood destination for children, families and adults. The programming reflects the rich diversity of community interests, ranging from story time to popular poetry readings to opera previews. Librarians collaborate with schools and the meeting room is in continuous use. People who visit Green Lake Park across the street also use the Green Lake Branch, which leads to tremendous foot traffic, especially in summer. The branch's biggest challenges are maintaining the historic Carnegie building given the large number of visitors and coping with the 2010 loss of open hours, which significantly limited the neighborhood's access to programs, computers, and meeting space.

Needs: With levy-restored open hours, the Green Lake Branch will once again bustle on Sundays as neighbors and park visitors fill this historic building. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance also is included, which is key to preserving this elegant Carnegie library.

What this means for patrons:

- Open 1-5 p.m. Sunday
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children's collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom updates, major maintenance

Programs:

Book groups, opera previews, story time for children and babies, poetry groups

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special features:

One of six Carnegie libraries in Seattle, the branch is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been named a landmark building by Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board.

Greenwood Branch

Considered the jewel of the neighborhood, the Greenwood Branch is always full of people young and old. Its prominent corner location makes it a frequent stop for residents and its light-filled design makes it a favorite place to stay and read. The branch is popular with families with young children and school-age youth. The branch is exceptionally busy after school and during story time for babies - often attended by as many as 65 people. In 2011, over 5,100 people took part in story time programs, in both English and Spanish. As a World Languages magnet location, the branch provides a collection of materials in Spanish. Librarians collaborate with schools and a local youth writing program to provide opportunities for teens. Local groups commonly book the meeting space and the branch also has a quiet room where people can work or study without interruption.

Needs: The books, computers, and staff at the Greenwood Branch are in high demand by the tots, teens, adults and seniors who pack this branch every day. The levy will relieve service pressures by expanding hours at other locations. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance is also included.

What this means for patrons:

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

Programs:

Story times in English and Spanish, computer classes, Library skills classes, book group

Currently open:

Seven days a week

Special features:

The Greenwood Branch has a job education collection and a World Languages magnet collection of books and materials in Spanish.

In 2011, there were over 66,000 computer sessions at the Greenwood Branch.



"I have in the past been an infrequent Library user and now use it not only for books but also the Internet service. Because nothing is done these days without a computer, libraries must find a way to remain open on a regular basis for those who need access to the Internet."

-Greenwood Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 300,708 patron visits
- 732,776 materials checked out
- 34 public computers
- 5,177 story time participants
- 353 community meetings

Address: 8016 Greenwood Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
Phone: 206-684-4086

Over 4,000 residents participated in programs at the High Point Branch in 2011.



"I can't even begin to describe how you have shortchanged the citizens at all these branches with the slashed hours, including mine. A branch nearby doesn't begin to provide the resource that a neighborhood branch in easy walking distance does."

-High Point Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 103,395 patron visits
- 164,021 materials checked out
- 17 public computers
- 3,242 story time participants
- 66 homework help students
- 155 community meetings

Address: 3411 S.W. Raymond St.
Seattle, WA 98126
Phone: 206-684-7454

High Point Branch

Centrally located in the heart of southwest Seattle, this branch serves both long-established West Seattle neighborhoods and the bustling new High Point Hope VI housing redevelopment. Its diverse clientele includes immigrants, seniors, community college students, working parents, and many families with preschool and school-aged children. The branch supports book groups, homework help, Talk Time, teen programs and story time in English and Somali. Tutors and community groups often use the meeting spaces. Branch staff members partner with local schools, the High Point Community Center, Neighborhood House and others to provide extensive and accessible early literacy and lifelong learning programming.

Needs: Parents, students and others will make good use of the levy-funded Sunday hours at the High Point Branch. These open hours will increase access to vital Library materials, computers and community meeting space. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance also is included.

What this means for patrons:

- Open 1-5 p.m. Sunday
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children's collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom updates, major maintenance

Programs:

Story times in English and Somali, homework help, Talk Time, toddler story time, gaming for teens, book groups, computer classes

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special features:

The High Point Branch provides ESL materials and Vietnamese language materials for children and adults. The branch is designed to connect with the neighboring Seattle Housing Authority High Point development.

International District/Chinatown Branch

Story time is particularly popular at this branch and is offered in Mandarin Chinese. Although the branch is less than 4,000 square feet, it's always busy and Mandarin Chinese speakers from across Seattle seek out its bilingual staff and important specialized collections such as Chinese language periodicals.

Needs: The levy will add Sunday hours and on-site reference staff, making the branch's unique collections more accessible to more people. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance also is included.

What this means for patrons:

- Open 1-5 p.m. Sunday
- Restore basic on-site reference staff
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children's collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom upgrades, major maintenance

Programs:

Story time in Mandarin Chinese

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special features:

The International District/Chinatown Branch has books, movies and music in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese and English. Bilingual staff members are available to help patrons. The branch has a large collection of magazine subscriptions in Chinese. Two study rooms are available for individuals and groups to use. The branch is located in the International District Village Square II, an affordable housing complex.

In 2011, over 500 people participated in Mandarin Chinese Story Time.



"Cutting the library hours has been the worst thing."

*-International District/
Chinatown Branch patron*

At a Glance 2011

- 74,130 patron visits
- 96,566 materials
- 789 story time participants
- 57 homework help students
- 12 public computers

Address: 713 Eighth Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: 206-386-1300

In 2011, the Lake City Branch provided homework help to 1,250 students in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.



"I have used the library countless times for my own children and as a teacher. This resource has been invaluable."

-Lake City Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 287,473 patron visits
- 539,908 materials checked out
- 3,269 story time participants
- 1,143 homework help students
- 32 public computers
- 269 community meetings

Address: 12501 28th Ave. N.E.
Seattle, WA 98125
Phone: 206-684-7518

Lake City Branch

The renovated Lake City Branch is a fast-paced, busy library. Because the area is home to many immigrants, the branch provides materials in world languages, citizenship information and resources on area services. Branch staff members help people improve their computer skills, search for jobs and develop job skills. The branch serves many families with story times and has a hugely successful homework help program. Its popular computers are always in use. From May through October the Lake City Farmer's Market operates in front of the branch on Thursdays, which draws many people into the library for a first look. The intensive use of this branch and the critical programs it provides are dependent on consistent stable funding for programs, staff, resources and open hours.

Needs: This diverse community relies on the books, programs, computers and staff at the Lake City Branch, and the levy will preserve programs such as homework help and relieve service pressures by expanding hours at other locations. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance is also included.

What this means for patrons:

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

Programs:

Homework help in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, book groups for adults and children, Talk Time, computer classes, story times in English, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese, tax help

Currently open:

Seven days a week

Special features:

The Lake City Branch has books, movies and music in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Russian and items for people learning English as a Second Language. The branch is part of a municipal center that includes a neighborhood service center, park and parking garage.

Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch

Children, students and adults pack this tiny branch, which was renovated in 2008 during the Libraries for All building program. As many as 90 children fill the branch during story time, and students from nearby schools rush to the library every day after school to study. People frequently use the branch as a holds pick-up location and the computers are always occupied. After hours were reduced in 2010, access to books, computers and programs suffered at this well-loved little neighborhood branch.

Needs: Particularly important to working parents with young children, the branch will open on Sunday as a result of the levy, increasing access to computers, programs and holds on books and materials from throughout the Library system. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance also is included.

What this means for patrons:

- Open 1-5 p.m. Sunday
- Restore basic on-site reference staff
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children's collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom updates, major maintenance

Programs:

Story time

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special features:

The Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch is home to a small collection of Madrona neighborhood memorabilia, including photos and scrapbooks that are popular with neighborhood residents.

Although one of the smallest branch libraries, the Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch averaged the second highest attendance per story time program among the branches.



"My 8-year-old son and I both really really miss Fridays at the Madrona Sally Goldmark Library. Saturdays we are so busy with other activities, we often can't make it there during the limited hours - and then it's closed on Sunday as well!"

**-Madrona-Sally
Goldmark Branch patron**

At a Glance 2011

- 61,324 patron visits
- 112,545 materials checked out
- 1,601 story time participants
- 9 public computers

Address: 1134 33rd Ave.
Seattle, WA 98122
Phone: 206-684-4705

In 2011, over 2,500 parents and children participated in story time at the Magnolia Branch.



"I have noticed that this branch is closed EVERY SINGLE TIME I try to use it....I really think expanded hours for access to materials is what is needed here."

-Magnolia Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 107,167 patron visits
- 286,678 materials checked out
- 2,643 story time participants
- 17 public computers
- 110 community meetings

Address: 2801 34th Ave. W.
Seattle, WA 98199
Phone: 206-386-4225

Magnolia Branch

Regarded by some as the most beautiful and unique of the branches, the Magnolia Branch is a quintessential example of Northwest design with distinct Japanese influences and has been designated as a landmark building by Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board. Popular with patrons old and young, the library is home to programs for children and teens, including the unique Duct Tape Mania, gaming programs, Library Playtime and story time. With the Magnolia Community Center now closed during the day, Mondays through Fridays the Magnolia Branch has opened up a meeting room for Library Playtime: an informal chance for parents of toddlers to come together with their children. The branch also hosts a book group and the Great Decisions civic engagement series. The Magnolia Branch's greatest challenge is the 2010 reduction in hours to five days a week which led to 47% reduction in meeting room use.

Needs: The levy will respond to community needs by opening the Magnolia Branch on Sundays. This will restore access to library resources as well as provide opportunities for community engagement through the use of branch meeting space. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance also is included.

What this means for patrons:

- Open 1-5 p.m. Sunday
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children's collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom updates, major maintenance

Programs:

Story time, baby time, Library Playtime, gaming for teens, book groups

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special features:

The building features furniture designed by master craftsman George Nakashima that was refinished as part of the renovation.

Montlake Branch

The Montlake Branch stands at the heart of the neighborhood and is a community hub where friends and neighbors meet. Community groups book the meeting room for local events and people of every age fill the branch. The branch offers story time, teen book games, and an adult book group. People who study or work at the nearby University of Washington campus regularly use the branch for educational resources, study space, to pickup holds or for Wi-Fi access. With the budget reductions in 2010, the branch's biggest challenge became the limited hours of five-day-a-week operations.

Needs: The levy will add Sunday hours and on-site reference staff, creating an energetic programming and community connection for the neighborhood six days a week. The extra hours will increase access to books and materials, computers, and educational and literacy classes for children and adults. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance also is included.

What this means for patrons:

- Open 1-5 p.m. Sunday
- Restore basic on-site reference staff
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children's collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom updates, major maintenance

Programs:

Book groups, story time, gaming for teens

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special features:

Seattle artist Rebecca Cummins created an aperture skylight sundial for the new building. Markings on the floor indicate the position of solar noon from the spring to autumn equinox.

People checked out over 200,000 books and other materials at the Montlake Branch in 2011.



"Restore Friday and/or Sunday hours at 15 branches. I live in Montlake and have been frustrated many times wishing I could go to our branch, but it is closed."

-Montlake Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 87,838 patron visits
- 201,179 materials checked out
- 1,374 story time participants
- 11 public computers
- 211 community meetings

Address: 2401 24th Ave. E.
Seattle, WA 98112
Phone: 206-684-4720

Over 4,500 people attended programs at the NewHolly Branch in 2011.



“NewHolly is my branch. This branch has been DECIMATED by cuts. I have been a homework helper there since fall of 2008. We started with 4-day-per-week homework help, and now are down to Monday and Tuesday. We need tutoring at least 4 days per week.”
-NewHolly Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 96,954 patron visits
- 77,206 materials checked out
- 2,415 story time participants
- 346 homework help students
- 13 public computers
- 120 community meetings

Address: 7058 32nd Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98118
Phone: 206-386-1905

NewHolly Branch

The NewHolly Branch is housed within a “Campus of Learners” that includes a high school tutoring program, jobs center, branch of South Seattle Community College, child care centers and more. Campus agencies such as the Seattle Housing Authority and Neighborhood House are active collaborators. The branch serves a diverse community and most of the people it sees on a daily basis are children and teens. Staff members work to serve their youngest visitors through story times, offered in English and Somali, as well as a popular homework help program. Reduced hours have hurt the branch’s ability to serve the community, limiting access to computers, books and programs.

Needs: The levy will open the NewHolly Branch on Sundays and provide more access to much-needed materials, computers and programs - particularly for the young students who rely on this branch. The restoration of on-site reference staff is an essential service for this “Campus of Learners.” Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance also is included.

What this means for patrons:

- Open 1-5 p.m. Sunday
- Restore basic on-site reference staff
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children’s collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom updates, major maintenance

Programs:

Story times in English and Somali, homework help

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special features:

The learning center at the NewHolly Branch is named after the Edward and Lillian Bishop Foundation, which provides financial help to organizations and programs that benefit young people. This branch is part of a “Campus of Learners” on the Seattle Housing Authority’s NewHolly Neighborhood Campus.

Northeast Branch

The second most heavily visited branch in Seattle, the Northeast Branch is located in a community of readers. It hosts four Library-sponsored book groups, and residents - particularly teens - want even more. The annual poetry contest draws readers and writers of all ages in support of each other and the written word. The branch serves a community of families, including six local public elementary schools and one middle school, in addition to the preschools, day cares and families that frequent story times. In 2011, over 10,000 parents and children participated in story time and more people attended each story time than any other branch in the system. The annual neighborhood history display reflects local pride. Continuing budget cuts threaten the branch's vibrant programming and undermine efforts to effectively serve students and families.

Needs: Books, computers, staff, programs, meeting rooms - everything at this branch is in high demand. People who live outside the area also use this branch because hours at their home branches have been cut. The levy will relieve service pressures by expanding hours at other locations. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance is also included.

What this means for patrons:

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

Programs:

Teen Advisory Group, story times, book groups for adults and children, computer classes, Library skills classes, opera previews, tax help, annual Northeast Seattle neighborhood exhibit

Currently open:

Seven days a week

Special features:

The Northeast Branch provides a large, diverse collection of books, DVDs and CDs. There is a Senior Citizen Resources Center and a large magazine collection with a special reading area.

In 2011, people checked out over 959,000 books and other materials at the Northeast Branch.



"I LOVE the library, and Northeast Branch is my second home. The librarians there are friends, as well as advisors."

-Northeast Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 352,747 patron visits
- 959,906 materials checked out
- 10,025 story time participants
- 35 public computers
- 226 community meetings

Address: 6801 35th Ave. N.E.
Seattle, WA 98115
Phone: 206-684-7539

Of all the branches open 5 days a week, the Northgate Branch is the most heavily visited with over 212,000 visits in 2011.



“There are many people here on a Saturday. After school it’s the same....Not sure how I’d manage without the Library. So please stay open as much as possible.”

-Northgate Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 212,552 patron visits
- 353,736 materials checked out
- 2,637 story time participants
- 386 homework help students
- 25 public computers
- 191 community meetings

Address: 10548 Fifth Ave. N.E.
Seattle, WA 98125
Phone: 206-386-1980

Northgate Branch

The busy Northgate Branch serves a densely populated, diverse neighborhood as well as the thousands who travel through the nearby transit hub and visit the shopping mall. This dynamic branch stays nimble to serve new groups who move into the area and become active participants in neighborhood life. While the branch is home to a Russian language collection of books and materials, a growing number of Spanish speakers also need resources in their native language. Librarians provide a high level of service to patrons. Programming for children and teens is popular, as are book groups for adults and services such as AARP’s tax help. The 2010 hours cut significantly limited access for the wide array of people who rely on this branch.

Needs: The levy will open the Northgate Branch seven days a week, which will allow the branch to increase programming, provide more access to computers, and better serve the neighborhood through more partnerships with key community groups. More hours mean more people can use the branch’s much-needed World Languages collection. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance also is included.

What this means for patrons:

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

Programs:

Story time, homework help, ESL classes, tax help, gaming for teens, book group

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special features:

The Northgate Branch offers books, movies and music in English and Russian. Bilingual staff members are available to answer questions. There are also a meeting room, two study rooms, a quiet room and areas for children and teens. The branch shares a campus with the Northgate Community Center, a park and a play area.

Queen Anne Branch

One of six Carnegie libraries in Seattle, the Queen Anne Branch is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been named a landmark building by Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board. This branch is home to a wide range of people, and is particularly popular with younger children and their parents. The three weekly story times are filled to capacity each week. The branch also has active book groups for adults. As a result of the 2010 hours cut, the community has lost access to books and materials, computers and community meeting space.

Needs: The levy will open the Queen Anne Branch on Sundays, making it more accessible - particularly for parents and their children. The extra hours increase access to computers, programs and the ability to pick-up holds on books and materials from the branch. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance also is included, which is essential to preserve this historic Carnegie facility.

What this means for patrons:

- Open 1-5 p.m. Sunday
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children's collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom updates, major maintenance

Programs:

Story time, book groups, tax help

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special features:

Constructed in 1914, the building follows one of Andrew Carnegie's preferred designs for libraries - main-floor reading areas and a lower-level auditorium. Its general architectural style is Late Tudor Revival.

Despite its small size and limited hours, the Queen Anne Branch has the 2nd highest circulation of the 15 branches currently open only 5 days a week.



"I think this is essential when so many people are out of work and need to use resources. I for one cannot afford to buy books in my trade, but find them readily available at the library."

-Queen Anne Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 135,691 patron visits
- 348,961 materials checked out
- 2,554 story time participants
- 17 public computers
- 75 community meetings

Address: 400 W. Garfield St.
Seattle, WA 98119
Phone: 206-386-4227

The Rainier Beach Branch has the highest number of computer sessions of all the branch libraries – 87,281. Its 34 public computers average 2,567 sessions per computer per year.



“When I go to libraries in my neighborhood - Columbia City and Rainier Beach - I see the need for (Library services) from the line-ups for computer time. We think everyone has computer access. But for many youth after school hours, it’s the library or nothing.”

-Rainier Beach Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 218,070 patron visits
- 258,507 materials checked out
- 988 story time participants
- 1,067 homework help students
- 34 public computers
- 257 community meetings

Address: 9125 Rainier Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98118
Phone: 206-386-1906

Rainier Beach Branch

The Rainier Beach Branch is a focal point for the neighborhood. It serves a wide range of people through diverse programming such as story times, homework help, Chess Club, tax help, Play & Learn early learning programs, book groups, and ESL programs. Reflecting the world languages spoken by the community, the branch is home to books and materials in English, Chinese and Vietnamese. Computers are in constant use for work and school, and for people who need help to achieve computer literacy. The study rooms are regularly reserved by neighborhood groups and students. With the temporary closure of the local community center for reconstruction, the branch plays an even more important role as a community gathering space. Now 8 years old, the building and equipment are showing the wear and tear of heavy use.

Needs: The levy will preserve vital open hours, programs and digital access for this busy branch, and also will relieve service pressures by expanding hours at other locations. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers, seniors and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for much needed regular building maintenance for this intensively used facility is also included.

What this means for patrons:

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

Programs:

Story time, ESL programs, tax help, book groups, Play & Learn early learning programs, homework help, Urban Youth Chess Club

Currently open:

Seven days a week

Special features:

The Rainier Beach Branch offers books, movies and music in English, Chinese and Vietnamese. Bilingual staff members are available to answer questions.

South Park Branch

The South Park Branch serves as a crucial information center and community gathering space for a close knit and diverse community. With about one-third of the collection in Spanish, the branch serves its neighborhood with Spanish language and bilingual English/Spanish story time programs, homework help, periodic Spanish and English language computer classes, and a wide variety of cultural programs for all ages. Computers and Wi-Fi are in high demand, with people looking for jobs, doing research or school work, and keeping up with news about families far away. Everyone loves the branch's print and media collections, which provide both recreational resources and practical information such as ESL and citizenship materials, gardening, cooking, home repair, and reference resources for students of all ages. Tutors and small groups often use the study room, but in this compact facility everyone willingly shares the space - even when a concert is held in the main room. Because this neighborhood is geographically isolated and has limited bus service, the 2010 cut in open hours dramatically affected the community.

Needs: The levy will restore much-needed Sunday hours, increasing access to resources such as books, the Internet, educational classes and providing important community gathering space for the South Park neighborhood. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance also is included.

What this means for patrons:

- Open 1-5 p.m. Sunday
- Restore basic on-site reference staff
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children's collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom updates, major maintenance

Programs:

Homework help, bilingual English/Spanish story time, computer classes in English and Spanish, book groups, cultural programs for all ages

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special features:

The South Park Branch offers ESL, job and education materials, as well as movies and music in English and Spanish. Bilingual staff members are available to help patrons. This branch includes a popular study room and specially designated areas for children and teens.

In 2011, there were over 27,000 sessions on the 16 public computers at the South Park Branch.



"A Library is not very effective when its doors are locked."

-South Park Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 65,334 patron visits
- 71,915 materials checked out
- 1,080 story time participants
- 255 homework help students
- 16 public computers

Address: 8604 Eighth Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98108
Phone: 206-615-1688

Almost 4,000 children and parents attended story times at the Southwest Branch in 2011.



“The Seattle Library system gives me hope, especially since I’ve been out of work. I am truly grateful for the services it offers.”

-Southwest Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 209,576 patron visits
- 551,083 materials checked out
- 3,975 story time participants
- 29 public computers
- 191 community meetings

Address: 9010 35th Ave. S.W.
Seattle, WA 98126
Phone: 206-684-7455

Southwest Branch

The largest library in West Seattle, the Southwest Branch is a community hub where residents often stop to talk with neighbors and friends. For 20 years, the branch has been home to an annual art show for local artists of all ages. Families pack the programs, including the several weekly story times, and check out a higher-than-average percentage of children’s books. Seniors are regular participants in book discussion groups and computer classes. Teenagers enjoy a comfortable teen space and a large collection of graphic novels. Computers, study tables and the meeting room are in near constant use.

Needs: For the large number of children and families who rely on the branch for computer access, programs and books, the levy will ensure the branch continues to operate seven days a week. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers, seniors and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for much needed regular building maintenance is also included.

What this means for patrons:

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

Programs:

Story times, book groups, computer classes, citizenship classes, tax help

Currently open:

Seven days a week

Special features:

Seattle artist Morgan Brig created five copper and enamel panels that are mounted outside the meeting room. Called “The Constant Explorer,” the artwork is a montage of images that reflect the concept of “a whole universe inside the library.”

University Branch

Residents and staff love this 101-year old classic Carnegie building. The branch serves an eclectic mix of people, including university professors, families with young children, autistic artists, Russian immigrants and homeless people. Many visitors do not own computers, and rely heavily on the public Internet access to conduct personal and professional business. In addition to hosting author programs in collaboration with the University Book Store, the branch offers a popular bedtime story time for families and has an active adult book discussion group.

Needs: To expand access to this diverse neighborhood of readers, the levy will open the University Branch on Sundays. The extra hours will increase access to library resources, staff and educational classes. It will increase the ability by patrons to pickup holds from this branch. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance also is included.

What this means for patrons:

- Open 1-5 p.m. Sunday
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children's collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom updates, major maintenance

Programs:

Story time, book groups

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special Features:

Patrons are able to reserve the meeting room to play the piano. Branch staff members collaborate with local groups that work with homeless teens to provide educational and cultural resources.

In 2011, the University Branch's 20 public computers had almost 30,000 individual sessions.



"As unemployment continues to be high, the library is such an important place for job seekers, the homeless, children without many extracurricular options ...I would say that anything that can be done to support these neediest groups is the best use of your funds."

-University Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 166,425 patron visits
- 267,575 materials checked out
- 772 story time participants
- 20 public computers
- 126 community meetings

Address: 5009 Roosevelt Way N.E.
Seattle, WA 98105
Phone: 206-684-4063

In 2011, people checked out over 215,000 books and materials from the Wallingford Branch.



“Please keep our libraries open and do not cut hours!! We need them open more not less.”

-Wallingford Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

- 125,689 patron visits
- 215,578 materials checked out
- 7 public computers

Address: 1501 N. 45th St.
Seattle, WA 98103
Phone: 206-684-4088

Wallingford Branch

Wallingford is one of our smallest branches. Designed to serve residents within walking distance in this densely populated neighborhood, this branch is an essential portal to the rest of the Library system and had an amazing 126,000 visits in 2011. Many people pickup holds at this branch, and DVDs and the children’s collection are particularly popular. The branch hosts a monthly book group and summer reading programs, and teens flock to the branch after school to study. Now more than 10 years old, the branch needs regular maintenance.

Needs: For the adults and families in this urban neighborhood, the levy will open the Wallingford Branch on Sundays and provide on-site reference staff. This will increase access to resources such as computers and the ability to place holds on books and materials from throughout the Library system. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved. Funding for regular building maintenance also is included.

What this means for patrons:

- Open 1-5 p.m. Sunday
- Restore basic in-person reference service
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children’s collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom updates, major maintenance

Programs:

Book group

Currently open:

Five days a week

Special features:

Ellensburg artist Richard Elliott designed five colorful neon signs to represent activities going on in the library: A blue world from the logo of The Seattle Public Library; red mystic eye to represent mystery; white “at” symbol to represent computer access; green puzzle piece to symbolize family gathering and accumulation of knowledge; and yellow atom symbol to represent human knowledge. The branch is co-located with Solid Ground, a nonprofit organization that services low income people in King County.

West Seattle Branch

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

Needs: The levy will provide important maintenance funding to preserve this beautiful Carnegie library building. Computers and printers essential to support students, job seekers and others will be upgraded and the collection of books and materials and online services improved.

What this means for patrons:

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

Programs:

Story time, book group, computer classes, Library skills classes, opera previews

Currently open:

Seven days a week

Special features:

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

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



"I grew up in West Seattle and that library was there when I was young and it still there now and looks great. I want it to be there for future generations as well."

-West Seattle Branch patron

At a Glance 2011

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

Address: 2306 42nd Ave. S.W.
Seattle, WA 98116
Phone: 206-684-7444

In 2011, there were over 485,000 computer sessions at the Central Library.



“Thank you for having all people of many colors and cultures working here. It’s as ‘10 perfecto’ as it gets.”

-Central Library patron

At a Glance 2011

- 1,903,954 patron visits
- 1,505,823 materials checked out
- 400 public computers
- 8,757 story time participants
- 54,258 people attended educational classes and humanities programs

Address: 1000 Fourth Ave.
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone: 206-386-4636

Central Library

The Central Library plays three important roles in The Seattle Public Library system. It is a hub of technical, administrative and professional support for the branch libraries, a literary and artistic home for all of Seattle, and a neighborhood branch for those who live and work downtown. Every person who uses the Library system has access to citywide services such as the Quick Information telephone line, Ask a Librarian, Your Next Five Books, among others. The Central Library supports the virtual library, and its automated book sorting equipment ensures materials get to branches as quickly as they are available. The internationally-renowned building also is a magnet for tourists and the heavy use of the facility and reduced staffing and support challenge the ability to effectively meet the demands of its three essential roles and serve residents citywide.

Needs: The levy will strengthen the Central Library’s pivotal position by preserving open hours, updating the technology infrastructure that supports Library operations systemwide, maintaining the book-sorting equipment, investing in audiovisual services for citywide events, and adding technical support for people using the public computers on Level 5. Funding for much-needed regular building maintenance is also included.

What this means for patrons:

- Preserve current hours and bookmobile services
- Add books, electronic books, movies and music and reduce wait times, especially for popular titles
- Expand children’s collection of books systemwide to support early literacy and early learning
- Eliminate one-week systemwide closure
- Upgrade technology services, including computers, software, printers, copiers, online services and infrastructure
- Increase maintenance, including specialized cleaning and furniture care, periodic restroom updates, major maintenance

Programs:

Story times in English and Spanish, tax help, author readings, citizenship classes, ESL classes, Thrilling Tales for Adults, Talk Time, computer classes in English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, lecture series, musical performances, tours, opera previews, Teen Advisory Group, book groups

Currently open:

Seven days a week

Special features:

The Central Library has a Language Center with books, movies and music in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian and East African languages. Bilingual staff members are available to answer questions and help patrons. There are ESL and citizenship resources, including classes, books and DVDs. The Library Equal Access Program has resources for the blind, low vision, deaf and hard of hearing. In addition, there is an auditorium, meeting rooms, music practice rooms and designated areas for children and teens. There are more than 400 public computers in the building. The Seattle Room, filled with local history, is located on level 10.

LIBRARIES FOR ALL**Improving Educational Opportunity for the Public****The Seattle Public Library makes it possible for everyone – particularly children and youth – to learn**

Library staff members are educators - their students range from infants at lap sit story times, to high school students preparing for SAT exams, to college students researching their term papers. For adults, the Library helps newcomers to the U.S. learn English, teaches seniors how to use computers, assists the unemployed looking for work and helps individuals become financially literate.

Libraries are the bedrock for early childhood education, literacy and academic achievement. When parents want to introduce their children to the joy of reading, they come to the Library. When students need homework help, they come to the Library. When seniors want to learn how to get online, they come to the Library. In our current economic climate, the Library helps adults acquire new skills, apply for jobs or determine a new focus in their work life.

Challenges to lifelong learning

Weeklong closures and cuts in hours mean people have lost access to 10,000 Library hours a year - story times aren't held, children don't get homework help and cultural and literary programs aren't scheduled. Cuts have meant the loss of 105,700 public computer sessions a year at a time when computer literacy is critical to bridging the digital divide.

Levy ensures support for students

Under this proposal, preserving open hours means students would continue to have a place to go to read and learn after school. Sunday hours at every location means working parents would have more opportunities to take their children to their neighborhood branch. The levy ensures the Library preserves and enhances essential relationships with day cares, students, parents, educators, schools, colleges and literacy providers and remains an important partner to support student success and lifelong learning.

Seattle teens use Library computers to do homework

69 percent of teens responding to a survey said they used Library computers to do homework.

19 percent used Library computers to research and apply to college.

– 2010 U.S. Impact Studies Report

“Early literacy and children’s reading programs are of huge importance personally (we have a 4-year-old and 7-month-old) and professionally (I work in early learning public policy and advocacy).”

- Ballard Branch patron

Educational Programs from 2011 that Supported Families and Children

Global Reading Challenge:
2,600 fourth- and fifth-graders
participated

Summer Reading Program:
15,302 children, teens and
adults read 191,381 books

Summer Family Programs:
14,074 patrons attended 181
activities

In-Library Homework Help:
7,456 students assisted

Online Homework Help:
19,003 students assisted

SAT Practice Tests:
228 students took SAT classes

The Braille Challenge:
10 blind and low vision students
participated

Story Time:
79,218 children and families
attended literacy classes

Raising a Reader:
401 at-risk children and families
participated

LIBRARIES FOR ALL

Supporting Neighborhood Vitality



The Seattle Public Library is greater than its books and buildings. In every neighborhood, libraries create vibrant communities by connecting people to programs and each other. With our many partners, we provide essential educational, cultural and civic opportunities. Neighbors use the Library meeting spaces to support each other and improve their communities. Without stabilized funding, the Library risks its ability to maintain these important spaces, programs and partnerships. The levy will preserve the Library as the city's:

Educational and cultural center, where anyone - regardless of age or income - can receive computer instruction, attend ESL classes and receive tax help, or participate in free cultural programs, such as concerts, films, or author readings.

Community center, where neighbors come together to improve and empower their communities, support each other in all life stages, and participate in groups, clubs and professional organizations. Anyone can study or read in welcoming spaces, or use Wi-Fi for routine and life-changing tasks.

Center for civic discourse, where residents can host a meeting, attend a candidate forum, learn about health care or transportation issues or discuss the impact of current events.

Community Involvement in the Library

We've heard from people who suggest the Library raise money from donors or rely on volunteers to run the libraries, so we thought it was important to explain the vital roles our strong community support groups play. Community support is critical to our ability to provide quality Library services, but the financial challenges we face go far beyond the scope, scale and mission of our support groups.

While city funding helps pay for basic operations, we depend on our partners to support special needs, such as grants to help underserved populations, prizes for Summer Reading Program participants or volunteers to teach ESL classes. The time, commitment and financial support each group provides are vital to ensuring we remain strong for the next generation in this city of readers.



Friends of The Seattle Public Library (www.friendsofspl.org)

The Friends of The Seattle Public Library was established in 1941. It is a nonprofit, grassroots organization dedicated to promoting the Library as an essential institution of society. The Friends volunteers advocate, educate and raise money for the Library.

For over 40 years the Friends has operated large-scale book sales that provide the community with affordable books, music and art. It is believed to be the largest book sale in the nation. The Friends group also operates the FriendShop in the Central Library. Like the book sales, proceeds from the FriendShop help support the Library. In the last five years, the Friends has donated over \$500,000 to Library programs and initiatives.

The Friends was involved in the development and success of the 1998 Libraries for All bond measure that renewed facilities across the city.

We depend on our volunteers

It takes over 400 volunteers to run a Friends of the Library book sale. Volunteers process about 750,000 books, CDs, DVDs and other items a year.

Our donors allow us to deliver excellence

In 1981, the Library Foundation logged 14 donors – all year. In 2011, on one day alone, 703 people donated money to the Foundation.

The Seattle Public Library Foundation (www.foundation.spl.org)

The Seattle Public Library Foundation was founded in 1980. Its mission is to secure donations to enhance Library collections, resources, programs and services above and beyond what public funding provides. Over the years it has supported the Libraries for All building program, programming for people of all ages, books and materials, funding for special collections, services for people with special needs and technology resources. It is important to note that Foundation funds are used to support, not supplant, Library operating costs.

The Foundation also reflects our community's commitment to the Library.

In 2010, more than 10,500 individuals, businesses and foundations made gifts to the Foundation. This broad-based support signifies the importance of The Seattle Public Library in the economic, social and cultural life of our city. In 2011, the Foundation donated approximately \$3.5 million to the Library.

Library volunteers (www.spl.org/volunteers)

In 2011, 471 individuals contributed 18,413 service hours to the Library. Volunteers help in a variety of ways across the Library system, such as:

- Coordinating book groups
- Welcoming people who visit the Central Library
- Helping children and teens with homework
- Providing gardening help at branches
- Helping immigrants and refugees with English language skills
- Teaching basic computer skills
- Helping at story times and other programs
- Leading tours of the Central Library and much more

Library Levy Financial Summary

Effort to reduce the impact of fiscal pressures

The city's General Fund currently supplies 95% of the Library budget. Due to the persistence of the economic downturn, the city has reduced the budgets of most city departments, including the Library, over the past four years.

The Library has made substantial cuts to operations and capital expenses. We have looked everywhere to find efficiencies to prioritize keeping our doors open, protecting the budget to buy books and other items and minimizing the pain for people who depend on our services.

- We've restructured the way we run the Central Library and our branches
- We've cut administrative and support staff
- We've eliminated 34 positions since 2009
- Every staff member has given up a week's pay for four years in a row as a result of the annual one-week closures
- Last year, staff also gave up a cost-of-living adjustment

Hard choices have reduced access and collections

We spend the bulk of our budget to buy books and other items, on salaries for the staff members who serve the public and on technology. It is impossible to absorb big cuts without a loss of valued services.

- Collections budget is 13% less than in 2009, limiting variety of materials and ability to address demand for the most popular items
- Branches in more than half our neighborhoods are closed Fridays and Sundays
- Entire system has closed for a week every year since 2009
- On-site reference staff was eliminated at eight branches

Core technology and maintenance is underfunded

- Computers and technology infrastructure need timely replacement and upgrades, but there is a funding gap
- Routine maintenance and janitorial service demands are rising as our intensively used buildings age
- No money is earmarked to replace furniture or for specialized cleaning
- Major maintenance, funded through the city's Capital Improvement Program, has been cut by 50% since 2009. Proper stewardship requires timely replacement of building components

Deep cuts expected in 2013

The next round of budget cuts will mean further cuts to hours and the book budget without an alternative funding source.

- The city currently projects a \$40 million General Fund shortfall in 2013. The Library's share of cuts is estimated at \$5 million
- A \$5 million cut would require us, for example, to:
 - Close 5 branch libraries and cut the collections budget in half; or
 - Close all libraries, including the Central Library, on Fridays and cut the collections budget in half



“Please do not make budget cuts to the Library system. This system is a top priority for the Seattle community ”

*- Douglass-Truth
Branch patron*

General fund/levy partnership

The Library will continue to rely on the city's General Fund for nearly 75% of its annual budget. Money from the levy will provide stability, and preserve and improve core services.

Library levy will restore, maintain and improve essential services

The Library levy will run for seven years, from 2013 to 2019. First year (2013) levy proceeds will total \$17 million, increasing by 1% annually thereafter similar to the city's general services levy. The levy will amount to 15 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, or about \$52 per year for the median home owner in 2013.

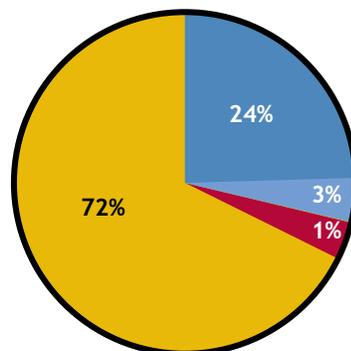
Each year during the life of the levy, the Library will prepare a spending plan to maintain and improve core services. This plan will be part of our annual operation plan and capital budget. We expect to use average annual revenue as follows:

Proposed Levy Funding for Library Services in millions		
Estimated Allocation of Levy Proceeds	Average Annual Levy Amount	Average Percent
Improve Open Hours & Services	3.8m	22%
Improve Collections	2.5m	14%
Improve Technology	1.5m	9%
Improve Maintenance:		
- Improve Daily Maintenance	1.5m	9%
- Improve Major Maintenance	2.2m	13%
Preserve Current Core Service Level	5.6m	32%
Levy Administration	0.2m	1%
Total	\$17.3m	100%

Cost estimation for the Library levy

The Library levy financial model relies on continuing General Fund and Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) support from the city at the 2012 level, adjusted for an anticipated \$5 million 2013 General Fund cut to the Library's operating budget that would carry through the life of the levy. The City Council and Mayor Mike McGinn have expressed their intent to continue to provide the Library with General Fund and REET support at 2012 levels, adjusted for increases or decreases during the seven-year life of the levy and proportionate to comparable city departments.

The levy financing model assumes 4% annual inflation costs. For major maintenance, we have developed a projection of annual asset preservation requirements for our 27 libraries. The levy does not fund new construction or major remodels.



Proposed Library Revenue by Source of Funds

City General Fund Support for Operating Budget	72%
Proposed Levy	24%
Revenue from Fines Fees, etc.	3%
City Support for Capital Budget	1%

Accountability to the Public

We will be accountable to the public. The Library is committed to responsibly using levy proceeds to support the core services that the public uses and values.

A record of successful stewardship

In 1998 Seattle's residents placed their trust in the Library to renovate or replace every Library in the system and add four new branches. That 10-year effort, involving 27 separate construction projects, came in on time and on budget - an example of our exceptional commitment to deliver on that trust. During the building project, we provided regular updates to the public. We will do the same during the life of the levy.

A promise to report to the public

The city librarian and the Library board of trustees will prepare annual progress reports that show how we have used levy proceeds to restore, maintain and improve core services.

- Annual progress reports will be posted on the Library's website and submitted to the Mayor Mike McGinn and City Council by March 1 of each year, starting in 2014.
- Performance measures will be identified before Jan. 1, 2013 to ensure consistent reporting during the life of the levy.
- Our annual report card will show:
 - Open hours for every branch and the Central Library
 - Data on visits, circulation, computer sessions, programming, use of meeting rooms, public awareness of Library services and other indicators of how increased access makes a difference for Seattle residents
 - Measures of the quality of the collection of books and materials, including data on depth, variety and wait times for popular items
 - Technology equipment and infrastructure investments
 - Specific improvements to online services that enhance the quality of patrons' access to information
 - User satisfaction with the website and online catalog
 - A summary of building repairs and improvements made possible with the levy

A commitment to listen to the public

We will continue to ask the public to comment on levy-funded services through:

- Periodic surveys
- Focus groups
- Consultation with key community partners such as local schools, businesses and neighborhood associations.



“There is nothing more important than listening to our patrons and delivering on our promises.”

**- Marcellus Turner
Seattle City Librarian**

Map of Locations

1. Central Library & Mobile Services
2. Ballard Branch
3. Beacon Hill Branch
4. Broadview Branch
5. Capitol Hill Branch
6. Columbia Branch
7. Delridge Branch
8. Douglass-Truth Branch
9. Fremont Branch
10. Green Lake Branch
11. Greenwood Branch
12. High Point Branch
13. International District/Chinatown Branch
14. Lake City Branch
15. Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch
16. Magnolia Branch
17. Montlake Branch
18. NewHolly Branch
19. Northeast Branch
20. Northgate Branch
21. Queen Anne Branch
22. Rainier Beach Branch
23. South Park Branch
24. Southwest Branch
25. University Branch
26. Wallingford Branch
27. West Seattle Branch

