

Q3 2025

The Seattle Public Library

LEVY REPORT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Q3 2025

Levy background

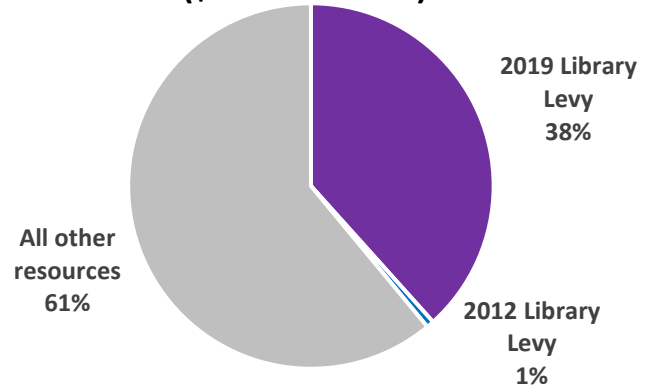
In August 2019, Seattle voters overwhelmingly approved (76%) a seven-year, \$219.1 million property tax levy to maintain and enhance Library services from 2020 through 2026, renewing a seven-year, \$122.6 million levy that expired at the end of 2019.

This is the sixth year of the Levy. In 2025, the 2019 Levy accounts for \$54.5 million (37.9%) of the Library's total revised budget of \$143.8 million. The 2012 Levy provides \$0.9 million (0.6 %). Other sources of funding include the City's general fund, state and federal grants, private funds, and Library fund balance.

As part of its 2019 proposal to voters, the Library laid out a clear framework for how Levy proceeds would be used to maintain services funded by the 2012 Levy and provide additional services and programs over the seven-year Levy period. This report, which covers Levy activities and spending for Q3 2025, continues the series of [quarterly updates](#) the Library has provided for the Board of Trustees and the public since 2013.

Beyond renewing 2012 Levy commitments, the 2019 Levy provides support for additional open hours; elimination of overdue fines; improved collections and technology; safe, clean, and well-maintained buildings; specialized programming and services for children; and Library strategic planning.

**2025 Library Revised Budget
(\$142.2 Million)**



Did you know?

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

Q3 2025 Highlights

During the third quarter of 2025, the Library saw strong usage of services and programs, indicating that we've rebounded since recovering from a ransomware attack in 2024. Given a turbulent national political landscape that continues to create uncertainty for many, the Library is focused on its role as a safe, welcoming space for our patrons, and on creating programs and services that nurture, empower, and inspire our community.

Community use survey: The Library worked with Olympic Research and Strategy (ORS), to create and conduct a community use survey that ran from Aug. 25 to Sept. 24, available in multiple languages.

Over 1,000 people participated in a statistically significant mailer survey that reflects Seattle demographics. Thousands more participated in a publicly available online survey. We expect to receive results and analysis from ORS in November, which will help inform decision-making and shape future Library services. The survey builds on findings from 30+ community workshops held earlier this year.

Strong library use: With a consistent schedule of open hours, including all locations open at least six days a week, the Library saw robust use of core Library services, spaces, and collections in Q3. More than 325,000 people used their library card to check out materials and access services, and more than 890,000 people made in-person visits.

University Branch progress, Green Lake Branch

recognition: The [Levy-funded safety upgrades and renovation](#) at the landmarked University Branch have made major progress, with a focus on retrofitting the branch against seismic events. In September 2025, the Green Lake Branch renovation, completed in 2024, won a [“Preserving Neighborhood Character” award](#) from Historic Seattle.

Columbia Branch retrofit deferral. In September, Mayor Harrell released the [2026 proposed budget](#), which included a \$5 million reduction to the Library from the General Fund. To address this reduction without impacting the Library’s public services, we have proposed deferring the Columbia Branch seismic retrofit, which was part of the 2019 Levy package. This proposed change will be presented to the Library’s Board of Trustees at their December meeting.

Strategic Plan progress: Library staff have been making progress on implementing the first year of the newly adopted [10-year Strategic Plan](#), an impact-focused effort funded by the Levy. A Q3 milestone for the plan’s impact area of “literacy” was the delivery of classroom kits to teachers at Bailey Gatzert Elementary, as part of the Story Squad early literacy project. We also hired two new positions that will manage Strategic Plan priority impact areas, including a Security and Emergency Services manager and an Inclusion and Belonging director; and made progress on procuring a new integrated library system.

We look forward to sharing a more detailed update on strategic plan implementation in our end-of year Levy report.



Browsing at the South Park Branch.

“We envision The Seattle Public Library as the **central hub of an equitable and connected city** where knowledge flourishes, and **people find inspiration and a sense of belonging.**”

- The Library’s Strategic Plan

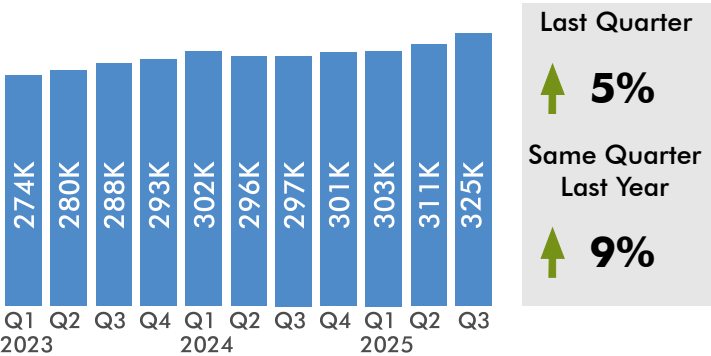
LEVY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: HOURS AND ACCESS



IN FOCUS: Quarterly Usage Trends

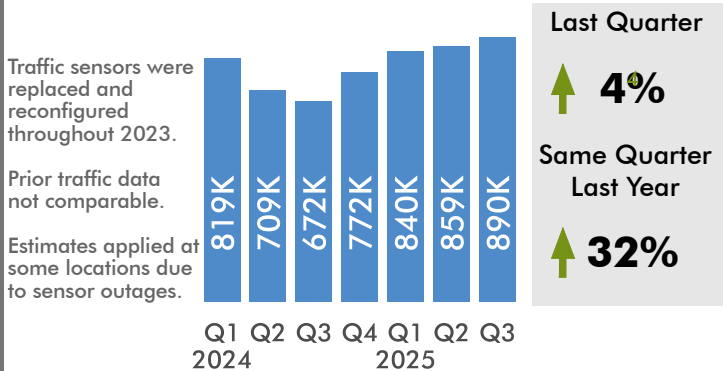
Active Library Users

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



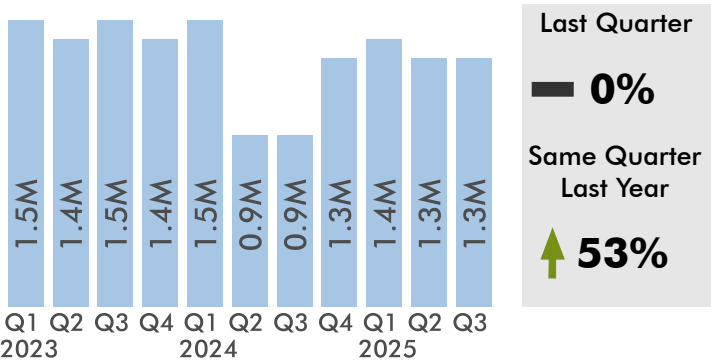
In-Person Visits

Number of in-person visits



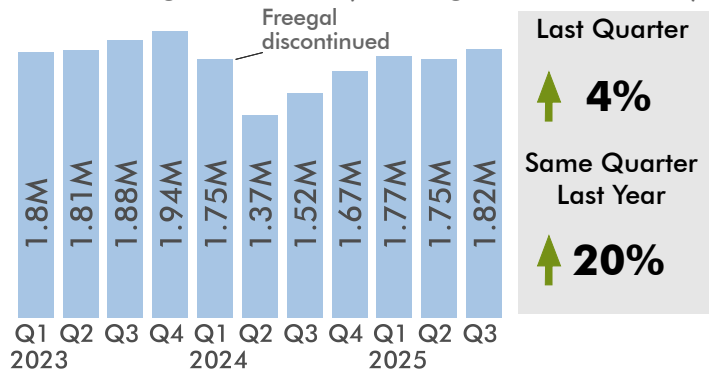
Physical Checkouts

Number of physical checkouts (including renewals)



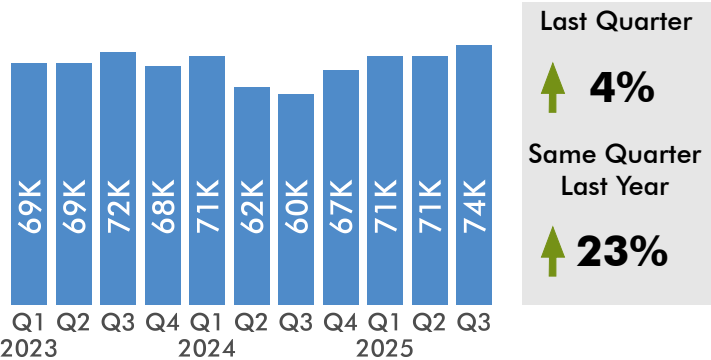
Digital Checkouts

Number of digital checkouts (including streams and views)



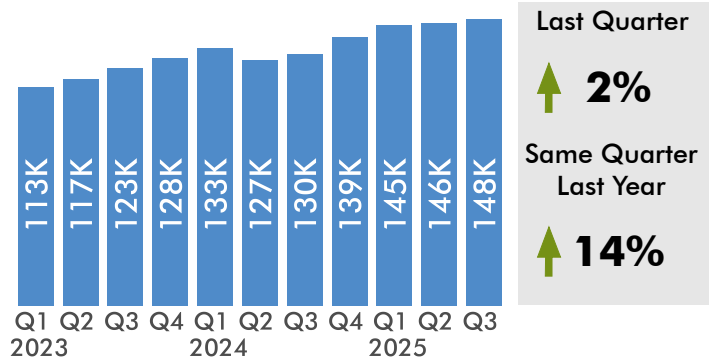
Borrowers - Physical

Number of patrons who borrowed physical materials



Borrowers - Digital

Number of patrons who borrowed digital materials



A ransomware outage significantly disrupted borrowing and overall library use from May to September 2024.

LEVY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: HOURS & ACCESS

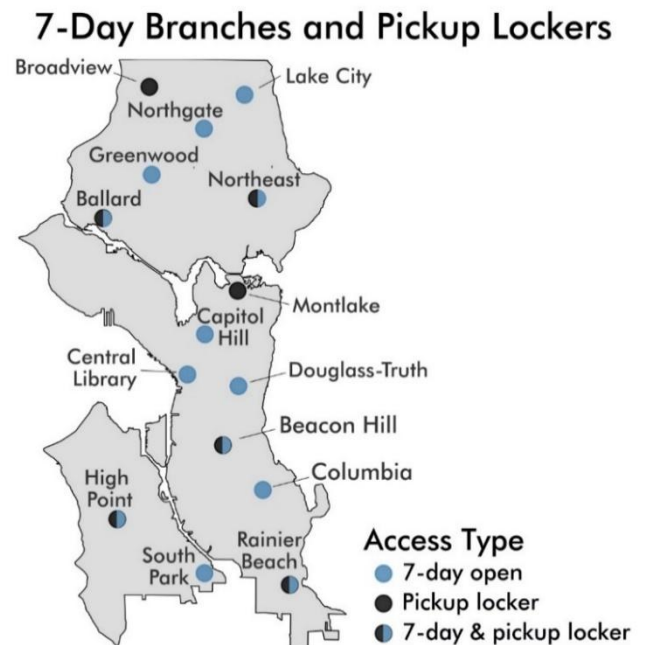
Strong Library use, visits and checkouts

The 2019 Levy provides \$16.5 million in 2025 for investment in Hours and Access. This funding supports open hours at our 27 libraries; community access to Library learning programs and services; and citywide community outreach and engagement. Many elements of this Levy category relate to increasing access to Library resources. We achieve this in several ways, including eliminating late fees, adding open hours, and creating new access points, such as holds pick-up lockers that are available 24/7. Total Levy spending through Q3 2025 for the Hours and Access category was \$11.5 million.

Nine months of stable open hours: The 2019 Levy promised expanded hours above 2019 levels, which increases community access to Library collections, information services, computers, printers, programs, and public spaces. In the five years since the COVID-19 pandemic, we have navigated many challenges in restoring and expanding hours. In late January 2025, we implemented a new schedule that increased hours, ensuring all active locations are open at least six days a week and one weekend day. Thirteen locations are open seven days a week. (See Appendix 1.)

Library and locker use: More people (325,000) used their Library cards in Q3 than during any quarter since at least Q1 2023. Patrons are also using pick-up lockers to collect their holds more frequently, with 24,000 locker checkouts through the third quarter of 2025, compared to 17,000 checkouts for all of 2024. This growth suggests patrons are becoming more aware of and comfortable with the technology. Almost 890,000 people made in-person visits to Library locations, more people than any quarter since at least Q4 2023 (we did not have comparable data before that time).

New library card application: In April, we launched improved online Library Card Application forms, which are available in five languages at www.spl.org/Card. In Q3, more than 23,000 people used the new form to sign up for a full or provisional Library card.



Programs and services

In Q3 2025, the Library held more than 900 programs throughout the city. The Levy is an important component of programming because it funds much of the staffing that makes these programs possible. Direct costs for most Library programs are supported by The Seattle Public Library Foundation, which funds Museum Pass, Summer of Learning, and many other programs.

Central Library programs: The Central Library supported almost 220 events in Q3, including 65 private events and almost 140 Library-hosted programs. Public events included Ladies Musical Club performances, author events, KUOW Book Club events, a Seattle Times Live “Columbia at the Crossroads” event; and a gallery exhibit inspired by the Douglass-Truth Branch’s African American Collection. We also accommodated free use of Central Library meeting rooms for nonprofit organizations, including the Wing Luke Museum, Mary’s Place, and On the Boards.

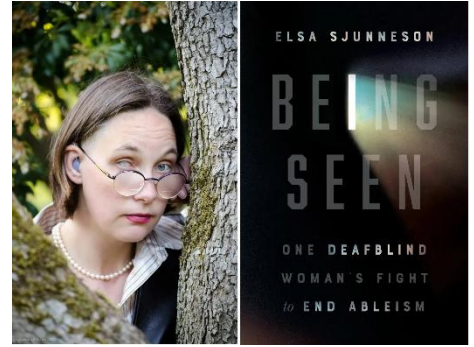
Literacy and learning: Around 300 story times, including 65 Play & Learn sessions, were held across our 27 locations in Q3. The annual Summer of Learning program for kids and families included activity booklets and the first full season of family programming since before the pandemic. This fall, we are piloting a new [Story Squad program](#) with Seattle Public Schools to deliver supplemental books for grades 2-4 in Title I schools. Story Squad supports the literacy impact of the Strategic Plan and aims to help students read at or above grade level.

The power of reader connections: In August, a story was published that was a testament to the impact of the work of our adult, teen, and children’s librarians. The NoveList blog posted a [powerful story](#) by author and activist Elsa Sjunneson about the difference that two SPL Reader Services librarians made in her life. She also chronicled this experience in [“Being Seen: One DeafBlind Woman’s Fight to End Ableism.”](#)

Meeting rooms supporting civic engagement: The Levy supports the use of community meeting spaces, free at neighborhood branches that have them, and available for a modest fee at the Central Library downtown. In Q3, meeting rooms were used more than 2,300 times by nonprofits, public agencies, Scout troops, singing groups and yoga classes.

“Here for You” campaign: For Library Card Sign-up Month (September), our marketing staff created a multilingual campaign, “Here for You,” that highlights programs, resources, and all the ways the Library is here for patrons (www.spl.org/HereForYou). We collaborated with local artists and branch staff to develop collectible postcards for all 27 locations. (See page 6 for more information.)

Redesigned Shelf Talk blog: In July, we redesigned our 17-year-old Shelf Talk blog to be more dynamic, visual, accessible, and connected to our website and brand (blog.spl.org).



“With every stack of books, with every chat about what I wanted to read next, they were helping me to stay alive.”

- Elsa Sjunneson, “Being Seen”

“Here For You”: Library Card Sign-Up Month campaign

The Library is a source of stability and empowerment for many during uncertain times. Our **fall campaign “Here For You”** celebrates the many ways we support patrons.

- **14,000 postcards** distributed
- **6,700 Library card** sign-ups in September

www.spl.org/HereForYou



Campaign elements

- Collect postcards & passport stamps for all 27 locations!
- Featuring local artists
- Multilingual ad campaign
- Social media campaign
- Signage/window clings

Patron praise for Library postcards

"I love this! On a mission to **visit them all**. ❤️"

"What a creative way to highlight library **access and community connection**."

"I love the Here For You activity!! **Today I bussed/walked to five branches!**"

Social Services: Connecting patrons to resources and community

Our Social Services team includes a Social Services librarian, a senior community resource specialist, and a Levy-funded community resource specialist who focuses on youth and young adults up to age 26. Their work is rooted in our Strategic Plan goal of building community and cultivating a sense of belonging, with a focus on understanding and centering patrons' interests and needs and connecting them to each other, to the Library, and to Seattle's civic and cultural communities. Here are highlights of the team's work in Q3.

An increase in referrals: In Q3, the Social Services team recorded 186 interactions with patrons, 161 of which involved referral to an external organization such as shelters and health care providers. This is a 50% increase from Q2, which may reflect growing awareness and a growing need.

Life-saving overdose prevention

supplies: Through a partnership with Public Health - Seattle & King County, the Library distributed 1,750 free naloxone kits (two doses per kit), as well as other overdose prevention supplies in Q3.

Resource fairs: Social Services worked with teams across the Library and with dozens of community partners to host two resource fairs in Q3: The second Young Adult Resource Fair at the Central Library, which drew over 200 young people, and a Lake City Resource Fair, with 250 attendees.



The Young Adult Resource Fair offered tarot readings, health services, haircuts, and ID cards.

Central Library programming: 268 patrons attended six Coffee and Conversations events, and 187 patrons attended 11 Crafternoons, with less attendance than in Q2, perhaps due to changes in location and reduced budget. Social Services staff also regularly attend weekly Young Adult Drop-ins to connect youth to services and resources and to build rapport.

Branch programs: The Social Services team worked with branch staff to host Coffee & Conversations at the International District / Chinatown Branch, which drew more than 80 patrons across four events. FareStart Mobile Market, held weekly at the NewHolly Branch, and FamilyWorks Mobile Pantry, held bimonthly at the Broadview Branch, routinely attract over 30 patrons each week.

Community voices

"The library is a sanctuary where you can feed your noggin, use the bathroom, get water. **As a homeless person, it is truly an island oasis.**"

– Patron at International District / Chinatown Branch, Coffee & Conversations

Ensuring that library spaces are safe and welcoming

Community Use Agreement takes effect: On August 1, 2025, the new Community Use Agreement (CUA) replaced the Library's Rules of Conduct as official policy regarding appropriate behavior while on Library property. This was a multi-year process that engaged dozens of staff and community members and aimed to address inequitable enforcement and impacts of our rules on patrons of color, younger patrons, patrons with accessibility needs, and patrons experiencing homelessness. Before the transition, the Library conducted a comprehensive implementation and training process with staff, which is ongoing. (See page 9 for more information.)

Building our Security Services team. The Security Services unit oversees the security of Library buildings and public spaces to provide patrons and staff a welcoming and safe environment. A Strategic Plan priority this year was to create and hire for a new leadership position in Security Services. On August 4, the Environment and Security Services manager started, a position that oversees a team of 22 officers and coordinates safety, security, and emergency management for the Library system.

In Q3, the security team was very involved in implementing the CUA. Under new leadership, the team is working with staff on a daily basis to define, uphold, and apply the agreement with compassion and professionalism. They are also coaching staff in effectively using CUA tools, such as a new Incident Report form.

Security leadership is also making progress on the Strategic Plan priority of assessing the Library's security effectiveness and identifying the opportunities to make Library spaces more safe and welcoming. The team is taking steps to assess each location's unique security needs through analysis, visits, and listening sessions; and to prepare for a security audit of the Central Library. Another priority this quarter was to establish the Security Services team's internal values, vision, and mission statements to guide the team's work going forward.

Security team mission

The Security Team's mission is to foster a safe and welcoming environment for all Library patrons, staff, and community members. We maintain a visible presence at Library locations, uphold and enforce the Library's Community Use Agreement, respond quickly to resolve incidents, and serve everyone in the Library with compassion, respect, and professionalism.

The Library's Community Use Agreement

In August 2025, after a years-long community engagement process, the Library adopted a new [Community Use Agreement \(CUA\)](#), replacing the Library's former Rules of Conduct, to provide guidelines about behavior while on Library property. The CUA is designed to be welcoming, inclusive, and aligned with Library values.

What Makes the CUA Different?

- ✓ Shorter and simpler with friendly, visually engaging presentation
- ✓ Positive, values-driven language
- ✓ Emphasis on safety and helping patrons successfully use the Library
- ✓ Emphasis on empowering staff to apply the CUA flexibly
- ✓ Stronger protection for staff against harmful and hateful behaviors
- ✓ New suspension guidelines and incident reporting process to support staff enforcing the CUA
- ✓ Required CUA training for all staff, as well as ongoing support and coaching

Our Commitment to You

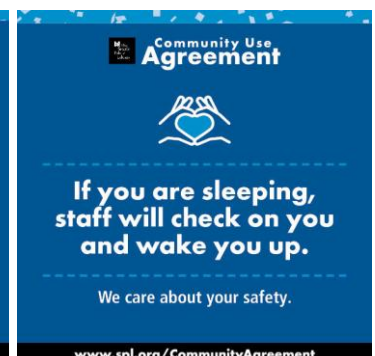
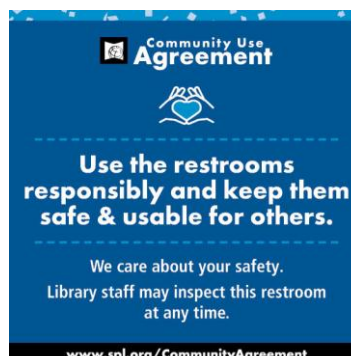
The Community Use Agreement underscores the Library's commitment to equity, intellectual freedom, and accessibility.

Learn more at
www.spl.org/CommunityAgreement



Patrons are reminded of the CUA through a poster, signage and a brochure.

The CUA's core values of safety, respect and civility are communicated in many ways throughout our spaces, from language kiosks to interactions with staff.



LEVY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: COLLECTIONS

Building robust collections

The 2019 Levy commits resources to maintain and expand the Library's collection of physical and digital materials. This includes funding for e-books, e-audiobooks, streaming services, the Peak Picks collection, and the acquisition and digitization of local history materials.

In 2025, the 2019 Levy provides \$6.4 million for Collections, including \$5.5 million for books and materials, or 55% of the Library's books and materials budget. Total Levy spending through Q3 2025 for the Collections category was \$4.7 million, with 18% of Levy funds remaining to be spent. We are on track to fully spend the 2025 Collections budget.

Here are highlights of our collections work in Q3 2025.

Digital checkouts growing, spending stable:

Checkouts of digital books (e-books and e-audiobooks) increased 4% from Q2 to 1.5 million. The number of patrons accessing digital books in Q3 2025 increased by more than 15% compared to Q3 2024. We purchased almost 25,000 copies of digital titles.

We continue to closely monitor spending on digital books. Our average weekly high-demand spending (the cost of buying multiple copies of the most popular digital books) decreased slightly in Q3 2025. We expect to spend our entire high-demand budget in 2025, which helps us create a broad and diverse e-collection.

Books Unbanned, a Foundation-funded program that allows youth ages 13 to 26 across the country to check out digital books for free, continued to grow. In Q3, 9,200 Books Unbanned cardholders checked out more than 100,000 digital books.



Something for everyone: Young readers at South Park.

Did you know?

Every year, our Collections team receives **more than 12,000 submissions from patrons via our Suggest a Title service**. We accommodate the vast majority of these requests.

Physical collection and Peak Picks: Checkouts of physical materials including books, media, and equipment totaled 1.3 million in Q3, comparable to recent quarters, and 64,000 physical items were purchased. Peak Picks, our popular no-holds, no-wait collection of high-interest titles, was responsible for 37,000 physical checkouts. Peak Picks added 28 titles and 4,760 copies in Q3. Peak Picks is fully funded by the Levy.

The most popular Peak Picks titles were, in order, [“So Far Gone.”](#) a novel by Spokane writer Jess Walter; [“A Marriage at Sea,”](#) Sophie Elmhirst’s thrilling narrative about a couple who survive after being adrift for months; [“Atmosphere,”](#) by Taylor Jenkins Reid; [“Spent,”](#) a comic novel by Alison Bechdel; and [“Storybook Ending,”](#) a debut novel by Seattle Times art critic Moira Macdonald.

Other notable Peak Picks additions included Susana M. Morris’s “Positive Obsession,” a biography of Octavia Butler; and Angela Flournoy’s much-anticipated second book, “The Wilderness.”

Expanding language access: In Q3, Levy funds were used to add 270 adult titles and 192 children’s titles to the Library’s World Languages digital book collections, spanning 11 languages.

Highlights for children include the newest e-book volume in Spanish of the popular Babysitters Club graphic novels, multiple e-book titles from “Barefoot Bilinguals” in Vietnamese and English, and Arabic and English, and the audiobook of “The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe” in French. Print books were added in 11 languages as well.

An exciting development for our World Languages Collection is that the Library is adding our first-ever Portuguese language titles, all print books, which be available to patrons in Q4.

New York Times and streaming services: New York Times digital usage increased by 13% since Q2, with 43,000 sessions in Q3. Use of both the Kanopy and Hoopla streaming services increased slightly compared to Q2. Flipster magazine usage also increased slightly after several quarters of declining use. Hoopla is our most popular streaming service, with more than 62,000 checkouts in Q3.



Artist and author Tessa Hulls, who used the Library’s collection of graphic novels to inspire her Pulitzer Prize winning book “Feeding Ghosts,” participated in our fall [“Here for You” campaign.](#)



Local history collections

The [Seattle Room](#), located at the Central Library, provides in-person access to treasured local history items, including local manuscripts, menus, photos, postcards, books, and more. Our digital Seattle Room collections make Seattle history easier to access for students, researchers, historians, and others. The Seattle Room curator and Special Collections digital librarian positions are both funded by the Levy.

The Strategic Plan includes a goal of increasing the Seattle Room collection budget to provide more materials focused on Seattle and the Pacific Northwest, and from diverse communities that have contributed to our local history.

This quarter, the Seattle Room accommodated 144 research appointments, and an additional 825 people visited without an appointment. We added 265 items to the Seattle Room collections, including 47 books, three maps, and over 140 photographs.

One of our most exciting additions was a business and biographical directory of Issei (first-generation) Japanese immigrants to Washington state, created in 1920 by the Hiroshima Kenjinkai (prefectural association) to celebrate the organization's 20th anniversary. The directory is a rich resource, with many business photographs and detailed biographical information.

The only other publicly available copy of this directory is held by Densho, which has made it available in digital form on [their website](#).



The 1920 business and biographical directory of Issei (first-generation Japanese immigrants).



A photograph from the business directory of Nitta Grocery Store, 723 7th Ave., Seattle.

Seattle Room Digital Collections

This quarter almost 33,000 users visited the Seattle Room's digital collections, with 36,000 sessions and more than 110,000 pageviews.

We added over 250 glass plate negatives from the [Paul Dorpat Collection](#) to our [Seattle Room Digital Collections](#). The glass plate negatives, dating from circa 1900 to 1920, include many Seattle street views and rare interior shots of businesses such as knitting factories, saloons, stores, and barbershops. Photos outside the city include shots of a Newcastle coal mine and scenes at Snoqualmie Falls.

Some of the negatives are believed to be taken by Seattle resident William Leroy Brown (1871-1939). Since glass plate negatives are very fragile and easily damaged, digitization offers an important way to provide access while still preserving these images for many years to come.



William Brown (left) posing with family at 163 6th Ave., Seattle, ca. 1902. Paul Dorpat Collection.

Keeping our technology up to date

The 2019 Levy promised dedicated funding for digital equity offerings, updated infrastructure for public internet access, updated technology for acquisition and circulation, and continued maintenance and upgrading of public technologies and the [spl.org website](https://spl.org). The Levy funds \$2.8 million of operating expenses related to technology and online services in 2025 and \$4.4 million of unspent technology capital budget authority from prior years. Total Levy spending through Q3 2025 for technology operating expenses was \$1.6 million.

Digital equity and the HotSpot program

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

The Library's 850 Wi-Fi hot spots in the general collection continue to be extremely popular, and were checked out more than 1,500 times in Q3. The Library's outreach team also loans 250 hot spots on a long-term basis to community partners who use the hot spots to support Seattle residents most impacted by the digital divide.

The outreach team made 90 new hot spot loans in Q3, more than in Q2 because we had processed updated hotspot models. Patrons using hot spots reported being able to attend online citizenship, ESOL, and GED classes; complete homework; enroll in local colleges; apply for jobs; stay connected to loved ones; and learn on-demand skills.

HotSpot partners

- Alphabet Alliance of Color
- API Chaya
- Casa Latina
- Friends of Seattle World School
- South Seattle College – Justice Involved Solutions
- St. James Cathedral Immigrant Assistance
- Low Income Housing Institute Tiny House Villages
- Literacy Source
- Nickelsville Tiny House Villages
- SHARE/WHEEL shelters and tent city
- University Heights Center – Vehicle Residence Program
- Villa Comunitaria

Community voices

*“Before this course, I was afraid of using a computer ... But through this experience, I have learned that with practice, patience, and confidence, **I can overcome those fears and succeed.**” – Digital literacy student who used a hot spot for the duration of the course*

Maintaining access to technology and improving cybersecurity

ILS project progress: The 2019 Levy included \$4 million to support the replacement of the existing Integrated Library System (ILS), which is the central digital platform that allows libraries to manage collections materials, checkouts, patron accounts, and other services.

The Library released a Request for Proposal (RFP) in late July. By September, we had two potential ILS vendors: [SirsiDynix](#), our current Horizon vendor, and [Clarivate/ Innovative](#). Both are leaders in the library technology field, with strong track records of successful ILS implementations. After product demonstrations in October, we expect to select the vendor. The new ILS is expected to be implemented by the end of 2026.

Computers, printing, and ScanEZ: Q3 saw strong use of the Library's technology services. More than 17,000 patrons used public computers, booking 106,000 hours of computer time, and 30,000 patrons printed about 550,000 pages, a small increase from the previous quarter. Patrons used ScanEZ to scan about 138,000 pages, an almost 20% increase from Q2. In Q3, we also deployed additional security tools to public PCs and upgraded equipment as needed.

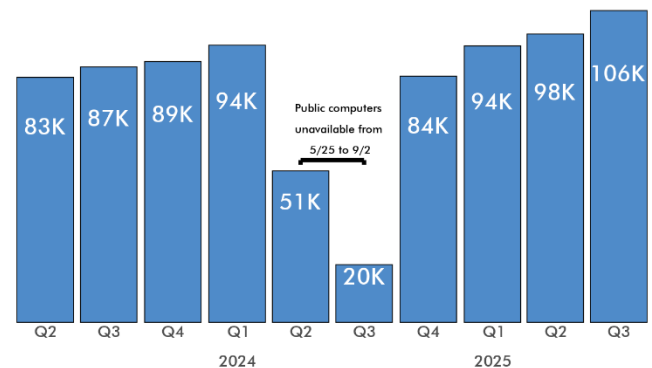
Mobile app downloads: Since its April launch, our new mobile app has been downloaded more than 20,000 times on Apple and Android devices. Users can navigate the app in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Traditional and Simplified Chinese.

Cybersecurity program: A cybersecurity analyst, hired earlier this year, is leading the development of a more mature cybersecurity program at the Library. The program has made progress on developing and optimizing security measures added after the 2024 ransomware attack on the Library, driving continuous improvement in our practices, and establishing policies and procedures to ensure the Library remains well-protected.

Requirements for new Integrated Library System (ILS)

- Certified to meet or exceed high cybersecurity and information security standards.
- User-friendly interface that supports efficient workflows.
- Can be configured for Library and patron needs without extensive customization.
- Can be integrated with other Library systems and applications.

Public Computer Hours Used Each Quarter



LEVY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: SUPPORTING CHILDREN

Expanding early learning options for children

The 2019 Levy promised additional support for Library early learning programs for children, ages birth to 5, providing about \$476,000 to support this effort in 2025. Total Levy spending through Q3 2025 for supporting children was \$277,000.

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

In partnership with community organizations that provide trained facilitators, the Library currently offers weekly Play and Learn programs in four languages and at seven locations. In Q3 2025, around 65 Play and Learn sessions with total attendance of more than 1,700 were held at the Beacon Hill, Columbia, Delridge, Lake City, NewHolly, Rainier Beach, and South Park branches. Including Play and Learn, around 300 story times were held in Q3, with attendance of about 10,000.

Play & Learn sessions continue to thrive as a hub for play, learning and engagement. A facilitator with East African Community Services commented that as we move into the colder months, more families in the area are discovering sessions. Villa Comunitaria reported that a notable 40% of participants consistently attend both Delridge and South Park sessions, and that Latine families make up about 60% of participants at the South Park sessions, which are in Spanish.



A Play & Learn facilitator with Villa Comunitaria.

What Play and Learn participants and partners say

“In addition to playtime, families are sharing parenting tips, learning about child development, and participating in songs, stories, and guided activities that make each session lively and enriching.” – East African Community Services

“Families are not only attending sessions; they are building lasting relationships that extend beyond the program.” – Villa Comunitaria facilitator

LEVY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: MAINTENANCE

Protecting our investments

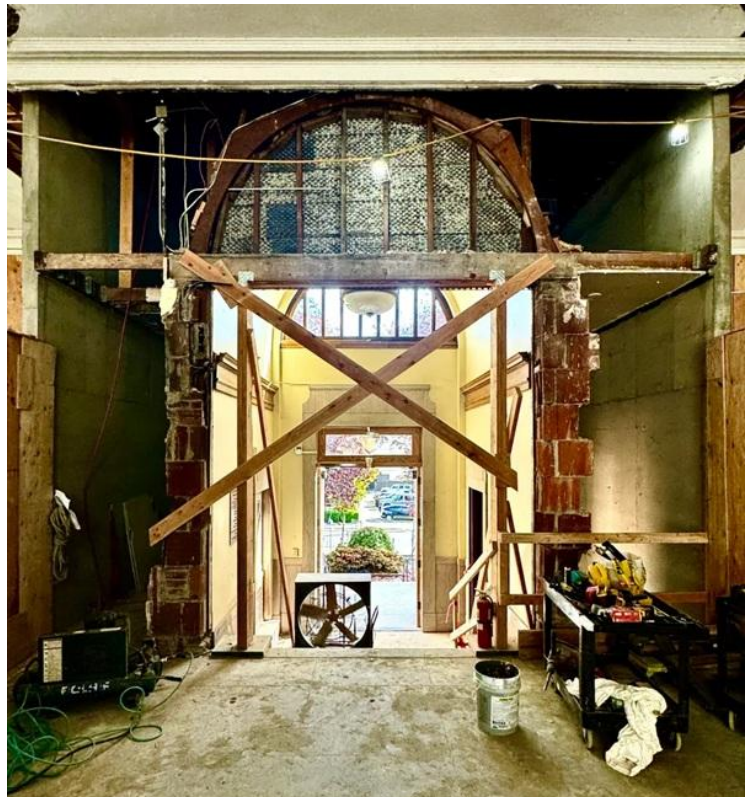
The 2019 Levy provides \$7.9 million in 2025 budget authority and \$13 million in carryforward authority for major maintenance, including nearly \$8 million dedicated specifically to seismic retrofit work. The 2012 Levy provided an additional \$232,000 in remaining carryforward authority, most of which is committed to projects in their final phases. In Q3 2025, the Library spent \$914,957 in 2019 Levy funds on seismic and major maintenance work, for a total of \$2.7 million year-to-date, with an additional \$6.28 million committed/encumbered year-to-date.

Major maintenance: Preserving libraries for the next generation

University Branch renovation progress:

In Q3, the renovation of the historic University Branch focused on the seismic retrofit of the building. In July, we received welcome news: Leveraging levy funding committed to the renovation, the Library received a [\\$2 million grant](#) from the Washington State Department of Commerce as additional funding for the renovation.

This comprehensive project will secure the branch against earthquakes while preserving the historic character of the building. Other major improvements include the installation of a modern, electric HVAC system; accessibility improvements such as a new entrance and elevator; two new reservable study rooms and a modernized meeting room downstairs; and many interior renovations. The University Branch is expected to reopen in late 2026.



Q3 progress on the University Branch focused on the seismic retrofit. Reinforced, concrete shear walls are being installed on either side of the main entrance.

Greenwood roof repair: A long-planned roof repair project on the Greenwood Branch began in mid-September. Due to anticipated construction impacts, a three-week construction closure was planned for Oct. 8 through Oct. 28.

Columbia Branch retrofit deferral. The [2026 proposed budget](#), released in September, included a \$5 million reduction to the Library budget. To address this reduction without impacting the Library's public services, we have proposed deferring the Columbia Branch seismic retrofit, which

was part of the 2019 Levy package. This proposed change will be presented to the Library's Board of Trustees at the December meeting.

Climate-friendly air conditioning: With the completion of the Green Lake Branch and the University Branch renovation underway, only four branches remain without air conditioning: the Columbia, Fremont, Queen Anne and West Seattle branches. Partial funding for these projects is included in the \$5.2 million Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazardous Mitigation Grant awarded to the Library in mid-2024. The Fremont and West Seattle projects are scheduled for early 2026. The Columbia and Queen Anne branches are in the design phase, with construction expected to start by fall 2026. Timing of these projects, however, is contingent on identifying supplemental funding sources.

Capitol Hill HVAC/electrification: The Capitol Hill HVAC/electrification project (which began in 2023) continued to await final adjustments, although the branch air conditioning has been operational for over a year.



On the hottest day in July, Katy was one of many Green Lake Branch patrons enjoying the new AC: “To be able to get out of the heat is so crucial.”

Routine maintenance: keeping facilities and grounds clean and safe

Q3 was another busy quarter for Facilities, and Custodial and Janitorial staff. Across both teams, staff responded to approximately 3,200 work orders in Q3. Just over 1,000 work orders were for routine or regularly scheduled maintenance, and nearly 2,200 remaining work orders were unscheduled requests from Library staff, such as restroom, biohazard and/or waste cleanup; grounds maintenance; and HVAC maintenance. Of the 2,200 unscheduled requests, 17.5% were marked Emergency, Urgent, or High Priority, which is a decrease of 4.5% from Q2.

Every day, our Facilities and Janitorial/Custodial teams handle new challenges effectively and help provide safe and positive experiences to patrons.

Risks, opportunities and the path ahead

Here is a quick preview of the annual report for 2025:

- Phase 1 implementation of the Library's new 10-year Strategic Plan
- Analysis of community survey results to inform future service levels
- Continuing to navigate funding uncertainty
- Year-end look at key statistics and trends

Q3 2025 Financials

The 2019 Levy accounts for \$54.5 million (37.9%) of the Library's total revised 2025 budget of \$142.2 million. The 2012 Levy accounts for \$933,000 (0.6%). The Library spent \$23 million from the 2019 Levy and \$0.4 million from the 2012 Levy through Q3. Underspensing was largely due to delays in implementing major maintenance and technology capital programs.

Spending tables below show the Library's 2025 Operations Plan budget plus encumbrances and unspent budget authority from prior years in the revised budget columns. Carryover budget authority of \$17.5 million from the 2019 Levy and \$232,000 from the 2012 Levy is designated for spending in 2025. The revised 2025 budget also includes an additional appropriation of \$700,000 in remaining funds from the 2012 Levy.

2019 Levy	Operations Plan	Revised Budget	YTD Expenditures	Remaining	% Spent
Hours & Access	16,450,000	16,496,931	11,521,230	4,975,701	70%
Providing Books & Materials	6,412,000	6,397,268	4,738,531	1,658,738	74%
Technology & Online Services	2,821,000	2,810,696	1,650,372	1,160,324	59%
Literacy & Early Learning	454,000	476,955	277,341	199,614	58%
Building & Facility Support	2,034,000	2,132,522	1,316,555	815,967	62%
Administration	723,000	722,929	484,970	237,960	67%
Major Maintenance	7,989,000	21,047,879	2,687,862	18,360,017	13%
Capital IT Infrastructure	-	4,418,334	385,809	4,032,525	9%
Total	\$36,883,000	\$54,523,987	\$23,062,669	\$31,440,845	42%

Includes \$144k in operating carry-forward and \$17.5M in capital carry-forward budget authority

2012 Levy	Operations Plan	Revised Budget	YTD Expenditures	Remaining	% Spent
Providing Books & Materials	-	700,000	350,000	350,000	50%
Major Maintenance	-	232,961	9,569	223,392	4%
Total	\$0	\$932,961	\$359,569	\$573,392	39%

Includes \$700k one-time support for books and materials and \$232k in capital carry-forward budget authority

Appendix 1. Scheduled weekly hours in 2025 compared to 2019 baseline

Location	2019	Jun 19, 2024 – Sept. 24, 2024	Sep 25, 2024 – Jan. 28, 2025	Current schedule from Jan. 29, 2025 <i>green=above 2019</i> <i>yellow=same as 2019</i> <i>red=below 2019</i>
Ballard Branch	60	62	62	62
Beacon Hill Branch	60	56	56	56
Broadview Branch	60	54	54	54
Capitol Hill Branch	60	60	60	60
Central Library	62	62	62	62
Columbia Branch	60	48	56	56
Delridge Branch	39	48	48	48
Douglass-Truth Branch	60	62	60	60
Fremont Branch	39	40	40	48
Green Lake Branch	39	CLOSED	48	48
Greenwood Branch	60	62	62	62
High Point Branch	46	58	56	56
International District/Chinatown Branch	46	46	48	48
Lake City Branch	60	54	62	62
Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch	39	32	40	48
Magnolia Branch	39	40	40	48
Montlake Branch	39	37	40	48
NewHolly Branch	39	40	48	48
Northeast Branch	60	48	48	60
Northgate Branch	60	40	48	58
Queen Anne Branch	39	40	40	48
Rainier Beach Branch	60	56	56	56
South Park Branch	46	62	58	58
Southwest Branch	60	48	48	48
University Branch	46	40	40	CLOSED
Wallingford Branch	39	40	40	48
West Seattle Branch	60	48	48	48
Total Weekly Hours	1377	1283	1368	1398
% of 2019 baseline		93%	99%	102%