



The Seattle Public Library



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

125

YEARS STRONG





A historic quasiquintennial of Library service to our community

Dear Friends,

In 2016 The Seattle Public Library celebrated 125 years of service to our community! This milestone provided a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the Library's early days, as well as its continued importance and value to every resident in our city.

The Library first opened as a reading room April 8, 1891, in rented space in the Occidental Building in Pioneer Square. Patrons filled the chairs, eagerly reading from the 142 periodicals stacked on the tables. On Dec. 1 that same year, the Library began lending books. Approximately 6,000 new books had been purchased from Boston – all beautifully arranged according to the Dewey Decimal System. A lumber company vice president borrowed the first book, a copy of Mark Twain's 1869 best-seller, "The Innocents Abroad."

The Seattle Public Library eventually found a permanent location at 1000 Fourth Ave., thanks in part to a

\$200,000 donation from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, which funded construction of the new library. The beautiful Carnegie Library opened in 1906.

It wasn't long before the Library began constructing neighborhood libraries. Providing local Library service was important to this growing city. Those early locations – six of them Carnegies – provided the basis for what The Seattle Public Library looks like today.

While many things have changed in the past 125 years – the Library, for example, no longer offers typewriters, card catalogs or a smoking room – it still remains a center for education, culture and community.

And the Library remains responsive to the needs of patrons. In 2016, for example, the Library reimagined spaces in two branch libraries to better serve modern Library users, and introduced a new bookmobile to serve a number of facilities, including child care facilities and

HISTORIC FACT:

A.J. Snoke, a scholarly Civil War veteran, was Seattle's first official librarian.



1890

Library designated an official city department

1906

Carnegie-funded Central Library opens at Fourth & Madison



Clay Jenkinson portrays President Theodore Roosevelt at the Library's McLellan/O'Donnell Living History Series at Town Hall.

Mission

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

preschools for low-income families. We introduced new King County Election ballot drop boxes at four Library locations and focused efforts to help people experiencing homelessness in our community. The Central Library was transformed to host "First Folio: The Book That Gave Us Shakespeare," a touring exhibit of one of the most important books ever published. In addition, thanks to the 2012 Library levy, we were happy to restore Friday hours at four branch libraries that had their hours cut during the last prolonged recession.

The Seattle Public Library's success would not be possible without the leadership of our Library board of trustees, including recently appointed trustees Jay Reich and Ron Chew, along with the dedication of our staff and volunteers, and support from our elected officials, Library Foundation and Friends of the Library.

So what will the next 125 years be like? It's hard to

know, given our rapidly changing world. But please be assured The Seattle Public Library plans to still be here, committed to providing information, knowledge and opportunity to every resident.

Theresa Fujiwara, Library Board president
Marcellus Turner, City Librarian

Library board trustees

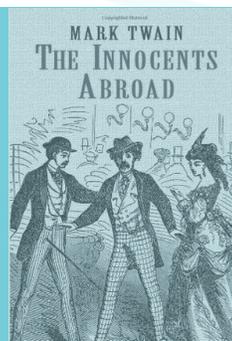
Theresa Fujiwara, president
Kristi England, vice president
Marie M. McCaffrey
Dan Dixon Ron Chew
Tré Maxie Jay Reich

1910

West Seattle, Green Lake and University branches open

1919

Library offers first Summer Reading Program



HISTORIC FACT:

Mark Twain's "The Innocents Abroad" was the first book ever checked out from The Seattle Public Library.

2016

HIGHLIGHTS

The Seattle Public Library honored its 125 years of service in 2016 by doing what matters most to the community – bringing people, information and ideas together to enrich lives and build community.

The Seattle Public Library received the highest five-star rating for a seventh consecutive year from Library Journal's Index of Public Library Service because of the exceptional quality and use of Library services.

The Library is preparing for the future by focusing on five Service Priorities: Seattle Culture and History, Youth and Family Learning, Technology and Access, Community Engagement and Re-Imagined Spaces.

Highlights of this work in 2016 are outlined in this report, along with historical milestones that celebrate and recognize the Library's importance and value to the community over the years.

Expanding our local collection

Cultivating and sharing the city's rich cultural and artistic talent is essential to maintaining a strong Library collection.

- In 2016, we unveiled the **George Gulacsik Space Needle Photograph Collection**, featuring 2,400 never-before-published images. From the first concrete pour in May 1961 to the opening of the World's Fair in 1962, this digitized collection offers a comprehensive view of the Space Needle's construction.
- Another exciting collection initiative was the launch of **PlayBack**, an online curated collection of music by Seattle artists available for free download and streaming. The collection will continue to grow by 100 albums each year through a juried selection process.

Inspiring exhibits

Providing opportunities for the public to experience art – whether for inspiration, education or reflection – is an important Library service.

- One of the most famous books in history came to the Central Library in 2016 – **William Shakespeare's First Folio**, the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays, published seven years after his death.

The exhibit drew 12,800 visitors and another 3,600 people who participated in our related public events and activities.

Because Shakespeare's plays were written to be performed, many were not published during his lifetime. Without the Folio, many of his plays, such as Macbeth and 17 others, would have been lost. The Library created a space called the "Meadow" for live Shakespeare-era music, dance and theater, as well as

HISTORIC FACT:

Josephine Taber was the Library's first trained librarian when she was hired in 1903 at an annual salary of \$900.



1930

Bookmobile service begins

1939

Vinyl records available for checkout



Communications team greets patrons at Community Conversation held at KEXP gathering space.

ShakesQueer, which featured popular drag artists and zany performances for those looking for a new take on Shakespeare’s classic tales.

- The Library brought the community together around the issue of homelessness by hosting the exhibit **“Tiny: Streetwise Revisited.”** Streetwise explored the life of a homeless Seattle teen over the course of 30 years through photographs by Mary Ellen Mark. Approximately 13,500 people visited the powerful exhibit and about 1,385 people participated in related Library programs, including “Homelessness in Seattle: A Historical Perspective” and “Create Change: Address Youth and Family Homelessness with Art and Advocacy.”

Listening to the community

Ensuring access to education for all means going out into the community to understand current issues and needs and knowing how the Library can help.

- We partnered with a number of organizations, including AIA Seattle, Design in Public, the King County Library System, the Association of King County Historical Organizations, KEXP, and several others, to host **“Community Conversations”** focused on three Library Service Priorities: Re-imagining Library Spaces, Seattle Culture and History and Community Engagement. We heard many great ideas, which have shaped our planning and decision-making.

HISTORIC FACT:

All Libraries were closed for five weeks during the influenza pandemic of 1918.

1941

Friends of The Seattle Public Library established

1942

The Library sends 500 books to regional Japanese-American internment camps



- As the number of **people experiencing homelessness** in Seattle increases, the Library has broadened its efforts to support this community in need. Staff visited homeless shelters and encampments throughout the city to hear firsthand how the Library can help. The team returned, offering specific resources and services, including books and Wi-Fi hotspots. In addition, the University Branch offers a drop-in program for homeless teens, and staff members make regular visits to the Elizabeth Gregory Home, a day center for women experiencing homelessness.

- This year, the Library also solidified a partnership with the **Municipal Court Resource Center** after a very successful pilot project. Through the pilot, Library staff members provided regular Library tours to Seattle Community Court defendants. The partnership has expanded so that staff now spend time on-site at the court's Resource Center, connecting Community Court defendants to Library resources, such as information on housing, employment, technology, medical resources and more.
- The Seattle Public Library and Seattle Public Schools collaborated to launch a program called **Library Link** at three middle schools. Library Link's goal is to increase student access to and use of online Library resources. Students at the participating schools – Aki Kurose, Denny and Asa Mercer – will receive e-cards that provide them with access to the Library's online databases, downloadable audiobooks, music and video.
- The Library partnered with **United Way King County** and **Food Lifeline** to provide meal services in two Library locations for the first time this summer. Meals were offered three times a week for low-income children at the Delridge and Green Lake branches. Meals were delivered by Food Lifeline. The program was managed and implemented by AmeriCorps volunteers working with United Way King County.
- **New King County ballot drop boxes** were installed at four Library locations this year. The Seattle Public Library now has seven ballot drop boxes, with the Ballard Branch reportedly receiving the most ballots of any drop box in King County.

Establishing key partnerships

Working with organizations, businesses and government agencies strengthens the Library's relationship with the community and brings needed services to patrons in new and innovative ways.

Thanks to a partnership with the **Downtown Emergency Service Center** and funding from The Seattle Public Library Foundation, the Library initiated a two-year pilot program to provide a community resource specialist at the Central Library. The resource specialist connects patrons experiencing homelessness to essential support services, including housing, substance abuse counseling, transportation, clothing, phone services and more. In November, the resource specialist began providing services to the Ballard Branch on Tuesdays. This program has resulted in hundreds of social service referrals since launching.

HISTORIC FACT:

The first permanent Library building was constructed through a \$200,000 donation from Andrew Carnegie.



1946

Films available for checkout

1960

New Central Library replaces Carnegie building

Compelling author events

Hosting literary programs brings people together to inspire and expand their horizons and enhances Seattle's cultural community.

- The Library hosted over 70 **thought-provoking talks** with authors in 2016, among them, Colson Whitehead, best-selling author of "The Underground Railroad," CNN analyst and New Yorker staff writer Jeffrey Toobin and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Chabon, all supported by The Seattle Public Library Foundation.
- The much-anticipated **2016 Seattle Reads** program – now in its 18th year – featured the book, "We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves," by Karen Fowler. Fowler visited the Library in May to discuss her book with patrons.
- The Library also offered two dozen writing and publishing classes to support writers in the community through its **Seattle Writes** project, which supports local writers through programs, workshops, write-ins, and by providing spaces to work throughout the city.

Promoting the joy of reading

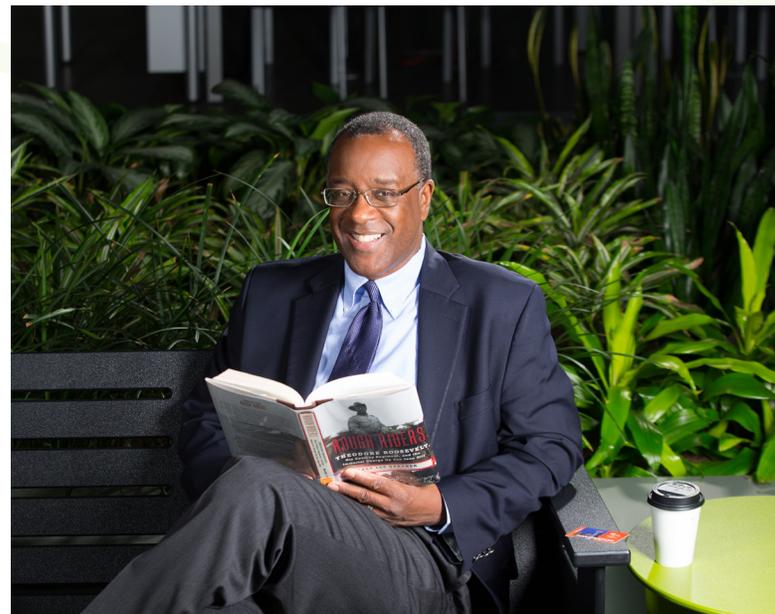
Ensuring Seattle retains its reputation as a reading city is a priority for the staff at The Seattle Public Library. Whether it's a printed book, e-book, audiobook or CD, the Library has something for everyone.

- The Library offered its second annual **Book Bingo Summer Program** for adults, which used a specially designed bingo card to encourage adults to

explore new titles. The 475 patrons who completed the bingo card read a total of 8,717 books. The popular program is presented in partnership with Seattle Arts & Lectures.

- Nearly 7,400 people applied for Library cards in September during **Library Card Sign-Up Month**. The Library promoted getting a Library card with a campaign titled "With My Library Card I Can..." that promoted the range of resources and services that patrons can access with a Library card.
- **Story times** continue to be one of our most important and popular literacy programs for children, child care centers and families. An incredible 110,845 children, parents and caregivers attended these literacy sessions in 2016, which included Somali, LGBTQ Rainbow and Sensory story times.
- The Library hosted its third annual **Banned Books in Drag** program at R Place, drawing hundreds of participants.

Ross Baker, president of The Seattle Public Library Foundation, poses for our "With My Library Card, I Can..." campaign.



1970

Married women are first allowed to have a Library card in their name

1976

Quick Information phone line launched to answer questions from patrons



The bookmobile makes a visit to workers at Boeing in 1932.



South Park Branch patrons display reading selections from the Summer of Learning program

Helping small businesses

Working with startup businesses is just one of the important roles the Library plays in building and supporting a stronger local economy.

The Library's business resource team – **Library to Business** – hosted or participated in nearly 120 events and classes attended by nearly 2,500 people to support startups and small businesses in our community. Some classes were offered in Spanish, including one on how to seek business opportunities with the city. The Library held networking events and a variety of workshops for people interested in starting their own businesses, as well as seminars for business owners interested in improving their marketing techniques and an LGBT Business Builder Event. In addition, staff members conducted nearly 140 business information appointments, where they were able to provide patrons with more customized service.

Supporting student success

Helping students with homework assignments, and college applications, or leading fun educational activities, is a priority for staff at The Seattle Public Library.

- This year marked the Library's **97th annual Summer of Learning** program for children and teens across the city. The Library offered 378 free educational programs attended by nearly 11,900 youth. As part of the program, the Library distributed over 9,000 free books to children, including to many high-needs youth in our community.

In addition, Library staff participated in nearly 6,700 events, outreach visits and activities at 325 sites with organizations such as summer school programs, the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department, summer meal sites, churches and mosques, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, organizations serving immigrants and refugees, preschools, farmers markets and medical clinics.

HISTORIC FACT:

Librarians started making rounds in two city hospitals after World War I.



1980

The Seattle Public Library Foundation established

1980

Videotapes available for checkout

- Our popular **Global Reading Challenge**, a reading program for fourth- and fifth-grade students in Seattle Public Schools, celebrated its 21st year in 2016. This year's winning team, "Book Thieves," was composed of students from Thornton Creek Elementary School. A total of 62 schools took part in this year's reading challenge.
- The Library offered hands-on STEM activities with its popular **Tinkerlab** programs at a variety of Library locations. Tinkerlab introduces children to science, technology, engineering and math concepts through play, experimentation and discovery. Children can drop in for weekly self-directed challenges, or get help from Library staff to use digital technology.
- The Library continues to be a popular resource for students needing homework assistance, or help planning for college. This year, the Library offered in-person **Homework Help** at 10 locations, as well as workshops on how to use Library resources for school assignments, to apply for financial aid, or gain life skills.
- The Douglass-Truth Branch hosted its first **African Teen Career and Networking** event, which attracted dozens of teens. The panel featured a lawyer, case manager, juvenile justice advocate, small business development adviser, humanitarian and computer engineer. A group of Seattle Youth Employment summer interns at Multimedia Resources and Training Institute helped shape the event.

Adult learning opportunities

Supporting lifelong learning and local economic development is achieved through a wide range of Library learning opportunities for job seekers, ESL students and digital literacy learners.

- The Library provided over 1,330 educational classes to help residents with language, technology, or other barriers achieve their professional or personal goals. The Library offered ESL, citizenship and Talk Time sessions, as well as a variety of computer classes, including classes taught in Vietnamese, Chinese and Russian. More than 13,000 people attended the classes, which were held at the Central Library and at neighborhood libraries using a traveling computer lab. In addition, the Library hosted 24 technology classes in the community.

1982

Northeast Branch installs Library's first public computer, an Apple II

1988

Computerized circulation system with electronic barcodes implemented



HISTORIC FACT:

During the Great Depression, many of the unemployed relied on soup kitchens for meals and The Seattle Public Library for daytime refuge.

Encouraging understanding

Providing a safe and neutral ground for discussing complex community issues is becoming more important in a rapidly changing world. As the city's convener for civic engagement, the Library strives to raise awareness and sensitivity to current topics facing our community.

- The Library hosted an overflow crowd at the Central Library for a conversation about the homeless encampment called "The Jungle." The program covered the city's efforts to clean up the encampment and alternatives for the people who lived there. The program was moderated by KUOW's Joshua McNichols and featured a panel of current and former Jungle residents, Tim Harris from the Real Change newspaper, and other advocates.
- The Library hosted the Rev. Starsky D. Wilson, co-chairman of the Ferguson Commission, for a discussion on what cities and regions can do to advance racial equity and support communities.

Maintaining buildings and upgrading equipment

Protecting the public's investment in Library buildings, which were replaced or renovated as part of the 1998 "Libraries for All" bond measure, is a promise the Library made to the community.

- In keeping with the Library's commitment to maintain buildings, two Library locations received upgrades in 2016. We celebrated the re-opening of a beautifully **refurbished Rainier Beach Branch** and began making **maintenance improvements to the High Point Branch**.
- The Library unveiled a new **state-of-the-art bookmobile** that serves 129 facilities, including child care facilities and preschools for low-income families. The previous vehicle was retired after over 20 years of service.

Improving services for you

Improving Library services means making them more accessible, convenient or responsive to your needs.

- The Library was thrilled to be able to restore Friday hours at the High Point, International District/Chinatown, South Park and University branches that were cut during the Great Recession. These additional hours were made possible through the 2012 Library levy.

HISTORIC FACT:

World War II changed many things in Seattle, but not the enthusiasm of children awaiting the new Magnolia Manor Station opening in 1945.



1992

Card catalog replaced with online catalog

1993

Public internet access available



The Library's new state-of-the-art bookmobile.

- **New King County ballot drop boxes** were installed at four Library locations this year. The Seattle Public Library now has seven ballot drop boxes, with the Ballard Branch reportedly receiving the most ballots of any drop box in King County.
- The Library began work on the much-anticipated **redesign of our website, spl.org**, and will continue to seek public comments as that project progresses throughout 2017. The last redesign was completed in 2003. This project is made possible through the 2012 levy.
- Seattle Public Theater joined The Seattle Public Library's **Museum Pass program**, which offers free admission to 15 Seattle museum partners for Library cardholders. All passes are good for up to two people – some passes even include free admission for kids ages 17 and under.
- The Library launched an innovative online service to help patrons learn a new skill or hobby. Patrons use an online form to enter information about a particular interest and Library staff members respond with a lesson plan and suggested books, videos, classes and downloads. This pilot service, called **"Your Next Skill,"** is funded by the Knight Foundation with support from The Seattle Public Library Foundation.

1995

First Library website launched

1998

First Seattle Reads program



HISTORIC FACT:

Bright and spacious places to sit, read and yes, smoke, were provided when the modern new Central Library opened in 1960.

Celebrating achievements

Showcasing the exceptional work of staff members and the organization was amplified with the announcement of several individual and Library awards.

- Seattle Arts & Lectures named **Chris Higashi**, program manager of the Washington Center for the Book at The Seattle Public Library, the recipient of its third annual **Sherry Prowda Literary Champion Award**. The selection committee said Higashi embodied the center's mission to "broaden and deepen appreciation for literature that expands the world of the reader." The committee also noted Higashi's work presenting events with diverse cultural and historical significance, as well as co-founding Seattle Reads and reviving the Washington State Book Awards.
- Fremont Branch staff member **Darcy Stone** was honored with **Fremont's Best Citizen Award**, chosen by fremoncentrist.com readers. Stone was recognized for her "friendly, informative and inclusive ways behind the checkout desk."
- **The Seattle Public Library** was awarded the **top rating of five stars** among large public libraries for a seventh consecutive year in the Library Journal's 2016 Index of Public Library Service. Ratings are determined by statistics for four key library services: in-person library visits, how many materials were checked out, program attendance and public internet computer use.

- The Library Board voted to name the meeting room at the **Fremont Branch** in honor of the late **Walt Crowley and outgoing board member Marie McCaffrey** for their passionate dedication and service to The Seattle Public Library. McCaffrey recently completed her second five-year term on the Library Board. The room is named the **Walt Crowley & Marie McCaffrey Meeting Room**.
- The **Central Library** was featured as **one of the most beautiful libraries** in the United States in the Guardian.

HISTORIC FACT:

George Tsutakawa's first fountain was commissioned for the 1960 Central Library.



1998

Voters approve
Libraries for All
building program

2003

Library offers live
online chat with
a librarian



Young patron using an in-branch provided iPad.

LIBRARY LEVY

In 2012, Seattle voters improved Library services by supporting a seven-year, \$123 million levy that funded increases in Library hours, books, technology and building maintenance. It also supports the five Service Priorities that are guiding the future work and role of the Library.

Each year as part of our commitment to be accountable to the public, the Library produces an annual progress report that shows how we have used levy funds to support the core services the public uses and values; 2016 was the fourth year of the levy.

Highlights from 2016 report

- Retained 6,000+ new open hours systemwide
- Added 43,000+ new titles to our collection of print books, audiobooks, DVDs and CDs and added 56,000 new e-book and e-audiobook files
- Piloted in-building checkout of tablets and laptops at Rainier Beach, High Point, University and International District/Chinatown branches and kicked off a website redesign project
- Completed 12,300+ work orders to keep buildings clean, efficient and in good working order and completed refurbishment of the Ballard Branch

HISTORIC FACT:

“Show Me! A Picture Book of Sex for Children and Parents” ignited a bitter censorship battle in 1985.

2004

OMA/LMN-designed
Central Library opens

2004

Central Library
offers Wi-Fi



LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The Seattle Public Library Foundation was established in 1980 by a group of visionary citizens who understood that a great Library wouldn't be possible through public funding alone. The Foundation's mission is to ensure the long-term vitality of the Library by raising funds to enhance collections, public programs and facilities.

2016 Highlights

- More than 6,000 individuals, organizations, foundations and businesses donated over \$4.7 million to support The Seattle Public Library Foundation.
- The Foundation funded two major exhibitions at the Library – a traveling exhibit of Shakespeare's First Folio and "Tiny: Streetwise Revisited," photographs by Mary Ellen Mark.
- Thanks to more than 500 generous donors, the Foundation completed the Norcliffe Challenge, raising \$3.5 million for the Program Endowment for Children and Teens.
- The Foundation gave nearly \$4.6 million in grants to the Library, which included \$1.3 million toward collections and resources, support for the Library's five Service Priorities, and more.

Service Priorities

- \$1 million for Community Engagement
- \$93,000 for Re-imagined Spaces
- \$187,000 for Seattle Culture and History
- \$1.1 million for Youth and Family Learning
- \$243,000 for Technology and Access



Virginia Burnside formed The Seattle Public Library Foundation in 1980, when she was serving as president of the Library Board.

HISTORIC FACT:

The Library Equal Access Project was launched in 1987 to make the library easier to use for those with disabilities.



2005

E-books first available

2007

Downloadable movies first available

Board of Directors

Ross C. Baker, president

Grace Nordhoff, vice president

Irene Yamamoto, treasurer

Stephanie Axelrod, secretary

Susan G. H. Adkins

Greg Berkman

Theodore J. Collins

Dr. Patricia L. Dawson

Sue Donaldson

Michael Ellsworth

Sibyl Frankenburg

Jodi Green

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Dan McConnell

Tyler Preston Mickey

Nick Momyer

Lynn Pigott Mowe

Glenna Olson

Susan Potts

Anne Repass

Deborah Rosen

Lori Scott

Annie Searle

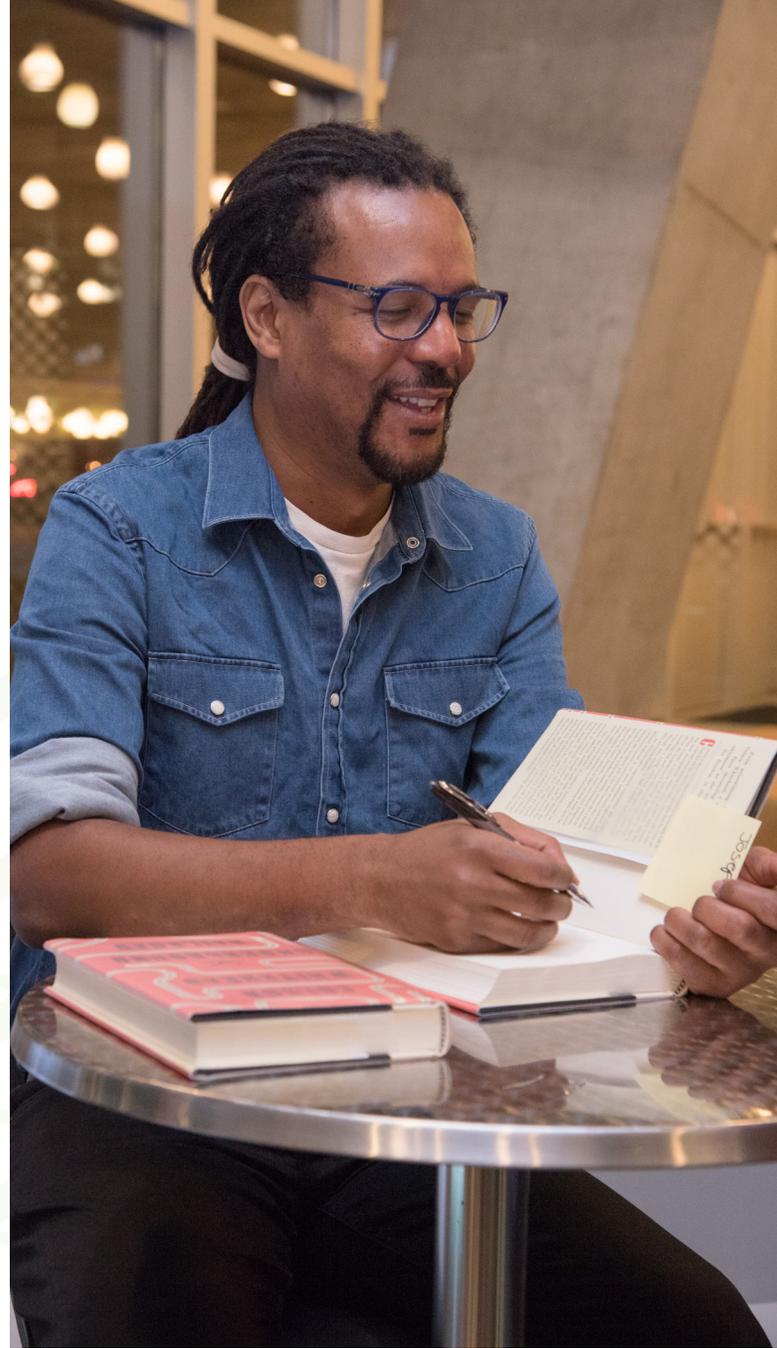
Claudia Skelton

Bill Stafford

Neal Sullins

Ina Tateuchi

Pat Walker



Colson Whitehead signs books at his reading of "The Underground Railroad" at the Central Library, an event supported by The Seattle Public Library Foundation.

2008

Systemwide Libraries
for All building
program completed

2009

Library Facebook
page launched



HISTORIC FACT:

A crowd watches the latest developments in the 1991 Gulf War against Iraq unfold on a television at the Central Library.

FRIENDS OF THE SEATTLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of The Seattle Public Library is a nonprofit, grassroots membership group founded in 1941 to promote the Library as an essential institution of society and support its mission and vision. The volunteer board of trustees and the thousands of Friends' members advocate, educate and raise funds on behalf of the Library.

The Friends celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2016 by hosting an event that featured a special viewing of Shakespeare's First Folio at the Central Library. The Friends also gave away 75 anniversary tote bags to patrons at each Library location.

Grants

In 2016, the Friends of The Seattle Public Library awarded \$67,000 in grants to support the following Library programs:

- \$20,000 for job skills classes
- \$30,000 toward a sheet music binding and cataloging project
- \$12,000 to support the Re-imagined Spaces project at the Rainier Beach Branch
- \$5,000 to the GiveBIG for Books campaign

Special projects

The Friends also supported the following initiatives:

- \$2,500 to sponsor the Library's annual Booktoberfest program – a celebration of books, beer and good cheer.
- \$5,000 to provide specially sized book bags for children age 6 and under receiving their first Library card.

Books for Teachers

Thanks to a grant from the Renée B. Fisher Foundation, 105 teachers from Seattle Title 1 schools received vouchers to purchase more than 9,000 books at Friends book sales for their classrooms in 2016.

Surplus Book Program

In partnership with The Seattle Public Library, the Friends provided approximately 8,200 books to over 30 nonprofit organizations citywide.

2011

Library Twitter
account launched

2012

Voters pass
Library Levy

2015

Library lends
Wi-Fi hotspots

2016

Library celebrates
125 years and
looks forward to
many more!



Book Sale

The annual Big Book Sale was held at the Seattle Center this year and drew over 5,000 attendees. The Friends also sells items online year-round and provides books for the Surplus Book Program, Books for Teachers, the FriendShop and Freeway Park.

FriendShop

The FriendShop, now in its 12th year of operation at the Central Library, achieved record-breaking sales in 2016. The FriendShop offers a wide range of items for sale to Library patrons and visitors, including a great selection of lightly used books, library-themed items from Pacific Northwest artists and greeting cards for every occasion. The FriendShop also hosted “pop-up” shops in several neighborhood Library locations this year.

Officers

Carmen Bendixen, president
Jessica Frederick, vice president
Sue Baird, secretary
Lori Cleaves, treasurer

Board of trustees

Wilbert Anderson	Rebecca Herzfeld
Roger Atlas	Anne Hurt
Bur Davis	Elaine Marklund
Steve Fawthrop	Ed Marquez
Susan Forhan	Jill Novik
Susan Gilmore	Eric Sorlien
Steve Griggs	Maggie Taylor
Monica Gu	Rona Zevin



Architect Rem Koolhaas (at right) with City Librarian Deborah Jacobs (to his left) on a hard hat tour during the construction of the current Central Library.

2016

Statistical & Financial Summaries

Facilities

- Central Library, 26 neighborhood branches and Mobile Services

Staffing

- Staffing: 695 (584.5 full-time equivalents)

Circulation

- Adult books: 2,923,421
- Children's books: 2,483,277
- Media (DVDs, CDs, audiobooks): 3,266,635
- Digital/downloadable media: 3,034,778

Total: 11,708,111

Collection Size

- Library locations: 2,289,375
- Virtual Library: 359,520
(e-books and e-audiobooks only)

Total: 2,648,895

Patron Visits

- Library locations (door count): 5,481,047
- Virtual visits (internal and external website visits): 5,996,681

Total: 11,477,728

Service Levels and Programs

- 760,135 reference questions answered (in person, phone, fax, mail, email, Live Help chat)
- 4,652,599 holds placed
- 378,380 database sessions
- 361,423 people attended in person or listened by podcast to 10,847 programs at the Central Library or neighborhood branches

Operating Budget

- Personnel: \$52,880,373
- Books and Materials: \$7,322,362
- Equipment: \$1,734,063
- Maintenance, Security and Utilities: \$3,431,050
- Supplies: \$525,462
- Other: \$4,881,007

Total: \$70,774,317

MORE FACTS :

Librarians at the University Branch asked police for protection from "gangs of boys" in the 1920s. Assistant librarian Mary Baker said the boys clogged drinking fountains, threw books and stained the building with thrown fruits and vegetables.

Luella "Lou" Hamilton served as Greenwood Branch librarian for 30 years. In addition to typical librarian duties, she and her staff were also responsible for keeping two coal stoves burning for warmth.

Central Library Meeting Room Usage

- 548 private group rentals
- 35 nonprofit groups used free meeting room spaces to hold 35 meetings
- 1,137 programs were hosted by the Library in meeting rooms
- 568 Library staff meetings and staff trainings

Total meetings supported: 2,288

Tours

- 295 people took scheduled group tours of the Central Library
- 2,033 cell phone tours

Volunteers

- 843 individuals contributed 26,784 volunteer hours to assist with:
 - Repairing and cleaning books
 - Assisting with story times
 - Welcoming patrons to the Central Library and providing directional assistance
 - Assisting staff at Library events
 - Tutoring students

Photo shoots

\$11,135 total revenue

Social Media

-  Facebook fans: 44,564
-  Twitter followers: 16,764
-  Pinterest followers: 1,942
-  Instagram followers: 9,318

Young Shakespearian actors perform on First Folio Community Day



Librarian James Welsh and Central District neighborhood activists saved the Yesler Branch from closure in the 1960s. It was renamed the Douglass-Truth Branch in 1975 by the community in honor of Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth.

Committed to intellectual freedom, the Library bought all copies left in Seattle of Salman Rushdie's controversial book, "The Satanic Verses" in 1989. Rushdie was set to speak at the Library, but global protests canceled his tour. The book has been checked out nearly 3,200 times since its publication.

Central Library

Ballard Branch

Beacon Hill Branch

Broadview Branch

Capitol Hill Branch

Columbia Branch

Delridge Branch

Douglass-Truth Branch

Fremont Branch

Green Lake Branch

Greenwood Branch

High Point Branch

International District/
Chinatown Branch

Lake City Branch

Madrona-Sally

Goldmark Branch

Magnolia Branch

Montlake Branch

NewHolly Branch

Northeast Branch

Northgate Branch

Queen Anne Branch

Rainier Beach Branch

South Park Branch

Southwest Branch

University Branch

Wallingford Branch

West Seattle Branch