

# The Seattle Public Library

Envisioning a city where imagination and opportunity thrive

Seattle City Council | Public Assets and Native Communities Committee

February 6, 2020

Chief Librarian and Executive Director, Marcellus Turner



# Our mission

Bringing people,  
information, and  
ideas together to  
enrich lives and  
build community.





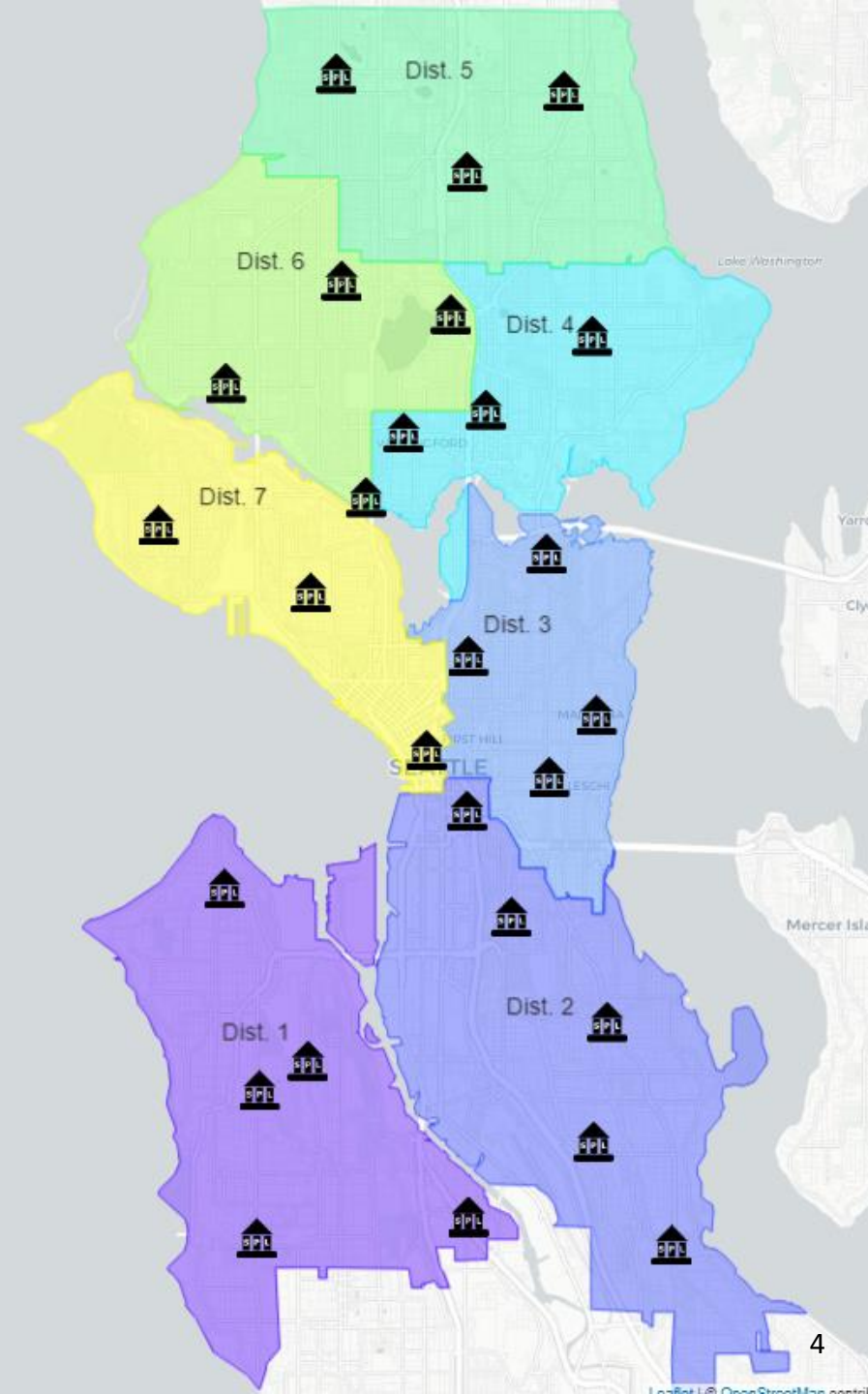
# Joyful, lifelong learning





# Where we are

- 27 physical locations
- Outreach and engagement in and outside of branches



# SPL by the numbers (2018)

**2,363,788**  
items in the  
collection

**720,132**  
questions  
answered

**304,290**  
people attended  
**10,060** events

**640** volunteers  
contributed **22,560**  
hours of service

**65,000** new  
Library cards issued



**2,535,306**

public computer and Wi-Fi sessions  
(Wi-Fi up 4% over last year)



**9,000** kids and teens learned  
STEAM skills over the summer



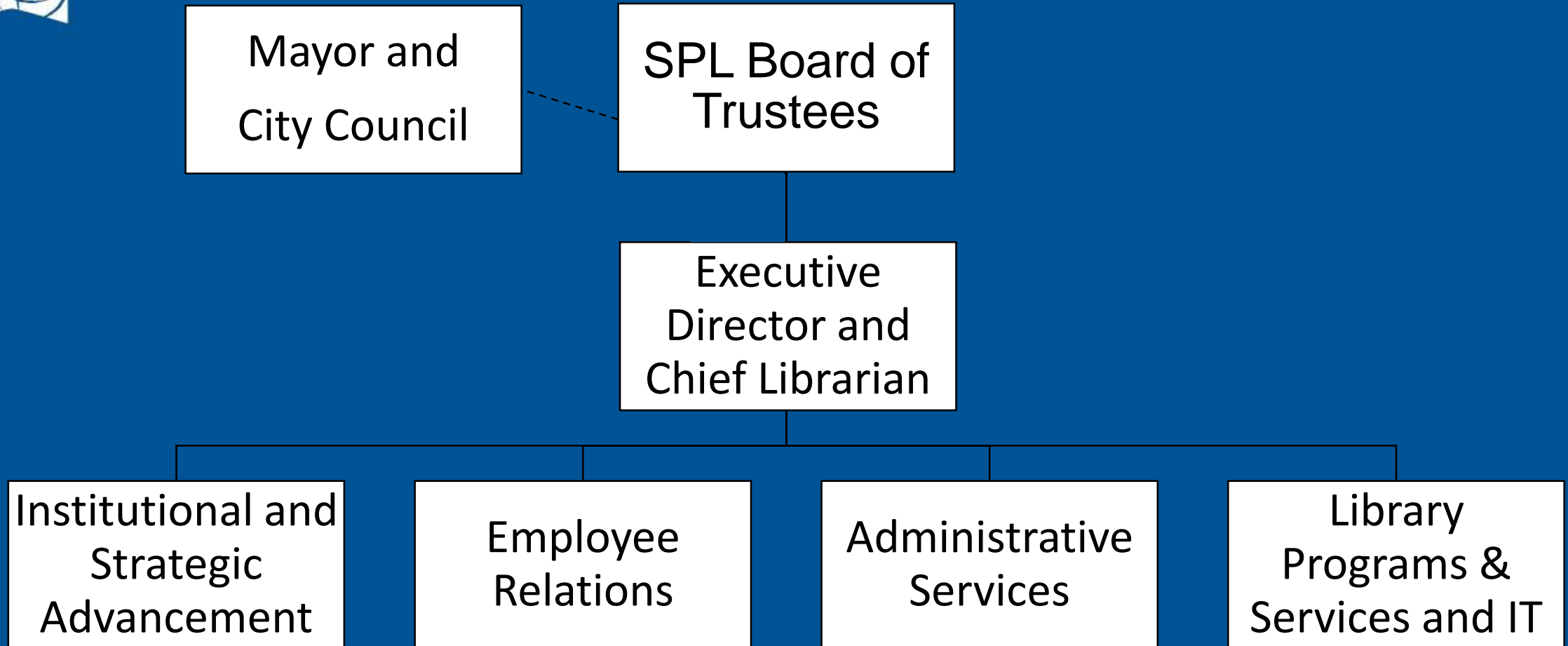
**11,931,657**  
items circulated

**17,223,417**

in-person and online visits  
(up 1% over last year)



**101,355** books and materials  
circulated to homebound and disabled  
patrons, senior centers, and day cares  
that support low-income families

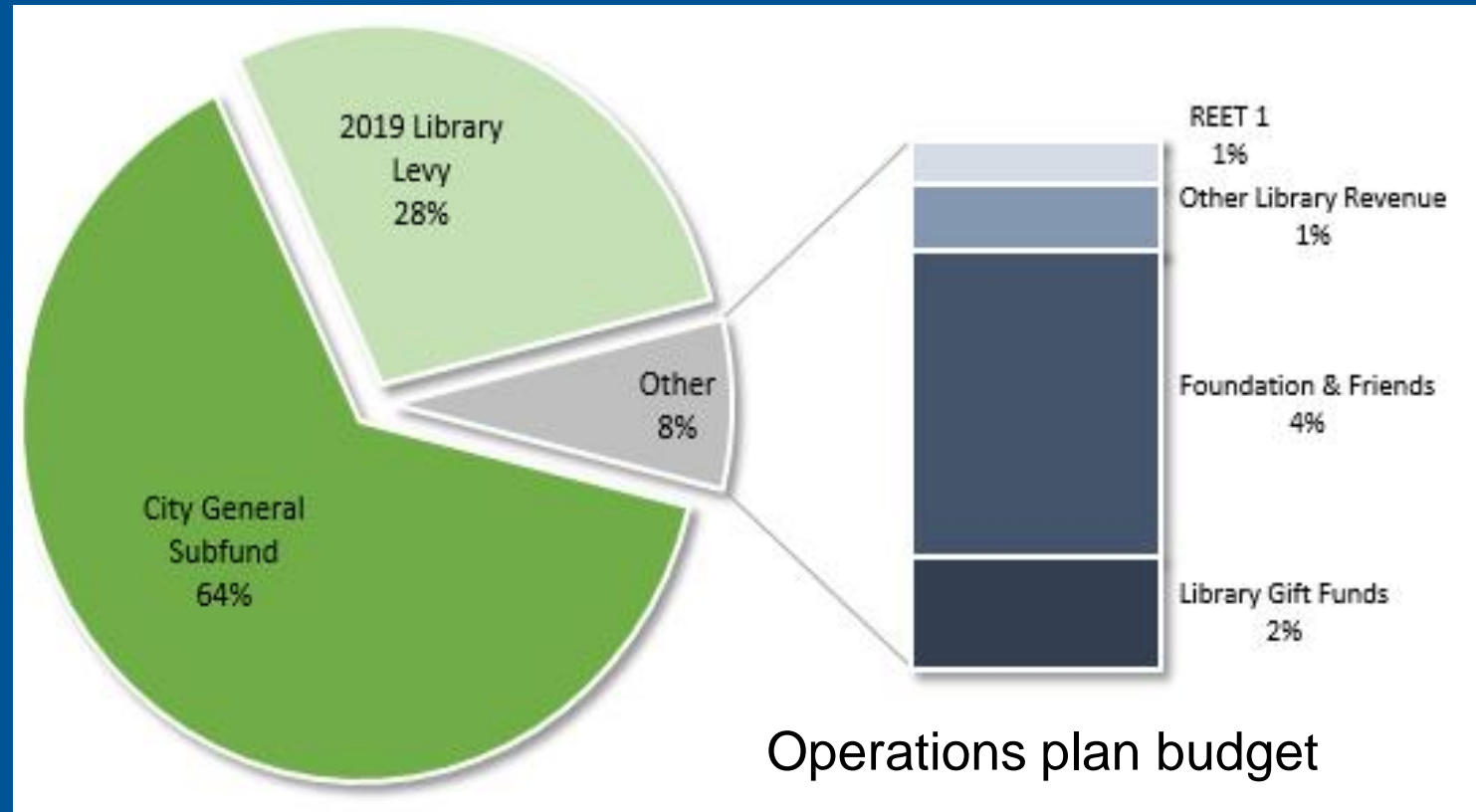






# Funding

- 2020 budget: \$91.7M
- General fund, levy, REET, Foundation, private gifts





# Levy implementation

- No more late fees
- Additional hours
- More budget for e-materials
- Early learning expansion
- New Community Resource program for at-risk youth
- Restore and re-imagine 3 Carnegie buildings







## 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.

## Guiding Principles

- Support intellectual freedom
- Promote literacy and the love of reading
- Protect confidentiality of patron records
- Respect and embrace the entire community
- Foster a healthy democracy
- Support children, youth and families
- Form strong partnerships
- Adapt and innovate





# Service priorities

Youth and  
family learning

Technology and  
access

Community  
engagement

Seattle culture  
and history

Re-imagined  
spaces





# Equity at the library

Lead with race, center  
priority audiences, and  
co-create with community







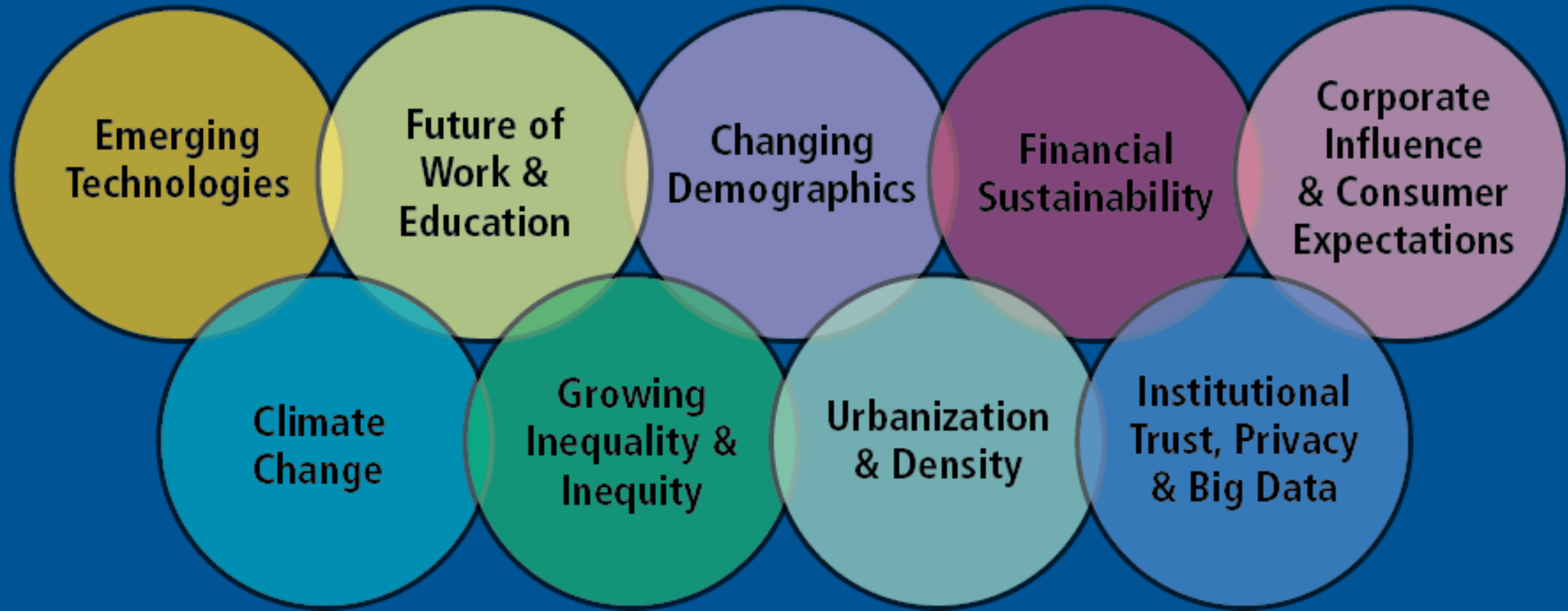
# Equity at the library

Develop strategic partnerships to leverage systems change





# Future-ready library





# Thank you!

- Planned 2020 presentations
  - RSJI
  - Levy
- Recommended reading
- Questions?

Learn more at [www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org)

*Libraries are the kinds of places where ordinary people with different backgrounds, passions, and interests can take part in a living democratic culture.*

*They are the kinds of places where the public, private, and philanthropic sectors can work together to reach for something higher than the bottom line.*

*- Eric Klinenberg  
Palaces for the People*