



## SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

### Libraries, Education, and Neighborhoods Committee

### Agenda

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

9:30 AM

**Council Chamber, City Hall  
600 4th Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104**

**Maritza Rivera, Chair  
Joy Hollingsworth, Vice-Chair  
Dionne Foster, Member  
Eddie Lin, Member  
Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Member**

Chair Info: 206-684-8804; [Maritza.Rivera@seattle.gov](mailto:Maritza.Rivera@seattle.gov)

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Council Chamber Listen Line: 206-684-8566

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**SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL**  
**Libraries, Education, and Neighborhoods**  
**Committee**  
**Agenda**  
**January 14, 2026 - 9:30 AM**

**Meeting Location:**

Council Chamber, City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

**Committee Website:**

<https://www.seattle.gov/council/libraries-education-and-neighborhoods>

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This meeting also constitutes a meeting of the City Council, provided that the meeting shall be conducted as a committee meeting under the Council Rules and Procedures, and Council action shall be limited to committee business.

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address items on the agenda and matters within the purview of the committee. Speakers must be registered in order to be recognized by the Chair. Details on how to register for Public Comment are listed below:

Remote Public Comment - Register online to speak during the Public Comment period at the meeting at <https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment>. Online registration to speak will begin one hour before the meeting start time, and registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

In-Person Public Comment - Register to speak on the public comment sign-up sheet located inside Council Chambers at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time. Registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

Please submit written comments no later than four business hours prior to the start of the meeting to ensure that they are distributed to Councilmembers prior to the meeting. Comments may be submitted at [Council@seattle.gov](mailto:Council@seattle.gov) or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104. Business hours are considered 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Comments received after that time will be distributed after the meeting to Councilmembers and included as part of the public record.

*Please Note: Times listed are estimated*

**A. Call To Order**

**B. Approval of the Agenda**

**C. Public Comment**

**D. Items of Business**

**1. 2026 Seattle Public Library Overview Presentation**

Supporting  
Documents: [Presentation](#)

**Briefing and Discussion**

**Presenters:** Tom Fay, Executive Director and Chief Librarian, and  
Kiersten Nelson, Seattle Public Library

**E. Adjournment**



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

600 Fourth Ave. 2nd Floor  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** Inf 2817, **Version:** 1

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2026 Seattle Public Library Overview Presentation

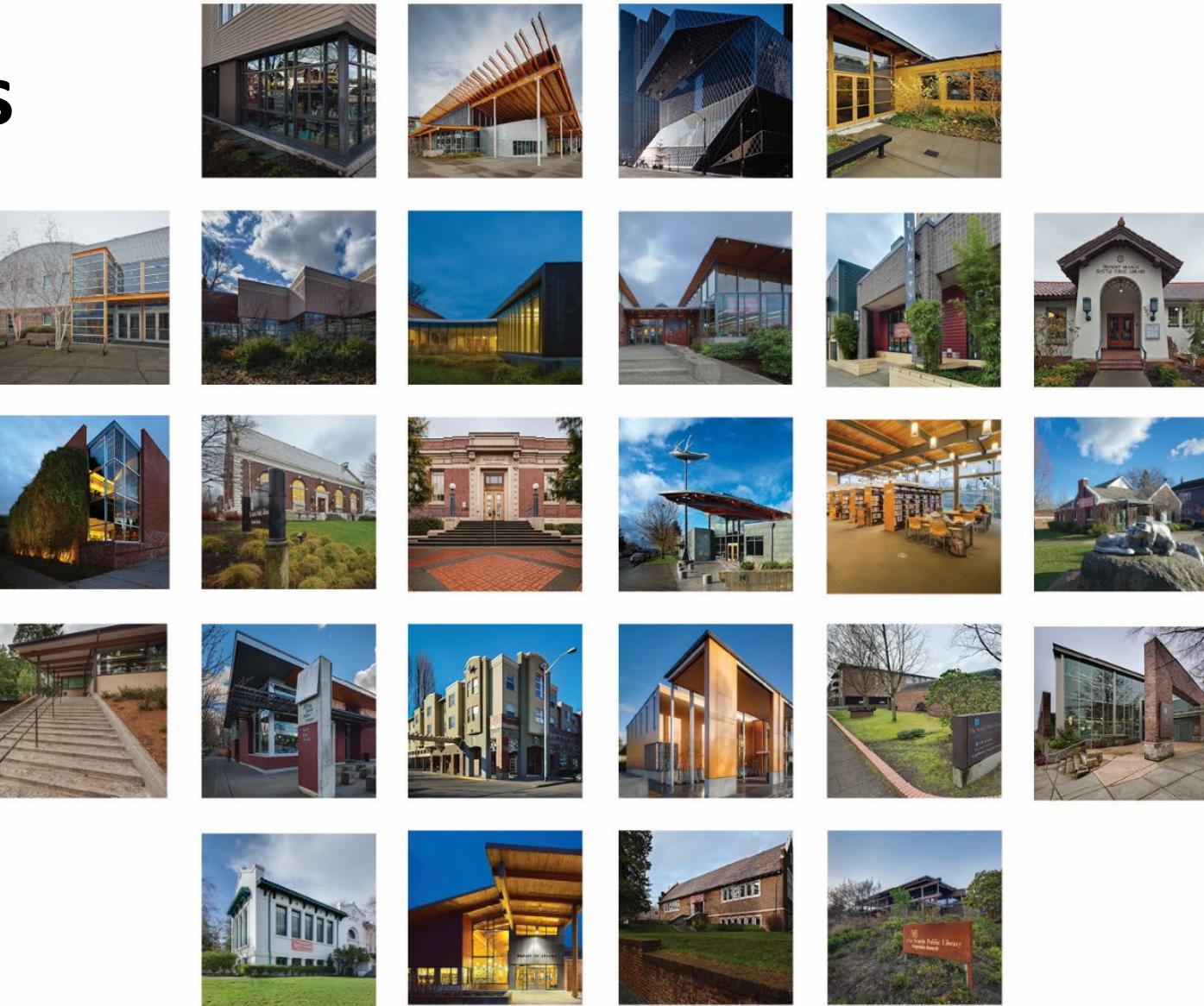
# Welcome to the Library!

An introduction to The Seattle Public Library

January 2026

# Library Resources

- Central Library and 26 neighborhood branches
- Maintenance and Operations Center
- 650 wonderful Library staff (612 FTE)
- 2019 Library Levy
- Fleet vehicles (including the Bookmobile!)



# Library Governance

Five-member Board of Trustees

Members serve five-year terms

Current members include:



**Yazmin Medhi**  
Board president  
2022-present



**W. Tali Hairston, Ph.D.**  
Board vice-president  
2020-present



**Carmen Bendixen**  
2020-present



**Ron Chew**  
2016-present



**Faith Pettis**  
2024-present

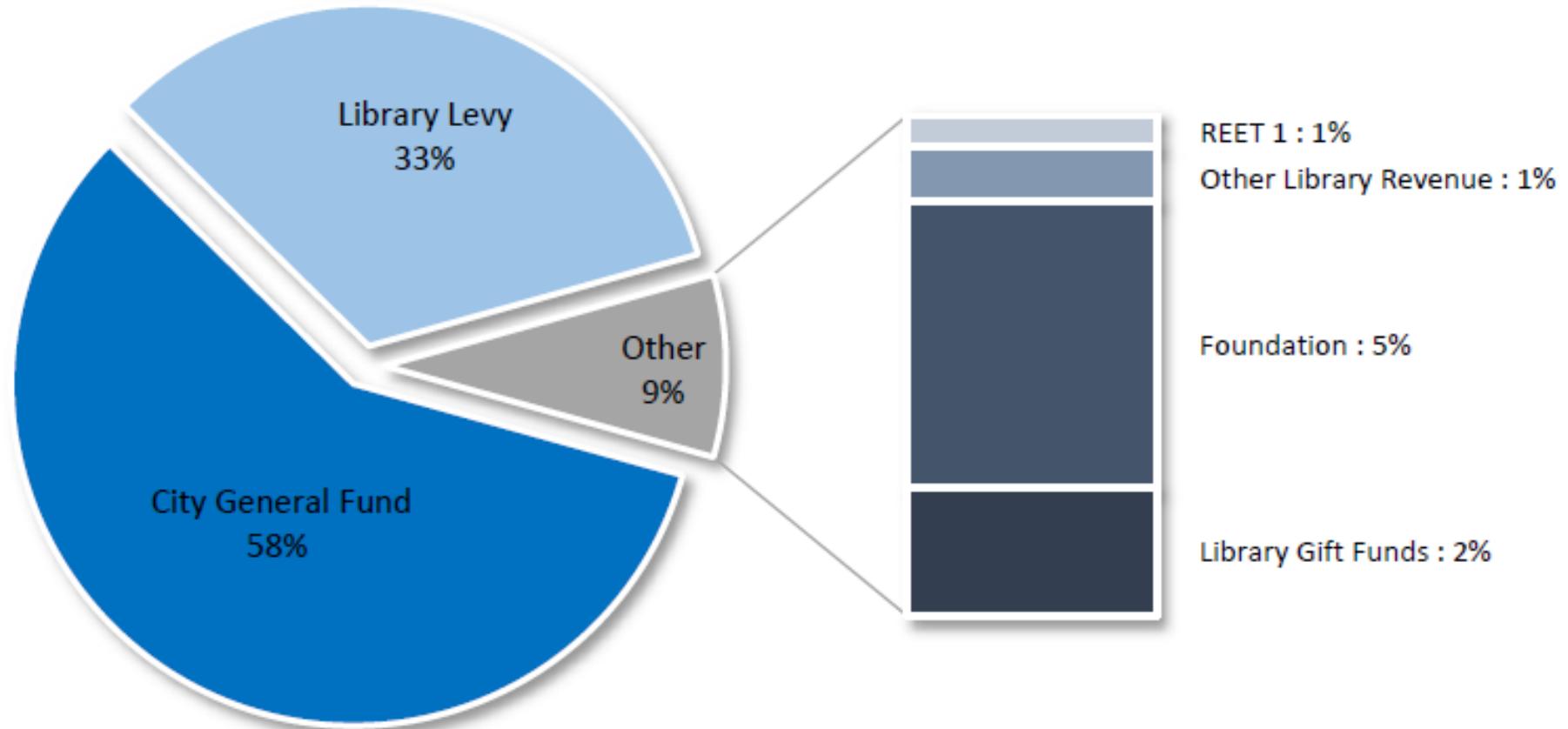
# Library Usage from 2025



- 329,000 active patrons in 12 months
- 2.9 million physical and digital items in our collection
- 6,100 classes, events and activities with 118,000 attendance\*
- 37,000 questions answered by Virtual Assisted Information Services
- 12.7 million physical and digital checkouts
- 369,000 public computer sessions

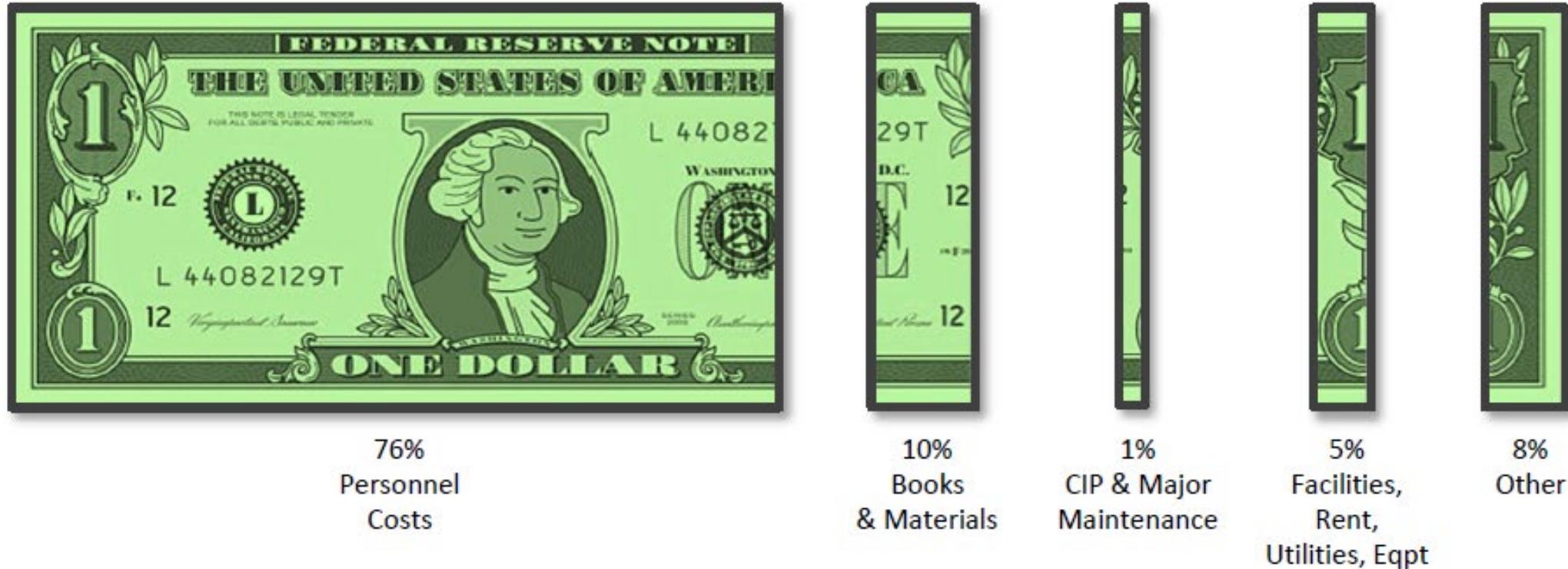
\*Attendance total does not yet include full December 2025 counts.

# 2026 Library Budget



# Library Budget

How \$1 is spent at the Library



# Library Services



## Books and materials

- 2.9 million items in our collection
- 12.7 million total circulation in 2025



## Information and reference

- In-person service offered across system.
- 37,000 questions answered in 2025.
- Includes social service referrals

# Library Services



## Programs for All Ages

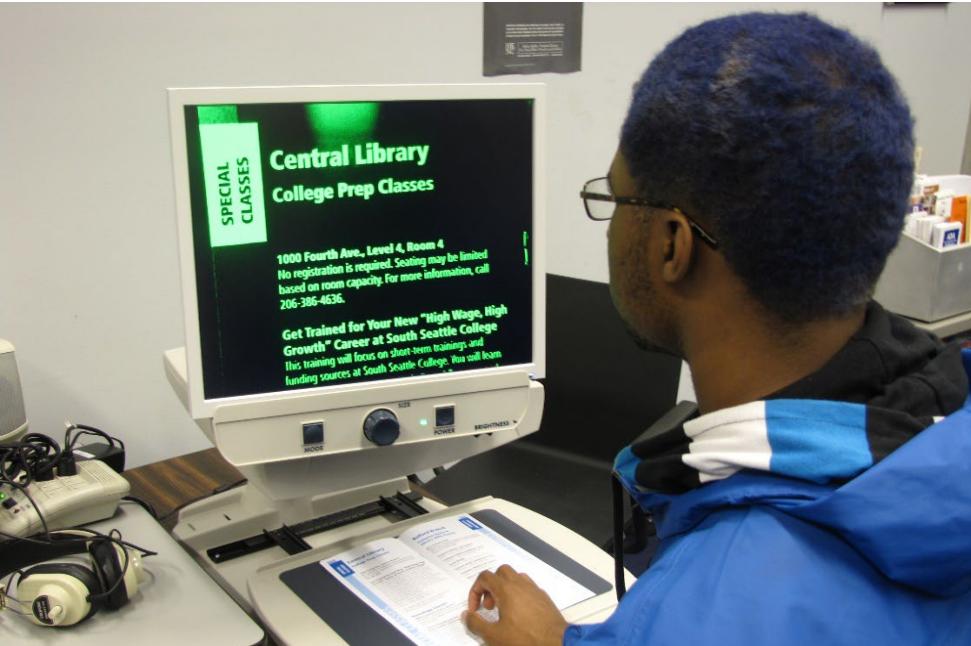
- Free classes, events and activities at Library branches, in the community and online



## Special Collections

- Over 50,000 items documenting and exploring the culture and history of Seattle and the Pacific Northwest

# Library Services



## Library Equal Access Program

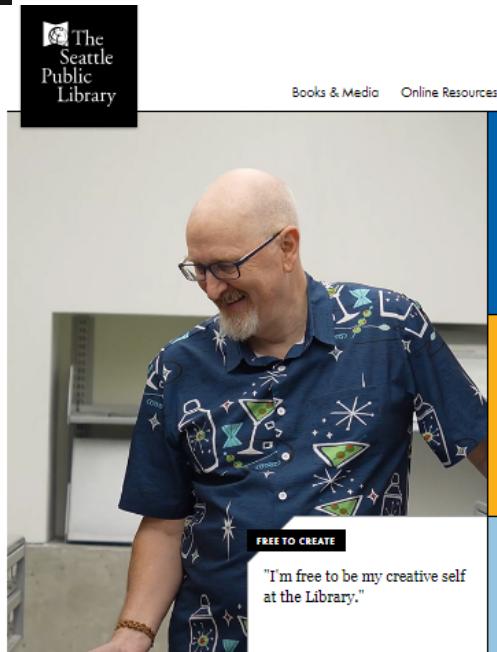
- Assistive equipment & software make it easier for people with vision, hearing, and mobility impairments to use computers.



## Technology Access

- Computers, internet/Wi-Fi, tablets, printers, scanners, fax, self-checkout, and pick-up lockers
- Provide hot spots to Tiny House Villages and sanctioned encampments

# Library Services



**FREE TO CREATE**  
"I'm free to be my creative self at the Library."

**LINKEDIN LEARNING**  
Take free online courses to learn business, technology and creative skills.  
**GET CREATIVE!**

**WORLD LANGUAGES COLLECTION**  
We offer materials in languages other than English at many of our branches, ranging from Amharic to

My Account Ask Us Hours & Locations Language Books & Media Online Resources Event Calendar Programs & Services Using the Library Search Q.

What would you like to find?  
Search everything: the catalog, website, events & more ...

Go to catalog

COMMON TASKS  
View Online Events calendar  
Get books on your device  
Get Movies & TV on your device

Explore Digital Resources →

Get a Library Card →



## The Library Online

- [www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org)
- 5.5 million visits in 2025

## Publicly Available Spaces

- Including study rooms, meeting rooms, music practice rooms and event rental spaces

# Library Outreach and Engagement



## Mobile Services

- 100+ monthly Bookmobile visits
- Home service and books by mail
- Community events and outreach

## Community Listening

- Ongoing work throughout the community
- Focused conversations and surveys on Strategic Plan efforts and Levy planning

# Opportunities

- Continued implementation of SPL's Strategic Plan (2024-2034)
- Seismic retrofit and upgrade of University Branch
- Deployment of new Integrated Library System
- Development of Inclusion and Belonging framework
- Renewal of the 2019 Library Levy

# Questions?

# Thank you!