



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

[Watch Council Meetings Live](#) [View Past Council Meetings](#)

Council Chamber Listen Line: 206-684-8566

The City of Seattle encourages everyone to participate in its programs and activities. For disability accommodations, materials in alternate formats, accessibility information, or language interpretation or translation needs, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at 206-684-8888 (TTY Relay 7-1-1), CityClerk@Seattle.gov, or visit <https://seattle.gov/cityclerk/accommodations> at your earliest opportunity. Providing at least 72-hour notice will help ensure availability; sign language interpreting requests may take longer.



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>

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 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



Legislation Text

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

2026 Seattle Public Library Overview Presentation

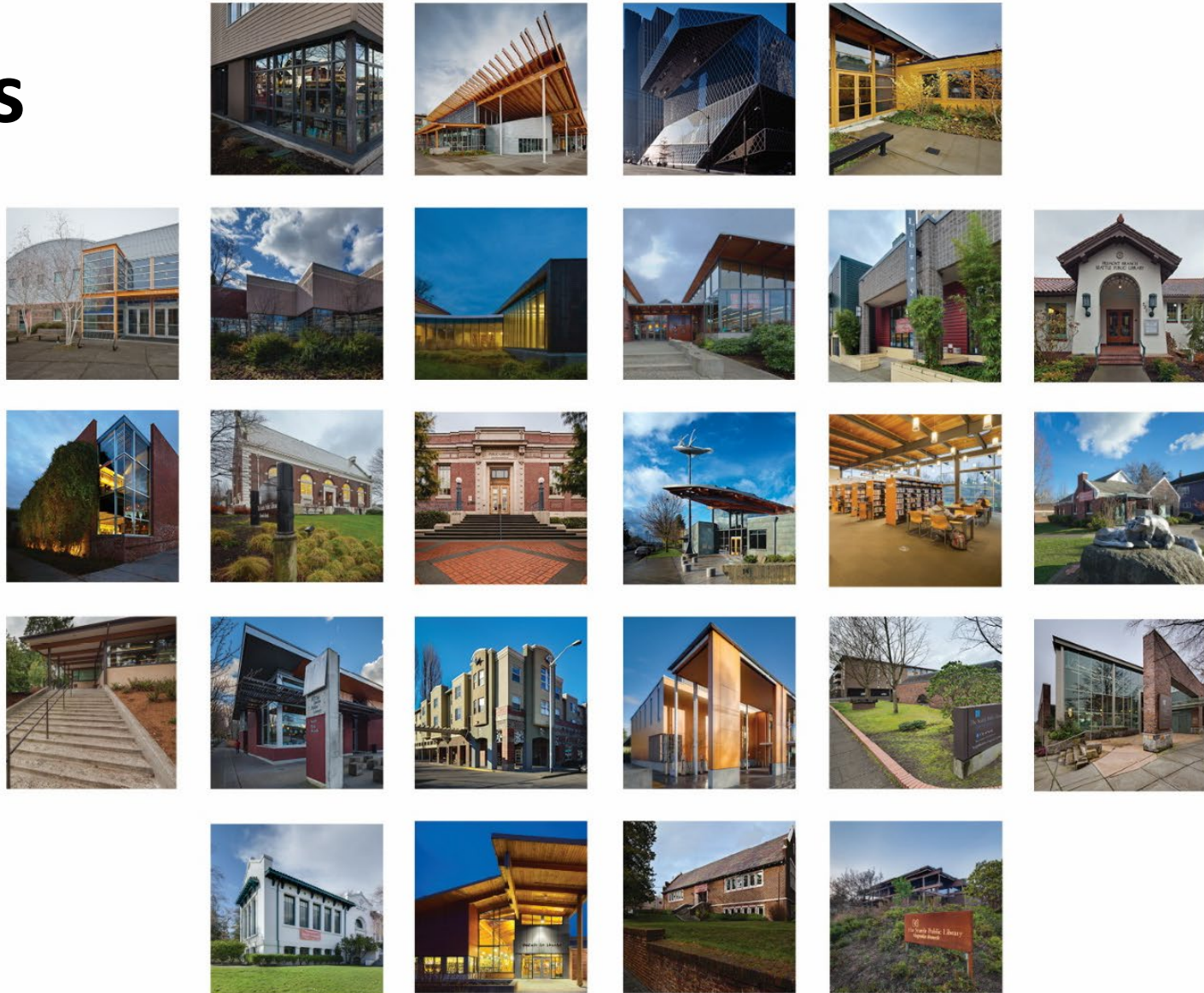
Welcome to the Library!

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

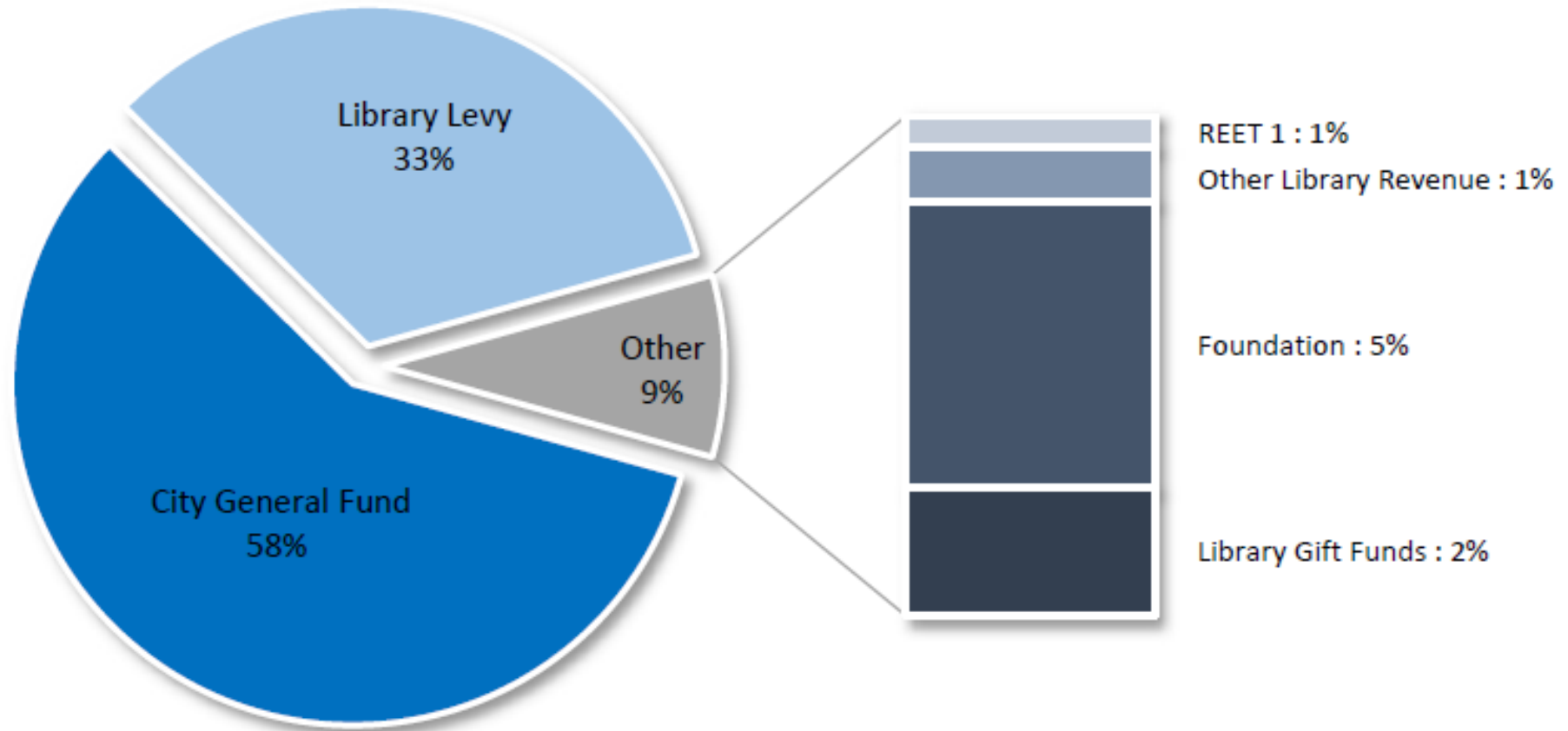
Library Usage from 2025



- 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



76%
Personnel
Costs



10%
Books
& Materials



1%
CIP & Major
Maintenance



5%
Facilities,
Rent,
Utilities, Eqpt



8%
Other

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

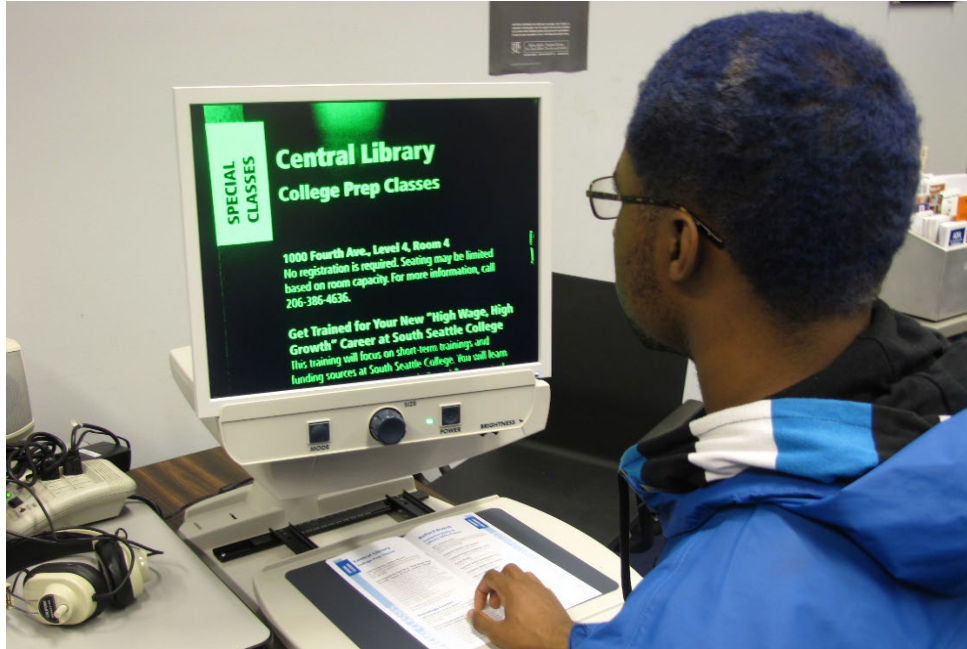
- Free classes, events and activities at Library branches, in the community and online



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

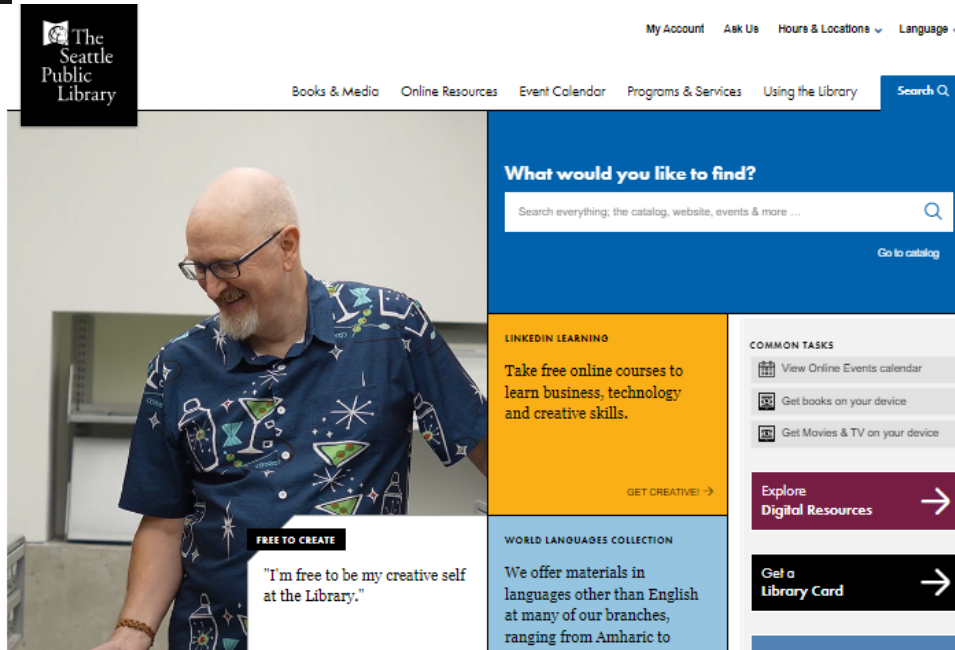
- Assistive equipment & software make it easier for people with vision, hearing, and mobility impairments to use computers.



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



The Library Online

- 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!