

2020 Library Levy Report



Public Assets and Native Communities Committee

July 16, 2021

2020: A Year Like No Other

2020 Q1

January 2

Library goes fine free and waives all fine balances

January 5

All branches open one hour earlier on Sundays

March 13

Last day open to the public due to COVID-19. Patrons check out over 100,000 items

March 16

Library launches spl.org/StayingHome to promote digital Library resources

March 25

First ever SPL “digital Library card” launches

Library Closure and Reopening Timeline

2020 Q2

April 23

Five libraries begin providing restroom access to the public

May 7

Library phone lines are back – but this time staff are answering from home!

May 19

Library Link expands to provide digital access to all Seattle Public School students and teachers

June 4

Your Next Job launches to help jobseekers find work

June 8

Library expands Wi-Fi Hotspots outreach to keep communities connected

And we're named Library of the Year for 2020!



Library Closure and Reopening Timeline

2020 Q3

July 9

In-building work begins on processing and shelving of materials backlog

July 21

Library begins accepting material returns at 11 locations

August 24

Curbside Service begins at 7 locations

August 27

Mobile Services is on the road again

September 8-14

Curbside services suspended due to wildfire smoke!

Library Closure and Reopening Timeline

2020 Q4

October
5

Peak Picks
launches at
Curbside

October
15

Virtual
tutoring
launches

November
1

Due dates for
materials are
re-instated

November
4

Curbside
expands to 11
locations

December 16

Free printing
launches at
Curbside
locations

2019 Levy spending compared to plan (2020)

Levy Category	Revised Budget	Actual	Change from Plan
Hours and Access	\$10.2 M	\$9.2 M	Expanded hours funds used to offset General Fund cuts in 2020 and 2021
Collections	\$6.7 M	\$6.4M	Funds for physical materials used to support electronic materials
Technology and Online Services	\$2.2 M	\$1.7 M	Funds used to support remote access and virtual services
Children's Programming	\$0.1 M	\$0.1M	Early Learning funds used to support k-5 remote learning at Seattle Public Schools
Maintenance (Routine)	\$1.5 M	\$1.1 M	Funds used to adapt facilities to new protocols
Maintenance (CIP)	\$4.7 M	\$1.1 M	Capital projects deferred to 2021
Levy Administration	<u>\$0.4 M</u>	<u>\$0.3M</u>	Library of the Future study deferred
Total	\$25.8 M	\$19.9M	

Hours and Access

We promised to reduce the barriers to Library services

- Overdue fines eliminated and outstanding fines cleared.
- Sunday hours expanded (through March 13).
- Curbside Service launched at 11 locations by the end of 2020.
- Relaunched mobile services and community engagement activities.
- 25,000 Instant Library cards issued.





Collections

We promised to purchase more e-books and more popular materials including Peak Picks

- Added 34,000+ titles and 108,000+ copies to digital collection.
- Added 100,000+ physical items, including 13,000+ copies of Peak Picks titles.
- Added digitized items to the Seattle Collection Online.
- Launched the COVID-19 Community Collection, our first community crowdsourcing project.

Technology and Online Services

We promised to upgrade our technology and support digital access

- Leveraged levy resources to expand hot spot program with Seattle Public Library Foundation funds and loaned 1,135 hot spots in the community.
- Expanded video-conferencing capabilities and improved WiFi connectivity at the Central Library and branches.





Children's Programming

- We promised to provide additional support for Library early learning programs for children ages 0 to 5.
- Offered 43 videos on the SPL Kids YouTube channel including Virtual Story Times, Early Learning, Play and Learn.
 - With financial support from Seattle Public Library Foundation, distributed 6,800 books to eight community partners who, in turn, distributed the books to the families they served.

Maintenance

We promised to maintain Library buildings and preserve them for the future

- Design work for the Green Lake Branch earthquake retrofit completed.
- Adapted facilities to support curbside services and other pandemic-related changes.



2020 by the numbers

Total Levy proceeds spent	\$19.9 million
# of Seattle residents who used their Library card	196,855
# of Seattle residents who checked out a physical item	85,510
# of physical items circulated	2.4 million
# of Library users who checked out, streamed or downloaded a digital item	139,150
# of digital items checked out, streamed or downloaded	5.9 million
# of virtual programs hosted	885