

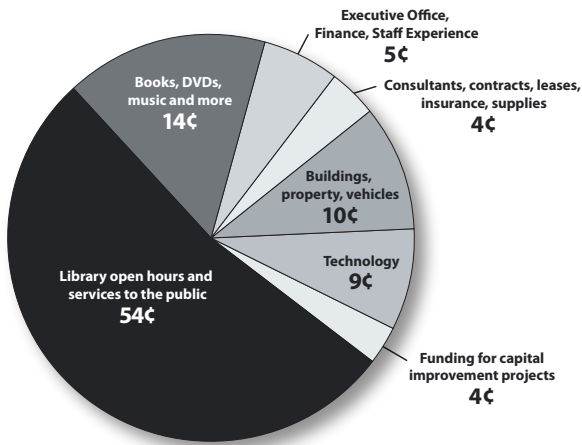
About Pierce County Library System

Overview

Established in 1946, Pierce County Library System includes unincorporated Pierce County and 15 annexed cities and towns. In 2015, the library system served approximately 579,970 people through 20 branches and online services. The library system is an independent taxing district and reports to a board of trustees.

Your Tax Dollars At Work

In 2015, property taxes funded 96% of the library system's services. Operating revenues totaled \$28,259,832. Expenditures totaled \$27,973,302.



Fast Facts 2015

10,945,200:	Summer minutes read
6,722,843:	Books/materials checked out
2,325,785:	Visits to 20 libraries
2,120,040:	Visits to website
313,949:	Cardholders
120,588:	Event attendance

“Without these generous donors...”

Pierce County Library Foundation

In its fiscal year 2014-2015, Pierce County Library Foundation awarded \$481,716 for early learning programs, children's reading programs, senior outreach programs and for Pierce County READS. The library foundation supports and enhances programs and services that are not funded by taxes or other traditional sources of revenue.

Highlights include increasing the number of award-winning Block Play sessions, purchasing and equipping three new vans bringing books and materials to elementary students and seniors; supporting the Summer Reading Program in libraries and traveling to low-income neighborhoods, and adding large-print, audio and downloadable books for seniors.

Friends of the Libraries

18 Friends of the Libraries groups contributed \$30,731. These volunteer organizations are instrumental in supporting and promoting individual libraries.

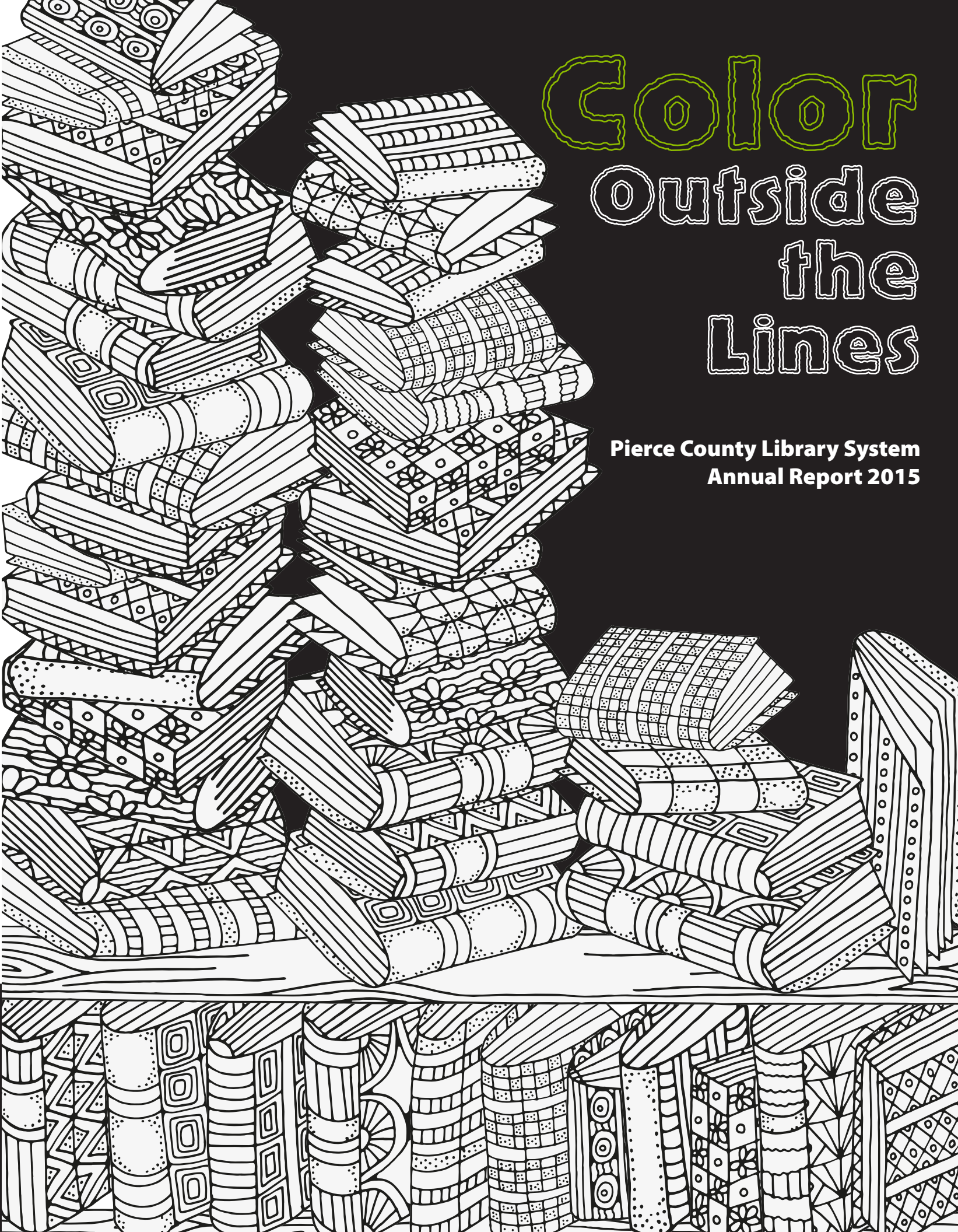
Board of Trustees

- Robert Allen, Chair
- Donna Albers, Vice Chair
- Monica Butler
- Linda Ishem
- J.J. McCament

- Georgia Lomax, Executive Director

Color Outside the Lines

Pierce County Library System Annual Report 2015



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I like to color outside the lines.

During the recession, this wasn't possible. Here at Pierce County Library System, we didn't take any unnecessary pen strokes. We did not get creative with color. We took stock of our pencil box and made careful choices that allowed the library to preserve core services and keep the doors open.

With economic pressure finally easing in 2015, we focused our efforts on restoring critical services and functions affected by the recession. Last year we were able to buy more digital titles. If you're one of our many e-book readers, you noticed more choices. E-book checkouts for 2015 were up 23% over the previous year.

We also began re-investing in our technology. Last year we received modest federal library funding that allowed us to jumpstart improvements to public computers, Wi-Fi coverage, and broadband network service. We will continue this work in 2016 as funding allows.

Throughout the county last year, people made 2.3 million visits to our 20 branches and made 2.1 million visits to our website, checking out 6.7 million items. Your Pierce County Library System is used.

I look forward to coloring outside the lines with you!

Georgia Lomax

Executive Director

HIGHLIGHTS



Block Play earns Bright Idea Award (again)

For the second year in a row, the library system's Block Play program earned an award from the Ash Center/Harvard Kennedy School. The award recognizes the library system for its innovative way of teaching STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Math) skills to kids by playing with good old fashioned blocks. As

children build with blocks they use math concepts: they count, measure distances and create patterns. They learn science by exploring the blocks' size, texture, balance and weight. They add to their vocabulary, build on their social and emotional development and also build technology skills by adding ramps, bridges, pulleys and levers. In 2015, children in more than 25 low-income classrooms, two child-care centers and one tribal preschool classroom were served. Every child got to keep a free set of blocks. In addition, each time they visited the library they got a free book to take home.

Cozy up in two new reading corners

Like curling up with a good book? We do too. In 2015, with the help of generous donors, Pierce County Library System dedicated special reading areas at two of its locations.

Florence Davis Reading Lounge

On March 25, the South Hill Pierce County Library dedicated a reading lounge in honor of its longtime community member, reader and volunteer Florence Davis.

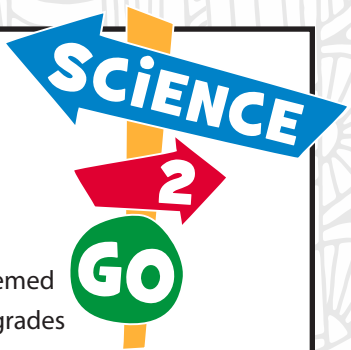


Kenneth B. DeRoche Reading Corner

On July 25, the University Place Pierce County Library dedicated a reading corner in honor of community activist and library lover Kenneth B. DeRoche.

Science to Go backpacks now popular with the preschool set

Parents can now pick up Science to Go backpacks for their preschoolers. The library system launched the science-themed backpack program for the elementary grades in mid-2014.



Each colorful backpack comes with five books related to a STEM topic, a hands-on activity sheet and a field notebook for recording observations. Including the new preschool bags, Science to Go backpacks were checked out 5,350 times last year. The most popular themed pack? Animal Homes, which was checked out 250 times.

Say hello to Pierce County Library System location #20!

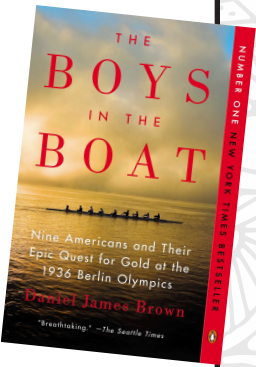
In December 2015, Pierce County Library transformed the lobby of its Administrative Center into a small library branch and thereby added its 20th location to the roster. Located close to two highway entrances, this is the only branch in the system that offers early morning holds pickup. The new branch experiences a high level of public computer use, as well as visits from the many groups who use the Administrative Center's free meeting rooms.

Cliff Jo earns 2015 Government Financial Executive of the Year

Pierce County Library System Chief Financial Officer Cliff Jo earned the 2015 Government Financial Executive of the Year award from The Business Examiner Media Group.

8th Annual Pierce County READS

More than 1,000 people flocked to Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood on April 25 to hear Seattle author Daniel James Brown talk about his best-selling book "The Boys in the Boat." Sponsored by the Pierce County Library Foundation, Key Bank Foundation, The News Tribune and the McGavick Conference Center, Pierce County READS is the county's largest adult reading event. The event was created to encourage everyone in the county to read the same book at the same time and then come together to talk about it.



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH JOB SKILLS



Pierce County Library System helped 2,316 individuals gain critical job skills with its new "Get Hired" program in 2015. A partnership with WorkForce Central and WorkSource, "Get Hired" offers classes, one-on-one instruction and online resources for job seekers. In addition, people

accessed the library's job resource database more than 30,000 times last year.

The unemployed and those seeking a career change gained job-search tips, resume help, computer skills, software certifications, and interview coaching. All for free. Employers list computer and technology skills as critically important when recruiting candidates. The library and its partners put a heavy focus on boosting technology skills—everything from establishing an email account to building a website.

As part of the "Get Hired" program, the library system teamed with WorkForce Central to offer a job fair on Dec. 15 that drew a crowd of nearly 300. An estimated 93 people will have jobs as a result of their participation in the fair.