



Inspiring the Love of Reading and Lifelong Learning



ANNUAL
REPORT
TO THE COMMUNITY
2018





RESTORED LEVY

2018 marked the second time in the history of the Pierce County Library System that voters were asked to restore the Library's funding with a levy lid lift. In November, 106,844 voters approved the levy lid lift with a 50.21 percent approval rate.

This was a tight election, and the Library System recognizes any tax measure requires a personal investment from the people living in the Library's service area.

With the public's investment the Library System will continue to support residents' growth and curiosity, offer excellent reading choices, and work to connect and strengthen communities.

The restored levy maintains library services and returns the Library's levy rate to its full legal amount of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The restored levy will maintain services including open hours; books, e-books, and other materials; staff to support learning; computers, Wi-Fi and technology; and community spaces.



SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND UNIQUE ADVANCES IN 2018

The Library's Strategic Framework guides service through Learning, Enjoyment, and Community initiatives. Following is a sampling of significant accomplishments and unique advances in 2018.

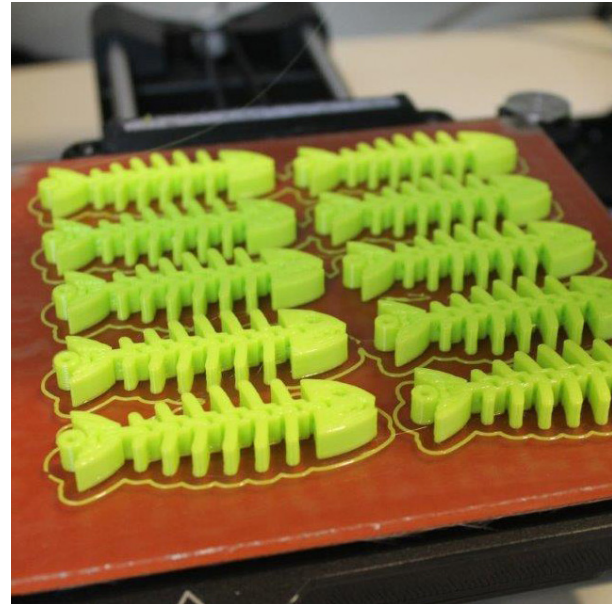
LEARNING

The Library supports growth and curiosity, so children enter kindergarten ready to learn and you can navigate the real world and meet your goals.



3D Printing. People of all ages got hands-on experience using a 3D printer at nearly every Pierce County Library. The free print shop sessions gave people the opportunity to use the 3D printers to create items, get quick design lessons, and learn the 3D printing process.

Law Library at Gig Harbor Pierce County Library. In partnership with Pierce County Law Library, the Library System opened a law library kiosk inside Gig Harbor Library giving access to legal resources to residents on the west side of the Narrows Bridge. The legal literacy includes free access to online and print resources for use in criminal and civil litigation and materials to help with common personal and business needs.



ENJOYMENT

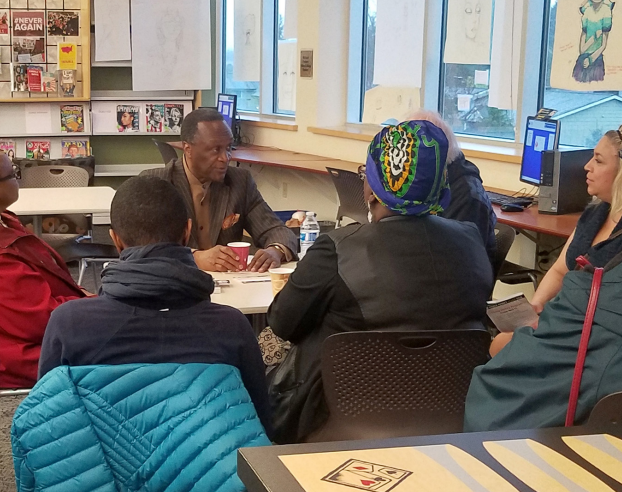
Pierce County Library helps people enjoy their free time, so they discover outlets to offset the pressures of daily life, relax, and live balanced lives.



E-book and Online Audiobook Checkouts Soared.

For the second consecutive year, Pierce County Library was one of 65 public library systems worldwide to make the 1 million digital checkout list. Pierce County residents checked out 1.3 million e-books and online audiobooks, which averaged more than 3,431 checkouts a day! This was 10 percent more checkouts than in 2017. With the Library's limited funding, to respond to a growing demand for e-books and audiobooks, the Pierce County Library Foundation provided \$104,000 to support the offering of online books and \$10,000 to purchase e-readers for library staff to help people learn how to download books. Staff offered 43 e-reader events and helped 202 people discover the ease and fun of e-book and audiobook reading.





Pierce County READS' Living History. Local Civil Rights leaders inspired approximately 300 people in personal conversations about the Civil Rights Movement. Speakers included Jim Walton, Tacoma's first African-American City Manager; Lyle Quasim, the first African-American Department of Social and Health Services Director; Rosa Franklin, the first African-American woman elected to the Washington State Senate and other dignitaries. Pierce County READS featured the award-winning graphic novel trilogy "March" co-authored by Congressman John Lewis and Andrew Aydin and illustrated by Nate Powell.

My Next Read. Staff delivered personalized reading recommendations based upon a person's interests. This is Pierce County Library's version of online dating and matches a person's interests with great reads to further the love of reading.



COMMUNITY

The Pierce County Library connects and strengthens communities, so people are engaged in thriving communities and are optimistic about their future.



MakerFest. A record 2,500 people participated in MakerFest featuring nearly 50 exhibitors including arts and crafts, technology, robotics and homesteading. DIY-ers and Makers presented hands-on activities to help people of all ages learn do-it-yourself (DIY) processes and join in STEAM activities—science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. Pierce County Library co-presented the event with Puyallup Public Library, Timberland Regional Library, and Tacoma Public Library.



Fife Pierce County Library Upgraded. Staff rearranged books, movies, and other materials at the Fife Library, so people can more easily browse and find materials. The Library System converted the Fife Library to a Dewey Decimal System, which aligns with all 20 Pierce County Libraries. Also, staff added more nonfiction book choices based upon the community's interests. The new shelving made a greater use of the space and allows for more open areas for people to gather, study, and work collaboratively.

Teen Library Corps: Summer Reading Volunteers.

104 teens gave back to their communities, had fun and earned 1,615 service hours during Summer Reading in the first-ever Teen Library Corps. The Teen Library Corps participants gained valuable skills and leadership experience.

Community Conversations: Solidari-Tea series. Approximately 140 teenagers and adults gathered at Sumner Pierce County Library and sipped tea and discussed a variety of thought-provoking topics. The six facilitated sessions included multicultural cities, race, transgender, and other topics. Participants shared their views and experiences, and learned about others' views and experiences.

Community Partnerships: Mental Health First Aid Classes. Hundreds of adults participated in Mental Health First Aid classes. The popular courses provided important information. In partnership with CHI Franciscan Health's Prevent Alert Response Mental Health Initiative, the classes introduced participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems and thoughts of suicide and gave an overview of how to support people with mental health problems and illnesses.



CORE SERVICES

The Library System is committed to strengthening its core services.

In **2018** the Library...

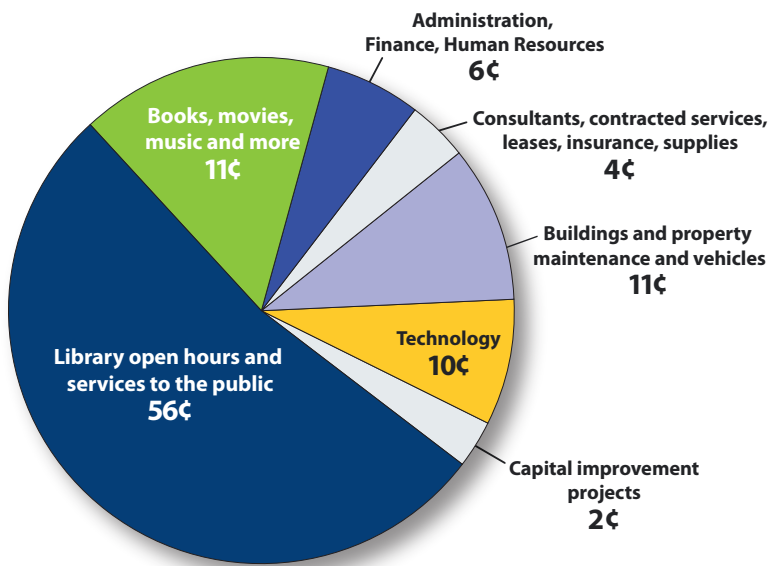
Improved online services to be convenient wherever residents are.

- ▶ Easier and faster way to book public meeting rooms.
- ▶ Quick, comprehensive access to calendars showing hundreds of library events and classes.
- ▶ More book recommendation e-newsletters about many topics of interest for every age-level.
- ▶ Online catalog improvements included placing a hold or reserving multiple book titles with just one computer click.

Staff reflect communities to better serve growing and changing Pierce County.

- ▶ Recruiting, hiring, and training to increase and deepen the Library staff's cultural competence.





Thank you for investing in the Pierce County Library System

In 2018, property taxes provided 94 percent of the funds to operate the Library System. In 2018 the Library System collected 42.94 cents per every \$1,000 of a property's assessed value. By state law, library systems may collect up to 50 cents per every \$1,000 of a property's assessed value.

Total revenues: \$31,973,700.

Total expenditures: \$31,973,700.

Full budget at piercecountylibrary.org/about-us/administration/finance

LIBRARY SYSTEM'S CONTINUED COMMITMENT IN 2019

Following is an overview of some of the services the Library is focused on during 2019.

Learning...encouraging lifelong learning:

- ▶ Conduct Life after High School workshops with adulting classes and college test prep.
- ▶ Open a law library kiosk at Lakewood Pierce County Library.
- ▶ Create one-stop shopping job resources in partnership with WorkSource.

Enjoyment...inspiring the love of reading:

- ▶ Present A Year of Reading with Pierce County READS and other author events, personal reading shoppers, e-newsletters with reading recommendations, Read to a Dog to build children's reading skills, and other ways to engage and connect people with reading.

Community...engaging with residents:

- ▶ Engage residents in Sumner, Lakewood, and Tillicum to learn their interest and readiness for potential new libraries.
- ▶ Talk with people throughout Pierce County to ensure Pierce County Libraries are welcoming spaces for all people.
- ▶ Refresh the Parkland/Spanaway Pierce County Library.
- ▶ Inspire civic engagement for families through our Community Adventure's activities for 2 to 5 year olds.



Thank you to Foundation and Friends for 2018 Contributions

The Foundation supported many important programs including Pierce County READS and Summer Reading, keeping thousands of students and adults reading all summer. The Foundation also supported e-books and STEM events to further foster the love of reading and lifelong learning.

Thank you for the many generous contributions from thousands of individuals, corporations, and private foundations to Pierce County Library Foundation and Friends of the library organizations for their support for valued library services.

Foundation donations:

- \$300,439 from 1,045 donors
- \$278,077 In-kind from five donors

Friends' donations: \$37,196 from 17 organizations



OVERVIEW OF PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY

- ▶ Established in 1946.
- ▶ Includes unincorporated Pierce County and 15 annexed cities and towns.
- ▶ Served approximately 602,000 people through 20 locations and with mobile and online services.
- ▶ Operates as an independent taxing district and reports to a volunteer board of trustees.

FAST FACTS 2018

14 million	Minutes read in Summer Reading
6,068,592	Books/materials checked out:
4,816,316	From shelves
1,252,276	From online e-books and audiobooks
1,067,203	Uses of online databases/e-sources
4,116,361	Visits
2,248,328	To 20 libraries
1,868,033	To websites
359,862	Cardholders
83,966	Event and class attendance
16	Public meeting rooms



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Pierce County
Library Foundation



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Dimmer Family Foundation
The Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Foundation
The Hyde Family Foundation
Florence B. Kilworth Foundation
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Company \$2,500+



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