

---

# NEWS RELEASE



Jan. 3, 2023

Contact: [Mary Getchell](#), Marketing and Communications Director  
Office: 253-548-3428; cell: 253-229-4477

## What does the community want for their new Sumner Pierce County Library?

**PIERCE COUNTY, Washington** – Space for toddlers to gain literacy skills and giggle, areas for families to learn and connect, space for teens to study and collaborate, areas for jobseekers and entrepreneurs to hone their skills – what do Sumner area residents want for their new Sumner Pierce County Library?

During the next couple of months, the Pierce County Library System is engaging with Sumner area residents to hear their ideas for spaces and services. In the library, in the community and online the Library System will be gathering the community’s vision for its center for learning, enjoyment and community. **Share ideas at the current library-at 1116 Fryar Ave., online at [sumlib.pcls.us](http://sumlib.pcls.us), or at an open house** with Library leaders and architects:

**Sumner Library, 1116 Fryar Ave.  
Tuesday, Jan. 31, 11 a.m.-noon  
Tuesday, Jan. 31, 3-4 p.m.**

“Sumner is brimming with growing families and multigenerations, and its library will reflect the community,” said Pierce County Library Executive Director Gretchen Caserotti. “The Sumner Library will be a destination for children and families to develop a love of reading with literacy rich activities. It will be the public’s library and welcoming and comfortable for all people.”

### The new building

The City of Sumner owns the current 10,600 square-foot Sumner Library, as well as the land. The Library System leases the space. In addition, the building is undersized for the population it serves, and it is difficult to access. The City of Sumner’s Town Center Plan envisions different uses for the current library location and relocating the library.

In October 2021, the Library purchased a 1.67-acre site to build the new library, which the City of Sumner had originally purchased for the Library System. The new library would be built at 15126 Main St. E., which is close to where the library began serving the community more than 90 years ago, in the Ryan House. This puts the library back on Main Street, where it will be close to schools, the senior center, shopping and where people live.

The Library System is planning to build a 15,000-20,000 square-foot library on the property. The Library System is committed to the centrally located library being inclusive and local. It intends to tailor books, materials and all services to be accessible and user-friendly for the diverse residents of Sumner.

### Funding the new library

---

# NEWS RELEASE



**Jan. 3, 2023**

**Contact:** [Mary Getchell](#), Marketing and Communications Director  
Office: 253-548-3428; cell: 253-229-4477

With a potential Library Capital Facility Area (LCFA) and bond as well as donations from individuals and organizations, the community will enjoy a new state-of-the-art modern building, with a hometown cozy feel. The Library System projects the building to cost approximately \$15 million to \$19 million, with \$12 million to \$15 million from a potential bond, \$3 million from donations, and potentially another \$1 million or more from state appropriations, which could further reduce the potential bond amount.

An LCFA would include all of the properties in the city limits of Sumner and properties adjacent to Sumner, which are part of the city's urban growth plan. Thus, the LCFA would encompass the greater Sumner area.

Both the Library System Board of Trustees and City of Sumner City Council would need to pass resolutions to pursue establishing such an area and a ballot measure. If voters approve an LCFA, it would be its own type of municipality and independent taxing district, administered by Pierce County.

Ultimately, if voters agree to create an LCFA, the residents in that area would fund the new building with a \$12 million to \$15 million bond.

The Library System realizes in these economic times any such additional costs to taxpayers is a carefully weighed decision. That is why the Library is engaging with the community about what is most important to residents for services and spaces in a possible new library and investing in their generation and the next generation.

## **Background**

In 2019, the Pierce County Library gathered input from the community to learn the public's interest in a new library for Sumner. Overall, thousands of residents from the Sumner area shared their ideas and showed their enthusiasm, with 88% of survey respondents saying they were interested in a new library in Sumner.

The Library System is reigniting its conversation with the community in its continued commitment to shape a building and services reflecting the community's needs and values. During the next couple of months, the Library System wants to understand the features, activities and services the community hopes to have in its new library.

## **About Pierce County Library System**

The nationally acclaimed [Pierce County Library System](#) serves 634,000 people throughout Pierce County with 19 libraries and online services. The system is the fourth largest in the state and is funded primarily through property taxes. People may choose from more than one million books, e-books, audiobooks, movies and other materials. Pierce County Library is committed to directing services in three primary areas: learning, enjoyment and community connection. Its services and programs spark success for Pierce County residents. More than 2 million people visit Pierce County Libraries each year. The Library provides services and programs directly to people in

---

# NEWS RELEASE



**Jan. 3, 2023**

**Contact:** [Mary Getchell](#), Marketing and Communications Director  
Office: 253-548-3428; cell: 253-229-4477

adult care facilities, people who are homebound, and to children in childcare centers and schools. [Pierce County Libraries are located](#) at Anderson Island, Bonney Lake, Buckley, DuPont, Eatonville, Fife, Gig Harbor, Graham, Key Center, Lakewood, Milton/Edgewood, Orting, Parkland/Spanaway, South Hill, Steilacoom, Summit, Sumner, Tillicum and University Place. Pierce County Library is an independent municipal corporation and operates as a junior taxing district.

[piercecountylibrary.org](http://piercecountylibrary.org)

[facebook.com/PierceCoLibrary](https://facebook.com/PierceCoLibrary)

[twitter.com/PierceCoLibrary](https://twitter.com/PierceCoLibrary)