



The Seattle Public Library Foundation

Why Our Library Matters

The Seattle Public Library is more than a place to find books, it's an open and welcoming place for anyone who wants to feed their curiosity. The Library empowers individuals, supports families and strengthens our community. For Seattle, a city that aspires to create and sustain an extraordinary quality of life for all residents, a great public library is essential.

The Seattle Public Library exemplifies our city's reputation for innovation and learning. Through generous investments of both public resources and private philanthropy, we have created a vital, vibrant resource of knowledge that our city uses and values.

Areas of Impact

Youth and Family Learning

The Library offers families a wide array of learning programs that support all ages: Story Times, Summer of Learning, Homework Help, and College and Career Readiness programs.

Cultural and Civic Engagement

There are many programs that support cultural enrichment and civic engagement, including free art exhibits, movie and music streaming services, music and theater performances for all ages, author readings, and free writer's workshops.

Entrepreneurs

The Library provides entrepreneurs and small business owners free access to market research, business resources, networking events and one-on-one appointments to support business success.

Underserved Populations

Programs are available to help those that need it most: tax assistance for low-income individuals, Wi-Fi hotspots for families experiencing homelessness, services to assist veterans struggling to get back on their feet and after-school meals for kids.

Adult Learning

The Library provides **free** classes so people can gain skills necessary to succeed in today's world. Programs include: English language classes, resources for becoming a US citizen, resume/interview preparation, and software training and certification.

How Seattle Showed Its Love for the Library in 2017

- 17 million visits to Library branches and online at spl.org
- 330,000 people attended 11,000 free classes, events and activities
- 11.6 million books and materials were checked out across 27 Libraries and online
- 3.3 million digital items, including e-books, audio books and streaming services circulated the system, satisfying the needs of our tech-savvy community
- 2.5 million public computer and Wi-Fi sessions helped connect patrons to technology





Investing in the Library's Future Through the Foundation

Today, The Seattle Public Library Foundation represents nearly 6,000 donors who declare through their generous contributions how much they value the resources that the Library provides everyone in our community.

Private support also strengthens the Library's capacity to innovate and adapt to change. It allows the Library to take risks, evaluate the results and invest resources in areas that have the greatest potential to ensure our Library remains a vital resource for all of Seattle now and in the future.

Philanthropy provides critical support to the Library. Since the Foundation was founded in 1980, it has raised and invested more than \$150 million in our city's library system – in collections, programs, and facilities such as the 26 heavily-used neighborhood branches and our Central Library.

The Library Is for Everyone

- 30,000 kids and teens took part in Summer of Learning activities, preventing summer learning loss
- 10,000+ people visited free Library cultural exhibits, giving access to all
- 2,600 Story Times in English and five other languages, promoting early literacy
- 4,800+ Seattle residents attended over 400 English classes, supporting immigrants and refugees
- 1,300+ people helped with citizenship applications and interviews
- 2,000 people learned how to start a business at 185 Library to Business events
- The Library partnered with 424 schools, nonprofits, and educational partners to deliver programs in every neighborhood

