

Citizens' Summary

#2

In 1994, Seattle voters cast 57 percent of their ballots in favor of a proposed \$155 million capital plan for public libraries. Unfortunately, this majority fell short of the 60 percent required to approve construction bonds, but it has not discouraged a creative and thorough public dialogue over how best to meet the needs of Seattle's public library system in the next century.

During the past three years, the Board of Trustees and staff of the Seattle Public Library, along with other City staff and independent experts, have devoted thousands of hours to public analysis, review and discussion of library needs. Most recently, the Seattle Public Library conducted 35 neighborhood meetings to learn from citizens what they expected from and desired for their local libraries and the whole system.

"Libraries for All" is the result of these consultations and efforts.

A Plan to Improve All Libraries

"Libraries for All" recommends a total investment of \$73 million to renew and expand Seattle's present system of 22 neighborhood libraries. This sum nearly doubles what was proposed in 1994, and would —

- ▶ Construct three new neighborhood libraries to serve the Delridge, International District, and Northgate communities.
- ▶ Replace six existing libraries with expanded facilities to better serve Ballard, Beacon Hill, Greenwood, High Point, Montlake, and North Capitol Hill (Henry Library).
- ▶ Significantly expand program space in the Broadview, Columbia City, Douglass-Truth, Lake City, North East, Rainier Beach, and Southwest libraries.
- ▶ Make needed improvements to the Fremont, Green Lake, Madrona-Sally Goldmark, Magnolia, Queen Anne, University, and West Seattle libraries.
- ▶ Relocate the Wallingford-Wilmot and Holly Park libraries in new community centers.
- ▶ Finance new furnishings, technology, and collections at all neighborhood libraries.

- ▶ Nearly double the total area of neighborhood libraries from 130,000 square feet to 237,000 square feet by the year 2007.
- ▶ Create a \$6 million "Opportunity Fund" to address new neighborhood needs as they arise over the next decade.
- ▶ Spend \$945,000 to purchase books and materials for 3 new neighborhood libraries.


Each community will be consulted and closely involved in making the final siting and/or design discussions affecting its neighborhood library. The Library system will also strengthen its partnership with Seattle schools and other educational institutions to ensure that children and older students benefit directly from these investments.

Libraries for All

Proposed 1998

Seattle Public Library

Capital Plan

 Seattle Public Library

"Libraries for All" Plan at a Glance:

New and expanded Neighborhood Libraries: ..	\$ 66.0 million
Reserve neighborhood opportunity fund:	\$ 6.0 million
Purchase new neighborhood collections:	\$ 0.9 million
Replace and expand Central Library:	\$ 156.1 million
Modernize technology:	\$ 5.6 million
Total community investment:	\$ 234.6 million
SPL Foundation capital pledge:	(\$ 25.0 million)
Other public resources:	(\$ 18.0 million)
Bond transaction costs:	\$ 3.9 million
Total "Libraries for All" bonds:	\$ 195.5 million

A Plan to Lay a New Foundation for the Future

The Central Library in downtown Seattle is the physical and functional foundation of the entire Library system. The present building, which dates from 1960, is woefully inadequate to meet the demands of 4,000 daily visitors or to support the service and circulation needs of neighborhood libraries. Based on a thorough analysis and public review of alternative sites, this plan recommends construction of a new and expanded Central Library at its present location in downtown Seattle.

The new Central Library would open in 2003 and feature:

- ▶ 355,000 square feet of usable space, compared to the present 206,000 square feet
- ▶ A new entry to better welcome and orient visitors
- ▶ Reorganized and expanded collections in all departments
- ▶ Modern computer and telecommunication services and equipment
- ▶ Efficient staff and operational areas to speed library services
- ▶ New centers for children, adult readers, and technology education
- ▶ A 275-seat auditorium for Library programs and community meetings
- ▶ Parking for 200 vehicles

The "Libraries for All" plan projects that construction of the new Central Library will cost \$119 million. Additional related costs, such as temporary relocation during construction and new equipment and furniture, raise the total Central Library budget to \$156,062,570. This estimate takes full account of projected inflation rates through 2003.

Actual design of the new Central Library would be initiated following a public vote on the "Libraries for All" plan. The Mayor and City Librarian are committed to involving the world's best architects and the entire community in a great civic discussion to ensure that Seattle's new Central Library will be a building of enduring usefulness and pride for all.

A Plan for a Renewed Community Commitment to Libraries

The "Libraries for All" plan outlines a total community capital expenditure of \$234,638,570 over the next decade. The Seattle Public Library Foundation, a non-profit community organization, has pledged to raise \$25 million of this sum from private and philanthropic donors. The Foundation has further committed to raise an additional \$15 million to help modernize the Library's collections and technology resources.

Adding projected bond transaction costs of \$4 million and subtracting the Foundation capital commitment of \$25 million and another \$18 million in available or anticipated public resources, yields a net public bond requirement of \$195.5 million, which we propose be put before the voters this fall. Financing these bonds would cost the average Seattle homeowner about \$70 annually, or less than \$6 per month.

Building new libraries would be an empty gesture if citizens found them closed when they needed them. The "Libraries for All" plan recommends that hours at virtually all libraries be increased, and it calls for a commitment to raising operating budgets correspondingly.

For a city of readers, "Libraries for All" represents a commitment that is both fiscally sound and faithful to our tradition of support for education, the arts, cultural diversity, economic innovation, and neighborhood vitality. Its budget and ambitions are neither extravagant nor timid. This

<i>TimeLine</i>	
1999	Holly Park Library Wallingford-Wilnot Library
2000	International District High Point Library
2001	Ballard Library Beacon Hill Library Henry Library West Seattle Library
2002	Greenwood Library Lake City Library
2003	Central Library Columbia Library Douglass-Truth Library North East Library
2004	Delridge Fremont Library Green Lake Library Montlake Library Northgate Southwest Library
2005	Madrona-Sally Goldmark Library University Library
2006	Broadview Library Magnolia Library Queen Anne Library
2007	Rainier Beach Library

plan seeks to avoid the "penny-wise" decisions that have created Seattle's sad assortment of "pound-foolish" public buildings. Foremost, "Libraries for All" is an investment in Seattle's future and a promise by today's generation to enrich and elevate the lives of our children and their children. "Libraries for All" will create a legacy we can all be proud of.

Seattle Public Library Capital Plan

Facilities	Action	Current Library Program Area in Sq. Ft.	Added Library Program Area in Sq. Ft.	New Total Library Area in Sq. Ft.	Current Population Served	Projected 2010 Population	Proposed Capital Costs
Central Library:	Replace	206,000	149,000	355,000	516,259	580,591	\$156,062,570
Neighborhood Libraries:							
Northeast							
Lake City	Addition	9,013	5,987	15,000			
North East	Addition	7,042	7,958	15,000			\$2,904,000
Green Lake	Improve	8,090	0	8,090			\$4,665,000
University	Improve	8,104	0	8,104			\$602,000
Wallingford-Wilnot	Relocate	2,000	0	2,000			\$759,000
Northgate	New		10,000	10,000			\$393,000
Total		34,249	23,945	58,194	137,691	152,815	\$5,119,000
Northwest							\$14,442,000
Ballard	Replace	7,296	7,704	15,000			
Broadview	Addition	8,405	6,595	15,000			\$6,523,000
Greenwood	Replace	7,085	7,915	15,000			\$3,522,000
Fremont	Improve/Int. Add.	6,060	780	6,840			\$6,475,000
Magnolia	Improve	5,859	0	5,859			\$554,000
Queen Anne	Improve	7,931	0	7,931			\$767,000
Total		42,636	22,994	65,630	128,282	134,019	\$482,000
Central							\$18,323,000
Henry	Replace	1,904	5,096	10,000			
Montlake	Replace	1,574	3,426	5,000			\$4,417,000
Madrona Sally Goldmark	Improve	1,701	0	1,701			\$2,573,000
Douglass-Truth	Addition	8,008	6,992	15,000			\$255,000
International District	New		4,000	4,000			\$3,524,000
Total		16,187	19,514	35,701	75,465	83,030	\$289,000
Southeast							\$11,058,000
Beacon Hill	Replace	3,200	6,800	10,000			
Columbia	Addition	5,838	5,440	11,278			\$4,751,000
Holly Park	Relocate	1,924	2,076	4,000			\$3,232,000
Rainier Beach	Addition	9,006	5,994	15,000			
Total		19,968	20,310	40,278	75,611	84,016	\$11,042,000
Southwest							
West Seattle	Interior Addition	7,670	2,323	9,993			
High Point	Replace	2,067	4,933	7,000			\$778,000
Southwest	Addition	7,557	7,443	15,000			\$3,050,000
Delridge	New		5,000	5,000			\$4,356,000
Total		17,294	19,699	36,993	78,277	84,647	\$2,982,000
Total Neighborhood Libraries:		130,334	106,462	236,796			\$66,031,000
Opportunity Fund							\$6,000,000
Technology							\$5,600,000
Collections							945,000
Grand Total		336,334	260,462	596,796			\$234,638,570

Overview

"Libraries for All" will be presented for community discussion at the following community meetings:

North East Library: 5:30 p.m. / March 22
6801 35th Ave. N.E. / 684-7539

West Seattle Library: 7 p.m. / March 23
2306 42nd Ave. S.W. / 684-7444

Greenwood Library: 7 p.m. / March 25
8016 Greenwood Ave. N. / 684-4086

Beacon Hill Library: 7 p.m. / March 26
2519 15th Ave. S. / 684-4711

Central Library: Lee Auditorium,
5th Ave. level / 7 p.m. / April 8
1000 4th Ave. / 386-4636

The City Council and Library Board of Trustees have scheduled a public hearing on "Libraries for All" at:

Central Library: Lee Auditorium,
5th Ave. level / 5:30 p.m. / April 22
1000 4th Ave. / 386-4636

The "Libraries for All" Proposed 1998 Capital Plan for the Seattle Public Library is the product of thousands of hours of staff and volunteer effort and public discussion, but is not the last word.

Mayor Paul Schell and I submit this plan for your review with the expectation of further refinement through citizen comment.

"Libraries for All" is not a reheated version of the 1994 library plan. After a narrow defeat of the \$155 million library bond measure at the polls, the Seattle Public Library Board of Trustees and staff returned to the drawing board and asked the community for fresh input. The outcome, we believe, is a better plan that -

- Nearly doubles the program area of neighborhood libraries from 130,000 square feet to 237,000 square feet
- Proposes improvements to all 22 existing neighborhood libraries, compared to nine in the earlier plan
- Builds three completely new libraries
- Expands seven neighborhood libraries, compared to three in the earlier plan
- Replaces six neighborhood libraries, compared to three in the earlier plan

- Proposes a more compact and efficient Central Library of 355,000 square feet, compared to 410,000 square feet in the earlier plan

- Invests \$5.6 million in new technologies, compared to minimum equipment upgrades described in the previous plan

- Proposes necessary increases in operating budgets and private sector support

- Makes more realistic and reliable financial projects

- As a result, "Libraries for All" proposes a higher bond issue total - \$195.5 million but it also does much more than the 1994 plan. We sincerely welcome your comments and suggestions refining this plan and helping assure Seattle citizens will enjoy "Libraries for All" in the 21st century.

Deborah Jacobs
City Librarian



Proposed 1998 Capital Plan

- Expand
- Renovate
- Relocate
- New
- Replace
- Unchanged