SERVING
ALL PEOPLE
of PIERCE COUNTY

2023
STRATEGIC
PLAN

**Pierce County
Library System**

Information & Imagination

LEARNING • ENJOYMENT • COMMUNITY

Hello from your Pierce County Library System!

2023 is definitely a turning point for the Pierce County Library System, as we returned to full service offerings this past year. In-building services, including spaces for classes and events and rooms for public meetings are now open for your use and enjoyment, following necessary closures resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, we adjusted hours in nearly all locations, based upon community use and interest. This is a significant step to better support commuters, people working from home, and families.

In the coming year, the Library System's knowledgeable and customer-focused staff will continue to deliver valued learning and enjoyment resources and community connections. Please know you can count on the Pierce County Library to serve all residents with equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in the forefront of its services and spaces. This year, the Library System is strengthening its commitment to apply EDI principles comprehensively in the organization and continuing to improve the Library as a workplace and community resource.

You will see a significant amount of our focus in 2023 will be on buildings. The Library System and City of Sumner are working together to place a ballot measure in the August 2023 Primary Election for a new Sumner Pierce County Library. The ballot measure would create a Library Capital Facility Area (LCFA) and authorize it to issue bonds to construct a new Sumner Library building.
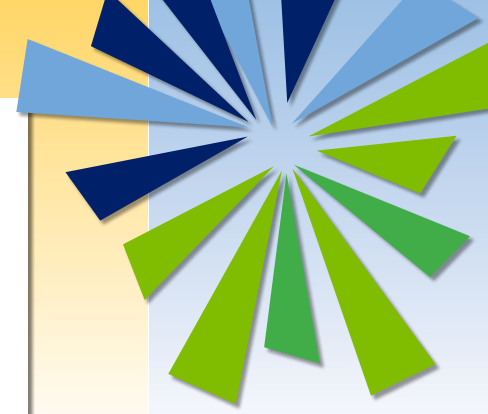
At the same time, the Library System is addressing building needs in Lakewood and Tillicum. We are working to construct an interim Lakewood Library that will offer full library services. In addition, the Board of Trustees has been reviewing recommendations from the Lakewood Libraries Community Advisory Committee for long-term library facility needs in Lakewood and Tillicum.

Public libraries are vitally important in a democracy and help to support community members' access to the information they seek. The Pierce County Library is grateful to bring the world of information and imagination to all people of our community. If this is your first time enjoying and benefiting from the Pierce County Library, welcome. If you have been a patron of Pierce County Libraries for years, we thank you for your patronage.

On behalf of the Library System's Board of Trustees and the Library's staff, it is our privilege to serve you with valued library services. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jamilyn Penn, Ed.D.
Chair, Board of Trustees

Sparking success for Pierce County for more than 75 years.

With 19 libraries, helpful staff, more than a million books, movies, and other materials, and virtual and in-person events—the possibilities are endless.

LEARNING…inspire lifelong learning

- Support for your growth and curiosity.
- Prepare preschoolers, babies, and toddlers to learn.
- Support school and career success.
- Strengthen your practical skills and knowledge so you can navigate the real world and meet your goals.

Overview of 2023 services:

Resources to support children's learning with sensory and STEAM enhancement:

- **Inclusive story times:** Using the University of Washington's Autism-Ready toolkit, providing story time experiences designed for children with sensory and learning differences.

- **STEAM:** New resources to provide hands-on exploration and learning for ages infant to 12, offered virtually and in-person.

- **24/7 live tutoring:** Online tutoring in any K-12 subject through the learning platform, Brainfuse Online Homework. The Pierce County Library is the first library outside of the state of California to offer the service.

ENJOYMENT…foster the love of reading

- ◉ Help you enjoy your free time.
- ◉ Inspire imagination through an extensive and diverse selection of books, movies, and other materials.
- ◉ Foster your love of reading.
- ◉ Create opportunities for you to discover new interests and pursue passions.

Overview of 2023 services:

- • **Book giveaways:** The Pierce County Library Foundation to provide $10,000 in support of giveaways of books to children in asset limited households (income of $60,000 or less).

- • **Enjoy BOOKS!:** Supporting and encouraging people to read more with a reading challenge, emphasizing the connection among reading, books, community, and the Library System.

COMMUNITY…engage with residents

- ◉ Connect and strengthen your communities.
- ◉ Bring people together around shared interests and activities.
- ◉ Activate Pierce County communities with welcoming, inclusive civic buildings and online spaces.
- ◉ Connect you with information and community resources to help you navigate life's challenges.

Overview of 2023 services:

- • **Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) strategy:** The Library continues to strengthen its commitment to EDI as a workplace and community resource.

- • **Cultural celebrations:** Connecting the public with diversity heritage months with booklists and displays in libraries.

- • **Library Card Design Contest:** Engaging hundreds of Pierce County students ages 5 to 18 in a countywide creative contest.

- • **Public opinion poll:** A biennial public opinion awareness/preference poll for the Library to learn information about the public's value for the Library System and its service to communities.

Library Card Contest
2020 Winners

MATERIALS

Offer books and resources you want, need, and value.

STAFF

Connects you to the right resource at the right time.

SPACES

Provide welcoming spaces for everyone in the community.

TECHNOLOGY

Meet your needs with today's technology.

PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborate with others to serve you best.

CLASSES AND EVENTS

Provide skill-building classes and engaging events.

BUSINESS PROCESSES

Invest in sound and sustainable practices

- **Materials:** Continuing to invest in print books, DVDs, online e-books, audiobooks, and materials of interest to communities the Library System serves.
- **Staff:** Exploring partnering with a new leadership development training consultant to provide consistent expectations and skills-building for leadership positions.
- **Spaces:**
  - **New Sumner Pierce County Library:** With potential funding primarily through a Library Capital Facility Area and bond, the Sumner area is planning toward a new Sumner Library. The centrally located library would be inclusive and local, with books, materials, and all services accessible for the diverse residents of the Sumner area.
  - **Lakewood and Tillicum Pierce County Libraries:**
    - **Current Lakewood Library Services:** Continuing to offer pop-up libraries and services with community partners throughout Lakewood.
    - **Interim Lakewood Library:** Providing a new, modern library facility in an accessible area residents can use until a permanent library facility is built.
    - **Long-term Lakewood Library planning:** The Library's Board of Trustees is reviewing recommendations from the Lakewood Libraries Building Community Advisory Committee and determining next steps for quality long-term library service in Lakewood.
  - Improving infrastructure with a siding replacement at the Fife Pierce County Library, and door replacements at Gig Harbor, Key Center, South Hill, and Steilacoom Pierce County Libraries.
  - Paving the parking lot at the Graham Pierce County Library and updating public and staff areas of the building.
  - Contamination mitigation and a landscape refresh at the Buckley Pierce County Library.
- **Technology:**
  - Installing modern technology in all public meeting rooms to provide better and more reliable technology for story times and for public meeting use.
  - Replacing public laptops for improved online experiences.
- **Partnerships:** Most Friends of the Pierce County Library groups have returned to receiving book donations and many are offering book sales to support Library events and services.
- **Classes and Events:** Reviewing and updating classes and events to align with community needs and interests.
- **Business Processes:**
  - **Website redeveloped:** Enhancing the website to improve the public's experience and ensure ADA compliance, with a new URL: mypcls.org.
  - **Elimination of fines:** Fines removed to decrease the community's barriers to library services. Evaluating administering fees continues.

New Sumner Pierce County Library

August Primary Election Ballot Measure

The Library System is creative, community focused, and system strong.

The Library System pledges to:

Be true to communities by listening and responding to what is important to communities.

- Innovate strategically by finding inventive ways to serve.

- Provide access for all by serving everyone with the same degree of interest and respect.

- Play the right role by using strengths as a library to get results and to support community partners.

- Be financially sustainable by responsibly managing your public resources for today and tomorrow.

Pierce County Library System
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mypcls.org • 253-548-3300

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