



The Seattle Public Library

Libraries for All: A Report to the Community



September 12, 2008

Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Report to the Community.....	8
Project List and Special Features	30
Awards	44

“We talked to people and we listened to them and then we changed the plan according to what they said. ‘Libraries for All’ wasn’t just a cute phrase. It was the truth. People who love their libraries made it happen.”

*Deborah L. Jacobs
Former City Librarian*



“The building is never entirely the same and yet still consistent. It intermingles rigid and predictable spaces with the unpredictable.”

*– Rem Koolhaas
Architect
Central Library*

My Library the next generation

In 1998 Seattle voters said “yes” to the largest and most comprehensive library initiative in our country’s history, launching a \$290.7 million project to rebuild and renew The Seattle Public Library.

The “Libraries for All” building program not only set the standard for library systems across the globe – it reinvigorated Seattle’s love of learning and reading.

Ten years later, as we finish the final chapter of Libraries for All, it’s time to pause for a moment, look at what we’ve achieved, and thank the people of Seattle for their love of libraries.

The following pages underscore the breadth and scope of Libraries for All – four new libraries in communities without library service, the replacement, expansion or renovation of 22 existing branches, and a spectacular new Central Library.

The Library’s growth and success could not have been possible without the incredible support of the community, committed staff and Library Board, The Seattle Public Library Foundation, Friends of The Seattle Public Library, hundreds of dedicated volunteers, and the Mayor and City Council.

Libraries for All has cemented The Seattle Public Library’s reputation as a national treasure, shared and appreciated by all. The stage is now set for generations to come.

“There is not such a cradle of democracy upon the earth as the free public library, this republic of letters, where neither rank, office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration.”

*Andrew Carnegie
Philanthropist
& library supporter*

The Libraries for All program advanced the Library's mission in five important areas:

∞ Building Community ∞

The Seattle Public Library is a place for the community to gather, learn, teach, celebrate and listen.

∞ Technology ∞

The Seattle Public Library is committed to providing access to the latest in digital resources.

∞ Transparency ∞

The Seattle Public Library engaged the community in all aspects of the Libraries for All program.

∞ Sustainability ∞

The Seattle Public Library is dedicated to providing sustainable and eco-friendly solutions.

∞ Fostering a love of reading ∞

The Seattle Public Library supports lifelong learning and the love of reading for all.

Snapshot of Success

The Seattle Public Library, Seattle's most important and valued resource for information and lifelong learning, is thriving since the passage of Libraries for All, and the statistics prove it:

- ▲ **Annual circulation of books and materials – up 94 percent.** More than 9.3 million books and materials circulated in 2007, up from 4.8 million items in 1998.
- ▲ **Library usage – up 158 percent.** The Library had 11.6 million in-person and virtual visitors in 2007, compared to 4.5 million in 2000.
- ▲ **Annual attendance at Library programs – up 62 percent.** In 2007, program attendance was 186,074, up from 114,956 in 1998 (in person or virtual attendance).
- ▲ **Library card registration – up 53 percent.** In 2007, the Library registered 61,299 people for Library cards, up from 40,009 in 1998. Overall, the Library has registered more than 560,000 people for Library cards since Libraries for All began.
- ▲ After one year of operation, **the new Central Library was associated with \$16 million in net new spending** in Seattle, thanks to the number of out-of-town visitors who came to see the building.
- ▲ **Two new Library buildings were nationally recognized as high-performing green buildings.** The Central Library achieved the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification, and the Northgate Branch received a Gold Certification.

Snapshot of Success

Some of the statistics are particularly astonishing.

In 2003, the year before the new Central Library opened, 659,364 people visited the Temporary Central Library. Last year, 2,054,631 people visited the new Central Library. That's an increase of 211 percent.

Visitor counts have surged at several branches, including the High Point Branch. In 2002, 52,887 people visited the old branch. Last year, the new branch had 142,855 visitors, a 170 percent increase.

In addition, community response has been extraordinarily positive, and the Library has received letters, e-mails and phone calls from Seattle residents and international visitors sharing their library experiences. A few examples are included throughout this report.

Letters from the Community

"I want you to know what amazing help one gets when calling 'Quick Info.' Sometimes it's maddeningly mundane questions I couldn't find in my own assortment of dictionaries – but often some rather esoteric thing needed at the moment to complete something ... Recently a doctor prescribed an Ayurvedic medicine because of my allergies to conventional medicines and it had to be dosed according to new or full moon cycles (of all things!). The usual places no longer had 2007 Farmers Almanacs so I called Quick Information (206-386-info) and they found it in less than a minute – copied and sent it to me!"

*Sincerely,
Beverly Gibson*

Building Community

The Library is a place for the community to gather, learn, teach, celebrate and listen.

Libraries are unlike any other institution – they are open to all, whether an individual is wearing a three-piece suit or a three-day-old beard. No committee decides who may enter, no tuition is charged, no visa is required.



Everyone who walks through a library door has equal privileges. And everyone who walks through a library door has an equal voice.

True to its mission of building community, The Seattle Public Library involved residents in all phases of Libraries for All. Every resident had an opportunity to have a say in this very public process.

Residents advised in the siting of new buildings, the selection of architects and artists and in the development of designs and programs. This happened in neighborhood after neighborhood across the city, including in the development of the new Central Library in downtown Seattle.

The community desired a light and welcoming building – a respite from the city’s sometimes gray and cloudy days. The design team responded with a plethora of windows and optimization of city views.

The design also recognized the library’s growing role as a service-rich environment for classes and events, as well as a gathering spot for the community, even including a coffee/sandwich cart in the plan.

Now, all of Seattle’s libraries are building communities – alive with activity and invigorated with new and refreshed print collections and a broad range of new online services.

- The Library has added 1,871,825 books and materials since the start of Libraries for All, as well as 22,000 downloadable e-books, audio books, music and video recordings.
- The Library collection also offers patrons access to 73 premium databases, covering everything from consumer health and car repair to homework help.
- The Library answers more than 1 million questions annually in person, by phone, e-mail and online chat.

Building Community

Programs and Events

Only nine branches had meeting rooms before Libraries for All. Now, 22 Library buildings have meeting rooms. The Library has become the place for the community to meet, teach and learn.

Letters from the Community

“Dear John (librarian),

Thank you for the excellent class you taught on the subject of genealogy. Armed with what you taught me, I was able to find a copy of the passenger list for the ship my grandmother arrived on in 1907! Without even leaving the library building! I had floundered on my own for several months and was greatly assisted by the class you taught so well. With this passenger listing, I now know her hometown, father’s name, etc., and am off to a great start!”

Joe Murphy

The Library sponsors an average of 400 programs a month – many of them in branch meeting rooms. Programs range from SAT prep classes and Wii gaming to presentations with award-winning authors, such as National Book Award author Tim Egan, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Joseph J. Ellis and Shirin Ebadi, winner of the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize.

- The number of programs hosted by the Library has increased 7.6 percent since the start of Libraries for All.

- Attendance at Library programs has increased an incredible 62 percent – from 114,956 in 1998 to 186,074 in 2007 (in person or virtual attendance).

Some branch story times attract more than 100 children, parents and caregivers.

Program participation has been so high that in some cases, not everyone could squeeze inside. Approximately 300 people had to be turned away from a 2007 Library program held at Town Hall featuring mountain climber-turned humanitarian Greg Mortenson. Nearly 950 people attended. Later that week, thousands of people packed the branches and schools to see Mortenson at other Library-sponsored appearances.

In addition to hosting programs, the Library allows community groups and nonprofit organizations to use branch meeting rooms. More than 350 groups a month take advantage of branch meeting rooms, which may be reserved and used at no charge.

Groups that have used the popular meeting rooms include: Absurd Reality Theater, Greenwood Acoustic Jam, Asperger’s Syndrome Group, American Sewing Guild, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Seattle African Violet Society, Tibetan Association of Washington, Jane Austen Society of Puget Sound, PAWS, Coots with Cameras, Mountaineers Foundation, Society of Women’s Engineers and the 100th Monkey Project.

Building Community

Event Services at the Central Library

In addition to providing free meeting space in neighborhoods throughout the city, Libraries for All created much needed meeting space in the downtown area. The Central Library rents a total of 12 spaces, ranging from the 275-seat auditorium to computer classrooms to meeting rooms. The Library also offers certain rooms to nonprofit groups at no charge, filling a niche that is a scarcity downtown.



More than 66,546 people from 1,309 organizations have used Central Library meeting rooms since the Library began renting space in January 2005.

An Event Services Department was created to support these events, as well as to support meeting room activities hosted by the Library.

Conferences and annual business meetings typically fill the meeting rooms. Event Services reports that it is not uncommon for local conference attendees to have never visited the Central Library prior to going

there for a meeting. After being introduced to the building and having an opportunity to see what the Library offers, many of these individuals have become not only regular Library users, but advocates and donors.

New Initiatives: Outreach to Immigrants and Refugees

The Libraries for All program has made it possible for the Library to build on one of its great strengths – supporting cultural communities. With more locations and expanded facilities, the Library is bridging gaps for those who need resources and services the most.

The Library now provides welcoming and friendly environments where residents can learn the basic skills they need to successfully participate in their communities – socially, economically and culturally. Classes offered by the Library play a large part in encouraging ongoing adult learning and education.

The U.S. Census estimates that by 2010 immigrants and refugees may make up as much as 20 percent of Seattle's population. The Library is serving more immigrants and refugees than ever before because of new spaces, equipment and resources especially designed for them.

Libraries for All paid for computer-assisted learning programs, resources and study carrels located in the Literacy, English as a Second Language (ESL)/World Languages Department at the Central Library. Patrons can learn English, get books and media in more than 40 other languages and practice

Building Community

reading, listening, speaking or typing in one of nine independent study carrels. Five of the language learning stations have computers while others have audiovisual equipment, such as DVDs, VHS tapes and audio cassettes.

- More than **3,000 patrons used the language learning carrels** in 2007.
- The Central Library computer lab is devoted to serving ESL learners; **more than 1,200 immigrants received basic computer skills training last year.**
- More than **2,300 patrons attended “Talk Time”** conversation classes to practice speaking English in 2007.

The Beacon Hill Branch also features a **Language Center** with the same equipment and resources that the Central Library offers ESL patrons.

In addition, the Library now offers concentrated collections in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Russian, Korean and Japanese in branch locations where large numbers of patrons speak and read those languages. The Central Library carries collections in a total of 48 languages.

As part of the Library’s outreach to immigrants and refugees, the Library hosted targeted programs for Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese-speaking populations in 2007.

- More than **2,622 people attended these specially designed cultural and literacy programs**, as well as workshops to improve life skills, including consumer education programs, legal clinics and citizenship classes.



Letters from the Community

“Thank you for supporting the recent multicultural event at the High Point Branch. I enjoyed very much the opportunity to interact and learn from the Vietnamese culture. My son and I learned about foods in the Vietnamese culture and how they are related to Vietnamese New Year. Most especially, I enjoyed connecting with people from another culture, listening to them and hearing their stories. I wholeheartedly support more connections with other cultures through the library system. Seattle is a very diverse community and it is one way that we can celebrate that diversity.”

Nancy Krivanka

Technology

The Library is committed to providing access to the latest in digital resources.

Libraries for All has increased the ability of residents to access and use information by providing more locations with more computer technology in all parts of the city. Free computer classes also have helped people overcome their fear of new technology. This is particularly important in communities where residents face social or economic disadvantages and their ability to access computers and learn computer skills is limited.



- 1,013 public computers are now available throughout the system compared with only 323 before Libraries for All. That's a 214 percent increase in computer access!
- Wi-Fi also is available at all 27 locations. The Central Library was one of the first public libraries in the country to provide free Wi-Fi.
- Patrons don't need to physically visit a library to get expert librarian help. Patrons can simply go to the Library's Web site at www.spl.org, select "Ask A Question" and communicate with a librarian via the Library's online chat service.

The Seattle Public Library offers a digital media collection with more than 22,000 copies of downloadable e-books, audio books, music and videos – including feature films and documentaries for all ages. Nearly 300 popular Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) programs, such as the Emmy Award-winning "American Experience" and the Pulitzer Prize-winning public affairs series "Frontline," were recently added. The checkout process for the digital collection is easy. At the end of the 21-day lending period, the titles automatically expire. No late fees!

In addition, the Library offers 73 premium databases – also accessible any time of the day or night – including Standard & Poor's NetAdvantage, PressDisplay, Play Index, Morningstar.com, and more.

Technology

Letters from the Community

"I'm just writing to congratulate you on a service well done. The netLibrary Recorded Books Digital Audio Books is a great service. I'm now downloading books for night time listening with my 13-year-olds and thoroughly enjoying it. This is the kind of service I am most happy to be paying taxes for. Keep up the good work."

David Burroughs

Letters from the Community

"I cannot begin to tell you how impressed I am with the updates you have done to on-line library resources. You have made my on-line choosing of books and films so much easier. I am 68 years old and I depend on, and use, the library constantly. After I enter my choices and they arrive, I can then walk about two blocks to pick them up. Thank you so much."

Sally Larsen

The Library offers book, music, and movie recommendations through its new blogs: "Shelf Talk" for adults (shelftalk.spl.org) and "Push to Talk" for teens (blog.spl.org/yablog).

The Library began offering podcasts in September 2006. In the first month, the Library's podcasts were downloaded 94 times. Now, Library podcasts have been

downloaded 39,259 times. The most popular podcast is the audio tour of the Central Library, which has been downloaded more than 1,200 times.



The Library offers a free online homework service called Online Homework Help, which allows students to get immediate help from qualified tutors in math, science, social studies and English by visiting the Library Web site at www.spl.org. Spanish-speaking tutors also are available. Students can use the service from Library computers or from remote locations, such as computers at school or home.

- More than 11,170 students have used this service since the Library began offering Online Homework Help in September 2005.

Technology

Thanks to a Library Foundation grant, the Library Web site underwent a complete overhaul, reflecting an updated logo, branding and all new content – launched just prior to the opening of the new Central Library. Web visitors increased 78 percent after one year!



Use of the Library's Web site continues to explode. Visits to the 24-hour virtual library now account for 40 percent of the Library's annual patron visits. The site, which offers the convenience of reserving books and materials online, had more than 5.1 million visitors in 2007.

The Libraries for All bond measure made it possible to fund state-of-the-art technology for materials handling and processing.

The automated system, which is powered by both electric and pneumatic (compressed air) technology, has revolutionized how the Library checks in and sorts Library materials. While most of the system is not visible to the public – the operation is located in a staff-only area at the Central Library – Library patrons benefit in a number of ways. Patrons who return books at the Central Library actually place them on a conveyer system that moves the items to an automated sorter. The system consists of approximately 250 feet of incline, decline, curve and horizontal belt conveyers and hundreds of optical and retro-reflective photo-eye sensors.



Technology

The automated system frees up staff members to spend much less time checking in and sorting books, and eliminates the backbreaking work of lifting bins of books and carrying them off to be unloaded, scanned and placed into other bins for shelving. Instead, staff members are able to use their time to help the increased number of patrons using Library services.

Now, books and materials are checked back in using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID). The system interacts with the Library's catalog software to identify whether an item goes to the Central Library or one of the branches, or whether the item is on hold for a patron. The Seattle Public Library is the largest library system in the nation to use both RFID and automated materials handling.

- The automated system is able to process an average of 1,400 items per hour.
- The system checks in, processes and redistributes an average of 550,000 books and materials a month.
- Each eight-hour shift is staffed with only three operators.

Libraries for All also provided funds for self-checkout machines, giving patrons the ease of self-service and privacy when checking out materials.

Librarians at the Central Library use wireless communications devices called Vocera for better, more proactive service to the public. The hands-free device, or wireless necklace, allows librarians to quickly research materials and answer questions. If a librarian doesn't know the answer to a question, the librarian can find someone who does with a touch of a button on the Vocera's transmitter.

This not only makes it faster to get patrons what they need, it also eliminates the frustration of having to repeat requests or travel from one area to another for help. Phone calls also can be transferred to a Vocera device.



Transparency

Transparency

The Library engaged the community in all aspects of the Libraries for All program.

Library officials committed to being open and public in their implementation of the Libraries for All program. Residents were invited to participate in all phases of a project's development, including:

- Site selection
- Architect selection
- Artist selection
- Design
- Opening celebrations



The process of each project was detailed on the Libraries for All Web site.

In addition, a Citizen Implementation Review Panel (CIRP) met monthly to review implementation of the Libraries for All program. The volunteer panel members were an important link to the community. CIRP members attended community meetings to answer questions about the building program and gather feedback from the public, which they shared with Library officials.

CIRP also was responsible for recommending \$6 million in “Opportunity Fund” projects, which the Library Board and City Council approved. The Opportunity Fund was included in the bond measure to pay for unanticipated future Library needs. The projects included:

- Construction of a new branch library at South Park, including technology, landscaping, furniture and collection enhancements: \$2,920,000
- Construction of a 400-square-foot Language Center at the new Beacon Hill Branch, and technology, landscaping and collection enhancements: \$300,000
- Construction of a 1,400-square-foot addition to the Magnolia Branch, and technology, landscaping, furniture and collection enhancements: \$2,211,000
- Relocation of staff and public spaces at the Queen Anne Branch, and technology, landscaping, furniture and collection enhancements: \$327,000
- Branch-wide collections enhancements, including online resources to increase access to language learning and other education resources system-wide: \$242,000

The Library Board decided against moving forward for now on three other recommendations: building a new branch library in Sand Point, adding a new bookmobile, and studying the need for a library in Mount Baker.

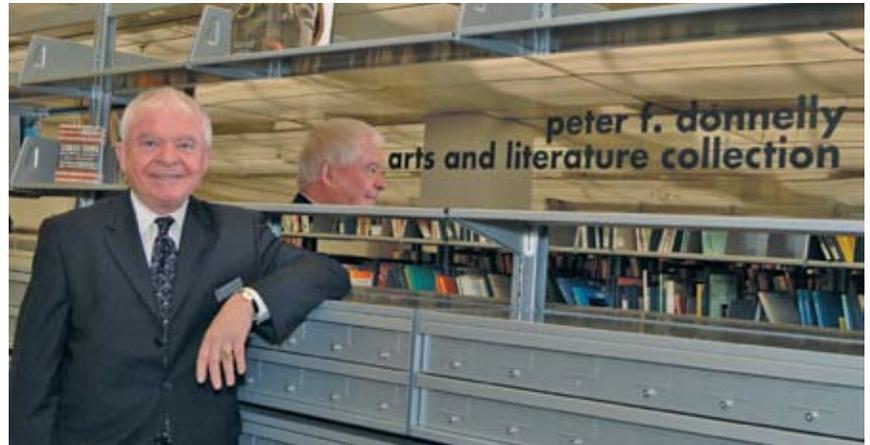
Transparency

Libraries for All Program Funding

The Libraries for All program could not have been completed without the fundraising efforts of The Seattle Public Library Foundation. In order to meet all the program elements of the Libraries for All plan, as well as add a level of excellence to all the projects, the Foundation pledged to raise more money than it ever had before. The most the Foundation had raised was \$1 million in one year.

In 1998, the Foundation agreed to raise what seemed like an insurmountable amount of money – \$40 million. That bar was eventually raised and an incredible \$83

million was achieved by the campaign's end in 2007 for Libraries for All and ongoing endowments. More than 22,000 donors contributed to this effort, including major gifts from Bill and Melinda Gates and Paul G. Allen.



“I am extraordinarily proud of The Seattle Public Library’s legacy of achievement. It has offered our community the invaluable gifts of knowledge, enhanced literacy, and a place where everyone can access information.

The Seattle Public Library is an incredible resource now and for future generations.”

*Bill Gates Sr.
Co-chair
Bill & Melinda Gates
Foundation*

The scope of the fundraising also was unique. The Campaign for Seattle’s Public Libraries did not focus exclusively on capital construction needs. It was structured in a way that inspired donors to support:

- **Enhanced collections.** Knowing that circulation typically increases when new and expanded facilities open, \$27 million was raised to fund and enhance opening day collections in new and expanded libraries and create an endowment to provide additional collection support in perpetuity.
- **New and greatly expanded programs and services.** The Foundation raised nearly \$10 million in programming support in anticipation that the addition of new and larger meeting rooms in libraries would give the Library greater opportunities to reach different constituencies through programming.

Transparency

- **Amenities that set apart neighborhood libraries from the ordinary.** Technology at every location, as well as design and construction, art and enhanced furnishings were funded by private donations totaling more than \$46 million.

Much of the groundwork for success was in place before the campaign began. Seattle has the good fortune to be a community of readers who are highly literate, generous and support the city's cultural and civic organizations. The Library and Foundation

also had a compelling vision for a renovation of an entire library system designed to meet the needs of 21st century users, a vision that included inspiring spaces, state-of-the-art technology, comprehensive collections and programs for people of all ages and interests.

Above all, the Library and Foundation possessed strong, intelligent and diligent leadership at the highest levels – an energetic and charismatic new city librarian, a seasoned Library Board, an enthusiastic Library Foundation Board and Capital Campaign chairman. All the major players had a good working relationship and a history of trust.

The Seattle Public Library Foundation completed the campaign with one of the largest endowments in place of any public library in the United States (with the exception of the New York Public Library, whose research libraries have been privately funded for over 100 years). These endowments provide sustainable support for all kinds of information resources, for children's programs, ESL programs and literary and historical programs.

Now, with new and expanded libraries in every neighborhood providing safe and accessible community gathering spaces, the Foundation's next challenge is to ensure these facilities continue to provide the resources and free programs that feed the heart, mind and soul of our community.

"There is no better way to support everyone in the community than to support the public library. The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation was happy to provide a lasting legacy for Seattle in the form of books and materials plus funds to renew its libraries. The gift honored the Allen Family's commitment to reading and learning - things so critical to our society and our democracy."

*Susan M. Coliton
Vice President
The Paul G. Allen Family
Foundation*

Transparency

Libraries for All Funding Sources and Uses

Funding sources

- Voter-approved bonds: \$196,600,000 (par value \$196,400,000)
- Bond interest and other earnings: \$22,600,000
- Other public resources: \$19,100,000
- The Seattle Public Library Foundation and other gifts: \$46,800,000
- Proceeds from property sales: \$5,600,000
- **Total sources of funds: \$290,700,000**

Funding uses

- New, expanded and renovated branches: \$89,500,000
- Replacement and expansion of Central Library: \$165,900,000
- Technology improvements: \$13,100,000
- Books and materials for four new branches: \$900,000
- Opportunity Fund: \$6,000,000
- Program start-up: \$1,500,000
- Bond transaction costs: \$3,900,000
- Moving and storage: \$1,500,000
- Project management and administration: \$8,400,000
- **Total uses of funds: \$290,700,000**



Letters from the Community

"I am writing to convey my appreciation to you, your staff and the board of directors and many friends of The Seattle Public Library for the excellent experience of being able to participate in the renewal of the Library system over the past decade.

In my time of civic engagement, the Library was first and foremost in my interests and it has been a continuing collaboration to see the Libraries for All work to be so successful and beneficial to the community and patrons.

As a Library user since the early 1960s, I have benefited immensely from the collection and especially the staff and their expertise and advice. . . I am sure that I am not the only one who has become more literate, more artistic more enlightened and inspired through The Seattle Public Library."

*Stephen Edwin Lundgren
Member of the Library's Citizen
Implementation Review Panel*

Transparency

Tours

Visitors and Library users are welcome to learn more about Libraries for All and the Central Library through free tours.



To date, more than 34,000 public and private groups have toured the Central Library since the building opened in May 2004. At first, the Library offered nearly 30 public tours each week – with a capacity of 20 at each tour. Four years later, the Library conducts about four public tours each week.

Approximately 10 percent of people who have taken tours are from outside the United States. Visitors have come from countries such as: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Tahiti and Turkey.

The Central Library is a key tourist attraction in Seattle. An economic study completed after its first year of operation showed the Library was associated with \$16 million in net new spending in Seattle. The Central Library continues to be a primary reason why many tourists visit Seattle and has rapidly become a city icon.

Letters from the Community

“While in Seattle for a conference, I had the pleasure of touring the Central Library. As you know, the building itself is amazing. Even more notable are the ease of access, spirit of inclusiveness, and feeling of home which you and your staff have fostered within it. This was apparent not just from the informative and spirited talk presented by the docent leading the tour, but even more so from watching the people using the spaces and the resources that afternoon.”

*Nancy S. Hewison
Purdue University*

Transparency

Letters from the Community

“Thank you so much for the very inspiring tour you gave me through your Library. I never could have had this insight in the qualities of your building without you taking me behind the scenes. What a magnificent piece of architecture! But not only that: it is wonderful to see how it functions with so many different people from all over the world. I can only congratulate the City of Seattle for such a lively center of knowledge and culture. It struck me how on the ground floor there is a much-used library with publications in all languages: I even found several Dutch books.”

*Gijs van Tuyl
Director
Stedelijk Museum
Amsterdam, The Netherlands*



should have “cloistered walls.” OMA’s Rem Koolhaas said that “the glass goes beyond transparency to absorb every vibe of the city.” The interior spaces are broad and open, allowing patrons to view the different Library functions and resources from all levels of the building.

The Central Library’s dramatic and award-winning architecture has attracted not only Seattle residents and visitors from around the world, but noted celebrities as well, including Miuccia Prada, singer Tracy Chapman, who mentioned her Central Library visit during her concert at the Paramount Theater, funk music giant George Clinton, REM’s Peter Buck, Tom Skerritt, Martha Stewart, Harrison Ford, Theresa Heinz Kerry, Sandra Day O’Connor, Susan Sontag and Paul Newman.

When a Library volunteer asked a teen why he and his friends now liked to hang out at the library, he responded, “Because the Central Library has rock star quality!”

Designed in a joint venture by OMA in the Netherlands and LMN Architects of Seattle, even the Central Library design project carries the theme of transparency. The Central Library is a shining example of what happens when the Library, architects and community push ideas, materials and technology to new horizons. The vision for the award-winning building looked past library stereotypes and redefined the library as an institution where all sources of information – old and new – are presented equally.

The building is surrounded by 9,994 pieces of glass, which invites the world inside and radically strays from the idea that the library

Sustainability

Sustainability

The Library is dedicated to providing sustainable and eco-friendly solutions.

In the design and construction of Library building projects, Library staff, architects and contractors strived to incorporate design elements and features to lessen the environmental impact on our planet.



In some cases, branches were co-located with neighborhood service centers, housing, parks and community centers. This approach to development fits the city's growth management plan,

strengthens neighborhood business districts and creates more pedestrian- and transit-oriented neighborhoods.

Central Library

The Central Library was specifically designed to achieve the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification, which it obtained. The building's sustainable and energy-efficient features include:

- Sustainable site: Erosion and sedimentation control during construction; rebuilding on same site; located on major bus routes; bicycle parking spaces; landscaping and exterior design to reduce "heat island effect"; automatic lighting controls to reduce light pollution.

- Water efficiency: Approximately a quarter of plants are drought-tolerant. Plantings are watered from an on-site 38,500-gallon rainwater collection tank, which takes 1 inch of rain to fill up. Interior water use is reduced by metered faucets, no-flush urinals and efficient mechanical equipment, saving tens of thousands of gallons of water use each year. Water use is about one-third less than a comparable building without green design features.
- Energy and atmosphere: The building was designed to outperform the Seattle energy code – one of the toughest codes in the country – by 10 percent. In fact, electricity consumption is significantly less than predicted. The building consumes half the electricity that a similar building without the energy-saving features would consume. In addition, there are no chlorofluorocarbon-based refrigerants in the air-conditioning system and no halon gases in the fire suppression system. Control systems meter HVAC systems, water usage and energy performance of the building.
- Exterior: The glass and curtain wall system is one of the most complex and energy-efficient installations undertaken in a North American building. About half the glass used in the curtain wall is triple-glazed with an aluminum expanded metal mesh sandwiched between two panes to reduce heat buildup from sunlight, eliminating the need for tinted glass. The curtain wall contains almost 10,000 pieces of glass.

Sustainability

- **Materials and resources:** Space was designed into the loading dock area to collect and store recyclables; more than 75 percent of demolition and construction waste was recycled; a significant amount of recycled material was used in construction; a minimum of 20 percent of the building products used in the Central Library were manufactured within 500 miles of Seattle, thus helping the local economy and reducing impacts of transporting materials long distances.
- **Indoor environmental quality:** The Central Library meets or exceeds the standard American Society for Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers 62-1999, Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality; carbon dioxide is monitored and is no higher than outdoor levels by more than 530 parts per million; a monitoring system automatically adjusts for thermal comfort. The design also maximizes daylight and views in 90 percent of all regularly occupied spaces. Equipment can sense how many people are in the building at a time; the more people, the more air is brought in.
- **Lighting:** Natural light reduces lighting needs and electrical energy consumption. Ninety percent of the regularly occupied spaces have exposure to exterior views and light. Lighting levels automatically adjust to outside lighting levels. When it is bright outside, lights turn off, when it is cloudy or dark, more lights come on. Light fixtures were selected for long life and low energy usage. Sensors activate and turn off office lights.

The Central Library is not only an architectural showpiece, but an environmental model as well.

Letters from the Community

“Thank you so much for your time and graciousness in setting up a special docent led tour that allowed my students to learn about the Central Library and the city’s position on building with a sustainable future in mind.”

*Marie R. Wong
Seattle University*

Northgate Branch

The Northgate Branch and Northgate Community Center buildings received the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification.

Green features include:

- Insulated building walls, roof and windows that minimize heat loss.
- High-efficiency lighting, boilers and air-conditioning units.
- Access to an outdoor view and natural light.
- Landscaping and roof overhangs that save energy and reduce glare in the buildings.
- Water-efficient landscaping that reduces potable water for irrigation use by 50 percent, including a 149,000-gallon underground vault that collects and cleans runoff storm water from the site and adjacent street. The water is used to irrigate the park and landscaping.
- Maintenance of the adjacent park without the use of pesticides.

Sustainability

Ballard Branch

While not LEED-certified, the Ballard Branch also is recognized for its green and sustainable features, including:

- 18,000+ low-water-use plants on the “green roof” that require minimal watering. The plants provide insulation and absorb water that otherwise would rush into storm drains.



- “Notch and tab” furniture designed by the architect, Bohlin Cywinski Jackson. The tables and chairs are cut from a single sheet of laminated wood to reduce waste. The furniture slides together – no screws, no nails, no hardware.

- 17 solar panels on the roof and solar film in the windows of the adjacent Neighborhood Service Center. The Seattle City Light Green Power Program, which provided the solar equipment, monitors how much electricity it produces.
- Rooftop scientific devices that measure wind speed and direction, sunlight and the sound of rain. Artwork – LED (light-emitting diode) displays and an audio composition of Ballard-area sounds - is derived from the weather data.
- Building designed to shade harsh light and take advantage of natural daylight, decreasing the need for artificial light. There are seven skylights at key points.
- Occupancy sensors that automatically control lights in offices and enclosed spaces. The branch used recycled carpet, glass, ceramic and ceiling tiles.
- Environmentally friendly adhesives, sealants and paints. Ventilation systems that monitor indoor air quality.
- Waterless urinals in restrooms.
- Light wells in the parking garage provide pools of natural light for security and to help people find their way.

In addition, all the Library buildings have a system that helps control energy use. When the buildings are unoccupied, the system switches to an economizer mode. Almost all the buildings have new mechanical units that are certified as energy-efficient.

Love of reading

The Library supports lifelong learning and the love of reading for all.

Seattle residents love reading – in fact 80 percent of Seattle residents have Library cards – and they are reading even more in their new, expanded and well-stocked libraries.

- In 2003, the year before the new Central Library opened, the Temporary Central Library circulated 921,294 items. In 2007, the circulation of books and materials was 1,461,849 – that’s a 59 percent increase.
- The branches also have experienced dramatic increases in circulation. In 1998, the year prior to opening the NewHolly Branch, the old branch circulated just 12,850 items. Last year, the branch circulated 88,867 items, a 591 percent increase in circulation!
- In 2003, the last year the old Beacon Hill Branch was in operation, the building circulated 144,382 items. In 2007, the new branch circulated 336,478 items, representing a 133 percent increase.
- The Ballard Branch, the busiest branch in The Seattle Public Library system, circulated 683,340 items in the last year of operation in its previous facility. In 2007, the new branch circulated 1 million items, a 47 percent increase in circulation.

Seattle Reads

Libraries for All made it possible for The Seattle Public Library to build on its successful “Seattle Reads” program – originally called “If All of Seattle Read the

Same Book” – which is now modeled worldwide.

This annual program encourages everyone in the city to read and talk about the same book. The Library invites the author to come to Seattle to discuss the featured book at public events. The Seattle Public Library is aware of 450 locations in the nation that now host similar programs. Seattle’s 2008 program with Dinaw Mengestu and his book, “The Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears,” filled rooms to capacity at all seven Library events.

The Library offers books for book groups and sponsors more than 500 book discussions – some in languages other than English – in its facilities each year. The Library also partners with other agencies, literacy groups and the Seattle Public Schools on a variety of reading programs.



Letters from the Community

(translated from Chinese)

“Dear Library Director, my name is Chengzu Hu. I’ve been a member of the Chinese Book Discussion Group since 2003. More than four years of book discussions have benefited me greatly. I came to the U.S. in February 2001 and I’m 78 years old and the oldest member of the group. The group reads the same book, then comes together to talk about the book. Sitting in a room with people of very different age ranges and talking about the same book has been such an eye-opening experience for me. I’m writing to let you know that I hope the book discussion group can continue its great work of stimulating people’s minds. Wish you good health and successful business.”

Hu, Chengzu

Love of reading

Early Learning

It is especially important for public libraries to encourage reading and promote literacy. Libraries for All has made it possible for The Seattle Public Library to focus on helping children be better prepared to read when they begin school. This is accomplished not only through literacy programs, but through staff training.



The impact of the Central Library auditorium has been huge, as the Library can now host programs that draw 300 kids at a time. This has created amazing opportunities for children from all over the city to participate in literacy programs.

In July 2008, for example, more than 300 families came to the Central Library to see the “Images of China” puppet show. Many of them were families from the Chinese community.

In addition, the children’s area in the new Central Library is 650 percent larger than in the old building.

It’s now 15,000 square feet – the size of some of the Library’s largest branches. There is significant space now for children’s books, materials and computers. In the old Central Library, the children’s area was a mere 2,000 square feet, and families rarely came to the building.

Now, thanks to the Libraries for All initiative:

- Each week, the Library hosts more than 30 story times in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. Story times attract more than 50,000 children, parents and caregivers each year.
- Library staff members are now regularly trained in early literacy – topics include developmental stages in young children, working with diverse communities, tips and tricks for toddler story time, picture book collection display ideas, and more.
- The new Raising a Reader take-home book bag program, which started in January 2008, has served 221 families to date. This program promotes early literacy development by establishing a daily routine of sharing books with children. Children take home a set of up to four books each week that are available in classroom lending libraries. At the end of the program, families are introduced to their local public libraries and receive their own personal Library bags. The classrooms served are either Step Ahead preschools or preschools served by the Library’s Mobile Services division.
- Play and Learn Groups – drop-in neighborhood play groups for parents and caregivers with children up to the age of 5 – have served 1,125 people in their first year of operation. Parents and children are guided through activities that help teach and promote kindergarten readiness.

Love of reading

- The Library has enhanced its collection for very young children with 6,900 new picture books, 6,800 board books for infants and toddlers, Begin with Books kits for families and child care centers, and online collections for 24/7 access.
- More than 15,000 children signed up for the 2007 Summer Reading Program and read a total of 111,881 books.



Letters from the Community

*"Dear Library Director,
I love your libraries. I am writing to say thank you to you and your staff for making me ridiculously happy each time I deal with The Seattle Public Library. I love that I can order books and have them plucked from the shelves for me. I love that I can get a customized reading list pulled together by actual humans who never fail to suggest a book I've never heard of before. I love that there are little libraries dotted all over this city that invite readers to come in and read. I love that the libraries are clean and well lit. And yes, I get a little thrill each time I walk in the doors.*

So thank you. Thank you for continuing to bring me good books, good service and good people."

*Sincerely,
Kelli Carroll*

Letters from the Community

"My name is Summer. I am 2 years old. I like it when my mommy takes me to the library. I like story time.

I really like Lulu (Library Book Fairy). I saw her at the Douglass-Truth Branch opening. I want her to come to my house and play cars."

*Love,
Summer King, age 2*

Love of reading

Friends of the Library

The Friends of The Seattle Public Library worked tirelessly to support the Libraries for All program from the beginning until the last branch opening. The Friends actively promoted and raised awareness about the importance and value of Library services and supported Library opening celebrations. Today, the Friends emphasize advocating for the Library budget to ensure Library services stay modern and relevant. The group also sponsors fall and spring book sales – believed to be the largest in the nation – and runs the FriendShop in the Central Library. Proceeds from the popular book sales and gift shop benefit new initiatives and resources that expand the Library’s reach in the community.



Volunteers

Library volunteers help conduct tours of the magnificent Central Library, help at special events, teach computer classes, tutor kids with homework, and much more. The Library currently has 481 volunteers, including 70 volunteer students, who in 2007 contributed 19,502 service hours to the Library. The number of volunteers has more than doubled and the number of service hours contributed has increased by 38 percent since before Libraries for All.

Letters from the Community

“I wanted to let you know how much my family and I appreciate all the summer programs the library has put on.

My children both attended Hogwarts at the Central Library and enjoyed it very much. They learned about herbs, runes, palmistry, potions and enjoyed Butterbeer as well! The program was very well run and the excitement of all the children we saw coming in and going out told me that my ‘first years’ were not the only ones having fun.

We have also attended the raptor program at our local West Seattle Branch. It is great to have the opportunity to attend such programs at our library.

Thank you to you and all the other librarians for making the library a fun place for families.”

*Sincerely,
Diane Nelson*

My Library the next generation

The community's investment in Libraries for All will continue for generations to come. The data in this report emphasizes the incredible contribution libraries make to improving the educational, cultural and economic health of this city.

Libraries for All not only rebuilt facilities and expanded locations, but was responsible for unprecedented innovation and a new level of programming and services to special needs populations.

Thanks to the support and involvement from the community from start to finish, the stage is set for the Library's next phase of excellence in service to all.

"In the end, Libraries for All means just that: keeping faith with all the people of our city, and reminding us that we are the owners of our democracy."

Eric Liu
President
The Seattle Public Library
Board of Trustees

LEA Project List

Libraries for All Project List and Special Features

Central Library

1000 Fourth Ave.
Seattle, WA 98104
206-386-4636

Opened: May 23, 2004

Project type: Replace existing library

Budget: \$165.9 million

Library program area: 362,987 square feet
(formerly 206,000 square feet)

Artists: Mandy Greer, Ann Hamilton, Gary Hill,
George Legrady, Tony Oursler, Lynne Yamamoto

Architects: Principal designers Rem Koolhaas
and Joshua Prince-Ramus with the Office for
Metropolitan Architecture & LMN Architects

Contractor: Hoffman Construction Co.



Special features:

- The stunning steel and glass building has grand public spaces, cityscape views, an all-red meeting room floor and 30 miles of books arranged in the only Books Spiral in the world.
- Some of the innovative artwork includes a celebration of world languages built into hardwood flooring, talking video sculptures along an escalator, and a real-time look at what Seattle is reading that floats across plasma display screens.

Ballard Branch

5614 22nd Ave. N.W.
Seattle, WA 98107
206-684-4089

Opened: May 14, 2005

Project type: Replace existing branch

Budget: \$10.6 million

Library program area: 15,000
square feet (formerly 7,296 square feet)

Artists: Donald Fels, Andrew Schloss,
Dale Stammen

Architect: Bohlin Cywinski Jackson

Contractor: PCL Construction Services Inc.

Co-located with 3,100-square-foot neighborhood service center



Special features:

- With its green roof, notch and tab furniture and solar panels, the branch is known for its green features and emphasis on sustainability.
- Check out the computer-generated artwork, which uses data from scientific devices on the roof that measure sunlight, the sound of rain, and wind speed and direction.

LFA Project List

Beacon Hill Branch

2821 Beacon Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98144
206-684-4711

Opened: July 10, 2004

Budget: \$5.2 million

Project type: Replace existing branch

Library program area: 10,400 square feet
(formerly 3,200 square feet)

Artist: Miles Pepper

Local writers & poets: Anna Balint, David Bowen,
Stephanie Cerezo, Kathleen Craig, Elaine Iwano,
Ted Iwata, Janice Kennedy, Xiu Vinh Mao, Claudia
Mauro, Shira Richman, Craig Thompson

Architect: Carlson Architects

Contractor: Steele Corp.

Co-located with 400-square-foot neighborhood service center



Special features:

- The sweeping roof allows natural light to flood the building and provides a visual landmark for the community.
- The branch sports local artwork – haiku engraved onto large garden stones and recordings of poetry, prose and short fiction, all written by Beacon Hill residents.

Broadview Branch

12755 Greenwood Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98133
206-684-7519

Opened: Dec. 8, 2007

Project type: Expand existing branch

Budget: \$7 million

Library program area: 15,000 square feet
(formerly 8,405 square feet)

Artist: Theresa Batty

Architect: Miller Hayashi Architects

Contractor: Graham Contracting Ltd.



Special features:

- The expanded branch builds on the original design, which was based on Northwest coastal Native American longhouses.
- The new artwork – a suspended wooden vessel and cast glass blocks that contain images – abstractly reference navigation, direction and personal searches for belonging and identity.

LFA Project List

Capitol Hill Branch

425 Harvard Ave. E.
Seattle, WA 98102
206-684-4715

Opened: May 31, 2003

Project type: Replace existing branch

Budget: \$5.7 million

Library program area: 11,215 square feet
(formerly 4,904 square feet)

Artist: Iole Alessandrini

Architects: Johnston Architects & Cutler Architects

Contractor: Summit Central Construction Inc.
Co-located with 400-square-foot neighborhood
service center



Special features:

- The two-story reading room is the heart of the branch. North and south walls of this triangular space are glass. The wood and steel roof seems to float over the room.
- The artwork is a green, living, façade made up of evergreen and deciduous vines supported by a stainless steel lattice.

Columbia Branch

4721 Rainier Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98118
206-386-1908

Opened: Aug. 22, 2004

Project type: Expand existing branch

Budget: \$3 million

Library program area: 12,420 square feet
(formerly 6,825 square feet)

Artist: Gu Xiong

Architect: Cardwell Architects

Contractor: Graham Contracting Ltd.



Special features:

- The new spaces in the addition overlook the adjacent Columbia Park and have large park-side windows for daylight and great views of grass, trees and sky.
- The artwork consists of 42 photographs of residents of the multicultural neighborhood, accompanied by messages written in English and the residents' native languages that evoke a sense of joy and belonging.

LFA Project List

Delridge Branch

5423 Delridge Way S.W.
Seattle, WA 98106
206-733-9125

Opened: June 29, 2002

Project type: New branch library

Budget: \$3 million

Library program area: 5,600 square feet

Artists: Nick Lyle & Jean Whitesavage

Architect: Stickney Murphy Romine Architects

Contractor: Walsh Construction Co.

Developed in partnership with Delridge
Neighborhoods Development Association.

Library anchors first floor of a three-story building that includes 19 apartments.



Special features:

- Locating housing and the branch on the same site reduced urban sprawl and allowed more efficient use of public transportation.
- The artists found inspiration for their sculptures in native plants growing in the nearby Longfellow Creek watershed.

Douglass-Truth Branch

2300 E. Yesler Way
Seattle, WA 98122
206-684-4704

Opened: Oct. 14, 2006

Project type: Expand existing branch

Budget: \$6.8 million

Library program area: 16,493 square feet
(formerly 8,008 square feet)

Artists: Marita Dingus, Vivian Linder

Architect: Schacht Aslani Architects

Contractor: Construction Enterprises and
Contractors Inc.



Special features:

- A grand staircase descends to the lower level, which is bathed in light from an expanse of windows and skylights. The brick and terra cotta exterior wall of the original historic building is still visible.
- The new artwork overlooks the addition – copper wire sculptures of cherubs and sea grass, and three-dimensional relief panels that depict Aztec, Mayan and Western African influences.

LFA Project List

Fremont Branch

**731 N. 35th St.
Seattle, WA 98103
206-684-4084**

Opened: April 16, 2005

Project type: Renovate existing branch

Budget: \$665,000

Library program area: 6,840 square feet
(formerly 6,060 square feet. Converted a 780-square-foot storage area into program space.)

Artist: Dennis Evans

Architect: Hoshide Williams Architects

Contractor: Biwell Construction Inc.



Special features:

- The renovation preserved the original exposed heavy timber trusses and plaster walls and lowered the shelving so more light could enter the reading room.
- The artwork consists of two painted mixed-media works that are part of a series of artwork for five of the Library's Carnegie branches. All the pieces reflect classical liberal arts themes.

Green Lake Branch

**7364 E. Green Lake Dr. N.
Seattle, WA 98115
206-684-7547**

Opened: March 6, 2004

Project type: Renovate existing branch

Budget: \$1 million

Library program area: 8,090 square feet

Artist: Dennis Evans

Architect: Snyder Hartung Kane Strauss Architects

Contractor: W.G. Clark Construction Co.



Special features:

- In addition to the many interior renovations, a new front entry garden features bloodtwig dogwoods, paperbark maples, red-flowering currants, lavender, rosemary and other drought-tolerant perennials.
- The artwork consists of two painted mixed-media works that are part of a series of artwork for five of the Library's Carnegie branches. All the pieces reflect classical liberal arts themes.

LFA Project List

Greenwood Branch
8016 Greenwood Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
206-684-4086



Opened: Jan. 29, 2005
Project type: Replace existing branch
Budget: \$6.9 million
Library program area: 15,000 square feet (formerly 7,000 square feet + an auditorium)
Artists: Fernanda D'Agostino, with design team collaboration by Valerie Otani
Architect: Buffalo Design
Contractor: W.G. Clark Construction Co.

Special features:

- The wood on the tabletops in the center of the library all came from the same tree – an American elm salvaged from Carnation. The tables were crafted by Seattle-based Urban Hardwoods, which makes furniture out of trees that are diseased or must be taken down.
- The artwork features complex images and text embedded in three glass windows. Most of the images are based on Greenwood Branch patrons who posed as models.

High Point Branch
3411 S.W. Raymond St.
Seattle, WA 98126
206-684-7454



Opened: June 19, 2004
Project type: Replace existing branch
Budget: \$2.7 million
Library program area: 7,200 square feet (formerly 1,200 square feet)
Artist: Steve Gardner
Architect: Miller Hayashi Architects
Contractor: Cope Construction Co.

Special features:

- Check out the lush "bio-swale," an eco-friendly landscaping plan that uses plants to filter runoff from the parking lot before it gets into the storm water system.
- Recessed into the brick exterior are terra cotta relief sculptures that depict legends from different cultures about the constellations and the sky.

LFA Project List

International District/Chinatown Branch 713 Eighth Ave. S. Seattle, WA 98104 206-386-1300

Opened: June 11, 2005
Project type: New branch library
Budget: \$735,000
Library program area: 3,930 square feet
Artist: Rene Yung
Architect: Miller Hayashi Architects
Contractor: Cope Construction Co.

Developed in partnership with Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority. Branch is on the first level of a five-story building that includes housing and a community center.

Special features:

- Long hanging lamps illuminate the interior, which feels urban, modern and elegant.
- The artwork, which consists of 120 teacups in a large oval on a wall, grew out of the idea that the library and its community are essential nourishment. The teacups were donated by community members.

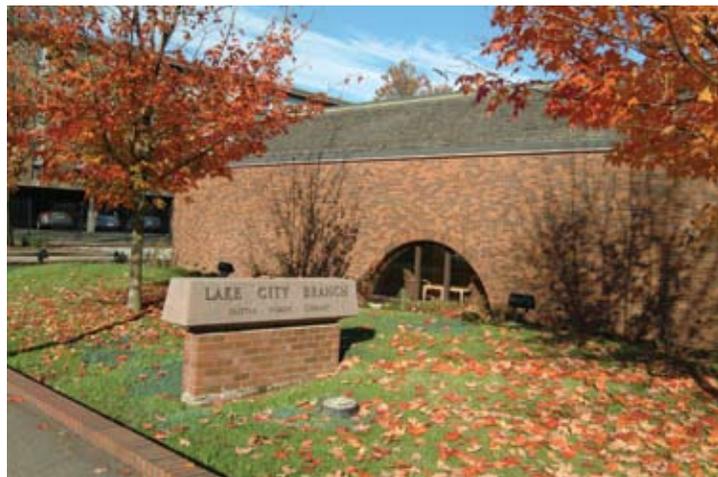


Lake City Branch 12501 28th Ave. N.E. Seattle, WA 98125 206-684-7518

Opened: Oct. 22, 2005
Project type: Expand existing branch
Budget: \$3.9 million
Library program area: 15,300 square feet
(formerly 9,013 square feet)
Artists: Linda Haworth, Jane Grafton
Architect: ARC Architects
Contractor: Bayley Construction
Co-located with a neighborhood service center.

Special features:

- Remodeling the interior exposed the rich brick walls of the original building, which had been covered by shelving. Outside, the courtyard and bronze gates by Seattle sculptor George Tsutakawa were preserved.
- Artwork includes 71 cast glass panels and a series of recycled tin pennants.



LFA Project List

Madrona-Sally Goldmark Branch

1134 33rd Ave.

Seattle, WA 98122

206-684-4705

Opened: May 10, 2008

Project type: Renovate existing branch

Budget: \$893,000

Library program area: 1,707 square feet

Artists: Mary Iverson, Monad Elohim

Architect: Heliotrope Architects

Contractor: Cope Construction Co.



Special features:

- The main entry was moved north to improve visibility. The former main entry became a bay window.
- The new artwork – an oil painting and a ceramic sculpture – joins Richard Beyer's memorable sculpture, "The Peaceable Kingdom," which remains on the lawn.

Magnolia Branch

2801 34th Ave. W.

Seattle, WA 98199

206-386-4225

Opened: July 12, 2008

Project type: Renovate and expand existing branch

Budget: \$4.3 million

Library program area: 7,799 square feet
(formerly 6,356 square feet)

Artist: Kristin Tollefson

Architect: Snyder Hartung Kane Strauss
Architects

Contractor: Graham Contracting Ltd.



Special features:

- Meyer Wells, a Magnolia furniture shop, made a table and bench for the branch from a salvaged walnut tree, a casualty of the 2006 winter storms.
- The new artwork is a pair of sculptures – a branch suspended from the meeting room above the south window and a basket outside the south window.

LFA Project List

Montlake Branch

2401 24th Ave. E.
Seattle, WA 98112
206-684-4720

Opened: Aug. 12, 2006

Project type: Replace existing branch

Budget: \$5.4 million

Library program area: 5,652 square feet
(formerly 1,574 square feet)

Artist: Rebecca Cummins

Architect: Weinstein A/U Architects + Urban
Designers

Contractor: Graham Contracting Ltd.



Special features:

- Look for the quiet reading spots in the building – check out the window benches in the main branch and the seating nook in the atrium.
- The artwork is an aperture skylight sundial. Five circular openings in the ceiling covered by glass discs project a series of colorful spotlights that move through the branch throughout the day, as the sun appears to move across the sky.

NewHolly Branch

7058 32nd Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98118
206-386-1905

Opened: Nov. 20, 1999

Project type: Relocate existing branch

Budget: \$750,000

Library program area: 4,000 square feet
(formerly 1,924 square feet)

Architect: ARC Architects

Contractor: Absher Construction Co.

Co-located with a branch of the South Seattle
Community College and numerous community services.



Special features:

- The branch is part of the NewHolly Neighborhood Campus, which was designed using new urbanism concepts to enliven the neighborhood.
- Bright accent colors and furnishings and an exposed ceiling structure provide a contemporary aesthetic.

LFA Project List

Northeast Branch

6801 35th Ave. N.E.
Seattle, WA 98115
206-684-7539

Opened: June 26, 2004

Project type: Expand existing branch

Budget: \$4.9 million

Library program area: 15,000 square feet
(formerly 7,042 square feet)

Artist: Heather Dew Oaksen

Architect: The Miller|Hull Partnership

Contractor: Graham Contracting Ltd.



Special features:

- The roof of the addition is the inverse of the roof of the original building, which complements the historic significance of the original architecture.
- A set of video projections slowly move across three Plexiglas screens inside the branch. The images are grouped around visual metaphors for what is happening inside the building: gathering, moving, discovering.

Northgate Branch

10548 Fifth Ave. N.E.
Seattle, WA 98125
206-386-1980

Opened: July 15, 2006

Project type: New branch library

Budget: \$6.2 million

Library program area: 10,000 square feet

Artist: Dana Lynn Louis

Architect: The Miller|Hull Partnership

Site planning: ARC Architects

Contractor: Absher Construction Co.

Shares a site with a 20,000-square-foot community center and 1.67-acre park



Special features:

- You can't take them home, but check out the books high above the holds shelf and the magazines. They're part of the design of the building. The Friends of The Seattle Public Library donated the books.
- Artwork for the branch includes colored circles of glass fused onto glass panels at the book drop.

LFA Project List

Queen Anne Branch

**400 W. Garfield St.
Seattle, WA 98119
206-386-4227**

Opened: Aug. 25, 2007

Project type: Renovate existing branch

Budget: \$909,000

Library program area: 7,931 square feet

Artist: Dennis Evans

Architect: Hoshide Williams Architects

Contractor: Biwell Construction Inc.



Special features:

- The renovation restored the functions of the wings to their original design, moving the children's area to the west wing and teens and adults to the east wing.
- The artwork consists of two painted mixed-media works that are part of a series of artwork for five of the Library's Carnegie branches. All the pieces reflect classical liberal arts themes.

Rainier Beach Branch

**9125 Rainier Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98118
206-386-1906**

Opened: Jan. 17, 2004

Project type: Expand existing branch

Budget: \$3.1 million

Library program area: 15,000 square feet (formerly 9,006 square feet)

Artists: Anna Skibska, Ariela Boronat

Architect: Streeter & Associates Architects

Contractor: Construction Enterprises & Contractors Inc.



Special features:

- Tall ceilings in the main room take full advantage of natural light.
- The building has two new pieces of art: three large fused glass sculptures and photographs collected from neighbors, transferred onto cloth and mounted between Plexiglas.

LFA Project List

South Park Branch

**8604 Eighth Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98108
206-615-1688**

Opened: Sept. 9, 2006

Project type: New branch library

Budget: \$3 million

Library program area: 5,019 square feet

Artist: Franklin Joyce

Architect: Johnston Architects

Contractor: Cope Construction Co.



Special features:

- A pattern in the concrete path that winds through the corner plaza is reminiscent of the original meandering path of the Duwamish River.
- Illustrations inspired by the community and the history and future of South Park are projected onto an exterior wall of the building, next to the entry.

Southwest Branch

**9010 35th Ave. S.W.
Seattle, WA 98126
206-684-7455**

Opened: March 10, 2007

Project type: Expand existing branch

Budget: \$6.2 million

Library program area: 15,000 square feet
(formerly 8,213 square feet)

Artists: Katherine Kerr, Morgan Brig

Architect: Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects

Contractor: Construction Enterprises & Contractors Inc.



Special features:

- Earth tones and light-colored wood create a sense of warm coziness inside the branch.
- The artist took casts of the hands of branch patrons to create the five sets of bronze hands that line the entry.

LFA Project List

University Branch

5009 Roosevelt Way N.E.
Seattle, WA 98105
206-684-4063

Opened: Oct. 13, 2007

Project type: Renovate existing branch

Budget: \$1 million

Library program area: 8,140 square feet

Artist: Dennis Evans

Architect: Hoshide Williams Architects

Contractor: Biwell Construction Inc.



Special features:

- Access to the branch was improved by opening the north and south wings and expanding the back door entry area.
- The artwork consists of two painted mixed-media works that are part of a series of artwork for five of the Library's Carnegie branches. All the pieces reflect classical liberal arts themes.

Wallingford Branch

1501 N. 45th St.
Seattle, WA 98103
206-684-4088

Opened: Jan. 29, 2000

Project type: Relocate existing branch

Budget: \$442,000

Library program area: 2,000 square feet

Artist: Richard Elliott

Architect: The Miller|Hull Partnership

Contractor: Harmatta Construction
Co-located with Solid Ground, which provides numerous community services.



Special features:

- The branch anchors the building and consolidates community services and volunteers under one roof.
- The artwork – five colorful neon signs – was designed to represent activities going on in the library.

LFA Project List

West Seattle Branch

2306 42nd Ave. S.W.
Seattle, WA 98116
206-684-7444

Opened: April 3, 2004

Project type: Renovate existing branch

Budget: \$2.1 million

Library program area: 9,460 square feet
(formerly 7,295 square feet. Converted 2,165 square feet of space in basement into program space.)

Artist: Dennis Evans

Architect: Snyder Hartung Kane Strauss Architects

Contractor: W.G. Clark Construction Co.



Special features:

- The renovation of the existing basement added 2,165 square feet of program space. Plants were salvaged and replanted after construction was complete.
- The artwork consists of two painted mixed-media works that are part of a series of artwork for five of the Library's Carnegie branches. All the pieces reflect classical liberal arts themes.

Libraries for All Awards

2000

Award of Merit, Honors Awards for Washington Architecture, AIA Seattle

The building design of the Central Library received an Award of Merit for a project not yet built as part of Seattle AIA's Honors Awards for Washington Architecture. The innovative architecture was described as "defining and reinventing the library as an institution no longer exclusively dedicated to the book, but as an information store, where all media – new and old – are presented under a regime of new equalities."

2001

Design Excellence Award, Seattle Design Commission

The Central Library received a Design Excellence Award, given to the city of Seattle's best upcoming capital improvement projects, for being "a distinctly modern and civic structure that blurs the boundaries between indoor and outdoor space" and "demonstrating cutting edge design, with a bold urban statement."

2003

American Library Association (ALA)/AIA Building Award of Excellence

The Temporary Central Library received an ALA/AIA Library Building Award of Excellence for its light-hearted and colorful design. The design featured intense tropical colors that contrasted with the exposed structure and mechanical systems. Jurors said the "playful, lively and colorful space whets the appetite for the new library building that will follow soon."

Krentz Award, Canadian Institute of Steel Construction (CISC)

The Central Library received a Krentz Award for outstanding engineering and architectural achievements exemplified through functional and expressive use of steel as the primary structural element. Peter Timler, western regional executive director of the CISC, said the Central Library project "showed real ingenuity and was an outstanding example of innovation."

Citation Award, AIA Washington Council

The Temporary Central Library project received a Citation Award from the American Institute of Architects Washington Council as part of its Civic Design Awards program. The Civic Design Awards program identifies public projects that are hallmarks of civic design.

Design Excellence Award, Seattle Design Commission

The Ballard Branch and Neighborhood Service Center project was recognized for being one of the city's best upcoming capital improvement projects. The commission noted the "collaboration across departmental lines to co-locate two vital new neighborhood facilities on a single site" in creating the branch and service center. The commission stated the building had "a provocative design that is nonetheless civic in its expression" and "an experimental green roof with a sweeping form that conveys a dynamic sense of flight."

Design Excellence Award, Seattle Design Commission

The Beacon Hill Branch received a Design Excellence Award for its "bold, modern design that is respectful of neighborhood context and its location, and provides excellent pedestrian access" and the "strong collaboration between the architect, landscape architect and project artist to make an exciting, integrated design statement that celebrates natural systems."

Libraries for All Awards

AIA Seattle Award

City Librarian Deborah L. Jacobs was recognized as an honorary member of the AIA for advancing the profession of architecture in Seattle. AIA representatives said Jacobs “made it her mission to engage the public in the selection of work of design teams for the much-heralded Central Library, designed by the Pritzker Prize-winning Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas of OMA, and for facilities in our neighborhoods throughout the urban region. AIA Seattle applauds this vision and committed advocate for design.”

2004

Civic Enrichment in the Humanities Award

The Seattle Public Library received the 2004 Civic Enrichment in the Humanities Award from the Museum of History and Industry. The award recognized the “profound and lasting impact The Seattle Public Library has had on the cultural and civic life of our region.”

The New York Times, Best Reviewed Buildings

The New York Times recognized the Central Library as one of the best-reviewed buildings of 2004. Times architectural critic Nicolai Ouroussoff called the Central Library a “relief from the mind-numbingly dull spaces of most recent libraries. One of the most important buildings completed in the United States in more than a decade, it proves that even bureaucrats are not immune to the power of the imagination, no small feat in an era of shrinking government and diminished expectations.”

Time magazine, Building of the Year

The new Central Library received Time magazine’s top award for architecture in 2004. Time senior writer Richard Lacayo said: “In a city where the Internet rules, here’s a building that takes books – remember those? – into the 21st century.” He described the 11-level building as being “folded like origami and covered with a diamond-shape lattice-work of structural steel.”

LEED Silver Certification

The Central Library achieved a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification given by the U.S. Green Building Council in recognition of its environmentally responsible design. The Silver rating indicates a superior level of accomplishment within the LEED program. Facts sheets and signs in the Library point to the energy savings and “green” aspects of the building.

Best Public Project, Northwest Construction

Northwest Construction (Washington, Oregon, Alaska) named the Central Library the Best Public Project of 2004.

25 Most Influential People in Seattle, Seattle Magazine

City Librarian Deborah L. Jacobs, who provided leadership for the Libraries for All program, was named one of the “25 Most Influential People in Seattle” by Seattle Magazine.

Newsmaker of the Year, Engineering News Record

City Librarian Deborah L. Jacobs was named a Newsmaker of the Year by Engineering News Record, which said that “Jacobs and her team have harnessed innovative architecture, engineering and construction to reinvent and reinvigorate the venerated institution.”

Libraries for All Awards

2005

AIA National Honor Award

The Central Library was the recipient of the AIA National Honor Award for Outstanding Architecture. The Central Library was among 13 winners of the prestigious award. Architecture Jury Chair Thomas W. Ventulett III said jurors considered more than 400 entries. “The recipient projects varied dramatically in program, complexity, scale, site, and typology,” he said. “Yet each presented a sensitive and inventive response to its distinct location and special program... Each illustrated a spirit and ingenuity that inspires both the user and the viewer.”

ACEC Platinum Award, ACEC of Washington

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Washington recognized the Central Library project for excellence in engineering. The Seattle Public Library and structural engineering firm Magnusson Klemencic Associates (MKA) received the ACEC of Washington’s Platinum Award for developing structural solutions that were implemented in the library. The ACEC of Washington noted the MKA engineers were given a difficult set of instructions: “Use no columns in the corners, no vertical columns and as few columns as possible. In other words, the project’s success depended on making an 11-level, all glass building in earthquake country appear to ‘float’ without support.” The challenge required the invention of new kinds of structural systems.

ACEC Gold Award, ACEC of Washington

The Seattle Public Library and the electrical engineering and technical consulting firm Sparling won a Gold Award from ACEC of Washington for the Central Library’s technology systems. The ACEC noted that the building’s unconventional architecture “created communication challenges for Library staff serving patrons and required an innovative technology solution.” Sparling recommended wireless “smart” necklaces for optimal internal staff communication and to permit live research assistance to patrons who call the library. Implementing this solution in a cost-effective manner demanded wireless capabilities that were previously non-existent.

AIA/ALA Library Building Award

The Central Library was one of eight projects honored with an AIA/ALA Library Building Award. This awards program was created by the AIA and the American Library Association/Library Administration and Management Association to encourage excellence in the architectural design and planning of libraries.

ASCE Honor Award for Excellence in Engineering

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave the Central Library an Honor Award for Excellence in Structural Engineering at the Local Outstanding Civil Engineering Awards Programs.

John Cotton Dana Award

The Seattle Public Library won the prestigious John Cotton Dana Public Relations Award from the American Library Association for its public relations/opening day plan for the new Central Library.

SPACE magazine

The Central Library was selected by SPACE magazine as one the top “must-visit buildings in the world.”

Condé Nast Traveler magazine

The Central Library was selected by Condé Nast Traveler magazine as one of “the new seven wonders of the world.”

Libraries for All Awards

25 Buildings Every Man Should Know, GQ magazine

The Central Library was included in GQ's list of the 25 "most important and beautiful structures in America."

Travel + Leisure 2005 Design Award

The Central Library received Travel + Leisure's "Best Cultural Space" design award. The magazine's annual Design Awards were developed to recognize innovation and excellence in areas that directly affect the travel experience, from hotels and restaurants to museums and cultural spaces.

Rave Award, Wired

Wired magazine selected Rem Koolhaas and the Central Library project for one of its 15 prestigious Rave Awards.

Civic Design Award, AIA Washington Council

The Ballard Branch and Neighborhood Service Center won a Civic Design Award from the AIA Washington Council. The building received an Honor Award, which is given to projects that embody design excellence and demonstrate creative risk-taking and problem-solving. The judges said the striking building both welcomed the public and showcased sustainability, with its more than 18,000 low-water-use plants on a "green roof," rooftop solar panels, and solar film in the windows of the Neighborhood Service Center.

Design Excellence Award, Seattle Design Commission

Alexandra Harris, capital program director for The Seattle Public Library, was honored for her role in implementing the Libraries for All building program. The design commission said the capital program demonstrated innovation and design excellence in the public realm and commended Harris for "developing overall design goals; creating alternative approaches to siting, building program and design to address myriad community and operational concerns; and developing co-location options with public and private parties." The commission also praised Harris for her persistence in holding to a design vision.

Cultural Achievement Award, American Society of Interior Designers, Washington State Chapter

City Librarian Deborah L. Jacobs was recognized with the Cultural Achievement Award, established to recognize artistic and cultural achievements that have enriched the community.

Heroes Award, Time magazine

OMA's Rem Koolhaas, co-designer of the Central Library, was named in Time magazine's list of 60 Years of Heroes. Koolhaas was listed among notables such as Nelson Mandela, The Beatles, Samuel Beckett and Mother Teresa and recognized for being an "urban visionary (who spotted a wealth of potential in our congested cities)." Time praised Koolhaas/OMA projects, including the Central Library, as being a "thorough rethinking not simply of what a building can look like but what it can be, how we can use it."

"Best Of," Seattle Magazine

The Seattle Public Library system was honored by Seattle Magazine in its "Best of 2005" issue. The magazine recognized "the entire Seattle Public Library" for its "radical makeover" and highlighted the Ballard Branch ("coolest roof") and Rainier Beach, International District/Chinatown and Northeast branches as a few of the magazine editors' favorite neighborhood libraries. The Betty Jane Narver Reading Room in the Central Library was also given an award for being "The Best Place to Meet a Bookish First Date."

Libraries for All Awards

Seattle Homes & Lifestyles

The Central Library was selected by Seattle Homes & Lifestyles as one of the “100 people, places and things that contribute to the best of Seattle design.”

Best Young Adult Library Award, Positive Teens Magazine

The Central Library Starbucks Teen Center won Positive Teens Magazine’s “Best of the Best Young Adult Library Award” for being a welcoming place for young adults.

Best Place to Take Out of Town Visitors, Seattle Bride Magazine

The Central Library was voted “Best Place to Take Out of Town Visitors” in Seattle by Bride Magazine’s Best of 2005 poll.

Design 100, Metropolitan Home

The Beacon Hill Branch was selected by Metropolitan Home as one of 100 most “noteworthy personalities, places and extraordinary objects in the world of innovative design.”

2006

Best Ways to Love Our City, Seattle Metropolitan

The Seattle Public Library was ranked No. 2 in Seattle Metropolitan Magazine’s “65 Best Ways to Love Our City.”

People’s Picks Award

The Seattle Times’ NWsource.com People’s Picks Awards named the Central Library winner of the “favorite local place to get free Wi-Fi” category. Nearly 60,000 votes were cast. As a winner, the Central Library was featured on NWsource.com for a year.

Green Building Award

The Ballard Branch was named as one of the top 10 examples in the nation of sustainable architecture and green design solutions by the American Institute of Architects and its Committee on the Environment.

AIA Honor Award

The Ballard Branch received an American Institute of Architects Honor Award, a national award that recognizes design excellence.

Green Roof Award of Excellence, Extensive Institutional Category

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities presented the Ballard Branch with a Green Roof Award of Excellence. “The Ballard Library project illustrates that green building is feasible within a modest budget and an ideal example of benefits realized when sustainable design combines with extraordinary architecture,” judges stated.

Best Looking Library Inside Award, Seattle Magazine

The International District/Chinatown Branch received the Best Looking Library Inside Award by Seattle Magazine.

Best Looking Library Outside Award, Seattle Magazine

The Douglass-Truth Branch was honored with the Best Looking Library Outside Award by Seattle Magazine.

Libraries for All Awards

2007

AIA/ALA Library Design Award

AIA/ALA presented the Ballard Branch with a Library Design Award. The jury stated that “the green roof spreads protectively over this library like a tent or a blanket, inviting and beckoning people under it. This is a true work of art that will endure for ages to come.”

AIA Merit Award for Design

The Ballard Branch received AIA’s Northwest and Pacific Region Merit Award for Design.

Design Excellence Award, Seattle Design Commission

The design commission awarded the Broadview Branch a Design Excellence Award and made note of the Broadview Branch’s “pleasing balance of playfulness with rigor and thoughtful detailing” and the “provision of connection and continuity between the old and new portions of the building.”

Honor Award, AIA Washington Council

The Douglass-Truth Branch received the Honor Award as part of the Civic Design Awards program, which is given to projects that embody design excellence, creative risk-taking and problem-solving.

Merit Award, AIA Washington Council

The Northgate Branch, Community Center and Park received a Merit Award as part of the Civic Design Awards program. Jurors stated the project provided “an excellent example of how good design can help bring together a range of community functions and agencies to create a center for community interaction....The buildings strengthen an active commercial thoroughfare, frame a public green and open space for all members of the community to enjoy a respite.”

Design Excellence Award, Seattle Design Commission

The Northgate Branch, Community Center and Park received a Design Excellence Award for “creation of a welcoming site with well-integrated activities” and “substantial contribution to an urban future for this neighborhood.”

Design Excellence Award, Seattle Design Commission

The South Park Branch received a Design Excellence Award for its “nice ties to the regional neighborhood, such as the river in the piazza, which alludes to the area’s history.” The commission stated that “the library’s design is subtle, clean, and well executed. It is a very pleasing project with simple materials and serves as a beacon for the neighborhood.” The commission also noted the artwork, saying it “is cost-effective and simple, responds to and engages the community.”

Merit Award, AIA Washington Council

The South Park Branch received a Merit Award as part of the AIA Washington Council’s Civic Design Awards program. The jurors said the design “combines the use of cedar siding, stucco, and vibrant colors to acknowledge the Native American heritage of the Duwamish area and embrace the new culture of Latin American architecture... This facility provides a strong connection with the community and creates a great deal of community interest.”

Libraries for All Awards

America's Favorite Architecture

The Central Library ranked 108 out of 150 buildings listed as America's favorite architectural wonders by the AIA. AIA hired Harris Interactive to conduct a nationwide poll as part of its commemoration of its 150th anniversary, which was dedicated to "Celebrating the Past, Designing the Future." The only other Seattle building listed was Safeco Field, which came in at 135.

2008

EDRA/Places/Metropolis Award

The Ballard Branch received an Award for Excellence in environmental design by the Environmental Design and Research Association (EDRA), Places Journal and Metropolis Magazine.

Merit Award, AIA Washington Council

The Montlake Branch earned a Merit Award by exemplifying a particular type of civic space. Judges said: "The Montlake Branch succeeds at many different levels, from site and context integration to material expression and structure.... It is without doubt that this building will continue to become the focal point of the community and a place of interaction and learning for years to come." The AIA Washington Council's Civic Design Awards program identifies public projects that are hallmarks of civic design.

LEED Gold Certification

The U.S. Green Building Council awarded the Northgate Branch and Community Center its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold rating in recognition of its environmentally responsible design. LEED is the nationally acknowledged benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings.





Former City Librarian Deborah L. Jacobs, former Capital Program Director Alexandra Harris and the following current and former Library Board trustees deserve special thanks for giving their time and talent to the development and implementation of the Libraries for All program over the last 10 years: Gilbert W. Anderson, Linda R. Larson, Eric Liu, Greg Maffei, Marie McCaffrey, Gordon McHenry Jr., the late Betty Jane Narver, Michael Parham and Rajiv Shah.



The Seattle Public Library