OVERVIEW OF PIERCE COUNTY LIBRARY

- Established in 1946.
- Includes unincorporated Pierce County and 15 annexed cities and towns.
- Served approximately 602,000 people through 20 locations and with mobile and online services.
- Operates as an independent taxing district and reports to a volunteer board of trustees.

FAST FACTS 2017

18 million Minutes read in Summer Reading
6,615,212 Books/materials checked out:
- 5,063,258 From shelves
- 1,136,342 From online e-books and audiobooks
- 415,612 From online databases/e-sources
6,571,475 Visits:
- 2,097,680 To 20 libraries
- 3,333,795 To websites
- 322,744 Cardholders
110,000 Event and class attendance

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Robert Allen, Chair
Donna Albers, Vice Chair
Monica Butler
Pat Jenkins
Daren Jones
Georgia Lomax, Executive Director

LEARNING • ENJOYMENT • COMMUNITY
LEARNING

YOUR Library supports growth and curiosity, so children enter kindergarten ready to learn and you can navigate the real world and meet your goals.

Boosted STEM skills.

From Science to Go with books and starting a career.

With information and resources as well as costs to run the County Library is serving 602,000 people.

As the fourth largest library system in Washington state, the nationally recognized, award-winning Pierce County Library is serving 602,000 people in fast-growing suburban and rural Pierce County. In 2018 the Library is having important conversations with residents about how it can best meet community needs as costs to run the Library System are higher than revenues.

Helped people get jobs.

Job+Business Centers with computers, expert assistance and resources as well as 118 workshops and 11 support helped improve job skills for 1,470 people.

Prepared young adults for life after high school.

Dozens of Life after High School workshops presented young adults with information and resources about going to college, financial literacy, building job skills and starting a career.

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Pierce County Library Foundation
2017 Donors

Company $1,000 - $2,499

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- Horton Lew Group, Inc., P.S.
- Kasnar Construction
- Pacific Lutheran University
- Pacific Northwest, P.S.
- Point Ruston LLC
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- TOTE Maritime
- Whaler

WSU Development/Wayne’s Roofing

Company $500 - $999

- Starbucks
- Shaney Hornye, Whoson of Elks
- Washington State Fair

Company $1 - $499

- C2BC Party Rental
- Champaign
- First Mayo
- Safeway

*USP included contributions

First Edition Leadership Circle $1,000 and above

- Sharon Albright
- Susan and Anthony Anhalt
- Henry & JoAnn Boone
- Karon Bellamy
- Matrona Butler and Peter Philip
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- Hornes and Robert Finley
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- Jill Butler
- Robert and Sharon Fawcett
- Richard and Sandra Campo
- Patricia Compall
- Joel and Cora Grann

ENJOYMENT

YOUR Library helps you enjoy your free time, so you discover outlets to offset the pressures of daily life and relax.

Motivated summer readers.

With books, e-books and events, thousands of children, teens and adults were motivated to read in the Summer Reading program.

COMMUNITY

Installed the love of reading.

- Babies and toddlers made 48,000 visits to the Library’s 2,000 story times and early learning classes.
- The CarMax Foundation awarded Pierce County Library a grant which brought Kiboomer! Imaginology Playground™ to children in Pierce County. While playing with the giant blocks, children built math, literacy and science skills.
- Lucky Day gave people choices of best sellers and other popular books and movies without waiting. People checked out 188,000 Lucky Day items.

Connected community.

A total of 1,400 builders, engineers, artists, and all makers and do-it-yourselfers explored, built, created and crafted through displays, demonstrations and hands-on activities at MakerFest.

Launched Pierce County Conversations.

Throughout the county people participated in a series of new events called Pierce County Conversations—becoming part of empowering conversations about current topics. The informative discussions provided people the knowledge they needed to communicate their ideas effectively and participate actively in democracy.
The Library System is committed to strengthening its core services for you.

In **2017** we…

**Made the e-book and online audiobook million checkout club.**

Pierce County residents love their e-books and their high checkout rates reflect that, earning Pierce County Library a prestigious place in the e-book million checkout club. Pierce County Library was one of 58 library systems to make the list out of 38,000 library systems in the U.S., Canada, Singapore and New Zealand. Pierce County residents checked out 1,023,610 e-books and online audiobooks, which averaged more than 2,800 a day!

**Improved movie browsing.**

Made finding and getting movies faster and easier for the public in four libraries by moving movies from vending machines to shelves. In 2018 all libraries will have movies on shelves versus inside vending machines.

**Upgraded furnishings.**

Upgraded restrooms in Eatonville and Summit Pierce County Libraries, and carpet in the Lakewood and Parkland/Spanaway Pierce County Libraries’ meeting rooms which were very old and worn. Made University Place Pierce County Library Help Desk more accessible.

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**THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN YOUR LIBRARY SYSTEM**

Property taxes provide 94 percent of the funds for the Library System. By state law, library systems may collect up to 50 cents per every $1,000 of a property’s assessed value.

In 2017 the Library System collected 46.70 cents per every $1,000 of a property’s assessed value, and in 2018 the rate dropped to 42.97 cents.

In recent years, costs to run the Library have been increasing by 4-7 percent a year, while revenues have been increasing at a rate of 1-3 percent. Growing communities have outgrown and high use has worn many library buildings.

Total revenues: $30,771,221.

Total expenditures: $30,769,488.

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**Foundation and Friends contributions:**

The Foundation supported many important programs including Pierce County READS and Summer Reading, keeping thousands of students and adults reading all summer. The Foundation also supported Baby Books to Go, ready-to-go bags filled with board books and activity sheets, to further help children on a positive path for growth and curiosity.

The generous contributions from thousands of individuals, corporations and private foundations to Pierce County Library Foundation and Friends of the library organizations help to further support learning, reading and community services.

Foundation donations: $353,629 from 1,088 donors

Friends’ donations from 17 organizations: $109,225

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**LIBRARY SYSTEM'S COMMITMENT TO YOU**

In **2018** we are focusing on…

**Reading Community:**

- Personalized reading recommendations for you
- Pierce County READS and author events
- E-newsletters featuring books and movies specific to your interests

**Growth and Curiosity:**

- 3D printing and STEM classes
- Microsoft certification

**Engage in community:**

- MakerFest and Pierce County Conversations
- Teen summer volunteer opportunities and job-skills training
- Mental Health First Aid training

**Core services:**

- Easier public meeting room booking
- Mobile app for easier access to services and library catalog
- Improved how you recommend books you want the Library to buy