



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Whatcom County Library System
April 16, 2024

Via Teams and Administrative Services
5205 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226

WCLS Vision: *An engaged community where curiosity is cultivated, literacy flourishes and democratic ideals thrive.*

1. 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order.** Quorum determined. Land Acknowledgement.
We are on the ancestral homeland of the Nooksack, Lummi and other Coast Salish peoples. They have been its stewards since time immemorial, respecting the land, river and ocean with the understanding that everything is connected, related and alive. We acknowledge the elders and their collective and individual plights and achievements. We consider the legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together today. And we pursue ongoing action, to build lasting relationships and grow together so that all may prosper.
2. 9:05 a.m. **Open Public Comment Opportunity**
This period is set aside for persons wishing to address the Board. Each person may have up to three minutes for this purpose. Written comments may be submitted to Rheannan.Pfnister@wcls.org prior to the meeting.
3. 9:10 a.m. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Meeting Minutes
 - b. Expenditures
4. 9:15 a.m. **Financial Report and Resolutions**
 - a. Finance Committee Report
 - b. Lid Lift Projections Update
5. 9:30 a.m. **Trustee Education: Whatcom READS**
6. 9:50 a.m. **Beyond Book Bans: Risk Assessment for Public Libraries**
7. 10:10 a.m. **BREAK**
8. 10:20 a.m. **Staff Reports**
 - a. Executive Director
 - b. Deputy Director
 - c. Youth Services Manager
 - d. Community Relations Manager
9. 10:50 a.m. **Performance Measures and Committee Reports**
 - a. Performance Measures
 - b. IT Services Committee
 - c. Personnel Committee
 - d. Whatcom County Library Foundation

Board of Trustees Meetings are open to the public in accordance with RCW 42.30. The Board is currently holding meetings with options for in-person or remote participation. Persons wishing to be provided with an internet link or telephone number to access the meeting are asked to please email Rheannan.Pfnister@wcls.org before 4:00 p.m. Monday, April 15, 2024. Written comments may be submitted to Rheannan.Pfnister@wcls.org prior to the meeting.

10. 11:15 a.m.

Announcements and Adjourn

- a. Save the Date: Whatcom County Library Foundation fundraiser Branch Out
- b. Right to Read Trainings
 - At Deming on [Wednesday, April 24 from 4 to 7 p.m.](#)
 - At Blaine on [Friday, May 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.](#)
 - At AS on [Monday, May 6 from 1 to 4 p.m.](#)

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Board Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date:	4/16/2024
Committee or Department:	Administration Department
Subject:	Consent Agenda – Board Meeting Minutes, Monthly Expenditures
Prepared By:	Jackie Saul
Impact upon Budget?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Supporting Documents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Recommendation or Request: Approval of consent agenda items

Suggested Motion for Consideration: Move approval of consent agenda items as presented

Summary:

Meeting Minutes:

- March 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

Expenditures:

General Fund:

- February 16-29, 2024 payroll: check nos. 1037776289-1037776290 and voucher nos. 558066-558219 totaling \$219,847.06 and March 1-15, 2024 payroll: check no. 1037987617 and voucher nos. 558226-558381 totaling \$242,697.86.
- ACH transactions for employee benefits, telecommunication services and monthly sales/use tax filings totaling \$102,847.78; \$20,196.70 of this is for employee funded contributions to dental insurance premiums, Health Savings Accounts, PERS and deferred compensation plans (made via payroll deduction).
- Claim 2024-09G: warrant nos. 1186689-1186708 totaling \$44,596.01
- Claim 2024-10G: warrant nos. 1186967-1186986 totaling \$156,694.65
- Claim 2024-11G: warrant nos. 1187279-1187298 totaling \$16,775.02
- Claim 2024-12G: warrant nos. 1187758-1187788 totaling \$116,398.67

Capital Fund:

- Claim 2024-05C: warrant nos. 1187789-1187790 totaling \$6,769.03

Alternatives: N/A

Fiscal Impact: Expenditures for approval paid from available 2024 budgeted funds.

Comments: The Finance Committee has reviewed the General and Capital Fund claims listed above. They reviewed that there were two General Journal entries in February and March.



Location

This meeting was held in a hybrid manner, with remote attendance via Microsoft Teams and in-person attendance at Administrative Services, 5205 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226.

In Attendance

Trustees: Matthew Santos, Vice Chair; Holly Robinson, Secretary; John Miller and Danielle Gaughen. Absent: Rodney Lofdahl, Chair.

Staff: Christine Perkins, Executive Director; Michael Cox, Deputy Director; Jackie Saul, Director of Finance and Administration; Mary Vermillion, Community Relations Manager; Lisa Gresham, Collection Services Manager; Ryan Cullup, Facilities Services Manager; Beth Andrews, Human Resources Manager; Dianne Marrs-Smith, Lynden Library Manager and Friends of the Birch Bay Library (FOBBL) President; Jennifer Rick, Foundation Development Director; Maggie Mae Nase, Learning Coordinator; Rheannan Pfnister, Records Management Specialist & Executive Assistant; Kris Lomedico, Point Roberts Manager.

Guests: Ali Jensen, Whatcom County Health and Community Services Program Specialist; Noelle Beecroft, WSU Whatcom County SNAP-Ed Program Coordinator.

Call to Order

Matthew determined quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. In place of reading the WCLS Land Acknowledgement, Michael played a clip of the WCLS podcast episodes which feature Executive Director, Christine Perkins, reading the WCLS Land Acknowledgement.

Open Public Comment

No public comment.

Service Anniversary Recognition

The Board recognized Kris Lomedico, Point Roberts Branch Manager, for her 40-year service anniversary. Michael spoke a bit about Kris' start at WCLS and her journey with the system throughout her years of service. The Spanish Learning Talk Times are one example of the many programs she has led in Point Roberts over the years. In 2018, Kris was part of the transition to the new Point Roberts Library and the Library Express. She helped host Governor Inslee at the Point Roberts Library when he visited in 2021. Christine has fond memories of meeting Kris and getting a specialized tour of Point Roberts from her. Kris is a delight and a wonderful part of WCLS.

Kris talked about all the training opportunities and the system-wide support that she believes makes WCLS the best place to work.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda included minutes of the February 20, 2024, Board of Trustees Regular Meeting as well as the following:

Expenditures:

General Fund:

- January 16-31, 2024 payroll: check nos. 1037464956-1037464957 and voucher nos. 557751-557900 totaling \$239,080.34 and February 1-15, 2024 payroll: check nos. 1037621328-1037621329 and voucher nos. 557907-558059 totaling \$234,092.55.
- ACH transactions for employee benefits, telecommunication services and monthly sales/use tax filings totaling \$97,313.79; \$37,238.71 of this is for employee funded contributions to dental insurance premiums, Health Savings Accounts, PERS and deferred compensation plans (made via payroll deduction).
- Claim 2024-05G: warrant nos. 1184984-1184997 totaling \$13,713.29
- Claim 2024-06G: warrant nos. 1184984-1184997 totaling \$205,951.36
- Claim 2024-07G: warrant nos. 1185647-1185659 totaling \$7,613.00
- Claim 2024-08G: warrant nos. 1186324-1186344 totaling \$111,016.63

Capital Fund:

- Claim 2024-02C: warrant no. 1184998 totaling \$18,913.79
- Claim 2024-03C: warrant no. 118525 totaling \$1,086.10
- Claim 2024-04C: warrant no. 1186345 totaling \$1,024.08

John moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Seconded. Unanimous board approval.

Financial Report and Resolutions: Finance Committee Report

Jackie reviewed her report. Due to the lower inflow of tax revenue, WCLS has dipped into the cash flow reserve to cover some expenses. This is not a concern, as tax payments are typically low this time of year. The cash flow reserve will be replenished in April.

February revenue included annual payments from the Whatcom County Jail and Whatcom County Library Foundation.

It has been tricky estimating the cost of operating supplies and utilities due to rising prices and inflation. So far, it appears we have finally gotten the budget estimates right in 2024.

Whatcom County ARPA Grant for Birch Bay Vogt Library Express

Christine spoke about the advocacy of the Friends of the Birch Bay Library to raise money and secure funding for the Birch Bay Vogt Library including this ARPA grant from Whatcom County. We are working with the County to smooth out a few contract details. Specifically, the contract originally stated that WCLS could not sell the library property without the approval of the County. We requested and the County approved a ten-year time limit for this clause, which corresponds with a similar requirement of our state Department of Commerce funding. An updated version of the contract was sent to WCLS yesterday. Printed copies were distributed to the Board during the meeting. The updated version will be added to the minutes as Attachment A. Jackie reviewed the new version and compared it to the previous version for the Board.

Michael stated that the fee proposal from the architect and engineer has items listed in the proposal that are estimates. Due to this, the costs of these items may fluctuate.

Holly moved to approve the Executive Director to sign the funding agreement with Whatcom County. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Trustee Education: Training Staff to Manage Difficult Behaviors with Empathy

Michael provided some background on Ryan Dowd and the training resources he offers to WCLS. The Board of Trustees watched a short segment of a Ryan Dowd training video about managing difficult behaviors with empathy. Michael spoke about how every day in a public library is different for front line staff. This can create wonderful memories and stories, but it can also create some stressful situations.

John conveyed an experience a member of his family had witnessing someone bathing in a public library restroom and wondered how WCLS staff might approach a similar situation. Michael discussed the types of resources that staff can use to help address bathing issues, and the steps that staff would take to build a relationship with the patron needing these resources. These steps help staff get to know patrons' needs and not only the surface issues. Michael talked about never overreacting to a situation and always using an empathy-driven approach. Christine emphasized that we would never expect patrons to deal with the situations they witness in our libraries; we encourage people to bring them to the attention of staff for staff to address.

Matthew was curious about how the role of staff has evolved to include more social services than it has previously and what staff need support-wise. He welcomed Dianne to speak on the topic.

Dianne spoke about pre-pandemic and post-pandemic issues. The Ryan Dowd training helps staff have the tools and same language to approach difficult situations. Policies have changed and become more inclusive to patrons and look at the whole situation and not only a rules-based approach. Staff have learned how to understand what we can and should do. The incident report procedure has evolved, as well, to include more eyes on the report and additional follow-up from administration. Staff know they have support from administration and that they can ask for more training or additional resources.

Beth mentioned that job descriptions are often reviewed and updated to reflect the day-to-day issues that staff experience as our community needs change.

John thanked and complimented WCLS staff for explaining the tools that they use to handle these situations and the awareness that they have about the community needs.

Board members also have access to the Ryan Dowd training and can use their WCLS email account to log in.

Freedge at North Fork Library

Danelle moved to adjust the agenda to move Item 9, Freedge at NF Library, before Item 8, Policy Updates, to accommodate the guest speakers. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Christine showed the Board a presentation on Freedges and invited Ali Jensen, with the Whatcom County Health Department, and Noelle Beecroft, with WSU Whatcom County SNAP-Ed, to share more information about this program. A Freedge is a public refrigerator used to provide free, prepared food and fresh produce to the public to take from as needed. Qualified local restaurants, businesses, and farms can participate.

Our partners at Whatcom County Health Department, Sustainable Connections and the Foothills Community Food Project are looking at different regions in Whatcom County that are experiencing food insecurities. The North Fork Library was identified as a location where the public could benefit from a Freedge installation. Having a Freedge in east county has been a goal of the committee for a while. One target for this program is school-aged children with food insecurity. The North Fork area is on their radar because of the high percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced lunches. The North Fork Library is near the school so kids can get food after school or during holidays. Ali pointed out that food is generally not in the Freedge very long, sometimes only for hours. The amount of food that circulates at a Freedge located in Bellingham is around 8,000 pounds a year.

There is funding to assist with the infrastructure and installation of a Freedge. There could be some additional funds needed to install a Freedge at North Fork that our partners may not be able to cover. These funds would need to be taken from WCLS' general fund and were not budgeted for previously. WCLS would provide the electricity to power the Freedge.

Branch staff would need to obtain their food handlers' permits, which would also be a small expense. Staff would be on hand to loosely monitor the use of and to open and close the Freedged to mirror branch hours.

Christine spoke about the legal liability of WCLS if somebody receives bad food from a Freedged at a WCLS location. The Washington State 2022 Organics Management Law protects WCLS from liability.

Holly moved to authorize the Executive Director to move forward with partnerships to install and maintain a Freedged at the North Fork Library. Seconded.

Discussion was opened.

Danielle inquired about the funds associated with moving the food around the community and if rules are posted on the Freedgeds to discourage patrons from adding their own food. There are funds to continue through the year and hopefully after. Rules are posted on the Freedgeds.

Motion passed unanimously.

Policy Updates

Confidentiality of Patron Records Policy 5.01 – Christine highlighted the Freedom to Read training that has encouraged WCLS to update the language of this policy to align with this training and current system practices. The updated policy language clarifies minors' rights to confidentiality and the types of situations when a parent or guardian may need access to a minors' account. Our other policies and procedures infer this, but this language change will add further clarity.

Holly inquired if this update was prompted by an event or a policy review. Christine answered that it was a policy review due to the upcoming trainings.

Holly moved to approve the updated Confidentiality of Patron Records Policy 5.01, as presented. Seconded.

Discussion was opened.

John asked for further clarification on how the determination about what is financially impacting on a minor's account would be made and how the final result is determined. Christine highlighted the procedures in place to assist staff in interpreting requests for this information.

Motion passed unanimously.

Management Benefits and Leave Policy 12.20 – Jackie presented this policy update. The update was prompted by a verbal recommendation by the state audit team who recently conducted the 2022-2023 state audit for WCLS. The auditors felt that some of the language was unclear regarding cashing out vacation annually. This policy was updated to clarify the language and align with the current bargaining agreement.

John moved to approve the updated Management Benefits and Leave Policy 12.20, as presented. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Sick Leave Policy 12.22 – The updated version of this policy contains language to include all employees – exempt and non-exempt. It also adds language to be consistent with the Bargaining Agreement, so that all staff may use sick leave to care for persons other than those defined as a close relative with approval from the Executive Director or Human Resources Manager. Jackie noted another update that isn't included in today's packet, which Beth states is needed to be compliant with state sick leave laws. In the Reinstatement of Hours Upon Rehire section, the first sentence is changed to read, "If rehired within twelve months of the date of separation, the separated employee will have 100% of unused paid sick leave accruals reinstated." Rheannan will add this update to the final version of the revised Policy.

Holly moved to approve the updated Sick Leave Policy 12.22, with changes. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Public Records Policy 21.01 – Christine presented this policy update, which changes the designated Public Records Officer for WCLS from the Director of Finance and Administration to the Records Management Specialist.

Danielle moved to approve the updated Public Records Policy 21.01, as presented. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Break

Matthew adjourned for a break from 10:37-10:45 a.m.

Staff Reports: Executive Director

In addition to her written report, Christine shared that a former trustee, Ruth Oltman, recently passed away.

During a public presentation hosted by the Kulshan Community Land Trust, it was surprising how centered the library was in their marketing. Two city council members were present and one city employee. Projected costs were shared. Christine was asked to speak on behalf of the library. Christine will be circling back to see what else WCLS can do to help build enthusiasm for this project.

Christine is in the process of writing thank you notes to WCLS staff who helped with ASLD. We had 145 staff members in attendance and many of them assisted with the planning in some way.

The grant application for PSE's Up & Go Electric project has proceeded to the design phase. WCLS is liable for any costs that go beyond the \$250,000 grant for the electrical infrastructure improvements to allow installation of the EV charging stations. As other funding becomes available, PSE will consider other WCLS locations from our list for EV charging stations.

Staff Reports: Deputy Director

In addition to his written report, Michael highlighted some of his experiences from this year's All Staff Learning Day. It was a fun and invigorating day. March 8th found WCLS staff back at Cornwall Church to share information and learn from our peers. Relationships were built and strengthened between staff members.

The Right to Be training that staff participated in was engaging and helped staff identify tools they can utilize when supporting patrons or coworkers during and after harassment.

Staff Reports: Youth Services Manager

On behalf of Thom, Christine shared his written report and spoke about the Children's Literature Conference that took place in February. Many WCLS staff members attended and participated. This conference is a great tool for aspiring children's authors and library advocates.

Staff Reports: Community Relations Manager

Mary discussed her written report. Mango Languages is the latest digital database to be featured in the upcoming Power of Sharing campaign.

She noted that the 2024 Whatcom READS season ended this past weekend. Turn out for the events was high, with many of them being sold out in advance. The 2025 Whatcom READS book has been announced - *No Two Persons* by Erica Bauermeister.

The article "WCLS asks, can you spot a scam?" by Christine appeared in the *Lynden Tribune* and *Ferndale Record*. She also was featured in an episode of the WCLS podcast on digital literacy with Tamar Clarke.

Mary also highlighted WCLS podcast 45 which features Young and Indigenous (YAI) from Children of the Setting Sun Productions. It is a great episode, and she recommends listening to it.

Performance Measures & Committee Reports: Performance Measures

In addition to his written report, Michael shared that physical circulation numbers were up compared to February 2023. He highlighted that numbers for Sumas have increased greatly. It was one year ago in February that the Sumas branch reopened after the flood in 2021.

While out working at the Lynden branch, Michael helped a few patrons access Libby and discover eMagazines. It is encouraging that these are added to Libby and how easy it is for patrons to access them.

Michael pointed out the past few years' numbers for new borrowers and how they fluctuate to the Board. Although numbers are down when compared to 2023, the numbers are above those of 2019.

Lisa spoke about the increasing usage of OverDrive. eAudiobooks are the main attraction to OverDrive for patrons.

Kanopy numbers were still high in the last month of its feature in the Power of Sharing campaign. The statistics will be watched to see if usage of Kanopy drops now that the campaign has changed.

Newsbank usage decreased. Lisa will be monitoring this to see if this is an anomaly or indicative of a change.

Performance Measures & Committee Reports: Personnel Committee

No report.

Performance Measures & Committee Reports: Whatcom County Library Foundation

No report.

Announcements and Adjourn

Christine will be on vacation from April 1 through April 6. Jackie Saul will be in charge during that time.

Reminder of some upcoming dates: Library Giving Day is Wednesday, April 3; National Library Week is April 7 through April 13; Right to Read Day is Monday, April 8. WCLS actively promotes Library Giving Day on social media.

It has been proposed to shift the October date for the Board of Trustees meeting from October 15 to October 22 to accommodate Union negotiations.

Matthew adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on April 16, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. online via Microsoft Teams and at Administrative Services, 5205 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226.

Holly Robinson, Board Secretary

04/16/2024

Date

Rheannan Pfnister, Exec. Assistant

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM AND WHATCOM COUNTY FOR CAPITAL COSTS IN ESTABLISHING A BIRCH BAY LIBRARY EXPRESS

This **LIBRARY CAPITAL PROJECT INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT** (hereafter the “**Agreement**”) is made and entered into this _____ day of _____, 2024, by and between the **WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM** (hereafter “the **CONTRACTOR**”) and **WHATCOM COUNTY** (hereafter “the **County**”).

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Library System (WCLS) has determined that an additional library facility is needed in the Birch Bay area to accommodate the fast-growing community, which includes approximately 2,000 children; and

WHEREAS, in April 2017, WCLS purchased property at 7948 Birch Bay Drive for a proposed library; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature designated \$2,000,000 in funding to WCLS to support capital construction of a library; and

WHEREAS, additional funding is needed to accomplish the project; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council and County Executive elected to include \$315,000 in funding toward this project to address this community need; and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY has determined that the proposed project is a general government services that can be funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund and/or the Community Priorities Fund; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 39.34, Revised Code of Washington provides for cooperation between local governmental entities through contractual agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed by and between the County and the **CONTRACTOR** as follows:

1. Purpose. The purpose of this Agreement is to support the Contractor’s Birch Bay Vogt Library Express construction project to provide library services to the Birch Bay area. The funding will contribute to project costs associated with renovating the historic home at 7948 Birch Bay Drive. Once completed, the library will provide a small collection of library materials, after-hours hold pick up, public computers and meeting space. This Agreement will provide

support for the project by providing the fund match of \$315,000 towards the overall project budget of \$2,676,477. The County funding will utilize Whatcom County ARPA SLFRF funds.

2. General Scope of Services.

The Contractor will rehabilitate a historic home to be a limited-service public library for the Birch Bay area, located at 7948 Birch Bay Drive, Blaine, WA 98230.

The CONTRACTOR will be reimbursed for Architecture and Engineering Costs and Furniture, Fixture and Equipment Costs, to be completed no later than December 31, 2025. Anticipated completion of the full project is December 31, 2027. The Contractor will own and operate the completed library. The key objective of the project is to bring library services to the Birch Bay area.

The interior of the main level is slated for a full remodel with all mechanical and electrical to be replaced. The home's second level will remain inaccessible to the public due to ADA requirements, but it may be used by staff and for storage. The crawlspace will-may be filled in per Whatcom County permitting requirements and Washington State Department of Archaeological and Historic Preservation rules, and a new slab and concrete stem walls with flood vents will-may be added. Exterior cladding and all windows will be replaced. Parking areas, landscaping and a new fire hydrant are required as indicated on the site plan (attached).

When complete, the renovated first floor of the historic structure will encompass a 1,700 square foot library and a 6,000 square foot outdoor programming space to support continued partnerships with community organizations. This destination library is ideally situated along a new 1.6-mile-long pedestrian walkway along Birch Bay Drive.

3. Compensation. Whatcom County will reimburse the Contractor for Architecture and Engineering and Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment to implement the scope of the remodel described in Section 2. Compensation will occur as described in Exhibit B. Unless otherwise agreed to by the Parties and approved pursuant to Whatcom County Purchasing Policies (Whatcom County Code 3.08), services provided by staff of either Party pursuant to this Agreement shall be at the cost of the Party providing the services. In the event a Party seeks to enter into a contract with another Party, a separate interlocal agreement shall be executed. Funding for this project is American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, Assistance Listing Number 21.027.

4. Contact Persons. The following persons, referred to as Contact Person(s), are responsible for the administration of this Agreement for each Party:

For the CONTRACTOR: Executive Director or their staff designee

For the County: Strategic Initiatives Manager

or such other persons as may be specified from time to time in writing by either Party.

5. Notice of Federal Award Whatcom County was awarded federal funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) on March 11, 2021 by the U.S. Department of Treasury under CFDA number 21.027. This grant is considered a contractor agreement between

Whatcom County and WCLS. See Exhibit A, Federal Award, outlining applicable terms and conditions of a federal award and incorporated herein by reference.

6. Treatment of Assets and Property. The CONTRACTOR will own the property and improvements located at 7948 Birch Bay Drive and will be responsible for all maintenance associated with the facility. ~~Under~~ For a period of ten years from project completion, under no circumstances may the CONTRACTOR sell or otherwise dispose of the property without the approval of the COUNTY.

7. Term of Agreement. This Agreement shall be effective on the date of such recording (“Effective Date”) and shall terminate on December 31, 2026.

8. Termination. The County or the CONTRACTOR may withdraw from this Agreement by providing thirty (30) days written notice to the other Parties. Whenever the Agreement is terminated in accordance with this paragraph, the Contractor shall be entitled to payment for actual work performed at unit contract prices for completed items of work. An equitable adjustment in the contract price for partially completed items of work will be made, but such adjustment shall not include provision for loss of anticipated profit on deleted or uncompleted work. Termination of this Agreement by the County at any time during the term, whether for default or convenience, shall not constitute breach of contract by the County.

9. Assignment. This Agreement shall not be assigned by any Party to any third Party without the prior written consent of the other Parties, which consent may be withheld for any reason or no reason.

10. Release and Indemnify. To the extent permitted by law, each Party agrees to release, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the other Parties, its officers, agents, employees, and representatives from all claims, actions, suits, losses, harm, liabilities, damages, costs, and expenses, including but not limited to, reasonable attorneys’ fees arising out of the negligent acts or omissions arising in connection with performance of this Agreement. Where negligence by all Parties is concurrent and contributes to a claim, the Parties shall be responsible and liable in proportion to the degree of their own negligence. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to preclude any Party from pursuing any remedy against a third Party.

11. Public Records Act. All records received by the Parties pursuant to this Agreement shall be a public record and therefore subject to the Public Records Act.

12. Closeout. Upon completing the remodel the CONTRACTOR will submit to the County a final report showing the actual cost of the project and the date the facility will be opened to the public.

123. Miscellaneous Provisions.

a. Notices. Any notice, request, authorization, direction, or other communication as required under this Agreement shall be given in writing and shall be delivered in person or by first class United States mail, properly addressed and stamped with the required postage, to the intended recipient as follows:

Whatcom County Library System
5205 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226-9050
Attention: Christine Perkins, Executive Director

Whatcom County
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 108
Bellingham, WA 98225
Attention: Kayla Schott-Bresler, Strategic Initiatives Manager

Either Party may change its address specified above by giving the other Party notice of such change in accordance with this Section. All notices, requests and authorization of directions or other communications by a Party shall be deemed delivered when mailed as provided in this Section or personally delivered to the other Party.

b. Governmental Authority. This Agreement is subject to the rules, regulations, orders, and other requirements, now or hereafter in effect, of all governmental authorities having jurisdiction over this Agreement, and/or the Parties, or either of them.

c. Labor Standards: The Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable state and federal requirements, including but not limited to those pertaining to payment of wages and working conditions, in accordance with RCW 39.12.040, the Prevailing Wage Act; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; the Davis-Bacon Act; and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act providing for weekly payment of prevailing wages, minimum overtime pay, and providing that no laborer or mechanic shall be required to work in surroundings or under conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to health and safety as determined by regulations promulgated by the Federal Secretary of Labor and the State of Washington.

d. No Partnership. This Agreement shall not be interpreted or construed to create an association, joint venture, or partnership between the Parties, nor to impose any partnership obligations or liabilities of any Party. Furthermore, no Party shall have any right, power, or authority to enter into any agreement or undertaking for or on behalf of, to act as or be an agent or representative of, or to otherwise bind the other Parties.

e. Nonwaiver. The failure of any Party to insist upon or enforce strict performance by the other Parties of any provision of this Agreement or to exercise any right under this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment to any extent of such Party's right to assert or rely upon any such provision or right in that or any other instance; rather, the same shall be and remain in full force and effect.

f. Entire Agreement. This Agreement embodies the entire agreement and understanding of the Parties hereto with respect to the subject matter contained herein. This Agreement supersedes all prior and contemporaneous agreements and understandings between the Parties with respect to such subject matter. This Agreement may be amended only by a subsequent writing signed by all Parties and expressly stating the intention to amend this Agreement.

g. No Specified Third-Party Beneficiaries. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, there are no third-party beneficiaries of this Agreement. Nothing contained in this Agreement is intended to confer any rights or interest on anyone other than the Parties, their respective successors, assigns, and legal representatives.

h. Amendment. No change, amendment, or modification of any provision of this Agreement shall be valid unless set forth in a written amendment to this Agreement signed by all Parties.

i. Implementation. Each Party shall take such action (including, but not limited to, the execution, acknowledgement, and delivery of documents) as may reasonably be requested by the other Party for the implementation or continuing performance of this Agreement.

j. Invalid Provision. The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the other provisions hereof, and this Agreement shall be construed in all respects as if such invalid or unenforceable provisions were omitted.

k. Applicable Law. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Washington, except to the extent such laws may be pre-empted by the laws of the United States of America.

l. Venue. The venue of any litigation arising out of this Agreement shall be in Whatcom County, State of Washington, or such other place as all Parties may agree to in writing.

m. Interpretation and Fair Construction of Contract. This Agreement has been reviewed and approved by both Parties. In the event it should be determined that any provision of this Agreement is uncertain or ambiguous, the language in all parts of this Agreement shall be in all cases construed as a whole according to its fair meaning and shall not be construed either for or against either Party as the drafter.

n. Non-Discrimination in Employment: (Must be included in every contract as per Ord. 2021-016)

The County's policy is to provide equal opportunity in all terms, conditions and privileges of employment for all qualified applicants and employees without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation (including gender identity), age, marital status, disability, or veteran status. The Contractor shall comply with all laws prohibiting discrimination against any employee or applicant for employment on the grounds of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation (including gender identity), age, marital status, disability, political affiliation, or veteran status, except where such constitutes a bona fide occupational qualification.

Furthermore, in those cases in which the Contractor is governed by such laws, the Contractor shall take affirmative action to insure that applicants are employed, and treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation (including gender identity), disability, or veteran status, except where such constitutes a bona fide occupational qualification. Such action shall include, but not be limited to: advertising, hiring, promotions, layoffs or

terminations, rate of pay or other forms of compensation benefits, selection for training including apprenticeship, and participation in recreational and educational activities. In all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by them or on their behalf, the Contractor shall state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

The foregoing provisions shall also be binding upon any subcontractor, provided that the foregoing provision shall not apply to contracts or subcontractors for standard commercial supplies or raw materials, or to sole proprietorships with no employees.

o. Recordation. Upon execution of this Agreement, it shall be recorded with the office of its County Auditor pursuant to the requirements of RCW 39.34; PROVIDED, that any delay in effecting compliance with this Section shall not affect the stated term, expiration or renewal dates hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the CONTRACTOR, and the County have executed this Agreement as of the day and year according to the signatures below.

EXECUTED THIS _____ day of _____, 2024.

WHATCOM COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM:

Christine Perkins
Executive Director

WHATCOM COUNTY:

Satpal S. Sidhu
Whatcom County Executive

Exhibit A FEDERAL COMPLIANCE

Funding under this agreement is provided by U.S. Department of the Treasury grant CFDA Number 21.027 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as authorized by Sections 602 and 603 of the Social Security Act as added by section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law No. 117-2 (March 11, 2021).

CONTRACTOR will comply with all applicable terms and conditions for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

CONTRACTOR will cooperate with the County concerning any requests for information related to this Project that may be needed for the County to fulfill its reporting obligations to U.S. Treasury.

General information about this program can be found at:

<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>

Specific compliance requirements can be found in:

Compliance and Reporting Guidance

<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>

These funds are subject to:

Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 CFR Part 200 (the “Uniform Guidance”)

The Contractor is not considered a Subrecipient for the purposes of this agreement.

Property, supplies, or equipment acquired with revenue loss funds are exempt from the use and disposition requirements of the Uniform Guidance, regardless of award size

Single Audit Requirements. Recipients and subrecipients that expend more than \$750,000 in Federal awards during their fiscal year will be subject to an audit under the Single Audit Act and its implementing regulation at 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F regarding audit requirements.⁸ Recipients and subrecipients may also refer to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Compliance Supplements for audits of federal funds and related guidance and the Federal Audit Clearinghouse to see examples and single audit submissions.

Civil Rights Compliance. Recipients of Federal financial assistance from the Treasury are required to meet legal requirements relating to nondiscrimination and nondiscriminatory use of Federal funds. Those requirements include ensuring that entities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Treasury do not deny benefits or services, or otherwise discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), disability, age, or sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), in accordance with the following authorities: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) Public Law 88-352, 42 U.S.C. 2000d-1 et seq., and the Department's implementing regulations, 31 CFR part 22; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), Public Law 93-112, as amended by Public Law 93-516, 29 U.S.C. 794; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., and the Department's implementing regulations, 31 CFR part 28; Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Public Law 94-135, 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq., and the Department implementing regulations at 31 CFR part 23.

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions:

- The Contractor certifies, by signing this contract that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
- Where the lower tier Contractor is unable to certify to any of the statements in this contract, such Contractor will attach an explanation to this contract.
- The Contractor further agrees by signing this contract that it will not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction.

Clean Air Act

- The Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.
- The Contractor agrees to report each violation to the County and understands and agrees that the County will, in turn, report each violation as required to assure notification to U.S. Treasury, and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.
- The Contractor agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by ARPA SLFRF funding.

Federal Water Pollution Control Act

- The Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders, or regulations issued pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.
- The Contractor agrees to report each violation to the County and understands and agrees that the County will, in turn, report each

- violation as required to assure notification to U.S. Treasury, and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.
- The Contractor agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by ARPA SLFRF funding.

Prohibition on Contracting for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services

(a) Definitions. As used in this clause, the terms backhaul; covered foreign country; covered telecommunications equipment or services; interconnection arrangements; roaming; substantial or essential component; and telecommunications equipment or services have the meaning as defined in FEMA Policy 405-143-1, Prohibitions on Expending FEMA Award Funds for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services (Interim), as used in this clause—

(b) Prohibitions.

- (1) Section 889(b) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Pub. L. No. 115-232, and 2 C.F.R. § 200.216 prohibit the head of an executive agency on or after Aug. 13, 2020, from obligating or expending grant, cooperative agreement, loan, or loan guarantee funds on certain telecommunications products or from certain entities for national security reasons.
- (2) Unless an exception in paragraph (c) of this clause applies, the Subrecipient and its subcontractors may not use grant, cooperative agreement, loan, or loan guarantee funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to:
 - (i) Procure or obtain any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology of any system;
 - (ii) Enter into, extend, or renew a contract to procure or obtain any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology of any system;
 - (iii) Enter into, extend, or renew contracts with entities that use covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system; or
 - (iv) Provide, as part of its performance of this contract, subcontract, or other contractual instrument, any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system.

(c) Exceptions.

- (1) This clause does not prohibit Contractors from providing—
 - (i) A service that connects to the facilities of a third-party, such as backhaul, roaming, or interconnection arrangements; or Contract Provisions Guide 28
 - (ii) Telecommunications equipment that cannot route or redirect user data traffic or permit visibility into any user data or packets that such equipment transmits or otherwise handles.
- (2) By necessary implication and regulation, the prohibitions also do not apply to:
 - (i) Covered telecommunications equipment or services that:
 - (i) Are not used as a substantial or essential component of any system; and
 - (ii) Are not used as critical technology of any system.
 - (ii) Other telecommunications equipment or services that are not considered covered telecommunications equipment or services.

(d) Reporting requirement.

- (1) In the event the Contractor identifies covered telecommunications equipment or services used as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system, during contract performance, or the Contractor is notified of such by a subcontractor at any tier or by any other source, the Contractor shall report the information in paragraph (d)(2) of this clause to the recipient or Contractor, unless elsewhere in this contract are established procedures for reporting the information.
- (2) The Contractor shall report the following information pursuant to paragraph (d)(1) of this clause:
 - (i) Within one business day from the date of such identification or notification: The contract number; the order number(s), if applicable; supplier name; supplier unique entity identifier (if known); supplier Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) code (if known); brand; model number (original equipment manufacturer number, manufacturer part number, or wholesaler number); item description; and any readily available information about mitigation actions undertaken or recommended.
 - (ii) Within 10 business days of submitting the information in paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this clause: Any further available information about mitigation actions undertaken or recommended. In addition, the Contractor shall describe the efforts it undertook to prevent use or submission of covered telecommunications equipment or services, and any additional efforts that will be incorporated to prevent future use or submission of covered telecommunications equipment or services.

(e) Subcontracts. The Contractor shall insert the substance of this clause, including this paragraph (e), in all subcontracts and other contractual instruments.

Domestic Preference for Procurements

As appropriate, and to the extent consistent with law, the Contractor should, to the greatest extent practicable, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States. This includes, but is not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products. For purposes of this clause: Produced in the United States means, for iron and steel products, that all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States. Manufactured products mean items and construction materials composed in whole or in part of non-ferrous metals such as aluminum; plastics and polymer-based products such as polyvinyl chloride pipe; aggregates such as concrete; glass, including optical fiber; and lumber.”

Exhibit B
(Financial Commitment)

Funding, in the amount of \$315,000 will be disbursed to Whatcom County Library System (WCLS) on a reimbursement basis for eligible project costs in accordance with the below budget. Funding will be provided by the American Rescue Plan Act Fund.

Architecture & Engineering - ~~\$250,000~~200,000
Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment - ~~\$65,000~~115,000

The contractor may shift budget between these two line items with the written approval of the County Contact Persons. Written approval can be sought by emailing Kayla Schott-Bresler at kschottb@co.whatcom.wa.us.

Invoices must include copies of receipts or paid invoices and reference the Whatcom County assigned interlocal agreement number. Upon request by the County, the Contractor will provide the County with additional documentation needed to determine cost eligibility.

Contractor will send invoices for Project expenses to:

Whatcom County Executive Office
311 Grand Ave, Suite 108
Bellingham, WA 98225
kschottb@co.whatcom.wa.us
areynold@co.whatcom.wa.us
thelms@co.whatcom.wa.us

Funds will be made available immediately upon execution of this Agreement and will be disbursed within 30 days following receipt of complete and accepted invoices.

The Contractor shall not bill the County for services performed or provided under this contract, and the County shall not pay the Contractor, if the Contractor has been or will be paid by any other source, including grants, for those costs used to perform or provide the services in this contract and invoiced to the County. The Contractor is responsible for any audit exceptions or disallowed amounts paid as a result of this contract.

EXHIBIT C – FEDERAL REGULATIONS FOR ARPA SLFRF GRANT FUNDING

1. Use of Funds.
 - a. CONTRACTOR understands and agrees that the funds disbursed under this award may only be used in compliance with section 603(c) of the Social Security Act (the Act), Treasury’s regulations implementing that section, and guidance issued by Treasury regarding the foregoing.
 - b. CONTRACTOR will determine prior to engaging in any project using this assistance that it has the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of such project.
2. Maintenance of and Access to Records
 - a. CONTRACTOR shall maintain records and financial documents sufficient to evidence compliance with section 603(c) of the Act, Treasury’s regulations implementing that section, and guidance issued by Treasury regarding the foregoing.
 - b. The Treasury Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office, or their authorized representatives, shall have the right of access to records (electronic and otherwise) of CONTRACTOR in order to conduct audits or other investigations.
 - c. Records shall be maintained by CONTRACTOR for a period of five (5) years after all funds have been expended or returned to Treasury, whichever is later.
3. Conflicts of Interest. CONTRACTOR understands and agrees it must maintain a conflict of interest policy consistent with 2 C.F.R. § 200.318(c) and that such conflict of interest policy is applicable to each activity funded under this award. CONTRACTOR and subrecipients must disclose in writing to Treasury or the pass-through entity, as appropriate, any potential conflict of interest affecting the awarded funds in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.112.
4. Compliance with Applicable Law and Regulations.
 - a. CONTRACTOR agrees to comply with the requirements of section 602 of the Act, regulations adopted by Treasury pursuant to section 602(f) of the Act, and guidance issued by Treasury regarding the foregoing. CONTRACTOR also agrees to comply with all other applicable federal statutes, regulations, and executive orders, and CONTRACTOR shall provide for such compliance by other parties in any agreements it enters into with other parties relating to this award.
 - b. Federal regulations applicable to this award include, without limitation, the following:
 - i. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, other than such provisions as Treasury may determine are inapplicable to this Award and subject to such exceptions as may be otherwise provided by Treasury. Subpart F – Audit Requirements of the Uniform Guidance, implementing the Single Audit Act, shall apply to this award.
 - ii. Universal Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM), 2 C.F.R. Part 25, pursuant to which the award term set forth in Appendix A to 2 C.F.R. Part

25 is hereby incorporated by reference.

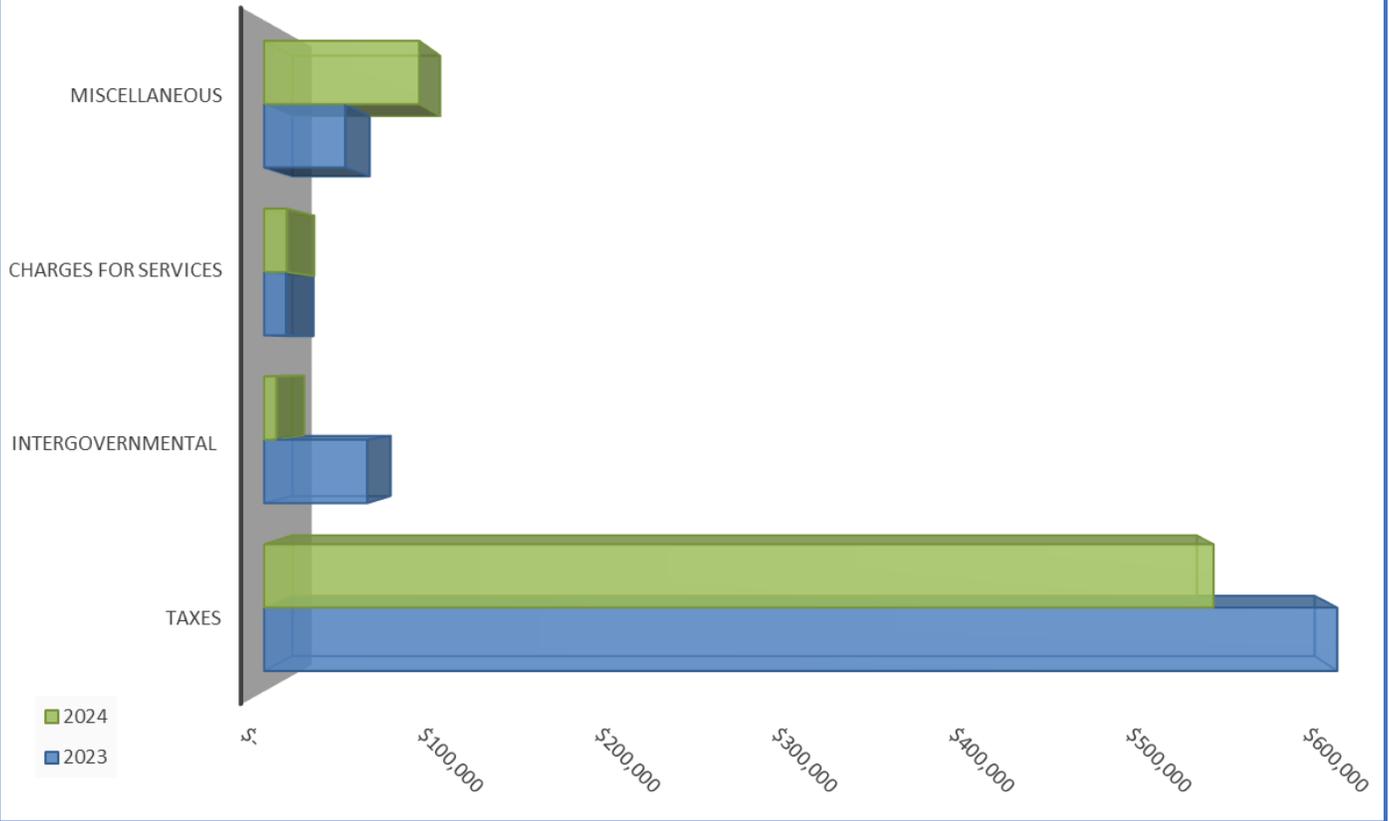
- iii. Reporting Subaward and Executive Compensation Information, 2 C.F.R. Part 170, pursuant to which the award term set forth in Appendix A to 2 C.F.R. Part 170 is hereby incorporated by reference.
- iv. OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement), 2 C.F.R. Part 180, including the requirement to include a term or condition in all lower tier covered transactions (contracts and subcontracts described in 2 C.F.R. Part 180, subpart B) that the award is subject to 2 C.F.R. Part 180 and Treasury's implementing regulation at 31 C.F.R. Part 19.
- v. Integrity and Performance Matters, pursuant to which the award term set forth in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix XII to Part 200 is hereby incorporated by reference.
- vi. Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace, 31 C.F.R. Part 20.
- vii. New Restrictions on Lobbying, 31 C.F.R. Part 21.
- viii. Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisitions Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§ 4601-4655) and implementing regulations.
- ix. Generally applicable federal environmental laws and regulations.



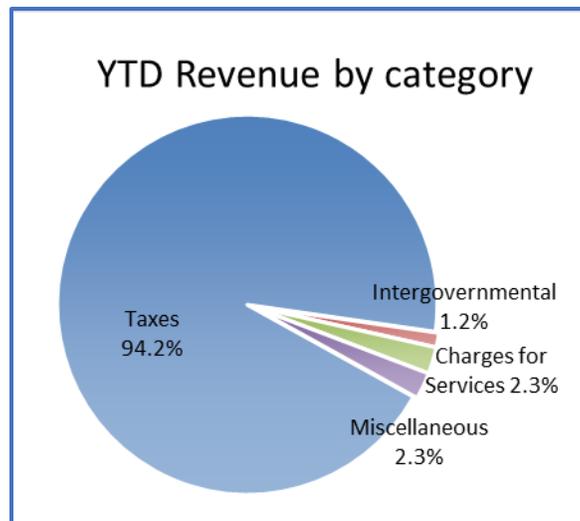
March Revenue

2024 Budget Revenues - Year-To-Date						
March 2024 (25% of FY)						
Acct No	Description	Budgeted Revenues	Actual Revenues YTD	% of Actual Revenues YTD	% of Budgeted Revenues Received YTD	Budget Variance
310	TAXES					
311.10	General Property Taxes	\$ 9,769,533	\$ 556,316	83.28%	5.69%	\$ (9,213,218)
	TOTAL TAXES	\$ 9,769,533	\$ 556,316	83.28%	5.69%	\$ (9,213,218)
330	INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE					
333.4530	Fed Indirect Grant - IMLS	\$ 2,500	\$ -	0.00%	0.00%	\$ (2,500)
337.1000	Local Grants, Entitlements & Other	70,000	(1,031)	-0.15%	-1.47%	(71,031)
337.2000	Leasehold Excise Tax	30,000	8,319	1.25%	27.73%	(21,681)
	TOTAL INTERGOV. REVENUE	\$ 102,500	\$ 7,288	1.09%	7.11%	\$ (95,212)
340	CHARGES FOR GOODS & SERVICES					
347.2001	Printing & Duplication Services	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,214	0.18%	30.34%	\$ (2,786)
347.2002	Library Use Fees	12,300	12,220	1.83%	99.35%	(80)
	TOTAL CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$ 16,300	\$ 13,434	2.01%	82.42%	\$ (2,866)
360	MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES					
361.1100	Investment Interest	\$ 215,000	\$ 76,474	11.45%	35.57%	\$ (138,526)
362.1000	Rents & Leases	3,500	510	0.08%	14.57%	(2,990)
367.1000	Contributions & Donations	67,500	5,775	0.86%	8.56%	(61,725)
369.1000	Sale of Surplus	100	50	0.01%	50.00%	(50)
369.8100	Cashier's Overages or Shortages	-	1.77	0.00%	0.00%	2
369.9101	Other Misc. Revenue	20,000	4,178	0.63%	20.89%	(15,822)
369.9102	Reimburse Lost/Damaged Books	11,000	3,649	0.55%	33.17%	(7,351)
369.9106	COBRA Reimbursement	-	367	0.05%	0.00%	367
	TOTAL MISC. REVENUES	\$ 317,100	\$ 91,004	13.62%	28.70%	\$ (226,096)
	TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 10,205,433	\$ 668,041	100.00%	6.55%	\$ (9,537,392)
390	OTHER FINANCING SOURCES					
397.3000	Transfers from Designated Fund Balance	\$ 230,000	\$ -	0.00%	0.00%	(230,000)
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	\$ 230,000	\$ -	0.00%	0.00%	\$ (230,000)
	TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 10,435,433	\$ 668,041	100.00%	6.40%	\$ (9,767,392)

General Fund Operating Revenue to Date-Compared to Prior Year



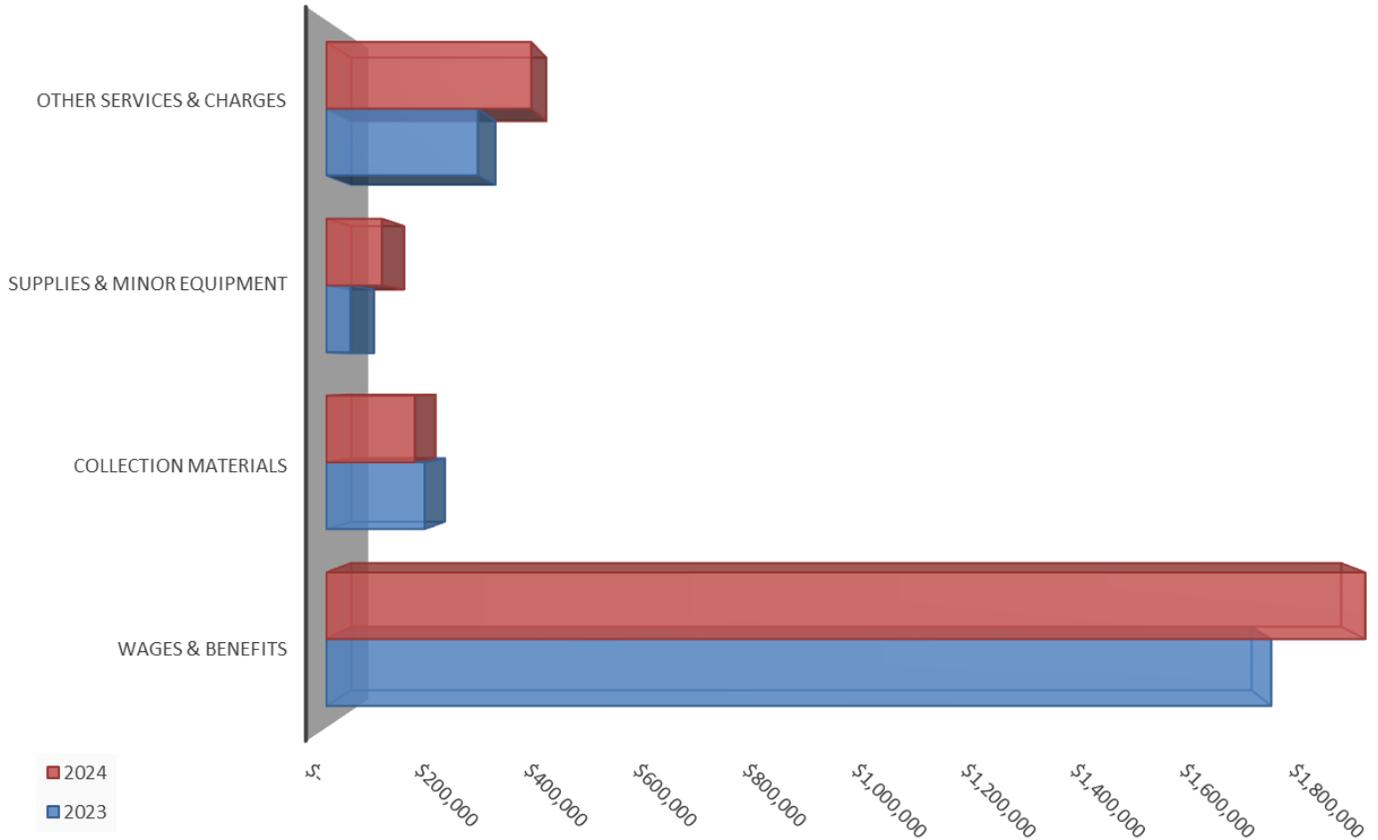
Actual General Fund Revenue Year to Date Comparison			
	2023	2024	% Change
Taxes	\$ 628,757	\$ 556,316	-11.52%
Intergovernmental	60,437	7,288	-87.94%
Charges for Services	12,997	13,434	3.36%
Miscellaneous	47,618	91,004	91.11%
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 749,810	668,041	-10.91%
Other Financing Sources	\$ -	-	0.00%
Total Revenue	\$ 749,810	\$ 668,041	-10.91%



March Expenditures

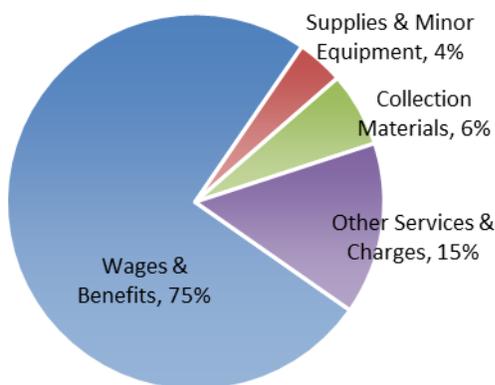
2024 Budget Expenditures - Year-To-Date						
March 2024 (25% of FY)						
Acct No	Description	Budgeted Expenditures	Actual Expenditures YTD	% of Actual Expenditures YTD	% of Budgeted Expenditures Spent YTD	Budget Variance
572	SALARIES, WAGES, & BENEFITS					
572.1000	Salaries and Wages	\$ 6,028,193	\$ 1,458,462	55.33%	24.19%	\$ (4,569,731)
572.2000	Benefits	2,141,573	514,504	19.52%	24.02%	(1,627,069)
	TOTAL SALARIES, WAGES, & BENEFITS	\$ 8,169,766	\$ 1,972,967	74.84%	24.15%	\$ (6,196,800)
572.30	SUPPLIES & MINOR EQUIPMENT					
572.3031	Office & Operating Supplies	\$ 146,450	\$ 31,319	1.19%	21.39%	\$ (115,131)
572.3032	Fuel	26,050	3,689	0.14%	14.16%	(22,361)
572.3034	Collection Materials	1,250,000	168,292	6.38%	13.46%	(1,081,708)
572.3035	Small Tools & Minor Equipment	202,575	70,715	2.68%	34.91%	(131,860)
	TOTAL SUPPLIES & MINOR EQUIPMENT	\$ 1,625,075	274,015	10.39%	16.86%	\$ (1,351,060)
572.40	OTHER SERVICES & CHARGES					
572.4041	Professional Services	\$ 541,038	\$ 168,161	6.38%	31.08%	\$ (372,878)
572.4042	Communication	134,780	35,165	1.33%	26.09%	(99,615)
572.4043	Travel	43,850	8,981	0.34%	20.48%	(34,869)
572.4044	Taxes & Operating Assessments	400	113	0.00%	28.22%	(287)
572.4045	Operating Rentals & Leases	18,737	5,797	0.22%	30.94%	(12,940)
572.4046	Insurance	91,874	89,635	3.40%	97.56%	(2,239)
572.4047	Utilities	171,176	35,919	1.36%	20.98%	(135,257)
572.4048	Repair & Maintenance	131,440	28,931	1.10%	22.01%	(102,509)
572.4049	Miscellaneous	92,910	16,489	0.63%	17.75%	(76,421)
	TOTAL OTHER SERVICES & CHARGES	\$ 1,226,206	389,190	14.76%	31.74%	\$ (837,016)
	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$ 11,021,047	2,636,171	100.00%	23.92%	\$ (8,384,876)
590	OTHER FINANCING USES					
597.1000	Transfers to Capital	\$ 94,135	\$ -	0.00%	0.00%	\$ -
	TOTAL OTHER FINANCING USES	\$ 94,135	\$ -	0.00%	0.00%	\$ -
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 11,115,182	\$ 2,636,171	100.00%	23.72%	\$ (8,479,011)
	NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (679,749)	(1,968,130)			\$ (1,288,381)

General Fund Operating Expenditures to Date-Compared to Prior Year

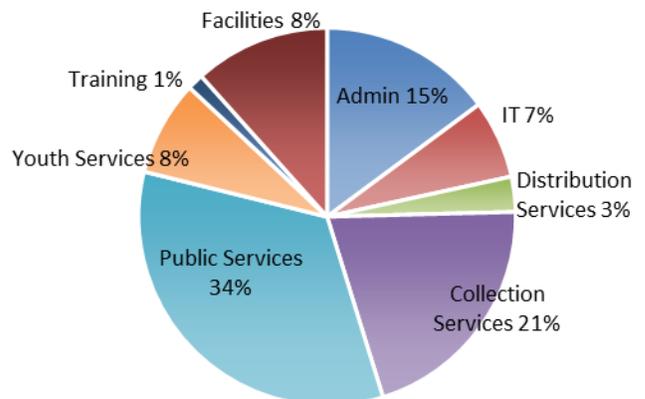


Actual General Fund Revenue Year to Date Comparison			
	2023	2024	% Change
Wages & Benefits	\$ 1,794,491	\$ 1,972,967	9.95%
Collection Materials	186,973	168,292	-9.99%
Supplies & Minor Equipment	45,799	105,723	130.84%
Other Services & Charges	287,914	389,190	35.18%
Total Operating Expenditures	2,315,178	2,636,171	13.86%
Other Financing Uses	\$ -	-	0.00%
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,315,178	\$ 2,636,171	13.86%

YTD Expense by Category



YTD Expense by Department



Fund Balance Summary	2023 Actual		2024 Budgeted		2024
					Actual to Date
Beginning Fund Balance	\$	10,630,324	\$	10,612,545	\$ 10,612,545
Revenue		10,305,797		10,435,433	668,041
Expenditures		(10,553,576)		(11,115,182)	(2,636,171)
Transfer to (from) Reserves		230,000		(230,000)	-
Ending Fund Balance	\$	10,612,545	\$	9,702,796	\$ 8,644,415
Ending Fund Balance Designation Detail					
		2023 Actual		2024 Budgeted	2024 Actual to Date
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Cash Flow	\$	3,502,655	\$	3,639,587	\$ 2,708,851
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Emergency		892,009		926,588	926,588
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Capital Transfer		45,000		130,000	130,000
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Unemployment Comp Reserve		14,403		14,662	14,662
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Birch Bay Operating Fund Reserve		600,000		600,000	600,000
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Facility Ownership & Library Svcs Fund Reserve		3,192,315		3,192,315	3,192,315
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Facility Maintenance Fund		650,000		650,000	650,000
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Operating Cost Stabilization Fund		250,000		250,000	250,000
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Collection Project Fund		172,000		172,000	172,000
Designated Ending Fund Balance - Abeyance Fund		230,000		-	-
Total Designated Ending Fund Balance		9,548,382		9,575,151	8,644,415
Beginning Fund Balance less designated funds		1,081,942		1,037,394	1,968,130
Transfer to (from) Reserves		230,000		(230,000)	-
Net Income		(247,779)		(679,749)	(1,968,130)
Ending Unassigned Funds with no designation		1,064,163		127,645	-
Ending Designated Funds		9,548,382		9,575,151	8,644,415
Total Ending Fund Balance	\$	10,612,545	\$	9,702,796	\$ 8,644,415

March Summary

- We have received \$556,316, or 6% of our levy as of end of March. We have dipped into the Cash Flow reserve fund by \$930,736. These funds will be replenished this month, as April 30 is the first of two annual property tax payment deadlines, when receive around half of our levy.
- The 2023 Annual Report to the State Auditor’s Office is underway and is due at the end of May. This year’s report includes implementing new rules regarding accounting for subscription-based IT agreements (“SBITAs”). To prepare for this I reviewed about 60 such agreements that WCLS has with various vendors.
- Speaking of the Auditor’s Office, I’m pleased to report that the final bill for our recent 2021-2022 audit was \$14,757, versus \$18,000 as originally quoted. This is largely due to the Accounting team’s commitment to maintaining organized and detailed records, making the auditor’s work more efficient.
- Small Tools and Equipment spending is above target at 35%, as the IT department has recently replaced around 40 computers as part of its scheduled equipment updates.
- Earlier this month we were notified that WCLS staff would no longer be able to ride the Whatcom Chief ferry for free when visiting Island Library, as the County is updating their ferry use guidelines. We have purchased passes for staff (and trustee!) use – they can be checked out from the accounting office.

WCLS Account Summary

WCLS follows the Washington State Budgeting, Accounting and Reporting System (BARS). Below is a brief description of revenue and expense accounts.

Revenue Accounts:

Taxes: This section includes taxes on real and personal property, which are the primary revenue source for the library system, making up 95% of operating revenues received. The bulk of property tax revenue is received in April and October of each year.

Intergovernmental Revenue: Sources of intergovernmental revenue include grant revenues received from state and federal sources and revenues resulting from the leasing of, or sale of, timber and other products from state forest lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources. It also includes taxes from private harvest timber sales.

Charges for Goods and Services: This category includes fees received from library printing and copying services. It also includes use fees from the sale of library cards to non-residents and from contracted services with other entities, such as the Whatcom County Jail.

Miscellaneous Revenues: This source of revenue includes investment interest earned through participation in the Whatcom County Investment Fund. It also includes fees received for library meeting room use, private grants and donations, charges for lost or damaged library materials, and other miscellaneous revenue such as rebates and reimbursements.

Other Financing Sources: This category includes non-revenue items such as proceeds from the sale of capital assets and insurance recoveries.

Expense Accounts:

Salaries, Wages, and Benefits: This expense category includes wages and fringe benefits for WCLS employees, including medical and dental insurance; contributions for employees enrolled in the State of Washington Public Employee Retirement System (PERS); contributions into the Social Security and Medicare systems; workers' compensation (Labor and Industries); state Paid Family and Medical Leave; long-term disability insurance; and unemployment compensation.

Supplies and Minor Equipment: This section includes office, program, maintenance, and custodial supplies, as well as fuel. It includes small tools and equipment items such as computer hardware, furnishing and fixtures, shelving, book returns and carts, etc. It also includes the collection materials budget that comprise WCLS's lending collection.

Other Services and Charges: This category includes costs for professional services, such as legal, payroll, programming, cataloging, and Interlibrary Loan services. It includes communication costs, such as postage, courier services, and phone and internet charges. Travel; use and excise taxes; auto, liability and property insurance; utilities; repairs and maintenance; and other miscellaneous expenses are also reported here.

Other Financing Uses: This category includes transfers to the WCLS Capital fund. This transfer is equal to the prior year's revenue received from certain intergovernmental sources, such as those resulting from the sale of timber and other products from state forest lands.



Board Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date:	4/16/2024
Committee or Department:	Administration Department
Subject:	Levy Lid Lift Projections Update
Prepared By:	Jackie Saul
Impact upon Budget?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Supporting Documents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Recommendation or Request: Information Only

Suggested Motion for Consideration: Information Only

Summary: At the July 18, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting, we shared long-term financial projections to help with our Levy Lid Lift planning, including determining the timeline for when to go to voters. Now that 2023 is complete and we're a quarter of the way into 2024, we've been able to update our projections, attached. The updated numbers are in line with the original projections, and our timeline has not changed.

Alternatives: N/A

Fiscal Impact: none at this time

Comments: none

STATUS QUO BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

- ▶ Annual 1% statutory increase plus 1% increase for new construction based on historic averages
- ▶ 1% increase in miscellaneous revenues
- ▶ 5% increase in expenditures based on historic average increases, including increases to wages and benefits, inflation, etc.
- ▶ No new staff
- ▶ No new expenses (cybersecurity audits, compensation studies, facility improvements, new services)
- ▶ Expenditures increasing > revenues
 - ▶ therefore we need levy lid lift simply to maintain status quo



Levy and levy rate projections for Status Quo Budget Updated April 2024

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
Beginning Fund Balance	10,382,545	9,702,796	8,681,276	7,364,508	5,718,442	3,729,752	1,386,181	(1,323,035)	(4,406,651)	(7,870,782)
Total Revenue	10,435,433	10,446,033	10,699,162	10,966,620	11,250,550	11,553,511	11,878,557	12,229,341	12,610,229	13,026,444
Total Expense	11,115,182	11,467,553	12,015,930	12,612,687	13,239,241	13,897,082	14,587,773	15,312,958	16,074,360	16,833,821
Ending Fund Balance	9,702,796	8,681,276	7,364,508	5,718,442	3,729,752	1,386,181	(1,323,035)	(4,406,651)	(7,870,782)	(11,678,159)
Net Income	(697,749)	(1,021,520)	(1,316,768)	(1,646,066)	(1,988,690)	(2,343,571)	(2,709,216)	(3,083,616)	(3,464,131)	(3,807,377)
Levy Rate	0.25626	0.24893	0.24182	0.23491	0.22820	0.22168	0.21535	0.20919	0.20322	0.19741

- In 2028, we risk depleting the Cash Flow Reserve and Emergency Reserve below policy mandated levels
- If new income does not arrive by 2029 AND/OR we do not make significant cuts to expenses, we will not have enough money to operate in 2030
- We will not get to this point – we MUST take action prior to 2027 to avoid this scenario



Board Meeting Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date:	4/16/2024
Committee or Department:	Administration Department
Subject:	Beyond Book Bans: Risk Assessment
Prepared By:	Christine Perkins
Impact upon Budget?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Supporting Documents:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Recommendation or Request: For discussion only.

Suggested Motion for Consideration: For discussion only.

Summary: Although book bans are in the national news lately, there are other issues that threaten the future of public libraries. Let's read the following articles and discuss which items could affect WCLS and whether we need to come up with ways to mitigate them.

Alternatives: As discussed.

Fiscal Impact: none at this time

Comments: none

How Public Libraries Are Targeted Right Now—It’s Not “Just” Books: Book Censorship News, March 29, 2024

Kelly Jensen Mar 29, 2024

Book bans in public libraries continue to increase. [Per numbers released by the American Library Association \(ALA\) this month](#), there was a 92% increase in requests to ban books in public libraries over the last year. These numbers are nowhere near accurate in terms of quantity and scope, as they only showcase reports acquired or received by the ALA, but they offer a solid perspective of what we know to be true. Public libraries are not immune to the book banning which has taken hold since 2021. Book banning is [not limited to school libraries](#).

But something that needs to be addressed more plainly is that censorship in public libraries does and will continue to look different than in school libraries. Yes, people will and do complain about individual titles or lists of titles. The destruction of public institutions remains at the core of the agenda, but when it comes to public libraries, things look different because they are different institutions than public schools. Here are several ways we’re seeing public libraries being targeted.

The ways to respond have been outlined in the several years we’ve been covering book banning and censorship here. The long and short: show up and vote — only 18% of my county’s eligible voters even bothered in last week’s election, meaning that fewer than 1 in 5 adults decided the fate of the entire county (I’m in a state where we have some of the easiest access to voting nationwide, so imagine the numbers where barriers purposefully erase voices); show up and use your library; show up by writing everyone who represents you and tell them the value of the library; show up and run for boards; show up and write and speak at board meetings; show up and find as many library supporters as you can to do all of these things and more, regularly. If you work in libraries, you can do all of these things, as well as [ensure your collection management policies are airtight](#); that you are [advocating for yourself](#) and not just hoping outside groups do so; use the data to continue emphasizing [how trustworthy you are seen in your community](#) — it is leaps and bounds more than the politicians in your community.

Many of the below do not operate in a vacuum. I’ve teased them out for ease of understanding the various methods of entry. This is also not exhaustive. Every day, people who are determined to kill institutions of democracy find new ways to chip away at it.

Destruction From Within By Leaders and/or Library Boards

This happens primarily in two ways. First, “community members” — quotes here because frequently, it’s people who don’t live in the community nor have any attachment to it — show up to board meetings and perform their grievances to the board. In some cases, people perform an out-of-context passage from a book, which [they might conveniently pick up from BookLooks](#). Those individuals may or may not sport their Moms For Liberty/No Left Turn/Whatever Other Group They’re Affiliated With apparel to showcase their affiliation.

In public libraries, those complainants might want the books to be banned — sorry, removed — but what we’re seeing are more pushes to move those books around because, as the performer will note, it’s a public library, and while maybe those books can be there, they shouldn’t be easily accessible to their audiences (see the earlier note about voting — sure, it’s a right, but it should come with some hoops to jump through!). Even though they should, by virtue of their role as board members, individuals on those boards may not actually know what’s happening regionally or nationally. They may be unaware that these performances are not new or novel. They’re repeats of what’s happening elsewhere, recorded and shared across social media to encourage replication.

The second destruction from within by the library board happens when an individual or group is eager to take over a library and runs for or applies for the role and gets it. Public library boards might be elected positions, appointed, or a mix of both elected and appointed. But because of how few people show up for elections when these positions are on the ballot, it is easy for someone with an axe to grind to get on the board and do just that. Bring on a few similarly-minded individuals, and within no time, the public library as it once was — open and welcoming to all — becomes a shell of itself.

Some examples of destruction from within by boards include what happened at [Niles-Maine Public Library \(IL\)](#), the pushing by the board to [remove the entire “young adult” designation at the Flathead County Public Library \(MT, formerly the ImagineIF library\)](#), [banning book displays](#) on “divisive” topics at Lafayette Parish Public Library (LA, and this is after years of other board decisions that irrevocably harmed the library), the [moving of books about transgender children out of the children’s and teens areas of the library](#) and into a “parenting” section at the Greenville County Public Library (SC), and how the takeover at Hamilton East Public Library (IL) of the board led to [removing and reviewing every single title in the teen section](#) at the cost of [tens of thousands of dollars to taxpayers](#). Phillips Public Library (WI) has dealt with over two years of community member complaints over a handful of LGBTQ+ titles, which led to stickering those books inside their covers in order to [quietly warn parents about the content](#).

Corpus Christi Public Library (TX) saw appointments of Moms For Liberty and County Citizens Defending Freedom [to their board](#), and while social media lit up recently upon learning that League City Public Library (also TX) [would restrict access to those who aren’t from the community](#), that same concern did not emerge when just months earlier the board became a tool of right-wing nonsense and was [eager to appoint book banners to its material review committee](#).

Another “from within” story that takes a slight twist on the board-as-actor is from Metropolis, Illinois. This time, it was the library director — who has been in the position for two years — connected to a far-right church in the community. [She’d been removing books from the collection for years](#), and the new law in Illinois, which required inclusion of the Library Bill of Rights in policy to access state funding, Guess what led to a series of nonsense meetings, op-eds and local radio programming, and rumors about how drag queen storytimes would take over the public library? Turns out that the director was purposefully lying to the community she was supposed to be serving.

City/County Overreach Into Public Libraries

Sometimes destruction from the inside via library boards is aided in part by city or county politics and sometimes, it’s those city or county politics that overtake the board and library altogether. We’ve seen

this be especially effective via the “Clean Up [name of library/city]” book banning groups, first at the Samuels Public Library (VA) and now at the Prattville Public Library (AL). In both of these instances, the far-right Christian groups have gone to sympathetic city or county commissioners to plead their cases for the “clean up” of these public libraries. “Clean up” here is a euphemism for eradicating any books that aren’t Christian, white, heterosexual, and cisgender focused.

For “Clean Up Prattville,” [the library board directed the library to remove LGBTQ+ books and was responsible for firing the director](#), but the decision wasn’t in a vacuum. State pressure pushed downward, as the governor has had a target on Prattville from the start. Why? Groups like “Clean Up Prattville” who manufactured the crisis. For “Clean Up Samuels,” it was a group [going directly to the county board of supervisors](#) who oversaw funding of the library.

Because city and county commissions have closer access to the legal system, their influence can be effective — even if it’s by sheer intimidation. In 2021, the Llano County, Texas, Commissioners Court demanded that the public library evaluate every children’s book on their shelves to ensure it was appropriate. This led not only to the library being shut down for several days to do the work but it led to the firing of one of the library’s head librarians who refused to remove LGBTQ+ books from shelves ([she just filed a lawsuit over her dismissal](#)).

A proposal in Montgomery County, Texas, this week from the county commissioners court is the next step in a long line of movements by the county into the public library system that began sometime last summer. The latest proposal [entirely removes librarians from the process when it comes to materials challenges](#). In other words, no actual professionals would sit on materials review panels; their expertise wouldn’t be needed. This is the county complicit in not only devaluing the professionals but also eager to do so in the name of “protecting the kids.”

Then, Sumner County, Tennessee. Thanks to County Commissioner Jeremy Mansfield, the traditional methods of appointing library board members were upended. Several new faces were appointed within a couple of months as [Mansfield leaned into his affiliation with a local far-right group](#). This shift in the library board meant that a director was fired following a Kirk Cameron event, and it helped lead to the decision to [restrict access to entire sections of the public libraries to those under the age of 18](#).

This isn’t the only library dealing with anything of the sort. Just last month, Kenosha County (WI) [voted down a proposal](#) by County Board Supervisor Tim Stocker which would restrict access to any “adult” books in county-funded public libraries by those under 18. Antigo Public Library, also in Wisconsin, faces closure due to [a majority county-appointed board eager to cut the institution’s funding](#). After a series of closed-session meetings between city leadership and specific members of the library’s board, word leaked that more changes were coming to the library board. If those changes were to come, seven of the nine board members would be in their first term and five in their first — this kind of restructuring of the board cycles puts the library in danger of partisan politics fully governing the institution.

November marked a significant victory in the attempts to put Pella Public Library (IA) under the control of its city administration. This would have meant eradication of the board, which operated independently

of the government, and it would have given the power of the library over to small, vocal, influential people, as opposed to the community as a whole. [The spending on this particular election was especially important to understand](#). *A lot of money was being spent to help close down the library.* Even if the library itself kept its doors open, moving the oversight would have made it subject to the whims of the government and not an independent board (and we know even those independent boards are themselves subject to political influence, but they have recourse for their actions in ways that movement of the library from one department to another here would not).

Currently, in Carroll County, Maryland, the public library is being attacked by a county commissioner, Kenneth Kiler, who isn't bothering to learn how libraries work at all but certainly has opinions about them. Kiler is in the bag with local Moms For Liberty, who are eager to dismantle the library, and he's also spouted nonsense about the library director being affiliated with the Maryland Library Association, which he believes is anti-Carroll County. Kiler is big mad about the possible Freedom to Read Act being legislated because it means books he and his friends don't like can't just be pulled from public library shelves.

When the government utilizes any of the tactics outlined above, that's called fascism. Unfortunately, it's not just creeping anymore. It's so pervasive that we're hardly even noticing how widespread it is in public libraries alone.

Privatization of Public Libraries

Turning to private corporations to run public libraries is not a new phenomenon. It's extremely rare, but it happened several times in the past. One of the biggest privatization groups, Library Systems & Services (LS&S), is, as of 2023, [the fifth largest library system in the United States, operating 80 libraries](#). Privatizing public libraries involves ending a structure where the institution is funded by taxpayer allocation, but instead, a company is paid a set amount of money per year to run it instead. The public library becomes a private business, and in the end, the library loses its local flavor, its uniqueness, and it divorces itself from being an institution of, for, and by its community. Privatizing libraries does precisely the opposite of what book banners demand: it removes local control.

In an era of censorship, though, turning to privatization is appealing for cities that are fighting an institution that won't just give in to their demands. This happened in Huntsville, Texas, in December 2022, when the library refused to give up having or displaying LGBTQ+ books (indeed, [this story involved a local police officer "reviewing" books at the circulation desk](#)). The demands by the city to the library led to a hostile situation between the two, and so the city elected to sell the library to LS&S. It made the library an unsafe place for not only queer books but queer people, [including its own employees](#).

Huntington Beach, California, is considering a similar solution to their public libraries woes as well. Those woes stem not from the library but from the city council, which [demanded that any "sexually explicit" books accessible to children be relocated in the library last summer](#) (to say it was disheartening that people seemed only to get loud about this story in February when photos hit social media is an understatement — *this news has been out there for months* and one of the board members has [distributed utterly disgusting propaganda about LGBTQ+ people](#)). The moving of books led to more and more people

showing up to city meetings in protest, and despite the outcry not to do so and [currently circulating petitions](#), the city is going ahead and [seeking bids to privatize the library](#).

[It is not cheaper to outsource library services](#). Indeed, cities that have gone under an LS&S contract have elected not to re-up them because it is less pricey to keep local control. But privatization right now isn't about cost.

It's about ramming a particular agenda and not needing to answer for it when your community comes calling.

Other Public Library Attacks

The above do not operate in isolation, as noted previously. Privatization, for example, emerges from city/county-level decisions. City/county level politics have a role in local board politics. They're all connected.

There are several other ways public libraries are being destabilized and dismantled right now, too. They play alongside the above. Among them are [ending affiliation with professional organizations like the American Library Association](#). This can happen at the library level, the county level, or even the state level, depending on policy and legislation. In Louisiana this week, for example, a State Representative just suggested [making it a punishable crime for public funds to be used for American Library Association affiliation](#) — that would deeply harm not only public librarians who get professional development and growth from the organization but it would harm the libraries themselves, making them more readily susceptible to influence by political groups. They'd be more susceptible to privatization as well since there is no one to which the library can turn to get the support they might need when their city says it's time for them to be sold off.

Legal loopholes have been a boon for public library critics, too. An entire library in rural Washington, Dayton Memorial, nearly shut down when some rural residents were angry about LGBTQ+ books in its collection. When they didn't get their way, and the books were not just removed from shelves, they attempted to [get on the ballot a measure that would close the library altogether](#). Fortunately for Dayton Memorial, the [library won a lawsuit](#) to keep the vote from happening and the state sewed up the legal loophole this legislative session to ensure this could not happen again.

Though not a loophole, legally electing not to fund a library has been particularly effective for some communities. Although Jamestown, Michigan's, Patmos Library was ultimately funded in [its third effort at the polls](#), it was a tiny but vocal minority that managed to push the library to near closure...over the library having on shelf a small number of LGBTQ+ books. Again: when only 18% of a populace who can vote bothers to, that's fewer than 1 out of 5 adults in a community making decisions that impact the entire community. One out of five people bigoted enough or influenced by bigots enough to shut down a public library [over 90 LGBTQ+ books](#) — a whopping .015% of the entire collection — should be a wake-up call.

And then there's stochastic terrorism via the rash and rise of public library bomb threats. [They hit Illinois. Then they hit Illinois again](#). Then they hit [Minnesota](#), [Colorado](#), and [other places across the country](#). The goal of these is pretty simple: incite fear and create a culture

where centers of democracy are seen as unsafe. As targets. If people are too afraid to go to the library, then why do we need the library at all? We can funnel that money elsewhere because, well, people can just buy the books on Amazon or at the bookstore, can't they?

Perhaps they're right.

It's not a book ban if we just shut the entire library down.

Book Censorship News: March 29, 2024

- A West Texas school board — Midland Independent School District — received death threats from a person angry about certain books in campus libraries, which they called “porn and other degenerate filth.” Aren't we glad [this kind of behavior is what's being upheld as moral and right?](#)
- Some pastors and members of the Salvation Army in Alpena, Michigan, believe [they should be able to decide what is in their public library.](#)
- Fresno County, California, opened up applications for residents to become part of the book review committee that will determine the standards by which public library materials must meet (or else they'll be removed). [I wish this sentence were hyperbole.](#)
- [I cannot access this article due to a paywall](#), but Iron River Public Library (WI) continues to have to change its policies over LGBTQ+ — sorry, “sexually explicit” — books in the children's areas.
- *The Haters* was [banned in Lake Travis Independent School District](#) (TX).
- A bomb threat, suspicious packages, and other dangers led to the cancellation of a drag story hour in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Again, [upstanding citizens here.](#)
- The above-linked bomb threat at Lancaster's public library led to the Quarryville Public Library [canceling an upcoming book event.](#) This event was meant to be a fundraiser to help keep the library viable; as you might recall, this library had one of its townships pull funding for it [because they hate gay books.](#)
- 87 people [applied to be on the library board in Washoe County, Nevada.](#) Fortunately, it's a former school librarian who sees the library as being under attack who was appointed.
- Pretending you care about book bans by challenging the Bible is the antithesis of caring about book bans. These stories are exhausting and a waste of energy. You don't solve book bans by banning books, even books you think “send a message.” [Story from Hanover County Schools](#) (VA).
- Pickens County Library Board (SC) [will not move the book *Drama*](#) from its appropriate spot in the juvenile collection.
- Enka High School (NC) removed *Tricks* from shelves in the library. [This gives a rundown of the book challenges and their current status](#) in Buncombe County Schools.
- Because important news is paywalled, [here's a link to a story I can't read](#) and tell you about related to what public libraries in North Dakota have reacted to their state book ban legislation.
- [None of the eight books discussed](#) in New Prairie Schools (IN) were banned last week.
- Three books in the Greenville County library system (SC) will be relocated from the YA and juvenile section into the adult section. [This story is \[drum roll\] paywalled.](#) Here's [an unpaywalled version.](#)
- “Many of the speakers were from area churches who had been advised of the book excerpts through a social media campaign instigated in recent weeks by Position 7 Trustee David Hamilton,

who serves as the board secretary. All of the excerpts come from the website of BookLooks, a Florida-based group that provides capsule summaries of books as well as excerpts that it finds objectionable.” It’s Moms for Liberty. [CALL IT MOMS FOR LIBERTY](#). This is in Fort Bend, Texas.

- [An update on the change in policy](#) that might make book banning easier in Upper Adams Schools (PA).
- “South Middleton School Board last week voted to remove the web address of a social justice website from a strategic planning document that outlines how district counseling services intend to address student needs. Board members voted 7-2 to remove ‘[teachingtolerance.org](#)’ as a resource from curriculum action plans for the first and second grades under a broader document known as the K-12 School Guidance 339 Plan.” Teaching tolerance is not acceptable in this Pennsylvania school....[even as a resource](#).
- Frederick County Public Schools (VA) school board president has a 100-page list of books he calls “[nothing short of grooming](#)” he’s eager to get pulled from the district.
- The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly (AK) wants to create a “citizen’s committee” [to review book challenges in public libraries](#).
- Speaking of Mat-Su, the school district there is [now banning *Call Me By Your Name* and *Verity*](#).
- The Flathead County Library Board (MT, formerly ImagineIF Libraries) may make a decision this week on [whether or not to eliminate their young adult collections altogether](#).
- Laurel Public Schools (MT) [will not return three books to school shelves](#). Banned permanently are *The Lesbiana’s Guide to Catholic School*, *A Million Quiet Revolutions*, and *Assassination Classroom, Book 4*.
- In the Greeley, Colorado, school district, *The God of Small Things* will not be banned. Read this story if for no reason other than how convoluted and long the process is. 150 people began begging to get the book banned in December 2022. The review committee, consisting of NINETEEN PEOPLE, didn’t begin the process until November 2023. [The decision came this week](#).
- Most Alabamans who’ve left public comments about the draconian new library code proposals in the state [are not excited about them](#). Remember this when the laws pass and the governor didn’t listen to the people.
- This is a *good* story. In 2018, Heather Ann Thompson’s *Blood in the Water* was banned from Illinois prisons. She sued the state and the lawsuit was just settled in her favor. [Her publisher sent a copy of that book to every prison in the state](#).

Original article: [How Public Libraries Are Targeted Right Now—It's Not "Just" Books: Book Censorship News, March 29, 2024 \(bookriot.com\)](#)

Louisiana HB 777 Would Criminalize Librarians and Libraries Who Join the American Library Association

[Kelly Jensen](#) Apr 3, 2024

Despite the fact that [librarians are among the most trusted professionals](#), per data acquired in several studies of parents on the perceptions of the profession, lawmakers across the country continue to infantilize and criminalize library workers. The 2024 legislative session has been particularly eager to capitalize on the rhetoric from the far right on libraries, as seen through several bills aimed at not only limiting the types of books allowed in school and public libraries but also in how the profession itself may operate.

We've seen Utah pass a bill that would [pull books off shelves in school libraries if the title is pulled in other districts](#) in the state, a blatant removal of the local control the very anti-library advocates themselves demand. Idaho attempted to push through similar legislation, despite clear links of the rhetoric around "pornography in libraries" [to QAnon conspiracy](#). Georgia attempted, but narrowly failed, to pass a bill this session that would [ban the American Library Association from school and public libraries](#) statewide (and the respective funding from the nation's largest professional association for library workers).

Louisiana continues these efforts in an ongoing move by politicians in the state to damage public libraries with [House Bill 777](#). HB 777 was introduced March 25 by Representative Kellee Dickerson, who helped fund the [Louisiana Freedom Caucus](#). The bill would *criminalize* library workers and libraries for joining the American Library Association.

The American Library Association (ALA) is the largest and oldest professional organization for library workers in the nation. It was founded in 1876, and [this Twitter thread](#) is a fantastic resource on the history and purpose of the organization.

The HB 777 text reads:

- A. No public official or employee shall appropriate, allocate, reimburse, or otherwise or in any way expend public funds to or with the American Library Association or its successor.
- B. No public employee shall request or receive reimbursement or remuneration in any form for continuing education or for attending a conference if the continuing education or conference was sponsored or conducted, in whole or in part, by the American Library Association or its successor.
- C. Whoever violates this Section shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or be imprisoned, with or without hard labor, for not more than two years, or both.

This partisan bill undermines the profession on several levels.

Since the rise of book banning in early 2021, the ALA has been at the receiving end of criticism from right-wing politicians and organizations, despite no such similar pushback toward similar organizations for

other professionals. Indeed, such attacks have served to not only skewer the profession and all it stands for, but they've also been one of several ways that certain groups have attempted to undermine the trust in these institutions.

[By creating a villain of the biggest professional organization for library workers](#), book banners pound away at the institutions that establish and uphold librarianship as a profession. Librarians lose their place as experts in their field, with the skills, knowledge, and passion for helping connect people to vetted, accurate, verifiable information. To real facts and not those crafted by so-called "[alternative](#)" [library organizations developed by long-time library antagonists and sympathizers](#) who themselves have worked hard to dismantle these democratic institutions.

More, though, by criminalizing the library's use of taxpayer money to be members of the ALA, HB 777 ends up harming those very same taxpayers by removing access to grants, funds, and educational opportunities that benefit them via their libraries. There are grants offered annually to help libraries increase specific collections or categories of material. There are opportunities for library workers to be part of the process in selecting the best books annually—important to note here because of how much noise there is around these books “not representing” certain communities and yet by barring library workers from engaging in these committees, they purposefully undermine their own purported lack of representation. Membership in the ALA means that individuals and institutions have the chance to take a variety of professional development courses to ensure their work is aligned with the standards of the profession more broadly, including ensuring that it remains a space of democracy, inquiry, and access.

Of course, those are the very reasons why bills like HB 777 arise. Dickerson and her ilk are eager to destroy and dismantle public and school libraries. By attempting to fine libraries and library workers, they make keeping Louisiana libraries aligned with the best of the best impossible and instead, create these institutions in their own image.

That image is one where the library doesn't exist to serve an entire community but to serve specific demographics that may or may not live in those communities.

HB 777 not only would fine libraries and librarians, but it would *possibly require hard labor* by those found guilty. Read that again: librarians would be sentenced to hard labor for daring to join their largest professional organization.

The bill would also potentially kill one of the largest graduate school programs in the state of Louisiana, Louisiana State University's Masters of Library and Information Science program. Like all Master of Library and Information Science programs, it is accredited by the ALA and goes through a rigorous process to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and aligned with best practices in libraries.

Even if the bill is limited “only” to the use of tax money to support membership or attendance/enrollment in ALA-sponsored professional development, take a moment to look into whether or not police, fire, or other public entities are subject to similar legislation in Louisiana or elsewhere. You probably know the

answer—and you probably won't be surprised that one of the few institutional benefits offered to library workers is such membership.

If you haven't been paying attention until now or you've thought these fears when laid out over the last several years were hyperbole and this is your wakeup call, there's no time like the present to get to work advocating on behalf of your library. If you live in Louisiana, contact your representatives as soon as possible ([here's a very easy way to do that!](#)). You can also reach out to Kellee Dickerson by phone at (225) 380-4232 and email hse064@legis.la.gov.

Then, reach out to your own libraries and offer your support, either by showing up at board meetings and/or running for those board positions when vacancies occur. Go borrow books from the library and get your writing hands going with letters to your local papers.

EveryLibrary [also has a petition you can sign](#) related to HB777.

ALA deserves criticism as an organization for many reasons, both from those within it and those outside it. But making it illegal to join the largest professional organization for librarians and punishing those who join with steep fines and potentially hard labor is not criticism.

It's fascism and it's unconstitutional.

Original Article - [Louisiana HB 777 Would Criminalize Librarians and Libraries Who Join the American Library Association \(bookriot.com\)](#)

COMMUNITY

WCLS staff are integral members of each community we serve. Here's a photo of our whole team at this year's All Staff Learning Day.



ACCESS

[Second Substitute Senate Bill 5444](#) passed into law this session. It's entitled, "AN ACT Relating to restricting the possession of weapons, 2 excluding carrying a pistol by a person licensed to carry a concealed 3 pistol, on the premises of libraries, zoos, aquariums, and transit 4 facilities; and reenacting and amending RCW 9.41.300." In other words, "open carry" is no longer legal at public libraries in Washington State. We are in the process of checking in with local law enforcement agencies to get guidance on how staff should respond once the law goes into effect June 6.

RESOURCES

Looking over year-end statistics, I was reminded that circulation of physical materials continues to be the predominant way people borrow from the library (72% of our total circulation in 2023). Although digital circulation is increasing, people aren't ready to let go of printed books anytime soon.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Several WCLS staff (including myself) attended an All Hands Whatcom event "Native Transformations in the Pacific Northwest: Stories of Strength in a Public Health Crisis". Presenters spoke about Northwest Indian College's Native Transformation Project, a community-based research project that explores the inherent strengths, protections, and resilience against substance abuse in Coast Salish Communities. They reviewed Coast Salish

protective factors – individual, family, community and spiritual sources of strength, as well as a Reef Net Wellness Model that represents the stages of change and transformation a person can have as they pursue lifetime wellness. The event included a screening of a film by Children of the Setting Sun Productions with first-hand accounts of people impacted by the opioid epidemic. This event put a personal face on the crisis and gave some ideas of ways community organizations such as libraries can contribute to addressing it and fostering wellness.

STEWARDSHIP

Each Spring, WCLS inputs data into the Washington State Library's Annual Statistical Report, including budget, personnel, collections, open hours, circulation and other metrics. This allows us to compare ourselves with peer libraries across the state. This data is also shared with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for their annual Public Libraries Survey which tracks 9,000 public library systems across the United States. It takes several months for this data to be posted online; I will do some analysis once it's available.

Christine Perkins, Executive Director

ACCESS

At the first Board of Trustees meeting I attended in my role as Deputy Director in 2015, a group that became the Friends of the Birch Bay Library spoke during Public Comment to advocate for improved library services in their community. Since that time, steady progress has been made toward the vision of bricks and mortar services in Birch Bay. As we kick off a project with Osborn Architects, Inc. that will end with a grand opening projected to occur in 2025, it may be informative to review the work that has led to this point. At the April Board of Trustees meeting, I will share an overview of milestones that have brought this project to where it is today.

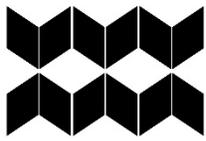
STEWARDSHIP

The Foothills Community Alliance and the Friends of the North Fork Library are providing \$5,500 in support of planning for the development of a flexible community meeting space to be developed within the North Fork Library. Architectural and engineering services will create a plan including cost estimates for the construction of an operable wall within the existing library that can close to create privacy for small group and individual meetings or open to provide an open space for larger programs than have been known to fill the building. The library's existing layout enables this space to be made reservable even when it is closed.

The Friends of the Island Library have completed a project replacing a deck leading to the library's main entrance. This improvement is another successful project in an ever growing list of improvements supported by the FOIL including lighting, AC, generator, front walkway, and even the replacement of a separate outbuilding acting as a used book warehouse.



Michael Cox
Deputy Director



whatcom county
library system

Youth Services Report

April 2024

COMMUNITY

DISCOVER THE POWER OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE UNDERSTAND DEATH AND LOSS

11 April 2024
8:00 PM ET
ZOOM

PANELIST Marie Eaton Community Champion
PANELIST Sylvia Tag Librarian and Associate Professor
PANELIST Thom Barthelmess Youth Services Manager
PANELIST Sarah Casey Mom

IN THE ROOM 2024

www.courageousparentsnetwork.org/events

On Thursday, April 11, 2024, I participated in an In the Room webinar sponsored by the Courageous Parents Network, a national non-profit organization that orients and empowers parents and others caring for children with serious medical conditions. I presented on Not If But When, the initiative I run with colleagues from Western Washington University to encourage and support sharing good books and stories about death and loss with children and teens throughout their lives. Well over 100 participants logged into this virtual conversation to learn about our work and share their own experiences and perspectives. Our initiative started locally and we have been gaining traction over the years. We

presented at the Washington State Hospice and Palliative Care Conference last fall though which we connected to this national organization. And I'll be traveling to Italy to share our work at the International Board on Books for Young People Congress later this summer. While not flashy, and often difficult, this is tremendously important work and I'm so gratified to find it resonating with so many people. You can learn more about the Courageous Parents Network at www.courageousparentsnetwork.org and learn about our project at www.notifbutwhen.org.

RESOURCES

The Youth Services and Community Relations teams are hard at work on the 2024 edition of *A Forest of Words*, our annual anthology of poetry by Whatcom County Teens, due to publish soon. This year's edition features 97 poems by 95 poets representing all eight public school districts in Whatcom County, associated homeschool academies, and the Lynden Christian School. Each poet gets a bound copy of the anthology. We also add a copy to the circulating collection at each location and include each poet's name in the associated record in our catalog. This is a signature effort for our department, showcasing the power of language, and asserting the value of the creativity and contribution of our next generation of writers and citizens. Our annual Poetry Reading and Celebration event happens at the Ferndale Library on Friday, May 10, 2024, from 6:30 to 8:00pm. The event features broadsides of all the poems, live readings, and our chance to congratulate the published poets on their achievement.

Thom Barthelmess

Youth Services Manager

COMMUNITY



WCLS honored Blaine community leader Joyce Vanderpol during National Library Week (April 7-13) at a special April 9 event at the Blaine Library. Members of the Blaine Library Friends of the Library, Blaine City Council member Kerena Higgins, WCLS staff and community members gathered to celebrate Joyce's gifts to the library.

Last year, Joyce presented us with an opportunity. If we had the funds, in

what new ways could we meet the needs of the Blaine community now? Not down the road, not in a new building, but something that could be done now.

Joyce shared our vision for what a small meeting room space could mean for our patrons and provided funding for a small meeting pod as well as funds for additional art hanging rail and forthcoming technological upgrades to Blaine's large meeting room space.

The small meeting pod opened to the public on April 6, 2023. Over the past year the pod has been reserved over 390 times (averaging 1.3 reservations per day) and been in use for over 900 hours (the equivalent of 37.5 days of continuous use). Community members have turned to the pod as a quiet place to study, work remotely, take part in Zoom meetings, place private phone calls, hold meetings, offer tutoring or counseling, conduct research, attend classes, and keep telehealth appointments, to name but a few uses. A plaque has been placed on the pod to honor Joyce's contribution.

This small community gathering in sincere appreciation for Joyce's donation and her belief in libraries delivered a lot of joy and made a positive impact.

News Releases

- [RFQ for the Administrative Services Feasibility Study – Whatcom County Library System \(wcls.org\)](https://wcls.org)
- [Whatcom READS announces 2025 book selection – Whatcom County Library System \(wcls.org\)](https://wcls.org)

Book Reviews

- *The Northern Light*, March 6, 2024, [Blaine book club review: 'Sourdough'](#)
- *The Northern Light*, March 6, 2024, [Friends of Birch Bay Library book club review: 'Boys in the Boat'](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, March 10, 2024, [Thunder Song: Essays by Sasha LaPointe](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, March 29, 2024, [Find Yourself at Home: A Conscious Approach to Shaping Your Space and Your Life](#)
- *Bellingham Alive*, March 2024. See clip below. Includes Whatcom READS event.

Book Notes *Life*

Book Reviews

WRITTEN BY MARY KINSER



"The Storm We Made"
by Vanessa Chan

In this evocative novel set in British-colonized Malaya, a chance encounter sets off a chain of events that irrevocably alters a family's life. Housewife Cecily Alcantara is charmed by merchant Bingley Chan when the two meet at a party in 1934. The two grow closer, and eventually Chan reveals his secret: his true name is General Fujiwara, and he is an agent for the Japanese Imperial Army seeking to cast off British rule. Fujiwara persuades Cecily to steal information from her husband's government employees—information that, years later, leads to a brutal period of Japanese occupation during WWII. Cecily's children and husband are caught in the net of violence brought on by the war. The two storylines are intertwined as both Cecily's actions and their effects are slowly revealed. Readers will be riveted by this absorbing story and the questions it asks about loyalty, honor, and the aftermath of war.



"The Frozen River"
by Ariel Lawhon

It's winter 1789 in Hallowell, Maine. Midwife Martha Ballard is summoned to the town's tavern to attend a patient. When she arrives, Martha is surprised to learn she's been asked to examine a body found frozen in the icy Kennebec River earlier that morning. The dead man is Joshua Burgess, who, along with another man, stands accused of raping a local woman. The rape has not been brought to trial, and Martha is one of the few who seems to believe an assault occurred. Now Burgess has been murdered. It's obvious to Martha that the rape and the murder are connected, and she slowly realizes that she might be the only one able to push for justice. As in her previous books, author Ariel Lawhon grounds this work in fact, drawing from Martha Ballard's real-life notes and journals to recreate true events. This is historical fiction done right—immersive and character-rich, a page-turner that's faithful to the past even as it addresses larger issues that are still relevant today.

Literary Events

March 2, 7:30 p.m.
Timothy Egan
Lincoln Theatre, 712 S. 1st St., Mount Vernon
360.336.8955, lincoltheatre.org

The Mount Vernon Library Foundation presents Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award-winning author Timothy Egan! Egan's books, including "A Fever in the Heartland," and "The Good Rain," will be available for purchase at the event courtesy of La Conner's Seaport Books, and Egan will stick around after his talk and Q&A for some signings!

March 14, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.
Whatcom READS: Book Discussion with Sasha taq Soblu LaPointe
Deming Library, 5044 Mt. Baker Hwy., Deming
360.592.2422, wcls.org

Join this year's Whatcom READS author for a lively discussion of her book, "Red Paint: the Ancestral Autobiography of a Coast Salish Pusk." If you can't make it to the Deming Library, there are other opportunities to see her live during March! Find them on [whatcomreads.org](#).

March 26, 6–7 p.m.
Soul Jar: Thirty-one Fantastical Tales by Disabled Authors
Village Books, 1200 11th St., Bellingham
360.671.2626, villagebooks.com

If you love sci-fi, you'll know that disability in the fictional future is often dealt with by a hand-waving, "Oh, we fixed that forever ago" kind of erasure. Meet with three of the authors behind "Soul Jar," a fiction anthology with disability representation at the forefront, as they speak about the book!

Media Coverage

Response to March Naloxone press release

- *Whatcom News*, March 1, 2024, [Whatcom Libraries to provide free overdose-reversing naloxone kits](#)
- *My Bellingham Now*, March 3, 2024, [Whatcom libraries to stock naloxone kit](#)
- *BNN*, March 3, 2024, [Whatcom County Libraries Partner with Health Department to Distrib...](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, March 7, 2024, [Whatcom County libraries are now providing free naloxone](#)
- *Salish Current*, March 8, 2024. See clip below.

Health and Safety

Library naloxone. Whatcom County Library System (WCLS) is partnering with the Washington State Department of Health to provide free naloxone kits to community members in need. The kits are available at WCLS's 10 branch locations. ([WCLS](#))

- *Salish Current*, March 4, 2024, [Sikh community's worship and gatherings are open to all](#)
- *The Northern Light*, March 6, 2024, [Library, condominium project draws interest](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, March 6, 2024, [Coast Salish author details healing through art in autobiography, upcoming workshops](#) (Whatcom READS)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, March 6, 2024, [Cocoa's picks: Banned books, flamenco and St. Patrick's parades](#) (Whatcom READS)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, March 6, 2024, [The puzzle of Birch Bay has a few missing pieces](#)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, March 8, 2024, [Mount Baker School District to sell historic Hopewell Grange building](#) (Everson Library, NookChats, Marv Fullner)
- *Cascadia Daily News*, March 11, 2024, [A day at Point Roberts Primary, one of Washington's smallest public schools](#)
- *The Northern Light*, March 20, 2024, [Around Blaine and Whatcom County](#)
- *All Point Bulletin*, March 29, 2024, [Going door-to-door for solar power](#)
- *Bellingham Herald*, March 30, 2024, [Whatcom READS announces its book selection for next year](#)

Salish Current (clips below)

Homelessness. Prof. Josephine Ensign shares her research on the history of homelessness in her hometown of Seattle, along with discussion of what these stories can teach us about the contemporary crisis of homelessness throughout our state and country. "Homelessness and the Meaning of Home," a Humanities Washington presentation, Blaine Library, 1 p.m. March 9. [Information.](#)

Native values. "What Is a Chief? How Native Values Can Teach Resilience." John Halliday, a Muckleshoot Tribal member of Duwamish ancestry, describes Native American world view, cultural traditions and values which have sustained Native tribes throughout history, long before colonization. March 30, 3 p.m., Deming Library. [Information.](#)

March 2024, *All Point Bulletin*

Library Giving Day: Wednesday, April 3, Point Roberts Library. It's a time to financially contribute in a more formal manner to the Whatcom County Library Foundation, which funds and promotes all the library branches in our system (WCLS). There will be refreshments! Everyone is welcome whether donating or not!

Mary Vermillion

Community Relations Manager

Collection Size	Physical	Electronic	Total
	308,900	347,437	656,337

Circulation	Mar 2023	Mar 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD % chg
Physical Circulation					
Blaine	12,848	13,252	36,696	36,160	-1.5%
Bookmobile & Outreach	4,881	4,408	13,775	13,038	-5.4%
Deming	8,586	8,164	23,998	23,780	-0.9%
Everson	9,363	9,424	28,939	26,037	-10.0%
Ferndale	33,530	33,646	95,272	94,934	-0.4%
Island	2,139	1,597	5,916	4,876	-17.6%
Lynden	40,904	37,972	116,193	106,388	-8.4%
North Fork	4,447	4,165	13,041	11,487	-11.9%
NWIC	17	14	40	24	-40.0%
Point Roberts + PRX	2,231	2,431	6,721	6,108	-9.1%
Sumas + SLX	2,407	2,562	3,605	6,860	90.3%
South Whatcom	8,139	8,072	22,892	22,170	-3.2%
NDX	3,551	3,459	10,009	9,640	-3.7%
Physical Circulation Total	133,043	129,166	377,097	361,502	-4.1%
Disc materials: DVDs, CDs	28,704	27,227	82,859	77,992	-5.9%
All other materials	103,119	100,925	291,058	280,176	-3.7%
Digital Circulation					
eBooks/eAudiobooks	32,482	36,673	95,745	107,836	12.6%
eMagazines	1,673	6,119	4,981	17,882	259.0%
eMusic	12,432	10,983	30,987	31,722	2.4%
Streaming Video	1,752	2,856	5,346	9,241	72.9%
Digital Circulation Total	48,339	56,631	137,059	166,681	21.6%
Grand Total	181,382	185,797	514,156	528,183	2.7%

Visitors (Door counts)	Mar 2023	Mar 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD % chg	Mar 2019
Blaine	6,335	6,900	18,405	19,897	8.1%	8,857
Deming	2,229	2,871	6,932	8,476	22.3%	3,905
Everson	2,822	3,194	8,470	9,326	10.1%	5,668
Ferndale	11,159	13,901	31,907	38,135	19.5%	17,333
Island	688	1,190	2,189	3,263	49.1%	1,450
Lynden	10,439	11,515	28,500	33,436	17.3%	17,316
NDX	299	343	881	969	10.0%	
North Fork	1,239	1,762	3,827	4,777	24.8%	2,826
Point Roberts + PRX	1,133	1,210	3,223	3,749	16.3%	1,318
Sumas + SLX	979	1,130	1,004	3,080	206.8%	1,724
South Whatcom	1,495	2,937	4,919	8,224	67.2%	2,207
Total	38,817	46,953	110,257	133,332	20.9%	62,604

New Borrowers	Mar 2023	Mar 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD % chg
	667	634	1,940	1,954	0.7%

Interlibrary Loan	Mar 2023	Mar 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD % chg
Borrowed from BPL	12,498	13,323	35,811	36,425	1.7%
Lent to BPL	22,744	22,967	66,484	66,822	0.5%
Borrowed: other libraries	740	654	1,675	1,958	16.9%
Lent: other libraries	620	624	1,636	1,821	11.3%

Electronic Resources	Mar 2023	Mar 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD % chg
WCLS.org Sessions	38,529	38,610	112,925	115,612	2.4%
Bibliocommons Sessions	55,118	104,017	161,098	293,356	82.1%
Internet Sessions	3,381	3,655	8,925	10,498	17.6%
Wifi Clients / Sessions	6,711	6,658	19,488	18,039	-7.4%

Volunteers	Mar 2023	Mar 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD % chg
	658	1,234	2,045	2,524	23.4%

Activities	Mar 2023	Mar 2024	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD % chg
Programs					
Adults	56	86	141	195	38.3%
Teens	17	21	54	48	-11.1%
Children	127	127	277	286	3.2%
Total	200	234	472	529	12.1%
Attendance					
Adults	1,121	1,807	2,122	2,722	28.3%
Teens	46	443	1,305	1,758	34.7%
Children	3,411	2,144	7,392	5,957	-19.4%
Total	4,578	4,394	10,819	10,437	-3.5%

Notes/Corrections:

SU door counter installed March 2023

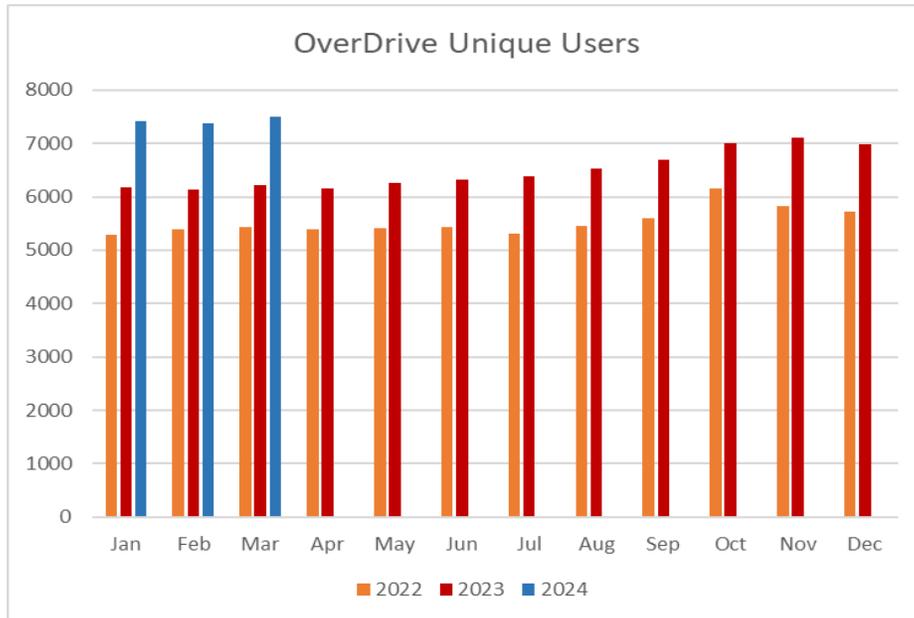
As of mid-September 2023, OverDrive changed the way it counts magazine circulations

Jan - June 2023 stats for Bibliocommons & WCLS.org track entrances not sessions due to Google

Analytics update in July 2023

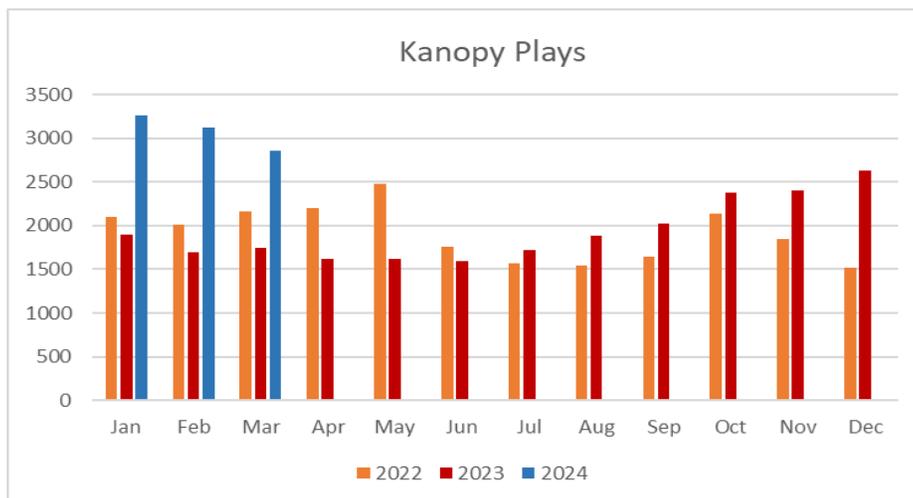
OVERDRIVE UNIQUE USERS

In March, OverDrive saw 7,504 unique WCLS users with 310 of them being new users to the platform. eAudiobook circulation continues to account for almost half of all circulation: 46% in March, with eBooks accounting for 40% and eMagazines 14%. The vast majority of eBook/eAudio checkouts are of adult materials (77%), with teen materials making up 10% and juvenile materials making up 13%. Top circulation items by format: *The New Yorker* (eMagazine - 326), *Iron Flame* by Rebecca Yarros (eAudio - 118) and *The Women* by Kristin Hannah (eBook - 45).



KANOPY PLAYS - JANUARY TO DECEMBER COMPARISON

As anticipated, once the WCLS Community Relations campaign focusing on Kanopy ended in February, usage dropped off slightly, although remains higher than months prior to the campaign. Kanopy use is pretty evenly divided by device type with a slight preference for desktop: desktop (34.1%), mobile (25.9%), TV (23.1%) and tablet (16.9%). *Farscape*, a film about an Earth astronaut who finds himself part of a fugitive alien starship crew, had the top number of Plays of any content (51).



DATABASE USAGE

Aggregated database usage was low again in March; use of school resources was low, as was use of Creativebug, Novelist and Reference Solutions. Use of Mango Languages increased 39% over March which corresponds to the WCLS Marketing Campaign focusing on Mango for this quarter.

Value Line had one of its best months in March, but this usage alone was not enough to move the needle on the aggregated use total.

