

# 2022 Annual Report

**Kate Larsen, Director**

Tuesday, Jan. 31

Joint Study Session of City Council  
and Tacoma Public Library Board of Trustees

**tacoma** public library

## Mission

(Our purpose and why we exist)

**We empower our community by bringing people together to discover, connect, create, learn, and thrive.**

## Equity and Access

Program priorities in 2023 expanded access to vital services.

TPL hosted:

- **Free legal aid and housing help** drop-in sessions with Tacomaprobono and Pierce County Human Services
- **Citizenship classes** with Tacoma Community House

TPL provided:

- **Sensory Accessibility Kits** creating a better library experience for all patrons
- Expansion of our **Museum and Local Attraction Passes**



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## Equity and Access

Spanish is the second most common language spoken in Tacoma. In 2022, Tacoma Public Library emphasized expanding our engagement with Spanish speakers. Multilingual staff located at Moore and Mottet help Spanish-speaking patrons with using technology, filing taxes online and in-person, reader's advisory, and navigating community and library resources. Spanish-speaking staff have designed and offered bilingual programs and programs in Spanish. TPL also partners with Mi Centro to expand services and resources for the Latinx community in our libraries.



Mi Centro holds monthly events at Moore Library to provide services for Latine/x families and businesses.



Weekly Spanish-language Storytimes are offered for families with young children.



Screen printing station with Mi Centro and Oaxacan artist Edgar Martinez at Moore Library during the Little Literary Festival.

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# Learning, Creativity, and Innovation

## Digital Literacy and Continued Education

Learning is a lifelong value at TPL, with many opportunities to gain a new skill with the support of staff and available resources:

- **Digital Literacy** assessments and workshops for improving basic computer skills
- **Podcast Café and Be Your Own Record Label** online learning cohorts with the Digital Media Lab
- **Discovering Your Family Tree** event series
- **Microsoft LinkedIn Learning and Imagine Academy**

Photo credit: Brian Cox

**Poetry Picnic: A Celebration of Poetry and Community** was presented in partnership with Tacoma Creates, Write253, Creative Colloquy, and Asia Pacific Cultural Center.



# Learning, Creativity, and Innovation

## Grants and Awards

TPL's excellence in several areas was awarded through either new or ongoing grant funding in 2022, equipping us with the necessary resources to expand or create new services, programs, and resources. We diligently pursued funding where available to bolster our growing services.

WA State Dept of Commerce, pass-through from Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services

**\$58,850**

used for new public computing desks and chairs



National Endowment for the Humanities

**\$10,000**

awarded for programming and supplies



John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award

**\$10,000**



WA Secretary of State, pass-through from Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services

**\$3,000**

for online tracking (digital Summer Reading app Zoobean/Beanstack)



DC Public Library, pass-through from Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services

**\$10k** for equipment



Gates Foundation

**\$50,000/year for 2023-2024**

unrestricted

BILL & MELINDA GATES Foundation

## Investment in Youth

### Summer Reading Challenge

The 2022 program drew increased community participation with a fantastic offering of in-person and virtual programs, both at libraries and offsite at parks and beaches.

#### Summer Reading Challenge At-A-Glance:

**Events 349**

(237 in 2021)

**Attendees 7,118**

(1,625 in 2021)

**Sign-ups 2,663**

(1,859 in 2021)

**Completions 1,012**

(604 in 2021)



Attendees at Mottet Library learn about tide pool creatures with Harbor WildWatch. Photo credit: Brian Cox

### Storytime S.T.E.A.M. Backpacks

Backpacks with learning toys and activities began circulating in early 2022. They can be checked out from any library location and each backpack features books, toys, and activities.

**Total Checkouts  
422**



## Investment in Youth



### Tacoma Creates

Continued support from the Tacoma Creates initiative brought exciting partnerships and a huge increase in events.



Programs **63** | Attendees **1283**  
Partner Organizations **25**

Tiny Tots with Tacoma Little Theatre at Kobetich Library .

### The Pathway Partnership

The partnership between Tacoma Public Library and Tacoma Public School District (TPS) allows every TPS student (Pre-K–12) and teachers to have library access using their student or employee ID card.

#### 21–22 School Year Overview

Active students (at least 1 checkout) **1,170**

Physical items checked out **7,831**

Digital users **4,486**

Digital checkouts **18,568**

Educator digital users **316**

Educator checkouts **1,007**





## Cultivate and Engage Community

TPL staff participated in a variety of community events and festivals to increase visibility for library services and reach new audiences.

Highlights include:

- Lunar New Year Festival in the Lincoln Business District
- South Sound Sustainability Expo
- Tacoma Ocean Fest at Thea Foss Waterway

- McKinley Neighborhood Fair
- Back to School Night at First Creek Middle School
- Tacoma Moon Festival with Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation
- Festival Latinx with Tacoma Arts Live



## Cultivate and Engage Community



### Community Archives Center

The Community Archives Center (CAC) at Tacoma Public Library was established with funding from a \$250K IMLS grant to begin addressing the gaps and silences existing in the local history record through a community-driven, participatory process. CAC partnered with the community to collect, preserve, and make content available through the Northwest ORCA digital collections platform.



Rally for Reproductive Rights  
May 7: Kat Wood holds a sign at a protest outside the Union Station building in Tacoma.



Salishan Story Fest photo submission: Mr. Booker and Mr. Martin, best friends, 1966/67.

Outreach and community events included:

- Black History Month Celebration at the Peoples Community Center
- Project Homeless Connect at St. Leo Parish
- Sustainability Expo at the University of Washington-Tacoma
- Salishan Outdoor Movie Night at the Salishan Family Investment Center
- Salishan National Night Out at the Salishan Family Investment Center
- Eastside Farmers Market
- Hilltop Street Fair

# Cultivate and Engage Community



## Tacoma Reads 2022

Focus: Hope, Resilience, Community



Book discussion with author Julia Alvarez and Mayor Woodards.

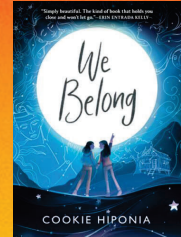
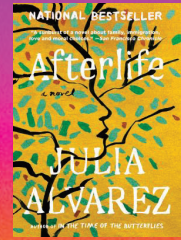


Filipino cooking demonstration with chef Jan Parker and author Cookie Hiponia.



Storytimes, arts activities, workshops, and live performances at the Little Literary Fest.

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# Cultivate and Engage Community

## Feasibility Study for Hilltop and Eastside Library Services

The Tacoma Public Library (TPL) once had libraries in the Eastside and Hilltop neighborhoods. Delayed by the Coronavirus Pandemic in 2020, this project studied the best way to restore library services to the Eastside and Hilltop neighborhoods. The study began in late 2021 and was completed in 2022.

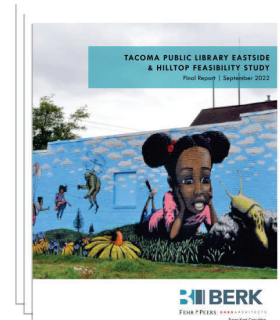
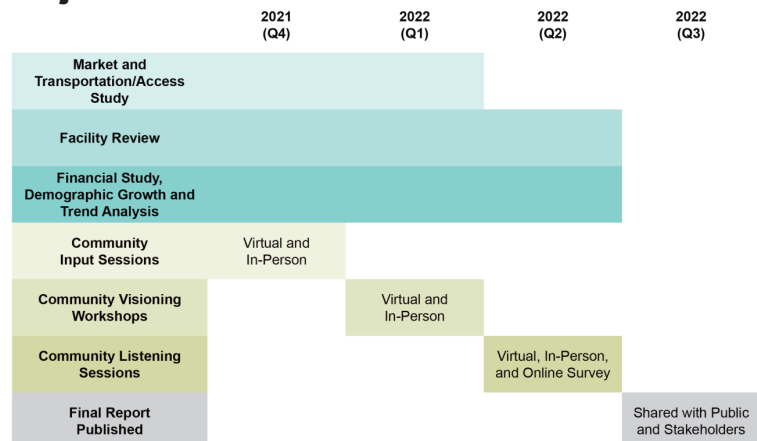


Photo credit: Brian Cox

## Project Overview and Timeline





## Responsible and Resilient



### Northwest ORCA

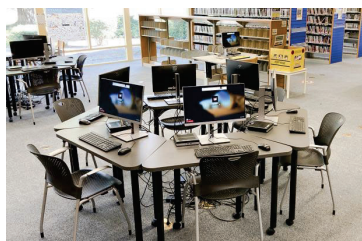
The Northwest Room team organized, arranged, and described large parts of their physical collections to build **Northwest Online Records and Collections Access (ORCA)**. Simply put, ORCA is an online database that allows you to explore descriptions of the Northwest Room's collections. With it, you can access both digitized and born-digital content, explore 3D images, mayor's papers, letters, audio and video recordings, and much more! The online database launched in April of 2022 and continues to grow as more materials are digitized and created.

Pictured left: Son Deth, a Cambodian refugee, with two of her children on May 31, 1975. Son Deth moved with her family to Pierce County in 1975. This photo is one of thousands now available online as part of Northwest ORCA.

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## Responsible and Resilient

Upgrades in our **IT Department** continue to improve library services and patron experiences.



**expanded computing stations** with new furniture at every location

established fleet of **projectors** for staff to use in programs

with Finance Office, modernized cash registers to a **tablet-based credit card system**



improved public printing experience in libraries and launched **ePrintIt remote printing**

new **self-service catalog stations**

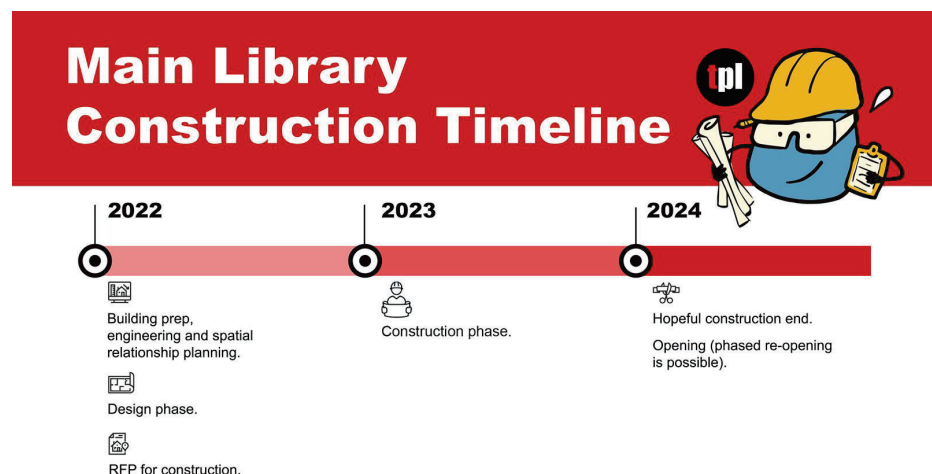
The **Facilities Department** tackled important safety and infrastructure projects in 2022.

Branch **parking lot lighting upgraded** to LED fixtures

**elevator modernization completed** at the Main Library

# Responsible and Resilient

The Main Library, located at 1102 Tacoma Avenue South, is undergoing a refresh to update the facility and create space for community partner tenants. While construction is underway, the lobby of Main Library remains open for limited services. Main Library's Digital Media Lab and Northwest Room are open for appointment-based visits.



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## tpl foundation

### Board of Directors

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**Megan Smedsrud**, Board of Directors | Senior Program Officer, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation

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**Thank you.  
Questions?**

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