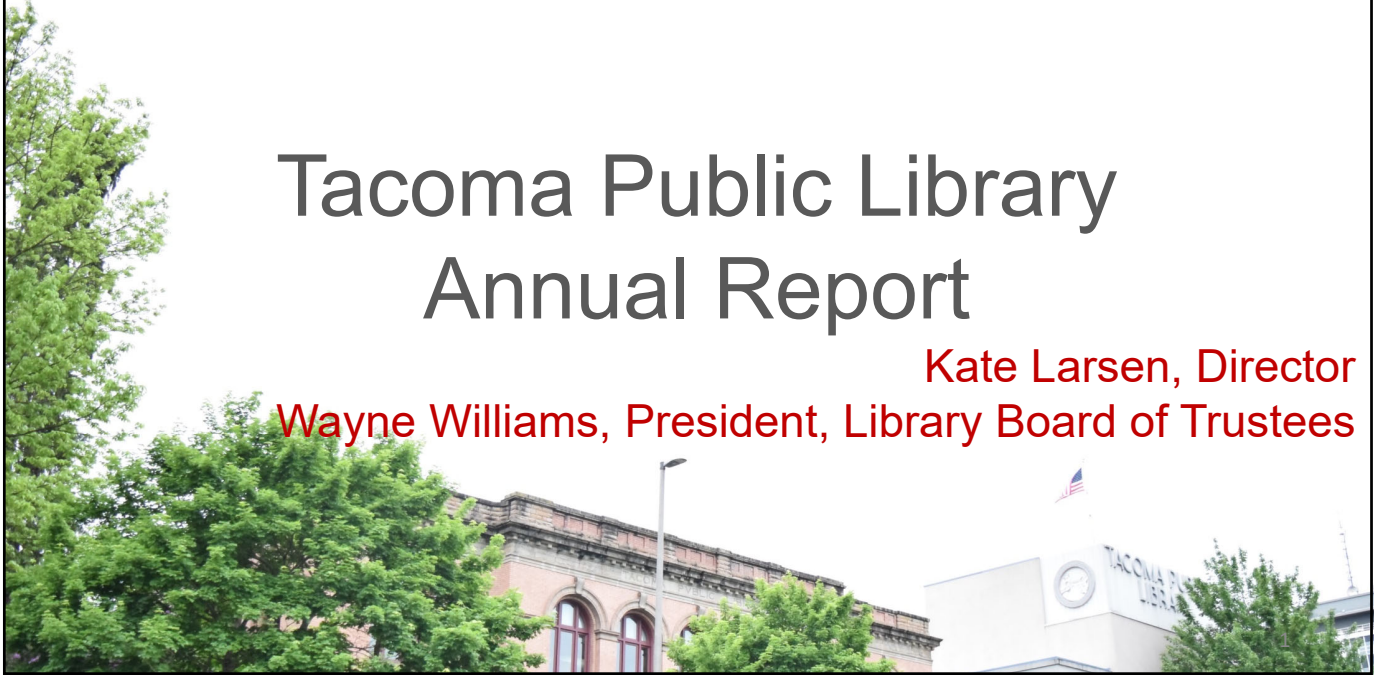


Tacoma Public Library Annual Report

Kate Larsen, Director

Wayne Williams, President, Library Board of Trustees



- Orientation to the Library's history and reporting structure
- Introduction of Wayne Williams, President, Library Board of Trustees
- Strategic Direction
- Review of 2018 and things to come in 2020



The Early Years

Forming Tacoma's Library

Tacoma was incorporated on November 12, 1875

May 3, 1881 'New Tacoma Library Association' forms, but does not last

In 1885 four women meet at the Frank Clark residence (1001 A St) to form a library

May 5, 1886, the Mercantile Library of Tacoma is formed; three years later the group donates their collection to form the Tacoma Public Library, which is allocated \$75/month from City funds

1892 First librarian hired

1893 library moves into 5th floor of old City Hall (New City Hall then!)



3

Carnegie Era

1901 Andrew Carnegie funds the construction of a library,
it opens June 4, 1903



4

Carnegie Era

South Tacoma



May 3, 1911 South Tacoma branch opens



1959 the new South Tacoma branch opens



5

Carnegie Era

Jacqueline Noel
becomes the first female
library director, 1924-1946
(she also came up with the phrase
"Almond Roca"
for Brown & Haley Candy)



As his last official act on January 26, 1924, Tacoma City Librarian John Boynton Kaiser passed the keys of the Carnegie Library to his successor Miss Jacqueline Noel.



Noel deserves credit for having raised most of the funds for the McCormick (now Wheelock) and Mottet branches.



6

Branching Out

Both McCormick and Mottet were built entirely with donations.
Mottet opens in the midst of the great depression.



Anna E. McCormick branch opens in 1927, becomes Wheelock in 1996.



Charlotte White Mottet library opens, 1930, and is remodeled several times.



Branching Out

1940s-1950s

Tacoma votes to move to a mayor and city-manager style of government in 1952.



Bookmobile service ran from the late 1940s, ending in early 1960s.



In 1950 Fern Hill library opens, gets a new building in 1989.



Growing with Tacoma

1940s-1950s



Grace R. Moore branch opens 1950, is demolished in 1988.



The new Moore branch opens in 1989.



9

Main Library

Expansion 1952



Main branch expansion (notice Carnegie building on far left) includes Handforth Gallery, still open today.



View from the corner of S 11th St.



10

Growing with Tacoma

1960-1980



George R. Swasey branch opens
October 8, 1960.



Mary Rose Kobetich branch opens
June 1980.



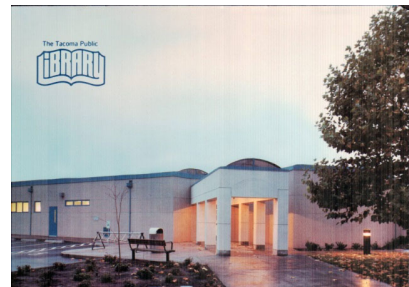
11

Growing with Tacoma

1980s



Swan Creek library opens 1988.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Library opens
January 16, 1989.



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Main Library

Expansion 1990



87,708 square foot Main encompasses the city's original Carnegie Library. Funding for the \$5.1 million 1990 renovation and expansion was provided through passage of a \$15.8 million Library Construction Bond approved by Tacoma voters in 1984. Inset: The restored glass skylight of the Carnegie Library.

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Closures

2011



Swan Creek library closes 2011

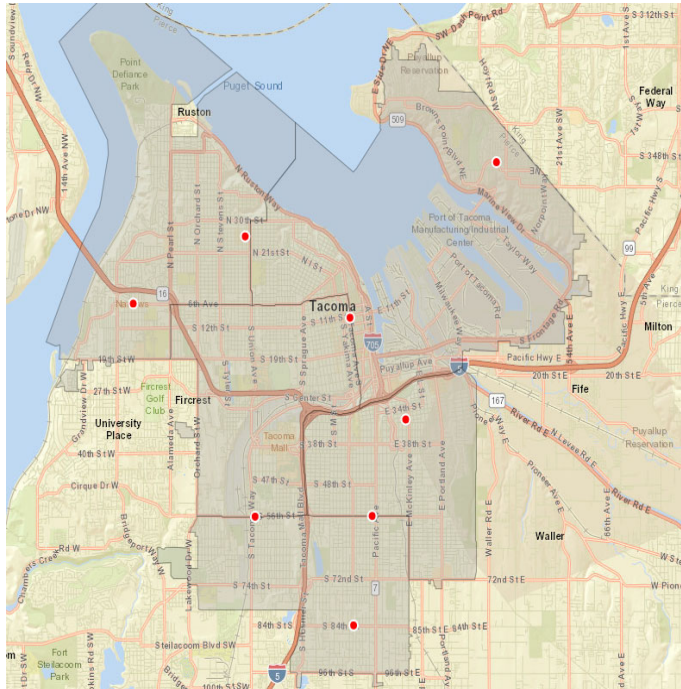


Martin Luther King, Jr. Library closes 2011

14

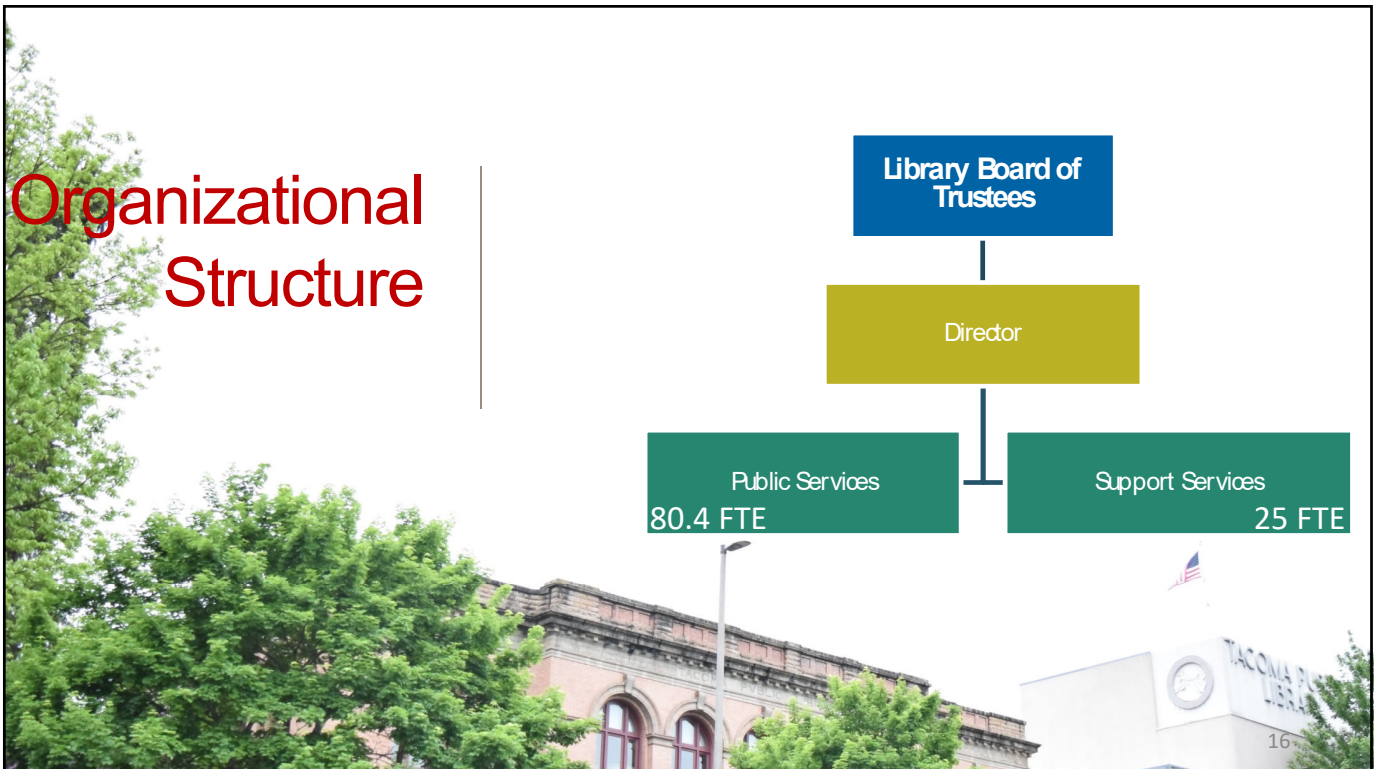
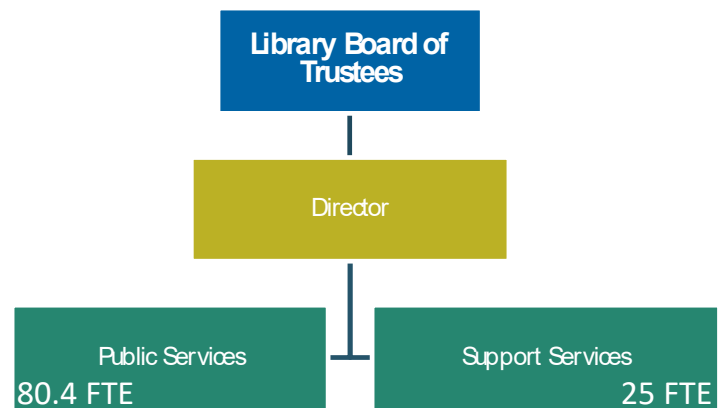
Today

8 locations,
40 hrs/wk of public service
2 planned microlibraries



15

Organizational Structure



Library Board of Trustees

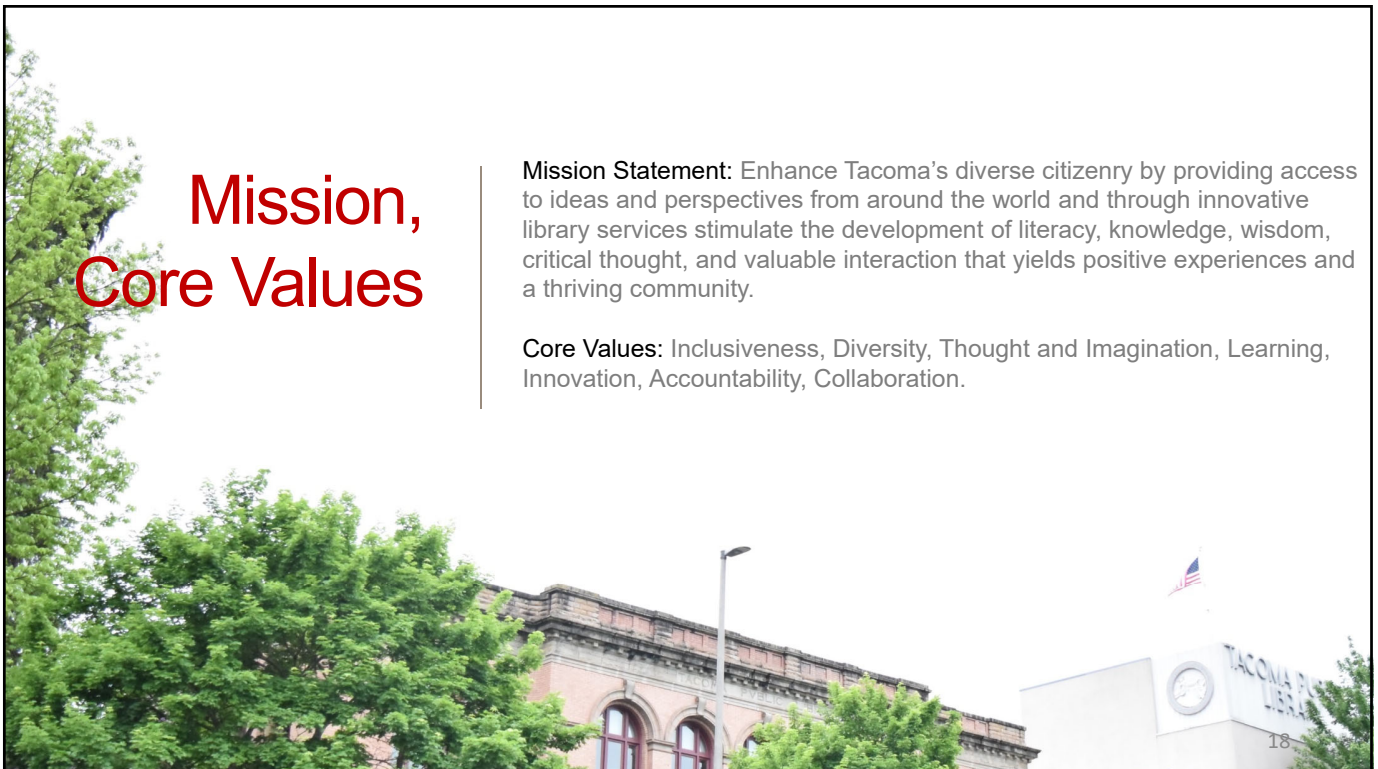


Sarah Irish · Wayne Williams · Jack Connolly · John Hines · Donna LaFrance

Mission, Core Values

Mission Statement: Enhance Tacoma's diverse citizenry by providing access to ideas and perspectives from around the world and through innovative library services stimulate the development of literacy, knowledge, wisdom, critical thought, and valuable interaction that yields positive experiences and a thriving community.

Core Values: Inclusiveness, Diversity, Thought and Imagination, Learning, Innovation, Accountability, Collaboration.





Tacoma 2025

We share, support, and integrate Tacoma's goals

Digital Equity and Digital Access Maintain and expand the infrastructure to support high-speed internet access and connectivity

Access to the Library Increase access to library services and facilities

Education and Workforce Development Support students of all ages in structured and/or self-directed study to graduate on time and seek post-secondary training and certifications

Community Needs Collect, interpret, and apply data to learn about community needs and interests

Equitable Service Delivery Improve and increase library services to people whose first language is not English



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Partnerships & Positioning

We're integral to ... Everything

The Library should be seen by the public and local leaders as an integral contributor to education, lifelong learning, information access, art and literature, and quality of life for all Tacomans.

The Library should be one of the things people mention when a visitor asks "What makes living in Tacoma so great?"



20

Libraries Transform Tacoma

Turning Outward to Lead Change



21

Aspirations, Challenges, New Conditions

Asking the Right Questions

My hope is to live in a community where _____ (aspirations)

However, right now we face _____ (challenges)

In order to get there as a community, we need to _____
(new conditions, change)



22

Questions we asked

1. What kind of community do you want?
2. Given what we just said, what are the two or three most important issues when it comes to the community?
3. What concerns do you have about these issues? Why?
4. How do the issues we're talking about affect you personally?
5. What do you think is keeping us from making the progress we want?
6. What are the kinds of things people like us could do to make a difference?
7. Which groups or individuals would you trust to take action on these things?
8. If we came back together in six months or a year, what might you see that would tell you that the things we talked about tonight were starting to happen?

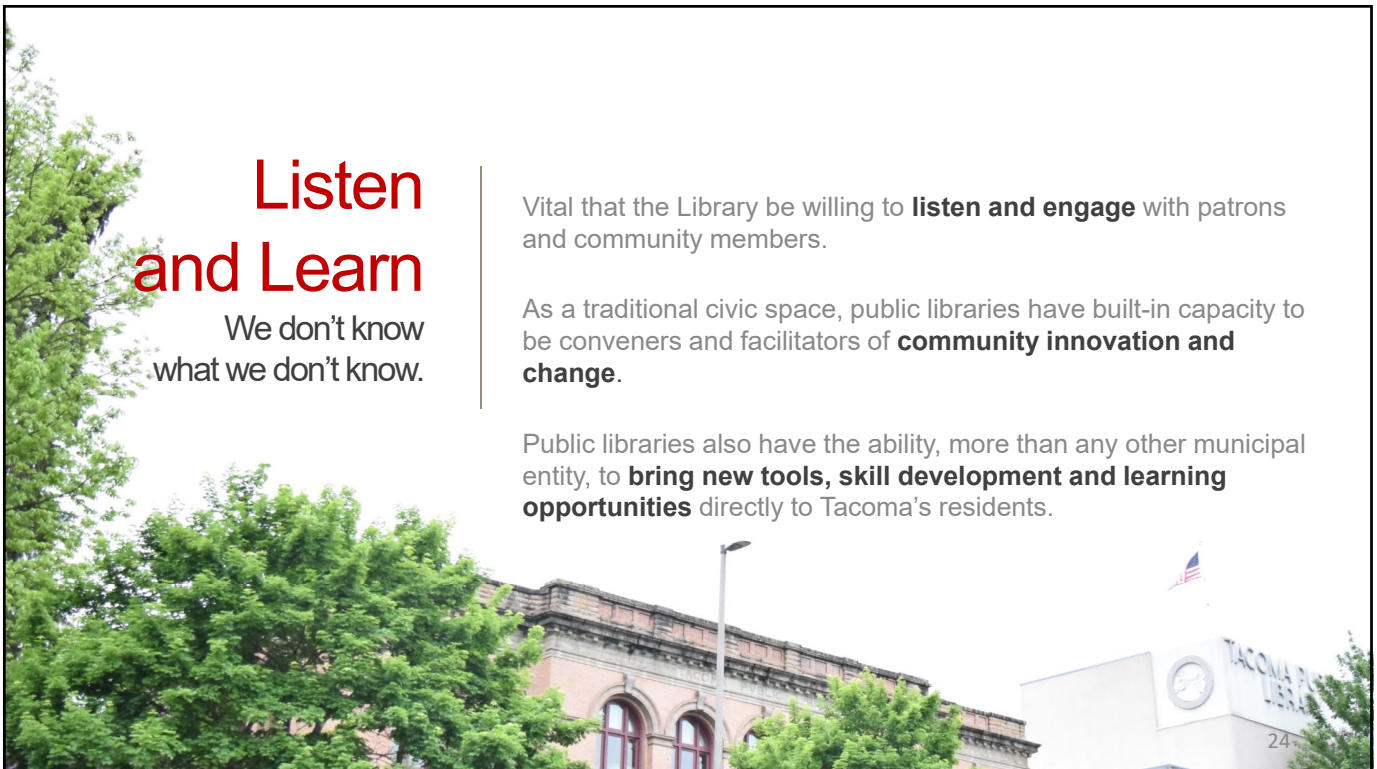
Listen and Learn

We don't know
what we don't know.

Vital that the Library be willing to **listen and engage** with patrons and community members.

As a traditional civic space, public libraries have built-in capacity to be conveners and facilitators of **community innovation and change**.

Public libraries also have the ability, more than any other municipal entity, to **bring new tools, skill development and learning opportunities** directly to Tacoma's residents.







What we learned

1. Safety
 2. Housing
 3. Affordability
 4. Inclusivity/Cultural and Racial Equity
 5. Transportation
-

7. Education/Lifelong Learning
8. Civic Engagement/Social Interaction
9. Food insecurity/accessibility
9. Healthcare
10. Cultural Activities/Quality of Life

What we'll do

1. Safety
 2. Housing
 3. Affordability
 4. Inclusivity/Cultural and Racial Equity
 5. Transportation
-

7. Education/Lifelong Learning
8. Civic Engagement/Social Interaction
9. Food insecurity/accessibility
9. Healthcare
10. Cultural Activities/Quality of Life

Strategic Accomplishments

BETTER UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES

- Eliminated library materials processing backlog, streamlined procedures, keeping turnaround time under 10 days, from a 90-100 day deficit
- Circulation increased for the first time in years
- We continue to break our own e-book circulation numbers
- Renewed cooperation and restoration of COT services
- Stabilizing frontline staffing, creating and hiring key positions

FUNDING

- \$3M in capital improvements to 4 branches
- \$1.5M in Information Technology uplift
- Increase in materials budget
- Funding for Microlibraries, including 1FT librarian
- Feasibility Study for Hilltop and Eastside library services
- New Sunday Hours

Strategic Accomplishments

STRATEGY & PARTNERSHIPS

- Robust strategic planning process will happen this year
- New partnerships are being forged MetroParks, Tacoma Housing Authority
- PIO will market and promote our programs and services, making the library more visible to the public and to decision makers
- Policy updates
- Tacoma Reads & Summer Reading

OPERATIONS

- Work has begun to improve onboarding, orientation, training, and professional development procedures
- Work has begun on an emergency preparedness plan
- Work has begun towards instituting performance evaluations connected to competencies and strategic goals
- Security cameras and a card-swipe door access system

Thank You

Kate Larsen, Director : klarsen@tacomalibrary.org
Wayne Williams, President, Library Board of Trustees

