

Publication of the agenda and the approximate times are a guide to, and not a limitation on, the activities of Trustees.

**Central Library, 210 Central Avenue, Bellingham, Washington  
Lecture Room – 3:30 p.m.**

<b><u>AGENDA</u></b>	<b><u>TIME (approx.)</u></b>
<b>1. Call to order and introductions</b>	2 min
<b>2. Approve/modify agenda</b>	1 min
<b>3. Public comment</b> This time is set aside for members of the public to make comments or ask questions. We ask that remarks be limited to three minutes.	3 min
<b>4. Consent agenda</b> All matters listed on the consent agenda are considered routine and may be approved in a single motion. A trustee may ask that an item be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Communications and FYI</b></li><li>• <b>Minutes</b> March 19, 2019: Regular board meeting &amp; Special board meeting</li><li>• <b>Library performance &amp; activity measures</b> March 2019</li><li>• <b>Financial reports</b> Claims: March 2019 YTD report: March 2019</li></ul>	4 min
<b>5. Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board Chair</li><li>• Library Board members</li><li>• City Council liaison</li><li>• Friends of Bellingham Public Library</li><li>• Library Director</li></ul>	10 min
	<b>Time check: 3:50</b>
<b>6. 2019 Goals – quarterly update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rebecca Judd, Director</li></ul>	15 min
<b>7. Facilities Committee report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rick Osen, Board Chair</li></ul>	5 min
<b>8. Strategic Planning update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rebecca Judd, Director and Janice Keller, Communications, Community Relations &amp; Programming Manager</li></ul>	5 min
	<b>Time check: 4:15</b>

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|--|-------------------------|
| <b>9. Rates &amp; Fees structure</b>     | 20 min                  |
| • Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services |                         |
| <b>10. New business</b>                  | 5 min                   |
| <b>11. Action items for next meeting</b> | 2 min                   |
|  | <b>Time check: 4:42</b> |
| <b>12. Adjourn</b>                       |                         |

**Next Regular Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 – 3:30 p.m.**  
**Location: Fireplace Room, Fairhaven Branch Library, 1117 12<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Bellingham, Washington**

The library meeting rooms are ADA accessible; however, if you require a sign interpreter or other hearing accommodation, please allow the library 48 hours notice. Order of agenda items may be adjusted.

## Library hosts “Community Conversations” to help shape future vision

by Janice Keller, Bellingham Public Library / March 29, 2019 (Friday)



What do you care about? Libraries can help.

The Bellingham Public Library is reaching out this spring to learn about people's aspirations for their community, as part of planning for the library's future.

The library is hosting a series of Community Conversations, intending to gather public knowledge on a range of topics of interest to community members. With this information, library leaders will determine where the library can help in the future and form its strategic directions accordingly.

The Community Conversations will take several different forms: some will be public meetings, some will be scheduled around specific themes or with specific groups, and some will be individual interviews with people at events and gatherings. Dates and times for Community Conversations can be found on the library online calendar and are listed below.

“We believe we will get the most impactful and useful information by simply talking to people in our community,” Bellingham Public Library Director Rebecca Judd explained. She said each conversation is a chance for us to better understand people's aspirations for their community, the concerns they have, and what they believe might make a difference in strengthening it.

“We'll take what we learn from these conversations and use it to help make our work more effective,” she said.

Judd said Community Conversations will be held April through June. The results will be used in the library's strategic plan update, scheduled to be considered by the Library Board of Trustees during Fall 2019 and approved by the end of the year.

"The questions we are asking were developed by the American Library Association to help libraries better understand the communities they serve," Judd said. "We can't promise these conversations will lead to specific new programs, policies, or services, but we do promise to listen carefully and develop our plans for the future based on this input."

### **Community Conversation Schedule**

Join us for a 90-minute group conversation. No registration required.

- Tuesday, April 2, 10:15 a.m. to Noon, Central Library Lecture Room
- Saturday, April 27, 1:30 to 3:15 p.m., Central Library Lecture Room
- Tuesday, April 30, 6:00 to 7:45 p.m., Central Library Lecture Room
- Thursday, May 2, 3:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m., Fairhaven Library Fireplace Room
- Tuesday, May 7, 10:15 a.m. to Noon, Fairhaven Library Fireplace Room
- Thursday, May 16, 10:15 a.m. to Noon, Central Library Lecture Room

### **For More Information**

For more information about Community Conversations and the library's strategic planning process, visit [www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org](http://www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org)

### **Media Contacts**

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# Shelter Overwhelm: One Community's Response

by Suzane Carlson-Prandini

On Thursday, February 6, 2019 the Bellingham Public Library opened as usual, but with an added element of service to the community: The Emergency Day Center (EDC) went operational for the first time.

What is the EDC and why is it located at the library? Residents of Bellingham, like many other people around Washington State, experience extremely low residential vacancy rates, increasingly expensive housing, as well as increasing numbers of people who find themselves without housing for a multitude of reasons.

Bellingham has a network of social services that include housing, but there is only one low barrier shelter run by the Lighthouse Mission Ministries. Various nonprofits, religious organizations, and the current City administration have made efforts to address the needs of unhoused citizens with a specific focus on the winter months. Over the last couple of years, there have been a number of efforts to expand shelter capacity, but determining a location for an additional facility has proven fruitless. As a result, demand on existing services sometimes exceeds capacity, especially during times of extreme weather.

Knowing that shelter capacity would be exceeded this winter, the current City administration reached out to various City departments and community partners to meet the imminent need. This resulted in several trial solutions,

**“ People expressed support and gratitude for the library playing a role in caring for those most vulnerable in our community during a time of high need. ”**

including a contingency plan to use the Bellingham Public Library's Lecture Room as an Emergency Day Center.

Two conditions must be met in order for the EDC to open: A life-endangering weather event occurring and the Lighthouse Mission Drop-In Center exceeding capacity. The EDC doesn't become a drop-in center, however. Local churches

already have an established backup plan for nights when the Drop-In Center at the Lighthouse Mission is too full. What was required was a place during the day for the women selected for the overflow night program. It needed to be a place the women could safely stay between the hours of 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. The library provides the space by re-assigning any programs to other library spaces and

providing a cart of free books, coloring pages, and puzzles. The Lighthouse Mission provides staffing for the room as well as coordinates a midday meal, beverages, and snacks with financial support from the City. By creating a place for these women to be during the day, the Drop-In Center gains capacity.

A number of City departments and community partners coordinated efforts during the ten day period that the EDC remained open. These included the Lighthouse Mission Ministries staff,

Police, the Homeless Outreach Team, Whatcom County's Certified Emergency Response Team, the Mayor's Office, Planning, Facilities, and Library staff.

This particular winter storm provided learning opportunities for



*Bellingham Public Library during a February 2019 snow storm*

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*Suzane Carlson-Prandini is a Public Services Librarian at Bellingham Public Library.*

all through its duration and intensity. Drop-In Center capacity was further challenged by both a frozen water pipe and a frozen sewer pipe, leaving the Drop-In Center without running water or functioning indoor toilets for days on end, further exacerbating an extremely challenging and crowded living environment.

The storm also stretched staffing capacity at multiple organizations. The library struggled to adequately staff all buildings, especially on the day the City closed due to inclement weather.

For the first time in memory, library staff were deemed essential personnel during a City closure. Branch libraries remained closed allowing available staff who could make it to work to report to the Central Branch, thus keeping the doors open to the public.

Community member and staff responses to library resources being deployed in such a fashion ranged across the spectrum. People expressed support and gratitude for the library playing a role in caring for those most vulnerable in our community during a time of high need. Others expressed dismay that their library had been turned into a warming center and shelter. Yet others demanded to know why only a small number of preselected people were allowed access to the EDC. They expressed anger and frustration that more wasn't being done to address the suffering of people still on the streets.

Assessment of efforts is currently underway and there are numerous impacts to be evaluated. Whether the EDC opens again at the library depends on future forecasts and the will of the community at large to create alternatives.

Regardless of where one stands on the topic of library space as shelter, it quickly became evident that the library, both online and in the physical building, became a place for community discussion on a pressing community topic. If libraries are indeed places for civic engagement and discourse, then in this moment Bellingham Public Library exemplified the concept of library as forum.



*Lecture Room at Bellingham Public Library, which functioned as an Emergency Day Center during inclement weather*

## Bibliography

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Davila, Vianna, "Can better data better help people in need?" *Seattle Times* (Seattle, WA), February 24, 2019.

"Library to offer emergency day center for women during coldest days." City of Bellingham. <https://www.cob.org/news/Pages/features/Library-to-offer-space-for-womens-shelter-during-coldest-days.aspx> (accessed February 16, 2019)

"Most City of Bellingham Offices Closed Tuesday." City of Bellingham. <https://www.cob.org/news/Pages/features/Most-City-of-Bellingham-offices-closed-Tuesday.aspx> (accessed February 22, 2019)

Relyea, Kie. "Number of homeless in Bellingham continues to rise. Will a permanent shelter get built?" *The Bellingham Herald* online, last modified September 18, 2018. <https://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/local/article218272270.html>

## Join WLA

The Washington Library Association includes some of the best and brightest members of the Washington library community.

We are united by our care for the well-being of Washington libraries. For more information, visit our website at [wla.org](http://wla.org). Explore the site and make our business your business.

Membership information is at [wla.org/membership](http://wla.org/membership).

# What you need to know about (free!) streaming service Kanopy

By Maureen Lee Lenker

January 18, 2019 at 10:00 AM EST



Imagine being able to stream thousands of movies at home, no monthly payment required. Now you can with Kanopy, which began streaming in the U.S. in 2012 and is now available to anyone with a participating library card.

The unexpected 2018 demise of the subscription service FilmStruck left a gaping hole in the streaming landscape when it came to classic movies,

independent cinema, and original content. FilmStruck fostered film literacy with bonus features offering cultural context and deep dives into film history.

SUBSCRIBE

Kanopy CEO Olivia Humphrey acknowledges her platform's differences, including Kanopy's lack of contextualizing features. But since the news broke of FilmStruck's closure in October, Kanopy has seen a 162 percent increase in new users. "We're all working toward the same goal of getting more people watching these films," says Humphrey. "We have a huge, huge audience and we're interested in making these films accessible to a wider market — not necessarily a cinephile market, but talking to anybody who's interested in film wherever they are around the world."

Kanopy, which partners with 4,000 public libraries and academic institutions as well as acclaimed independent distributors like Criterion and A24, says its mission is one of "thoughtful entertainment." Humphrey elaborates, "What that means is stories that spark conversations, that educate or show how other people think or live, or at the very least, leave you [with] a sense of feeling enriched." This means showcasing underrepresented voices and world cinema that often misses out on wide-scale North American releases.

The most viewed films in 2018 showcase the platform's breadth with documentaries like *Faces Places*, new indie releases like *Hearts Beat Loud*, and classics like *Charade* making the list. There's a hardworking curatorial team that assesses every film placed in Kanopy's library as to whether it meets the criteria to deem it thoughtful and culturally significant.

"We have such a wide audience," says Humphrey. "We have people who can't afford an internet connection that go down to the local public library to watch.... That's a really important demographic for us, [as much as] cinephiles in L.A. and New York." Part of serving that audience is finding what Humphrey calls "content gaps" in other streaming platforms and trying to fill the void. That means offering up a wide array of classic films that might not be available elsewhere or outside of a library setting.



Kanopy's roots are in academia, having launched as a partner with Australian universities in 2008, and therefore, they often look to professors to fill gaps.

SUBSCRIBE

Professors at participating institutions can request films be added to the service that they are looking to screen in class. "Our feeling is generally the films they're requesting are films a wider audience would be attracted to," Humphrey notes. "We have someone dedicated to what we call a search-and-find service for professors. [They] help us find these rarer titles that might not be a blockbuster title on Kanopy, but [is] really important to the wider story of the thoughtful entertainment brand."

Humphrey says Kanopy sees preservation, in a loose sense of the word, is part of the service's job, as they partner with libraries and academic institutions doing the actual work of preservation to increase accessibility to the materials. They also hope to be promoting users to connect with and engage with their local libraries. Humphrey proudly notes that the New York Public Library had its record day of new member sign-ups in its over 100 year history the first-day Kanopy became available, and she hopes that trend can continue. "We want independent films to be available in more and more homes, so we can have more libraries signing up, public and academic," she says of their goals for 2019. "We want to make sure our content remains as strong as it is and keep bringing new titles to our audience."

While media conglomerates develop rival services, Kanopy is the only free platform with a catalog of culturally significant offerings. We may never fill the FilmStruck-size hole in our hearts, but Kanopy can help you dull the pain.

See the full list of Kanopy's top viewed films of 2018 below.

### **Top Films of 2018 in Public Library Accounts**

- Loving Vincent
- Kedi
- Moonlight
- First Reformed
- Hearts Beat Loud

## Hunt for the Wilderpeople



**SUBSCRIBE**

- Lady Bird
- The Phone Call
- I Am Not Your Negro
- My Friend Dahmer
- Boy
- Faces Places
- Seven Samurai
- Ex Libris
- Harold and Maude
- Dogtooth

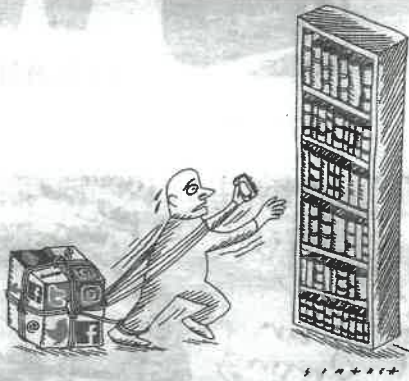
### Top 5 Classic Films of 2018

1. Seven Samurai
2. Charade
3. 8 ½
4. Indiscreet
5. Breathless

***For more on Kanopy, pick up the new issue of Entertainment Weekly on stands Friday, or buy one – or three – of our collector's covers featuring Jensen Ackles, Misha Collins, and Jared Padalecki now. A very special cover featuring the Winchester family is also available for purchase exclusively at Barnes & Noble. Don't forget to subscribe for more exclusive interviews and photos, only in EW.***

### Related Links:

- ***Moonlight, Lady Bird, and more A24 Films now available to watch for free on Kanopy***
- ***Criterion Collection to launch new streaming service after FilmStruck shutdown***
- ***FilmStruck, streaming service for the cinephile, officially shutting down***



# 787,677

Number of in-person visits to the central branch of the Bellingham Public Library in 2018. The library typically receives around 700,000 visits each year. Website visits exceeded 620,490 in 2018. National Library Week is April 7-13, 2019.

# 1,573,254

Total items checked out of the Bellingham Public Library in 2018. Of these, roughly a third (551,118) were children's items.

# 79,690

Number of public internet sessions logged on the Bellingham Public Library's 42 public computers in 2018.

# 388,703

Total items in the collection of the Whatcom County Library System.

# 2,065,164

Total circulation of the Whatcom County Library System in 2018.

# 55

Percent of polled voters who view the library as an essential public institution.

# 58

Percent of polled voters who believe public libraries advance the education of the American people.

# 70

Percent of polled voters who say they visited a public library last year.

# 60

Percent of voters who mistakenly believe primary funding for public libraries comes from sources other than local.

SOURCES: Bellingham Public Library; Whatcom County Library System Annual Report; American Library Association; Pew Research Center

FOOD
B-BOARD 24
FILM 22
MUSIC 18
ART 16
STAGE 15
GET OUT 14
WORDS 12
CURRENTS 10
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04.03.19
#14.14
CASCADIA WEEKLY
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Cascadia Weekly  
04-03-2019  
Issue 14

# Bellingham Public Library



**Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees  
Tuesday, March 19, 2019 – Central Library Lecture Room  
3:30 p.m.**

Minutes of Actions and Decisions of the Library Board of Trustees of the Bellingham Public Library as authorized by RCW 27.12.210 and SEC. 7.02 Charter of the City of Bellingham.

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**Board Members Present:** Rick Osen, Rachel Myers, Rebecca Craven, Jim McCabe and Vernon Johnson

**Library Staff:** Rebecca Judd, Beth Farley, Bethany Hoglund, Janice Keller, Jon McConnel, Jennifer Vander Ploeg and Wendy Jenkins

**Others Present:** Faye Hill, Friends of BPL

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**Call to order and introductions:** Regular session was called to order at 3:32 p.m. by Chair, Rick Osen.

**Approve/modify agenda:** Rebecca Craven moved to approve the agenda. Rachel Myers seconded. Motion carried.

**Public comment:** No comments

**Consent agenda:** Jim commented that, according to the YTD report, we are under budget. Rebecca clarified that City accountants are busy working on 2018 year-end reports, so they have not yet processed the journal entries for Interfund charges for January and February. Taking into consideration the Interfund charges, we are 15% spent at 17% through the year. Rick pointed out that the minutes, under Action items for next meeting, state that Jim will not be at the March board meeting, but it is the April meeting Jim will not be able to attend. Rachel Myers moved to approve the February 19, 2019 Regular meeting minutes, as amended, and the February 2019 performance and activity measures and financial reports. Jim McCabe seconded. Motion carried.

**Board Chair report:** Rick reported that he and Rebecca Judd attended Elizabeth Yarbrough's Senior Project presentation at Western. Elizabeth talked about her work with the Library's strategic planning process. Rick noted that Damani was Elizabeth's academic advisor. Elizabeth will be volunteering with the strategic planning Community Conversations through July 2.

**Board member reports:** Jim applauded:

- Rebecca Judd, for attending the Cordata Neighborhood Association meetings.
- Suzanne Carlson-Prandini, for the Escape Room she hosted for the Library's book group.
- Janice Keller, for organizing Whatcom READS. Jim attended the author presentation at Mount Baker High School.

Janice gave special thanks to Rachel for being the MC for the Mount Baker Theatre presentation. Rachel added that the event was wonderful – well-attended, well-organized, and with a great author/book pick.

Rebecca Craven thanked the library for arranging for the removal of the tree on Commercial Street.

**City Council Liaison report:** No report.

**Friends of BPL report:** Faye reported that the Friends have a board meeting tomorrow. One of the things they will be discussing is National Library Week (April 7-13, 2019) – the Friends try to honor staff during that week. The Friends are also making plans for their Annual Meeting. At next month's Trustee meeting, Faye will encourage everyone to attend. Faye expressed thanks to everyone involved for a successful Whatcom READS program. Janice, in turn, thanked Faye and the Friends for their significant financial support of Whatcom READS.

**Library Director report:** Rebecca also thanked everyone for their their work in creating a great Whatcom READS program.

Rebecca announced we have a new Security and Information Attendant, Danette Sheldon. We have one more Security position to fill this year.

**Library Board Trustee update:** Rick announced that Jim has been reappointed for a second term as Trustee and read the Mayor's reappointment letter thanking Jim for his continued service.

**Facilities Committee report:** Rick and Rebecca Judd, along with Eric Johnston and James Simpson from Public Works, reviewed the written RFQ responses and selected two firms to interview. Both firms had complete, well-done responses. Once we hire someone, a clear timeline will be established. The rough timeline is for design work to happen during the spring and summer, contractor bids to be held in the fall, with construction beginning early in 2020.

Eric and James will work on combining the elevator upgrade with this project. The new ADA accessible path on the back lawn will help during this process.

**Strategic Planning update:** Janice pointed out a change from the information provided at last month's meeting: we did not move forward with a contract with the consulting agency Primary Source. On March 21, Rebecca Judd will be providing training for facilitators and notetakers for the Community Conversations. As a reminder, Janice added that there are two components to the Conversations: individual interviews and group Community Conversations.

Janice distributed a timeline handout (*See Attachment #1 for Strategic Planning 2019 Timeline. Attachment is located at the end of the minutes.*). Jim asked a question on the approval process for the final report: the timeline shows that the draft will be presented to City Council, does the Council officially approve it? Janice responded that we will take feedback from the Council, but the Library Board provides final approval.

Janice handed out the Community Conversations flyer (a copy is included in the board packet), which lists the calendar of scheduled public conversations. She is currently working on scheduling 3 neighborhood-focused Conversations: one on the north side, one east of the freeway to be held in the Bloedel Donovan Beach Pavilion, and one on the south side. Janice is also working on themed group Conversations. Once the themed Conversations are scheduled, Janice will be reaching out to the Trustees to encourage people they know to participate in this process.

Janice also invited Trustees to be individual interviewers if they are interested. Janice would provide a 15-minute training, materials and a clipboard. Trustees offered to distribute flyers.

Rebecca added that the Trustee Community Conversation will start at 4:15 p.m. She invited the people who are going to be facilitators or notetakers to observe the process.

**New Business:**

- Rates and Fees conversation: Jon is preparing a presentation about eliminating overdue fines for the April Board meeting. Rick and Rebecca Judd will be in discussion with the City as well. WCLS will be eliminating overdue fines in late 2019 or early 2020.
- In early summer we will be considering mid-biennium budget adjustments.
- Rebecca will provide a quarterly update on 2019 goals, including what the goals are for the year and what has been accomplished in the first quarter.

**Action items for next meeting:**

- Announcement about hiring of an architect firm. Rebecca Craven asked if plans have been developed about open hours during construction. Rebecca Judd responded that much will depend on the architect plans and contractor firm, so no plans have been developed yet.

**Meeting adjourned** at 4:04 p.m.

**Next Regular Library Board Meeting – April 16, 2019** at the Central Library, 210 Central Avenue, Library Lecture Room – at 3:30 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees

**Attachments:**

- Attachment #1: Strategic Planning 2019 Timeline

**Strategic Planning 2019 Timeline** DRAFT/updated as needed

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Process</li> <li>• Identify Resources</li> <li>• Review Sample Plans</li> <li>• Orient Board/Staff to LTC Community Conversations</li> <li>• Define Community Conversation Framework &amp; Scope</li> <li>• Start Community Conversation Outreach/Scheduling</li> <li>• Board Approval of Approach &amp; Process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orient Board/Staff to LTC Community Conversations (cont)</li> <li>• Define Community Conversation Framework &amp; Scope</li> <li>• Start Community Conversation Outreach/Scheduling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train Staff</li> <li>• Start Community Conversations &amp; Interviews</li> <li>• Staff/Manager Conversations Begin: Library Trends &amp; Future Vision</li> <li>• Identify Additional Research &amp; Documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do Community Conversations &amp; Interviews</li> <li>• All-Staff Meeting Focus on Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Review Additional Research &amp; Documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do Community Conversations &amp; Interviews</li> <li>• Staff/Manager Conversations Wrap-Up: Library Trends &amp; Future Vision</li> <li>• Review Additional Research &amp; Documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Community Conversations &amp; Interviews</li> <li>• Identify Themes</li> <li>• Report Out Community Conversations: Board &amp; Participants</li> <li>• Analysis</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Worksession: Community Conversations Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Draft Plan</li> <li>• Board Worksession (or early September)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second Draft Plan</li> <li>• Draft Plan Reviewed with Mayor, City Stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Draft Presented to City Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Plan to Board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Plan Adopted</li> </ul>
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER

# Bellingham Public Library



**Special Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees  
Tuesday, March 19, 2019 – Central Library – Library Board Room  
4:30 p.m.**

Minutes of Actions and Decisions of the Library Board of Trustees of the Bellingham Public Library as authorized by RCW 27.12.210 and SEC. 7.02 Charter of the City of Bellingham.

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**Board Members Present:** Rick Osen, Rachel Myers, Rebecca Craven, Jim McCabe and Vernon Johnson

**Library Staff:** Rebecca Judd, Beth Farley, Bethany Hoglund, Janice Keller, Jon McConnell, Jennifer Vander Ploeg, Katie Bray, Deborah Brewer, Suzanne Carlson-Prandini, Bernice Chang, Julie Mauermann and Wendy Jenkins

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**Call to order and introductions:** Special session was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Chair, Rick Osen.

**Board Community Conversation:** Rebecca Judd facilitated a Community Conversation.

**What kind of community do you want to live in?**

Friendly, welcoming, equitable, connected, healthy, vibrant, accessible, informed, place where there are opportunities, (like: educational, jobs, economic, recreation), housed, inclusive.

**Why is that important to you?**

- Feels like Bellingham is two Bellinghams: the beautiful “brochure Bellingham” that everyone wants to come to, then the “reality Bellingham”: lack of jobs, housing unaffordability, whole communities that are invisible. The shadow side of the hot commodity is the cost of living is high, impossible to buy a house. Bellingham is going to continue to grow due to Seattle/Vancouver corridor. Important to have items in #1 established so that as the city continues to grow, Bellingham stays or becomes what we want. Worried about the wealth gap.
- We need to keep an eye on the things we outlined. We have a lot of them already, but how do we sustain it and make it more so. And more accessible.
- Simply put, I like to be happy. If all the aspirations we listed were here, I would be happy.



- The difference between the “brochure Bellingham and the not-brochure Bellingham” is going to continue to broaden.
- Accessibility and opportunity are connected. Coming from a more populated area, an individual can make a bigger difference here. I'd like to see that increase. Everyone can contribute here. Individuals have an opportunity to make a difference in Bellingham.
- Sustainability. Population has more than doubled since I moved here. Small town feel is almost gone. How do we hold on to that when we are growing?

### **How is that different from how you see things now?**

- I want to see a community that is not isolated and is in control of itself. We have to sort out how to do that amongst all these outside influences. How do we, as individuals, fit in to the big picture and know we are not alone with our problems. If we are conscious about issues, we can surmount some of them with awareness and intention.
- Some of the things we talked about in Question #1 are present, but there is a sense that we are losing the connection and friendliness and neighborliness that a small community nurtures. How do we nurture those things in a growing, changing community? People want to keep those connections. We are a small enough community that we can make a difference for each other, and that's exciting. We can know our leaders personally.
- Growth does threaten some of the small community feel. As new people arrive, you see their “fear of other” on sites like nextdoor.com which has the potential to overcome the friendly and connected aspects. It will take conscious effort to accentuate connectedness, particularly online, without killing the friendly and welcoming. Social media has pluses and minuses as a method for connecting. But if you are new, that may be all you are seeing.
- And that's across society; more and more people are connected through social media and not in person.
- LGBTQ community example: young demographic group, strong social media presence but people desperate for face-to-face connection. Changed strategy to host small events, and people have shown up.

### **What are some things that need to happen to create that kind of change?**

- Self-conscious outreach. You have to make a conscious effort to connect. Keep strong neighborhoods. Our strong neighborhoods foster some of this connectness with block parties, neighborhood meetings, “Map your neighborhood.”
- Emphasize personal connection rather than digital connection.

- Equitable opportunity: helping each other learn more about ways to welcome other people, other cultures, other backgrounds, other life circumstances. Try not to simply replicate our own bubbles. Ask "who isn't here?" Value differences, different points of view, diversity. It's hard work; we're all drawn to people like us.
- Major structural things might need to change: access to health care, access to housing, affordable healthcare/housing.
- More physical spaces for community. I.e. there's no Bellingham community center.
- More "groups" like newcomer groups, walking groups. And capitalize on the skills, talents, interests of groups.
- Creating spaces and opportunities that mix people up outside their bubbles. People coming together from different backgrounds, neighborhoods, generations. Cross generational, cross cultural, encourage people to get to know people outside their usual circles.
- Integrate tribal voices into the conversations.

**Thinking back over this conversation, what groups or individuals would you trust to take action on the things we've talked about?**

- Neighborhood associations, Julie Guy (could see a need and spent time making it happen), Bellingham Public Library. Whatcom Community Foundation. Everyone needs to do their part, lots of affinity groups and citizen groups, like the Whatcom Young Professionals.
- Non-profits, City of Bellingham leadership (elected officials and staff)
- Bellingham schools, esp. leadership, redistricting project especially.
- Whatcom Human Rights Task Force
- Tribal leaders (Tribal communities, institutional structure not in the city, but many live outside the reservation area, need to be in the conversation)
- Youth and their voice.

**Meeting adjourned** at 5:08 p.m.

**Next Regular Library Board Meeting** – April 16, 2019 at the Central Library, 210 Central Avenue, Lecture Room – at 3:30 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST  
Secretary, Library Board of Trustees

**Bellingham Public Library  
Performance & Activity Measures, 2019**

	March-19	March-18	Year to Date		% of change
			2019	2018	YTD
<b>Holdings</b> - Number of materials in the library's collection					
Physical copies added to the collection	2,848	2,236	7,549	7,090	6.47%
Electronic copies added to the collection	1,419	973	4,063	3,198	27.05%
Physical copies withdrawn from collection	(296)	(3,611)	(768)	(12,707)	-93.96%
Total physical holdings			184,276	187,138	-1.53%
Total electronic holdings			89,695	62,518	43.47%
<b>Total Holdings (Physical and Electronic)</b>			<b>273,971</b>	<b>249,656</b>	<b>9.74%</b>
<b>Circulation</b> - Number of items checked out or renewed; includes Interlibrary Loan and Outreach activity					
<b>Central Library</b>					
Adult	62,056	59,277	169,003	180,408	-6.32%
Youth	48,505	43,177	133,905	128,527	4.18%
<b>Sub-Total Central</b>	<b>110,561</b>	<b>102,454</b>	<b>302,908</b>	<b>308,935</b>	<b>-1.95%</b>
<b>Fairhaven Branch</b>					
Adult	7,768	7,918	21,211	23,120	-8.26%
Youth	2,768	2,585	7,274	7,117	2.21%
<b>Sub-Total Fairhaven</b>	<b>10,536</b>	<b>10,503</b>	<b>28,485</b>	<b>30,237</b>	<b>-5.79%</b>
<b>Barkley Branch</b>					
Adult	5,567	5,723	15,117	17,207	-12.15%
Youth	3,777	3,480	9,624	9,720	-0.99%
<b>Sub-Total Barkley</b>	<b>9,344</b>	<b>9,203</b>	<b>24,741</b>	<b>26,927</b>	<b>-8.12%</b>
<b>Bellingham Technical College</b>					
Adult	66	68	185	254	-27.17%
Youth	13	11	35	57	-38.60%
<b>Sub-Total BTC</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>-29.26%</b>
<b>Whatcom Community College</b>					
Adult	316	370	976	1,056	-7.58%
Youth	82	88	260	228	14.04%
<b>Sub-Total WCC</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>1,284</b>	<b>-3.74%</b>
<b>Western Washington University</b>					
Adult	645	482	1,504	1,373	9.54%
Youth	335	235	792	676	17.16%
<b>Sub-Total WWU</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>2,296</b>	<b>2,049</b>	<b>12.05%</b>
<b>Online Services</b>					
NW Anytime Library Overdrive	21,546	17,322	62,579	49,405	26.67%
RBdigital	2,714	1,371	7,326	4,324	69.43%
<b>Sub-Total Online</b>	<b>24,260</b>	<b>18,693</b>	<b>69,905</b>	<b>53,729</b>	<b>30.11%</b>
<b>Total Circulation</b>	<b>156,158</b>	<b>142,107</b>	<b>429,791</b>	<b>423,472</b>	<b>1.49%</b>
<b>Holds Activity</b>					
Items pulled to fill holds	47,857	51,949	129,556	161,951	-20.00%
<b>Services</b>					
<b>Persons Visiting</b> - Number of persons counted as they enter the libraries or visit remote website					
<b>Central Library</b>					
Adult	40,809	42,275	115,641	123,673	-6.49%
Childrens	10,484	11,608	30,918	34,387	-10.09%
Fairhaven Branch	7,131	7,678	19,889	22,424	-11.30%
Barkley Branch	4,494	4,741	13,234	12,445	6.34%
<b>Total Persons Visiting</b>	<b>62,918</b>	<b>66,302</b>	<b>179,682</b>	<b>192,929</b>	<b>-6.87%</b>
<b>Website Visits</b>	42,304	42,746	129,967	128,216	1.37%
This count reflects number of visits to www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org					
<b>Bibliocommons Visits</b>	12,068	12,663	35,295	38,122	-7.42%
This count reflects number of visits to Bibliocommons					
<b>Total Website Visits</b>	<b>54,372</b>	<b>55,409</b>	<b>165,262</b>	<b>166,338</b>	<b>-0.65%</b>
<b>Computer Usage</b> - Number of sessions					
<b>Central Library</b>					
Adult & Teen (30 terminals)	5,501	5,479	15,482	16,060	-3.60%
Childrens (3 terminals)	144	164	440	470	-6.38%
Fairhaven Branch (7 terminals)	529	618	1,431	1,775	-19.38%
Barkley Branch (4 terminals)	317	301	815	803	1.49%
<b>Total Computer Usage</b>	<b>6,491</b>	<b>6,562</b>	<b>18,168</b>	<b>19,108</b>	<b>-4.92%</b>
<b>New Borrowers Registered</b>					
Central Library	407	398	1,261	1,275	-1.10%
Fairhaven Branch	28	32	134	90	48.89%
Barkley Branch	14	38	67	88	-23.86%
<b>Total New Borrowers Registered</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>1,462</b>	<b>1,453</b>	<b>0.62%</b>
<b>Programs</b> - Library sponsored or co-sponsored educational, recreational, or cultural programs					
Programs	138	133	352	357	-1.40%
Attendees	2,914	4,007	7,772	9,941	-21.82%
<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	479	492	1,753	1,872	-6.34%

LIST OF CLAIMS AGAINST THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES AND THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM TO BE CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AT THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2019, IN ACCORDANCE WITH RCW 27.12.210 AND 27.12.240.

	<b>VENDOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Polaris/Class POS interface	Active Network Inc	2,174.00
USB foot pedal, supplies	Amazon.com	261.67
Data drop	Baron Telecommunications	512.91
Comic Con reimbursement	Katie Bray	295.66
Darkness to Light training	Brigid Collins	106.00
Email newsletter	Constant Contact	364.15
Printing	Copy Source	1,627.98
Water @ Barkley Branch	Crystal Springs	8.69
Whatcom READS graphic design	Good Eye Design	902.50
Lost Interlibrary Loan item	Indiana State University	85.00
Membership	Innovative Users Group	100.00
Name tags	Laserpoint Awards	28.81
Mobile hot spot	Mobilebeacon	120.00
Security software maintenance	Ninite.com	21.74
Copier lease and copies (2 months)	Oasys Inc.	2,318.09
Office supplies; copier paper; toner	Office Depot	814.71
Truck fuel	Reisner Distributor	125.91
Barkley operating costs	Talbot Services LLC	533.33
Microfische machine lease (2 months)	Technology Unlimited	678.28
Membership	TechSoup	10.00
Debt collection service	Unique Management Services	89.50
B & O taxes	WSDR	7.09
	<b>ADMINISTRATION Sub Total</b>	<b>\$11,186.02</b>
<b>PUBLIC SERVICE</b>		
Library materials returned	Library Refunds	237.32
Room reservation cancellations	Library Refunds	6.25
	<b>PUBLIC SERVICE Sub Total</b>	<b>\$243.57</b>
<b>TECHNICAL SERVICES</b>		
Book processing	Baker & Taylor	4,072.59
CD & DVD processing	Midwest Tape	807.10
ILL & tech services	OCLC	2,269.24
	<b>TECHNICAL SERVICES Sub Total</b>	<b>\$7,148.93</b>
<b>LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS</b>		
Books, recorded books, CDs, DVDs	Amazon.com	990.51
Books	American Library Association	97.95
Books	Baker & Taylor	14,456.17
Periodicals	Ebsco Subscription Services	850.24
DVDs, CDs, recorded books	Midwest Tape	5,790.95

**BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**Board of Library Trustees**

**MARCH 2019 CLAIMS**

eBooks, audiobooks	Overdrive Inc	3,793.25
DVDs	Paypal	21.69
Databases	Value Line Publishing	3,895.83

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**LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS Sub Total    \$29,896.59**

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**GIFT FUND**

Books	Baker & Taylor	580.68
Books	Center Point Large Print	145.90
Teen programming	Fred Meyer	43.61
Books	Gale	198.64
Teen programming	Rudy's Pizzeria	40.00

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**GIFT FUND ACQUISITIONS Sub Total    \$1,008.83**

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**TOTAL GENERAL FUND    \$48,475.11**

**TOTAL CLAIMS    \$49,483.94**

GL787

WKD - MONTHLY REPORT - GF

Report Format 712

Acc.Period 3 ending March 31, 2019

Transaction status 1  
Rounding to Whole Dollars

	YTD Actual	Adopted Budget	Revised Budget	Variance From Revised	%% Complete
Dpt 0190 LIBRARY					
Grp 191 LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION					
ExO 010 SALARIES & WAGES	71,643	269,649	269,649	198,006	26.6
ExO 020 PERSONNEL BENEFITS	32,018	130,025	130,025	98,007	24.6
ExO 030 SUPPLIES	9,529	82,785	82,785	73,256	11.5
ExO 040 SERVICES	74,045	359,493	359,493	285,449	20.6
Grp 191 LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION	187,234	841,952	841,952	654,717	22.2
Grp 193 LIBRARY SERVICES					
ExO 010 SALARIES & WAGES	519,417	2,188,711	2,188,711	1,669,295	23.7
ExO 020 PERSONNEL BENEFITS	243,469	1,074,991	1,074,991	831,522	22.7
ExO 030 SUPPLIES	102,040	643,465	643,465	541,425	15.9
ExO 040 SERVICES	5,620	66,035	66,035	60,415	8.5
Grp 193 LIBRARY SERVICES	870,546	3,973,203	3,973,203	3,102,657	21.9
Grp 195 LIBRARY FACILITIES					
ExO 040 SERVICES	145,940	578,583	578,583	432,642	25.2
Report Final Totals	1,203,720	5,393,737	5,393,737	4,190,017	22.3

# Bellingham Public Library

Rebecca Judd, Director



## Our People

Thank you to Public Services librarian Suzanne Carlson-Prandini for putting together an excellent training program for staff on March 28. Cathie Murphy from the HOT Team (Homeless Outreach Team) was the featured speaker and delivered a presentation titled "Healthy Interactions: Let's talk about how we communicate with someone experiencing homelessness." Cathie was both inspiring and practical in her message about service boundaries. After hearing about the success of this training, other City departments have reached out to the Library for additional information.

The Library will be sporting a team (the Dewey Decimators) for the Annual Trivia Bee, hosted by the Whatcom Literacy Council, on Friday April 19. Please join us to cheer on the Library and support our community partners in Literacy. The event will be held at BTC's Settlemyer Hall at 7 pm.

Thank you to the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library for bringing food to staff on Tuesday, April 9 for National Library Week's staff appreciation day. We so appreciate your thoughtfulness and all you do for us!

## Our Services

From Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services:

This past month we began compiling data for the Washington State 2018 Public Library Annual Statistical Report. The report allows us to benchmark key statistics, such as budget, collections, and usage data, against other libraries in the state. Washington state statistics are then reported to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and ranked in an annual national report "Public Libraries in the United States."

In March, the Library closed out final requirements with SirsiDynix/Horizon. Patron data was purged and copyrighted materials shredded.

From Beth Farley, Head of Collection Services:

The library will be launching Kanopy, a video streaming service on May 1. Kanopy provides access to over 30,000 films with a focus on award winners, indie and classic titles, world cinema, documentaries and educational titles. Included are hundreds of titles of interest to kids. Library cardholders will be able to access 10 films for free, each month, and view them on their computer, mobile device, and smart TV when they download the app. Patrons have been asking us for this service, and we are excited to now deliver it in partnership with WCLS. For a sneak peek of available films, please visit [Kanopy.com](http://Kanopy.com).

From Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Public Services and Operations:

Three staff members will be attending the Washington Library Association conference April 18-20: Public Services librarian Deborah Brewer, Library clerk Rob Werner, and Library clerk Woody Ciskowski. We have been working to adjust schedules and work load to support this important staff development opportunity.

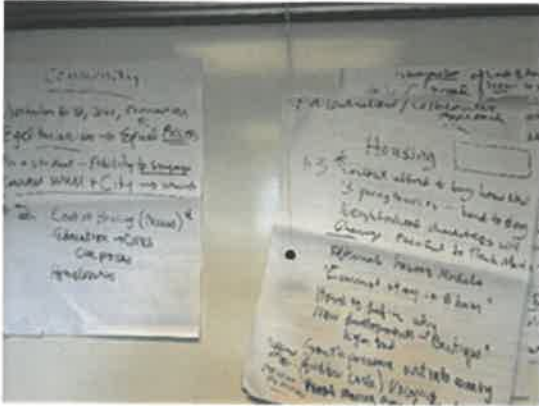
Staff are working through new functions in Polaris (most recently the floating module) and catching up on backlog. Procedures continue to be updated and developed.

# Bellingham Public Library

Rebecca Judd, Director



From Janice Keller, Manager of Communications, Community Relations, and Programming:



Staff training for Community Conversations is complete! Thank you to the talented Conversation team of Deborah Brewer, Jennifer Lovchik, Katie Bray, Suzanne Carlson-Prandini, Beth Farley, Bethany Hoglund, Jon McConnel, Mande Palmer, Julie Mauermann, Bernice Chang, Jordan Sterland (capstone project), Rob Werner (capstone project), and Elizabeth Yarbrough (WWU honors student).

In addition, I have been working on the recordkeeping infrastructure for this project: creating templates, spreadsheets, and tools for conversation facilitators, notetakers, and ASK interviewers.

And, of course, scheduling conversations! To date, we have 19 Community Conversations scheduled as part of this initiative. An updated calendar is available for the public on the [bellingshampubliclibrary.org](http://bellingshampubliclibrary.org) website.

From Bethany Hoglund, Head of Youth Services:

It is spring, which means that Summer Reading is just around the corner! We're again working with WCLS to co-create and implement a shared summer reading program. More details next month! Staff are also busy scheduling visits and book talks both in the libraries and at schools. Additionally, Bernice and Julie reported they issued 44 new library cards during their visits to Promise K sites over the last six weeks and have enjoyed seeing these families visiting the library.

## Our Spaces

One organizational goal for 2019 is to "Evaluate current safety and security procedures and implement recommended improvements." Thank you to Bethany Hoglund for developing an online survey to query staff about what is working well and what could be improved. Survey results will be evaluated at the end of April, and updated surveys on this topic will be distributed for staff input each quarter in 2019.

## Our Community

Thank you to Janice Keller for bringing her talent and skills to the Community Conversation initiative. Because of her efforts, we have a host of Conversations scheduled throughout Bellingham as well as individual ASK interviews. Of note, we are working to schedule Spanish language interpreters to be present at three Neighborhood-based Conversations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Judd



# Background on Fines-Free Issue

March 4, 2019

Public impression of library fines:

<https://www.gocomics.com/bloomcounty/2012/11/20>



## Fines-Free Libraries

It's a growing trend for public libraries to go fines-free. Urban Libraries has a map!

<https://www.urbanlibraries.org/member-resources/fine-free-map>

It includes libraries that have never charged for overdue items, as well as ones where only kids or kids' items are exempt.

Libraries with no late fees include:

### Washington State libraries

- Fort Vancouver Regional Library
- Jefferson County Library
- Kitsap Regional Library
- Port Townsend Public Library
- San Juan Island Library
- Sno-Isle Library System

### A sampling from elsewhere

- Berkley Public Library (CA)
- Contra Costa (CA)
- San Diego (CA)
- San Mateo (CA)
- Anythink Libraries (Adams County, CO)

- Arapahoe Library District (CO)
- Denver Public Library (CO) <https://www.denverlibrary.org/fine-free>
- High Plains Library District (CO)
- Stanley Community Library (ID)
- Oak Park Library (IL)
- Vernon Area Public Library (IL)
- Arlington (MA)
- Enoch Pratt Free Library (Baltimore, MD)
- St. Paul Public Library (MN) <https://sppl.org/about-fine-free/>
- ImagineIF Libraries, Flathead County (MT)
- Tompkins County Public Library (NY)
- Willoughby-Eastlake Public Library (OH)
- Dayton Metro Library (OH)
- Nashville Public Library (TN)
- Davis County Library (UT)
- Salt Lake City (UT)
- Toole City Library (UT)
- Verona Public Library (WI) <https://www.veronapubliclibrary.org/about/fine-free>
- Sauk City Public Libraries (WI)
- Eau Claire (WI)

#### In-Process

- San Francisco (CA)
- Cleveland (OH)

#### Why eliminate overdue fines?

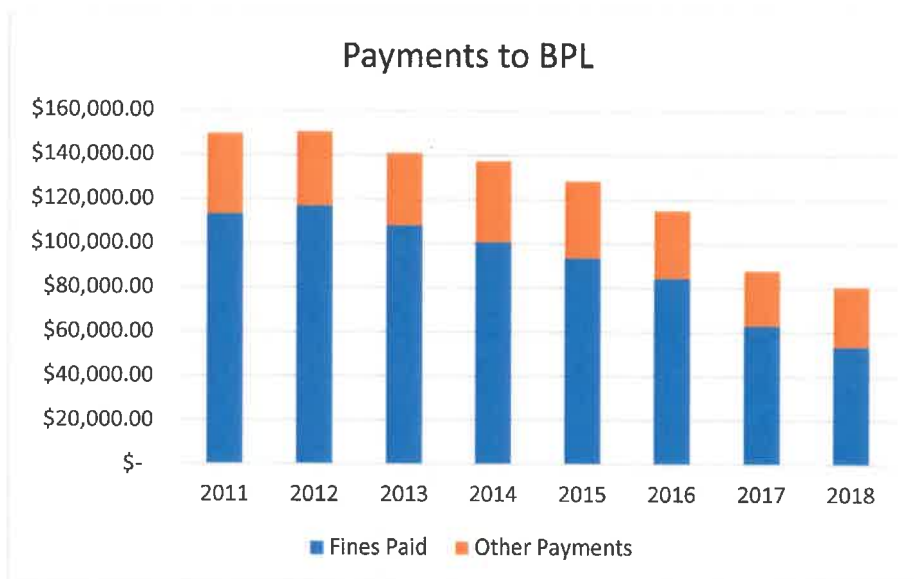
From Kitsap County presentation:

- Focus on equity
- Improve overall patron experience
- Utilize staff time in the most beneficial manner
- Bring back patrons into the Library in all of its forms—online, in the community and through partnerships
- Library is about community and education not about raising revenue

## BPL Revenues

### Payments taken at BPL Locations

	Fines Paid	% of Total Paid	Other Payments	% of Total Paid	Total Paid to BPL	Total Local Revenue	Fines as % of Revenue	Other as % of Revenue
2011	\$ 113,226.84	75.6%	\$ 36,614.96	24.4%	\$ 149,841.80	\$ 3,252,832.00	3.5%	1.1%
2012	\$ 116,973.48	77.7%	\$ 33,571.69	22.3%	\$ 150,545.17	\$ 3,379,836.00	3.5%	1.0%
2013	\$ 108,144.04	76.7%	\$ 32,906.11	23.3%	\$ 141,050.15	\$ 3,577,487.00	3.0%	0.9%
2014	\$ 100,619.15	73.3%	\$ 36,672.46	26.7%	\$ 137,291.61	\$ 3,807,621.00	2.6%	1.0%
2015	\$ 93,285.21	72.7%	\$ 35,073.97	27.3%	\$ 128,359.18	\$ 3,999,912.00	2.3%	0.9%
2016	\$ 84,247.38	73.2%	\$ 30,783.83	26.8%	\$ 115,031.21	\$ 4,375,440.00	1.9%	0.7%
2017	\$ 62,837.49	71.5%	\$ 24,996.35	28.5%	\$ 87,833.84	\$ 4,313,003.00	1.5%	0.6%
2018	\$ 53,330.36	66.1%	\$ 27,359.77	33.9%	\$ 80,690.13	\$ 4,594,829.00	1.2%	0.6%



### Research:

What little literature there is says that there's no evidence either way about fines motivating patrons.

Removing Barriers to Access: Eliminating Library and Fees on Children's Materials. Johnson Depriest, M. Colorado State Library whitepaper. <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/removingbarrierstoaccess>

Pyatetsky, J. (2015). The end of overdue fines? Public Libraries Online. Retrieved from <http://publiclibrariesonline.org/2015/11/the-end-of-overdue-fines/>

Reed, K., Blackburn, J. & Sifton, D. (2014). Putting a sacred cow out to pasture: Assessing the removal of fines and reduction of barriers at a small academic library. *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 40(3/4), 275-280. doi:10.1016/j.acalib.2014.04.003

Yeung, M. (2010), 'Library Fines, Trust Games and Reciprocity', *Reinvention: a Journal of Undergraduate Research*, Volume 3, Issue 1, <http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/reinventionjournal/issues/volume3issue1/yeung> Date accessed: 3/4/2019.