



Ignite the future
of the library

A CAMPAIGN FOR

Pierce County
Library Foundation



OVERVIEW

Igniting the future of the Library

The Pierce County Library System has inspired community and civic pride for more than 75 years. Today, the Library is a responsive, innovative, and flexible resource bringing unique services to support our diverse communities. The Spark Campaign seeks to ignite the future of the Pierce County Library System—sparking ideas, connections, and creativity that improve lives throughout our region.



Spark: *ideas*

A new direction

To serve our growing communities we must expand in creative ways to meet people where they are—whether that be in person, online, or through community partners.

We now have the opportunity to create a modern library for Sumner, which will serve as an anchor for library services, and a community resource for East Pierce County.

The current Sumner Library has served the community well. It is, however, aging and situated in a location slated for redevelopment. As a result, the Library will build a new, centrally located building with a more accessible design. The building will include a dedicated space for non-profit partners to serve clients locally, providing access to equitable health and human services for residents of East Pierce County.

Your support will fuel our adaptability and redefine the meaning of “library.”

Spark: connections

A flexible fixture for growing communities

With 19 library locations, and services online and in our communities, the Library System is uniquely positioned to support residents' growth and to connect and strengthen communities.

We are deeply embedded in the communities we serve, and EVERYONE is welcome, from early learners to elders. When communities change, we change—ensuring access to learning and the services that are most needed.

Your support will allow us the agility to address ever-changing community needs.



Spark: the future

The benefits of a new Sumner Library

More accessible location

The current Sumner Library, built in 1979, is aging and in need of costly repairs. Thanks to a partnership with the City of Sumner, we will now build a new building on Main Street, with services and a design reflective of community interests. This new downtown location will be more accessible and convenient for the public, and close to schools, shopping, and the senior center.

Hub for East Pierce County

A new, up to 20,000 square foot building will allow Sumner to serve as a regional library for East Pierce County—with more books and other materials, broader services, greater flexibility, and larger spaces to anchor the library services provided by community branches in the surrounding area. Sumner is already considered a natural East Pierce County hub, with more active cardholders than the city's population due to residents outside the city limits accessing library services.

More local services

The new library will provide non-profit partners a dedicated space to meet and serve clients, lowering the transportation barrier for East Pierce County residents in need of health and human services. This means more services will be available locally, within a convenient, trusted and welcoming community resource.

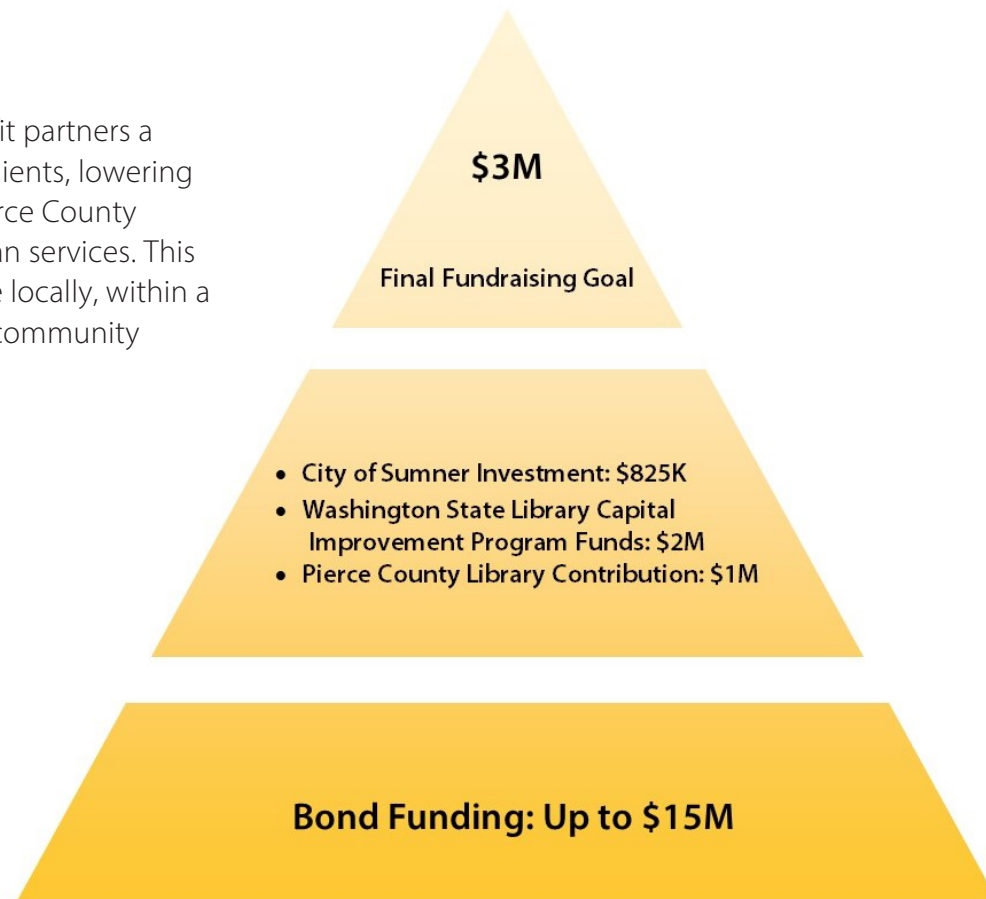
Spark: creativity

Smart funding strategies for community benefit

Traditional funding model

Pierce County Library System is funded through property taxes, a relatively stable funding stream that supports the costs of providing library services and operating its buildings each year. The Library implemented a multi-year fiscal plan in 2018 that provides consistent long-term funding, which allows us to weather economic variability without cutting programs and services.

Bond campaigns are the traditional source of capital funding for new library buildings. Such campaigns provide the lion's share of capital for new library projects, which is why the City of Sumner voters approved up to \$15M in bond funding.



Leveraging creative public-private-partnerships

To build the new Sumner Library, we are leveraging a creative public-private-partnership approach. This partnership brings significant philanthropic support and reduces the use of tax funds to design and build the new library.

Spark: change

Join us! With donor support, we anticipate these projects to be completed in 2026/2027—providing immediate benefits and continuity of library services for Sumner and the surrounding east Pierce County area.

With your help, Pierce County Library will truly reimagine the way we engage and serve our communities to deliver relevant resources where needed most.

Ignite the future of the library.

Contact us to give today
foundation@piercecountylibrary.org





**Pierce County
Library Foundation**



Ignite the future of the library.

Campaign Steering Committee

Bill Pugh (Chair)
Former Mayor, City of Sumner

Holly Bamford Hunt
Director, The Bamford Foundation

Barb Bitetto
Councilmember, City of Sumner

John Folsom
Community Advisor

Linda Gutmann
Community Volunteer

Georgia Lomax
Georgia Lomax Consulting

Teena Ward-Hyde
Board Member, PCLF

David Zeeck
Regent, University of Washington

Pierce County Library System

Gretchen Caserotti
Executive Director

**Pierce County Library
Foundation**

Dean Carrell
Foundation Director

Christina Greene
*Foundation Officer
for Operations & Engagement*

Lauren Angelo
*Grant Writer &
Prospect Research Associate*

Alana Nodell
*Annual Giving &
Donor Engagement Associate*

Katie Jay
Development Assistant

Barsness Group

Kristin Barsness
Principal

Natalie Lamberjack
Consultant