



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

Benefits of the future 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 17,000 square foot building will 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 Library Capital Facility Area (LCFA) 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.

Private Philanthropy	\$3,000,000
City of Sumner Land Investment	\$875,000
Pierce County Library	\$1,000,000
LCFA Bond	\$15,000,000
<u>WA State Dept. of Commerce</u>	<u>\$2,000,000</u>
Total Projected Funding	\$21,875,000

Partnering with businesses for economic strength

The economic impact extends beyond the walls of the new library through the "halo effect"—library patrons support neighboring businesses while running errands, and shoppers discover our free resources when conveniently located in the heart of Sumner. Business partners receive campaign recognition through donor posters, exclusive celebration events, social media features, and logo placement on our campaign website. Permanent recognition includes donor wall listing and named space opportunities based on gift levels. Join us in building infrastructure that generates measurable economic returns for our business community.

Spark: change

Join us! With donor support, we anticipate this projects to be completed in early 2027—providing immediate benefits and continuity of library services for Sumner and the surrounding East Pierce County region.

With your help, Pierce County Library will truly re-imagine 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



"One light feeds another. One strong family lends strength to more. Once engaged community can ignite those around it. This is th power of the light we carry."

- Michelle Obama



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