

**BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

**NOTICE OF MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
of TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023, 3:30 p.m.**

Publication of the agenda and the approximate times are a guide to, and not a limitation on, the activities of Trustees. Order of agenda items may be adjusted.

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

AGENDA	TIME (approx.)
---------------	-----------------------

We acknowledge that we gather on territory that has been the traditional and ancestral homeland to the Lhaq'temish (the Lummi People), the Nooksack People, and other Coast Salish tribes of this region Since Time Immemorial.

We honor our shared responsibility to this land and these waters, we commit to learning from Indigenous wisdom, and we strive to repair and deepen our relationships as neighbors and friends.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. Call to order and introductions | 1 min |
| 2. Approve/modify agenda | 1 min |
| 3. Public comment
This time is set aside for members of the public to make comments.
Remarks will be limited to three minutes. | 3 min |
| 4. Consent agenda (see packet materials)
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">• Communications and FYI• Minutes: June 20, 2023: Regular board meeting• Library performance & activity measures: June 2023• Financial reports
Claims: June 2023
YTD report: June 2023
2nd Quarter Patron Use of Databases and Learning Resources
2nd Quarter Donated Funds review | 2 min |
| 5. Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board Chair• Library Board members• City Council liaison• Friends of Bellingham Public Library• Library Director (see packet materials) | 8 min |

Time check: 3:45

6. Planned Giving project update	15 min
• Rachel Myers, RM+Company	
7. Policy retirement: Action item (see packet materials)	4 min
• Exhibits and Art Donation Policy; Rebecca Judd, Director	
8. 2023-2024 Mid-Biennium Budget Modification summary (see packet materials)	4 min
• Rebecca Judd, Rebecca	
9. 2nd Quarter Action Plan review (see packet materials)	7 min
• Rebecca Judd, Director	
	Time check: 4:15
10. Protecting the Right to Read	40 min
• Sara Jones, Washington State Librarian	
	Time check: 4:55
11. New business	3 min
12. Agenda items for next meeting	2 min
	Time check: 5:00
13. Adjourn	

Accessibility:

The Bellingham Public Library Lecture Room is ADA accessible. Elevator access to the lower floor is available at the Central Avenue entrance. If you require a sign interpreter or other accommodation, please allow the library 48 hours' notice. For additional accommodation, contact the Administrative Assistant at 778-7220 in advance of the meeting. Thank you.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 15, 2023 – 3:30 p.m.
Location: Lecture Room, Central Library, 210 Central Avenue
Bellingham, Washington

Search



NEWS
WTD?

What's the Deal With: Library poetry plaques?

Yearly poetry contest winners' work on display

June 21, 2023 at 5:05 a.m.



A poem plaque is on display outside Bellingham Public Library's central branch. The plaques are all poems from winners of the annual Sue C. Boynton Poetry Contest. Ten of the contest's 20 winners are featured in front of the library. *(David Nuñez/Cascadia Daily News)*

By **DAVID NUÑEZ**
Staff Reporter



Cats, clouds, tacos, snowfall and retirement are all poetry subjects on display in front of Bellingham Public Library's central branch. Since 2006, poem plaques have featured the winners of the annual Sue C. Boynton Poetry Contest.

The contest was founded in 2006 by the nonprofit [Whatcom Poetry Series](#), and is named after Boynton, who came to Whatcom County in 1906.

Boynton became a key figure in the county by helping to found multiple organizations. She encouraged others to funnel their experiences and inspirations into words through poetry.

The plaques are on display for a year starting every May. The contest is free to enter and open to anyone in Whatcom County, regardless of age or writing experience.

A total of 20 new winners were recently chosen by two respected Washington poets serving as judges. Ten poems will soon be featured in front of the library walk and the remaining 10 winners will be featured on Whatcom Transportation Authority buses throughout the county.

WTD runs on Wednesdays. Have a suggestion for a “What's the Deal With?” inquiry? Email us at newstips@cascadiadaily.com.

About

Who we are
Contact
CDN Jobs
Newsroom staff
FAQ
News Mission
Statement

Community

The A-List
Civic Agenda
Obituaries
Events calendar
Sports calendar
Photo galleries

Advertise

Careermatch
Readers' Choice

Subscriptions

Customer Service
My Account
E-Edition
Subscribe
Donate

Connect

Email newsletters
Facebook
Twitter
Instagram
Contests



**Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, June 20, 2023 – 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.

Board Members Present: Rick Osen, Jim McCabe, Rebecca Craven, Kristy Van Ness and Melissa Morin

Library Staff: Rebecca Judd, Annette Bagley, Bethany Hoglund, Jon McConnel, Jennifer Vander Ploeg and Wendy Jenkins

Others Present: Kristina Michele Martens, City Council Liaison; Carol Comeau, Friends of BPL Board Liaison; Ady Hughes, City Council intern; Scott Blume, member of the public

Call to order and introductions: Regular session was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chair, Rick Osen. Kristina introduced Ady Hughes as a new intern for City Council.

Approve/modify agenda: Rebecca Craven moved to approve the agenda. Jim McCabe seconded. Motion carried.

Public comment: no comments.

Consent agenda: Rick complimented Bethany on the good interview she gave for the Cascadia Daily News article. Rebecca Craven asked about the unusually high number of physical copies withdrawn from collection. Jon responded that the number is reported at the end of the withdrawing process and often a large number of items gather before they are all completed in a single process, creating a spike in the reported number. Wendy mentioned an adjustment to the performance & activity measures: the Bibliocommons Visits under Website Visits is 17,540 rather than 39,434. Melissa Morin moved to approve the May 16, 2023 Regular meeting minutes and the May 2023 performance and activity measures and financial reports. Kristy Van Ness seconded. Motion carried.

Melissa announced that she has accepted the position of Assistant Director for Communications for the City and will be working with Janice Keller. Because of this, she needs to resign from the Library Board of Directors; this will be her last meeting. Rick thanked Melissa for her service to the Board.

Board Chair report:

- Rick said that the Trustee recruitment process to replace Melissa will begin in July.
- Rick attended the first monthly virtual training arranged by State Librarian Sara Jones. Coincidentally, Tom Fay, Seattle Public Library Executive Director and Chief Librarian, provided guidance on recruiting board members.

Board member reports:

- Trustees expressed their appreciation of the new email and text notifications.
- Kristy thanked everyone involved in Library Card Night at the Bellingham Bells game. Attendance at the game was high and many Summer Reading cards and free books were handed out.

City Council liaison report:

- Kristina reported Council has been quiet so far this summer.
- Pride IN Bellingham is coming up on July 8 and 9.
- Janice Keller has been named as Interim Deputy Administer to fill the position vacated by Brian Heinrich.
- Kristina requested Trustees or library staff let her know if there is anything that Council needs to be aware of.
- She invited Annette to give details about the All Hands Whatcom Opioid Summit. Annette responded that it is a 2-day hybrid in-person/virtual summit to be held June 27 and 28 at Bellingham High School.

Friends of BPL report:

- Carol reported sales of \$16,911 for the May book sale. Many new volunteers helped with the sale. The next 4-day sales will occur in September and January. Wander Brewery will be hosting a pop-up sale on August 5 from 12-5 p.m.
- The Friends are eager to work with the Library on the remodel.
- Carol said that she had recently visited with Julie Guy, who is in the hospital. Julie mentioned again how thrilled she is about the Bellis Fair Branch. Julie sees the branch and the two Cordata area parks as true accomplishments of the Cordata Neighborhood Association.

Library Director report:

- Rebecca reported that, as Kristina mentioned, Brian Heinrich has taken a position as a Public Analyst for Puget Sound Energy, and Janice Keller has stepped into his vacated position.
- The mid-biennium budget adjustment process has begun. Department operating budget modification requests are due to the Mayor on July 21. Capital requests are due August 4. Rebecca will share library requests at the July board meeting.
- As mentioned earlier, the Opioid Summit is June 27 and 28, and *An Evening with Sam Quinones*, author of *The Least of Us: True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth*, will be held on August 1.

Facilities Committee update:

- Rick reported the architect contract is still being worked on. A meeting is scheduled for June 21.

Planned Giving project update:

- Kristy reported she has been working with Rachel Myers on this project. Rachel is reaching out to Whatcom Community Foundation and Wendy to find out where the gaps are.
- Kristy requested thoughts and ideas for naming the legacy society:
 - Jim commented that Western has an 1893 Society and suggested we name ours 1903 which is when the original Bellingham Bay Library became a free library. This is also the year that Bellingham was incorporated.
 - Bellingham Library Legacy society, to clearly link an association with our library (rather than Whatcom County Library System).
 - A legacy society that is named after a person requires too much time spent explaining why it is named after that person.
 - Consider Bellingham Public Library Legacy Society to be consistent.
 - Bellingham Library Champions.
 - Bellingham Library Giving Society rather than Legacy.
 - Simple, clear name.
 - Reference to historical events can be exclusive, keep it simple.
 - Kristy invited everyone to email her any other thoughts or ideas.

Policy retirement:

- Rebecca Judd explained that she has been working on policy clean-up. There are a few things we have as policy that are not actually policies and she is suggesting they be retired. Included in the packet is the Library's Mission Statement. The Statement is posted on our website but does not need to be a policy. Kristy Van Ness moved to retire the Mission Statement as a policy. Rebecca Craven seconded. Motion carried.

Meet & Greet with Police Chief Rebecca Mertzig:

- Chief Mertzig talked briefly about her background: she grew up in Ferndale and attended Western, then went to Eastern Washington University for a Criminal Justice degree. She worked in Snohomish for 18 years before coming to Bellingham about a year ago.
- A primary challenge of the past year has been staffing up the Police Department. This is challenging because there are so many steps to onboarding new staff: first, 18 months in the academy followed by 3 months of on-the-job training. Initially the department made some retention adjustments to encourage current staff to stay on the job until new staff were onboarded. Academy wait times have been decreasing, which has helped. They are working toward an ideal time split of 50% responding to incidents and 50% being a presence in the community. Hiring has been improved due to many factors including more people willing to do the job, our positive reputation, a shift in public safety priorities, double the number of recruiters, and developed relationships. Bellingham's police department is unique and small enough, like a family, and not so big it can feel anonymous.

- Another improvement is budgeting for four Community Safety officers (3 of the 4 positions have been filled) who do not have a badge or gun.
- Technology is increasing, not only with body cameras (which Bellingham has had since 2016) but also drones and cell phone technology. Chief Mertzig is proud of the fact that she has seen every use-of-force incident since she took over due to body cameras – they provide accountability at all times. In Snohomish, Chief Mertzig pushed for the use of jujutsu (Japanese martial art) which helps keep everyone safe. Snohomish wasn't responsive to this idea, but in Bellingham, it was already in use.

2023 City Revenue & Budget Outlook:

Andy Asbjornsen, Finance Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Board *(for full presentation see Attachment #1 for Finance Update 2022 Expenses & Revenue; all attachments are located at the end of the minutes)*.

Andy added that he provides more detailed monthly reports which can be found on the City website.

Rick asked if there is the possibility of going back to a yearly budget rather than a biennial budget. Andy responded there are good and bad qualities to both systems – it's difficult to project 2 years of budget, 2½ years in advance, but it's good to only need to build the document every 2 years.

New Business:

- No new business.

Agenda items for next meeting:

- Visit from Sara Jones, State Librarian
- Policy retirements continued

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – July 18, 2023 – Central Library Lecture Room – 3:30 p.m.

Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees

Attachments:

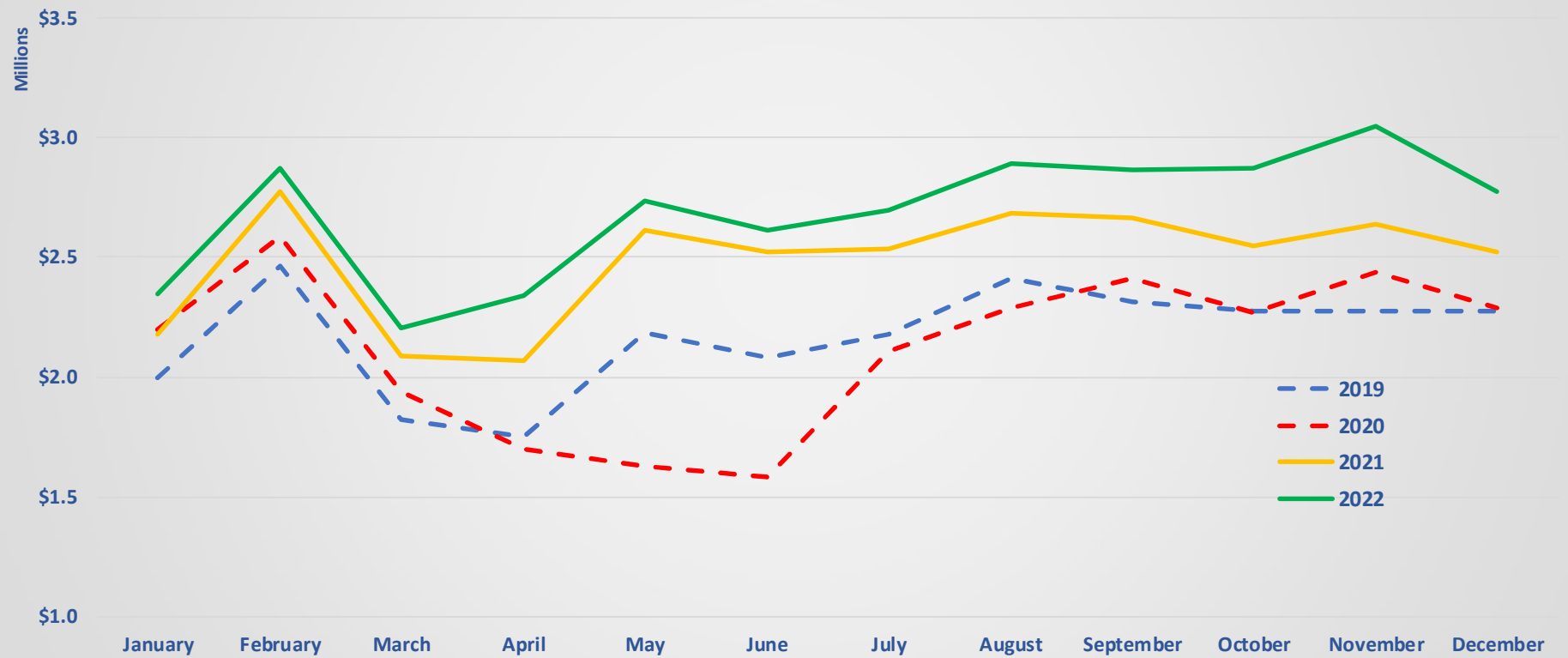
- Attachment #1: Finance Update 2022 Expenses & Revenue

Finance Update

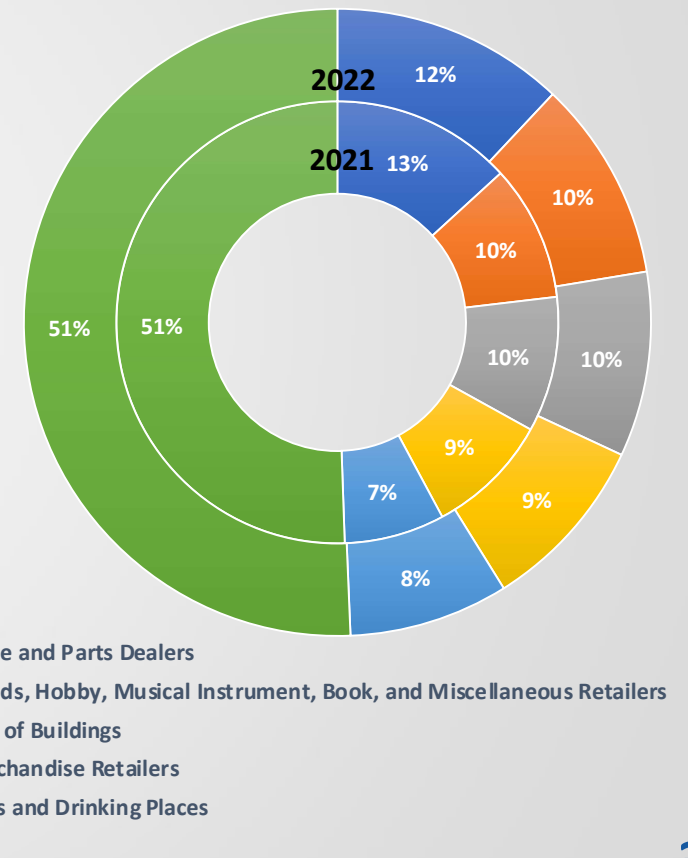
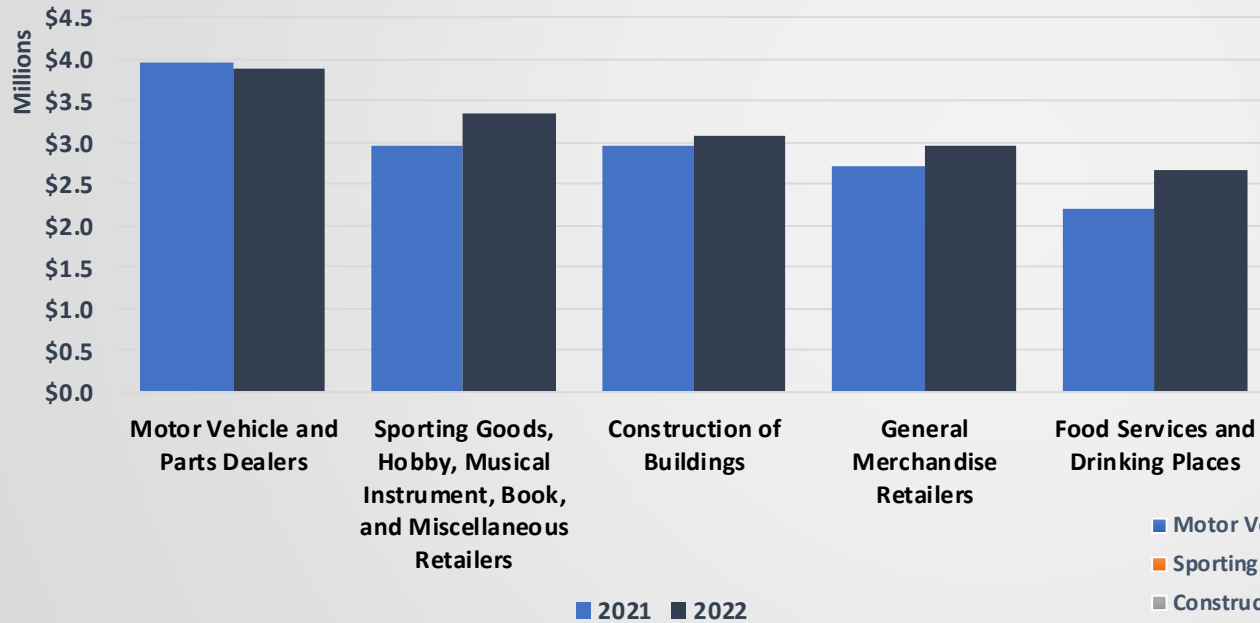
2022 Expenses & Revenue



Sales Tax

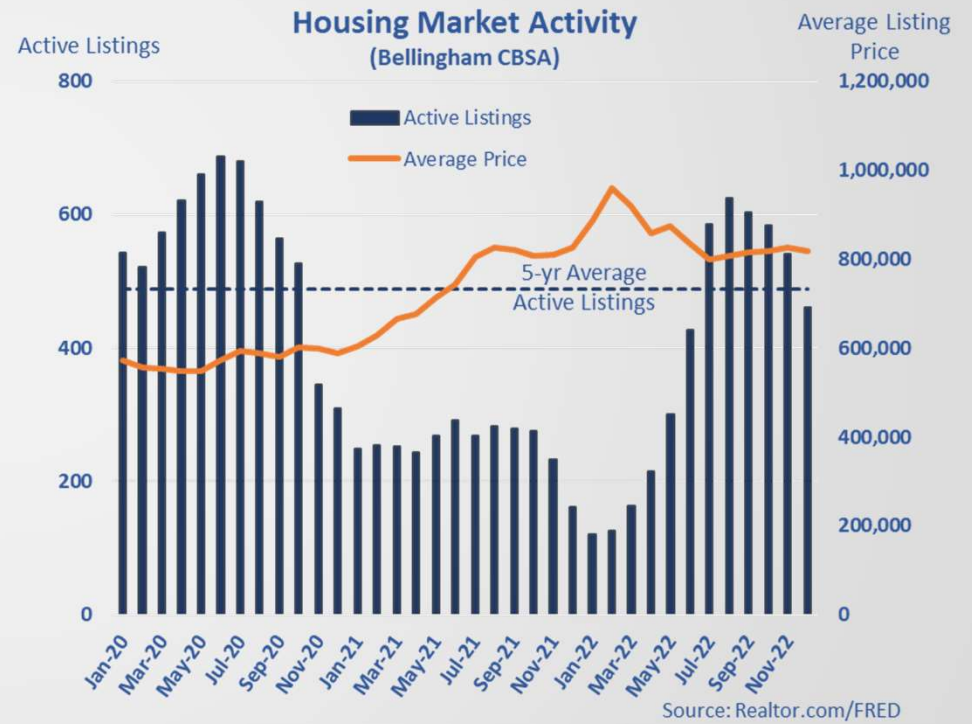


Sales Tax by NAICS Subsector – Top 5

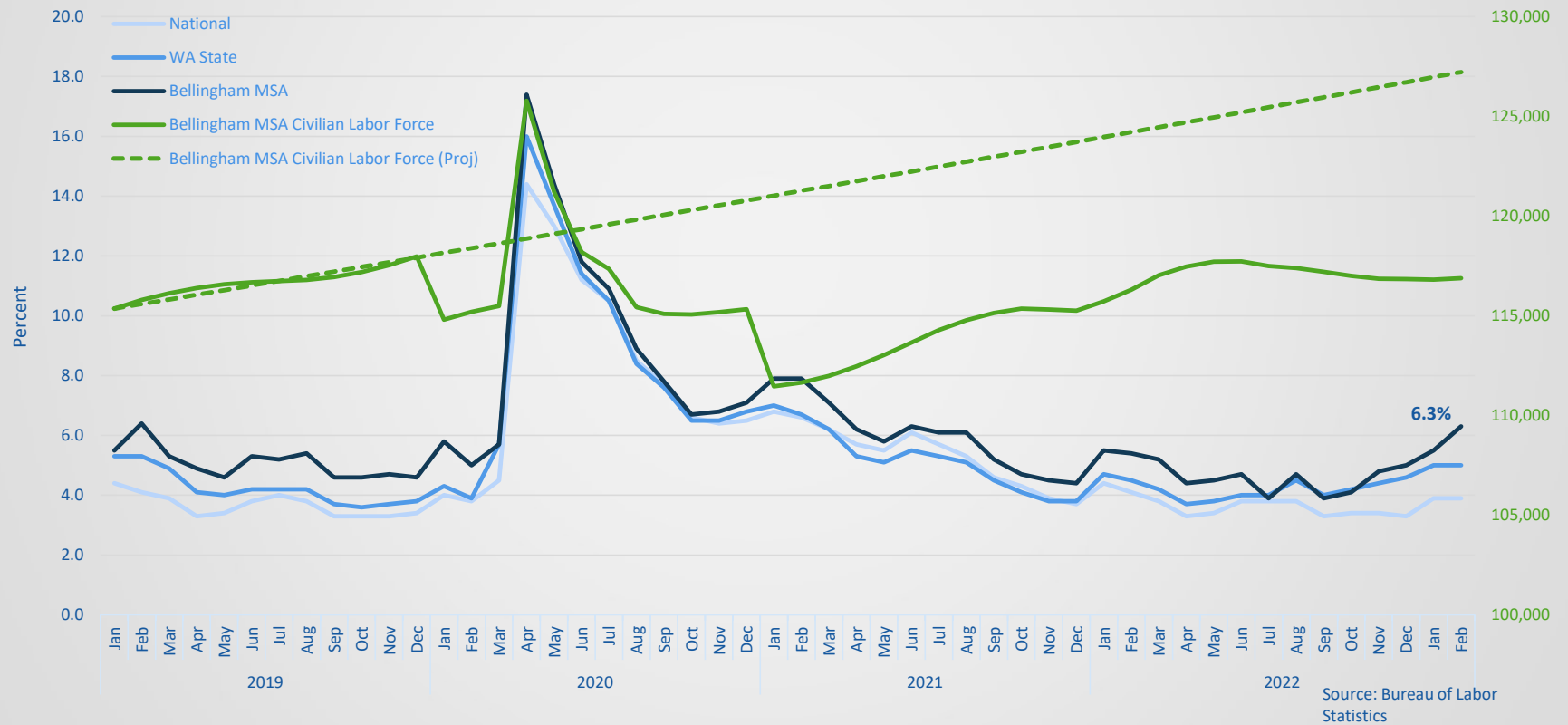


Fed Funds Target Rate and Housing

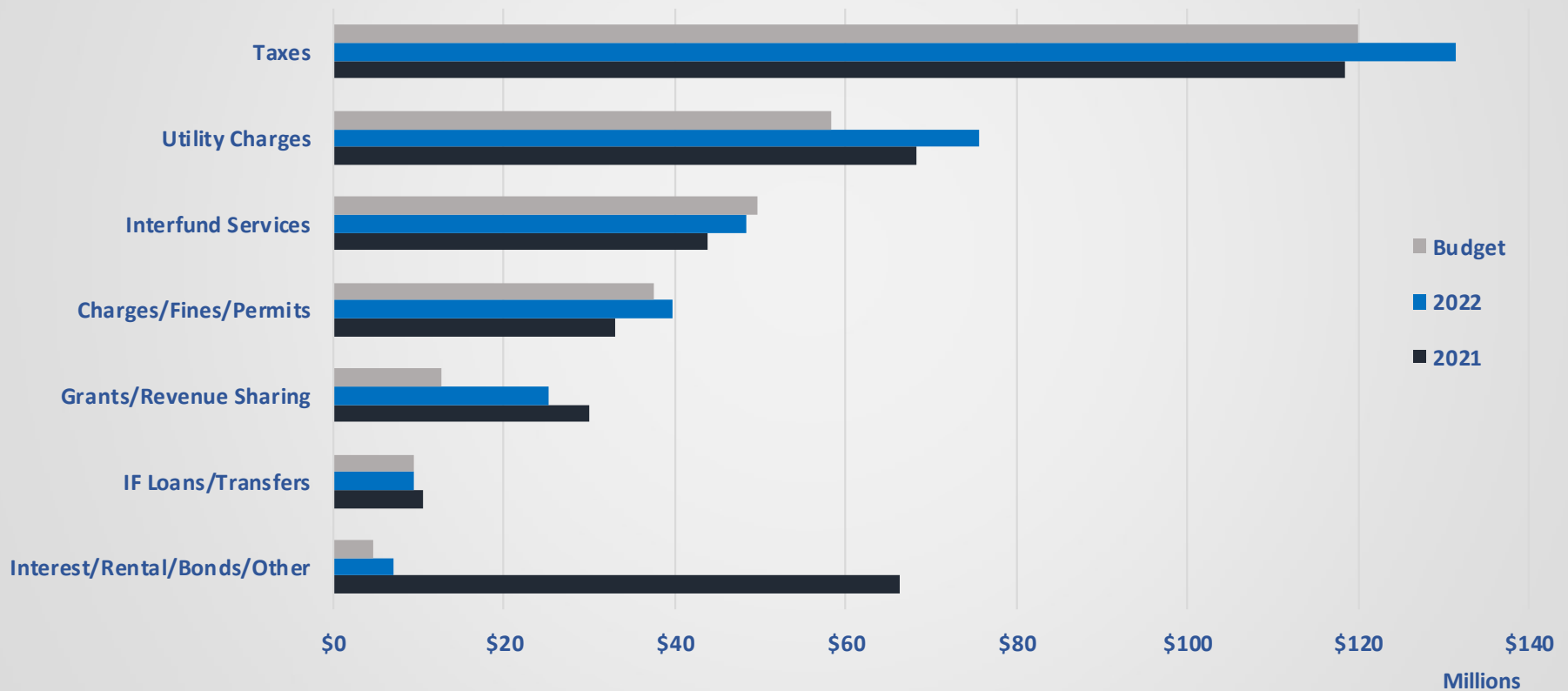
Fed Funds Target Rate



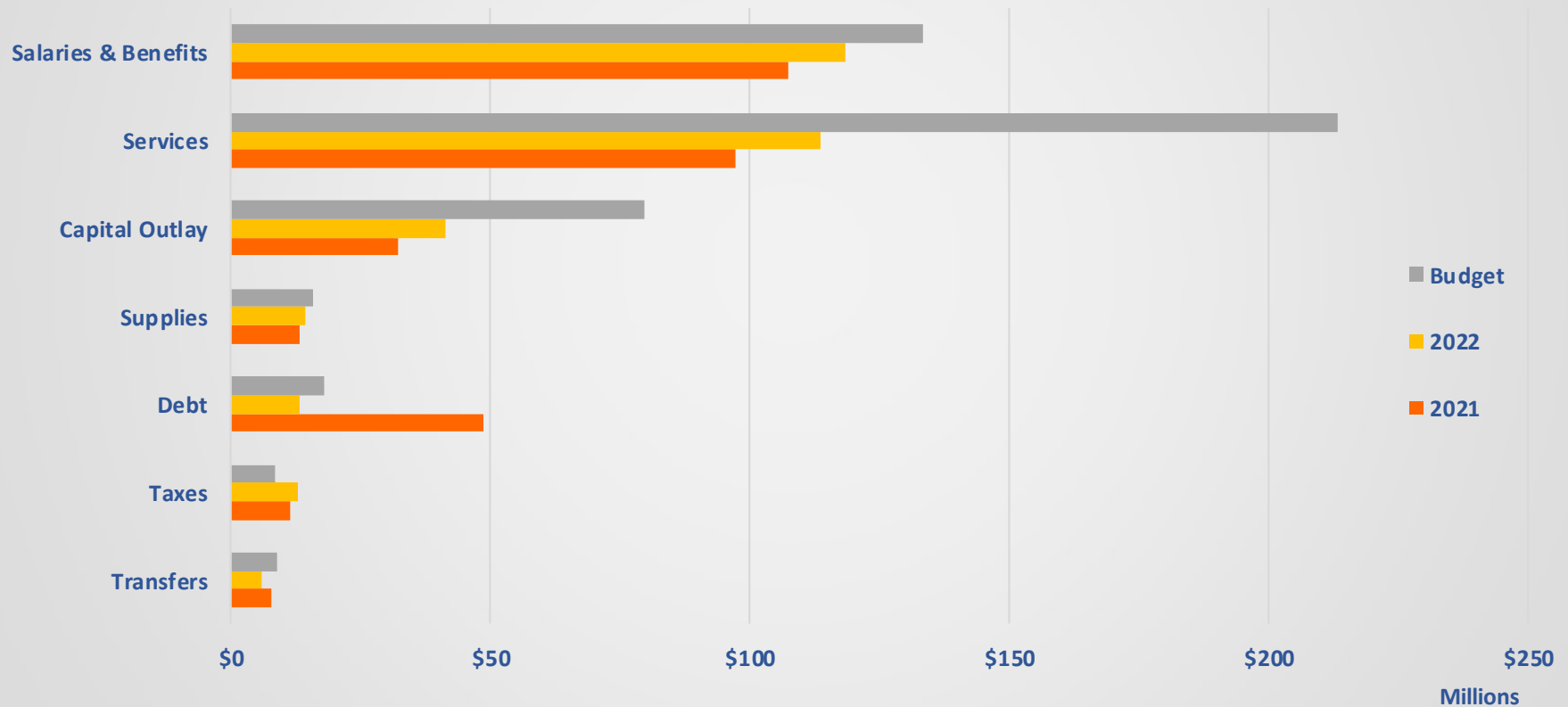
Unemployment



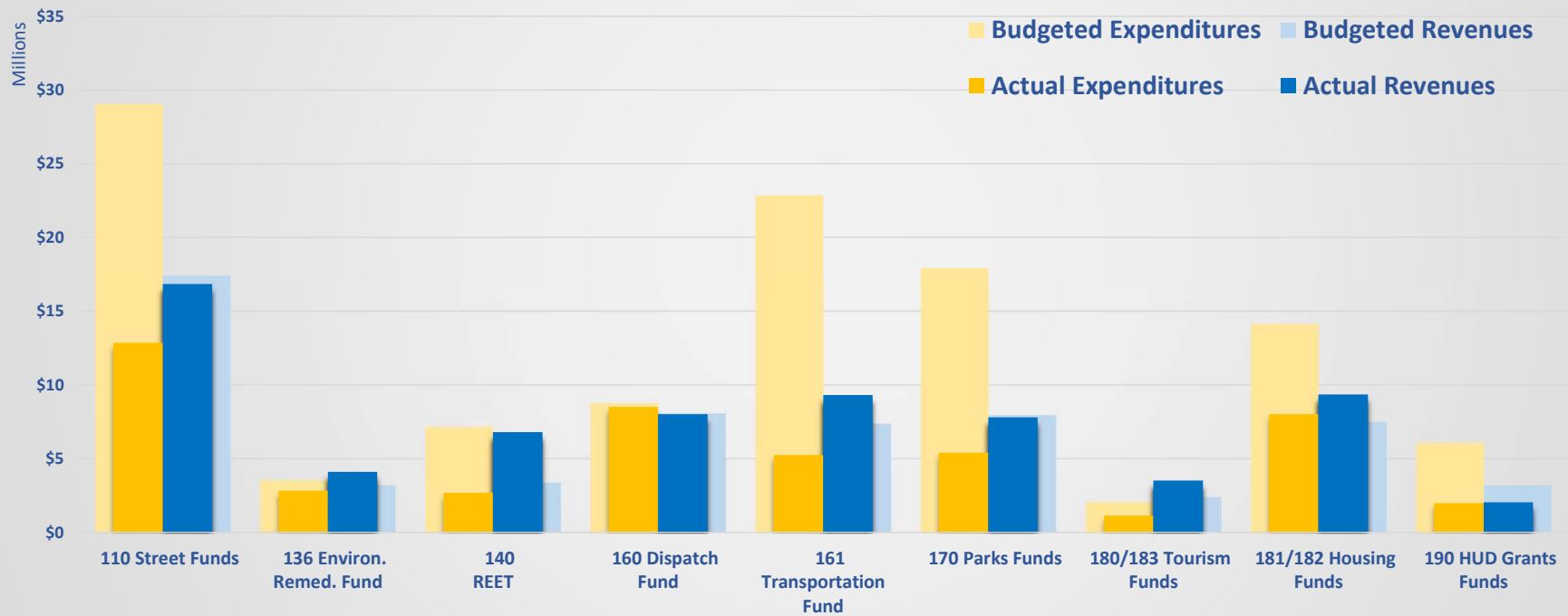
Citywide Revenue - \$336.8 M



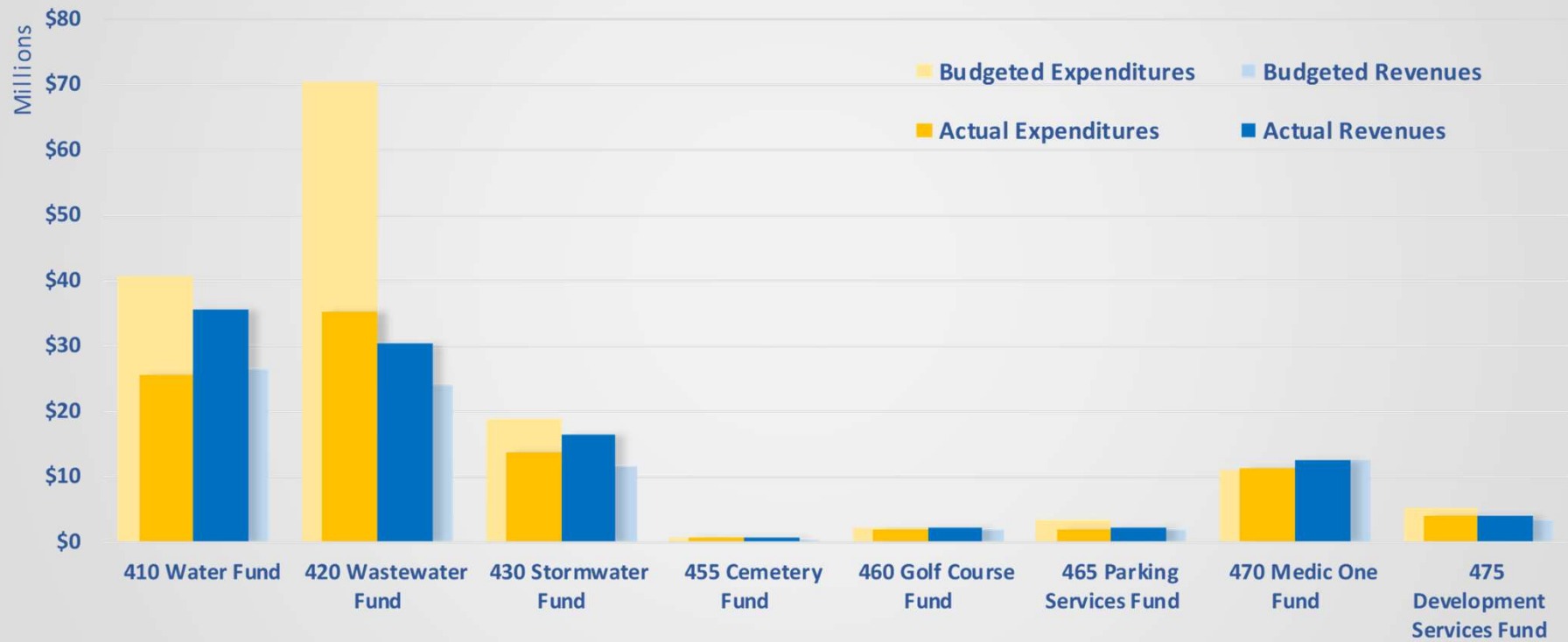
Citywide Expenses - \$319.9 M



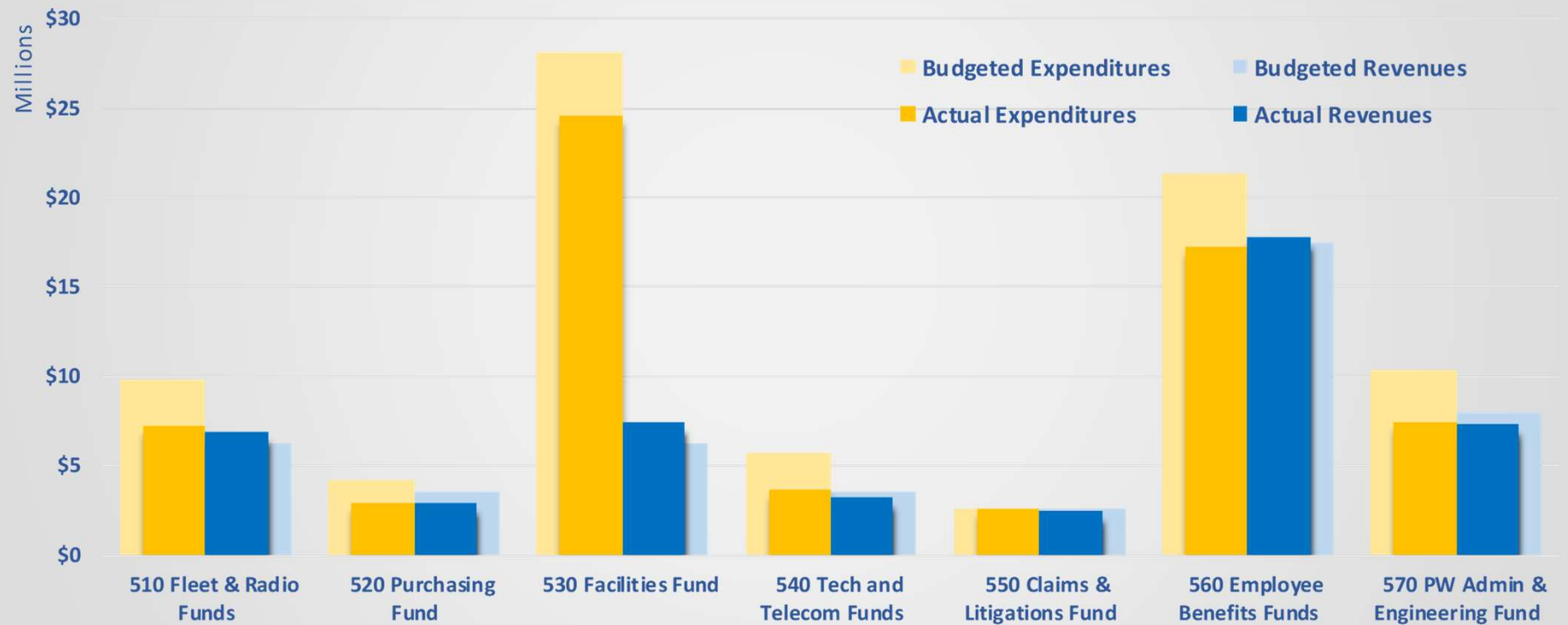
Special Revenue Funds



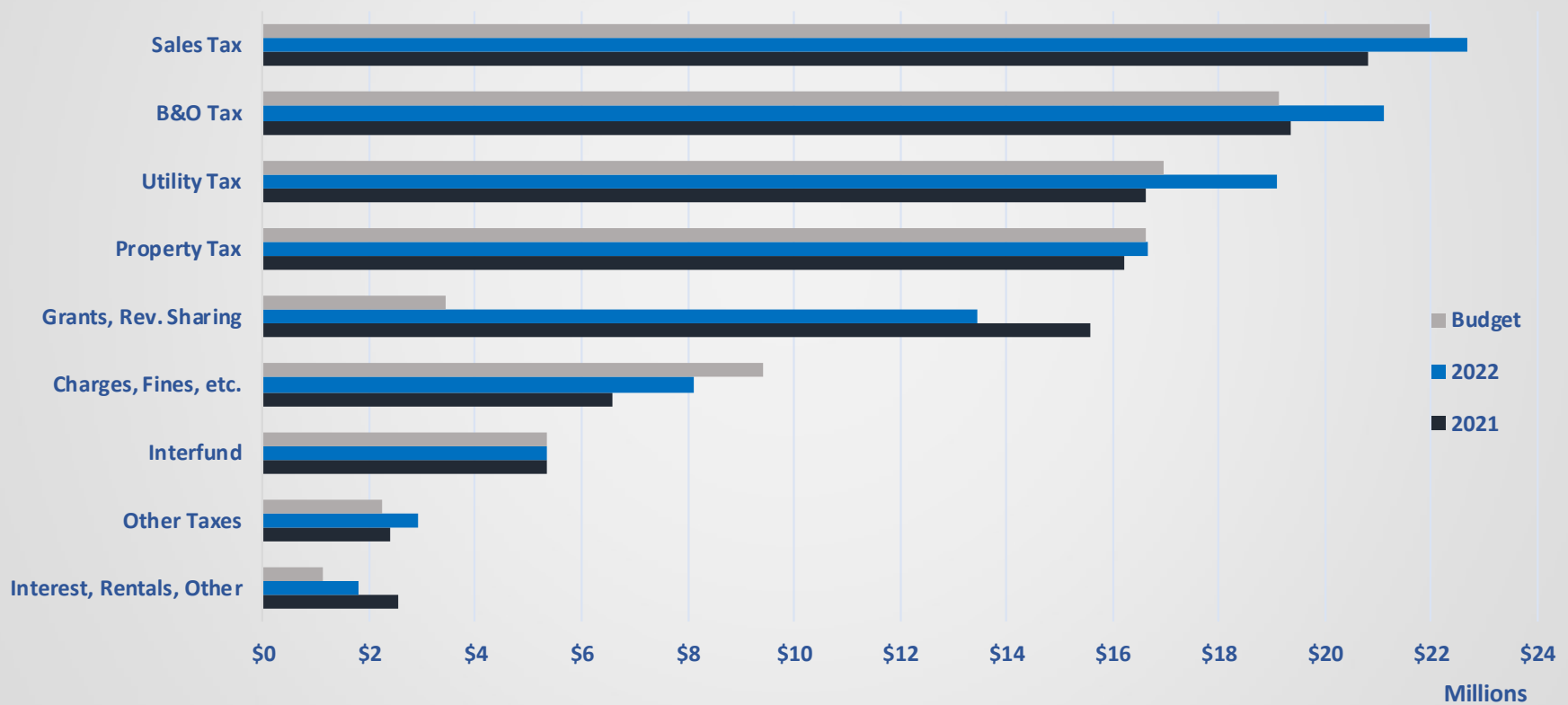
Enterprise Funds



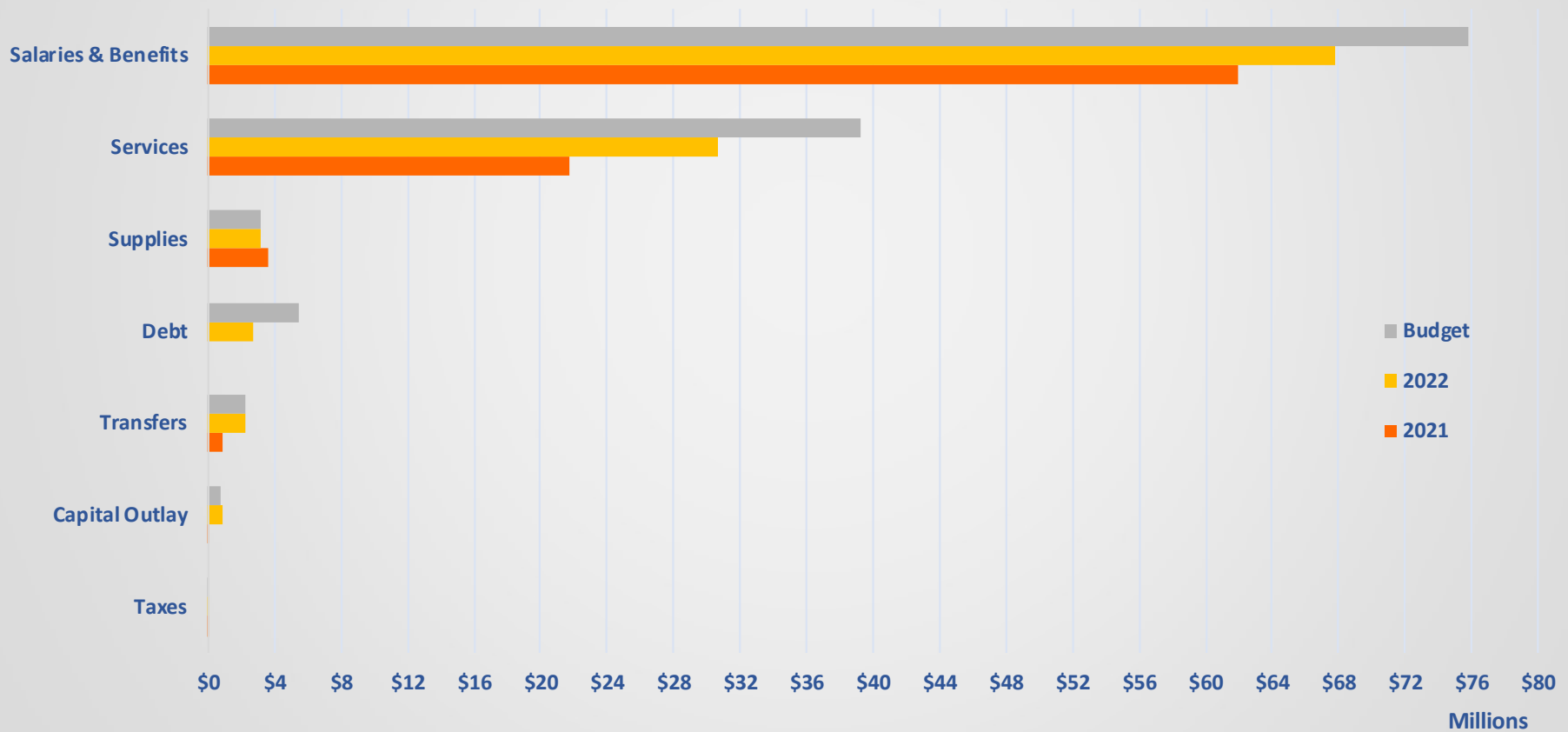
Internal Service Funds



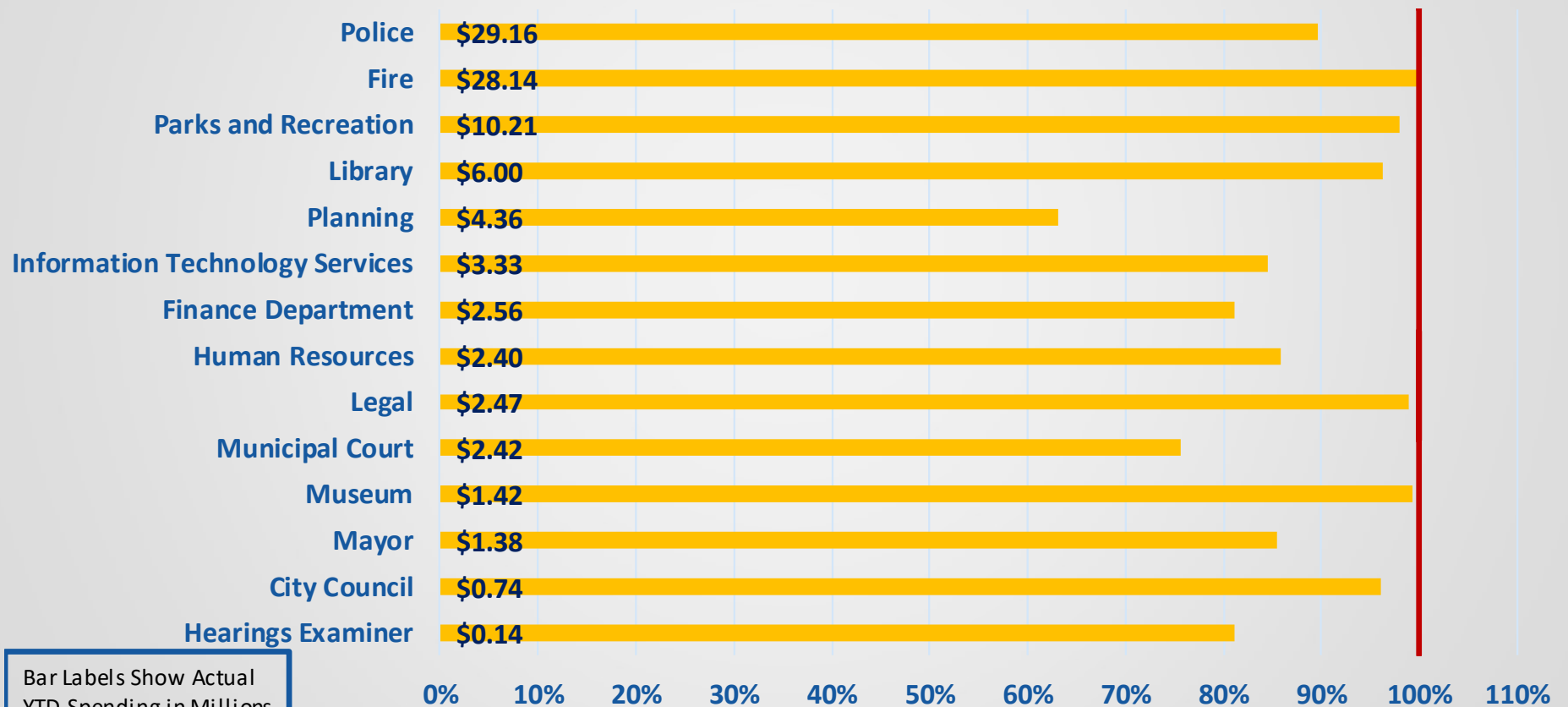
General Fund Revenues - \$111.2 M



General Fund Expenditures - \$107.2 M



General Fund - % of Budget Spent by Department



General Fund Reserves

2022 Beginning Reserve: \$ 47,335,719

Description **Updated 4/10/2023**

Cash 54,608,040

Accounts Receivable 2,954,110

Accounts Payable (1,835,050)

Retainage Payable (2,387)

Accrued Wages (2,926,154)

Rev. Collected in Advance (65,035)

Rental Security Deposits (8,788)

2023 Beginning Reserve: 52,724,737

Reserve Breakdown

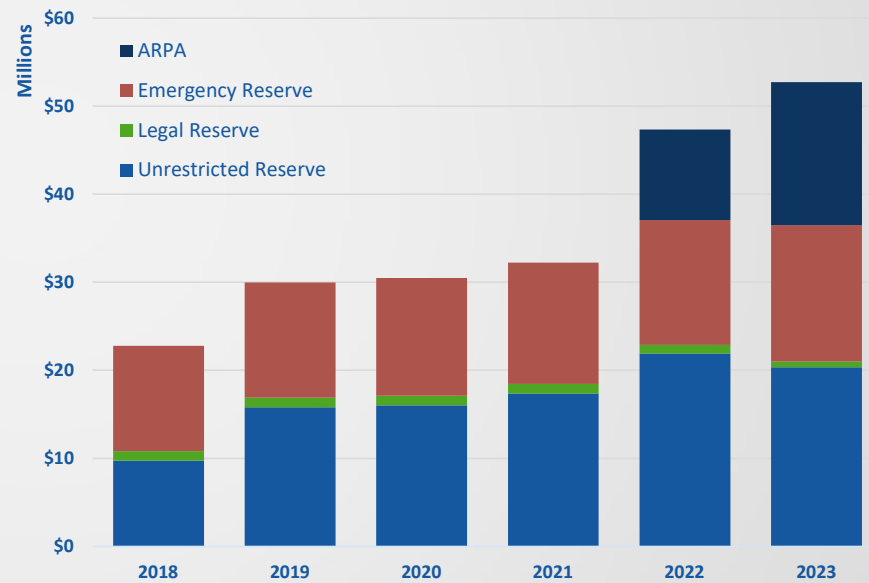
Restricted Unearned Grant Reserve (ARPA) 16,041,719

Legal Reserve 645,125

Emergency Reserve 15,502,974

Unrestricted Reserve 20,534,919

GF Beginning Estimated Reserves 2018-2023



ARPA BUDGET TRACKING

	Amount Budgeted	Amount Spent	Total Allocation	Remaining Allocation	Introduction Date
HOUSING, FOOD SECURITY & HOMELESSNESS	7,941,000	3,801,063	10,000,000	2,059,000	
Motel stays for families with children	300,000	59,987			6/21/2021
Samish Commons housing project	1,375,000	1,213,973			6/21/2021
Millworks housing project	2,800,000				2/7/2022
Evergreen Ridge Apartments acquisition assistar	2,525,000	2,525,000			4/25/2022
Food Security	500,000	2,103			6/27/2022
COVID Human Service Grant Continuation	441,000				2023/2024 Biennial Budget
ECONOMIC RECOVERY - EMPHASIS ON TOURISM & CHILDCARE	5,817,000	1,083,036	5,925,817	108,817	
Childcare facility at Samish Commons	725,000				6/21/2021
Direct tourism support	850,000	781,550			6/21/2021
Heart House childcare facility	155,000	155,000			2021/2022 Mid-biennium
Parking fund program support - meters	700,000				2021/2022 Mid-biennium
Downtown Ambassadors pilot	280,000	145,730			2/7/2022
Millworks childcare facility	1,000,000				2/7/2022
Childcare industry and workforce stabilization	1,000,000	756			3/14/2022
YMCA Barkley tenant improvements	300,000				4/25/2022
Boys & Girls Club Yew Street acquisition	200,000				4/25/2022
Ambassadors and Expanded Security for 23/24	607,000				2023/2024 Biennial Budget
CLIMATE RESILIENCY FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS & CARBON REDUCTION	5,000,000	-	5,000,000	-	
Library Resiliency Remodel	5,000,000	-			2023/2024 Biennial Budget
Grand Total	18,758,000	4,884,099	20,925,817	2,167,817	

Questions?

Presentation and additional reports available at:
<https://www.cob.org/gov/dept/finance/pages/reports.aspx>



**Bellingham Public Library
Performance & Activity Measures, 2023**

Library Board
July 18, 2023
Consent Agenda

	June		Year to Date			YTD comparison
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2019	2023 with 2019
Holdings - Number of materials in the library's collection						
Physical copies added to the collection	1,848	2,211	13,573	12,740	15,352	-11.59%
Electronic copies purchased by BPL	407	224	1,006	846	541	85.95%
Physical copies withdrawn from collection	(342)	(489)	(14,498)	(9,559)	(4,081)	255.26%
Total physical holdings			179,759	175,906	188,881	-4.83%
Total electronic holdings available to BPL			143,963	121,963	93,064	54.69%
Total Holdings (Physical and Electronic)			323,722	297,869	281,945	14.82%
Circulation - Number of items checked out or renewed; includes Interlibrary Loan and Outreach activity						
Central Library						
Adult	40,150	49,362	251,817	283,035	338,812	-25.68%
Youth	41,553	46,046	255,715	250,588	271,543	-5.83%
Sub-Total Central	81,703	95,408	507,532	533,623	610,355	-16.85%
Fairhaven Branch						
Adult	5,305	1,126	29,635	6,047	43,323	-31.60%
Youth	2,593	782	13,454	4,393	15,622	-13.88%
Sub-Total Fairhaven	7,898	1,908	43,089	10,440	58,945	-26.90%
Barkley Branch						
Adult	4,428	1,475	26,983	7,645	32,493	-16.96%
Youth	4,378	1,306	24,833	6,919	21,413	15.97%
Sub-Total Barkley	8,806	2,781	51,816	14,564	53,906	-3.88%
Bellis Fair Branch						
Adult	991		1,877	0	0	
Youth	1,651		2,878	0	0	
Sub-Total Bellis Fair	2,642	0	4,755	0	0	
Bellingham Technical College						
Adult	21	0	145	0	421	-65.56%
Youth	5	0	30	0	91	-67.03%
Sub-Total BTC	26	0	175	0	512	-65.82%
Whatcom Community College						
Adult	216	0	1,066	0	2,007	-46.89%
Youth	61	0	449	0	609	-26.27%
Sub-Total WCC	277	0	1,515	0	2,616	-42.09%
Western Washington University						
Adult	90	0	942	0	3,134	-69.94%
Youth	61	0	258	0	1,706	-84.88%
Sub-Total WWU	151	0	1,200	0	4,840	-75.21%
Sub-Total Physical	101,503	100,097	610,082	558,627	731,174	-16.56%
Online Services						
Kanopy	1,542	1,630	9,628	10,707	637	1411.46%
WA Anytime Library Overdrive	36,422	31,094	215,655	183,304	127,054	69.73%
Overdrive Magazines	1,779	1,934	11,337	13,529	14,103	-19.61%
Sub-Total Online	39,743	34,658	236,620	207,540	141,794	66.88%
Total Circulation	141,246	134,755	846,702	766,167	872,968	-3.01%
Holds Activity						
Items placed on hold shelf	49,583	47,398	303,791	303,798	271,029	12.09%
Services						
Persons Visiting - Number of persons counted as they enter the libraries						
Central Library - Curbside						
Adult	30	60	229	7,477	0	
Youth	32,080	27,445	195,040	125,560	232,216	-16.01%
Fairhaven Branch	8,197	6,841	45,107	26,738	61,076	-26.15%
Barkley Branch	5,411	4,706	27,929	23,041	40,132	-30.41%
Bellis Fair Branch	3,903	2,972	22,514	14,992	27,137	-17.04%
Total Persons Visiting	51,989	42,024	296,141	197,808	360,561	-17.87%
Website Visits						
This count reflects number of visits to www.bellinghampubliclibrary.org	40,457	35,025	241,481	219,590	248,777	-2.93%
Bibliocommons Visits						
This count reflects number of visits to Bibliocommons	17,963	14,921	96,937	79,449	71,245	36.06%
Total Website Visits	58,420	49,946	338,418	299,039	320,022	5.75%
Computer Usage - Number of sessions						
Central Library						
Adult & Teen (30 terminals)	2,839	2,059	17,507	9,118	30,985	-43.50%
Childrens (3 terminals)	47	41	245	113	881	-72.19%
Fairhaven Branch (6 terminals)	241	158	1,171	723	3,065	-61.79%
Barkley Branch (4 terminals)	150	117	874	536	1,754	-50.17%
Bellis Fair Branch (4 terminals)	66	0	161	0	0	
Total Computer Usage	3,343	2,375	19,958	10,490	36,685	-45.60%
New Borrowers Registered						
Central Library	526	498	3,164	2,698	2,529	25.11%
Fairhaven Branch	59	35	195	150	264	-26.14%
Barkley Branch	55	37	216	114	157	37.58%
Bellis Fair Branch	75	0	157	0	0	
Total New Borrowers Registered	715	570	3,732	2,962	2,950	26.51%
Programs - Library sponsored or co-sponsored educational, recreational, or cultural programs						
Programs	77	51	593	295	677	-12.41%
Attendees	3,253	2,113	13,628	5,700	15,813	-13.82%
Volunteer Hours	316	1,176	3,216	2,432	3,322	-3.18%

BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Library Trustees

JUNE 2023 CLAIMS

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 JULY 18, 2023, IN
 ACCORDANCE WITH RCW 27.12.210 AND 27.12.240.

	VENDOR	AMOUNT
Materials, Equipment and Supplies		
Key duplicates	Accurate Lock & Security	47.33
Books; DVDs; supplies; masks; file cabinets	Amazon.com	2,143.58
Books	Baker & Taylor	26,800.57
Periodicals	Bellingham Herald	1,318.43
Playaways	Bertelsmann Publishing Group	2,087.72
Office chairs	Blackburn Office Equipment	2,206.14
Books	Cavendish Square Books	222.43
Books	Center Point Large Print	129.09
Paper	Copy Source	26.10
Emergency water	Costco	8.15
Water @ Barkley & Bellis Fair Branches	Crystal Springs	3.58
Lights	Home Depot	65.21
Bellis Fair work table	KCDA Purchasing Cooperative	10,219.01
Wonderbooks	Library Ideas	106.52
DVDs, CDs, recorded books	Midwest Tape	4,627.90
Bellis Fair help desk & book carts	New Whatcom Interiors	5,080.96
Office supplies	ODP Business Solutions	154.47
Bellis Fair cash drawer	POSGuys	216.26
Vehicle fuel	Reisner Distributor	303.88
Periodicals	Seattle Daily Journal	225.00
Periodicals	Seattle Times	852.80
Periodicals	Sound Publishing	576.00
Emergency kit	Stryker	50.20
Bellis Fair furniture	Trico Office Supply	14,315.70
Desk bases	Uplift Desk	3,360.83
Copier paper	WCP Solutions	681.09
Materials, Equipment & Supplies Sub Total		\$75,828.95
Services and Interfund Charges		
Barkley Branch cleaning	Action Cleaning	769.50
Bellis Fair Branch cleaning	Advantage Building Services	1,477.66
Preprocessing	Baker & Taylor	7,650.73
Program supplies	Bellingham Promotional	229.02
Bellis Fair lease	Bellis Fair Mall Territories	5,357.00
Databases	Bibliocommons	12,273.91
Bellis Fair natural gas	Cascade Natural Gas	47.27
Computer replacement allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	15,807.43
Facilities Services	City of Bellingham Interfund	53,123.96

BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Library Trustees

JUNE 2023 CLAIMS

Fleet Services	City of Bellingham Interfund	1,054.00
IT Service allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	28,350.29
Postage	City of Bellingham Interfund	751.61
Qualified Energy Conservation Bond sinking fund	City of Bellingham Interfund	3,517.00
Risk Management	City of Bellingham Interfund	8,225.33
Technology replacement allocation	City of Bellingham Interfund	3,182.02
Telecom Services	City of Bellingham Interfund	2,352.32
Printing	Copy Source	134.36
Water cooler rental (Barkley & Bellis Fair)	Crystal Springs	21.19
Bellis Fair card reader	Gateway Controls	5,838.21
Copier leases and copies	Kelley Connect	5,371.75
Bellis Fair waste service	Keter Environmental	109.09
Preprocessing	Midwest Tape	594.83
Mobile hotspot	Mobilebeacon	1,320.00
ILL & tech services	OCLC	2,293.84
eBooks, eAudiobooks	Overdrive Inc	11,403.77
Bellis Fair internet service	Pogozone Wireless	367.49
Security services	Risk Solutions Unlimited	8,436.23
Digital subscription	Seattle Times	19.96
Mileage reimbursement (programming & branch)	Staff	59.28
Borrower notices & MessageBee subscription	Unique Management	3,753.70
Interlibrary Loan postage	USPS	11.56
Hotspot service	Verizon Wireless	1,520.38
B&O Taxes	WSDO Revenue	5.43

Services and Interfund Charges Sub Total \$185,430.12

Gift Fund

Summer Reading supplies	Amazon.com	1,741.25
Books	Baker & Taylor	304.53
Opioid Summit digital media	Overdrive Inc	343.00
Planned Giving consultation	RM+Company	2,125.00
Books	SP A Kids	47.69

GIFT FUND OUTLAYS Sub Total \$4,561.47

TOTAL GENERAL FUND CLAIMS \$261,259.07

TOTAL CLAIMS \$265,820.54

Library - Budget to Actual - General Fund

June 2023 50% YTD

	YTD Actuals	Budget	Remaining	% Complete
Revenues				
Grants	0	0	0	
Print and Copy Fees	5,827	15,000	9,173	39%
Lost, Damage & Non-resident Borrower Fees	4,292	16,100	11,808	27%
Fairhaven Auditorium Rental Fees	2,575	5,000	2,425	52%
Miscellaneous Revenues	618	0	(618)	
Total Revenue	13,312	36,100	22,788	37%
Expenses				
Salaries and Wages	1,512,845	3,280,705	1,767,860	46%
Personnel Benefits	706,698	1,604,842	898,144	44%
Physical Materials, Equipment and Supplies	269,552	542,422	272,870	50%
Services, Digital Materials and Interfund	1,255,511	2,295,374	1,039,863	55%
Total Expenditure	3,744,606	7,723,343	3,978,737	48%

Library - Budget to Actual - Gift Fund

June 2023 50% YTD

	YTD Actuals	Budget	Remaining	% Complete
Revenues				
Donations	41,708	150,000	108,292	28%
Total Revenue	41,708	150,000	108,292	28%
Expenses				
Gift Fund expenses	28,871	50,000	21,129	58%
Total Expenditure	28,871	50,000	21,129	58%

Patron Use of Databases and Learning Resources

2023			Q1				Q2	%
Vendor	Database	Metric	TOTAL	Apr	May	Jun	TOTAL	Change Q1 to Q2
Candid	Foundation Directory Online#	Profile Views	413	66	60	109	235	-43.1%
Data Axle	Reference Solutions*	Detail Records Viewed, Downloaded, and Printed	26	38	3	155	196	653.8%
EBSCO	Auto Repair Source	Sessions	74	28	15	37	80	8.1%
EBSCO	Consumer Reports	Page Views	8,538	2,974	2,023	3,305	8,302	-2.8%
EBSCO	Novelist Plus	Requests	232	1,353	285	313	1,951	740.9%
EBSCO	Novelist K-8 Plus	Requests	149	306	209	24	539	261.7%
Gale	Gale databases	Item Requests	2,909	236	549	224	1,009	-65.3%
Grey House	Weiss Financial Ratings	Page Views	1,607	345	734	443	1,522	-5.3%
Library Ideas	Freegal	Songs Streamed or Downloaded	25,260	11,157	9,135	8,687	28,979	14.7%
LinkedIn	LinkedIn Learning	Video Views	3,369	975	1,402	1,302	3,679	9.2%
Mango	Mango	Sessions	869	220	265	417	902	3.8%
NewsBank	NewsBank^	Documents Viewed	9,733	3,868	3,752	2,975	10,595	8.9%
ProQuest	Ancestry Library Edition#	Document Views	1,798	364	741	454	1,559	-13.3%
ProQuest	CultureGrams	Pages Viewed	9,523	180	268	8	456	-95.2%
ProQuest	HeritageQuest	Records Viewed	986	172	307	170	649	-34.2%
ProQuest	US Newsstream & US Dailies	Retrievals	121	7	201	319	527	335.5%
ProQuest	Newspapers.com - West	Retrievals	852	427	114	319	860	0.9%
TOTAL			66,459	22,716	20,063	19,261	62,040	-6.6%

No remote access

* In-Library stats only. Remote access counted to WCLS

^ In-Library and some remote stats. Other remote access counted to WCLS

QUARTERLY DONATION REPORT for LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2023 - 2nd Quarter Donations to Library Gift Fund

Date	Received from:	Amount	Purpose:
4/4/2023	Individual	\$100.00	Dungeons & Dragons Books
4/4/2023	Individual	\$100.00	Library Giving Day
4/12/2023	Individual	\$25.00	Library Giving Day
4/22/2023	Individual	\$100.00	Unrestricted
4/30/2023	April misc donations	\$3.75	Unrestricted
5/2/2023	Humanities Washington	\$2,543.45	Prime Time Family books
5/2/2023	Friends of Fairhaven Public Library	\$6,425.53	Interactive kid's display @ FH
5/11/2023	Whatcom Educational Credit Union	\$7,500.00	Summer Reading sponsorship
5/22/2023	Friends of Bellingham Public Library	\$3,000.00	Adult programming books
5/25/2023	7 individuals	\$215.00	In memory of Corey Priddy
5/31/2023	May misc donations	\$0.10	Unrestricted
6/30/2023	June misc donations	\$14.70	Unrestricted
TOTAL		\$20,027.53	

2023 - 2nd Quarter Donations to Library Funds at Whatcom Community Foundation

Date	Received from:	Amount	Fund
4/4/2023	Individual	\$20.00	Unrestricted
4/4/2023	Individual	\$20.00	Unrestricted
4/4/2023	Individuals	\$5,805.00	Library Giving Day
4/20/2023	Friends of Bellingham Public Library	\$3,000.24	Library Giving Day
4/13/2023	Anonymous	\$25.00	Unrestricted
4/13/2023	Celedo Fund	\$2,000.00	Unrestricted
5/13/2023	Anonymous	\$25.00	Unrestricted
6/13/2023	Anonymous	\$25.00	Unrestricted
6/16/2023	Attic Salt	\$810.00	Unrestricted
TOTAL		\$11,730.24	

2023 - 2nd Quarter Gift Fund balances

WCF		
Bragg - Muldrow Endowment - Spendable portion		\$473,556.43
Bellingham Public Library Designated Endowment Fund		\$65,994.15
Bellingham Public Library Fund - Capital		\$126,479.63
(\$121,627 designated for Fairhaven Branch capital improvements)		
Bellingham Public Library Fund - Fairhaven Branch Materials		\$6,523.07
Bellingham Public Library Fund - Materials		\$12,597.98
Bellingham Public Library Fund - Unrestricted		\$43,298.00
Library Giving Day (contributions minus administrative fees)		\$8,645.95
TOTAL		\$737,095.21
Library Gift Fund		
(Variety of designated funds incl. transferred \$256,530.70 WCF Agency Fund)		\$349,328.88
GRAND TOTAL		\$1,086,424.09

DIRECTOR'S REPORT FOR July 18, 2023

In late June, I attended the American Library Association annual conference in Chicago. Colleagues from around the country and from public, school, academic and special libraries met to listen, to learn, and to connect. With the Central Library renovation coming soon, it was an especially good time to connect with others who are in the thick of capital projects! Sessions I attended included: *Socioeconomic Mixing: Creating Public Libraries Where Everyone Belongs*; *Substance Misuse: Programming to Support Healthy Communities*; *Learning from Cities: How the Library Catalyzes a City's Equity-Driven Community Economic Development Agenda*; *Leverage Federal Funds to Advance Digital Equity in Your Community*; *Understanding Community by the Numbers*; *Help! They're coming for our books!*; *The Top 5 Mistakes Renovating Your Library – and How to Avoid Them!*; *The Storm is Already Here: a National Survey of Public Library Disaster Preparedness and Community Resilience*; and an interesting session on collaborative decision making titled *Thinking to Produce Results*. Another highlight of the conference was a panel discussion on generational poverty that included Matthew Desmond, author of *Poverty, By America* and *Evicted*. (Rebecca Judd, Library Director)

WELCOME & INCLUDE

Naloxone: On June 27 and June 28, the Bellingham Fire Department facilitated two training sessions on administering naloxone for Library staff who wanted to attend. Both sessions were well-attended and well-received. Staff who responded to a suspected overdose the following week indicated that the information received in training was helpful. (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Public Services and Operations)

Security assessment: As part of our ongoing work on safety and security, the Library contacted Micah Scheff from RP Strategies to discuss an assessment of our security training, processes and tools. Micah has worked extensively with Library security teams, which makes his expertise a good match for our organization. Based on a proposal that was developed, a contract for the assessment is now in the City contracting queue. (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Public Services and Operations)

ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY

Parties in the Park: Youth Services Staff held a library party at Cordata Park Wednesday, June 28 and gave away over 130 free books. A second library party was held Thursday, July 13 at Fairhaven Park and Youth Services staff gave away 120 books. Thank you to the Friends of the Library and WECU for providing these great resources for our community! (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

Boy Reading new book at Fairhaven Party in the Park



READ & LEARN



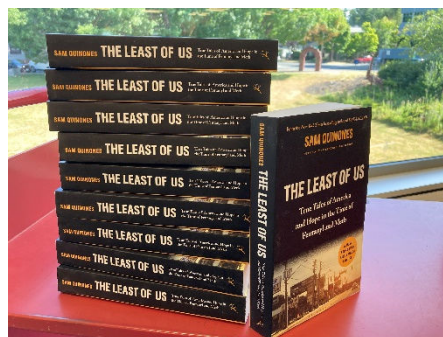
Damian and Gabriel Carrillo Koller preparing for the Children's Craft Fair, photo by Monica Koller

Children's Craft Fairs: A variety of publicity has gone out announcing Bellingham Public Library's two Children's Craft Fairs this year, Friday, July 28, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm outside the Central Library in Lee Memorial Park, and on Friday, Aug. 11, 5:00 to 7:00 pm inside Bellis Fair Mall (along the interior walkways from the Bellis Fair Library Branch to the Food Court). Each event is at maximum capacity of 50 booths. The public is encouraged to attend the Craft Fairs, and bring small bills, to support more than 100 kids who are spending their summers creating homemade items to sell. All treasures will be priced at \$5 or less, and all sales will be cash only. (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

INFORM & INVOLVE

All Hands Whatcom Opioid Summit June 27 + 28: Several Bellingham Public Library staff members attended this two-day event at Bellingham High School. The content featured an overview of substance abuse disorder science, harm reduction concepts, and lived experience from a variety of community members including health care, EMS, law enforcement, tribal members and Next Gen youth. Time was also allowed for small group discussions and brainstorming local needs and solutions. The overall experience was two full days of listening, learning, calls to action, and the realization that there is much to be done. Sponsors of *All Hands Whatcom* 2023 include: Whatcom County Health and Community Services, City of Bellingham, Chuckanut Health Foundation, Mount Baker Foundation, Northwest Youth Services, Peace Health, Whatcom Community Foundation, Northwest Washington Medical Society, RAM Construction, Bellingham Public Schools, Barron Quinn Blackwood, Birch Bay Blaine Thrives, Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce, Lautenbach Recycling, Brambleberry, and Bellingham Public Library. (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

***The Least of Us* by Sam Quinones:** Bellingham Public Library is circulating numerous print copies of [The Least of Us: True Tales of America and Hope in the Time of Fentanyl and Meth](#) by author Sam Quinones, and partnering with All Hands Whatcom on multiple free events related to the book. News releases, social media posts and a special newsletter to Library patrons have gone out announcing the author will be in Bellingham for **All Hands Whatcom: An Evening with Sam Quinones, Tuesday, Aug. 1 at 6:00 pm at Bellingham High School**. The event is free and open to the public. Learn more, register, sign up for email alerts, and submit questions for the author at [ChuckanutHealthFoundation.org/allhands](https://chuckanuthealthfoundation.org/allhands). The dialogue will continue as Bellingham Public Library hosts two **Community Conversations: *The Least of Us* by Sam Quinones, on Aug. 14 and Aug. 17 at the Bellingham Central Library Lecture Room**. These free public book discussions will be facilitated by Dr. Shannon Boustead, family medicine physician at Sea-Mar Community Health Clinics in Bellingham, and Public Services Librarian Suzanne Carlson-Prandini. Pre-register for [Monday, Aug. 14, noon – 1:30 pm](#) or [Thursday, Aug. 17, 5:30 – 7 pm](#) at BellinghamPublicLibrary.org. (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)





Bellingham Pride Parade: Staff from BPL and WCLS marched together in the Bellingham Pride Parade on Sunday, July 9 in downtown Bellingham. The event featured more than 100 entries and enjoyed a huge audience along the route. Thank you to Community Relations Specialist Jenni Johnson for organizing our library entry! (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)



Downtown Sounds: BPL staff were invited by WECU to table at the first Downtown Sounds event of the summer on Wednesday, July 12. Summer Reading materials, swag and information about Whatcom READS were a big hit with young families and individuals of all ages. (Annette Bagley, Head of Community Relations)

Liz and Annette at Downtown Sounds

THRIVE & GROW

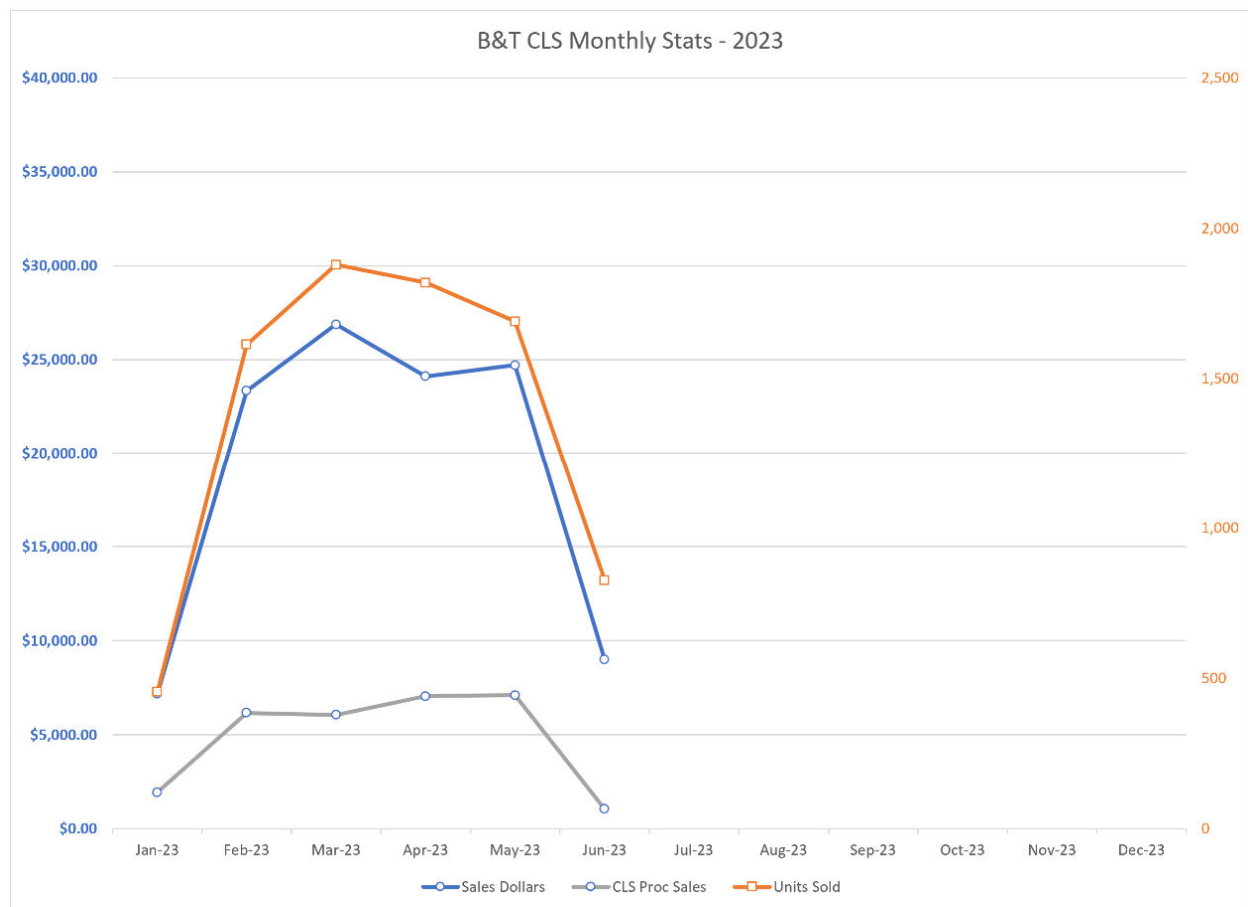
Elevator updates: The freight elevator modernization project is awaiting parts, scheduled to arrive in early August. Work is expected to resume the week of August 7 and to be finished by the end of August. Additionally, the public elevator at the Central Library was out of service for almost a week in

July. Necessary safety repairs were completed July 12. Public Works has requested estimates for a complete replacement of the public elevator car door and will provide updates on that project when more information is available. (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Public Services and Operations)

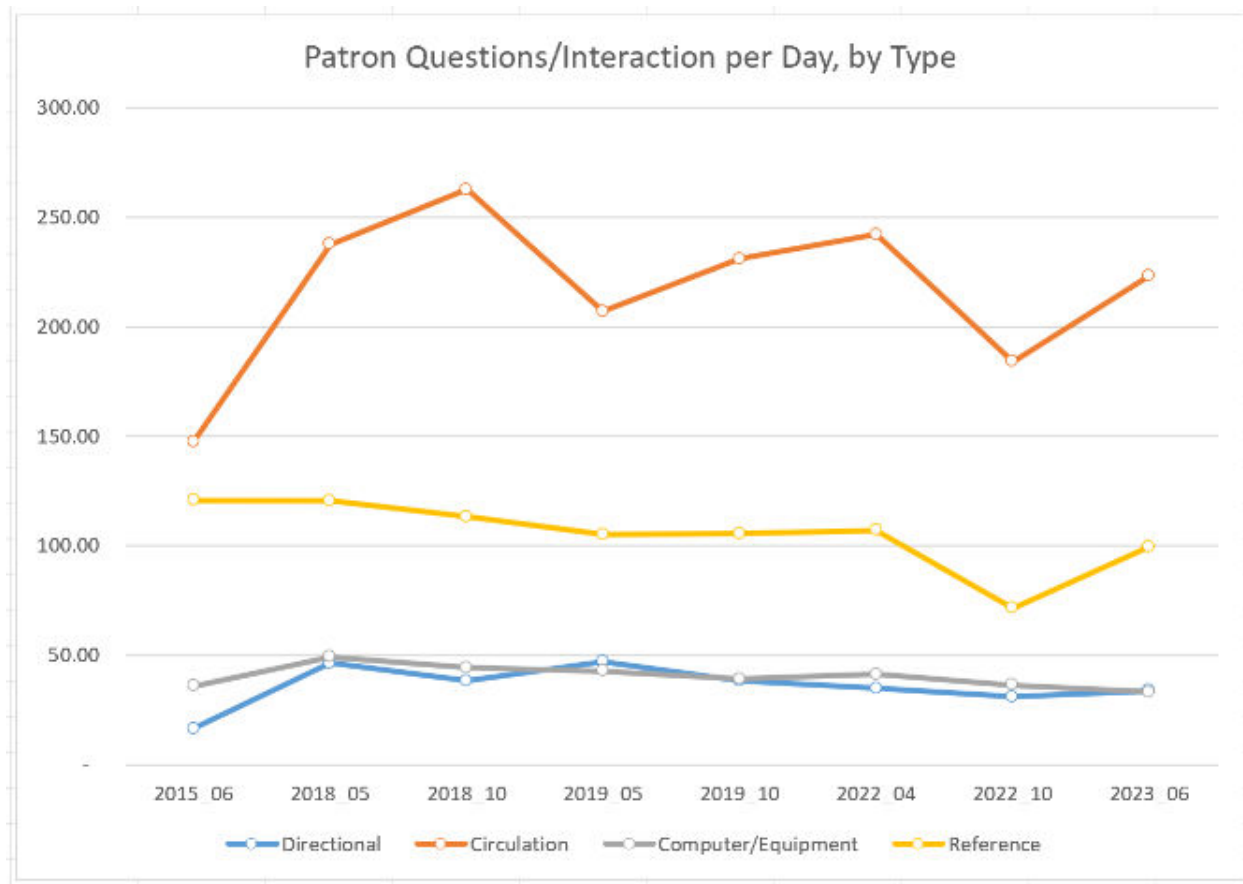
Air quality sensors: The project to install air quality sensors in all Library public restrooms is in the City contracting queue. The IT department completed their project review and approved the hardware and software for this system. (Jen Vander Ploeg, Head of Public Services and Operations)

Public Computers Refresh: Doug and Paul in ITSD have been working hard to deploy the replacement computers that were ordered and arrived earlier this year. The back-end work, which is a major component of this process, is finished, so they can proceed with the front-facing work. All of the computers in the big public computing area at Central have been swapped, as well as a handful of others scattered around Central. There are many more to go, though! (Jon McConnell, Head of Digital Services)

B&T Shipments Pause: BPL orders nearly all of our new books from Baker & Taylor, one of the two large distributors that serve much of the library market. We have their ordering system integrated with our catalog, and we have an agreement in place for them to do much of the processing needed to get items ready to go on our shelves. This past month they essentially stopped work for us, which caused disruption to our internal processes in Collection Services. It has been a frustrating month for CS staff. The explanation from B&T is that they had staffing issues and needed to focus on libraries for whom June is the end of their fiscal year. We did not see the same decline in either 2021 or 2022, so this was a surprise to us. Reportedly they're getting into a better staffing position now. Boxes did start arriving from B&T again on July 10, so we are getting back to normal. (Jon McConnell, Head of Digital Services)



Patron Question Tally Week: 'Reference Questions' is one of the metrics we are asked to report to the State Library annually. We choose to calculate a count based on two representative weeks of tallying all patron interactions, both in-person and remote. The first of this year's tally weeks was in early June, and the other is scheduled for mid-October. We use this opportunity to collect information about all kinds of interactions with patrons, not just the Reference Questions that we report to the state. The other types of interactions are grouped into 'Directional', 'Circulation', and 'Computer/Equipment'. Those categories are used for internal purposes, primarily in evaluating staffing levels. June's numbers came in on-trend with long-term trends. Last October's numbers for Reference and Circulation were both down considerably from trend. Trends for all interaction types are slightly down since 2018. Note that we did not conduct the surveys during 2020 or 2021 due to the interruption of public service during the pandemic. (Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)



Quarterly Check-Out by Branch by Patron Code: One way of understanding our services is to see which branches patrons use to borrow things. The tables below roll-up checkouts by quarter for our main patron types, 'B-Adult' and 'B-Youth'. Bellis Fair popped-in as BPL Adult and Youth patrons' 6th favorite branch for checking things out, despite not even being open the entire second quarter!

Quarterly Comparison of Ordinal Branch CKO Preference by Patron Code																			
B - Adult										B - Youth									
Top Branches for CKO										Top Branches for CKO									
Quarter	CKO Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		Quarter	CKO Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
2021 Q4	232,781	B	FE	F	LY	BA	DE	SW		2021 Q4	58,502	B	FE	BA	LY	F	BL	SW	
2022 Q1	221,562	B	FE	LY	BA	F	DE	SW		2022 Q1	48,229	B	FE	LY	BA	BL	SW	F	
2022 Q2	237,296	B	FE	BA	LY	F	DE	BL		2022 Q2	58,427	B	FE	LY	BA	F	SW	BL	
2022 Q3	243,845	B	FE	LY	BA	F	BL	DE		2022 Q3	66,143	B	FE	LY	BA	F	SW	BL	
2022 Q4	233,022	B	FE	BA	F	LY	BL	DE		2022 Q4	55,832	B	FE	LY	BA	F	BL	DE	
2023 Q1	236,282	B	BA	F	FE	LY	BL	DE		2023 Q1	56,820	B	FE	BA	F	LY	DE	SW	
2023 Q2	229,632	B	BA	F	FE	LY	BF	DE		2023 Q2	57,813	B	FE	F	BA	LY	BF	DE	

[At least some of what we're seeing in the data in 2021 and 2022 is the result of a misconfiguration that shifted reporting of self-checkout numbers from BPL branches to Bellingham's Central branch ('B') in the table. This left BPL branches with artificially low circulation counts which may have changed the order of patron branch checkout preference. The problem was fixed at the end of Nov. '22, so we can be confident of the 2023 data.]

Branch Abbreviations:

- B – Bellingham Central
- BA – Barkley
- BF – Bellis Fair
- BL – Blaine
- DE – Deming
- EV - Everson
- F – Fairhaven
- FE – Ferndale
- LY – Lynden
- SW – South Whatcom

If you're curious about how this looks for WCLS patrons:

W - Adult										W - Youth									
Top Branches for CKO										Top Branches for CKO									
Quarter	CKO Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		Quarter	CKO Count	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
2021 Q4	273,362	LY	FE	BL	EV	DE	B	SW		2021 Q4	83,563	LY	FE	BL	B	DE	EV	SW	
2022 Q1	281,058	LY	FE	BL	EV	DE	B	SW		2022 Q1	80,830	LY	FE	BL	DE	B	EV	SW	
2022 Q2	291,985	LY	FE	BL	B	EV	DE	SW		2022 Q2	89,968	LY	FE	BL	B	EV	DE	SW	
2022 Q3	297,361	LY	FE	BL	B	EV	DE	SW		2022 Q3	98,517	LY	FE	B	BL	EV	SW	DE	
2022 Q4	275,598	LY	FE	BL	B	EV	DE	SW		2022 Q4	81,260	LY	FE	B	BL	EV	SW	DE	
2023 Q1	280,518	LY	FE	BL	B	EV	DE	SW		2023 Q1	81,700	LY	FE	B	BL	EV	SW	DE	
2023 Q2	275,218	LY	FE	BL	B	EV	SW	DE		2023 Q2	84,122	LY	FE	B	BL	EV	SW	DE	

(Jon McConnel, Head of Digital Services)

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Judd

July 18, 2023

Recommended motion: to retire *Public Use of Library Exhibit Areas and Display of Works of Art* as a Board policy.

Notes:

- Current practice: The Bellingham Public Library curates two exhibits spaces at the Central Library. The Library has invited the Friends to display items in the downstairs case, and our local museums to display items in the case in the stairwell.
- If the Trustees would like to change this practice at any time, an Exhibits Policy can be drafted.
- A revision to the Donations Policy, which will include language about art donations, will be brought to the board before end of year.

Bellingham Public Library Policy

Title:	4.503 PUBLIC USE OF LIBRARY EXHIBIT AREAS AND DISPLAY OF WORKS OF ART
--------	---

Code:	4 Public Services-
Chapter:	4.500 Public Use of Facilities and Equipment-

~~Type of Policy:~~ Departmental
~~Date Developed:~~ 20 August 2002
~~Date Revised:~~ 20 September 2005
~~Revised by:~~ Pam Kiesner
~~Developed by:~~ Julie Carterson
~~Approved By:~~ Library Board of Trustees

Replaces:	Section VI, Public Service Policies, Display of Artwork; Section VI, Public Service Policies, Public Display Areas
See Also:	Library policy: 4.501 Public use of library bulletin boards and literature racks Library procedure: 4.503.101 Arranging public use of library exhibit cases Other resources: Library Bill of Rights Exhibit spaces and bulletin boards, an interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights Bellingham City Code 2.36.050 Municipal Art Commission, Authority and Duties Attached forms: Bellingham Public Library Exhibit Agreement Bellingham Public Libraries Licensing Agreement

Scope

~~This policy applies to all individuals or groups who use the library display areas for exhibit space, or who donate or sell works of art to the library.~~

Policy/Conditions

1. Library provides space for exhibits of community interest.

~~As an extension of its mission to serve as the community's access to the world of information and ideas, the Library welcomes the community's use of its display space for exhibits of interest, information and enlightenment to the local community.~~

~~-~~
~~-~~

2. Exhibit space is made available on an equitable basis.

~~-~~

~~Space is made available for use by the public on equal terms, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of the individual or groups requesting their use, or viewpoints expressed in their material.~~

~~-~~
~~-~~

3. Library does not endorse the contents of exhibits.

~~-~~

~~Display of exhibits does not indicate library endorsement of the ideas, issues or events promoted by the exhibit.~~

~~-~~
~~-~~

4. Space is limited, so the Library sets these priorities for its use:

~~-~~

- ~~• Exhibits by the Library, or a Library affiliated group~~
- ~~• Exhibits from government agencies~~
- ~~• Exhibits from individuals or groups whose purpose is to serve the educational, cultural, recreational, intellectual, or charitable interests of the local community~~

~~-~~
~~-~~

5. Library restricts some exhibits.

~~-~~

- ~~• Exhibits must be appropriate for viewers of all ages~~

~~-~~

~~Exhibits that do not enhance the Library's role as an educational or cultural agency are restricted. This includes:~~

- ~~• Exhibits of political or campaign literature (unless it contains all candidates or sides of an issue)~~
- ~~• Exhibits from individuals or groups whose primary purpose is for the sale, advertising, solicitation or promotion of commercial products or services~~
- ~~• Exhibits which, in the judgment of the Library Administration represents a threat to the orderly use of the Library~~

~~-~~
~~-~~

6. Library staff reviews all exhibits.

~~-~~

- ~~• Exhibits that do not meet the criteria of this policy will be declined~~
- ~~• To ensure equitable access to limited exhibits space, library staff may restrict:
The length of time exhibits may remain on display
The frequency with which the same individuals or groups may display an exhibit~~

~~-~~
~~-~~

7. Exhibitors are responsible for the installation and dismantling of exhibits.

~~-~~

- ~~• Exhibitors will sign a Bellingham Public Libraries Exhibit Agreement agreeing to this~~

policy

- ~~Exhibits will include a sign identifying the individuals or groups responsible for the exhibit~~
- ~~Exhibits will not be publicized in a manner that suggests library sponsorship or affiliation~~

-

-

8. Works of art, as gifts or loans, may be accepted for display.

-

- ~~Works of art must be approved and accepted by the Library Board of Trustees and the Bellingham Arts Commission in accordance with the Bellingham City Code 2.36.050~~
- ~~Donors of works of art will sign a Bellingham Public Libraries License Agreement~~
- ~~The library reserves the right to exhibit any donated work of art in a manner that is consistent with its policies, needs and available space~~
- ~~Acceptance of work of art object does not imply that it will be on permanent public display~~
- ~~The library may move and relocate a work of art for any reason it deems necessary, or de-access, dispose and sell a work of art upon approval of the Bellingham Arts Commission and the Library Board of Trustees~~

-

-

8. Library assumes no liability for exhibit contents or works of art.

-

~~The Library assumes no responsibility for the preservation or protection of an exhibit or work of art on display at the Library. As a condition of displaying the exhibit or work of art, the owner assumes all risk of damage or theft to the item on display and agrees to hold the Library harmless if such damage occurs.~~

-

-

-

Attached forms:

Summary of Mid-Biennial Budget Modification proposal:

Adjustments to ongoing Library operations: \$75,500

- Custodial and Cleaning (Barkley): +\$3,500 /annual
Current budget amount \$6,000 /annual
- Tuition and training costs: +\$10,000 /annual
Current budget \$5,285 /annual for 56.4 FTE
- Travel expenses: +\$10,000 /annual
Current budget \$1,339 /annual for 56.4 FTE
- Other Professional Services: +\$20,000 /annual
Current budget amount \$9,225 /annual
- Advertising and Promotions: +\$16,000 /annual
Current budget amount \$3,800 /annual
- Interfund mailroom allocation: +\$16,000 /annual
Current budget amount \$2,515 /annual

One-time expense: \$35,000

- Envisionware AMH/Sorter add-on: \$35,000

2023 Annual Action Plan: Quarter 2 update, April - June 2023

WELCOME & INCLUDE: We offer welcoming, safe places and experiences, where connections and understanding flourish.

- Safety and Ease: Seek learning opportunities and activities that help staff identify and respond to behaviors in our libraries that may pose a safety risk
- Research best practices and software for community meeting spaces at Central and Fairhaven

ACCESS & OPPORTUNITY: We connect people with opportunities and resources to solve problems and help them achieve their aspirations.

- Invite social service organizations to share information and provide services on-site

READ & LEARN: We inspire a lifetime of reading, learning, curiosity, and discovery.

- Develop additional Youth Services engagement and programming opportunities, with a focus on underserved age groups and populations

INFORM & INVOLVE: We provide information and activities to stay abreast of community issues and events, fostering informed, active participation in civic life.

- Partner with city and community leaders to foster public education and involvement in issues that matter

THRIVE & GROW: We are a valued community partner and trusted city service, playing a central role in Bellingham life.

- Design and open Bellis Fair Mall branch library pilot
- With Public Works, hire architect and complete design work for Central Library renovation
- Develop Planned Giving program for the Library
- Hire and onboard new Staff Training Coordinator as part of Library's administration team