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Project Team

NEW LIBRARY COMMITTEE
Eron Berg, Sedro-Woolley City Supervisor / Attorney
Mary Alice Grobins, Central Skagit Library Board
Timothy P. Howland, Sedro-Woolley Library Board
Julia Johnson, Sedro-Woolley City Council
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Claire Miccio
Executive Summary

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PREDESIGN STUDY
The City of Sedro-Woolley and the Central Skagit Library are working together to plan, design and build a new library serving residents in the combined services areas of the City of Sedro-Woolley and the Library District (not including the incorporated municipalities of Lyman and Hamilton). The predesign study scope includes:

1. A library needs assessment - a systematic process to identify and address the needs and priorities of library users and non-users – to form a community vision, goals and service priorities for a new library
2. A facility program listing space requirements for a new library
3. Site evaluation and selection of a preferred location for a new library
4. Conceptual design for a new library that meets program and budget requirements on the preferred site

PROCESS
A New Library Planning Committee, with representatives from the City of Sedro-Woolley and the Central Skagit Library System, was formed to provide direction to the consultant team and make recommendations to the District Board and City Council.

The public engagement strategy for the needs assessment included an online and paper survey, a community-wide open house meeting, a facilitated workshop with library staff and a strategy workshop with representatives from a broad range of community organizations.

Community responses were documented and analyzed, informing service priorities and space needs for the New Library.

A second community-wide open house meeting along with staff and strategy workshops were conducted to share information and gather feedback on the needs assessment, facility program, site selection, budget and conceptual design.

The New Library budget includes $6.825M for land costs, construction, design/engineering, furniture, fixtures & equipment and the opening day collection. Additional funding has been requested from the state to support the New Library project.

Six sites were identified and evaluated using selection criteria established by the New Library Committee – availability, adequate area for the New Library and parking, proximity to the Sedro-Woolley central business district and transit options, visibility.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Input gathered in the community visioning and needs assessment process describe existing library facilities that lack adequate space for library programs and activities, community meetings, reading, staff work and collections. The New Library will combine resources and space in a new, expanded building providing valuable additional space for new and existing library programs, services and collections.

Community vision for a New Library:
- A community cultural center, the go-to place.
- Accessible, welcoming, and easy to use; an inspiring place for all ages.
- Support literacy, life-long learning and STE(A)M education
- Improve access and contribute to redevelopment of central business district.

LIBRARY BUDGET AND SIZE
Based on estimated library and site construction costs, the $6.825m total project budget will support a library of approximately 10,000 sf, including site acquisition, FF&E, and opening day collections. If additional funding can be secured, a larger library accommodating an enhanced Early Learning Through Play Family Place, STE(A)M Center and 50+ Senior Space for lifelong learning can be constructed.

FACILITY PROGRAM AND SPACE PLANNING PRIORITIES
Provide flexible, multi-use spaces for group activities, quiet reading, conversation and teens/tweens. Improve display and access to collections. Encourage interaction and help manage noise. Natural light, access to views, improved thermal comfort and energy performance, robust wi-fi and digital tools and new furnishings benefit all library users.

NEW LIBRARY SITE
The preferred library site, located at 100 West State Street, was chosen by the New Library Predesign Committee as the preferred site. This property meets the selection criteria. It is available and large enough to accommodate a 10,000 sf – 13,000 sf one or two-story library with parking. The site has very good accessibility and visibility, with a generous south-facing open space.

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN
Spaces and activities will be arranged to take advantage of site access, proximity to the entry, views in and from the building, opportunities for natural light and ventilation.

Building form should respond to visibility and access from State Street, solar orientation, rain protection and the spatial requirements of library activities inside.
**NEXT STEPS**

The New Library Committee will complete research on the preferred site in preparation for purchase and closing.

Following completion and acceptance of the Needs Assessment/Predesign study, schematic design including site planning, engineering and permitting will begin in early 2018. This phase will take approximately 8–10 months to complete.

Project bidding in early 2019, followed by a 10-12 month construction period would allow the New Library to open in late 2019.

The City of Sedro-Woolley and the Central Skagit Library maintain web pages with information on the New Library Partnership and building:


http://www.centralskagitlibrary.org/meeting-minutes-and-materials.html
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Library space requirements, planning and site selection are guided by input gathered in the community visioning and Needs Assessment process.

Public Meeting 1
September 20, 2017

The public engagement strategy for the needs assessment included an online and paper survey, a community-wide open house meeting, a facilitated workshop with library staff and a strategy workshop with representatives from a broad range of community organizations.

Community responses were documented and analyzed, informing service priorities and space needs for the New Library.
Community Open House on September 20, 2017 at Sedro-Woolley City Hall.

Kids share ideas for the New Library.

Visions for the New Library.

3-D Printer demonstration.

Ranking library service priorities.
Public Meeting 2
November 29, 2017

A second community-wide open house meeting along with staff and strategy workshops were conducted to share information and gather additional feedback on the needs assessment, facility program, site selection, budget and conceptual design.

The responses from the two meetings were compiled and distilled into the Library Planning principles, listed below:

Planning Principles

COMMUNITY PRINCIPLES
• Cultural center, the go-to place in the community.
• Accessible, welcoming, and easy to use; an inspiring place for all ages.
• Support literacy, life-long learning and STE(A)M education
• Improve access and contribute to redevelopment of central business district.

SITE/BUILDING DESIGN PRINCIPLES
• Integrate daylight, natural ventilation and minimize energy use.
• Use planting, trees and pervious surface to reduce storm water.
• Exploit views into and out of library.
• Use durable, local, non-toxic materials that reflect community past and future.

PROGRAMMING PRINCIPLES
• Increase opportunities for social interaction and quiet reading.
• Make flexible and multi-functional spaces for groups and individuals.
• Provide distinct spaces for children, teens/tweens and older adults
• Create creative learning spaces for STE(A)M/DIY activities.
• Refresh and display collections to inspire readers.
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Community Open House on November 29, 2017 at Sedro-Woolley City Hall.

Discussions for the New Library.

The New Library Predesign presentation.

Community input for the New Library.

Kids share ideas for the New Library.
The feedback received was analyzed by Berk Consulting and compiled.

**WHAT DO RESPONDENTS THINK ABOUT THE ROLE OF A LIBRARY IN THE COMMUNITY?**

**Library Roles**

A library supports early childhood literacy, education, and lifelong learning in a community.

A library enhances the quality of life in a community.

A library contributes to the preservation of the heritage and cultures of a community.

A library supports the health of our democracy.

A library supports the economic well-being and workforce development of a community.

More than 90% of respondents agree that supporting literacy, learning, and quality of life are top roles of a library. 14% of respondents disagree that the library plays a role in the community’s economic well-being.

**Things Respondents Love Most About their Library**

- Staff 46%
- Collections 23%
- Location 12%
- Public good 11%
- Childrens programming 7%
- Dislike the library 2%

Welcoming and community are the two most popular words to describe the future New Library.

Other high-ranking words include: friendly, books, big, new, and comfortable.

**WHAT ARE THE COMMUNITY’S PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW LIBRARY?**

- Physical collections: printed books, magazines, DVDs, etc.
- Being able to borrow books from partner library locations in Skagit County
- Convenient open hours
- Children’s programming
- Classes, lectures, activities, and other events
- Digital items or services you can access online or on a mobile device
- People to help you find materials and answer questions
- Computers and other technologies for public use

78% 42% 33% 31% 29% 29% 27% 22% 20% 14% 13% 15% 9%
Ways the New Library Can Best Support the Community

More collections - physical and digital: 28%
More hours: 17%
Programming - all ages and interests: 16%
Welcoming staff and atmosphere: 13%
More spaces: 11%
Central location: 7%
More access to services: 5%
Technology: 2%
No New Library: 1%

The New Library can best support the community by offering more collections, expanding open hours, and providing a variety of programming for all ages and interests.

Things That Would Help Respondents Use Their Library More

- More open hours: 27%
- Larger, more diverse collection: 14%
- More space and comfortable seating: 11%
- More welcoming staff: 9%
- Interesting programming: 8%
- Technology support: 8%
- More hours in my day: 8%
- More online resources: 6%
- Free to all: 5%
- Stays the same: 5%
- More convenient location: 3%
- Bookmobile services: 3%
Existing library facilities lack adequate space for library programs and activities, community meetings, reading, staff work and collections.

The square footages of the existing libraries were documented, analyzed, and categorized into seven functions (collections, children's, tweens/teens, reading, group activity, computers, and library work/support space). These categories were then analyzed and increased comparatively to create the proposed program range.

**PROGRAM AREA LEGEND**
- Collections (All)
- Children's Reading / Seating
- Tween's + Teen's Reading / Seating
- Reading / Seating
- Group Activity Space
- Computers
- Library Work / Support Space

---

Exterior of Current Central Skagit Library

Interior of Current Central Skagit Library

Central Skagit Library

2,240 SF

Exterior of Current Central Skagit Library
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Sedro-Woolley Library

6,070 SF

Exterior of Current Sedro-Woolley Library

Interior of Current Sedro-Woolley Library
Combining resources and space in a new, expanded building will provide valuable space for new and existing library programs and services.

- **Potential Additional Dedicated Area with Supplemental Funding**
- **Approximate Library Area with Current Available Funding**

**Central Skagit Library**
- 2,240 SF

**Sedro-Woolley Library**
- 6,070 SF

**Proposed Library**
- 10,000 SF +/-
New / Improved Spaces

- Early Learning Play Place
- STE(A)M Center
- Lifelong Learning Senior Space
- Group Space
  - Programs
  - Co-work
  - Activities
  - Study Space
- Social Reading Space
- Quiet Reading Room
- Teen / Tween Area
- Children’s Area
- Tablets / Laptops
- Discoverable Collections Display
- New Books / Media
- Accessible Facility
- Effective Workspace

Additional project funding would enable the library to create dedicated spaces for an Early Learning Play Place, Intergenerational STE(A)M Center, and Lifelong Learning Space for 50+ seniors.

In the 10,000 SF library supported by current funding these programs and activities will be accommodated in other areas or in multi-use spaces on a limited scale.
FACILITY PROGRAM

New spaces for group activities, quiet reading, conversation and teens/tweens can be organized to encourage interaction and help manage noise.

The New Library was conceptually broken down into the seven conceptual categories previously mentioned. Each category contains subspaces that could be a part of the new library in some capacity. New spaces are needed to provide an exceptional, customer-centered experience, support innovative library programs and approaches to learning. Some of these opportunities are illustrated below:

PROGRAM AREA LEGEND

- **Existing**
  - Collections (All)
  - Children’s Reading / Seating
  - Tween’s + Teen’s Reading / Seating
  - Reading / Seating
  - Group Activity Space
  - Computers
  - Library Work / Support Space

- **New**
  - Early Learning Play Space
  - STE(A)M Center
  - Lifelong Learning Senior Space

- **Unenclosed**
  - Enclosed
The New Library program is informed by community input and space needs at the existing libraries. Natural light, access to views, improved thermal comfort and energy performance, robust wi-fi and digital tools and new furnishings benefit all library users.
SITE EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Central Business District
Municipal Boundary
Sedro-Woolley School District Boundary / New Library Service Area *

* The incorporated municipalities of Lyman and Hamilton are not included in the boundaries of the Library District at this time
Several sites, in or near the Sedro-Woolley Central Business District, were evaluated for suitability using a range of selection criteria.

A request for proposals was issued to solicit proposals from property owners wanting to sell real estate property for the New Library. No responses were received.

Six sites within the Central Business District were identified and analyzed for feasibility using the selection criteria below. Preliminary building and parking test fit layouts were prepared and reviewed for Sites 3, 5 and 6.

Site 3, located at 100 State Street, was chosen by the New Library Predesign Committee as the preferred site.
Preferred Site
100 W State St.
FROM HIGHWAY
TO COMMERCIAL CENTER
TOOCE 10 MINUTE WALK CIRCLE FROM CITY CENTER
CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

The preferred library site meets the criteria. It is available, accessible and large enough to accommodate a one or two-story library with parking.

The preferred site is at 100 West State Street. It is bounded by West State Street to the south, the railroad to the east, and is adjacent to The Iron Skillet restaurant. The site is approximately 29,570 SF.

The existing building on the site will be demolished. The repaving of State Street is planned for 2018.
Site 3 - Preferred Site
29,570 SF
100 West State Street
Sedro-Woolley, WA
Library activities and spaces will be arranged to take advantage of site access, views in and from the building, natural light and ventilation.

Site 3 - Preferred Site
29,570 SF
100 West State Street
Sedro-Woolley, WA
Building form will respond to visibility and access from State Street, solar orientation, rain protection and the spatial requirements for library activities inside.

Solar Exposure
- Admit daylight
- South facing outside space
- Provide sun shading to minimize heat gain

Vehicular Access
- West State Street repaved in 2018
- Two-way drive for parking
- Bike path/parking
- Potential traffic connection

Landscaped Courtyard
- Sunny plaza with shade trees
- Rain garden for roof and storm water control
- Paved areas for gathering and library programs

Visibility
- Take advantage of W State Street
- Provide views into and from the library

Primary Pedestrian Access
- Extend sidewalk from commercial center to the east
- Potential bike trail access in railroad right-of-way

Site 3 - Preferred Site
29,570 SF
100 West State Street
Sedro-Woolley, WA

Parking / loading located in rear of site
Proposed Library Project Cost Plan ($6.825M Total Project Budget)

The New Library budget includes $6.825M for land costs, construction, design/engineering, furniture, fixtures & equipment and the opening day collection. Additional funding has been requested from the state to support the New Library project.

SITE 3 FEED STORE (100 W STATE STREET) Project Construction Budget

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<th>Qty.</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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<td>Site (Civil, Landscaping, Surface Parking)</td>
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<td>Project Cost Escalation (estimated to June 2019)</td>
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**Project Total with Site Costs (No FFE)**  
$4,944,188.78

* Based on WCLS Ferndale Branch Library final costs escalated to end 2018

Project Soft Costs - not included above
- Building Permit Fees 1% $35,843.40
- WA Sales Tax (Sedro-Woolley) 8.5% $304,669

RECOMMENDED PROJECT BUDGET $5,284,701.08

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<td>Telecommunications (voice/data)</td>
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<td>Security Equipment</td>
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RECOMMENDED FF&E BUDGET $525,000

AVAILABE PROJECT FUNDING SEPTEMBER 2017 $5,300,000
Appendix

The New Library Needs Assessment: Engagement Summary Report
Berk Consulting
# The New Library Needs Assessment

**Engagement Summary Report | October 23, 2017**

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Summary Overview

This document compiles and documents the major activities and summary findings generated as a part of engagement for the New Library Needs Assessment. SHKS Architects and the New Library Pre-Design Committee will take engagement findings into consideration in site planning and preliminary design for the final report to the Sedro-Woolley City Council and the Central Skagit Library District’s Board of Trustees.

Engagement activities included:

▪ **Online Community Survey** with 12 questions, available to all members of the public for six weeks.
▪ **Strategy Workshop** with community representatives from education, business, social service, and youth and elder needs.
▪ **Staff Meeting** with employees from the Central Skagit and the Sedro-Woolley libraries.
▪ **Community Workshop Open House** with eight interactive stations, designed to solicit input on the New Library from all members – and ages – of the community.

In total, the engagement process solicited more than 300 responses from staff, stakeholders, and the community. This process gathered valuable information about how the New Library can best serve the community today and in the future, and will be used to inform decision-making on site planning and preliminary design.

Engagement Main Themes

The following themes surfaced across each of the engagement activities.

**Deep and wide collections.**

Books, especially physical books, are critical to the community. Collections ranked first as the most important current library service in both the Online Community Survey and the Community Open House. Community members want the New Library to have a collection that is both wide-ranging in genres and deep in titles to explore. Community members hope the new space can allow for access to more collections, as it seems there is concern that the partnership will result in a reduction of materials.

**A place you want to be.**

Community members want the New Library to be a welcoming, inviting, and fun place. The want both the space and the staff to be warm, friendly, and understanding of the community’s needs. Community leaders emphasized the need for the library to be the “go-to” place in the community, making it easier to promote literacy and provide resources, particularly to underserved populations.

**Room to grow.**

It’s important to have enough space for collections and programming, but also have room to grow. There is concern that the library won’t be big enough to meet the community’s growing population and changing needs.
Services and support for all ages.

The community deeply values the library’s role in both early childhood and lifelong learning. Staff, community members, and local leaders all emphasized the need for learning and enrichment opportunities not only for young children, but also for aging adults. They see this as a core function of the library.

Multi-purpose, flexible spaces.

Library programming and services are dynamic, and users and staff want spaces that can accommodate as many of the changes as possible, while keeping in harmony with the library structure as whole. A common theme was the desire for a mix of dedicated spaces, unified by the purpose of learning, personal and community connection, and fun.

Ease and accessibility.

An accessible, centrally-located library is critical to community members, local leaders, and staff. It is also important to make spaces and information within the library easier to access and engage with. It is also important to extend hours for people to access library services and programs, especially on weekends, late evenings, and early mornings.

A reflection of community history and diversity.

The New Library is an opportunity to reflect and share the history and cultural diversity of the community through architecture, landscaping, furniture, collections, programming, and services. Community members, local leaders, and staff hope the New Library will embrace modern and traditional library design elements, and be something that feels both local and all-inclusive.

Change, cost, and loss of local control are concerns for some.

Some community members are not excited about the New Library and used the survey and the Open House to express their concern about future changes in the Sedro-Woolley Public Library, the costs for construction, and losing a “local” library.

Strategy Workshop

On September 20th, a cross-section of community representatives participated in a focused, facilitated discussion about the New Library and its potential roles in the community. Discussion was held at City Hall, and centered on the following three questions:

STRATEGY WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS
- David Bricka, Country Meadows
- Monique Brigham, Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce
- Phil Brockman, Sedro-Woolley School District
- Cindy Brune, Sedro-Woolley School District
- Shaun Dotting, Sedro-Woolley STEM Network
- John and Katy Janicki, Janicki Industries
- Pola Kelley, Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce
- Avery Martin, Sedro-Woolley Rotary Club
- Patsy Martin, Port of Skagit
- Christine Perkins, Whatcom County Library System
- Lindy Rudnicki, Sedro-Woolley
- Mike Schwingert, Sedro-Woolley School District
- Doug Walker, Northwest Career and Technical Academy
1. How can the New Library best support the community?
2. How can the New Library best support you and your organization’s efforts? Are there potential opportunities to collaborate?
3. What are your hopes for the New Library and how it serves the community?

Strategy Workshop participants are invited to a second gathering in late fall to respond to a site plan and preliminary design options.

**DISCUSSION THEMES**

- The community needs **multigenerational supports** from the library. Early learning is critical but so is lifelong learning. With more community gathering, classroom, and study/tutoring spaces, there is a great opportunity for youth and older adults to connect to resources and information technology, and to connect with each other.
  - There is a growing retirement community in the greater Sedro-Woolley area and with the right space and direction, they could become a volunteer network.

- The New Library needs to have **flexible, interactive, multi-purpose spaces** to meeting the dynamic needs of the growing community. These spaces should accommodate play and learn activities, quiet study, group learning, and technology training.

- A successful New Library will be a **central and unifying space** for the community to come together.
  - The community lacks a community gathering space that is free to use and open outside of traditional working hours. Extended library hours and available meeting spaces would increase demand for use.

- For many community leaders, **advancing literacy is the key role for the New Library** because reading is critical to developing life skills. But to accomplish this, the New Library needs to **be a place where people want to go**. The New Library should look to contemporary libraries for fun programming, inviting services, and ways to build a culture of reading and learning for pleasure.
  - Library policies should be designed to encourage library use. There should be lots of membership options and the process for getting a library card should be easy.
  - Children and young adults will become lifelong readers and library users if they feel they belong in the New Library.
  - The New Library could also be called a Learning or Resource Center.

- The New Library should **honor the rich history of the Sedro-Woolley area and reflect the diversity of the region**. The design and décor could demonstrate the community’s path “from timber to tech.”

- The New Library will need community, staff, and stakeholder support to be successful. It is important that community members be **visible and proud library and literacy advocates**.
Staff Meeting

Staff members from the Central Skagit Library and the Sedro-Woolley Public Library met on September 20th, in City Hall, to learn about the Needs Assessment project, review preliminary findings from the Community Survey, and share their on-the-ground expertise on current and future service needs for the New Library, with a focus on facility needs.

Discussion focused on four questions:

1. How can the New Library best support the community?
2. What should the New Library have to meet the community’s needs today and in the future?
3. What do staff need from the New Library to provide high-quality services to the community?
4. What are your hopes for the New Library and how it serves the community?

Staff from both libraries will meet again in late fall to respond to a site plan and preliminary design options.

DISCUSSION THEMES

- Library programming to meet children, young adult, and adult learning needs requires a mix of multi-purpose, flexible spaces and static, enduring spaces. Staff hope that the New Library will have transforming spaces that allow them to provide hands-on, messy programs (e.g. cooking, kids crafts), art and music performances, as well as professional programs with information technologies.
  - The New Library should consider portability during design. Often library staff are needing to move materials and equipment from one space to the next and portable design features would be helpful.
  - Sustainability is important to the community and to staff, a green building with solar panels, a green roof, and a community garden would help make the New Library a community focal point.

- The staff would like to see more spaces for library services and functions: study areas, specially designed rooms for kids and teens, quiet reading areas, self-checkout kiosks, and a lounge where people could meet, drink coffee, and be a part of a friendly, engaging atmosphere.

- Staff need dedicated spaces for library operations, such as circulation, bookmobile access to technical services, book processing and repair. There is also a need for a dedicated staff breakroom and space to store and process book donations.

- Technology capabilities for the New Library are important. There need to be plug-ins for computers and the ability for users to move around the library and use technology. The space should also be

STAFF MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Central Skagit Library
- Allia Allen
- Ricardo Avila
- Sandra Sanchez Davila
- Layla Frey
- Chris Hunter

Sedro-Woolley Public Library
- Mary Andersson
- Carol Bohmbach
- Natasha Gruss
- Bobbie Jacobsen
- Teresa Johnson
- Harley McConnell
- Debra Peterson
APPENDIX

flexible for changes and upgrades to technology.

- There is a digital divide in the community. The library needs to be a place where public access computing is available and supported by staff.

- **Accessibility is key to success.** Space and collection displays should make it easy and fun for users to engage with information, staff, and the community. Large, community meeting rooms with adjoining bathrooms should be accessible to the public after hours without having to keep the entire library open.

- We will know the New Library is successful if it’s always in use and it benefits all populations of the community. It will be a haven where all feel welcomed, comfortable, and encouraged to explore.

Community Workshop Open House

Three stations collected verbal and written input from attendees on needs and hopes for the New Library. Station input is documented below, and overarching themes are incorporated into the Main Engagement Themes on page 2.

**SHARE YOUR VISION**

Open House attendees shared the following items when asked: What is your vision for the New Library? If a stated vision was “liked,” attendees could “star” the vision. Multiple stars are noted in parentheses.

- Books (5) including the old books
- Audiobooks (4)
- Kids books (2)
- Book clubs for all ages (2)
- Wider collections; Lots of genres and variety of books (2)
- Internet café to do work with Wi-Fi and coffee (3)
- Study rooms for tutoring (2)
- Classrooms and meeting rooms (2)
- A big meeting room with restroom access afterhours (e.g. Burlington) (3)
- Inviting, cool space for teens and tweens (2) Something that is flexible and theirs alone
- Cooking demos (2), this will help prevent diabetes in the community
- Skype and meeting conferencing technologies (2)
- A place to gain, gather, and disseminate
- Interlibrary loans
- Cultural jewel and wayfinding spot for people coming into Sedro-Woolley
- Building and site for future expansion, something that can anticipate growth
- A supporting library Foundation
- Quiet study rooms for homeschooling
- Grant databases for small businesses, economic development resources and support
- Movie nights
- Music oriented programming
- Fiber optic technology
- Safe for community, safe for staff
- More evening opportunities
- Lifelong learning opportunities
- Readers advisory
- Laptop checkout
- More open hours, Sunday hours
- More newspaper subscriptions including the NYT
- Information literacy classes, how to know the real from fake news
- More STEM activities
- Sustainable building technologies like solar panels, a LEED building
- Within walking distance of schools for walking field trips
- Junie B. Jones book series
- Safe meeting place
- Musician practice space
- Downloadable materials
- Online resources
- Speaker series
- Programs of interest for all ages
- Two story building that is centrally located with less of a footprint
- Space for the Friends book sale
- More programming choices in a space that’s big enough to have them
- More specialized online magazines, more exclusive subscriptions
- Exercise bikes with the internet to make green energy for the building and to power online browsing
- Good lines of sight for staff, especially to computer terminals
- Technology classes at all levels
- Patient teachers for technology classes
- Checkout science kits

ROLE OF A LIBRARY

Open House attendees placed dots next to a list of library functions, prioritizing those they considered most valuable to the community. Dots ranged in size to connote if the function was considered Nice, Important, or Essential. Open House attendees ranked the functions as follows (1 being highest or Most Essential).

A library...

1. Enhances the quality of life in a community.
2. Supports early childhood literacy, education, and lifelong learning.
3. Contributes to the preservation of heritage and culture.
4. Supports economic well-being and workforce development.
5. Supports the health of our democracy.

Attendees added the following functions to the available list:
- Space for small reading groups
- Bringing people, information, and ideas together to enrich, empower, and engage our community.
MOST IMPORTANT SERVICES

Like the Role of Library station, Open House attendees placed dots next to a list of services, prioritizing those they considered most important. Dots ranged in size to connote if the service was considered Nice, Important, or Essential. Open House attendees ranked the service as follows (1 being highest or Most Essential).

More…

2. Space for children and children’s programming.
3. Space for community gathering.
4. Support for literacy and reading activities.
5. More open hours.
6. More quiet space for groups to study, work, or meet.
7. More computers and technologies for public use.
8. More support for STEM activities.
9. More online services.

Attendees added the following services to the available list:

- Make it STEAM (A=arts)
- How about adult programming?

MAD LIBS

Open House attendees received a “Mad Libs” sticker with spaces to write their own endings to the starts of four open-ended questions.

I hope the New Library is:

- In the old Marketplace building
- Fun
- Popular
- Considering not only the building but a separate pot of money for purchasing new books only
- Big enough to meet the needs of all the people in the City and District
- A friendly place, as the SW Library is now
- Welcoming
- An expansion of the SWPL
- Reader friendly
- A welcoming, fun, spacious place filed with books and other materials that stimulate learning and growth
- Full of rich old and new material and inviting to everyone
- Responsive to all ages and interests
- Spacious and comfortable
- Has a small footprint and is multistory
- Supportive of lifelong learning
- Big enough for books
- Very welcoming and helpful
- Centrally located
- Centrally located

**No matter what, the New Library has to:**
- Be inviting
- Focus on books
- Be about community
- Be within walking distance of the “in town” schools for field trips (Central, Mary Purcell, and Evergreen)
- Have literacy programs
- Have lots of books including large print books
- Support STEM
- Promote reading
- Have books and reading areas
- Be a friendly place for readers and pre-readers

**It would be cool if the New Library:**
- Has an upbeat personality
- Had the Washington Post
- Was open Sunday
- Could have community meeting space and a children’s garden
- Had meeting rooms for community use
- Will not be just a social place or a place with technical stuff
- Was within walking distance
- Had a rooftop garden
- Had Wi-Fi, reading areas, more books and longer hours
- Was more colorful and had creative décor

- In the City of SW with SW librarians
- A third place to be
- Full of books

- Be inviting to everyone
- Keep books a primary concern
- Appeal to all ages
- Promote literacy for all (be inclusive)
- Have a large collection of books for all ages
- Have physical books
- Have room to grow
- Be welcoming to all
- Keep the old books
- Have friendly staff
- Have physical books, old and new

- Felt like a second home and was full of users
- Was in the old Rite Aid building
- Was technologically advanced and had more intuitive sites and searches
- Has robotics for adults (kids get all the fun!)
- Had comfortable areas to relax
- Kept the old books in SWPL
- Had good meeting spaces but also be inspirational!
- Had the Wall Street Journal
- Had an extensive collection
- Was bigger and had new bathrooms and the NY Times
The New Library is going to:
- Bring a fresh new vibe
- Succeed
- Be about family
- I’m not sure but I am hopeful
- Be great when the job gets done
- Please keep the collection of books already have in the SW Public Library
- Welcome more kids from the County
- Mean a lot of changes!
- Need everyone’s input and support
- Help bring people together and provide a space for growth
- Move SW farther into its revitalization
- Cost taxpayers a lot of money
- Enrich the community as a whole
- Build community
- Be an asset to the community
- Need a lot of money
- Be the center focus for our community
- Be a community center
- Be expensive and will require communication from the city to citizens
- Foster community building
- Be expensive
Online Community Survey

An online survey with 12 questions was available to the public and promoted through the Central Skagit and Sedro-Woolley Public libraries. The survey was open and available six weeks, from August 21 through October 2, 2017. The survey consisted of seven close-ended questions and five open-ended questions. Open-ended question responses were coded for themes and are presented here at a summary level for discussion.

WHO RESPONDED TO THE SURVEY?

245 people responded to the online survey. 152 used the web link; 93 used the Facebook Social Media link.

The survey reached a range of ages:
- 20% of respondents are younger than 35;
- 35% are between 35 and 54 years old;
- 45% are 55 years or older.

Most respondents are library “high-flyers,” meaning they use the library, either in person or online, frequently.

Less than 10% of respondents don’t use the library at all. For more detail on nonusers’ responses, see page 18: What Do We Know About Nonusers?
Many respondents have a library card to multiple library systems. Most respondents have a library card to Sedro-Woolley Public Library.

### Library Card Holder Locations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Location</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sedro-Woolley Public Library</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Skagit Library</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burlington Public Library</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Vernon City Library</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anacortes Public Library</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whatcom County Library System</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sno-Isle Libraries</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Skagit Library</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LaConner Regional Library</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Respondents with Children Living at Home

- **63%** do not have children living at home.
- **15%** have children age preschool or younger.
- **19%** have children age elementary school.
- **7%** have children age middle school.
- **14%** have children age high school.

Two-thirds of respondents do not have children living at home.
WHAT DO RESPONDENTS THINK ABOUT THE ROLE OF A LIBRARY IN THE COMMUNITY?

Library Roles

- A library supports early childhood literacy, education, and lifelong learning in a community. 73%
- A library enhances the quality of life in a community. 69%
- A library contributes to the preservation of the heritage and cultures of a community. 50%
- A library supports the health of our democracy. 49%
- A library supports the economic well-being and workforce development of a community. 40%

The thing I love most about my library is...

- "The sense of community, safety and connection it brings." 43%
- "The availability of books and materials." 23%
- "The knowledge and willingness of the library staff to help." 19%
- "It’s convenient location near my home." 19%
- "That it doesn’t cost money; I can use the computers when I need to." 17%

More than 90% of respondents agree that supporting literacy, learning, and quality of life are top roles of a library.

14% of respondents disagree that the library plays a role in the community’s economic well-being.
WHAT ARE THE COMMUNITY’S PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW LIBRARY?

**Most Important Current Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical collections: printed books, magazines,</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVDs, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being able to borrow books from partner library</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>locations in Skagit County</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convenient open hours</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s programming</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes, lectures, activities, and other events</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital items or services you can access online</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or on a mobile device</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People to help you find materials and answer</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>questions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers and other technologies for public use</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Books! Books! Books!** Collections and access to partner library collections are the most important current library services to the community.

**Welcoming and community** are the two most popular words to describe the future New Library.

Other high-ranking words include: friendly, books, big, new, and comfortable.
Top Priorities for Expanded Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More collection materials</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More open hours</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More space for children and children’s programming</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More space for community gathering</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More support for literacy and reading activities and programs</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More space for small groups to work, meet, or study</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More quiet space for reading or studying</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More computers and technologies for public use</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More support for STEM activities</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More online services</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The community is most excited to have a new, larger space and access to a larger library system through the New Library.

Some community members are not excited about The New Library and expressed concern about reduced collections, higher taxes, and a less “local” atmosphere.

More books! More open hours! More space! Collections, extended service hours, and types of space are top priorities for expanded services.

Convenient open hours and children’s programming are also highly valued current services.

New Library Needs Assessment | Engagement Summary Report
HOW CAN THE NEW LIBRARY SUPPORT USERS AND THE COMMUNITY?

Ways the New Library Can Best Support the Community

- More collections - physical and digital: 38%
- More hours: 17%
- Programming - all ages and interests: 16%
- Welcoming staff and atmosphere: 13%
- More spaces: 11%
- Central location: 7%
- More access to services: 5%
- Technology: 2%
- No New Library: 1%

The New Library can best support the community by offering more collections, expanding open hours, and providing a variety of programming for all ages and interests.

I would use my library more if...

- “It felt more like an independent book store than a library from the last century.”
- “I felt like my children were welcome there.”
- “People were friendlier there.”
- “It was larger with a quiet space for computers, a quiet space for children, a space for teens and possibly a coffee bar.”
- “There were special, educational, evening programs, presentations, or films, from time to time.”
- “There were more computers, separate areas for specific uses, and larger areas for programs and community use.”
- “More choice of books online.”
Things That Would Help Respondents Use Their Library More

Extended hours, increased collections, and better spaces would help more than 50% of respondents to use their library more. Respondents specifically asked for:

- Sunday hours, evening and morning hours
- A wider range of genres, more online resources, and increased access to popular titles and DVDs
- Dedicated spaces for kids, quiet reading, group study, and library programs

9% of respondents said unfriendly staff and a stressful atmosphere keeps from their library. They describe the library as “a private club for staff” and say that children are made to feel unwelcome.
WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT NONUSERS?

- 19 respondents identified themselves as nonusers.
  - 84% of nonusers do not have children living at home.
  - 63% of nonusers have a library card.
- Nonusers, like users, largely agree or strongly agree that the library plays positive roles in the community and value physical collections and borrowing books from partner locations in Skagit County.
- Respondents describe open hours, card access, and an unfriendly atmosphere as barriers to using the library.

I would use my library more if (nonusers only) ...

- “It was ever open.”
- “There were expanded hours and programs.”
- “We had a new library with a different staff.”
- “I had a library card. I’m new to the area and haven’t got around to that yet.”
- “The staff needs to be friendlier. The one time I’ve gone in there I felt unwelcome by the staff. They acted like it was their own private club and not property of the taxpayer.”
- “It had evening hours available and more room.”
- “I didn’t have internet on every device I own.”
- “It didn’t cost $80 a year because I live outside County lines.”
- “I knew what services they offer, which is totally up to me. I lost my excitement over a library after the vote passed when we didn’t have anything but digital access.”
- “The hours of operation were more in tune with my schedule.”
- “It was friendly.”
- “It was a nicer more welcoming facility with programs and events that are of interest to me.”