

Hilltop Library Planning Committee



www.TacomaHilltopLibrary.org

Art By
Jeremy Gregory
Marlin Peterson
Kate Konz
2010

HLPC VISION

The Hilltop Library Planning Committee is committed to returning full library services to Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood.





Citizens approved construction of a library for the Hilltop in 1984.

Dr. Martin Luther King Library on 19th and Cedar was closed in 2011, ten years ago

THE FIRST DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING LIBRARY

1984

- Citizens approved construction of a library for the Hilltop in 1984.

1989

- Dr. Martin Luther King Library on 19th and Cedar was opened

2011

- It was closed in 2011, ten years ago

4



OUR BEGINNINGS



Martin Luther King, Jr. Library closed in 2011.



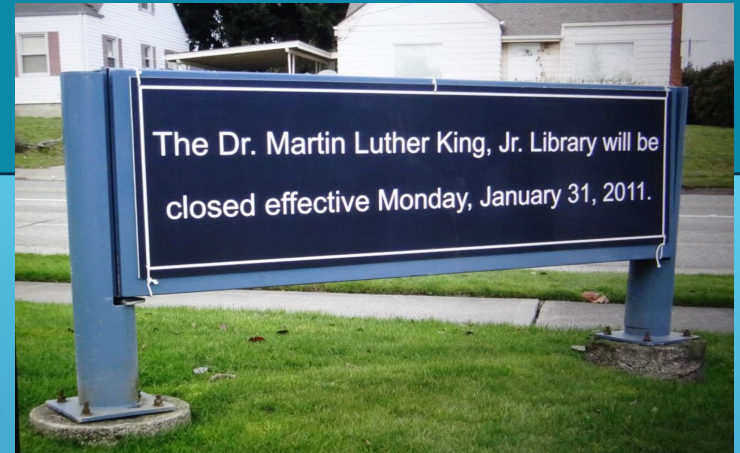
Hilltop Library Planning Committee formed in 2013 by Bil Moss and Al Nurse.



In 2014, four community cafes held to gather community input regarding need for and replacement of Hilltop Library. Over 120 attended.



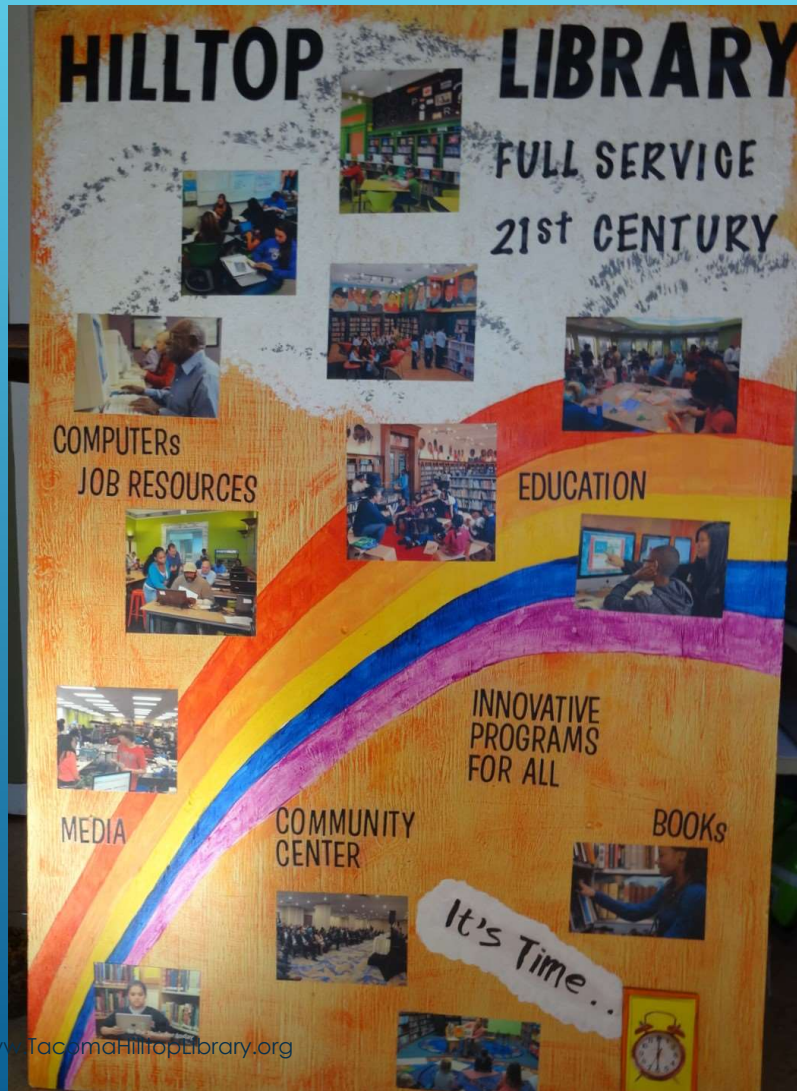
The community agreed that Hilltop needed an easily accessible physical library space with multi-media services, the arts, and multi-generational literary programming comparable to the rest of the libraries in Pierce County and Seattle.



EXAMPLES OF WHAT HLPC HAS DONE

- ▶ Spoken and continue to speak at City Council and community meetings
- ▶ Networking with organizations, developers, Tacoma Public Library, and political leaders.
- ▶ Countless letters
- ▶ Visits to other libraries to view facilities

We constantly look for opportunities to gather support to move us forward



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Hilltop Street Fair
Ethnic Fest

GUEST SPEAKERS AT HLPC MEETINGS

An Example:

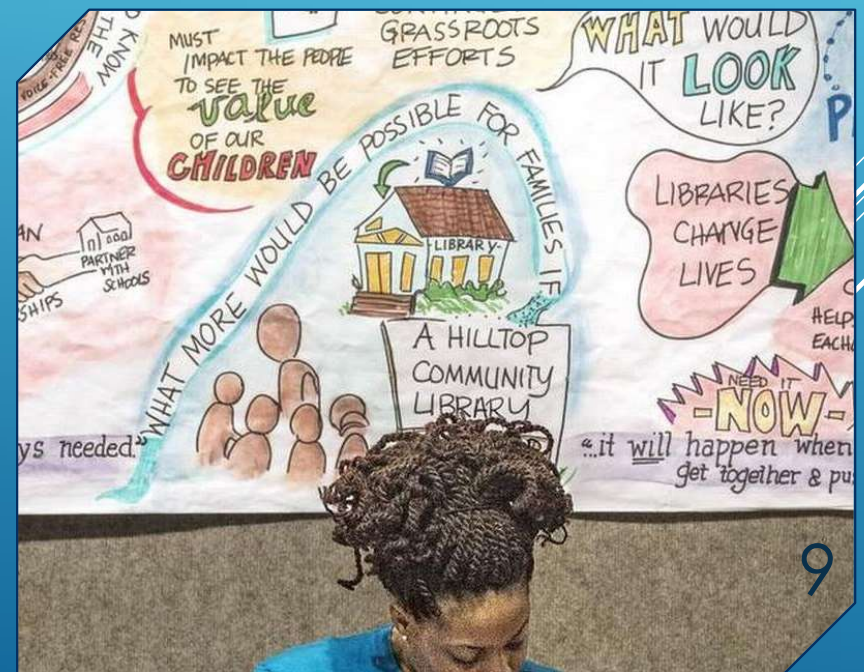
Some HLPC members
meet with
Councilmembers
Victoria Woodard and
Keith Blocker.



November 12, 2015



Literacy on the Hilltop was co-sponsored by the Hilltop Library Planning Committee, Communities in Schools, Child Care Resources, Tacoma Public Schools and Tacoma Public Library on February 27, 2016



“Storyteller Kimi Irene Ginn, of Tacoma, had all eyes on her as she told the South African folktale “Abiyoyo” to kids and their parents Saturday during the Literacy on the Hilltop Community Fair.”

The News Tribune February 27, 2016

www.TacomaHilltopLibrary.org





AN INCOMPLETE ATTEMPT

- ▶ In January, 2017 the City of Tacoma awarded \$50,000 for a proposed Early Literacy Reading Program.
- ▶ Due to a number of changes in leadership in School District and Committee leadership, the collaboration deteriorated and did not get off the ground.
- ▶ Most of the money went back to the city in 2019.

Essay Contest

"Why I want a library on Hilltop"

Awards were presented at the
City Council Oct. 16, 2018

www.TacomaHilltopLibrary.org





WHY WE NEED
A LIBRARY ON THE HILLTOP

IT IS AN ISSUE OF EQUITY.
IT IS RIGHTING A WRONG.

They are a place

- for community involvement
- that provides technology
- safe, friendly public space

Public libraries

- improve quality of life
- support personal productivity
- encourage cultural engagement

They provide

- valuable meeting areas and conference rooms

LIBRARIES
ARE
MORE
THAN
BOOKS

LIBRARIES ARE A SAFE, INCLUSIVE, PUBLIC ASSET

Children are our most precious resource; the community needs to nurture them with love and respect.



Those in distress need a hand up to become valuable members of the community.



Elders deserve a place to come learn and share their assets with others.

Library technology is a critical asset to all ages.

A library on Hilltop will help Tacoma to fulfil its nickname, City of Destiny.

www.TacomaHilltopLibrary.org

WHY NOT THE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY?

Lack of access

- ▶ Down a steep hill
- ▶ Too far for children, elderly, and disabled

Inadequate parking

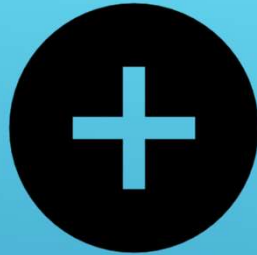
Difficult to park on the congested streets

Other safety concerns¹⁶



STRENGTHS

- ▶ Supportive, engaged Library Director: Kate Larson
- ▶ Tacoma Public Library Foundation is up and running.
- ▶ City of Tacoma has made a public commitment to equity.
- ▶ Large capital projects in the area may create synergy or opportunity.



ALLIANCES

- ▶ Hilltop Community
- ▶ Tacoma Public Library
- ▶ Tacoma Housing Authority
- ▶ Tacoma Community House
- ▶ Peoples' Center Steering Committee
- ▶ Mayor Victoria Woodard
- ▶ Council member Keith Blocker
- ▶ Council member Lillian Hunter
- ▶ Tacoma Library Foundation
- ▶ League of Women Voters

- ▶ Julie Anderson former Tacoma council member and current Pierce County auditor
- ▶ Booked with Hilltop
- ▶ Radio Tacoma
- ▶ Kari Whitney UW Tacoma Library
- ▶ Tacoma Tool Library
- ▶ And many more over the years

PASSIONATE MEMBERS OF HLPC

HURDLES

City funding structure – budget constraints
The city has many projects and needs competing for attention on the Hilltop and in Tacoma.

The Library and City governance model is intertwined and not widely understood.

Out of sight, out of mind. Easy problem to ignore when the problem isn't visible.

Few residents have experienced a state of the art public library. They don't know what they are missing.



Tacoma Eastside & Hilltop Libraries Feasibility Study

HLPC went to council late in 2018 to demand a full service, brick and mortar library on the Hilltop.

The Council included funds in the 2021-2022 budget for the Feasibility Study.

Funds were pulled due to the pandemic and resulting economic crisis.



Tacoma Eastside & Hilltop Libraries Feasibility Study

www.TacomaHilltopLibrary.org

Our immediate goal is to have the Feasibility Study funds restored and move forward with this critical study.

It will lay the groundwork and establish strong data and momentum to at last restore library services to underserved communities.

A copy of the study proposal is available at
<https://www.tacomahilltoplibrary.org>

CURRENTLY THINGS ARE RAPIDLY EVOLVING

THERE IS MOMENTUM WITH THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.

A joint meeting of the City Council and the Library Board of Trustees was held on April 6.

Mayor Woodards indicated that the city may be able to use federal America Rescue Plan funds to restore the feasibility study funds, then move forward to conduct and complete the study.

Councilmembers Hunter and Blocker spoke in favor of restoring funds and moving forward.



YOUR ENGAGEMENT IS URGENT NOW!

- ▶ Write, then call the city councilmembers and Mayor Woodard to voice your support for the reinstatement of the Feasibility Study. The matter will be addressed in June. Link to this site for ideas:

https://actionnetwork.org/letters/restore-library-services-to-tacoma-hilltop-and-eastside-communities-2?source=direct_link&

- ▶ Stress that we need to complete the study, a step to restore comprehensive library services to Hilltop.
- ▶ Spread the word to friends, family, and organizations.



www.TacomaHilltopLibrary.org

HELP NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

- ▶ Frequently voice the need for Hilltop Library during community development and urban planning meetings.
- ▶ Inject Hilltop Library into conversations with elected officials, influencers, and community leaders.
- ▶ Contact us with opportunities to address community groups, churches. <https://www.tacomahilltoplibrary.org>
- ▶ Get to know the Trustees of the Tacoma Public Library. Send them an email requesting funds to move forward with the Feasibility Study. Attend a virtual Board meeting. <https://www.tacomalibrary.org/board-of-trustees>
- ▶ Attend our monthly Zoom meetings every third Thursday @ 6:00 P.M. Link available on our website.

We can clear the hurdles.
Help ensure a new, state of the art library is built on the Hilltop.

