



## Public Involvement in KCLS Community Libraries

Community volunteers started the King County Library System (KCLS) in 1942 and have played a key role in establishing and sustaining the library's tradition of excellence in service ever since. Volunteers continue to be vital partners in KCLS libraries today, from hospitality to advocacy. There are two primary, independent opportunities for public involvement with KCLS libraries: Friends of the Library and Library Advisory Boards. Each group is a local entity with its own membership and organizational structure, but all Friends Groups and Advisory Boards have similar roles in relationship to KCLS and all contribute significantly to the quality of library service.

### Friends of the Library Groups

Friends groups support their library through fundraising and advocacy, providing funding and support for special opportunities including programs, resources, materials, activities or events.

There are currently 36 Friends groups who raise funds to support special projects and activities. In 2005, Friends of the Library raised more than \$250,000 in support of community libraries throughout the Library System.

For more information about joining a Friends group, call your local library or Community Relations (425.369.3275).

KCLS encourages the formation of Friends of the Library groups in communities. If your library doesn't have a Friends group, consider starting one.

### Local Library Advisory Boards

Library Advisory Boards have important roles distinct from Friends of the Library groups and the KCLS Board of Trustees. Library Advisory Board members are advocates for library services in their community, including Intellectual Freedom issues and policies, and KCLS' mission of free and open access to ideas and information.

Established by the individual cities that have annexed to KCLS, these community boards serve in an advisory capacity to City officials on matters regarding the KCLS community library they represent, acting as liaison between their local library, their city and the Library System. KCLS actively works with cities to create and appoint Library Advisory Boards. Library Advisory Board meetings are open to the public and abide by the Open Public Meetings Act.

In order to effectively represent their community, Library Advisory Boards have regular public meetings to provide information and seek community input. Each is encouraged to create a mission statement that reflects the advisory nature of their relationship with their respective city and the KCLS Board of Trustees.

All cities served by KCLS are encouraged to have Library Advisory Boards. Rules governing Library Advisory Boards are found in local city codes, while rules governing the KCLS Board of Trustees are set out in the Revised Code of Washington 27.12.190.

### Customary Roles and Tasks

Library Advisory Boards serve, coordinate with and provide input to the KCLS Board of Trustees and staff. They do not have any financial responsibility or authority with respect to the operations of the library, except to the extent as may be authorized by KCLS.

Depending on the needs of their community, Library Advisory Boards may:

- Develop studies concerning the need for, acquisition, utilization, care, maintenance and disposition of the library building;

- Review and make recommendations to the KCLS Board of Trustees regarding the library rules and regulations, its building(s) and equipment, or rules of conduct.

The structure and membership of each Library Advisory Board is determined by the appointing authority. Cities may call them boards, committees, commissions, etc.

The following info is based on the City Code language of each jurisdiction:

Appointing Cities	KCLS Community Libraries Represented by Advisory Board	Number of Board Members	Term Lengths	Scheduled Meetings	Term Limits
Bellevue	Bellevue, Regional, Lake Hills & Crossroads Libraries	7	4 years	10 per year	
Bothell	Bothell Regional Library	7	5 years	Monthly	
Des Moines	Des Moines & Woodmont Libraries	5	3 years	As Needed	
Duvall	Duvall Library	5		Monthly	
Issaquah	Issaquah Library	5	5 years	Monthly	
Kenmore	Kenmore Library	7	2 years (3 members) 3 years (4 members)	Monthly	3 years
Kirkland	Kirkland Library	5	4 years	Monthly	
Lake Forest Park	Lake Forest Park Library	7	3 years	Quarterly	
Maple Valley	Maple Valley Library	5	3 years	Alternate Months	
Redmond	Redmond Regional Library	5	5 years	Monthly	2
Shoreline	Shoreline & Richmond Beach Libraries	5	4 years	Alternate Months	2
Snoqualmie	Snoqualmie Library	7	3 years		
Tukwila	Tukwila & Foster Libraries	5	2 years	Quarterly	
SeaTac	Valley View Library	5	3 years	As Needed	

**Required by statute to report to city council**

Bellevue, Des Moines, Issaquah, Maple Valley, Redmond

**Act as liaison between city and KCLS Board**

Bellevue, Des Moines, Duvall, Kenmore, Issaquah, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Maple Valley