YOU, KCLS AND THE ROAD AHEAD PAVED WITH KNOWLEDGE
Without you–our community of neighbors, patrons, staff, community leaders and partners–we wouldn’t have a reason to exist. That’s why, when looking to the future, we looked to you.

In 2016, we heard from thousands of you. You shared with us your hopes, dreams and plans for the future.

KCLS’ new Strategic Focus and Mission, Vision and Values are shaped by what we learned from you and will guide our work for several years to come.
VALUES:
THE PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE OUR WORK
Knowledge

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Intellectual Freedom
VISION:
WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO
A world where knowledge allows diverse communities to prosper and grow.
MISSION:
WHAT, HOW AND FOR WHOM WE DO WHAT WE DO
To inspire the people of King County to succeed through ideas, interaction and information.
STRATEGIC FOCUS:
WHAT WE WILL DO IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS
Create opportunities through meaningful connections.
We will do this by connecting people—individuals at all stages of life, families, communities and organizations—with:
Information and services to navigate life’s complexities and biases.

Equitable avenues to build the skills and knowledge needed for success.

One another to bridge differences and create communities of inclusion and belonging.
THE COMMUNITY ALSO SHARED THE VALUE OF OUR:

HELPFUL AND EXPERT STAFF

WELCOMING LIBRARY SPACES AND COMMUNITY PRESENCE

RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

DIVERSE COLLECTION OF BOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES

KCLS remains committed to offering these core assets in alignment with the Strategic Focus.
Our values ground us. Our vision inspires us. Our mission motivates us.

Our Strategic Focus will guide our work for the next five years.

All of this is in service to the people of King County.
STRATEGIC FOCUS
CREATE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

MISSION
TO INSPIRE THE PEOPLE OF KING COUNTY TO SUCCEED THROUGH IDEAS, INTERACTION AND INFORMATION

VISION
A WORLD WHERE KNOWLEDGE ALLOWS DIVERSE COMMUNITIES TO PROSPER AND GROW

VALUES
KNOWLEDGE
DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION
INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM
WHAT’S NEXT?
With this Strategic Focus and refreshed Mission, Vision and Values to guide our efforts, we will think creatively, plan smartly, serve enthusiastically, and carefully evaluate our efforts over the next five years.
We resolve to remain curious and engaged, exploring new possibilities along the way and continuously seeking to improve our ability to help you prosper and grow.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Over 4,000 community members responded to a multilingual survey or participated in conversations with us, including over 100 Talk Time and Citizenship Class participants representing 26 countries of origin. They shared their hopes and dreams, the barriers they face, and their aspirations for their communities.

Over 100 leaders, influencers and partners representing the following organizations across many community sectors generously shared their time and expertise to help us understand the issues they see facing King County, and the opportunities they see for KCLS to make a difference.

We are especially grateful to James Whitfield and Karin Duval at Leadership Eastside for providing us the opportunity to make meaningful connections through their expansive leadership network.
PLANNING PARTNERS

KCLS STRATEGY EXPLORATION TEAM
Jo Anderson Cavinta, Diversity Coordinator | Lisa Fraser, Business Analysis Manager
Fred Gurney, Librarian Services Manager | Holly Koelling, Director of Strategy
Terry McQuown, Staff Development Coordinator | John Sheller, Government Relations Manager
Amber Slaven, Supervising Librarian | Jennifer Wiseman, Business Analysis Manager

STRATEGIC FOCUS CONSULTANTS
Ideation Collaborative—Sam McBane Mulford
Fully Engaged Libraries—Cheryl Gould
Community Attributes Inc.—Chris Mefford, Diana Haring

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES CONSULTANTS
Claxon—Erica Mills, Sarah Healy, Vicki Williams

SUPPORTING PARTNERS
KCLS Board of Trustees | KCLS Foundation Board, Donors and Staff
Friends of the Library | Library Advisory Boards

LIBRARY STAFF
Over 1,300 strong and serving King County’s many, diverse communities with dedication and excellence.
THIS LITTLE BOOK TELLS ONLY THE FIRST PART OF THE STORY FOR THE ROAD AHEAD.

Learn more: kcls.org/theroadahead