

Funding sources for local libraries:

Data was obtained from a variety of sources including online and in person. Given the brevity of the study, detailed confirmation of all the information was not feasible. Links are provided to information where applicable.

Mt Vernon – 31,000 SF

The **Mount Vernon Library Commons** in Washington State—a transformative \$53 – 56 million transit-oriented development combining a new library, community center, EV-equipped garage, commercial kitchen, and public space—was financed through a blend of federal, state, local, and philanthropic funding sources, notably **without raising property taxes** mvlibraryfoundation.org+13cascadiadaily.com+13laconnerweeklynews.com+13.

Source	Amount	Purpose
U.S. DOT TIFIA loan	\$26.8 M	Below-market, long-term credit; saved ~ \$3 M in interest transportation.gov+2transportation.gov+2cascadiadaily.com+2cascadiadaily.com
U.S. DOT BIL grant	\$12.5 M	Infrastructure for electric vehicle chargers
Congressional earmark (Del Bene)	\$2 M	General project funding
HUD Section 108 loan guarantee	\$1.7 M	Backed the library/community center portion
Washington state capital appropriation	\$4 M	Allocated by legislature in 2022
WA State Commerce grants	\$3 M	Economic development funding
Skagit County	\$1 M	Local government support
Mount Vernon Library Foundation (philanthropy)	\$1 M+	Community fundraising for build-out

The **Mount Vernon Library Commons** encompasses the entirety of the mixed-use facility—including the library, commons (community center), and the three-level parking structure. According to multiple engineering and building sources:

- The **total project size** is approximately **130,000 – 133,000 square feet**, covering all indoor public spaces plus the parking garage above en.wikipedia.org+9tf-wb.com+9mountvernonwa.gov+9.

- One specific breakdown gives a **total of 130,093 ft²**, including:
 - Library: 20,545 ft²
 - Community center: 11,590 ft²
 - Parking garage: 97,958 ft² buildingenclosureonline.com.

Burlington – 22,000 SF

The funding for the new Burlington, WA Public Library—opened in 2007—came primarily from two key sources:

1. City of Burlington Budget (Capital Improvement Plan)

- In **November 2005**, the City Council approved the **2006 budget**, which included **dedicated funds to construct a new 22,000 ft² library center** at the Holly & Washington site—this indicates that the core funding was allocated through the city's **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**
en.wikipedia.org+5burlingtonwa.gov+5en.wikipedia.org+5.
-

2. Burlington Library Foundation & Community Contributions

- The Burlington Library Foundation launched a capital campaign alongside the city's initiative. In **2007**, they:
 - Raised **\$60,930 from 80 donors**, totaling roughly **\$96,800** to date
 - Received an additional **\$45,300 pledged**, bringing the campaign total to **about \$142,100** burlingtonwa.gov.

Orcas – 11,600 SF

Funding Breakdown (~\$4.2 million total project cost)

- **Private donations (~\$2 million)**
 - This included a major **\$1.4 million gift from the Robert & Phyllis Henigson Living Trust**, plus over **\$600,000 in additional private donations**
apps.sos.wa.gov+9theorcasonian.com+9theorcasonian.com+9islandssounder.com.
- **Washington State capital grant (\$1.4 million)**
 - Secured via a state capital appropriation during the 2015–17 biennium
theorcasonian.comtheorcasonian.com.
- **Friends of the Library contributions (~\$100,000)**
 - Provided by local volunteer group fundraising efforts
apps.sos.wa.gov+10theorcasonian.com+10theorcasonian.com+10.
- **Voter-approved levy lid lift**
 - In **November 2016**, island voters approved increasing the library levy from \$0.303 to \$0.45 per \$1,000 assessed value.
 - This supported approximately **\$700,000** in additional funds via borrowing debt, repaid over six years (with levy revenues covering ~\$128,000/year)
en.wikipedia.org+4islandssounder.com+4islandssounder.com+4.

La Conner – 5,500 SF

The construction of the new La Conner Swinomish Library was financed through a multi-source capital campaign totaling approximately **\$3.74 million**, funded by the following groups:

Funding Sources

- **Local contributions & fundraising:**
 - Roughly \$1.2–1.29 million raised over the years via the Friends of the Library thrift shop, Rotary Club, Kiwanis, Library Giving Day, and community donations en.wikipedia.org+10laconnerweeklynews.com+10laconnerweeklynews.com+10laconnerswinomishlibrary.org+4laconnerweeklynews.com+4laconnerweeklynews.com+4.
- **Swinomish Indian Tribal Community:**
 - Contributed \$750,000 in 2019 toward construction laconnerweeklynews.com+8laconnerweeklynews.com+8architizer.com+8.
- **State of Washington:**
 - Two legislative appropriations totaling \$1.22 million in 2018 and 2019 laconnerweeklynews.com+1laconnerweeklynews.com+1laconnerweeklynews.com+1laconnerweeklynews.com+1.
- **Skagit County:**
 - Awarded a \$500,000 economic development grant to complete the funding package laconnerweeklynews.com.