

Austin Public Library Director's Report January 2011

Highlights

- The Design Kickoff Meeting for Austin's New Central Library Project is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2011
- Recycled Reads Store Manager, Mindy Reed, wrote an article "It Pays to Recycle Reads," that appeared in the Winter 2010 issue of Texas Library Journal.
- The Mexican-American Firsts: Trailblazers of Austin and Travis County Exhibit will have a closing reception Saturday, January 29, 2011, 2 pm at the Palmer Auditorium.
- **5X5Y: 25 Years of SXSW Music** will be on exhibit in the Grand Hallway and Lobby of the Austin History Center from February 16, 2011 to July 31, 2011. The exhibit will officially open on Saturday, March 5, 2011 with the 5X5Y Fest at the Austin History Center.

Facilities Services

New Central Library Project: The Design Kickoff Meeting for Austin's New Central Library Project has now been scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2011, beginning at 8:30 AM. This day has been set aside to introduce the Architectural Joint Venture team (Lake/Flato Architects with Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott Architects) to the project's new team members, Hensel Phelps Construction, our Construction Manager at Risk, and Sebesta Blomberg, our Commissioning Agent, as well as other new Technical Team members from City departments. The agenda for this important meeting calls for summaries to be provided for the project's path to date, project scope, and the schematic design process. Next steps will be discussed including establishing the overall project calendar and milestone dates for deliverables from the project team. Expectations and timing of our project's interaction with other projects in the Lower Shoal Creek Development District (Seaholm Substation Art Wall, Seaholm Power Plant Site Redevelopment, Green Water Treatment Plant Redevelopment, Second Street Bridge and Extension including west bank of Shoal Creek, and Lower Shoal Creek Improvements by the Parks and Recreation Department) will be reviewed at some length. At this time, the working schedule for the New Central Library Project stands as follows:

January 2011 ~ Design Phase begins
Summer 2011 ~ Schematic Design Completed (30% Complete Design Package Delivered)

- Council briefed
- Library Commission briefed
- Council Approval

Winter 2011 ~ Design Development Completed (60% Complete Design Package Delivered)

- Council briefed
- Library Commission briefed
- Council Approval

Summer 2012 ~ Design Phase completed
Summer 2012 ~ Guaranteed Maximum Price Determined and Approved by Council

Fall 2012 ~ Permits received

Late Fall ~ Groundbreaking Ceremony conducted

January 2013 ~ Construction begins

January 2015 ~ Construction completed

Summer 2015 ~ Grand Opening Ceremony celebrated.

Financial Year 2011-2012 Five Year Capital

Improvement Program (CIP) Plan: The capital planning and decision-making process in Austin is guided by the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) document. Produced annually, the CIP outlines the City's projected major capital improvements over the next five years. In Financial Year 2010-2011, the Capital Planning Office was created to insure that the City of Austin's Capital Improvement Program meets the goal of best managed by being planned, developed and implemented in a strategic, integrated and effective manner. A key component of successfully achieving this objective is to regularly engage stakeholder departments to determine the most effective planning and coordination solutions. To that end, a CIP Steering Committee has been formed, and the Library Department's Facilities Planning Manager has been appointed to serve on this committee. As part of its charge, the Capital Planning Office (CPO) is developing improvements to the CIP 5-Year Plan. Now, and in the future, neighborhood planning areas will be asked to provide to the City their top ten priorities from their adopted neighborhood plan action items and recommendations. Affected departments will then be asked to include these projects in their overall capital programs. Thus far, the Library Department is not one of the departments affected by this procedural change for Financial Year 2011-2012. All City departments are presently in the process of evaluating their infrastructure needs for the next five years, based on requests from citizens, results of public hearings, staff input and reviews by their boards and commissions. Prior to transmitting its capital proposal to the Capital Planning Office (CPO) in March, the Library Department will seek the Library Commission's written support for its proposed capital program.

Security Camera Installation Project: The new year ushered in a renewed push by the contractor to complete the Waller Creek Center ESAS (Enterprise Security Access System) site, however the ESAS Project Team continues to wait for key detailed proposals from the contractor for a number of City of Austin sites. The Executive Management of CTM (Communications and Technology Management Department) has interfaced with the Purchasing Division to contract a new ESAS position for the project, and the selected candidate is expected to start work on January 18, 2011. Meanwhile, ESAS Project Management is currently working with the Public Works Department to develop an improved pay application process for their contractor.

Preparatory work for the installation of security cameras is progressing at the following Library sites:

- Will Hampton Branch at Oak Hill
- Little Walnut Creek Branch
- Milwood Branch
- Spicewood Springs Branch
- Old Quarry Branch
- Yarborough Branch
- Austin History Center
- St. John Branch

At this point, the work referenced above consists primarily of the contractor walking the sites in order to provide updated quotes and confirm the placement of cameras. At sites with asbestos containing materials, Library Facilities Services has determined cabling paths which will not disturb asbestos. Cabling for security camera installation has been completed by the contractor at the following Library locations:

- Terrazas Branch
- Carver Branch
- Ruiz Branch
- University Hills Branch
- Windsor Park Branch

The Library Department has requested that the installation of Network Video Recorders by the contractor be initiated at the Windsor Park Branch site within the next thirty days.

Austin History Center ADA Compliant Ramp

Installation Project: On January 10, 2011, the Contract and Land Management Department forwarded to the Library Department an approved construction contract with Muniz Concrete & Contracting, Inc., for the Austin History Center ADA Accessible Ramp Addition Project. A Pre-Construction Conference will soon be conducted by the Project Coordinator and other City officials for Muniz Concrete & Contracting, Inc., followed shortly by the issuance of Notice To Proceed with the work at hand. After conferring with the contractor, the Project Coordinator will hold an informal pre-construction meeting with key personnel from the Austin History Center, Library Security and Faulk Central Library so that they be advised of the expected modifications to the site and its usage during the project's implementation phase. It is currently anticipated that demolition and construction activities will be well underway at this location prior to the end of February, 2011.

Ongoing Infrastructure Renewal Projects: The Library Facilities Services Division continues to make good progress on a number of much needed improvements to the Austin Public Library's physical plant throughout the department's inventory of properties. A number of the more prominent of these projects are:

Austin History Center Sewer Retrofit: The main sewer line from the Austin History Center has almost completely collapsed beneath the weight of the parking lot that the Austin History Center shares with the Faulk Central Library. Consequently, the Library Department has hired a consulting engineering firm to design a comprehensive retrofit for this failed underground utility pipeline. The project is currently entering the permitting phase. The challenging location of the sewer line within a drive-through easement, coupled with the logistical necessity for a street closure so that the aged waste water line can be replaced, have led the engineering consultants to coordinate their efforts closely with the City of Austin

Inspection Department and the Traffic Control Division to devise exacting construction specifications for the project. The project drawings and specification manuals continue to be developed to the level of completeness required for a Quality Assurance/Quality Control Review by the Contract and Land Management Department of the City of Austin.

Southeast Austin Community Branch Library Renovation:

The Southeast Austin Community Branch Library has been closed to the public since Monday, December 6, 2010, in preparation for renovation of both the interiors and exteriors of the building. Library staff have been very busy since that date boxing the collection and removing furniture, fixtures and equipment from the planned path of construction. Exterior improvements will include additional security lighting for the parking lot, the installation of security cameras, and re-leveling of the sidewalk leading to the accessible entrance. The interiors of the building will benefit from a fresh new color palette for all painted surfaces, new floor finishes and refurbished furniture and furnishings. It is anticipated that the contractor will be given notice to proceed with the exterior site work on Monday, February 7, 2011. Interior remodeling, including the re-painting and re-carpeting of the facility will be carried out while the exterior site work is in progress. It remains the intention of the Library Department to have the thoroughly revamped branch library ready to reopen to the community by the Summer of 2011.

Security Enhancement Project: This operating budget funded project was initiated to provide upgraded exterior security lighting at a number of branch library locations, including Windsor Park, Southeast Austin Community, Ruiz, University Hills and Little Walnut Creek. To date, the planned lighting improvements have been successfully completed at the Little Walnut Creek, Southeast Austin Community and Windsor Park branches. Pole lights are expected to be delivered to the Ruiz Branch by the end of the month and then installed in February, 2011. Unfortunately, the existing pole lights at the University Hills Branch proved impossible to retrofit with the new lighting fixtures and so they will be replaced so that increased lamp wattage may be provided for better security. Additional pole lighting has been successfully installed on the Windsor Park Branch Library property, significantly improving nighttime security at that site. Perimeter security lighting on the buildings' exteriors has likewise been completed at our University Hills and Daniel E. Ruiz branches.

Faulk Central Library Chiller and Cooling Tower Retrofit:

The Library Facilities Services Division continues to work with Austin Energy to fund and carry out the critically needed replacement of a defunct 225 ton screw chiller and the deteriorated rooftop cooling tower at the Faulk Central Library. The bulk of the project budget is being provided by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds under Austin Energy's management. This particular chilled-water refrigeration system provides cooling and humidity control not only for the Faulk Central Library, but for the adjoining Austin History Center as well. The new 225 ton centrifugal chiller to be purchased and installed will be equipped with variable frequency drive (VFD) components to ensure greater efficiency and will interface seamlessly with our existing building automated system, continuing to

allow the Library's Heating and Refrigeration Mechanics to diagnose climate control problems and adjust temperatures in the building remotely. In addition, the new fiberglass cooling tower is fully expected to weather the elements appreciatively better than the galvanized cooling tower it is replacing. In order for this major mechanical retrofit project to be safely carried through to completion, the Faulk Central Library loading dock will need to be closed for at least one full working day while the parking lot shared by the Faulk Central Library and the Austin History Center will need to be closed for part of two, non-consecutive days. The parking lot closures will prove necessary so that a crane may be brought on site to first remove the old cooling tower and then to place the new cooling tower on the roof of the Faulk Central Library. The project schedule is being carefully developed at this time and the referenced parking lot closures will be advertised well in advance of the work so that the inconvenience to our customers and staff may be minimized as much as possible. It is the expressed goal of Library Facilities Services and our Austin Energy Management partners to carry out this air-conditioning retrofit and ensure that the equipment is fully operational before the hottest summer months of our clime are upon us. Our rough project schedule at the moment is:

- February, 2011 ~ Council approval to award contract
- May, 2011 ~ Cooling tower installation completed
- June, 2011 ~ Chiller replacement completed

Re-lamping of Library Facilities Project: In partnership with Austin Energy, and made possible through ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funding, Library Facilities Services has embarked upon a two-year project to replace all lighting fixture lamps within the Library's departmental inventory of properties with more energy-efficient types of lamps. To date, comprehensive lamping retrofits have been completed at the Zaragoza Technical Support Warehouse, Cepeda Branch, and the Faulk Central Library. Almost 3,000 lamps were changed out at the Faulk Central Library alone, and a lamping retrofit expected to be similar in scope is now being scheduled for the Austin History Center by the Library's General Maintenance Supervisor.

Creek Bank Stabilization Project: The Watershed Protection and Development Department (WPD), in liaison with Library Facilities Services, is embarking upon a critically needed bank stabilization project for the tributary of Shoal Creek adjacent to the Yarborough Branch Library. Watershed Protection's North field operations crew is scheduled to begin this work on Monday, January 24, 2011, and ten (10) parking spaces at the facility will be dedicated to serve as a construction staging and heavy equipment storage area for the duration of the project. The foreman of the WPD North field operations crew believes that, weather permitting, they can complete the stabilization of the creek bed adjoining our property within two (2) weeks

Austin History Center

Programming & Outreach

- On December 11, Asian American Neighborhood Liaison Esther Chung attended the Korean American Association of Greater Austin (KAAGA) Gala. Approximately 500 people attended the event

- On December 13, Photo Curator Daniel Alonzo appeared on KUT's Morning Edition discussing the history of the moonlight towers. Daniel compiled a Google map pinpointing all the locations of the towers, which is available on the AHC's website: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/ahc/faq4.htm>

Collections

- Archives staff finished processing 8 collections and placed EAD encoded finding aids for these collections on the Internet at the TARO website. These collections include the Texas Society of Professional Engineers Auxiliary Records, Alphonse Dubois De Saligny Papers, Austin (Tex.) Law Department Records, National Association of Business Women Owners, Steck Publishing Records, Jenna Zumbrun Papers, Human Opportunities Corporation Reunion Records, and the City Cemeteries Division Records. The finding aids are available online at: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html.

- The AHC recently acquired the papers of local attorney Theodore Siff. Mr. Siff has been very active in local and statewide environmental issues, and his papers contain much information about the preservation of local parkland.

- Manager Mike Miller recently completed a series of oral history interviews with former City Councilwoman Margret Hofmann, also known as the Tree Lady of Austin. The interview spanned her entire life and career, including details of her time in Germany during World War II, how she came to the US and eventually Austin, and how she used her experiences witnessing the horrors of war to become a political and environmental activist and author.

Publications

- Photos from the AHC were purchased for use in the Austin American Statesman, Texas Architect, an exhibit at the Old Bakery, and in the Austin Steam Train Association upcoming guidebook, "Along the Granite and Iron Route."

Exhibits

- AHC exhibits staff are busy preparing for the next exhibit, 5X5Y: 25 Years of SXSW Music, scheduled to open on February 16. Now in its 25th year, SXSW has become one of the premiere international conferences for the music, film and interactive media industries to showcase new talent and explore new technologies. But how did it all begin? Why did it begin? Who made (and still makes) SXSW happen every year? Answers to these questions, and more, can be found in an upcoming exhibit at the Austin History Center. 5X5Y: 25 Years of SXSW Music offers a glimpse into the early years of the SXSW Music Festival, placing the festival in the context of the overall effort by Austin to position itself as the "Live Music Capital of the World." 5X5Y: 25 Years of SXSW Music will be on exhibit in the Grand Hallway and Lobby of the Austin History Center from February 16, 2011 to July 31, 2011.

- The exhibit will officially open on Saturday, March 5, 2011 with the 5X5Y Fest at the Austin History Center, a chance for Austinites to get a taste of the excitement and energy generated by the conference, which starts the following week. 5X5Y Fest begins at 4:30 p.m. with a panel

discussion, moderated by noted author and journalist Joe Nick Patoski, featuring Roland Swenson and Louis Black, two of the founders of SXSW. At 6:00 p.m. a free concert begins on the front steps of the AHC. 9th street will be closed so that festival goers can use the street and Wooldridge Park to enjoy the music. The first band will be the under 18 award winning band SCHMILLION, followed by WHY NOT SATELLITE. All the members of WHY NOT SATELLITE played in the first SXSW Music Festival or played at the New Music Seminar in New York City, the event that inspired SXSW. After dark, join us for a free double feature movie presentation in the park, courtesy of the Downtown Austin Alliance and Alamo Drafthouse. The first film will be a short preview of an upcoming documentary on the 25 years of SXSW. The second feature film will be the premiere screening of the recently restored Austin: The Friendly City, a 1943 Chamber of Commerce film in the AHC's film collection. There will be food vendors stationed along 9th street, and the event is free and open to the public

Youth Services

Teen Services

Teen Services welcomed it's three new librarians: Raquel Merlo, will be based at the St Johns branch; Jessica Champion, will be based at Ruiz; and Nicole Chagnon, is based at the Southeast branch but will be filling in at Faulk during the months that Southeast will be closed. Teen Coordinator Heath Rezabek has been working very closely with them to assure a smooth transition to their new duties.

Program Services

Literature LIVE! is kicking off a new season with "Wiley and the Hairy Man", an adaptation of a traditional southern folktale about a young Bayou boy challenged to outwit a conjure man. Also, Literature LIVE! is the subject of an article in the upcoming article in the Texas Library Journal.

Children's Services

In December, Children's Services librarians presented the last of the weekly programs of 2010, and then turned to collection work and preparations for 2011. Children's services staff took part in the Library's 3rd annual Mock Newbery and 1st Mock Caldecott discussion and selection meetings, and continued to work on APL's "Best of the Rest" list, which will recognize our favorite books of 2010 that have gone unrecognized by the major awards for youth literature.

In December, Children's Services Coordinator Sally Miculek finalized the hiring process and was able to offer a Librarian II position to Ann Minner, who began in early January. Ann will be based primarily at the Howson branch and will spend one day each week at the Oak Hill branch, as part of that branch's ACYS team.

Grants

Kathleen Houlihan, Youth Outreach Librarian, received a Great Stories Club IV award that will provide a round of book discussions at the Gardner Betts Juvenile Justice Center.

The Second Chance Books program will receive books to give to the incarcerated youth to read and discuss. Titles include Hate List by Jennifer Brown, Dope Sick by Walter Dean Myers and The Brothers Torres by Coert Voorhees.

This program is organized by the ALA Public Programs Office in cooperation with the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and funding is provided by Oprah's Angel Network.

Second Chance Books also received a Kids Need to Read grant of books from the Kids Need to Read Foundation. This Foundation emphasizes service to disadvantaged children, particularly youth in the middle and young adult age group.

The Kids Need to Read Foundation recognizes that stressed populations, such as juvenile offenders, impoverished urban teenagers, and youth with learning challenges experience high dropout rates due to illiteracy, yet they are overlooked. By providing books of interest to teens, literacy improves and along with that success in school improves. The books awarded will be used at the Gardner Betts Juvenile Justice Center in the browsing collection established by the Library to help motivate youth to read.

Recycled Reads

December revenue for Recycled Reads was approximately \$16,500 (a 25% increase over last year). Over 4,000 people visited the store (a 15% increase over last year). More than twenty five volunteers on average donate over 400 hours of their time to the bookstore. More than 25 pallets of materials from the warehouse were processed and over 250 individual donations from the public were received. The Austin American Statesman donated 600 books. Books Beyond Borders picked up the equivalent of 20 pallets of discarded materials per week.

Holiday celebrations included a vintage children's' book sale with singer/songwriter Michael Clay and story time. Also the Worthy Waites serenaded holiday shoppers with Medieval and Renaissance carols. The store was open on December 23 & 24, over 500 shoppers visited and there was approximately \$2,000 in sales.

Store Manager, Mindy Reed, wrote an article "It Pays to Recycle Reads," that appeared in the Winter 2010 issue of Texas Library Journal.

Volunteer Services

DECEMBER 2010 - STATISTICS

Number of Volunteers	168
DECEMBER - Volunteer hours	1,496.50
Volunteer Value*	\$20.85
	\$31,202.03

December Incidents

- 4 - Abandoning children or failing to supervise children at the Library
- 2 - Bringing animals into the Library
- 2 - Bringing in bedrolls, blankets or sleeping bags.
- 1 - Child abuse

- 35 -Disturbing others using the Library
- 3 - Fighting
- 21 -Harassment/Sexual harassment of Library staff or customers
- 1 - Indecent exposure
- 8 - Violating Internet Policy
- 7 - Intoxication resulting from alcohol or drugs
- 12 - Mistreatment or vandalism of Library facilities, materials, or equipment
- 8 - Sleeping in the Library
- 6 - Appropriate clothing is required
- 5 - Blocking access to Library entrances, passageways or resources
- 12 - Disorderly conduct
- 4 - Strong Odor
- 5 - Unintended use of restrooms
- 11 - Using obscene language
- 11 - Leaving personal belongings unattended
- 2 - Physically attack or threaten to attack another person
- 1 - Making bomb threats against Library property, or from Library property
- 2 - Unlawfully carrying or displaying weapons
- 5 - Theft of Library, staff, or customer property
- 2 - Destruction of Library property
- 170 Total**

To see the complete up to date listing of events visit

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/calendar.htm>

Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries

