

Austin Public Library

Director's Report

March 2011

Highlights

- The Texas Library Association Annual Conference will be April 12-15 in Austin at the Convention Center
- The Library's Employee Appreciation Awards Luncheon will be April 7, 11 a.m. at the Norris Conference Center
- The Southeast Austin Community Branch Library is scheduled to reopen in August.
- The New Fiction Confab will be April 16 at several branch locations

Facilities Services

New Central Library Project: On the night of Monday, March 7, 2010, the Art In Public Places Panel voted to seek a single, signature work of art for the New Central Library Project rather than pursuing an Artwork Master Plan for the new facility. Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services staff will now prepare a draft artist selection process to present to the Art In Public Places Panel at their April meeting for further action. From 10:00 AM through 5:00 PM on Thursday, March 10, 2011, a Design Charette was conducted in the Twin Oaks Branch Library meeting room to coordinate the work that the City of Austin will be undertaking in the Seaholm Redevelopment District. The participants were primarily members of the Second Street Extension and Bridge technical team along with members of the New Central Library design and construction team. The professionals from the Second Street Extension and Bridge Team provided the following perspectives: Civil Engineering, Landscape, Great Streets, Watershed – Floodplain, Street and Bridge, Trails, Austin Energy, Transportation, Watershed - Creek, Hike and Bike Trail, and neighboring development projects. The New Central Library Team brought their Landscape, Civil Engineering and Architecture Design and Library Operations perspectives to the table. The Construction Manager at Risk for the New Central Library Project also had representatives in attendance. The expressed purpose of the Design Charette was to support the creation of a true destination on Lower Shoal Creek for the citizens of Austin through indentifying:

- Opportunities and common goals for all projects bordering Lower Shoal Creek and the Seaholm Redevelopment District relating to (1.) Ecology and habitat restoration, (2.) Social interaction including teaching and learning, and (3.) Pathways and intersections for people, utilities, vehicles and bicycles
- Constraints and restrictions to development in the vicinity of Lower Shoal Creek such as (1.) Competing Schedules or Workflow, (2.) Codes or Ordinances
- Challenge areas or situations where design and/or coordination will necessitate methods and timelines to be devised to address the challenges

At the end of the meeting, the New Central Library design team was briefed by the Art In Public Places Coordinator on decisions made by the Art in Public Places Panel regarding the selection process for the New Central Library's artwork and their approval of Artist Selection Panelists for the

project.

At this time, the working schedule for the New Central Library Project stands as follows:

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: : On Friday, March 18, 2011, the Library Department along with all other City departments transmitted their capital budget updates and proposals for the coming financial year to the Capital Planning Office. The Library Department's FY 2011-2012 CIP proposal focuses on progressing with the New Central Library Project, but also seeks funding to provide exterior security cameras at all Library locations, retrofit the failing boilers and flue at the Faulk Central Library, replace the failing roof of the Will Hampton Branch at Oak Hill, expand the parking lot at the University Hills Branch Library, install RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) collection management and security equipment at three (3) branch libraries, remodel the Will Hampton at Oak Hill and Milwood branches, and renovate the interiors of the Austin History Center. The Capital Planning Office will finalize their own comprehensive CIP proposal for FY 2011-2012 in May, 2011, and then submit the document for review to the Planning Commission. After receiving input from their CIP Sub-Committee as well as the public, the Planning Commission will forward their recommended FY 2011-2012 CIP Plan to the City Manager and Council in June, 2011. The City Manager will then review the Planning Commission's recommendations in order to prepare the Capital Budget for delivery to the City Council in July, 2011. The City Council plans to hold public hearings on the FY 2011-2012 Capital Budget in August, 2011, and the entire CIP process culminates with City Council's approval of both the Capital and Operating Budgets in September, 2011, for the fiscal year beginning in October, 2011.

Security Camera Installation Project: On March 4,

2011, the Library Security Camera Installation Project management team met and prioritized the first nine of twenty-one Library sites to receive security cameras. The Library Security Camera Installation Project management team is composed of personnel from the Communications and Technology Management Department, a project coordinator from the involved contractor, and end user departmental representatives from both Library Information Systems and Library Facilities Services. Half of the cabling and camera installations are being performed by Library Information Systems, all nine priority sites are projected to be equipped with interior recording devices in April, 2011. Testing of the devices and training for Library Security staff will then be initiated. The Library Department is currently pursuing a Change Order with the project's contractor to purchase and install exterior security cameras at the Windsor Park Branch Library, as that site has proven to be the most challenging location for Library Security and the Austin Police Department to keep safe and secure over the last several years of operation.

Austin History Center ADA Compliant Ramp

Installation Project: Demolition has been completed for the failed wheelchair lift and other structures in the way of the planned new construction at the Austin History Center's Guadalupe Street entrance. The formwork needed to support freshly placed concrete has also been completed, including the sheathing which contacts the concrete and all supporting members, hardware and necessary bracing. As soon as submittals are approved, sand and steel reinforcing bars will be installed within the formwork. A submittal is a sample, manufacturer's data sheet or shop drawing submitted to the owner and their design professionals by the contractor for approval prior to use, and is a requirement of the contract documents. Due to the restricted space in which this ADA-compliant ramp is being constructed, there is very little margin of error for the upcoming placement of freshly mixed concrete and the slopes created must be very near perfect. Therefore, the Library Department has enlisted the aid of an additional inspector from the City of Austin Materials Testing and Inspection Division to perform a pre-placement inspection of the formwork when completed and concrete as it is being delivered.

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 branch sewer line servicing 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 challenging location of the sewer line underneath a drive-through easement, coupled with the logistical necessity for a street closure so that a new wastewater line can be connected to the main trunk sewer, 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. At this time, 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. The project manager now estimates that the consulting engineers have completed between 75% and 80% of the design packet of required documents, but are experiencing difficulty in achieving 100% complete construction documents.

Southeast Austin Community Branch Library Renovation:

The Southeast Austin Community Branch Library is undergoing a renovation process promised to the surrounding neighborhoods by the City Manager during area meetings in August of 2009 and September of 2010. Although no Capital Improvement Program funds were made available for the project, the Library Department put together a budget from various operating budget sources in order to make this much needed renovation work possible. The Branch closed to the public on Monday, December 6, 2010. Staff packed and stored the collection while interior infrastructure improvements such as voice and data upgrades were being made. Exterior infrastructure improvements are now being carried out, including the installation of additional security lighting at the parking lot, installation of security cameras, re-leveling the sidewalk leading to the accessible entrance, and the installation of new double doors at the North Entrance. The interiors are currently being transformed by Library Maintenance painters applying a new palette of colors, including several lively accent colors offering a playful contrast to the more muted background made by library shelving. The shelving stacks, themselves, are being rearranged to provide better lines of vision for branch staff and to create a grouping of more intimate study areas. New and sustainable carpet squares will replace the dated and worn broadloom carpet now in place and are expected to prove easier to clean and repair. Additional electrical outlets will be strategically installed in the facility along with a sustainable WiFi counter for the convenience of laptop computer users. Furthermore, the branch's existing wooden chairs are being completely refurbished at the Library Maintenance workshop at the moment. It is the intention of the Library Department to have this thoroughly remodeled branch library ready to reopen to the community during August of 2011.

Security Enhancement Project: This infrastructure improvement project, funded by means of the Library's annual operating budget, was implemented 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, and the planned lighting improvements have now been successfully completed at the Little Walnut Creek, Southeast Austin Community, University Hills and Windsor Park branches. The underground electrical conduits and concrete pedestals required for the installation of additional pole lights at the Ruiz Branch Library have been successfully constructed, and the pole lights are scheduled to be erected during the week of March 21, 2011.

Faulk Central Library Chiller and Cooling Tower Retrofit:

On Thursday, March 3, 2011, the Austin City Council authorized award and execution of a contract through the Texas Multiple Award Schedule (TXMAS) with Trane U.S., Inc. of La Crosse, Wisconsin to purchase and install two cooling towers at the Faulk Central Library in an amount not to exceed \$139,692. Funding for this contract award is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Capital Budget of the Library Department. Also on March 3, 2011, Council authorized award and execution of a contract through the Texas Multiple Award Schedule cooperative purchasing program with Trane U.S., Inc. for the purchase and installation of a centrifugal chiller at the Faulk Central Library in an estimated amount not to exceed \$203,229. Funding for this contract award is available from the Department of Energy (DOE) as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 for the grant period of December 28, 2009 to December 27, 2012. These Council actions enabled the Library and Austin Energy departments to give the vendor immediate Notice to Proceed with the thirteen week fabrication process required to manufacture the specified chiller and cooling towers. The project management team, composed of personnel from both the Austin Energy Conservation and Library Facilities Services divisions, are now fine-tuning the careful sequencing of demolition and installation activities necessary to safely complete a major equipment retrofit at a congested downtown work site. Close coordination between all participants will need to be standard operating procedure on this project, but closing the Faulk Central Library/Austin History Center Complex will not be required, as temporary cooling systems will be installed while the old equipment is being powered down and replaced. At the present time, it is anticipated that the bulk of this retrofit work will be carried out during June, 2011, with final completion expected to be achieved in July, 2011. Normal Library business will essentially be unaffected by this mechanical equipment replacement project, except during a few days of partial parking lot closures needed to allow a crane to be brought on site. These partial parking lot closures will be announced and advertised far in advance of the actual occurrences.

Austin History Center

Programming & Outreach

- On February 5, Asian American Liaison Esther Chung represented the AHC at the Texas Asian American Chamber of Commerce Gala. Esther gave a "reprise" showing of the "Pioneers from the East: First Chinese Families in Austin" photo exhibit that was at the AHC last year for the 500 gala attendees.
- On February 6, Manager Mike Miller presented "A Tour Through 19th Century Austin" to forty- five members of the Austin Primetimers Club.
- African American Neighborhood Liaison Cynthia Evans gave a presentation to over forty students at the Texas School for the Deaf as part of their Black History Month program on February 24. On February 26, she represented the AHC at the Black Heritage Festival, hosted by Huston-Tillotson University where over 300 people attended the festival.

Collections

- Archives staff finished processing 5 collections and placed EAD encoded finding aids for these collections on the Internet at the TARO website. These collections include the AR.2011.011 Ruth Harris Papers, the Huppertz Family Papers, the Colonial Dames of the XVII Century, Embassy Chapter Records, the Calcasieu Lumber Company Records, and the Eliud Martinez Papers. The finding aids are available online at: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html
- The AHC acquired the records of former City Councilwoman Emma Long and her husband Stuart Long. The Longs were quite active in local, state, and national politics. The collection comprised about 30 cubic feet of records rescued from the Long's garage. Unfortunately, most of the collection has been stored in the garage for over 30 years and suffers from severe mold and water damage. It will likely take more than a year to completely process the collection, but once completed, these papers should offer a fascinating glimpse at the mid-20th Century Austin and Texas.

Publications

- Photos from the AHC were purchased for use in an upcoming book about the Star of Texas Rodeo, the American Journey history textbook, an upcoming PBS documentary about Billy the Kid, the March 2011 Texas General Land Office newsletter

Exhibits

- The AHC's new exhibit, 5X5Y: 25 Years of SXSW Music, officially opened on Saturday, March 5 with 5X5Y Fest. Over 200 people came to the opening festivities, which included a panel discussion with SXSW founders Roland Swenson and Louis Black, performances by SCHMILLION and WHY NOT SATELLITE, and movies in the park. The exhibit has drawn much press attention, from local media to international, such as The Guardian from the UK. SXSW badge wearers have been a common sight at the AHC during the SXSW conference and festival.

Awards

- Mexican American Neighborhood Liaison Gloria Espitia and Manager Mike Miller received word that they were recipients of PODER's "Cesar Chavez – Si Se Pueda Award," given to individuals that "Demonstrate Leadership that is Changing Lives and Transforming Communities." The awards are a result of the Mexican American Firsts project, which recently concluded. The awards will be officially handed out at a reception on March 31 at the Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center.

Central Library Services

There have been additions and changes to the computer classes offered at Faulk Central. **Basic Computer Skills** has been extended 30 minutes to include more internet skills. Central has added the following classes: **Introduction to Digital Photo Management**, **Getting Started with Blogs**, and **Creating Web Pages**. Two classes have changed names: **Introduction to Reference Databases** is now **Better Than Google: Searching with**

Premium Online Resources and Introduction to Web 2.0 is Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, & Wikis.

On Monday, February 25, a group of librarians from several regions of Canada visited the John Henry Faulk Central Library. After a tour of the building, the group met with APL staff from the following divisions: ACAO, ACBR, ACCS, ALIS, and ACLS. APL staff provided the group with information about APL and answered questions. Afterwards, there was an exchange of ideas between all participants.

Youth Services

Teen Services

Teen Services conclude its hiring process for the new round of Connected Youth Interns, who will start in late March or early April. The hiring process also began for a Teen Services librarian to fill the position of Jenn Hartley, who accepted a position out of state. Preparations continue for YomiCon, with materials beginning to be ordered and events blocked out at the Ruiz branch. At the end of February, the first report for Year 3 of the Connected Youth Project was filed.

Program Services

The office of Program Services has been involved with multiple initiatives of late. Literature LIVE! presented Wiley and the Hairy Man puppet show to 1,135 people at the Faulk Central Library and 19 branch libraries. In addition the show was presented at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum and at the Dougherty Arts Center (DAC) where over 150 people were in attendance. The comment cards from audience participants provided the puppeteers excellent feedback as they move forward to present the next puppet show run - Little Peep.

The Dougherty Arts Center ARTSreach program wrapped up their pilot program presenting programs at four branch libraries during storytime intersession. Librarians were able to catch up on collection development and other professional duties while special event programs were presented at Manchaca Road, Old Quarry, Terrazas and Yarborough Branches. In addition, during the intersession, the Urban Bird programs sponsored by the Austin Nature and Science Center were presented at Hampton Branch @ Oak Hill, Millwood, Ruiz and Windsor Park branches. The intersession offered creative and informative programs to the public and assisted in the further development of a strong partnership between APL and the Parks and Recreation Department. These shared initiatives bring city staff together strengthening the service delivery and mission of both departments.

Another partnership is in the works with the COA Solid Waste Services Department. APL staff will be presenting storytime and answering questions about library services at the annual SWS ROAD-E-O event in March. Plans are underway for another event in the fall.

The Bibliofile Book Cart Drill Team continues to hold weekly practice sessions preparing for the upcoming TLA Book Cart Drill Team State Competition on April 14th, in Austin!

Also at TLA, Devo Carpenter, Youth Program Specialist will be teaching a portion of the preconference on gaming.

Children's Services

In February, Children's Services librarians continued offering an impressive slate of programs for the young literature lovers of APL. At the Twin Oaks branch, a new program called Storysign kicked off. This program is a storytime in sign language team-presented by Children's Librarian Stephanie Shipman and a volunteer ASL storyteller. APL partnered with the Texas School for the Deaf to bring this program to the Library, and hopefully the pilot period for the program will prove successful and pave the way for future partnering endeavors with the TSD. Children's Services Librarians also continued the ongoing Library-wide effort to examine collections and discard old or overused materials. At the Spicewood Springs and Hampton at Oak Hill branches, the Children's Services teams have undertaken extensive projects to remove older materials and free up space on the shelves for new items. These efforts will be especially beneficial as APL moves towards floating collections.

Recycled Reads

January revenue for Recycled Reads was approximately \$15,000 and over 4,100 people visited the store

More than twenty five volunteers on average donate over 700 hours of their time to the bookstore. More than 25 pallets of materials from the warehouse were processed and over 200 individual donations from the public were received. Books Beyond Borders picked up the equivalent of 45 pallets of discarded materials per week.

Recycled Reads ended its more than two-year relationship with Books Beyond Borders. Better World Books is now Recycled Reads recycling partner.

Recycled Read held its 2 year Anniversary event on February 26, a book art workshop. Over 500 people attended and over \$2,000 was raised. Recycled Reads was featured in a February 14, Daily Texan article about Austin's independent bookstores and was mentioned in the February 17, Austin American Statesman.

Volunteer Services

FEBRUARY 2011 - STATISTICS

Number of Volunteers	167
FEBRUARY - Volunteer hours	1726
Volunteer Value*	\$20.85
	\$35,992

February Incidents

- 1 Abandoning children or failing to supervise children at the Library
- 2 Bringing animals into the Library
- 4 Bringing in bedrolls, blankets or sleeping bags.
- 28 Disturbing others using the Library
- 3 Entering unauthorized areas

- 25 Harassment/Sexual harassment of Library staff or customers
- 14 Violating Internet Policy
- 6 Intoxication resulting from alcohol or drugs
- 13 Mistreatment or vandalism of Library facilities, materials, or equipment
- 7 Sleeping in the Library
- 7 Appropriate clothing is required
- 1 Blocking access to Library entrances, passageways or resources
- 12 Disorderly conduct
- 2 Strong Odor
- 5 Unintended use of restrooms
- 12 Using obscene language
- 6 Leaving personal belongings unattended
- 4 Physically attack or threaten to attack another person
- 3 Theft of Library, staff, or customer property
- 7 Destruction of Library property
- 162 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

