

### **Highlights**

- The 2012 Mayor's Book Club will feature the 2011 National Book Award-Winner, Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward. The schedule of events:
  - The opening event is scheduled for Saturday, March 31, 1:00pm at the JHF Central Library.
  - Book Discussion with Dr. Helena Woodard, English Professor, University of Texas
  - Windsor Park Branch, Tuesday, April 10, 7:00pm – 8:30pm
  - Book Discussion with author Amanda Eyre Ward, Manchaca Branch Wednesday, April 16, 6:30pm – 8:00pm
  - Film Screening, Trouble the Water, Carver Library, Thursday, April 26, 7:00pm

### **Facilities Services**

**New Central Library Project:** For current Fiscal Year 2011-12, Council approved an appropriation of \$800,000 in the Library Department's Capital Budget for material acquisitions needed for the New Central Library Project. Additional material acquisitions appropriations are anticipated over the next several years in order to grow the Faulk Central Library collection to an appropriate size for the new building now in design. To accommodate this imminent enlargement of the collection, divisional staff members from Central Library Services, Collection and Cataloging Services, and Facilities Services met on Thursday, February 2, 2012 to plan changes to the shelving layout for the Faulk Central Library. The augmentation of the stacks agreed upon is now being carried out by the Library Maintenance crew in liaison with Central Library Services personnel and deliveries of new materials are expected to arrive shortly.

On Wednesday, February 22, 2012, the Final Design Charrette was held at the Carver Branch Library to review the butterfly arch bridge type selected for the Second Street Bridge Project and to establish stakeholders' preferences for pedestrian railings, abutments/surfacing, lighting, color/finishes and arch thrust blocks/transitions for landscaping. This aesthetically pleasing new bridge will be span Shoal Creek at the Northeast corner of the New Central Library. The Selection Panel and advisors for the Second Street Bridge and Roadway Extension Project will meet on Friday, February 22, 2012 to review the fifty-one artist images and qualifications received in order to determine an artist (or artist team), and an alternate, for the project. The goal of this specific public art project is to select an artist who will create a work that will: (1) be a unique work of contemporary art for the project, (2) be dynamic and engaging for children and families, (3) function well within the context of the site and its surrounding land uses, and (4) create artwork that is easily maintained and safe. Following approval of the selected artist or artist team by the AIPP Panel and the Arts Commission, the City Council's authorization will be sought during April, 2012 for contract

negotiation and execution.

On Wednesday, February 29, 2012, design team consultants along with Public Works and Library staff members will meet with City of Austin Channel Six personnel to discuss installing production equipment in the New Central Library to accommodate recording special programs and events for playback on Channel Six and the City's website. The project schedule for the New Central Library is as follows:

- Spring 2012 ~ Design Development Completed (60% Complete Design Package Delivered)
  - Council briefed
  - Library and Design Commissions briefed
- Council Approval of Schematic Design

Spring 2013 ~ Construction Document Phase completed (100% Complete Design Package Delivered)

Spring 2013 ~ Guaranteed Maximum Price Determined and Approved by Council

Summer 2013 ~ Permits received

Summer 2013 ~ Groundbreaking Ceremony conducted

Summer 2013 ~ Construction begins

Fall 2015 ~ Construction completed

Winter 2015 ~ Grand Opening Ceremony celebrated.

**Needs Assessment/2012 Bond Process:** On Thursday, February 16, 2012, City staff presented the Bond Election Advisory Task force with the capital needs assessment projects and programs, organized by department and ranked in order of how many of the Council-approved guiding principles criteria applied to the specific project or program. Totaling \$8,042,000, those projects for the Library Department are:

1. University Hills Branch Library Parking Lot Expansion (\$1,022,000)
2. Zaragoza Warehouse Fire Sprinkler System Upgrade (\$497,000)
3. Austin History Center Interior & Exterior Improvements (\$1,168,000)
4. Renovation of Will Hampton Branch Library at Oak Hill (\$1,340,000)
5. Milwood Branch Library Renovation (\$1,066,000)
6. Pleasant Hill Branch Library Roof Replacement & HVAC Upgrade (\$1,234,000)
7. Cepeda Branch Library Renovation (\$684,000)
8. Yarborough Branch Library Renovation (\$592,000)
9. Windsor Park Branch Library (\$439,000)

Among the 124 projects (totaling \$1.5 billion) suggested by the various City departments for possible inclusion in a November bond package were a new City of Austin Police Department headquarters, new fire stations and

funding proposals for open-space purchases and affordable housing. The Bond Election Task Force is charged with cutting the list by more than half and recommending by May, 2012 several different possible packages for the upcoming bond election, with projects totaling \$200 million, \$300 million and \$400 million. In the next several months, the Bond Election Task Force will consider the Capital Needs Assessment project list, the Council's guiding principles, and input from the public, stakeholders, and other Boards and Commissions before making its recommendations. The Bond Election Task force has created four committees to assist in considering the project and program list provided by staff. Those committees are: Affordable Housing, City Facilities, Parks and Open Space, and Transportation/Mobility. On Wednesday, February 29, 2012, at 6:00 PM in the Boards and Commissions Room of City Hall (301 W. 2nd Street), the Bond Election Advisory Task force will hold the first of a series of public input meetings.

**Austin History Center Wastewater Line Retrofit Project:**

The Austin History Center Wastewater Line Retrofit Project was advertised for bids on Monday, January 9, 2012, and a Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference was held at the Austin History Center on Tuesday, January 17, 2012. Unfortunately, the issues with the consultants' work previously identified by the City of Austin has continued during the solicitation process. The project was advertised without obtaining permits or acquiring Austin Water Utility's signoff. The risk is that the permit/AWU approval process will result in the need to change the scope of the project after the bids are opened and the resulting work will cost more than it would have been if competitively bid. The Library Department has, therefore, cancelled the solicitation and will rebid the project once proper permits and signoffs have been obtained.

**Faulk Central Library/Austin History Center Chiller and Cooling Tower Retrofit:**

The Austin Public Library and its project partner, Austin Energy, have accepted the contractor's change order proposal for exhaust system modifications needed to bring the Faulk Central Library basement chiller room within compliance to new Mechanical codes. The building permit for these modifications is currently being pulled by the contractor, and the Library anticipates that the work will be initiated as soon as the permit is issued. In the meantime, the planned routing for underground conduits and vents are being verified for appropriate clearances. The work required to enact the desired building engineering modifications is not expected to exceed six weeks from issuance of the permit, nor is the work expected to cause any interruption of normal business at the Faulk Central Library and Austin History Center complex.

**Exterior Security Cameras Installation Project:** The full shipment of exterior security cameras needed for the remaining library sites to be so equipped was delivered and in the contractor's care as of February 15, 2012. However, the project has been delayed in order to review the need for grounding of exterior devices prior to the installation of any new devices. This delay was enacted by the City of Austin following a January lightning strike that caused extensive damage to a the security camera system at a

municipal building. The City will establish the jurisdictional responsibilities for system grounding, equipment grounding, isolated grounding and lightning protection grounding before moving forward with any further exterior security camera installations. The Austin Public Library does not anticipate that the delay will be prolonged, and in the meantime, walkthroughs of individual facilities are being scheduled and scoping and pricing are being prepared prior to the cameras being accepted and installed.

**Faulk Central Library Boilers and Flue Retrofit Project:**

The Contract Management Department has ruled that a design/build approach cannot be used for this project, but instead, must be carried through to completion via the traditional process of hiring an engineer, completing the design, bidding the project to general contractors, and then awarding the contract to the low bidder to build. Consequently, the Library Department is now fully engaged in negotiating a contract for the project with a Mechanical-Electrical-Plumbing engineering firm selected from the appropriate City of Austin consultant rotation list.

**Branch Libraries Photovoltaic System Installation Project:**

This joint project with Austin Energy calls for the installation of solar panels on the roofs of the Carver, Spicewood Springs, Cepeda and Ruiz branch libraries, and a preconstruction, or kickoff meeting for the work was conducted at the Carver Branch on Thursday, February 2, 2012. The solar panel array planned for the Carver Branch Library will be the largest such installation in the Library's inventory of properties, and a roof mounted system on stanchions will be constructed, utilizing an existing chase for cabling to keep roof penetrations to a minimum. Engineering drawings are currently being prepared for all four sites prior to submission for permits. At this time, the contractor is also preparing to submit materials and routing plans to the City for review and approval. Trenching to lay conduit commenced at the Carver Branch on Monday, February 20, 2012, and every effort is being made to avoid damaging plants and landscaping irrigation lines.

**Oak Springs Branch Library Name Change:** On Thursday, February 2, 2012, the Austin City Council approved an ordinance renaming the Oak Springs Branch Library, located at 3101 Oak Springs Drive, the Willie Mae Kirk Branch Library. To assist the Library Department with this Council directive, the Purchasing Office has issued an RQS (Request for Qualification Statements) for the replacement of the monument sign and the building sign at the former Oak Springs Branch Library. The RQS will be open from February 13, 2012 through February 23, 2012. Once a signage contractor has been selected, work on this project will be initiated immediately. A dedication ceremony for the renamed branch will be conducted by the Library Department after the building's original signage has been deconstructed and replaced.

**Austin History Center  
Programming & Outreach**

- Asian American Liaison Esther Chung was profiled by Michael Barnes in the January 17, 2012 issue of the Austin American Statesman (as well as his online blog). Esther gave a great interview, speaking about the need to preserve local history, especially in the community she

represents.

- On February 7, African American Liaison Cynthia Evans participated in a panel discussion (as a panelist) at the Windsor Park branch following their Movie Night presentation, "More than a Month." The panelists spoke about and fielded questions from the audience about Black History Month and the need to have Black History as part of current curriculum.

### **Collections**

- Archives staff finished processing 5 collections and placed EAD encoded finding aids for these collections on the Internet at the TARO (Texas Archival Resources Online) website. These collections include the Adele Zedler Papers, the Austin Regional Group of the Sierra Club Records, the J. Frank Dobie Newspaper Columns Scrapbook, the Austin Retired Teachers Association Records, and the Gary M. Lavergne Papers.. The AHC also processed additions and updates to 1 collection, the Pathfinders Club Records. The finding aids are available online at: [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse\\_ahc1.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html).
- The AHC acquired the Oliver B. Street Papers. Oliver Street was a well respected East Austin civic and business leader who founded Oliver B. Street Construction Company in the late 1940s. At the time, Street was one of the few African American general contractors in Austin.

### **Publications**

- Photos from the AHC were purchased for use in a wall display at the State Capitol, for broadcast on 2 different Fox 7 newscasts (one on MLK Day, one on Camp Swift), for exhibits at the Old Bakery and Dickinson Museums, and for the Star of Texas Rodeo's Behind the Stalls publication.
- A new book from Texas A&M Press made extensive use of the AHC archives. Rodeo Austin: Blue Ribbons, Buckin' Broncs and Big Dreams, written by Liz Carmack, chronicles the 75 year history of the Star of Texas Rodeo and Fair. Carmack spent many days at the AHC going through Chamber of Commerce records, the Walter Long Papers, the Neal Douglass collection, and countless vertical files and microfilm reels while researching this book. The book is scheduled for release on March 8.

### **Exhibits**

- Work is underway for the next exhibit, "The First Picture Shows: Historic Austin Movie Houses." The exhibit will explore the many film venues throughout Austin's history, from the first motion picture screening in 1896 to the rise of the multiplexes. The exhibit will be on display from March 20 until August 19, 2012.

## **Youth Services**

### **Children's Services**

Children's Services librarians kicked off 2012 with a very busy January. Elizabeth Murphy and Stephanie Shipman, librarians at AYB and ATO, respectively, finished the Winter Gaming Tournament with Mario Kart tournaments at North Village, Ruiz, and the championship at Twin Oaks. Elizabeth also attended an outreach event at the Northwest Recreation Center, where her "Mirror Challenge Box" managed to hold its own in crowd interest against the snakes and other fascinating live animals at the neighboring table. Elizabeth took advantage of the crowd's interest in the mirror box to distribute information

about upcoming Library programs and to talk upcoming Summer Reading events. At the Little Walnut Creek branch, Celia Holm's evening storytime has caught on and is growing nicely—on January 31, 22 participants joined the fun! Also at Little Walnut Creek, the Spanish Storytime presented by Josefina Rodriguez Gibbs (who comes over from Milwood to present) continues going strong. At the Howson Branch, Ann Minner kicked off the NBTween book club in January, featuring the book "Chasing Vermeer," by Blue Balliett. The NBTween Book Club began at AYB, and we're excited that a second offering of this program is now available for reading tweens and their participating adults. At the Cepeda Branch, Jean Holland has been working with a volunteer as well as branch staff to undertake some big shifting projects in the youth area: with the volunteer, Jean weeded and shifted J Non Fiction; with branch staff assistance, she was able to shift the J and Y Fic collections as well. Children's Services Coordinator Sally Miculek and ACE Youth Librarian Suzan Nyfeler began the presentation portion of a pilot project in partnership with the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARC). For January and February, Suzan and Sally will visit two recreation centers on a weekly basis, reading an assortment of books connected to themes of Asian Heritage in January and Friendship in February. With PARC staff, Suzan and Sally planned activities inspired by the titles to present to children participating in PARC after school programs. In late February or early March, PARC staff and Suzan and Sally will meet to evaluate the success of this program and make plans for future collaboration.

### **Teen Services**

In January, two crucial new staff members started within Teen Services. Soleil Kibodeaux-Posey started as the first Discovery Lab Intern in mid-January. At the same time, Lela Ellison started as a new Teen Services Librarian for the Carver Branch Library. We continued to work with Branch Services and Facilities, as well Information Services and our Grants officer, on our Discovery Lab setup. New furniture and tables were installed at the newly-renamed Willie Mae Kirk Branch Library. The Information Services workgroup installed new equipment for the Discovery Lab. Meanwhile, Teen Services Coordinator Heath Rezabek worked with Soleil on developing activities and games centered on science and information technology vocabulary. These activities will be the basis for staff's work with at-risk young people at the Discovery Lab. Meanwhile, planning and preparations for the Summer Reading Program, as well as for the flagship Teen Services event YomiCon, got underway in earnest. Staff is looking forward to an exciting and eventful springtime in Teen Services and Youth Services.

### **Programming/Outreach Services**

In January Program Services hit the pavement running with the rollout of Literature LIVE's Tortuga del Mar puppet show. Twelve shows were performed bringing in 788 audience participants. Audience numbers will increase as the show continues to run in February. Another showing of the puppet play Mr. Tamarin's Trees was highlighted at the Leaf for a Leaf Family Day held at the Twin Oaks Branch. Free trees were available to the public and all ages enjoyed an array of nature focused arts and crafts.

Five new puppet stages were added into the rotation of stages beginning in 2012. This means that four puppet stages are now assigned permanent branch locations giving more access to stages for puppetry workshops in each region.

The Bibliofiles Book Cart Drill Team was scouted by the television program America's Got Talent. The show producer said "I saw your video from the Book Cart Drill Team Championship and I have to say, I think you guys are fantastic! We have definitely never seen anything like what you do." Although flattered by the interest of a national television show, the Bibliofiles declined participation. Never the less, it was fun being asked to participate!

Literature LIVE! staff assisted with the first Teen Advisory Group (TAG) meeting. The call for teen involvement was a success with 28 teens participating in the first meeting! Youth Services staff are very excited about this milestone in capturing teen interest in library program planning. The TAG team will provide input for the upcoming YOMICON 2012 event.

Literature LIVE! staff facilitated Early Literacy Training sessions for Spanish speaking parents through the Avance-Austin organization. In addition, library tours were coordinated at targeted branch locations for these parents. Also, a training for the Seedling Foundation mentors was presented, assisting mentors in how to use books as a tool for facilitating relationship and meaningful conversation with students while strengthening literacy skills.

The Storytime Connection program welcomed new volunteers through training and orientation activities. Three child care centers were assigned new volunteers to present weekly storytimes to children who may not have the opportunity to visit storytime at the library.

An end of year assessment of the Second Chance Books Leadership Library was shared with Gardner Betts Juvenile Justice Detention Center staff who replied by saying, "Wow!!Thank you! These are some amazing programs and numbers!"

Highlights from 2011 include:

- Total number of books read in 2011: 5607 (increase of 15% over last year)
- Total number of books read every month by each resident in 2011 (assuming 50 residents per month on average): 9.3 books (16% increase)
- Total number of books a resident would read in a year at that rate: 112 (16% increase)
- Total number of books residents report reading outside the facility: 85% report reading 0 to 1 book per month before coming to the facility, a 90-100% increase in frequency of reading, once they encountered the Program.
- Total number of library programs offered at the facility: 116
- Total number of youth attending these programs: 1324

Types of programs offered:

- o Book Clubs
- o Short Story Discussions

- o Read Aloud and discussion
- o Reader's Advisory (librarians recommending books and helping them find what to read next)
- o Drawing workshops, using library books
- o Clay workshops, using library books
- o In-person Author Visits
- o Virtual Author visit
- o Summer Reading Program
- o Author-led writing workshops
- o Peer Book Review Cards for the Library
- o Book-themed Bookmark making with laptops

## **Central Library Services**

Faulk Central had a great response to the performance by the Aiana String Quartet on Friday, February 10th 2012. Approximately 65-70 people attended the event on the first floor. Many customers sat on the stairs and had a birds' eye view of the concert. The music of Mozart and Ravel could be heard throughout the first and second floors. Customers wanted to know if this would be a regular Friday event. The quartet also took questions from the audience after the program. This is the type of event that staff wants to do more of now and in the new Central facility.

Central is preparing for the \$800,000 in CIP materials that will soon begin to arrive, drop shipped to our back door. The collection is currently being weeded extensively in preparation for the new materials. The Reference collection has been weeded by 60% and shelving is being installed and rearranged on the 2nd floor to accommodate the new material. Staff also weeded the bound Periodicals and used some of that shelving for the new materials. An events center is being prepared in the northeast corner for events such as the Mayors Book Club and author events. The first shipment of Blu-Rays was received this month. Space is being rearranged in Distribution to accommodate up to 10 pallets of material at a time. Regular delivery will now be handled on the 2nd floor.

## **Web Content**

Staff created a new "APL Recommends" with book covers and improved the Virtual Library page on the new website, transferred information guides, database collection and "APL Recommends" to the new City platform. Staff also transferred selected APL Blogs from 2006 on2q4ew to the new City platform. A new virtual reference service was selected to replace the current one. LibAnswers replaced Altarama.

## **Programming/Outreach Services**

January 27, Blair Parsons attended a resource fair at the state jail on FM 969. The resource fair is a monthly event where public service providers meet with inmates to discuss beneficial services in Travis County. The inmates attending each fair are scheduled for release in less than a month and are very interested in connecting with local services. Blair spoke with about 40 inmates, answered their questions and explained services available at the Austin Public Library.

## **Recycled Reads**

December revenue for Recycled Reads was approximately \$18,725 and over 4,000 people visited the

store.

More than twenty volunteers on average donate over 200 hours of their time to the bookstore. More than 15 pallets of materials from the warehouse were processed and over 220 individual donations from the public were received. Approximately 18 pallets of materials were sorted representing over 60,000 items. Good Will picked up over 29 gaylords of material, and approximately 10 tons of materials were diverted from the landfill. Image Microsystems picked-up 4 pallets of materials.

Staff worked with Mary Priddy in Climate Protection to establish quantifiable equivalents for how much the store is improving the environment by keeping tons of materials out of the land- fill and met with Katy Zamesnik of COA Budget Office to determine financial benefits (besides revenue) from ARR operation.

### Volunteer Services

#### JANUARY 2012 - STATISTICS

Number of Volunteers	170
JANUARY - Volunteer hours	1460.85
Volunteer Value*	\$ 21.36
	<b>\$31,203.75</b>

### January Incidents

- 42 Disturbing others using the Library
- 33 Harassment/Sexual harassment of Library staff or customers
- 30 Disorderly conduct
- 20 Using obscene language
- 12 Physically attack or threaten to attack another person
- 10 Violating Internet Policy
- 10 Sleeping in the Library
- 10 Theft of Library, staff, or customer property
- 9 Intoxication resulting from alcohol or drugs
- 8 Appropriate clothing is required
- 8 Blocking access to Library entrances, passageways or resources
- 8 No outside food or beverages allowed in the Library
- 6 Entering unauthorized areas
- 6 Mistreatment or vandalism of Library facilities, materials, or equipment
- 5 Bringing in bedrolls, blankets or sleeping bags.
- 4 Abandoning children or failing to supervise children at the Library
- 4 Fighting
- 4 Unintended use of restrooms
- 4 Leaving personal belongings unattended
- 3 Destruction of Library property
- 2 Soliciting and panhandling
- 2 Strong Odor
- 2 Unlawfully carrying or displaying weapons
- 1 Bringing animals into the Library
- 1 Making bomb threats against Library property, or from Library property
- 1 Public Lewdness

**245 Total**

### Locations # of Incidents

ACE 47

ATB	15
ARZ	14
ACB	13
ASE	12
ASR	10
ATO	9
ALW	8
AMR	8
ASJ	6
AOS	5
APH	5
AWP	5
AHC	4
ANV	4
ACP	3
AHO	3
AOK	2
AOQ	2
AUH	2
AMI	1
ARR	1
AYB	1

To see the complete up to date listing of events visit

<http://library.austintexas.gov/events>

Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries

