

Austin Public Library: Regional Concept

What are Library Regions?

- New idea in public library administration
- Several branches, grouped by region, share services/staff
- Branch Managers and Regional Managers
- In use at Brooklyn, LA City/LA County and Hennepin County (Minneapolis) Public Libraries, among others

History at the Austin Public Library

- Regional system began February 2010
- Before: Library Services Manager and Assistant Library Services Manager oversaw 10 branches each

Old System

KAREN BAKER, LIBRARY SERVICES MANAGER

- Cepeda
- Howson
- Milwood
- Oak Hill
- Manchaca
- North Village
- Terrazas
- Spicewood Springs
- Ruiz
- Old Quarry
- VICTORY Tutorial Program

DIANE PALAN, ASST. LIB. SVS. MANAGER

- Carver
- Oak Springs
- Southeast
- Twin Oaks
- Pleasant Hill
- Little Walnut
- St John
- Windsor Park
- University Hills
- Yarborough
- Admin. Senior Program Specialist

New System

- 4 managers oversee 5 branches each
- Austin divided into “quadrants”: Northwest, Northeast, Southeast, Southwest
- Regional Branch Operations Manager (RBOM): supervises Region as well as acting as branch manager of Regional Branch.
- Regional branches: larger buildings, higher circulation, Sunday hours.

North Austin

REGION 1: NW AUSTIN DIANE PALAN, RBOM

- Yarborough - **Regional**
- Spicewood Springs
- Milwood
- Old Quarry
- North Village

REGION 2: NE AUSTIN TOM MORAN, RBOM

- Little Walnut – **Regional**
- St Johns
- University Hills
- Windsor Park
- Willie Mae Kirk

South Austin

REGION 3: SE AUSTIN ELVA GARZA, RBOM

- Ruiz – **Regional**
- Terrazas
- Southeast Community
- Carver
- Cepeda

REGION 4: SW AUSTIN PATTI FOWLER, RBOM

- Manchaca Rd – **Regional**
- Pleasant Hill
- Howson
- Hampton at Oak Hill
- Twin Oaks

Benefits

- Staff can solve staffing issues by collaboration
- Improved communication
- Emphasize “The Big Picture”
- Shift to meet changing needs
- Staff comfortable at other branches

Future

- Continuing to refine Regional model
- Hire well
- Listen to staff