

Austin Public Library Director's Report August 2013

More Than Books

Highlights

- City of Austin Budget: September 9-11- Council adopts Budget & Tax Rate.
- September 10, 2013. "Black Enterprise: Remembering Austin's Pioneering Entrepreneurs," 6:30 pm at the AHC. Food writer Toni Tipton-Martin will give a presentation about the African American business district on E. 6th that developed in the 1870s.
- September 13-14. Re-opening of Wooldridge Square Park. AHC will have an exhibit of historical photographs in the park during the opening weekend.
- Author J.A. Jance will visit the North Village Branch
 October 2 at 7 PM to promote her new book, Second
 Watch.

Facilities Services

New Central Library Project: On Thursday, August 1st, the first of many Owner Meetings to follow was conducted at the construction trailers at the New Central Library site. All contractors, consultants and staff members who will work on the New Central Library Project are now undergoing four hours of site-specific safety training required by the City of Austin's ROCIP (Rolling Owner's Controlled Insurance Program) processes. Also on August 1st, a conference call was held with all the many staff members, architects, engineers and sustainability consultants involved in the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) accreditation process for the New Central Library Project. LEED is a rating system for the design and construction of high performance green buildings, and the discussion at hand is how to best define the boundaries of the New Central Library Project for LEED submittal purposes, since our rainwater harvesting cistern is actually underground on the Seaholm Substation site and many of our site improvements extend into the Shoal Creek Greenbelt. At Carver Branch Library on August 8th, Hensel Phelps Construction Company, the Construction Manager at Risk for the New Central Library Project, conducted a project briefing for interested sub-contractors representing all trades. On August 9th, the Site Plan Development Permit was received for the construction of our six-storied central library, consisting of 213,450 square feet of gross floor area, with two levels of underground parking, a bicycle corral, and including sidewalk improvements and utilities along with drainage and water quality improvements in the Shoal Creek watershed. Coordination meetings between design team members, contractors and City staff continued to be carried out this month in order to resolve an array of project issues, ranging from the acoustical ceilings in the stack areas to interior way-finding signage to the placement of exterior Art in Public Places sculptures in the Shoal Creek Greenbelt. At this time, the project schedule for the New Central Library has been established as follows:

August 2013 ~ Site Development Work begins

August 2013 ~ Construction Document Phase completed

(100% Complete Design Package Delivered)

November 2013 ~ Building permits received

December 2013 ~ Building Construction begins

Spring 2016 ~ Building Construction completed

Summer 2016 ~ Grand Opening Ceremony celebrated.

2012 Bond Development Process: Library Facilities Services personnel have been asked to participate in the Life-Cycle Costs Working Group. The task of the Life-Cycle Costs Working Group is to address adequate planning for and consideration of life-cycle costs for city facilities and infrastructure. Models for capturing life-cycle costs are being considered by the working group, including life-cycle analysis being conducted by other cities. It is believed that the City of Austin's current business planning and CIP strategic planning processes will prove to be logical vehicles for calculating and compiling such information, which will effectively tie the data into the City of Austin budgeting process. The consensus of the group is that there should be sufficient consideration of operations, programming of space and maintenance costs throughout the CIP project planning and delivery process to ensure the owner's requirements are being adequately considered and accounted for prior to completion of facilities. As CIP programs and future bond programs are developed, more robust life-cycle costs need to be part of the cost estimating process. It was noted that the Library Department has best honed its asset management process over the years, effectively matching resources to capital and ongoing maintenance needs. The effectiveness of the Library's facility management approach was recently documented in a study of City of Austin buildings performed under the auspices of the Office of Sustainability. That study, carried out by EDF Climate Corps to identify improvements to the way the City of Austin handles energy efficiency in its buildings, revealed that the Library's buildings were by far the most energy-efficient buildings in the City of Austin and, indeed, were some of the most energy-efficient buildings in the nation.

Financial Year 2014 Capital Improvement Program Plan:

The appropriations planned for approval in the Library Department's FY 2014 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget currently include:

- \$1,000,000 for collection growth required by the New Central Library Project
- \$2,130,000 for three branch library improvement projects (University Hills Branch Library Parking Lot Expansion, Pleasant Hill Branch Library Roof Replacement and HVAC Upgrade, and Milwood Branch Renovation)

The Financial Year 2014 Spending Plan for the Library Department's Capital Improvement Program totals \$48.1 million and includes the following projects:

- New Central Library \$44.8 million
- Building Improvements \$2.5 million
- Other projects- \$0.9 million

The remaining schedule for finalizing the Financial Year 2014 Capital Improvement Program is:

September 9 – 11 ~ Budget Readings/Approval

Exterior Security Cameras Installation Project: The Library Department's Exterior Security Camera Project is being carried out as part of the Communications Technology Management Department's larger ESAS Project. The ESAS Project is currently providing an integrated enterprise level security solution towards installing new services and replacing end of life and/ or updating access control, video surveillance and alarm systems throughout the City of Austin. The Communications Technology Management Department (CTM) has advised the Austin Public Library (APL) that sufficient enough spending authority has been released to their vendor, Schneider Electric, to perform the work required on the remaining nine (9) Library sites to receive exterior security cameras. Those nine (9) Library locations are the Spicewood Springs, Cepeda, Manchaca Road, Pleasant Hill, Howson, Milwood, Old Quarry, Yarborough, and Oak Hill branch libraries. Although our two newest branches, North Village and Twin Oaks, opened with security camera surveillance systems in place, APL will be replacing their digital video recorders (DVRs) with newer network video recorders (NVRs) in order to make their monitoring more compatible with the rest of the department's protective services operations. APL has received conditional approval from the Public Works Department (PWD) for the asbestos and lead-based paint remediation work necessary prior to the installation of any equipment. However, following an initial coordination meeting on August 6, 2013 with APL, CTM, PWD and Schneider Electric in attendance, it was determined that the remediation of hazardous materials required for this project must proceed more carefully. APL and PWD subsequently commissioned a testing lab and consultant to collect samples in order that a more definitive survey report might be generated regarding asbestos and/or lead containing materials found in the path of the Library Exterior Security Cameras Installation Project. Material samples were successfully taken between August 12th and August 16th at each of the nine branch library work sites. Meanwhile, Schneider Electric and their cabling sub-contractor, Titus Systems, are revising their proposals based on APL feedback. Once the asbestos/lead survey reports and the new proposals are in hand, APL will determine the installation schedule for security cameras. Currently, the security cameras being specified have a minimum, three week lead time requirement between time of ordering and time of receipt.

Faulk Central Library Boilers and Flue Retrofit Project: The Library Department has chosen Job Order Contracting (JOC) as the construction delivery method for the Faulk Central Library Boilers and Flue Retrofit Project. Job

Ordering Contracting (JOC) is a method for organizations. such as the City of Austin, to accomplish a large number of repair, maintenance and construction projects through competitively bid, multi-year contracts. The City of Austin selects its JOC contractors based on qualifications and performance at a best value as contractors are required to competitively bid an adjustment factor (e.g. 1.5) to be applied to a catalog of construction tasks with pre-set unit prices. The price for each project will be the pre-set unit prices multiplied by the competitively bid adjustment factor. Prices are never negotiated. The JOC contractor assigned to the Faulk Central Library Boilers and Flue Retrofit Project has delivered his price proposal to perform the work and it is currently being reviewed by Library Facilities Services staff and the project's engineering consultants. By the two week schedule established by contract, the proposal will need to be accepted or rejected by Wednesday, August 21, 2013.

The University Hills Branch Library Parking Lot **Expansion Project:** The Library Department has been advised by the Office of Real Estate Services that the appraisal will soon be completed for the property required for the parking lot expansion at the University Hills Branch Library. Real estate appraisal, also known as property valuation or land valuation, is the process of valuing real property, and the value sought is the property's market value. The services of a specialist, a qualified appraiser, have been previously acquired to determine the value of the identified property and will provide a written report to the client, in this instance the City of Austin. It is anticipated that the appraisal report will be used by both the seller and the buyer to set the sale price of the property. The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) for the property has likewise been ordered by the Office of Real Estate Services. The Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) is a report prepared for a real estate holding that identifies potential or existing environmental contamination liabilities. The ESA analysis typically addresses both the underlying land as well as any physical improvements to the property. Actual sampling of soil, air, groundwater and/or building materials is typically not conducted during a Phase I ESA, as it is considered the first step in the process of environmental due diligence. If a site is considered contaminated, a Phase II environmental assessment may be conducted, allowing for a more detailed investigation involving chemical analysis for hazardous substances and/ or petroleum hydrocarbons.

Milwood Branch Library Renovation Project: This project will repair a failing sanitary sewer line and replace worn finishes, furniture and equipment at this heavily used branch serving the Northwest quadrant of the City of Austin. An appropriation to fund the design of the project was received by the Library Department in June, and the infrastructure renewal project will be managed in-house by the Library's own Facilities Services staff. The project's Design Phase requires the Library Facilities Services Division to obtain the services of an architectural firm from the City of Austin's rotation list of pre-approved architectural consultants. In order to establish the accurate scope of work required for a professional services agreement with a consulting architect, the Library Department is conducting staff meetings to determine specific space planning,

furniture, finishes and equipment needs for the project. In the meantime, an asbestos and lead survey of the entire building is being carried our prior to the start of any renovation work, as required by the City of Austin.

Pleasant Hill Branch Library Roof Replacement and **HVAC Upgrade Project:** The failing roof and HVAC (heating, ventilation and air- conditioning) system at the Pleasant Hill Branch Library are original equipment dating from the time of construction (1986) and must now be replaced in their entirety. This combined roof replacement and MEP (mechanical, electrical, plumbing) retrofit project will enable the Library Department to prevent water penetration and provide interior climate control at this busy, South Austin community library. The project's Design Phase was funded by means of a Capital Budget amendment in June, and the Facilities Services project manager is now meeting with staff to determine the scope of work. including interior repairs, prior to negotiating and executing a professional services agreement with architectural/ engineering consultants. The services of a Commissioning Agent will also need to be secured for the project. Building Commissioning is the process of verifying in construction that all (or some, depending on scope) subsystems for Mechanical (HVAC) and building envelope will achieve the owner's project requirements as intended by the building owner and as designed by the building architects and engineers.

RFID Installation for Branch Libraries Project: On August 29th, Council will be asked to authorize the award and execution of a 15-month contract through the Texas Multiple Award Schedule (TXMAS) cooperative purchasing program with Alpha Data Corporation for conversion of the magnetic materials handling and tracking systems at three Austin Public Library branches, Spicewood Springs, Milwood and the Will Hampton Branch at Oak Hill, to radio frequency identification (RFID) technology in an amount not to exceed \$181,693. At this time, Council will also be asked to approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Austin Public Library Capital Budget to appropriate \$232,000 for this RFID system. The \$232,000 in funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Operating Budget of the Austin Public Library. The three branches will each be equipped with three RFID Self-Checkout machines as well as with RFID collection security detection systems. This upgrade to RFID technology will improve tracking of Library materials and allow for convenient customer self-checkout. Currently, two Austin Public Library locations, the North Village and Twin Oaks branch libraries, are equipped with 3M RFID technology. The New Central Library, currently scheduled to open in 2016, will also be equipped with RFID technology. The project is a business priority of the Austin Public Library and will provide tangible improvements to service delivery and access to materials while increasing operational efficiency.

Austin History Center Programming and Outreach

 On July 1, Mexican American Community Archivist Gloria Espitia spoke to a group of 20 high school students who were a part of the 2013 Work-Based Learning / Summer Youth Employment Program through the City of Austin and Travis County.

- Exhibits Coordinator Steve Schwolert and Manager Mike Miller gave a tour of the "How to Prepare a Possum" exhibit to 30 students enrolled in a dual-language summer program on July 10. The students were studying various aspects of food in their school and came to view the exhibit as part of their studies. Asst. Manager Nancy Toombs led a tour of a second group of students on July 12.
- The AHC hosted a very successful program at Scholz Garten, "Beer Garden Social: A 19th Century Family Experience." Over 400 people attended the event on July 31 and were entertained by live music from Spencer & Rains, who play 19th century fiddle music, lectures and a traveling exhibit about the history of beer gardens and brewing in Austin, old-time board games, and a special 19th century inspired menu that proved so popular they quickly ran out of food. Based on the feedback received, the AHC and AHCA are considering having a "Beer Garden Social" be an annual event.

Reference

• The Servant Girl Annihilator Murders, a series of gruesome crimes from 1885 in Austin, were the subject of much interest at the Center this month. A local documentary filmmaker is producing a film about these events, one of the country's first serial murders, and has spent much time at the AHC researching the crime. Additionally, the PBS series History Detectives came to the AHC and filmed an upcoming episode for the 10th season of the show about this case on August 7. The episode will be an hour-long special investigation of the Servant Girl Murders and features a cameo appearance by AHC Manager Mike Miller. The episode will air on PBS in the summer of 2014.

Collections

- AHC staff finished processing 1 1 collection, the Char Diercks Austin Natural History Center collection, and placed EAD encoded finding aid for the collection on the Internet at the TARO website. The finding aids are available online at: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse ahc1.html
- The AHC acquired a collection of papers and records from the McCloud family of Austin. Mr. McCloud grew up in the Confederate Home for Men and eventually became the superintendent there, and his wife's family was the original owner of the land where Deep Eddy Pool is.

Publications

• Research was conducted at the AHC and photos from the AHC were purchased for use in an upcoming book • about the JFK Assassination, written by John Connally's former press secretary Julian Read, an upcoming book on the history of the Clarksville neighborhood, and a historic music venue self-guided tour app from Preservation Austin.

Upcoming Events

- September 7. Program about Black Citizens Task Force Collection at 5:00 pm in the Richard Scott Bldg (4717 Heflin), TC Precinct 1 office.
- September 10, 2013. "Black Enterprise: Remembering Austin's Pioneering Entrepreneurs," 6:30 pm at the AHC. Food writer Toni Tipton-Martin will give a presentation about the African American business district on E. 6th that developed in the 1870s.
- September 13-14. Re-opening of Wooldridge Square Park. AHC will have an exhibit of historical photographs in the park during the opening weekend.
- September 22, 2013. Author event with Beth Fowler

about her new novel, Drawn, which is set in Austin, 4:00 pm. This is the AHC's Austin Museum Day event and is co-sponsored by the AHCA.

- September 24. A new exhibit opens in the Holt Photo Gallery: "APD: A Visual History."
- October 1. At 6:30 pm at the Terrazzas Branch, there will be an Opening Reception for the Activist and the Brown Berets in Austin Exhibit.
- October 11. Part of a series of programs related to the Brown Berets exhibit, a program called Latina Voices will be held at Resistencia Bookstore (time TBD).
- October 16. 6:30 pm. Terrazzas Branch.
 Documenting Activism Through the Lens of a Camera part of the Brown Berets programs
- October 19. 3:00pm. ACC Riverside. Activism and the Brown Berets in Austin, Texas: 1970s 1980s
- October 22. 6:30pm at the AHC. "Southern Food Matters: Race, Class, and Gender in Tomatoes, Biscuits, and Greens" part of the "How to Prepare a Possum" exhibit program series.
- October 25. 10am. Travis County Hall of Government (700 Lavaca). Travis County History Day
- October 27. 3:00 pm at the AHC. A Journalistic View of Grassroots Activism: 1970s – 1980s

Central Library Services Virtual Library

• ACLS is preparing for the Health Care Act that will begin enrollment in October 2013. Several Reference and Branch staff are currently reading and learning about the HCA, watching webinars, and working out partnerships with groups that are helping people enroll. The partnership is similar to the Tax Help service provided at several locations during Tax season. Reference Librarian, Betsey Blanche, created the Affordable Care Act Information Guide on APL's website and a link to the Federal government's Healthcare.gov

Reference/Programming

- Staff post events and news to Facebook and Twitter and respond to customers' questions and comments. Reference Librarian, Dean Smith, is adding more entertaining content to the Facebook page to increase reach and "likes." Last week she posted the following question on Facebook, "If the library could have or do one thing that it doesn't have or do now what would you want?" Customers want online fine paying, more holds, more ILLs, and more open hours.
- Carolyn Rogers created new printed bookmark Thrillers 2013, and added same list to biblicommons and updated the online Art Information Guide.
- The Fall lineup is looking great starting with the program, Chickens in the Library on September 8th. Events include: a children's chicken-themed storytime; a walk through exhibit with live chicken; a live chicken presentation and an open exhibition.
- Another program scheduled for the Fall is Free Financial Education for Austin Communities. APL is partnering with the Austin Chapter of the Society for Financial Awaremess (SOFA).
- A program is in the planning stages for The Sound of Austin coffee table book and lecture by Matthew Sturtevant.
- Coming Soon is the Faulk Central Library's Book a Librarian service. With Book a Librarian a patron would be able to schedule an appointment with a reference

librarian to receive personal assistance with the catalog, databases, or resources offered through the virtual library.

• In the planning stages is a Medical Lecture series with Seton for the Fall or Spring.

Branch Services

- Administrative Assistant Michael McCann passed away June 29. He worked at the Terrazas Branch since it reopened in 2006. A grief counselor from EAP met with staff members on July 3. Many APL employees attended a memorial service in his honor on July 5.
- Twin Oaks improved customer service to adults and children by moving a desk into the young children's area so the youth librarian can work there when her schedule allows. The youth librarian can now help folks more immediately and circulation staff is not called away from the desk as often.
- University Hills continues to have great participation with its Saturday Film Series. The branch screened Total Recall, Real Steel, and Red Dawn. The community enjoyed Real Steel the most with the film receiving a standing ovation. Staff hope to keep up the good turnout with films people enjoy.
- The Windsor Park Book Club had 5 readers at the meeting on the 11th discussing Wild: From Lost to Found in the Pacific Northwest by Cheryl Strayed. Also, they had ten people on the 22nd for the first of their series of classes to teach Arabic Script
- Staff at Old Quarry met with ACFS to talk about getting more connections for customers who want to use their laptops in the studying area of the library. They were installed and have been quite popular with the customers, who can now spread out a little more.
- Carver's second Bad Film Festival series started on July 22, and once again has proved to be an attractive program with both young adults and adult customers.
 The first four showing averaged 18 attendees, and the series wrapped up on August 5th. The program received several positive reviews for this program both from customers and the Austin Chronicle.

Recycled Reads

July revenue for Recycled Reads was approximately \$14,850 (13,000 items) and over 4,800 people visited the store. Donations were received from over 120 people, approximately 30,000 items.

More than twenty volunteers on average donate over 200 hours of their time to the bookstore. Goodwill Industries picked up 27 gaylords of discarded materials and Image Microsystems picked up 5 gaylords from the store. Staff received 41 pallets of materials from the warehouse, branches and donations and sorted approximately 40 pallets of materials representing almost 50,000 items at the bookstore. Over 10 tons of materials out of the landfill were kept out of the landfill.

Staff continues posts to the store's blog to bi-weekly with collectibles and news featured on Wednesday and crafting projects featured on Fridays. Over 300 people attended outreach programs as well as programs at the store including: the Badger Dog writing workshop, Bow-Wow Reading and craft night.

Grants

ARRA BTOP TEAL Tech Exchange Training - Part Two Funding

Michael Abramov (ASJ) and Tim Weber (ACB) recently attended training provided through a grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. At the training sessions, Michael and Tim were able to meet with other library partners in the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Technical Expertise, Access and Learning Grant to exchange digital literacy training tips and techniques.

CTLS, AISD, APL Connect – 4- Literacy Grant: CTLS, Inc., Austin Independent School District, and the Austin Public Library have been awarded a grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Connect – 4- Literacy will direct resources to help Graham and Blackshear Elementary school students develop reading skills. The goal of the grant is to demonstrate that students advance their reading skills over the school year and continue to retain and grow these skills over the summer through participation with their families in the Library's summer reading program.

Electronic and other books will be purchased as part of the grant along with e-readers for use in the schools. CTLS, Inc. is the fiscal agent for this grant while a team of APL employees will be involved in selecting materials with the school media specialists and developing activities that will keep the children engaged and bring them and their families into the public library. School principals and media specialists from the schools will all be actively engaged in this grant working closely with APL staff. This grant is funded through the Texas State Library and Archives Commission using funds from the Library Services and Technology Act from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Institute of Museum and Library Services Award Sparks! Ignition Grant

APL's project: "Sprouting Green Weeding Practices in Libraries: Web-Based Training" has been awarded an IMLS Sparks! Ignition Grant. Selected from the National Leadership Grant series of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, APL is one of twenty-one libraries and museums awarded a grant from scores of applications.

The funding enables Recycled Reads, the Austin Public Library's used bookstore, and its partner, Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, to expand visibility in the area of collection development and environmental literacy. The project will encourage and guide other libraries to replicate the successful Recycled Reads model of reselling and reusing discarded materials from libraries and the general public while at the same time promoting responsible and creative approaches to stewardship of unwanted materials. Recycled Reads in Austin, Texas reuses/recycles from ten to fourteen tons of materials each month.

The training module will offer libraries across the nation an opportunity to engage citizens and raise awareness of carbon neutral reuse options for books and materials being weeded and discarded from library collections. Austin's partner, Goodwill Industries of Central Texas along with other libraries and subject experts from COA's Materials Management, Austin Resource Recovery, the Office of Sustainability, and the public, will draw upon their collective experiences to develop content and disseminate an online training tool. The project will promote examination of collection management policies and workflows, as well as the development of meaningful metrics to chart success. The goal is to inspire the communities to become engaged with their libraries to keep materials out of landfills.

Funding and management of the grant:

The funding is \$24,625 with an anticipated in-kind match of \$23,084 contributed from the work of existing library staff members in guiding this project. Recycled Reads' Managing Librarian, Mindy Reed, is the Program Manager for this grant. This grant will end September 30, 2014. It is a requirement of this grant to acknowledge IMLS support in all materials, websites and at all events supported by this grant.

Texas State Library and Archives Commission – Storytime Connection Grant for Impact – Family and Early Childhood Literacy

Kathleen Houlihan (ACYS) has been granted \$9994 to implement a new direction for the Storytime Connection program at the Austin Public Library. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission notified the Library on July 30, 2013 of the approval of the competitive grant in the amount of \$9994 funded under the Library Services and Technology Act from the Institute of Museum and Library Service for the IMPACT Family and Early Childhood Literacy grant.

Kathleen and AOPP staff will be producing video clips for presentation on the Library Resources page of the Storytime Connection website and a print-on-demand series of Posters and Bookmarks useful to the agencies in the area who are following the Singing, Reading, Writing, Playing, Talking series in the Every Child Ready to Read concept model will be a new resource. Partners in the work include American Youth Works, Travis County Jail, AVANCE-Austin, Bookspring, and Workforce Solutions Child Care Services. To help implement and provide evaluation of this program aimed at parents and caregivers of young children, a part-time staff person will become part of the Storytime Connection team.

Volunteer Services

July 2013 - STATISTICS Number of Volunteers July - Volunteer hours Volunteer Value*

188 2,146.66 \$22.14 **\$47,527.05**

July Policy Violations

- 47 Disturbing others using the Library
- 19 Harassment of Library staff or customers (Not Sexual)
- 13 Disorderly conduct
- 12 Using obscene language
- 10 Sleeping in the Library
- 8 Mistreatment or vandalism of Library facilities,

8 Destruction of Library property Violating Internet Policy 6 Physically attack or threaten to attack another 6 person 6 Theft of Library, staff, or customer property 5 Entering unauthorized area 4 Unintended use of restrooms 4 No outside food or beverages allowed in the Library 3 Fighting 3 Blocking access to Library entrances, passageways or resources 2 Bringing animals into the Library 2 Intoxication resulting from alcohol or drugs 2 Soliciting and panhandling 2 Public Lewdness 2 Sexual harassment of Library staff or customers Abandoning children or failing to supervise children at the Library 1 Strong Odor Indecent exposure 1 Bringing in bedrolls, blankets or sleeping bags. 168 Total

materials, or equipment

Locations # of Incidents

ACE 25 ATB 20 ARZ 16 ALW 9 ASJ 9 **AWP** 8 7 5 ASE ACP APH 5 5 5 5 ATO AUH AWK AHO 4 AMR 4 3 ACB AMI 2 ANV AYB AOQ 1 ARR 1 ASR 1 AOK 0 ZNL 0 AOS 0

AZW

To see the complete up to date listing of events visit http://library.austintexas.gov/events

Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries



