

# More Than Books

## Highlights Programs

- Join us for APL's inaugural Kids Block Party, the city's first festival celebrating children, literacy, and learning through play. The event is perfect for children 0-12 and their families. Saturday, April 27, 10 AM - 2 PM, Central Library.
- The 2019 Mayor's Book Club selection will be announced May 8 during the KUT Morning Edition program broadcast live from the Central Library.

## Exhibits

- Art of Rosemary Wells, beloved children's book author and illustrator, is featured in this exhibit curated for Pre-K audiences and young-in-heart audiences. Begins April 26 in the Third Floor Children's Area, Central Library.
- Susan Scafati, Solo Exhibition is a 2-story, site-responsive, mixed-media installation. April 19 - June 12, Central Library.
- Calder Kamin's exhibition *What a Mess* showcases trash transformed into sculptures, animations and installations. April 16 - May 24, Central Library Gallery.
- May 11-12 & 18-19, the following locations will have exhibits as part of the WEST Austin Studio Tour: Central Library, Pleasant Hill, Twin Oaks, Manchaca Road, Little Walnut Creek, and North Village Branches.

## Publications

- The Central Library Rooftop Garden is featured in a new book *Libraries & Gardens: Growing Together* published by the American Library Association.
- *Library Planet* an online travel guide to libraries recently featured "Austin Central Library Texas - a sustainable dream library!" <https://libraryplanet.net/2019/04/05/austin-central-library-texas-a-sustainable-dream-library/>

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

## Facilities Services

**2018 Bond Program:** The Austin Public Library Department's 2018 Bond Program is now in the project initiation stage. The Austin City Council's recent \$3.7M appropriation to the Austin Public Library will fund the solicitation and execution of the Professional Service Agreements necessary to implement the Library's 2018 Bond Program. The 2018 Bond Program for the Library Department consists of fourteen different facility improvement projects located across the City of Austin. The projects are grouped into the following categories: Site/Civil Engineering Projects, Faulk Library Building/Austin History Center Complex Improvements, Branch Library Interior Renovation Projects, and Roof Replacement & HVAC System Upgrades. The development framework to deliver the Library's 2018 Bond Program will include Construction Manager at Risk, Competitive Sealed Proposals and Design-Bid-Build. The program's deliverables have a 60-month time line, and construction starts will be staggered over this period to minimize impacts to existing levels of library service. It is anticipated that pre-design, which includes contract

development thru execution for said services, will take 6 to 8 months, and will require Council approval for methodology.

**New Central Library Project:** Modifications to the paths of emergency egress in the building, recommended by the Austin Fire Department, have been substantially completed, leaving only a few minor punch items to be redressed by the contractors. The doors to the Children's Area on the Third Floor were changed to swing in instead of out, to facilitate access to the nearest emergency stairwell during a fire event. Exit signs throughout the building have been improved and emergency egress signage and floorplans updated. In addition, new bases have been installed on the removable ADA benches in the First Floor Demonstration Area to make them more user-friendly.

**Pleasant Hill Branch Library Roof Replacement and HVAC Upgrade:** New Library Project Coordinator Marrilee Archer is rapidly coming up to speed on this project and has scheduled a coordination meeting on Thursday, April 11, for involved consultants, contractors and City staff. The main focus of the meeting will be on coordinating work schedules between the General Contractor, Majestic Services, and the City's asbestos abatement contractor. Barring any unforeseen issues raised in the meeting, it is anticipated that Notice to Proceed will be issued to Majestic Services so that they may proceed with pulling permits prior to starting work. If all contractors are ready to go, a mandatory Project Kickoff Meeting will be held during the week of April 15 for all participants. Besides working closely with the City's asbestos abatement contractor during demolition, the project's scope of work Majestic Services consists of the removal of two (2) existing air handling units (AHUs) and a heating water boiler from the current mechanical room in the interior of the building, followed by the installation of two (2) new, roof-mounted AHUs, associated control systems upgrades, removal and replacement of the roof and installation of a new exterior stair for roof access. The branch library will need to close to the public while the reroofing and HVAC retrofit work is in progress, but will not need to be emptied of its contents in order for the construction activities to be carried through to completion. During upcoming conversations with the participants regarding when to issue Notice to Proceed, the optimal time to close the library and allow the work to proceed will be established and advertised to the community. The General Contractor will be expected to substantially complete construction of the improvements within one-hundred and thirty (130) Calendar Days. The General Contractor will then be expected to reach Final Completion within twenty-three (23) Calendar Days after Substantial Completion is achieved.

**University Hills Branch Library Parking Lot Expansion Project:** The civil engineering firm assigned to the project, Stantec Consulting Services, successfully produced 60% Complete Construction Documents for review by Library Facilities Services. Those documents were forwarded to the Quality Management Division (QMD) of the Public Works Department for their review on March 18, 2019, and Library

Facilities Services hopes to receive comments and corrections from QMD by April 19 in order to move forward to creating 90% Complete Construction Documents. The project's primary scope of work consists of the construction of a new, 25-space parking lot expansion on the north side of the branch library. The work will include, but is not limited to, the demolition of existing structures and pavement, installation of erosion/sedimentation control and tree protection fencing, construction of associated walkways, landscaping and lighting as well as the provision of parking lot signage. The site contains an existing, monitoring well, and Library Facilities Services is seeking to cap and abandon the well in place prior to construction, should this course of action prove to be acceptable to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

### **Zaragoza Warehouse Fire Sprinkler Upgrade**

**Project:** Newly assigned Project Coordinator Marilee Archer has met with Stanley Consultants, the project's consultant engineers. They were able to come to agreement regarding how the work should be phased and proceed, essentially moving the 90% Complete Construction Documents to 100% Completion. As soon as Stanley Consultants have completed minor changes to the drawings, those plans will be reviewed one last time by the Quality Management Division (QMD) of the Public Works Department. The Library Department then, in liaison with the Capital Contracting Office, will begin the process of advertising the project for bids from interested and qualified contractors.

### **Renovation of the Will Hampton Branch Library at Oak Hill**

**As of April 8, 2019,** construction activities were moving forward briskly at the site allowing the project schedule to be maintained. The HB Construction crews are continuing to upgrade heating and air-conditioning for the building by installing new equipment and modifying the duct work throughout the library while providing new, automatic controls to increase energy efficiency. Their crews are nearing completion with the enclosure of a new quiet reading room area along with the partitions required for the library materials self-check machines, book return area and the circulation desk. By April 20, the crews are expected to be fully engaged in installing new partitions, countertops and tile in the restrooms of the facility. Demolition work on the existing roof and skylights is also expected in late April to early May to make way for the installation of the new roofing system and skylights. Mobilization of equipment, such as lifts, and various roofing materials will soon be present on site in preparation for this upcoming work on the exterior of the building. The full scope of work for this comprehensive renovation project includes replacing the deteriorated modified bitumen roof and Kalwall skylights, upgrading plumbing fixtures, redressing low water pressure, modernizing the heating, ventilation and air conditioning controls, replacing the circulation desk and other worn furniture, making architectural modifications to ensure compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, and revising the furniture/shelving layout to the "Library of the Future" template.

### **Austin History Center Interior and Exterior**

**Improvement Project:** Since this project received additional funding in the 2018 Bond Program, the Library

Department will combine this restoration work with the 2018 Bond Program Faulk Library Building Repurposing Project. The Faulk Library Building Repurposing Project is intended to re-engineer the former central library facility to serve as a state-of-the-art archival repository.

### **Little Walnut Creek Branch Library ADA Ramp Improvements Project:**

This accessibility improvement project will be combined with the larger 2018 Bond Program Little Walnut Creek Branch Library Roof Replacement and Renovation Project to achieve economy of scale for both the design and construction processes.

### **Yarborough Branch Library Renovation Project:**

The Job Order Contractor for this project is updating the proposals from his subcontractors at this time, and the first construction progress meeting was conducted on April 10 at 2:30 PM. The Capital Improvement Program sign, designed to inform customers of the work now underway, is scheduled for installation on April 15. Facilities Services staff, meanwhile, are completing the final stage of removal of property from the facility. Facilities Services staff members also met with painting contractors on April 8 to solicit bids for the removal of paint on the electrical boxes and conduit installed on the exterior of the building in preparation for repainting. The painting of the exterior porch is tentatively scheduled to begin on April 22.

### **Cepeda Branch Library Renovation Project:**

The Library Facilities Services Division personnel responsible for this project have transferred funds to the Development Review Department to update the building permit. Also, additional funding is being sought in order to proceed with the project. An updated Americans with Disabilities (ADA) report was received.

### **Faulk Central Library Roof Replacement:**

On February 11, this project was advertised for solicitation of bids in a Competitive Sealed Proposal process, with bids due to the City of Austin by March 14. A non-mandatory Pre-bid meeting was conducted on February 20 at 10 AM, at the Faulk Library Building, and approximately twenty (20) contractors were in attendance to familiarize themselves with the roof and site. The Library Facilities Services project team, along with personnel from both the Capital Contracting Office and the Department of Small and Minority Business Resources presented the project scope of work to the attending contractors and reviewed all the applicable contracting requirements necessary to submit a proposal to perform the work. Joining the City of Austin team in answering technical questions from the contractors was the roofing consultant, Building Exterior Solutions (BES), Engineering Consultants. A second, non-mandatory site visit was conducted on March 6 from 10 AM until 2 PM due the interest of contractors who missed the first walk-through. Approximately twelve (12) contractors were present on this occasion and were able to assess the current condition of the roofing materials and the physical approaches to working atop this downtown building. As of April 4 Library Facilities Services with Capital Contracting Office are in the evaluation process of scoring the proposals. A decision for a contractor will be made on May 6 and soon seek approval with City Council on June 20. The Building Exterior Solutions (BES), Engineering Consultants,

developed the 100% Complete Construction Documents for this project on behalf of the Library Facilities Services Division for demolition and replacement of the entire 29,000 square foot roofing system at the Faulk Library Building. The Faulk Library Building, a concrete structure with a concrete roof deck, is currently topped with a twenty-two year old, modified bitumen roofing system. Construction estimates to replace the aging roof have ranged from \$900,000 to \$1,300,000. The project is expected to begin construction on August 12, 2019 and to reach substantial completion by October 28.

**Twin Oaks Sail Shades Project:** The Sail Shades, requested by branch staff to shade the outdoor amphitheater and allow for more programming activities to take place, has been in design. The Job Order Contractor (JOC) assigned to this project, Brown & Root, is in the process of getting a reliable vendor to perform dig tests to ensure electrical and water lines are where they are shown on the as-built plans. When the design and approval process is completed, the building permit can be issued and work will be allowed to start.

**Spicewood Springs Branch Library Grounds Improvement Project:** The Capital Contracting Office (CCO) has agreed to allow the Job Order Contracting (JOC) Program as the construction delivery method for this project. On March 7, the assigned Job Order contractor, Jamail & Smith, met with Capital contracting and Library Facilities Services staff to review the project parameters. The grounds improvements planned for the site include: replanting flowering and other native plantings along the front entry and parking lot, clearing drainage channels, removing pea gravel and replacing it with more suitable material, and planting additional trees. The contractor submitted a final proposal on April 9. It has been accepted and returned to CCO to finalize contracts. Work is anticipated to take 2.5 weeks once mobilization occurs.

### **Austin History Center Programming & Outreach**

- On March 2, Asian American Community Archivist Ayshea Khan represented the AHC and tabled at the Waller Creek Conservancy's New Monuments for New Cities Public Opening at Symphony Square.
- On March 5, Records Analyst Jenna Cooper gave a program on women's suffrage at the AHC for a group from the Daughters of the American Revolution.
- On March 30, the AHC held the "Healing Herstories: A Self-Care Salon for Womxn of Color" program for Women's History Month. Speakers included: Stephanie Hayden (Austin Public Health), Fatima Mann (Community & Advocacy Project) and Amy Tao-Foster (UT Counseling and Mental Health Center). Community Booths included representatives from: Mexican American Cultural Center, allgo, Giving Austin Labor Support, American Cancer Society and Texas Farmers Market at Mueller.

### **Collections**

- AHC staff finished processing 7 collections, the MCC Recruitment Records, the Austin (Tex.) Mayor's Office. Tom Miller Records, the Austin (Tex.). Mayor's Office. Paul W. McFadden Records, the Austin (Tex.). Mayor's Office. Charles McAden Records, the Mayor's Office. Carole

Keeton McClellan Records, the Bill Leissner Photograph Archive, and the Groos and Schutze Families Papers. 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 block print portraits from the Flash Collective "Meander" project which is mural art at 30th and Lamar that is part of CoA's Art in Public Places TEMPO project: a program of thought-provoking works by local artists that transform city spaces and catalyze community engagement—movable and exhibited in public spaces around the city for a limited amount of time. We followed up with Flash Collective and they are willing to archive additional materials related to their organization. Also received photographs, memorabilia, military records dating from the late 1800s to 2005 from the Reed family, an Austin African American family that lived in East Austin. The items were found in a house that was being cleaned out.
- With financial assistance from the AHCA, the AHC acquired a rare O. Henry publication for the O. Henry collection. We acquired a 1914 miniature book publication of his story "The Sleuths." While researching the item prior to bidding at auction, it was discovered that no existing O. Henry bibliography included this item. The book came with the original Library of Congress copyright application card submitted by the illustrator.
- The family of photographer Reagan Bradshaw donated his photographic archive to the Center. Bradshaw was an Austin based photographer known primarily for his nature and landscape photography, mainly as a staff photographer for *Texas Highways* and *Texas Monthly*. The collection consists of all of his surviving negatives from his 30+ year career.

### **Exhibits**

- The AHC's exhibit "We'll Just Rock For Ourselves: Selections from the Lisa Davis Photograph Archive" is now on display at the Old Quarry branch.

### **Reference**

- Research was conducted at the AHC and photos from the AHC were purchased for use in an upcoming ESPN Films production about an 1899 UT football game, upcoming books *Texas Almanac* (TSHA Press) and a biography of Captain R. F. Millett, news stories in the *Texas Observer* about convict labor and the *Statesman* about African American police officers, and for exhibitions at the Capitol, Neill-Cochran House, Rudy's BBQ, Wells Fargo, and Simpson United Methodist Church.

### **Upcoming Programs**

- April 25, 2019. 6:30 PM, AHC. Author event with Andrew Busch, author of *City in a Garden*.
- May 5, 2019, 10:30 AM, Wooldridge Square Park. Let's Rise! AAPI Wellness in Wooldridge Square.
- May 5, 2019. 2 PM, AHC. AHCA Annual Meeting.
- May 7, 2019. 6:30 PM, AHC. Exhibit opening reception and book talk for "Austin Icons of the 1980s."
- May 18, 2019. 12-4 PM, Manchaca Branch. Know Your District History – District 5
- June 8, 2019. 12-4 PM, Spicewood Springs Branch. Know Your District History – District 6
- July 13, 2019. 12-4 PM, North Village Branch. Know Your District History – District 7
- August 3, 2-4 PM, AHC. Story Slam with the South Asian

- American Digital Archive
- August 10, 2019. 12-4 PM, Hampton Branch. Know Your District History – District 8
- September 22, 2019. 12-4 PM, AHC. Know Your District History – District 9
- October 19, 2019. 12-4 PM, Old Quarry Branch. Know Your District History – District 10

## Staffing Update

A second Community Services Coordinator has been hired for the Wraparound Services project serving those experiencing homelessness and others needing assistance with finding social services in Austin.

Austin History Center welcomed a new Archives Media Specialist, and the Central Library has a new landscaper to oversee its streetscape and rooftop garden featuring native plants.

## Library Priorities

### Literacy Advancement

- Early Literacy Playgroups for ages 3-5 are offered at the Terrazas and Manchaca Road Branches.
- Bookmobile Storytime at Dick Nichols Park is being provided to Hampton Branch at Oak Hill families while the branch is under renovation.
- The Central Library is partnering with Austin Ballet to introduce children to the joy of dance through the classic story of Giselle. Participants are led in a narrative journey through a series of movement and ballet-based activities that appeal to both girls and boys.
- A poetry slam and workshop for teens was held on March 26 at the Central Library. “Speak piece” provided a chance for teens to perform their own poetry out loud to the public.
- Central Library hosted two author events in March. *Texas Monthly* award winning writer, Skip Hollandsworth discussed his book *Midnight Assassin* a retelling of the serial killings in Austin in the late 1800s, and Peter Heller, longtime contributor to NPR discussed his most recent novel, *The River*.

### Digital Inclusion & STEM

- Over 400 people visited the Milwood Block Party on Saturday, March 30. Performances from Elizabeth Kahura, Austin Community College with Dr. Paul Williams and his traveling STEM program, a French storytime and Chinese storytime, and many other activities hosted by Austin Public Library staff rounded out the day.
- During SXSW, Library staff met with the executive director of the Arts2Work program to discuss the potential for a collaboration on digital media training and workforce development.

### Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

- March was Women’s History Month, and activities at the branches included: “Art from Women Printmakers of Austin” on exhibit at St John branch; local artist Sue Gabriel who demonstrated her fabric art at the Willie Mae Kirk branch; and movie screenings at several branches
- Citizenship 101 classes continue through April 30 at the Little Walnut Creek Branch.

- Chilean singer, songwriter, and guitarist, Ricardo Parra gave a delightful concert at the Central Library. Customers who were just coming in enjoyed the surprise.

### Workforce and Economic Development

- Thursday, March 14 marked the final day of the Austin Community College welding class at the Southeast Branch. This partnership between ACC and Austin Public Library provided tuition for ACC’s welding class to 14 students, with a graduation rate of 93%! The graduates are now certified to work in a variety of welding positions.
- Austin Free-Net is teaching Word, Excel & Powerpoint classes at the St. John Branch.

### Civic and Community Engagement

- The Milwood Branch hosted a Civic Engagement Crucial Conversations Forum. APL staff met with representatives of Common Ground for Texas to discuss civic engagement programs at the branches.
- Twin Oaks Branch has started a Social Justice Book Club designed to encourage all community members to become well informed on social movements for climate justice, human rights, and intersectional organizing strategies.

### Staff Development

- Sixty-eight APL staff participated in the Texas Library Association Annual Conference held in Austin, April 15 - 18. A number of staff members gave presentations at the conference, and APL had a recruitment table in the Career Development Center.

## APL By the Numbers

### Performance Indicators for March

Visitors 308,746  
 Circulation 476, 267  
 Number of computer sessions 42,661  
 Number of wifi sessions 42,929  
 Number of programs 371  
 Program attendance 6,415

### Revenue

Recycled Reads Bookstore generated \$11,750, and received and sorted 74,000 items, keeping 30 tons of materials out of the landfill.

Gift Shop revenue was \$28,958.\*

Events Revenue was \$37,075.\*

\*These numbers are not from the official accounting record.

All revenue comes back to the Library.

### Volunteers

March Number of Volunteers	293
Total Volunteer hours	1570
Total Value*	\$38,763.30

\*Volunteer Value Rate \$24.69 per hour.

## Policies

APL policies pertaining to youth ages 10 - 17 are being reviewed by Library administration and staff. Input from community organizations is being factored into the discussion.

## Roosevelt Weeks Director of Libraries



