

AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY



Director's Report

September 2022

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HIGHLIGHTS

Read Banned Books with Banned Camp

Read Banned Books with Austin Public Library's "Banned Camp" programming! September is a time that the American Library Association brings awareness to current and historical attempts to censor books in libraries and schools in communities across the country, with many events throughout #BannedBooksWeek (September 18-24, 2022).

At this time, libraries across the country are still facing book challenges in their communities. Texas currently leads the country in book bans, but here at Austin Public Library, we stand against censorship and book banning. We're fans of the banned, and we think you should be too!

Want to learn more and join in taking a stand? Join us for upcoming "Banned Camp" programs for fun activities and a community-wide reading challenge! We challenge you to read one banned book during the month of September. Join in to win a FREE PRIZE BOOK from any APL location during Banned Books Week (September 18th- 24th).

To register, please visit [AustinPublicLibrary.Beanstack.com](https://austinpul.org/beanstack) to join the challenge virtually or visit any Austin Public Library location to get a paper log to participate with.

Need a book recommendation? Check out our [librarian-curated list of banned book recommendations](#).

A big thank you to our partners at BookPeople who collected banned book donations and raised funds to purchase banned books for prizes during this reading challenge.

Sunday Hours Returning to Austin Public Library Locations Starting Sept. 11

Six Austin Public Library locations will be opening and offering services on Sundays, beginning September 11, 2022. The Central Library, four branch libraries, and the Austin History Center will be open to the public from 12 - 5 p.m. on Sundays for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We are thrilled that we will be able to return to providing library services to the Austin community seven days a week," stated Austin Public Library Director Roosevelt Weeks. "We know that many in the community appreciated the convenience of being able to access their libraries on Sundays, and I am pleased that we have the capacity to bring back this service."

Austin Public Library has been gradually expanding hours and services since closing in-person services in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, several locations did offer Sunday hours, but when Austin Public Library expanded service hours in March 2022, Sunday hours could not be restored due to staffing

shortages. The Library has prioritized filling vacancies as quickly as possible in order to restore Sunday services.

The six locations, which will be open to the public from 12 - 5 p.m. on Sundays starting September 11, are:

Austin Central Library
710 W. César Chávez St.

Austin History Center
810 Guadalupe St.

Little Walnut Creek Branch
835 W. Rundberg Ln.

Manchaca Road Branch
5500 Manchaca Rd.

Ruiz Branch
1600 Grove Blvd.

Spicewood Springs Branch
8637 Spicewood Springs Rd.

*Sunday hours are returning to Austin Public Library
locations starting September 11, 2022*

FACILITIES SERVICES

FY2018 Bond Program Summary

Description

The library's fifteen (15) 2018 Bond Funded Capital Improvement Projects are active. All are progressing through Design Development. The Library's August 2022 Capital Improvement Project Summaries are as follows.

CLMP180 2016 Site/Civil

Cepeda Branch Trail

Project Plans have progressed beyond 60% and a QMD review will not be required. Electrical consultant is finalizing design to take the project to 90%. The Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC) was which totaled \$159,226 was released 07 Jul 2022.

The OPCC is not the PM Budget and do not contain cost that are typically associated with City Capital Projects. It is understood that the OPCC is a statement of probable construction cost only. Next steps include a PM / Sponsor Project Budget review.

Schedule

- Project Plans 19 Sept 2022
- Budget Update 26 Aug 2022
- Project Plans 19 Sept 2022
- Permits 24 Oct 2022
- Construction Start 14 Nov 2022

Budget

- Appropriation \$307,000
- Obligated \$88,978
- Balance \$218,022

Note: PWD's Special Projects Division (PWD-SPD) agreed to construct the trail. However, the security gate that will be installed on the north fence at the 7th St. Bridge is presenting a problem.

Apparently, the gate makes the project trail inaccessible to the public. The PWD-SPD projects need to be always fully accessible. We are discussing options with PWD that will allow PWD-SPD to continue to work with the library to complete the trail project as noted.



2018 BOND

OUR COMMUNITY. OUR FUTURE.

Impacts: The PWD's Special Projects Division trail accessibility concerns has the potential to create a roadblock in completing the trail project. In addition, the PM Budget update may reveal gap in available construction funding.

Hampton at Oak Hill Parking Lot Expansion

Current Phase: Pre-Design, Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) 100% Complete.

General: The AOK parking lot expansion project is in the Barton Springs / Edwards Aquifer recharge zone. The existing stormwater control system / retention pond for the original site plan was permitted in 1997 and planned for 74 parking spaces to be constructed in 2 phases.

The permitting of the proposed 30 parking space expansion as the current and proposed 30 space parking lot expansion, the Hampton Branch Library and existing retention/irrigation system share the existing 12-acre site. The final PER has been published with Engineer's estimate of cost which now includes pond improvements.

Next steps include the PM Budget Update and CCO Consultant Amendment to begin the design phase of the project.

Schedule

- Budget Update 26 Aug 2022
- Consultant Agreement 09 Jan 2023
- Parking Lot Design 09 Jan 2023

Budget

- Appropriation \$751,000
- Obligated \$104,133
- Balance \$646,867

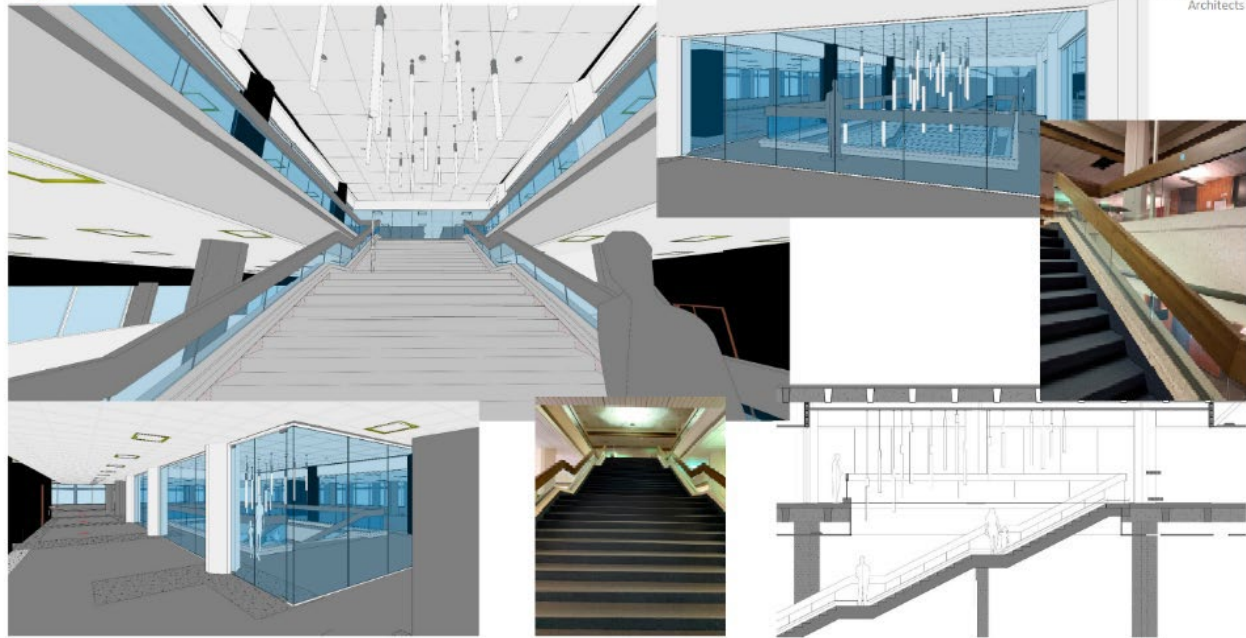
Impacts: The impact to the budget for upgrading the retention pond to meet current ECM requirements will not be fully understood until the PM budget update is complete.

- **CLMP282 Archival Repository Faulk Building & History Center Renovation:** Pitch Package is still at the CCO for final execution. The GC came in with a very high-cost estimate and the PM requested that they go back and relook at the depth of the estimation.

The Cx Agent made initial comments to the 60% set and will review the 90% this month. The masonry investigation is pending CCO approval.



FAULK BUILDING RENOVATION – INTERIOR FINISHES INSPIRATION



General: RCA for additional \$1.2 Million is on hold. We are waiting until pricing is posted to decide how much to request in increase.

The Bid opening is still Aug 5th. We will then review and start GMP paperwork. The Bid opening occurred Aug. 5th and is under review. Next steps include starting the GMP paperwork.

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Budget

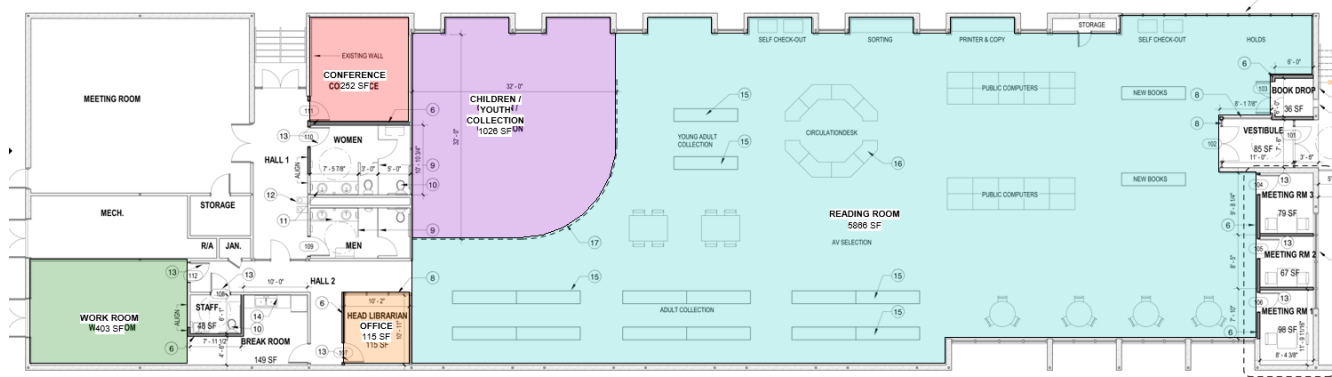
- Appropriation \$19,382,247
- Obligated \$2,744,182
- Balance \$16,638,065

Schedule

- Construction Fence 14 Sept 2022 (estimated)
- Select Demolition 14 Sept 2022 (estimated)
- Construction NTP (T.B.D.)

Impacts: None currently

CLMP286 Interior Renovations: **Old Quarry Branch; Little Walnut Creek Branch; Willie Mae Kirk Branch; Manchaca Road Branch Roof Replacement & Renovation; St. John Branch:**



Schematic: Little Walnut Creek

Current Phase: Schematic Design (SD) 100% Complete, all five interior renovation projects are active and currently in design. The Architects Statement of Probable Cost for construction totals \$6.4 Million. The scope includes code-required compulsory scope items.

PM's Architectural Budget Construction Amount totals \$5.2 Million. The scope includes but is not limited to code-required compulsory scope items and add alternates. The Furniture, Interior Design, and Installation Cost totals \$2.3 Million for upgrades to all five branches. The Architect Statement of Probable Cost and Furniture and Design combined cost total \$8.7 Million without the soft cost typically assigned to City projects. Next steps include a budget / scope reconciliation with the design team and project manager.

Budget

- Appropriation \$9,138,398
- Obligated \$634,084
- Balance \$8,504,314

Schedule

- The design and construction schedule will be revised upon completion of the budget /scope reconciliation noted above.

CLMP287 Roof Replacement & System Upgrades: **Carver Branch; Howson Branch; Yarborough Branch**

Current Phase: Design Development

The Consultant has completed the 60% Complete Construction Documents for Howson. The design work for the Roofing Replacement and HVAC Replacement at Carver and Yarborough is progressing.

The HVAC Building Automation Systems (BAS) will be updated for remote access. The library is requiring the use of thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) single ply roofing overlay to extend the life cycle of the existing roofing systems.

Schedule

- Construction Documents Complete 18 Sept 2022 (estimated)
- Bid / Award Phase Complete 17 Oct 2022 (estimated)
- Construction Award Contract by Council 18 Mar 2023 (estimated)

Budget

- Appropriation \$3,548,830
- Obligated \$675,468
- Balance \$2,873,362

The 2018 Bond Program for the Library Department consists of fifteen improvement projects located across the City of Austin.

FY2012 Bond Program

Summary

Description

Proposition 18: Library, Museums and Cultural Facilities



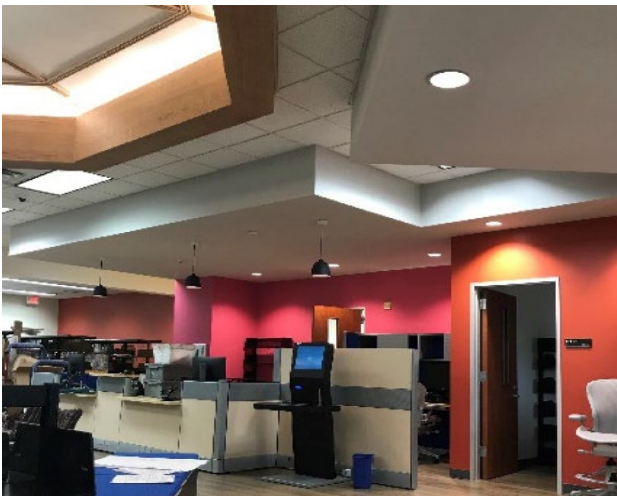
Cepeda Branch Library Renovation



Reopening signage

Cepeda Branch Renovation is complete. Branch re-opening occurred on 06 Aug. 2022. The branch is in the post construction-warranty phase.

Delivery and supply chain issues with several end panels for shelving required substitutions so that re-opening would not be impacted.



Interior renovations

Although project close out activities have begun, the substitute shelving components will be exchanged once the products become available.

Budget

- Appropriation \$1,264,706
- Obligated \$1,257,339
- Balance \$7,367

Schedule

- Shelving End Panel Delivery T.B.D.



Cepeda Branch exterior

Impacts: The materials supply chain delay has created a domino effect, also delaying shelving the rest of the collections, installing wayfinding signs, and final cleaning.

AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER

Programming & Outreach

Latinx Community Archivist, Marina Islas conducted part one of an oral history with Leticia “Garza” Rodriguez. Leti is a talented artist, dancer, performer, teacher, and musician who has been actively creative in Austin for nearly 40 years. She has worked and produced performances alongside folks such as the Sharir Dance Company, National Dance Institute, Atzlan Folklorico Dance Company, Teatro Vivo, and many others. In addition to being a prolific renaissance woman, her family is one of the first Mexican American families to settle in Austin.

Asian Pacific American Community Archivist, Ayshea Khan conducted an interview with Asian Texans for Justice Fellow, Alishba Javaid, for AAPI Texas curriculum advocacy project.; made a presentation with CoA Housing & Internship Program; and prepared the AAPI Communities in Austin American-Statesman Traveling Exhibition (to be displayed at the Asian American Resource Center, September 2022)

Curator of Archives, Molly Hults, is working on Reparative Archival Description and discussed next steps with a working group meeting to discuss Oakwood Cemetery database.

Collections

Archival Collections Digitization and Metadata

- Processing Archivist Kelly Harrell registered 10 donations, 14.08 linear feet, 5.45 GB
- AHC received additions to two collections, the Wednesday Morning Music Club Records (AR.1997.005) and the Bobo Family Papers (AR.2002.034).
- New Collections Processed: Staff worked on finding aids for 2 collections: AR.2018.037 Alpha Kappa Sigma Philos Scrapbook and AR.2021.002 Almaree Owens Scrapbook
- Curator of Archives, Molly Hults, surveyed 40+ years of cemetery ledgers to answer questions about data consistency.
- Indonesian Diaspora Network Records (AR.2016.066) processing completed and published to TARO: https://txarchives.org/aushc/finding_aids/00787.xml
- Armenian Church of Austin Records (AR.2018.045) processing completed and published to TARO: https://txarchives.org/aushc/finding_aids/00786.xml
- African American Community Archivist, Jacque Smith-Francis corresponded with Ms. Almaree Owens to develop a biography to begin the process of making a finding aid for her Anderson High memorabilia.
- Imaging Archivist, Vanessa Hutchins, created 23 images for archival collections
- Imaging Archivist, Vanessa Hutchins, Captured and processed 148 images for AR-2020-010, the Post-Custodial collection for donor/partner Leticia Rodriguez, exports and file naming remains.

- Audiovisual Archivist, Afsheen Nomai, processed ATXN/Channel 6 Collection (AR.2012.001) and digitized video files from Cinematexas (AR.2007.020); AMN (AR.2001.007); ACTV (AR.2007.015); Austin Women's Club (AR.2000.008)

Public Services / Reference:

Research was conducted on the following requests:

- Assisted patron with her project looking at change in assessed values in tax records for Wheatville before and after the 1928 plan.
- Assisted Smithsonian Fellow with resources related to BIPOC LGBTQ+ history in Texas.
- Received an inquiry about whether the AHC had a collection or information about the Kingburger Drive-in, a restaurant that had two Austin locations in the 1970s.

Volunteer Projects

July was packed for Ian and Aaryan, our two interns from the Austin Public Health Emerging Leaders Summer Internship Program. AHC arranged for them to virtually meet Dr. Joel Green, Instrument Scientist at the Space Telescope Science Institute; and Climate Mitigation Specialist, Dr. Sara Diamond of USAID. We also took a field trip to the UT campus to meet Meteorologist Troy Kimmel of the Department of Geography and Environment. While on campus we also participated in Dr. Ted Gordon's virtual Racial Geography Tour and learned a lot about the racial history of UT. Aaryan's research project was to conduct oral histories regarding the Large Hadron Collider that was proposed to be built around Austin and he was able to complete two. Ian's project was to research the history of weather and natural disaster in Austin and provide a presentation based on his findings. Both of them presented their experiences and their research findings to a handful of staff on July 20th. (Latinx Community Archivist, Marina Islas)

LIBRARY PRIORITIES

Literacy Advancement

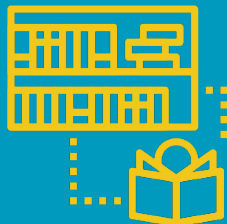
Willie Mae Kirk Branch ended summer on a high note with positive Summer Learning Program statistics for the branch. Their staff worked diligently to promote “Austin Completely Booked,” which paid off with growth in participation from 2018 and pre-pandemic numbers.

Laguna Gloria’s amphitheater was a beautiful backdrop for the Austin Contemporary’s quarterly book club co-facilitated by one of Windsor Park Branch’s Library Associates, Justin Betancourt, and Carver’s Youth Librarian, Mariizhe Bonier. The August Book Club featured Tommy Pico’s *Nature Poem* and it took place at Laguna Gloria Sculpture Park. Justin reports that, “We had a fun time exploring the park and talking about the sculptures before settling on a place to have our book discussion.” Attendees discussed the writer’s take on nature poetry along with his/their views on marginalized cultures today.

Echo and The Bats -We are beginning plans to bring back our house band for system-wide outreach programming. We are exploring options with the Outreach team and hope to offer literacy-based music shows for children and families soon.

Digital Inclusion & STEM

Howson Branch’s weekly Tech Time continues to meet the needs of our Older Adult population, often spilling over to appointments when the weekly program is not sufficient. - Customer Comments: Cheryl Crain, who volunteers with Drive A Senior, made a point of complimenting staff member Brent on his Tech Time assistance with one of her clients, a fellow in his 80s named Carlton. Ms. Crain said that Brent did a good job of getting Carlton set up with e-books. Cheryl was grateful for Brent’s help and told us that Carlton seems to be retaining the information. Paul Sweeney, an older adult customer who is going back to school to begin a second career, complimented staff member Kimthu on all the computer and Blackboard help he received from her. Paul stated that “I went from third grade to a college student under her tutelage. I was absolutely wowed.”



Through Texas State Library grant funding, two volunteer Digital Navigators from Austin Free Net began holding hours at Little Walnut Creek Branch, and the Computer Lab has been activated as a space that customers can reserve for virtual meetings, telehealth appointments, and small group work.

Marble Run Program-The first Saturday program for Manchaca Road Branch since Covid was a Marble Run STEM activity aimed at families who might not make it to the library during the week, opening up an option for working families. Attendance was great -35 caregivers and their charges came together to build intricate paths for marbles that demonstrated principles of gravity and instilled the value of recycling materials.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Milwood Branch's new partnership with Austin Japan Community had a great success this month with their first Japanese-English Storytime! The program had 46 attendees and the customers really enjoyed it! This will be an ongoing program on the 4th Saturday of each month.

Civic and Community Engagement

The bus passes provided by Cap Metro have been very helpful to many Pleasant Hill Branch customers. After just four days staff distributed 37 passes to users in need of transportation for medical appointments, grocery store trips, job interviews, etc.

Southeast Branch youth librarian Alicia Niwagaba was able to participate in a resource fair run by local teens on the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) at the Dove Springs Recreation Center. There she made contacts with some local organizations and institutions they may be interested in collaborating with the branch. As is typical, she encountered many Dove Springs residents who were not aware that the library was open or existed at all. It was so rewarding to see people who had never been to Southeast Branch before actually go to library right after the resource fair was over.

Staff Development

19 volunteers and paid interns provided over 1,350 hours of summer service to Austin families! For the 11th year, Central Children's Staff have partnered with the City's Youth and Family Services Division to host VISTA Interns and paid Teen Interns.

Workforce and Economic Development

SkillMill - Toward the end of September, APL will begin offering a new Virtual Library resource: SkillMill by Interplay Learning, which offers skilled trades training courses online on HVAC, solar, plumbing, electrical and more. Users can develop job skills through self-paced, expert-led video lessons and digital training simulations. SkillMill content can be accessed via browser, app on a tablet or laptop, or even with a VR headset.

A patron came into the St. John branch to check if there was an ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) textbook on the shelf. They were enlisting in the military and wanted to study the particular math tested in the ASVAB exam. They are a long-time Austin resident but had never had a library card. Staff signed them up for a library card to check out the ASVAB textbook and showed them that they could even access ASVAB flashcards using the virtual library. They were super excited about the virtual library and downloaded Libby to access other books they wanted to read for fun. They were looking forward to using books from APL's virtual library even if they got relocated for the military. The patron came back to return the ASVAB textbook and grinned as they told the desk staff that they passed the exam! It was great to see how APL was able to help this patron move forward with their career goals.

APL BY THE NUMBERS

Collections Circulation August

- Digital materials 246,601
- Physical materials 205,486

Cardholders | Visitors

- Total cardholders 437,240
- New cardholders 3,361
- Active cardholders 313,936
- Visitors 170,400

WiFi Use

Connections 29,774

Revenue Year to Date FY22 as of 8/31/2022

- Parking \$271,198
- Event Space Rentals \$344,556
- Central Gift Shop \$189,418
- Passport Service \$78,287
- Recycled Reads Book Store \$126,166
- Total \$1,009,625

Volunteers

- 96 active volunteers, 760 hours x \$26.43/hr = \$20,087 value (August 2022)



Roosevelt Weeks
Director of Libraries

