

AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY



Director's Report
December 2022

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HIGHLIGHTS

Menchaca Road Library!

Menchaca Road Branch Library has a new updated sign (notice the shiny new 'E'!). The spelling of the road that homes this branch was changed a few years ago to rightfully honor José Antonio Menchaca, the veteran of the Texas Revolution for which it is named.



APL Gearing up For TLA 2023

We are excited that the Texas Library Association (TLA) Annual Conference, the largest state-wide Library Conference held throughout Texas annually is scheduled to land in Austin, TX on April 19-22 2023. APL will be richly represented at TLA with over fifty (50) of our team members participating in the conference, from leading sessions and interviews, attending board and committee meetings as well as recruiting and networking with thousands of professionals in the library community.

Central Holiday Cheer Celebrations - Central Concert Series



APL kicked off our Central Library Holiday Cheer Celebrations early by hosting the South Congress Women's Choir for a late November weekend concert at Central. Over 130 attendees joined us in the demonstration area.

This concert was our first Central Concert since the pandemic, and we look forward to continuing to host a diverse slate of musicians throughout the year as part of the Central Concerts series. We created a Central Concerts team to plan and host these programs throughout the year. Yielding this responsibility to the Central Concerts team will increase continuity and efficiency in planning/hosting, while it also provides a professional development opportunity for staff not previously involved in planning recurring programs with a variety of partners and performers.

Strategic Plan and Facility Master Plan

The Strategic Planning process is nearing its final stages. From late-November through mid-December, our consultants held a last round of community engagement pop-up events to continue to gather input from the community. Then, on December 8, 2022, our consultants convened with the Library Management Team to make decisions about the future direction of the library using all of the information that has been gathered over the last 9 months. APL Strategic Plan and Facility Master Plan reports will be drafted and revised until final reports are presented to the Library Commission and City Council for approval.

FACILITIES SERVICES

FY18 Bond Program Summary

Description

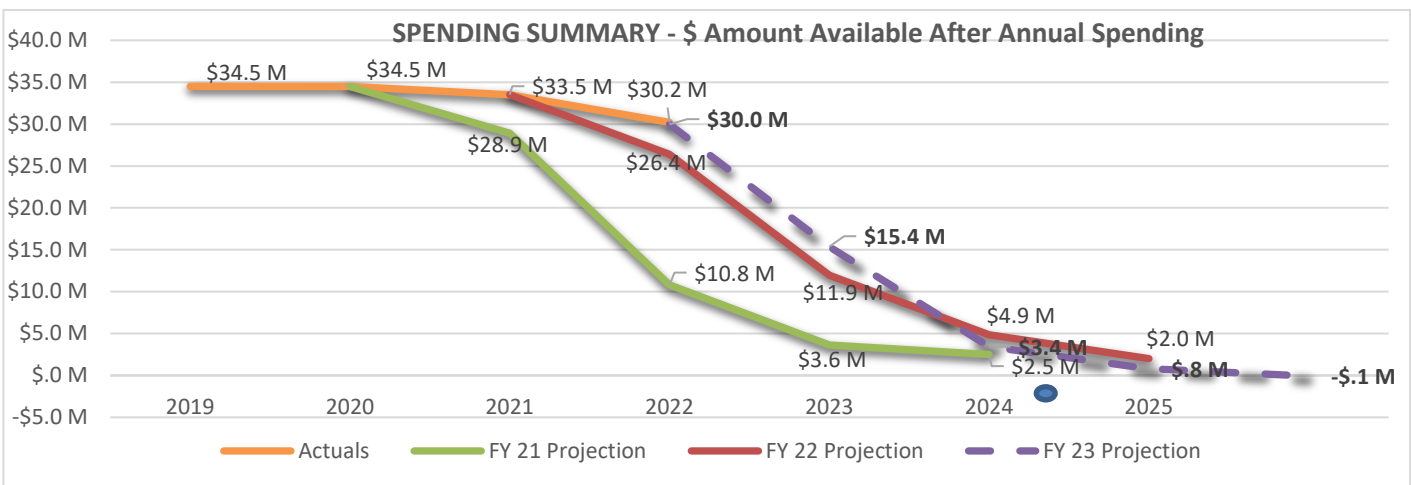
The library's 2018 Bond Program consists of fifteen active facility improvement and renovation projects. Facility Services is working with the City Architect to standardize critical building systems and extend the life cycle of branch libraries across its portfolio.

A spend-down graph for the library's \$34.5M CIP and Program Summary is provided. Obligations are projected to reach 90% of available appropriations mid-2024.



2018 BOND
OUR COMMUNITY. OUR FUTURE.

2018 – PROPOSITION B – LIBRARY ALLOCATION \$34.5 Million



CLMP 180 2016 SITE / CIVIL PROJECTS

CEPEDA BRANCH TRAIL

Current Phase: Design Development

The work includes construction of a 10' wide concrete path under 7th Street to allow pedestrian access from Gonzales Street to the Library, and associated lighting. Installation of infrastructure to support new electric vehicle charging stations.

The project is currently in need of additional funds to cover this scope. Engineering of a critical waterway crossing, and resolution of pathway alignment avoiding the taking of a major tree, and preparation of a Site Plan for permitting.



- Engineer has achieved 60% design, but environmental hurdles require reconciliation.
- Estimate 6 months duration for resolution of adding scope and resolution of permitting issues.

- Upon approval of the construction document phase, the engineer will be submitting construction documents for plan review and building permit approval. Concurrently the owner will begin negotiation with the Special Projects group of PWD.

Budget

• Appropriation	\$307,000
• Obligated	\$ 88,978
• Balance	\$218,022
• Total Project Budget Estimate	\$723,671

Impacts

- PWD reports that the 2018 Prop B facilities bond program project has an estimated **(\$416,671)** variance. The variance is based upon scope needs and includes an escalation factor to account for inflation until the scheduled construction date.

HAMPTON AT OAK HILL PARKING LOT EXPANSION

Current Phase: Pre-Design

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. Proceeding with procuring the services of an Engineering firm for the following scope.

- Additional parking spaces to serve the continued growth of library attendance needs.
- Infrastructure to support relocation of the existing electric vehicle charging systems.
- Ancillary work related to meeting current water quality needs, as the project is in a critical recharge zone, and the current treatment system requires upgrades and will be integrated into the project. This includes detention facility modifications for quantity and quality treatment of the additional impervious area being added.
- Engineering of the pond and site requirements.

Requested approval from Sponsor to proceed with procuring the services of an Engineering firm for the proposed scope mentioned.

- Services will be for Preliminary through Post Construction
- The project is intended to proceed with the traditional Design/Bid/Build procurement of construction phase services, pending Sponsor approval.
- Appropriated available funding will be used for A/E professional services fees.

Budget

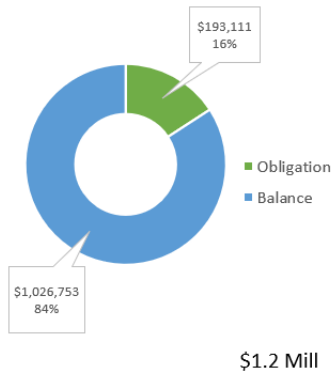
• Appropriation	\$751,000
• Obligated	\$104,133
• Balance	\$646,867
• Total Project Budget Estimate	\$2,049,385

Impacts

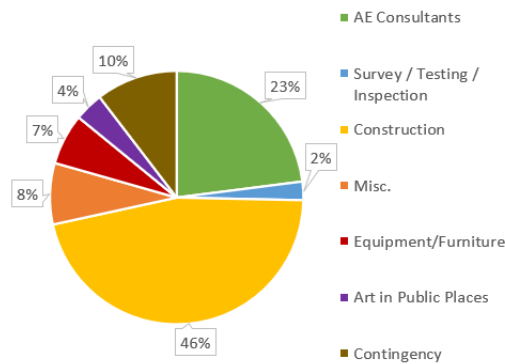
- PWD reports that the 2018 Prop B facilities bond program project has an estimated **(\$1,298,385)** variance. The variance is based upon scope needs and includes an escalation factor to account for inflation until the scheduled construction date.

CLMP180 Cepeda Trail and Hampton Parking Lot Expansion

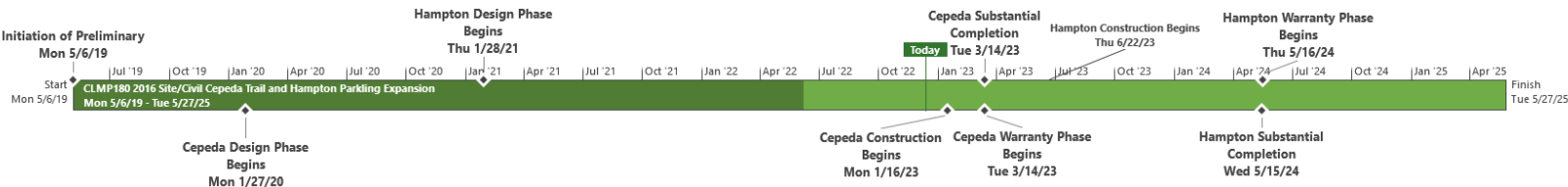
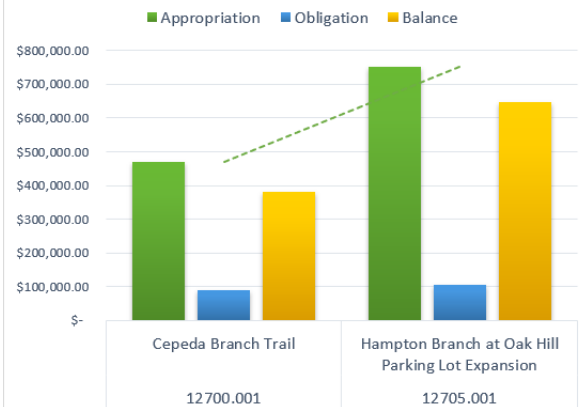
Program Summary



Budget Estimate



Project Appropriation



CLMP 282 Archival Repository Expansion:

Faulk Building & History Center Renovation

Current Phase: 10% Construction

- **Austin History Center:** Is still open to the public. However, public closure and staff alternating rooms for interior window painting will be scheduled in the coming months for approx. 2-4 weeks of closure.
- **Faulk Building:** Construction scope is ongoing. Abatement and demo of the 3rd floor is complete, and they are moving to the 2nd floor the next 2+/- weeks.
- **RCAs:** The GC increase of authority of \$2.5 Million and \$70k for the Architect are submitted for the December 8th council. These increases will allow the project the flexibility to use remaining contingencies for either unforeseen conditions/change orders or additional scope that was previously value engineer. (ie. New chiller, protective exterior coating to Faulk.)
- **Security:** All AHC exits remain open; however, some are for emergency exit only. APL has been asked to close monthly or quarterly maintenance of Faulk and site related tasks. (ie landscape, elevator maintenance etc.)



Schedule

- Construction is ongoing. Coordination of the AHC staff during interior work is the current scheduling goal. All other scope that has been contracted is on target.
- Value Engineering has already been completed in the design phase. If needed, project contingency is available for unforeseen conditions or will be used later during construction to cover previous items that were removed because of cost.

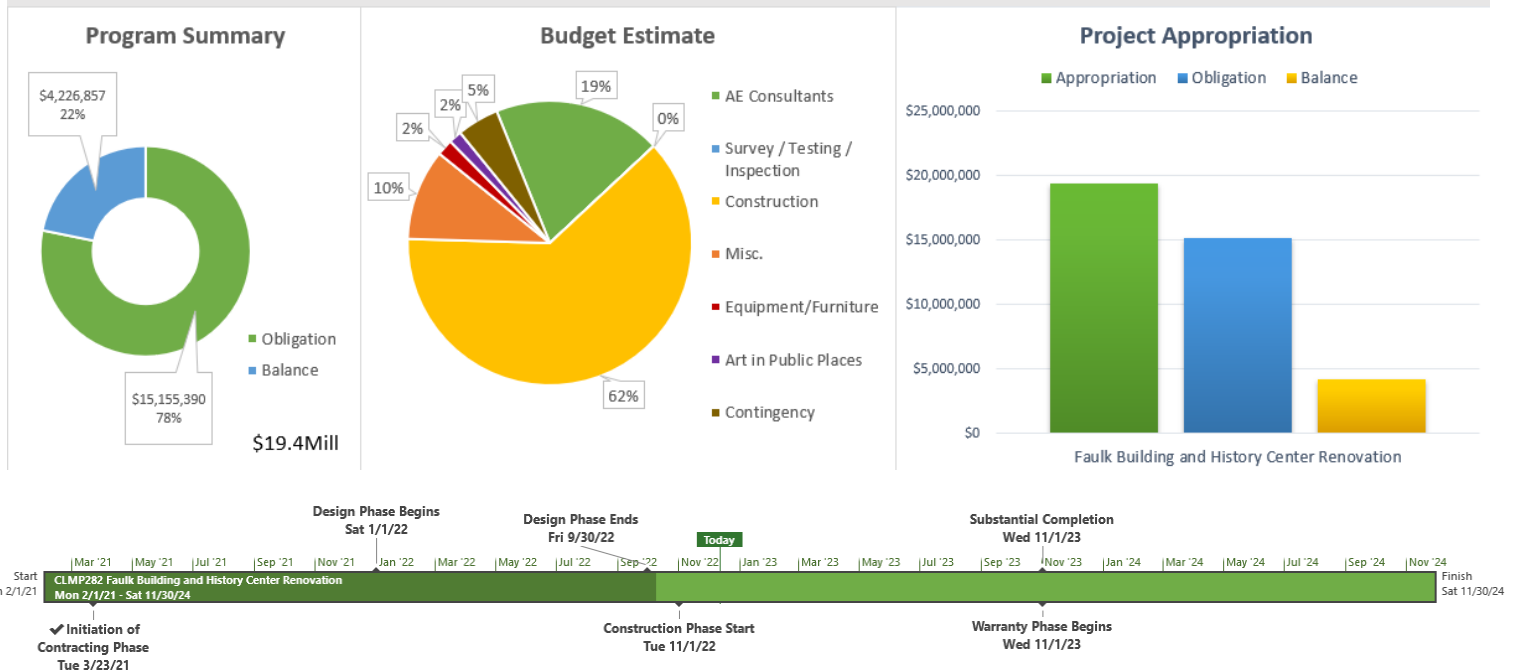
Budget

- Appropriation \$19,382,247
- Obligated \$15,155,390
- Balance \$4,226,857

Impacts

- No impacts currently. The project team continues to monitor material lead times. Recently, the team accepted substations for mechanical equipment that would have impacted the schedule by an added 3 months.

CLMP282 Faulk and History Center Archival Expansion



CLMP 286 Interior Renovations:

Old Quarry Branch; Little Walnut Creek Branch; Willie Mae Kirk Branch; Menchaca Branch Roof Replacement & Renovation; St. John Branch:

Current Phase: Schematic Design

Schematic Design (SD) 100% Complete, scope includes but is not limited to code-required compulsory items (i.e., Bathrooms and ADA). Finished furniture, lighting, painting ceiling tiles and equipment is included in the scope for each of the five branches. Complete TPO roof replacement at Old Quarry, Little Walnut Creek, and Willie Mae Kirk is being requested. Additional funding is being requested for full interior renovations, code-compliant egress doors, accessible parking spaces, accessible parking slopes, fire alarm panels, signage and accessible restrooms and improvements

Budget

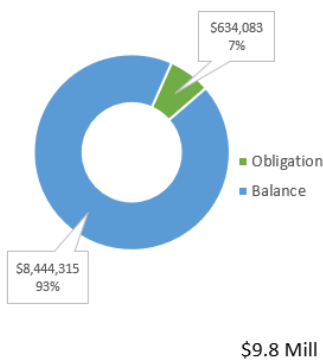
- Appropriation \$9,078,398
- Obligated \$634,084
- Balance \$8,444,314

Impacts

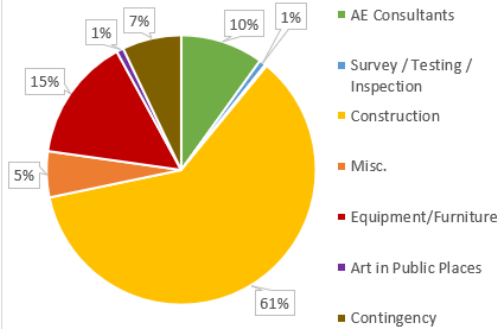
- Based upon scope needs and an escalation factor to account for inflation until the scheduled construction date, additional funding may be needed.

CLMP286 Five Branch Interior Renovation

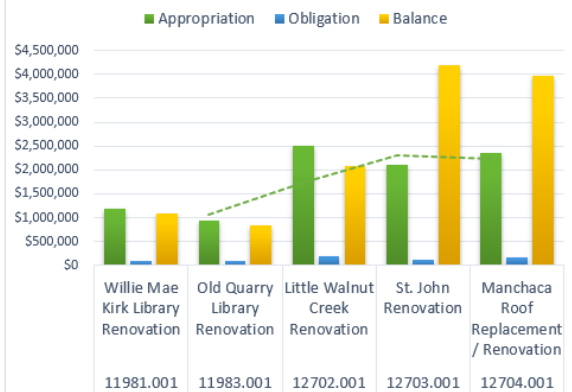
Program Summary



Budget Estimate



Project Appropriation



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

Current Phase: Construction document phase

Consultant is working on the construction documents for project solicitation. Construction documents must be consistent with the project program, the construction budget, and the project schedule. The HVAC Building Automation Systems (BAS) and Mechanical Equipment will be updated at Howson for remote access. Lead and Asbestos tests were conducted on TPO roof and mechanical room due to building relief and outside air vents replacements scoped in the CIP.

Roofing and Mechanical Replacements for Carver and Yarborough will include new roofing, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning equipment. Split AC systems will be installed in the Carver Branch Server Room for better cooling efficiency.

The library is requiring the use of thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) single ply roofing overlay to extend the life cycle of the existing roofing systems at Carver and Yarborough. The Consultant, however, is recommending complete removal and replacement of the built-up roofing systems because thermal imaging revealed water infiltration is

A greater than 30% of the entire roof area. Design team will add a contract to check photovoltaic system before removal and after installation for Carver.

Budget

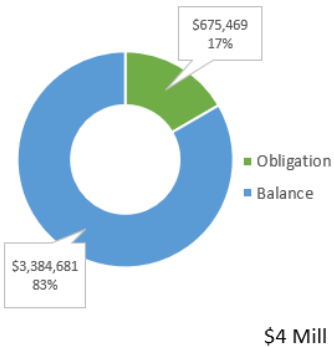
- Appropriation \$4,050,150
- Obligated \$680,025.05
- Balance \$3,370,124.95

Impacts

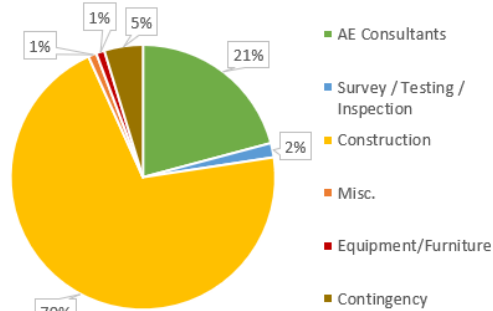
- Based upon scope needs and an escalation factor to account for inflation until the scheduled construction date, additional funding may be needed.

CLMP287 Roof and HVAC Upgrade

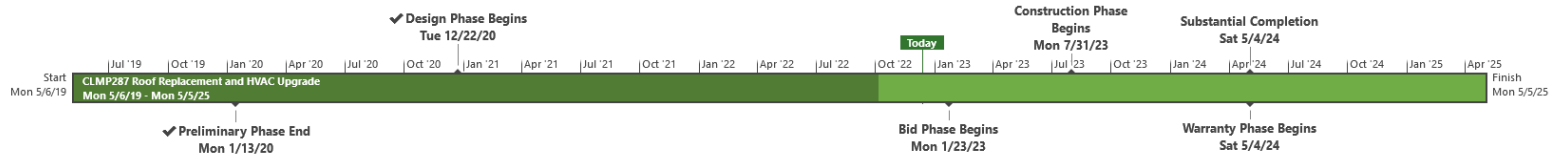
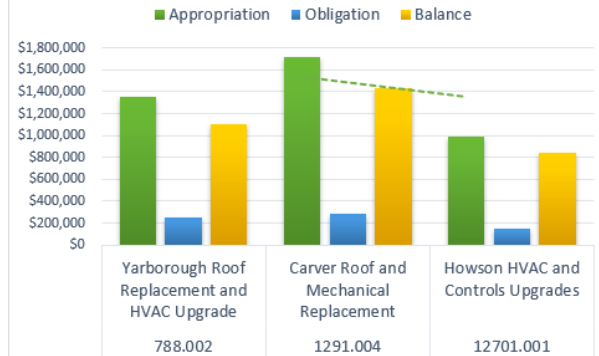
Program Summary



Budget Estimate



Project Appropriation



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

LIBRARY PRIORITIES

Literacy Advancement

Heather Athas, Librarian I at Ruiz Branch went to Newton Collins Elementary (DVISD) to do storytime with all their kindergarteners and do a dinosaur activity to promote APL's Dinovember programming. She also joined Literature Live at Linder Elementary (AISD) for two performances of *The Vain Cuckoo*. Families had a ton of fun at the Dinovember Party where they learned about fossils, what makes a dinosaur a dinosaur, made their own dino, and met our T-Rex friend.



Digital Inclusion & STEM

The University Of Texas, Science Under the Stars program has invited Howson Branch team members to “pop-up” during their monthly edutainment events at Breckenridge Field Laboratory off of Lake Austin Boulevard. Ann Lombardo, Library Associate at Howson working with UT, has forged a solid partnership between our branch and the Integrative Biology Department, and our team are looking forward to being present at these engaging, educational programs that routinely attract over 100 participants. To honor the partnership and support the graduate student's lecture, Howson will be curating a small collection of books for all ages, as well as provide library card registration for interested individuals and families.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

APL team members worked collaboratively with inter-divisional colleagues throughout November in preparation for the Menstrual Equity Pilot project's early December soft launch. This important equity initiative providing feminine products in bathrooms across the library system meets daily needs of patrons, and increases community regard for APL as an organization championing inclusivity.

Civic and Community Engagement

November was an exciting time for APL branch libraries with 4 serving as early voting sites and many more branches opening their meeting rooms to voting on Election day. Millwood had record numbers of voters at their site on November 8th. Pleasant Hill Branch saw soaring numbers of visitors as well with many voters signing up for new library cards or renewing cards that had expired. In particular, Menchaca Branch provided outstanding service in assisting a voting volunteer complete their required online training.

A voting volunteer came in to view an online voting training on our public computers, but got locked out of her email account. She was at a loss for what to do, as she had been a voting volunteer for years and this was the first year they were requiring her to take this online training in order to participate. Library Associate Isabel Castaneda had an idea for how to resolve the voter volunteer's issue: she helped her set up a proton email address and helped the customer get in touch with her contact at Travis County Elections so that the training video could be resent. With the help of Isabel and other circulation staff, this customer was finally able to access her training, print out a certificate of completion, and show up to successfully volunteer with Travis County Elections at AMR the next morning. Austin Public Library enables democracy by providing a place for the public to vote, providing non-partisan League of Women Voters guides for customers, and even by helping people access their voting volunteer training with free access to our computers and internet.

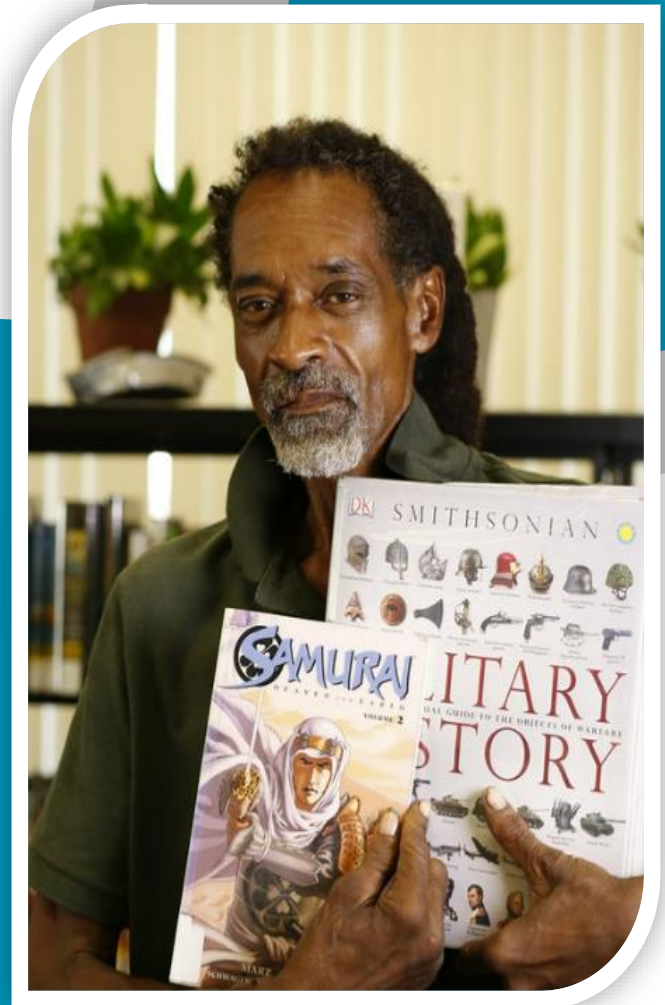
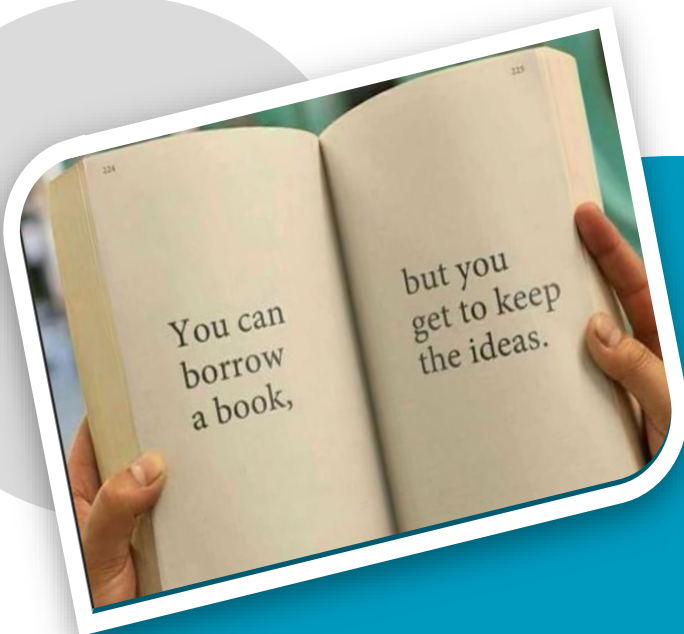
Staff Development

In October 2022, 5 APL team members were approved to attend the National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) in St. Pete's Beach Florida through grant funds provided by the Texas State Library and Archives, TSLAC. Due to a hurricane that hit the area just before the scheduled conference, the JCLC Conference was postponed and rescheduled to February 8-12, 2022. We are excited to send members of our team to the highly anticipated conference and perhaps send even even a few more participants to fully make use of the grant fund provided by TSLAC.

Workforce and Economic Development

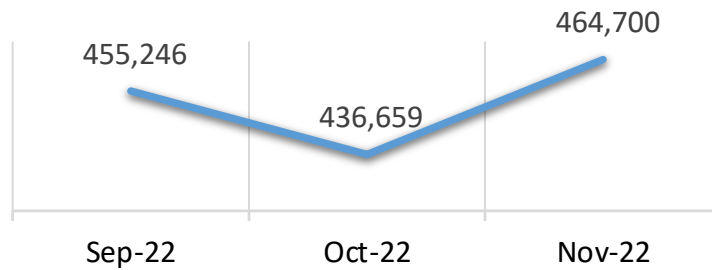
APL Branch Libraries continue to be a venue the surrounding community comes to when in need of assistance in securing employment. Staff regularly help individuals create resumes and fill out job applications. For instance, during the month of November, staff from Ruiz helped individuals apply for a vast array of jobs such as as a Domestic Worker, Benefits Manager, and Transportation Security Associate.

APL BY THE NUMBERS NOVEMBER 2022

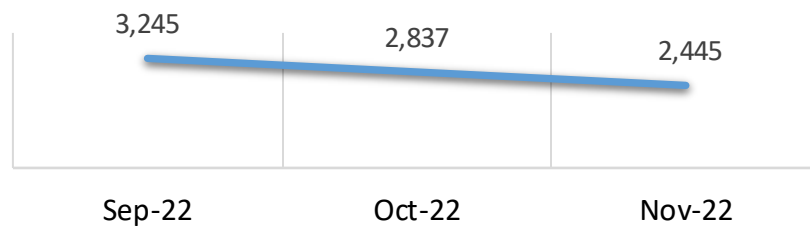


Cardholder

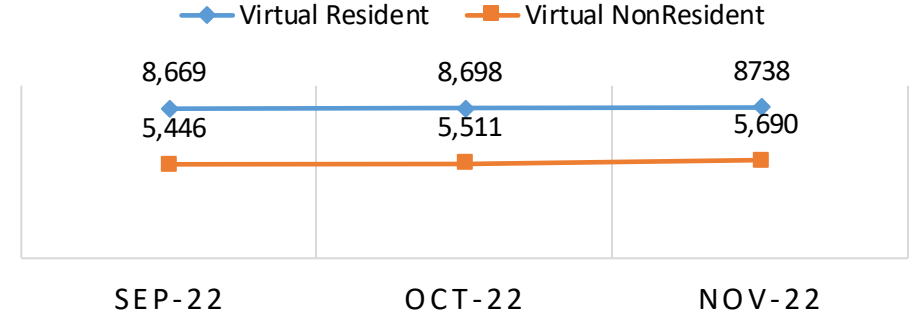
TOTAL CARDHOLDERS



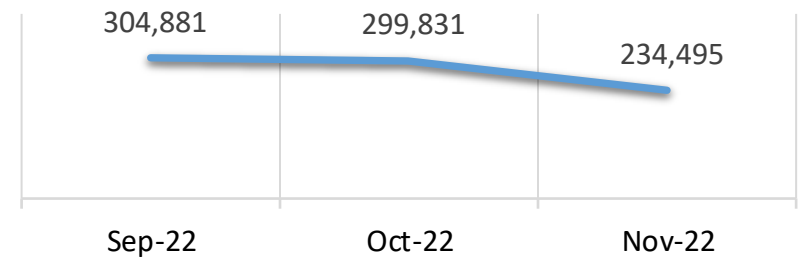
NEW CARDHOLDERS



VIRTUAL LIBRARY E-CARDS RESIDENT and NON-RESIDENT



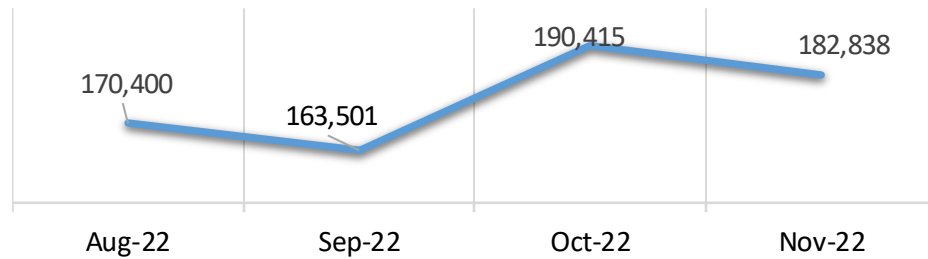
ACTIVE CARDHOLDERS



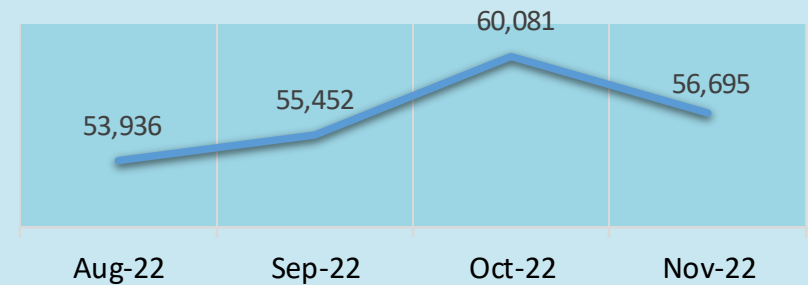
Visitors



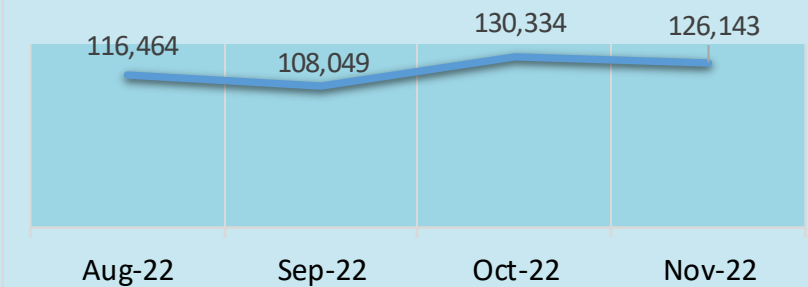
VISITORS
LIBRARY SYSTEM



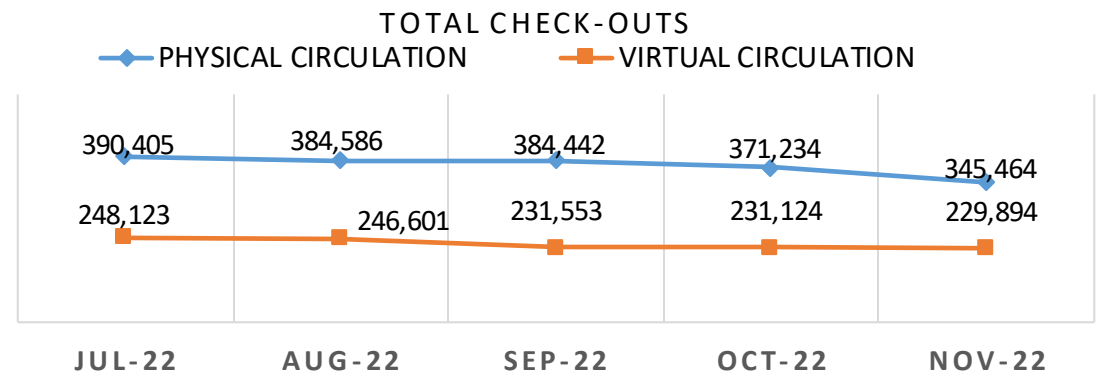
Central Visitors



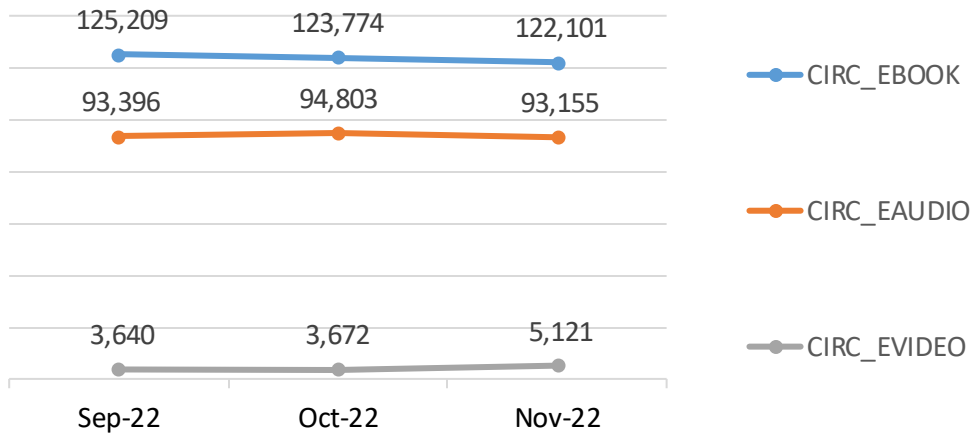
Branch Visitors



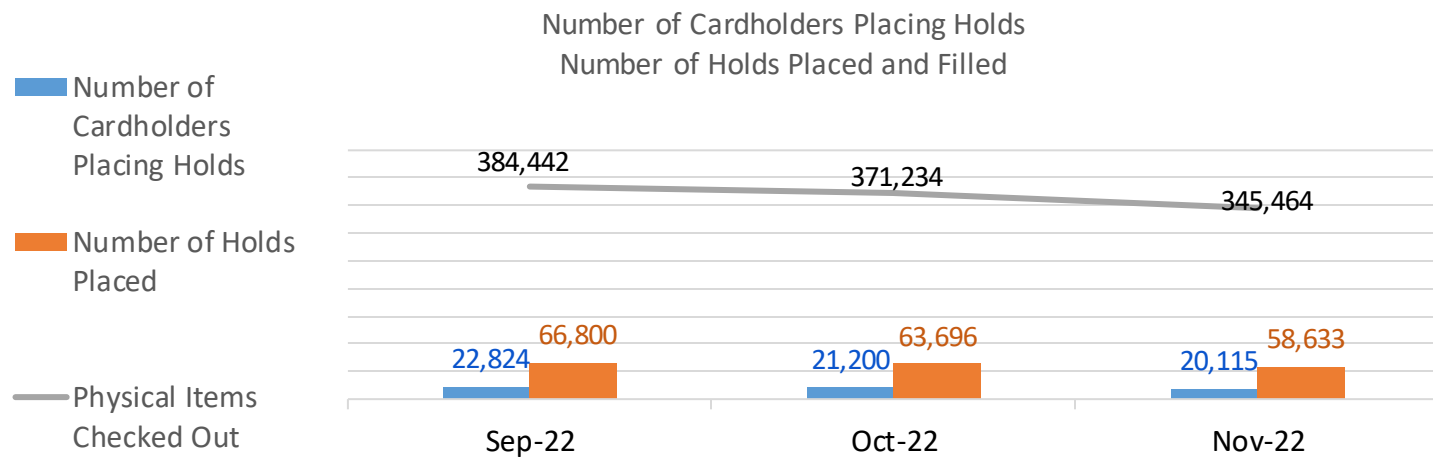
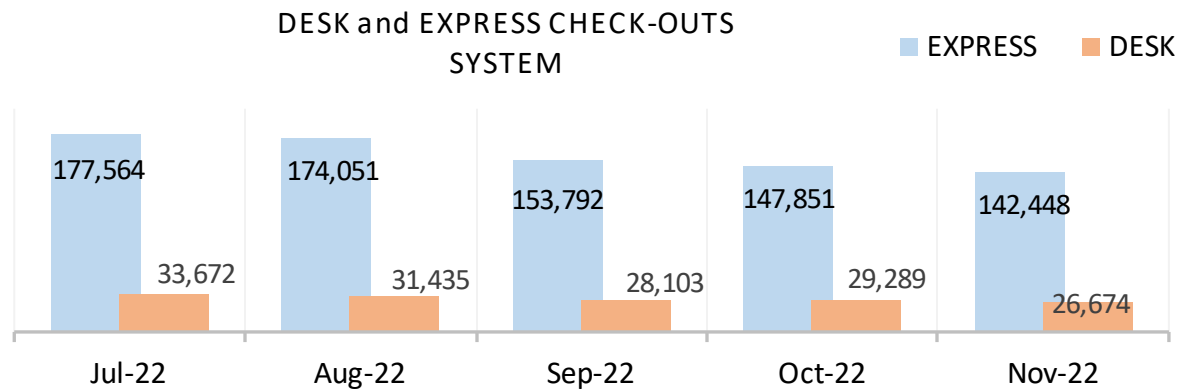
Circulation & Collections



POPULAR VIRTUAL ITEMS CHECK OUTS



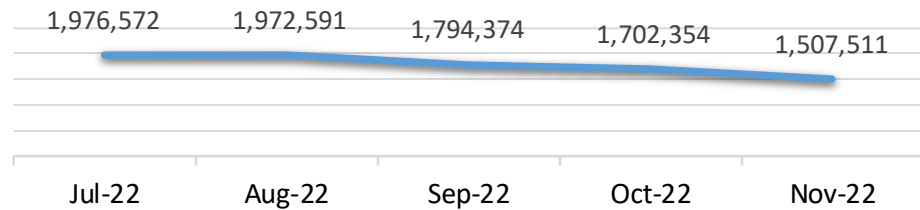
Express & Holds



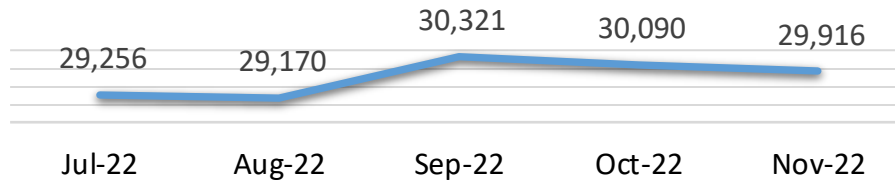
About 17 % of items checked-out were items that were placed on Hold.

Technology

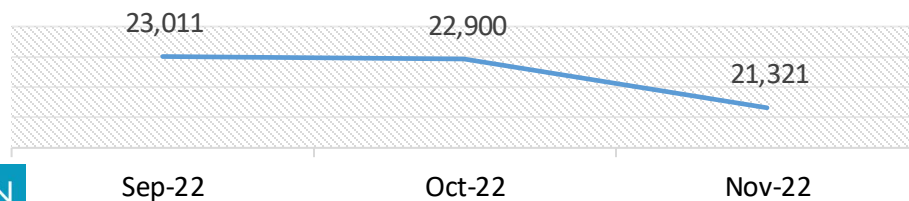
WEBSITE HITS



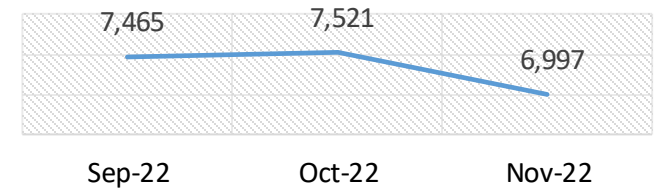
WIFI CONNECTIONS



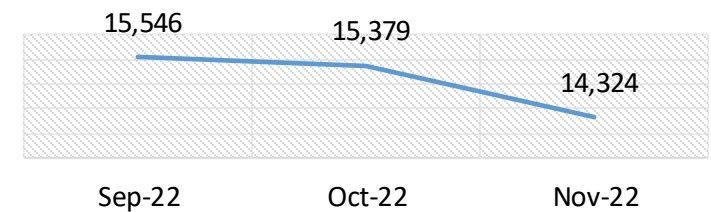
TOTAL COMPUTER SESSIONS
SYSTEM



COMPUTER SESSIONS
CENTRAL LIBRARY

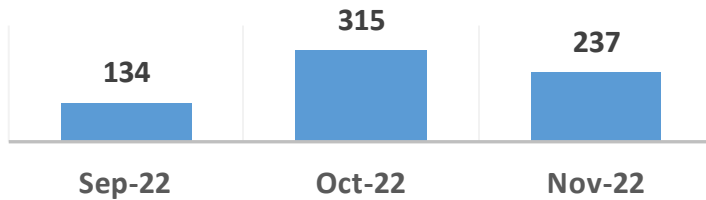


COMPUTER SESSIONS
BRANCH LIBRARIES



Programs

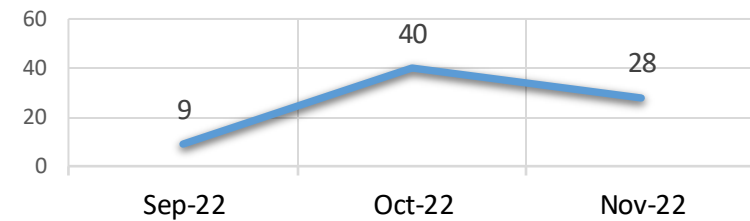
TOTAL IN-PERSON PROGRAMS



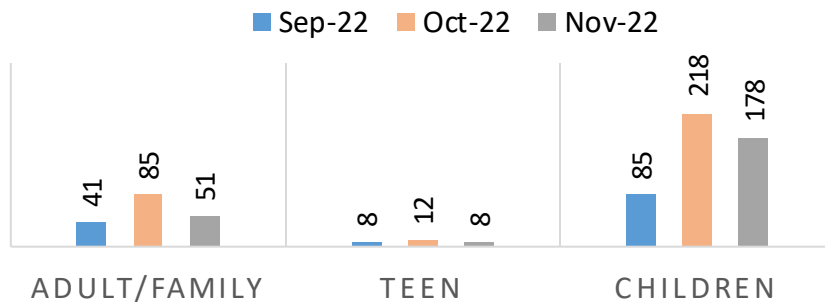
Does not include Outreach, Unadvertised, or Self-directed.



COMMUNITY SERVICES OUTREACH EVENTS
(includes Bookmobile)



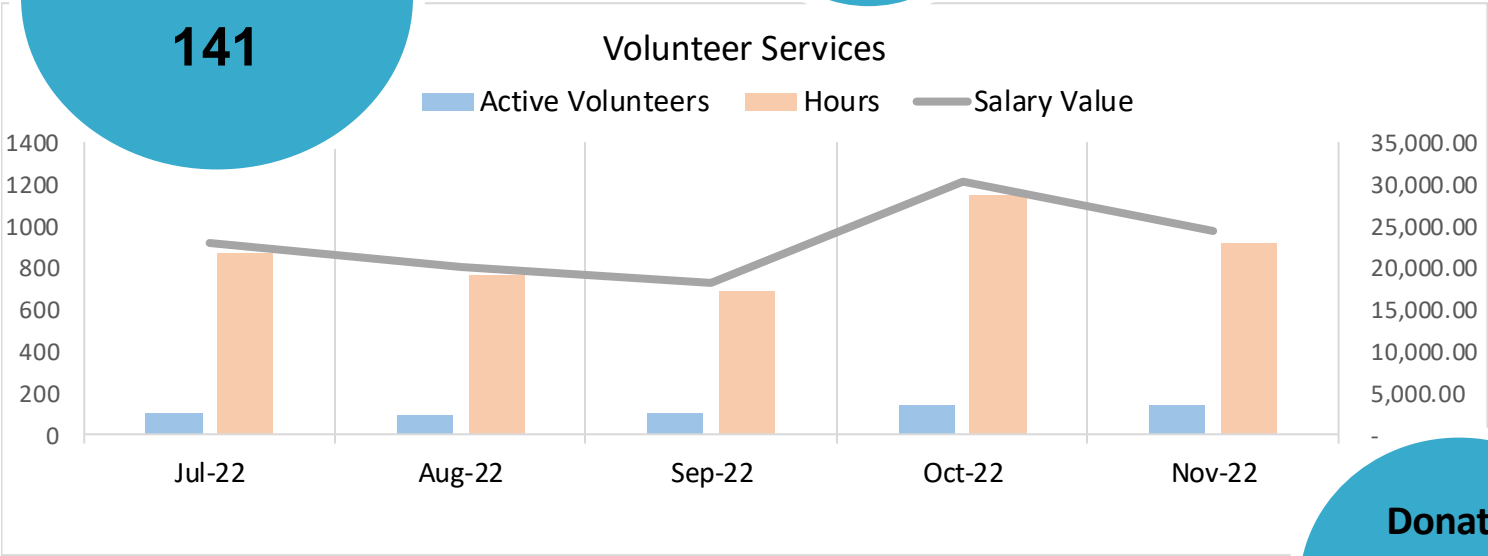
IN-PERSON PROGRAMS BY AUDIENCE



Volunteers

**Active
Volunteers
141**

**Hours
919**



[Independent Sector \\$26.43 Texas Rate](#)

**Donated
Value
\$24,289**