

# AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY



**Director's Report**  
April 2023

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# HIGHLIGHTS

## Kids Block Party – April 29, 2023

Saturday, April 29th is Kids Block Party at the Central Library, where we celebrate learning through play with storytimes, live music, crafts, authors, and outdoor fun. Be sure to invite all the kids in your life to join us!

## APL On the Spot Award Winners

Congratulations to Maddy Newquest and Ami Acosta-Gonzalez, who were recipients of “On the Spot” awards last week as part of the City Manager’s Awards program! Maddy was recognized for her work on the newly-relaunched APL Volumes Podcast, and Ami was recognized for her work responding to emergencies and helping operate the Terrazas branch as a Warming Center during the most recent weather emergency.



## Hampton Branch at Oak Hill French Afternoon

French Afternoon was a hit at our Hampton Branch at Oak Hill, with approximately 100 guests! We hosted the band, Swing Rendezvous, as well an information table about our City of Austin sister city in Angers, France. Guests got to play the French game of Pétanque, sample some French Pastries, and listen to French story times. APL staff member helpers for French Afternoon came from across the library system, Katrina Townsend, Library Assistant, Old Quarry, Diana Miranda-Murillo, Central Librarian II Collections, Melissa Wise, Central Children’s Librarian I, Monica Jones, Howson Branch Manager, and Paul Lopez, Volunteer Program Coordinator. We also had volunteers Amy & Anita join us for the day.

## Enhanced Library Cards

APL is preparing to launch a pilot program to roll out “Enhanced Library Cards” to our customers. The Enhanced Library Card is a document with your name and picture that could possibly be used as an ID or supplement with other documents to prove your identity. The Enhanced Library Card can be used to access all the resources that are available to library card holders – this includes books, DVDs and other physical materials in our collection, as well as our various electronic resources (such as e-books, databases, and more). A group of APL staff from multiple divisions have also been working to get agreements from APD, other city departments and local government entities, non-profits, and other institutions to accept the APL Enhanced Library Card as a valid form of photo ID.

You can learn more about Enhanced Library Cards at other Texas library systems that have helped those who may have difficulty obtaining other forms of ID access services [in this article from American Libraries Magazine](#).

The pilot program will launch on May 1, 2023, with cards available at 3 APL locations: Little Walnut Creek, St. John, and Southeast. We will gather feedback from the public and hope to scale up the program system-wide.

## APL Innovation Lab and Lounge News

The Innovation Lab and Lounge is planning to open at Central on Wednesday, July 5, 2023. The Innovation Lab Team are planning for an Open House to welcome people of all ages and to show them the many possibilities available in this brand new creative digital makerspace.

In addition, the Innovation Lab staff and Teen Central staff will partner with Austin Community College for the "**Summer Synth Experience.**" Two local synth experts, ACC Instructor Malika Boudissa, and ACC Instructor John-Michael Reed, will present a program providing music enthusiasts with an opportunity to explore a wide variety of synthesizers while tying it to the offerings of both the Innovation Lab and the Teen Music Lab. This program will consist of six workshops with quality equipment and will be offered on two weekends in July with the final workshop of each weekend offering participants the opportunity to record and perform their creations.

## Asian American Pacific Islander Signature Series

**May Asian American Pacific Islander Signature Series Programming** – Final plans for our [Asian American Pacific Islander Month](#) programming across the APL system are underway, so be sure to check out the many amazing events scheduled as part of the Signature Series. From author events and movie screenings to crafts, food, book clubs, dance performances and workshops; APL is planning for an amazing month of programming opportunities all across Austin. The Central Library will close out the month of programming with a day-long celebration on May 27, 2023, full of music, food, and more that celebrates the rich heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

## APL in the News

Strategic Plan:

- Austin Monitor: [A new plan for libraries calls for expansion](#)
- Community Impact: [Austin Public Library long-range plan calls for new branches, facility expansions across city](#)
- FOX 7: [City Council adopts new strategic and facilities plan for Austin Public Library](#)
- KVUE: [City council approves Austin Public Library strategic plan](#)

APL Volumes:

- Austin Monthly: [Austin Public Library Launches a Terrifying New Horror Podcast](#)
- KXAN: [Austin Public Library launches podcast to dive into classic, niche horror literature](#)

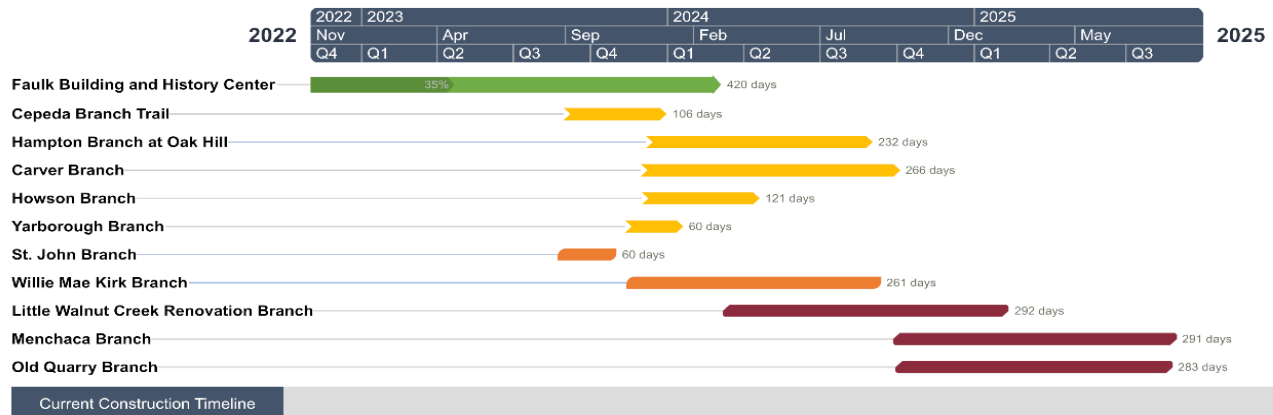
Recycled Reads

- KXAN: [How Austin Public Library's used bookstore diverts 47K pounds of items from landfills each month](#)

## 2018 – PROPOSITION B – LIBRARY ALLOCATION \$34.5 Million

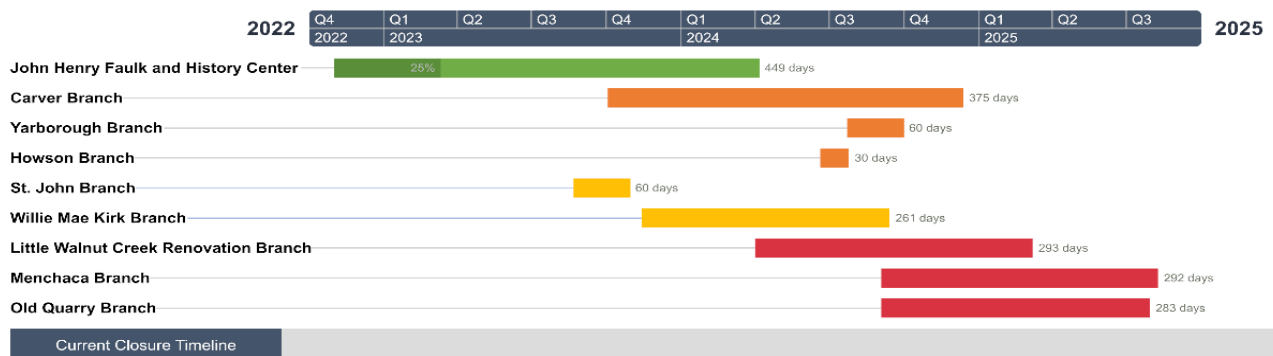
The Austin Public Library's 2018 Bond Program consists of fifteen improvement and renovation projects within the department's facilities portfolio. The program focus is to oversee the Capital Improvement and Program (CIP) management for the library. The Library's FY18 CIP Bond Program Summaries are as follows. Detailed Summary of each project can be found on the [APL Facilities SharePoint](#) page.

### Library 2018 Bond Project Estimated Timeline



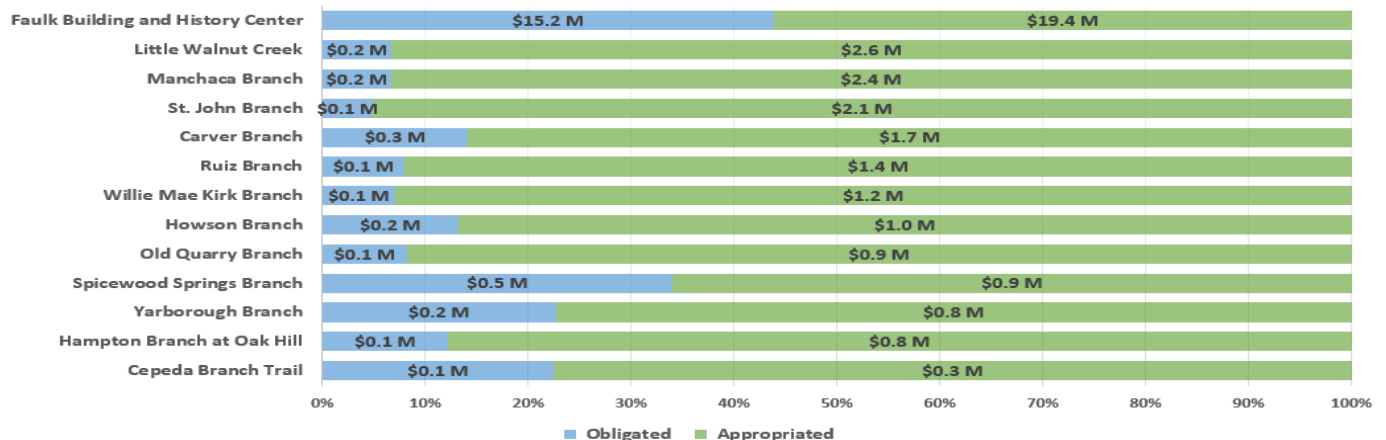
Estimate project timelines may vary from 3-6 months until construction documentation is completed.

### CURRENT - Library Project Expected Closures

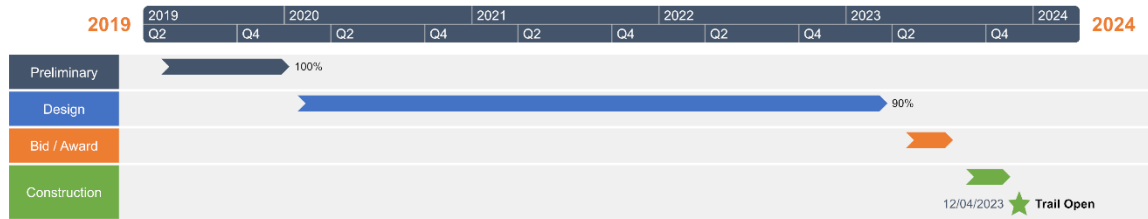


Expected closure times may vary and will be clarified as the lead times are established

### 2018 BOND PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS



### CIP 12700.001 - Cepeda Trail Project



Update: Project will require additional funding. Needs Assessment indicates an additional \$200,000

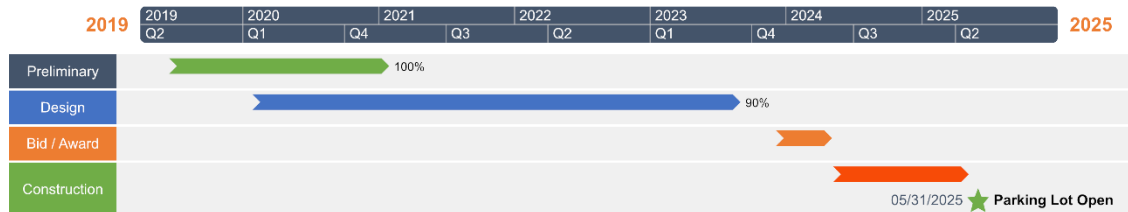
#### Current Phase: Construction Documentation 100%

Construction of a 10' wide concrete path under 7th Street to allow pedestrian access from Gonzales Street to the Library, and associated lighting.

#### Impacts

- Public Works has revised the budget estimate to \$568,000
- APL is reviewing funding from the 2018 Bond to address the \$200,000 shortfall
- Discussions about project collaboration with Urban Trails to link Cepeda Branch to the USP Mokan trail project - [Here's the press release](#)

### 12705.001 Hampton Parking Lot Expansion Project



Update: Project will require additional funding equaling \$400,000 to complete construction.

#### Current Phase: Construction Documentation

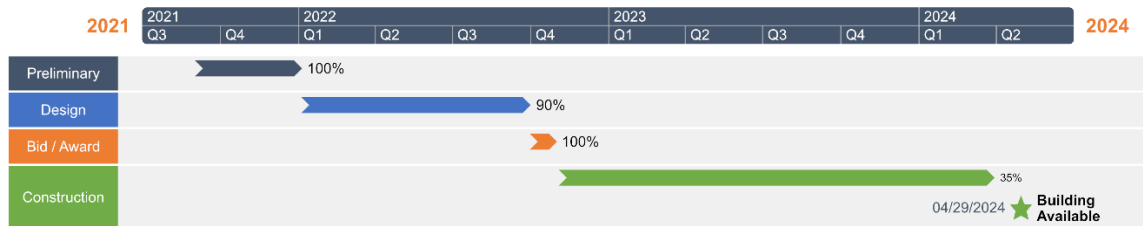
The AOK parking lot expansion project is the phase 2 part of the original site plan from 1997. The construction consists of improving the existing stormwater control system / retention pond and adding 74 parking spaces.

#### Impacts

- Public Works has revised the budget estimate to 1.1 million on a class 3 Cost Estimate (-15% to 20%)
- APL is reviewing funding from the 2018 Bond to address the \$400,000 shortfall
- The Development Services Department determined that a Consolidated Site Plan will be required for the parking lot expansion. The revised plan only requires that eight of the twelve-acre site be surveyed. The sensitive environmental nature of this location warrants services of a geologist as part of the consultant work.



## 5888.005 Faulk Building and History Center Archival Repository



**Current Phase:** 35% Construction

### Progress at Austin History Center:

- Exterior work is in progress including stone removal, stone waterproofing, and handrail restoration. Interior window abatement and painting work is nearing completion. Ongoing work includes exterior window painting and door restoration.

### Progress at John Henry Faulk:

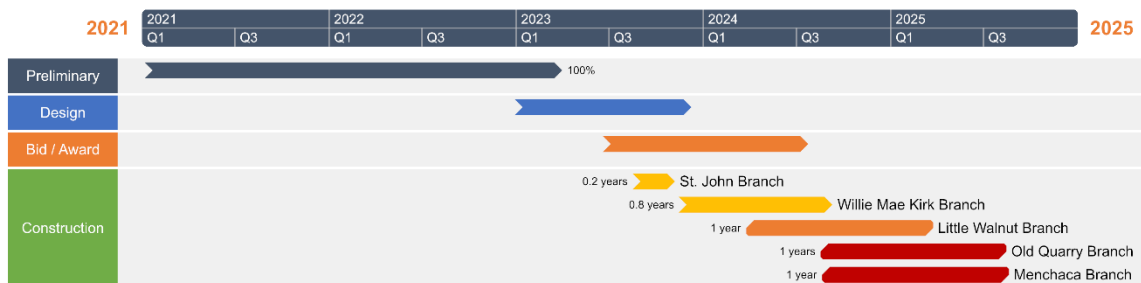
- Interior work is in progress including installation of MEP systems. Upcoming work includes exterior cleaning and rough openings for new point of entry to elevator.

### Impact:

- Potential schedule impacts to overall timeline may occur due to industry wide long lead times and stonework scope.



### CLMP286 Five Branch Renovations

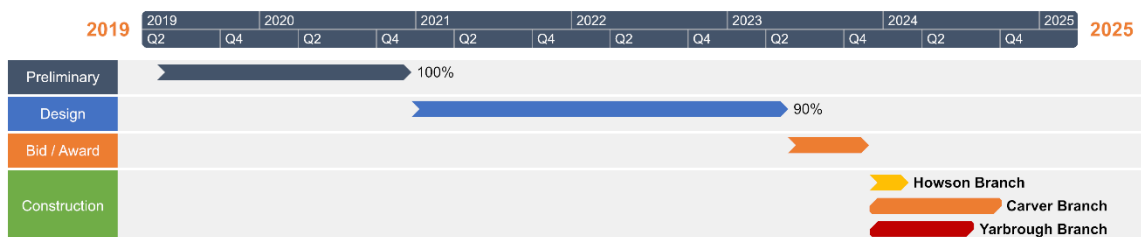


**Current Phase:** Design Development

#### Impacts:

- Consulting proposals for design and Construction agreements expected 4/28/23 for COA review
- Teams will begin design development based on the schematical design in May 2023
- Expecting 30% documents in July for review

### CLMP287 Roof and Mechanical



Update: Yarbrough expected closures are looking to be minimal, but this will be determined soon.

**Current Phase:** Construction document phase

#### Progress:

- Instead of solicitation the project team has agreed to explore Job Order Contract (JOC). The project team received the consultants 90% and the construction documents are under review. Consultant to continue working on construction document phase of the project. Estimate 2-3 months duration.

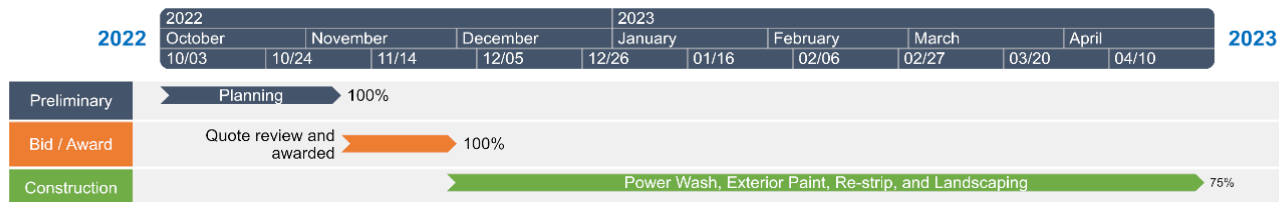
#### Impacts:

- APL CIP team has requested that our consultants quantify the duration of potential branch closures while Re-Roof and Mechanical installation are underway.



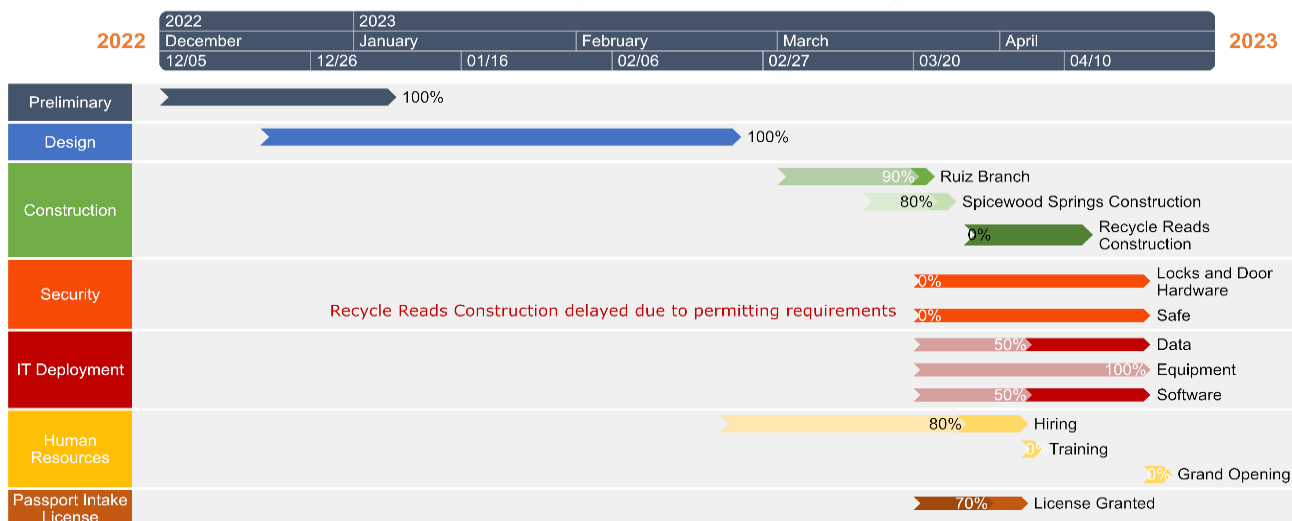
## APL SMALL PROJECTS

### Carver Branch Beautification Project

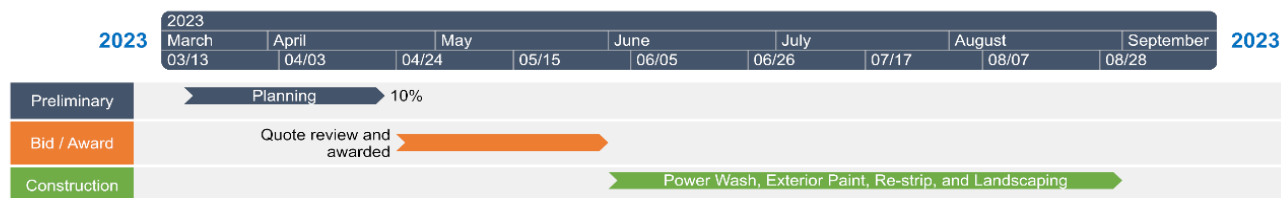


This is an exterior project that will run before the CIP project.

### Branch Passport Office Project

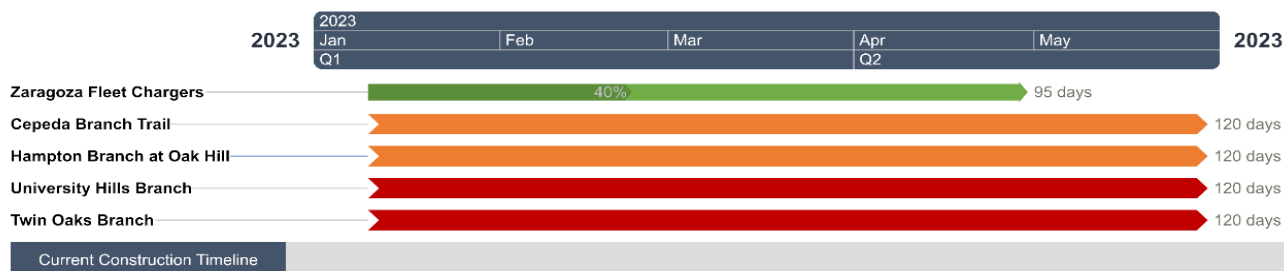


### Willie Mae Kirk Beautification Project



This is an exterior project that will run before and parallels to the CIP project.

### Electric Vehicle Charging Stations



Estimate project timelines may vary from 3 months until construction documentation is completed.

# LIBRARY PRIORITIES

## Literacy Advancement

On Monday March 20, 2023, Southeast Branch (ASE) hosted a themed Adult Story Hour to celebrate Women's History Month. In cooperation with Chris Chiarchiaro, Central Program Coordinator, ASE welcomed long-time Austin community gardeners, Harv'e Franks and Donna Hoffman, who told their personal stories about the healing power of nature and then welcomed participants to reflect on how nature impacted them. Attendees were entertained and enlightened, sharing stories of their own life experiences and how nature impacted them as women.

## Digital Inclusion & STEM

Menchaca Road Branch Library Associate, Randy McKeever held AMR's first Adult Lego Night! Attendees used STEAM skills while engaging in joyful play. AMR can't wait to see how this program grows.

Yarborough Branch youth services hosted Science Friday in March when 41 attendees built and floated boats and then designed sails to race the boats across the AYB "pond."

## Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Library Assistant Jana White presented Women's History Month: Discover Your Family Story, a successful genealogy workshop at the Howson Branch. Jana applied experiences from her personal genealogy research to teach attendees about APL resources like Heritage Quest and Ancestry. AHO Branch Manager Monica Jones shared the following feedback with Jana: *"Your passion for genealogy, the immense knowledge you have acquired over the years using these genealogy tools, and the warmth and generosity of your personality made our Genealogy Workshop a truly successful event that left our customers inspired and empowered to learn more about their own past!"*

## Civic and Community Engagement

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is once again at the Ruiz (ARZ) branch helping community members prepare and file their taxes free of charge. They are at ARZ every Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. until April 17th. This service has been available at the branch every tax season since its opening in 2004. The only interruption in service was due to the pandemic. There is no income limit and walk-ins are welcome. However, staff are not able to file complicated uncommon returns such as those involving the Alternative Minimum Tax or cryptocurrencies, for example.

Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas offered their first monthly Free Legal Clinic at the St. John Branch, which provided community members with the opportunity for a 30-minute consultation with a licensed attorney volunteer. Over 20 attorneys came to volunteer and they were busy the entire clinic! Thank you to Security for being onsite for this event! After the clinic was over, the Director of Pro Bono Services said, *"Thank you so much for letting us take over your whole library! This has been such a great experience and staff have been so friendly. Our clients really appreciated the activities*

*and toys you made available to help keep their kiddos occupied. I could tell that everyone felt so safe and welcomed here... I can't thank you enough for that. We can't wait to come back next month!"*

## Staff Development

APL is ecstatic that Austin, TX is home to the 2023 Texas Library Association (TLA) Conference and we plan to show off Austin and APL big this year! Fifty (50) plus APL team members will attend the conference from April 19-22, 2023 at the Austin Convention Center. TLA 2023 will feature memorable author events, many opportunities to network with peers and experts, educational programming taught by fellow librarians and leaders in the field, a vibrant exhibit hall, and best of all, time to spend in person with library professionals from across the state. Over a dozen APL staff will lead sessions with many more participating in committees while at the conference. Our very own Van Show will also be in attendance conducting author interviews throughout the conference.

Five APL security and safety team members, including Dinene Brown, Assistant Director of Support Services, will attend the Library Journal Public Library Safety Summit at the Columbus Metropolitan Library in Columbus Ohio, April 27-28, 2023. Director Weeks, as part of an advisory board of library directors across the nation, conceived the formation of the Safety Summit with Library Journal, to address the increasing security threats that libraries face. The summit will bring together library directors, security heads, HR leaders, and other stakeholders to investigate how public libraries can provide physically and emotionally safer and more secure environments for staff and patrons while protecting their privacy and maintaining open, accessible, and welcoming spaces.

## Workforce and Economic Development

Winsor Park Branch partnered with the City of Austin's Economic Development Department to host two Biz Aid events aiming to help a dozen folks learn about the resources available to support entrepreneurs here in Austin.



**APL MISSION:** Inspiring all to discover, learn and create!

**APL VISION:** Austin Public Library: A model of equity, inclusion, access, and diversity!

# APL BY THE NUMBERS

AUSTIN  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

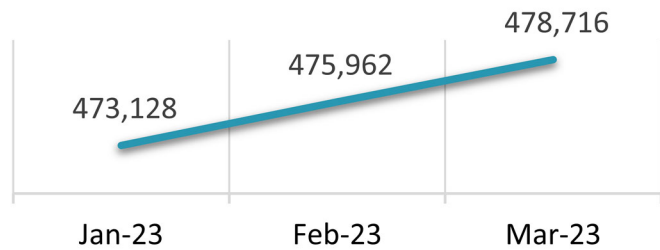
April 2023



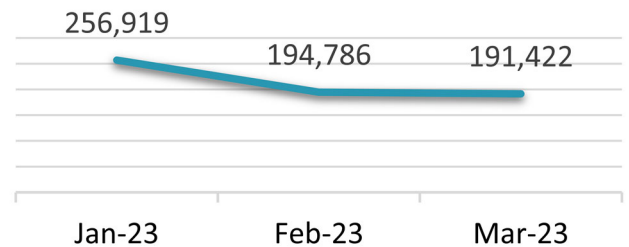
# Cardholders



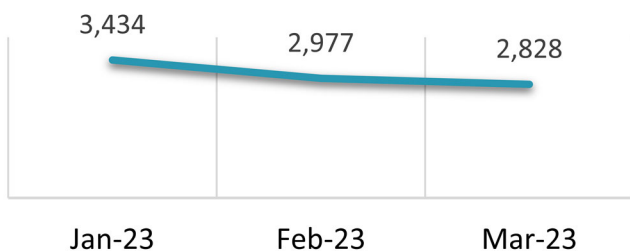
TOTAL CARDHOLDERS



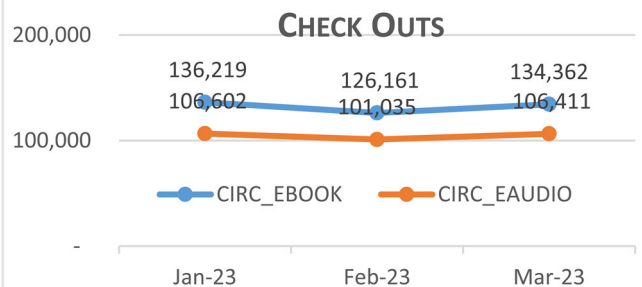
ACTIVE CARDHOLDERS



NEW CARDHOLDERS



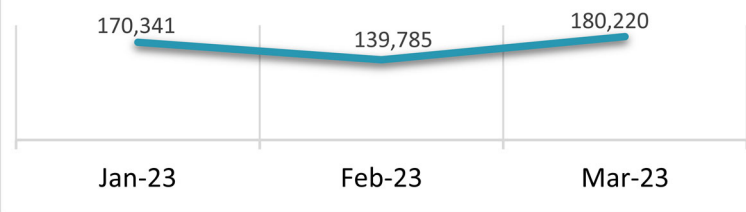
VIRTUAL EBOOK & E-AUDIOBOOKS



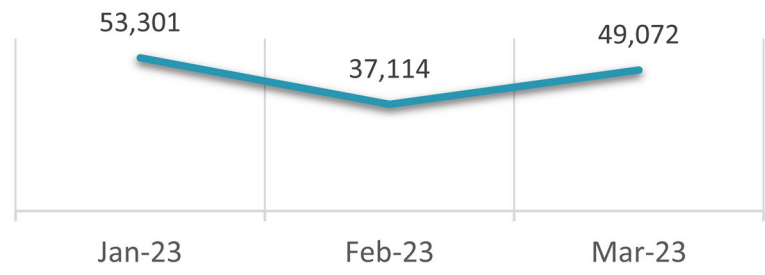


# Visitors

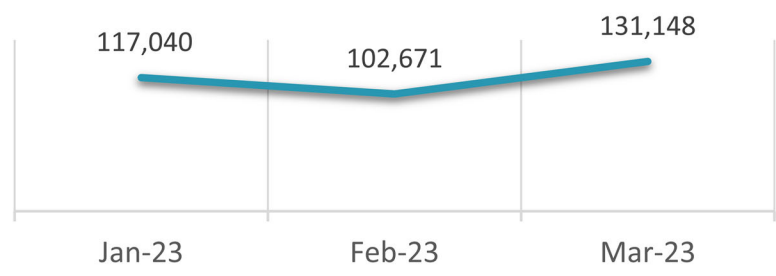
**VISITORS  
LIBRARY SYSTEM**



**CENTRAL VISITORS**

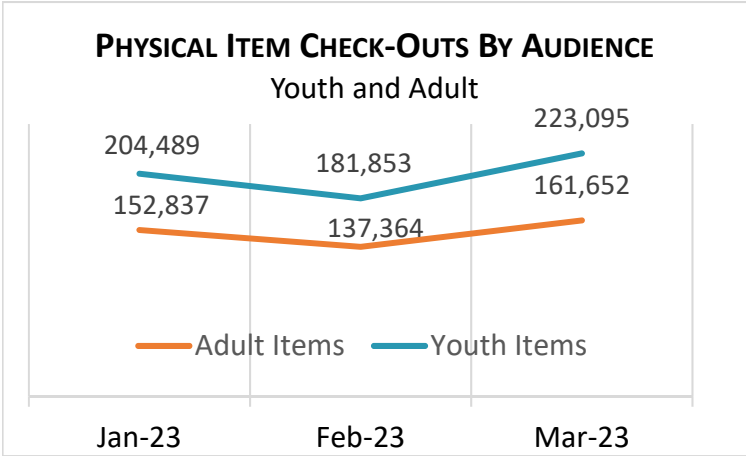
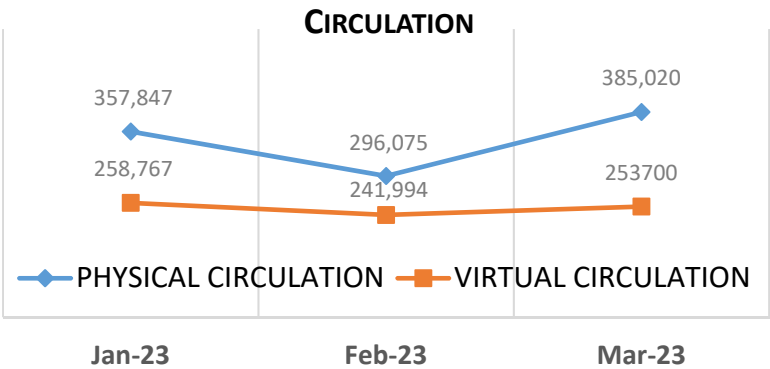


**BRANCH VISITORS**





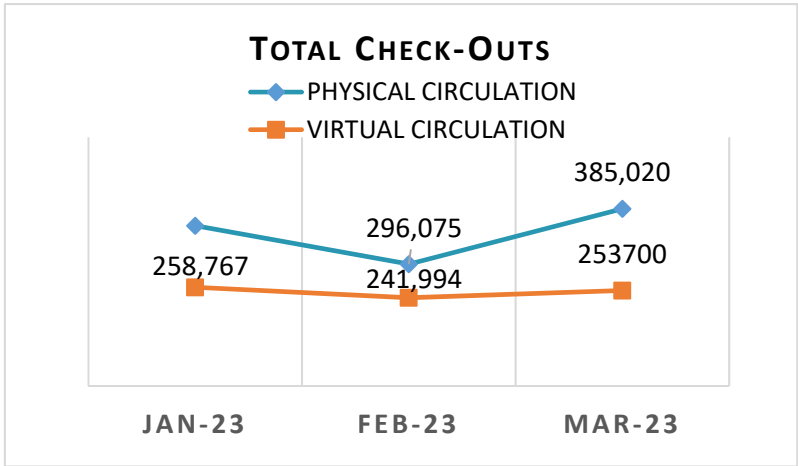
# Circulation & Collections



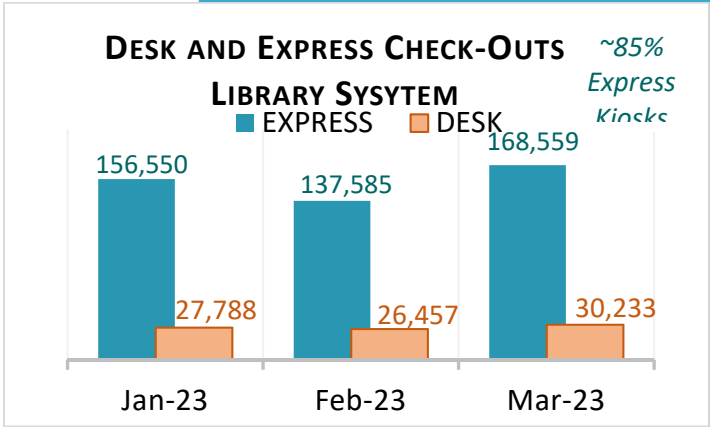
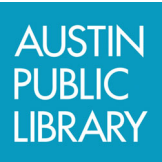
## ARR RECYCLING PARTNERSHIP

This month Recycled Reads sent 16,670 lbs of materials to our recycling partner.

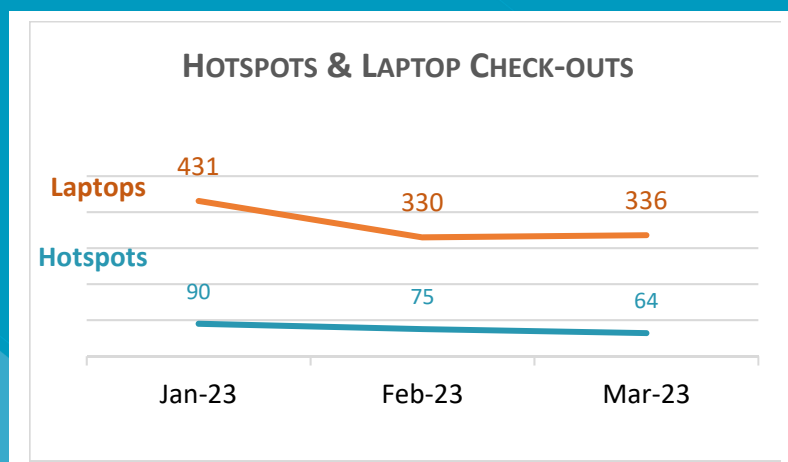
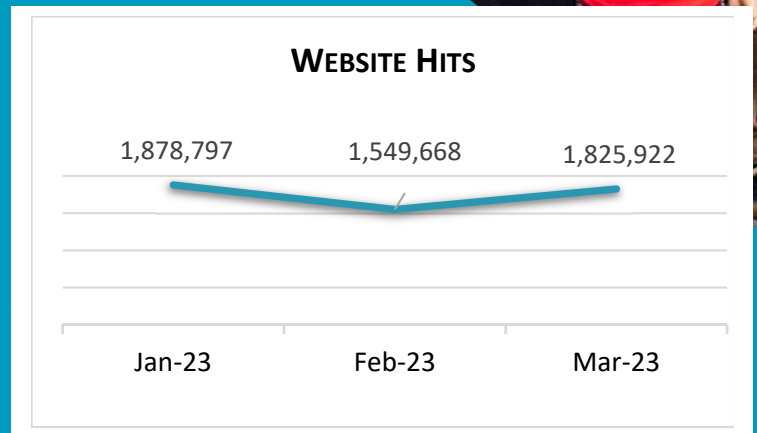
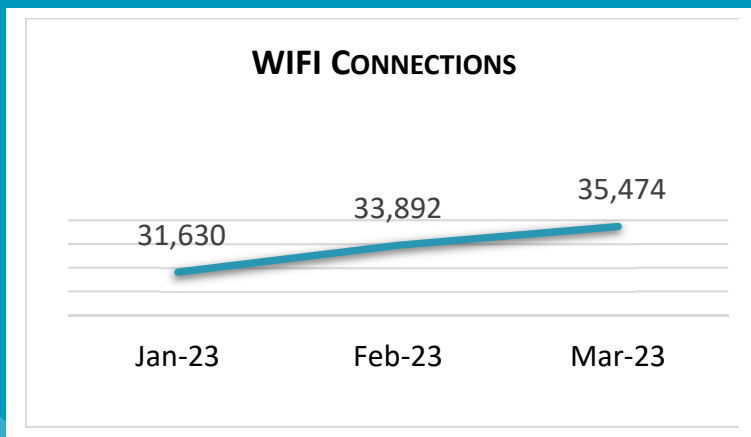
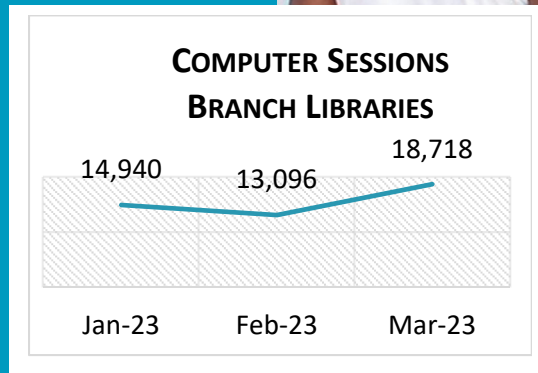
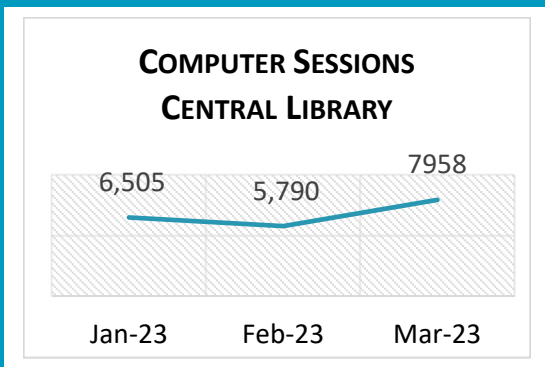
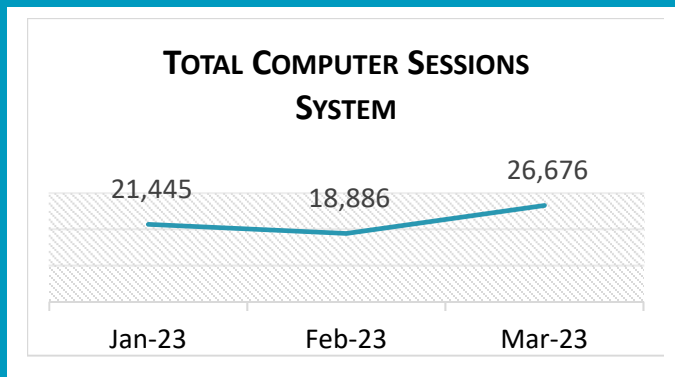
Together with sales, ARR diverted about 28,824 Lbs (14.41 tons) of materials from the landfill.



# Desk & Express Check Outs

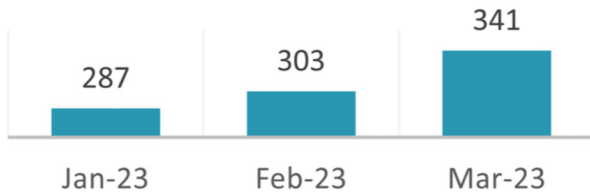


# Technology



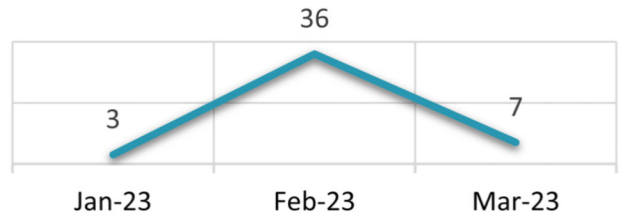
# Programs

## TOTAL IN-PERSON PROGRAMS



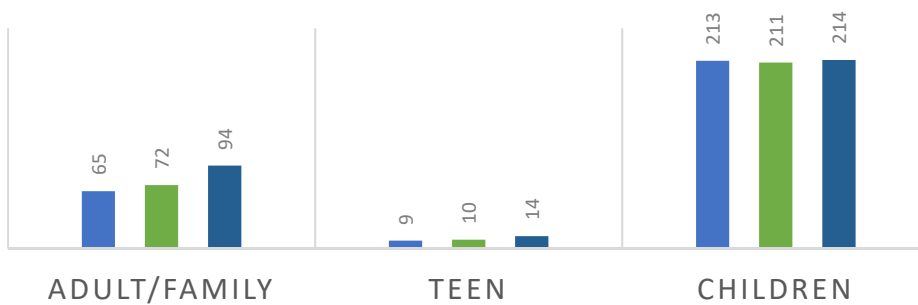
*Does not include Outreach, Unadvertised, or Self-directed.*

## COMMUNITY SERIES OUTREACH EVENTS (includes Bookmobile)



## IN-PERSON PROGRAMS BY AUDIENCE

■ Jan-23 ■ Feb-23 ■ Mar-23



Hours

1,214

Active  
Volunteers

160

Donated  
Value

\$32,086

# Volunteers



## APL VOLUNTEERS

■ Active Volunteers ■ Hours — Salary Value

