

**AUSTIN
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**



APL Public Programming Highlights & Facilities Updates

Hannah Terrell, Interim Director

July 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

[Carver Library Hosts Austin African American Book Festival](#)

The Austin African American Book Festival (AAABF) returned to the Carver Library and Museum on Saturday, June 28, celebrating Black literature, history, and culture. This year's theme, "Our Stories, Our Voices," emphasized the importance of honoring and amplifying African American narratives. Festival highlights included a conversation between best-selling author Walter Mosley and Paul Coates, as well as a presentation by historian Peniel Joseph on his upcoming book, *Freedom Season*. Austin's Poet Laureate, Zell Miller III, performed original work, and the Carver Library hosted an engaging children's program featuring story time, crafts, and readings led by author Alice Faye Duncan.



[Nature Smart Libraries Initiative Earns Grant and National Spotlight](#)

Austin Public Library's Nature Smart Libraries initiative continues to serve as a model for integrating literacy, environmental stewardship, and community engagement. In June 2025, APL received a \$75,000 Special Projects Grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to support new StoryWalk® installations, multilingual and sensory-inclusive programming kits, staff training, and systemwide nature programming. The initiative was also featured as a national case study in *Nature-Smart Libraries: A Toolkit* by the Children & Nature Network and highlighted in *Library Journal's* July 2025 article on innovative partnerships between libraries and parks.

[Literature Live! Presents: Wild and Wacky Weather](#)

This summer, Literature Live launched *Wild and Wacky Weather*, a playful puppet show exploring Texas's famously unpredictable climate. Through three imaginative stories, each told in a different puppetry style, audiences are taken on a journey filled with sunny songs, windy whimsy, and frigid folly. Recommended for ages 3 and up, the show began its run on June 9 and continues through July 24, traveling to library branches across the city.

[APL Awarded \\$15K from Austin Community Foundation's Forever Austin Fund](#)

The Forever Austin Fund is a permanent community resource that enables investment in Austin's most pressing needs and greatest opportunities. The Forever Austin Fund supports the giving of a collection of field-of-interest funds, unrestricted funds, and donor advised funds. Austin Public Library, specifically Austin History Center, was recently awarded \$15,000. This grant will fund a project in partnership with Austin History Center Association for "Creating Community: A Digital Twin of Historic Austin," which aims to develop 3D historical models and related technologies.

Special Events Updates

In June 2025, Central Library Event Services hosted 18 events, including 13 rentals, 5 co-sponsorships, and 1 film/photography request, with an estimated attendance of 2,670 (excluding the Kids Block Party). Event Coordinators also supported the June 7 Kids Block Party through pre-planning, vendor coordination, and day-of logistics. Co-sponsorships included events with the Economic Development Department, Impact Austin, the Library Foundation, the City Manager's Office, and the Austin History Center Association. City-hosted events featured the Youth Initiatives Intern Orientation, the Transportation Department's Lighting Plan Open House, and the City Manager's Executive Workshop.

City Council Action

There are no items scheduled for the upcoming Austin City Council meeting that would have a direct impact on Austin Public Library's operations.

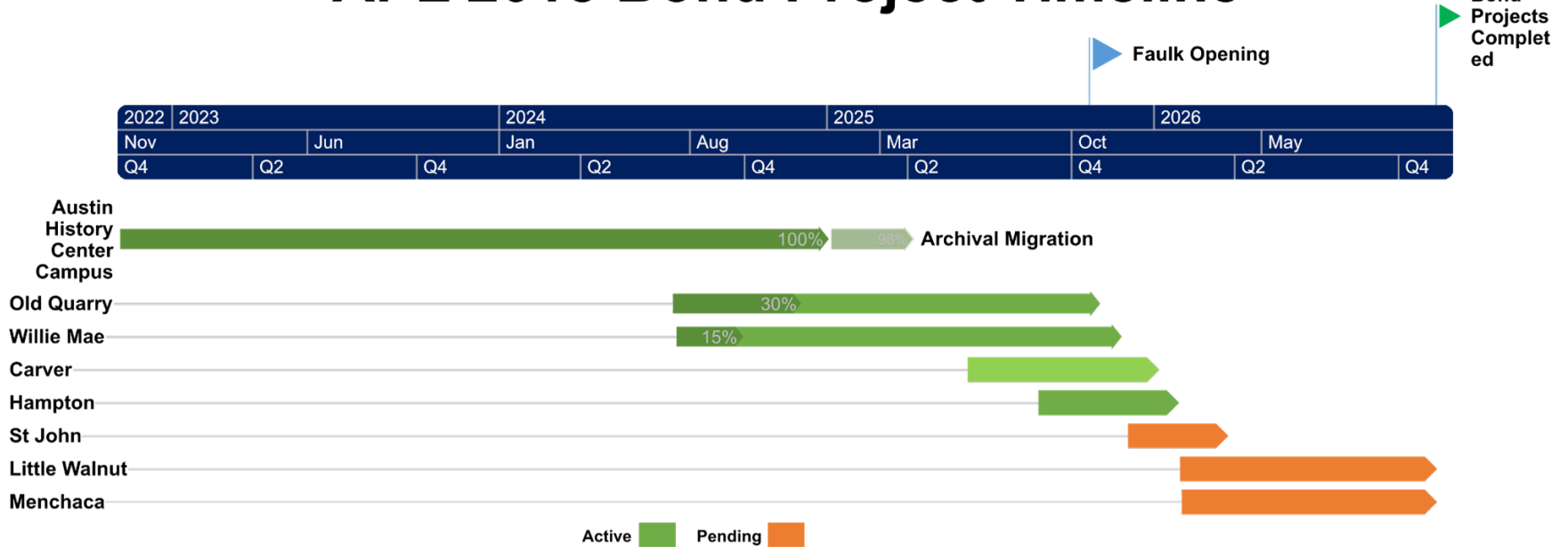
Legislative Bills

Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation on July 9, 2025, calling a Special Session of the Texas Legislature that begins at 12:00 PM on Monday, July 21. The governor listed 18 agenda items for consideration during the Special Session, and while none of the listed agenda items touch on issue areas that APL specifically had been tracking for impact on libraries, the governor can add agenda items to his call. APL staff will continue to work with the Austin Intergovernmental Relations Office (IGRO) on tracking and analyzing any bills that would impact the library.

Budget & Expenditures

APL Finance	Fiscal Year 2025 (10/1/2024 - 09/30/2025)
Total Budget	\$ 76,501,074
Materials Budget	\$ 7,208,572
FTEs	464.55
Year to Date (General Fund) Expenditures, as of 6/30/25	\$ 56,811,150
Year to Date Revenues, as of 6/30/25	
Non-Resident Library Card Fee	\$ 151,521
Passport Services	\$ 491,283
Parking	\$ 347,397
Gift Shop	\$ 282,164
Facility Rentals	\$ 414,532
Donations, including Recycled Reads	\$ 337,472

APL 2018 Bond Project Timeline



2026 Bond

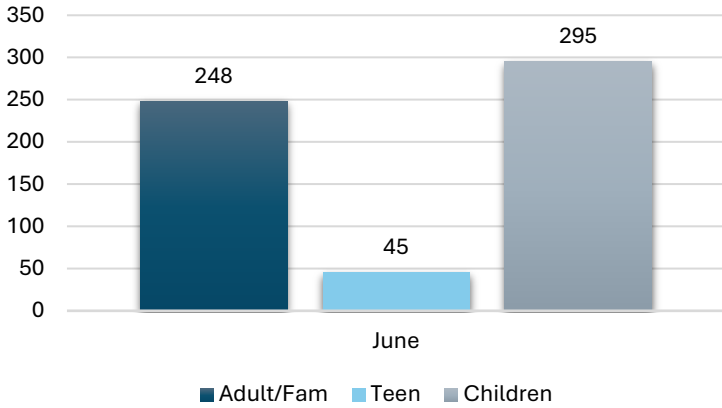
The Austin Public Library 2026 Bond Development aims to enhance communities by positioning libraries as key hubs for education and resources. The initiative will focus on expanding access, improving facilities, and integrating sustainable practices to support the city's growth, ensuring equitable opportunities for learning, health, and cultural engagement.

The Library Commission will review and provide input as part of the public engagement planned for this fall, which will incorporate community feedback gathered through surveys, events, and outreach efforts.

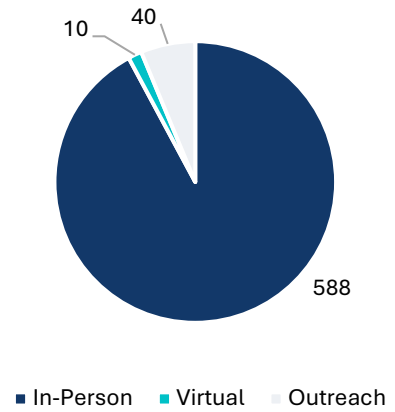
APL Data & Numbers

(as of June 30)

Programs by Audience



Program Type



PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

25,730



VISITORS

233,285



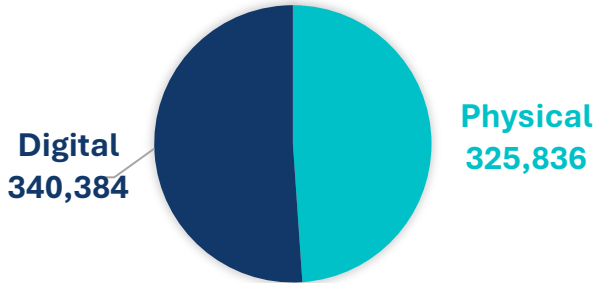
ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS

181

APL Data & Numbers

(as of June 30)

Circulation Type

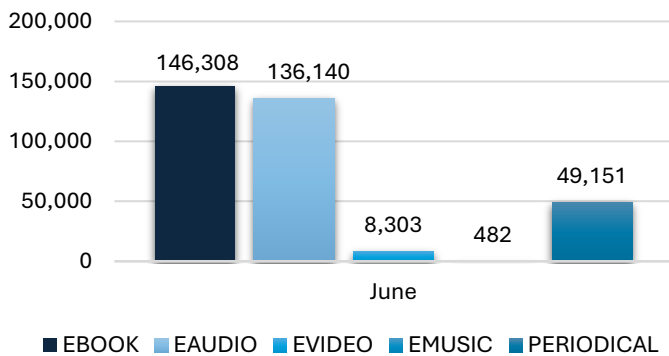


CARDHOLDERS

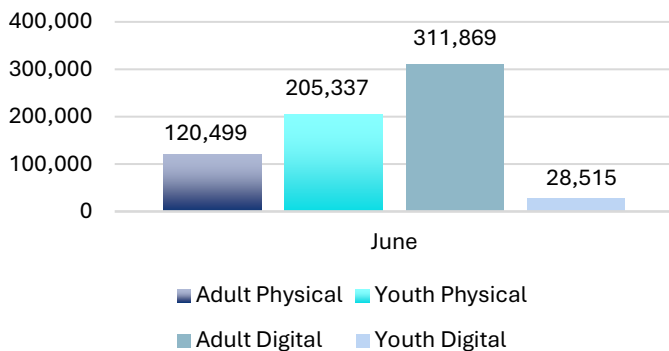
357,651 (Active)

4,954 (New)

Digital Circulation



Circulation Audience



DIGITAL ACCESS

39,061

(Wi-Fi Connections)

29,724

(Computer Sessions)