Austin Public Library Centennial Campaign Update

Austin Library Commission Meeting | Sept. 28, 2026

Baylor Johnson, Public Information and Marketing Program Manager

Agenda:

1. Centennial Events and Programming Updates

2. Centennial Honorary Sculpture at Central Library Updates

3. Centennial Library Card Art Contest

3. Centennial Partnership Updates

4. Recognition and Civic Milestones

5. Q&A and Discussion

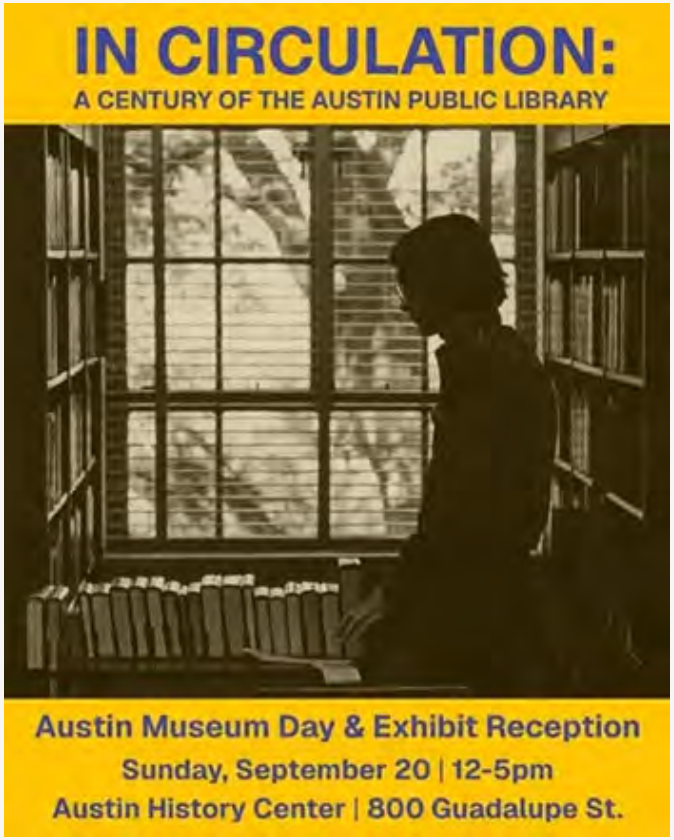


Centennial Events and Programming Updates

In Circulation: A Century of the Austin Public Library

Exhibit at the Austin History Center

- Opened to the public with a free public reception on Sunday, September 20.
- Hundreds of attendees explored exhibit with archival objects and artifacts telling the 100-year story of Austin Public Library from its founding to today.
- Reception also included artists, a screenprinting station, collage crafts, food, tours of the Austin History Center archives, and Black Austin Tours through Historic Block 101.



Centennial Events and Programming Updates

Centennial Party at Central

- Celebration from October 17, from 10 AM – 5 PM
- Opening Ceremony at 9 AM in Shoal Creek Amphitheater
- Austin PBS Family Fest 10 AM – 1 PM
- KUT News' ATXplained Project 4 PM – 5 PM
- Live Music throughout the day
- Live Cooking Demonstration by Chef Jess of L'oca d'Oro
- Poetry Readings from Austin Poet Laureate Zell Miller III
- Drop-In Collage activity with Austin History Center



Centennial Events and Programming Updates



Centennial Party at Central, continued

- Type-In with Austin Typewriter Ink
- Printing Press Posters with Austin Book Arts Center
- Digital Illustration with APL Innovate
- Seed Gathering
- Birthday Crown Decorating
- Teen Zine Making
- “Adventure Book” prize pick-up
- AND MORE!
- Full details at **library.austintexas.gov/100party**

Honorary Sculpture at Central Library

Sponsored by The Library Foundation and designed and fabricated by Design Austin.

Goals:

- Celebrate 100 years of Austin Public Library in a variety of ways to look toward the next century.
- Tell APL's story and clearly showcase the Library's value to the public.
- Invite the public to collectively reflect and share what they value about APL.

Small group of staff developed Creative Touchstones to drive the design process:

- Inspiring All to Discover Learn and Create
- Reflect APL's story
- Not just past; future too
- Celebrating Human-Made Culture
- Layers of Storytelling
- From the personal to the Citywide
- Truly, Uniquely Austin
- Worldwide Inspiration

Design Austin hosted two Design Workshops, one for the public and one for APL staff to develop creative ideas to be integrated into the project.

Honorary Sculpture at Central Library



Artist’s rendering, proposed sculpture along Shoal Creek path in front of Central Library

Centennial Library Card Art Contest

Austin Public Library invited the community to help shape the next chapter of its story through the **Centennial Library Card Art Contest**, a public art initiative celebrating the library's 100th anniversary.

The public was invited to submit artworks to be printed on Centennial-themed library cards issued by APL starting in September for National Library Card Sign-Up Month.

Themes were created for three age groups:

- **Children (0–12):** "The Library's 100th Birthday Party"
- **Teens (13–17):** "Austin Public Library's Next Century"
- **Adults (18+):** "Inspiring All to Discover, Learn, and Create"

Hundreds of designs were submitted.

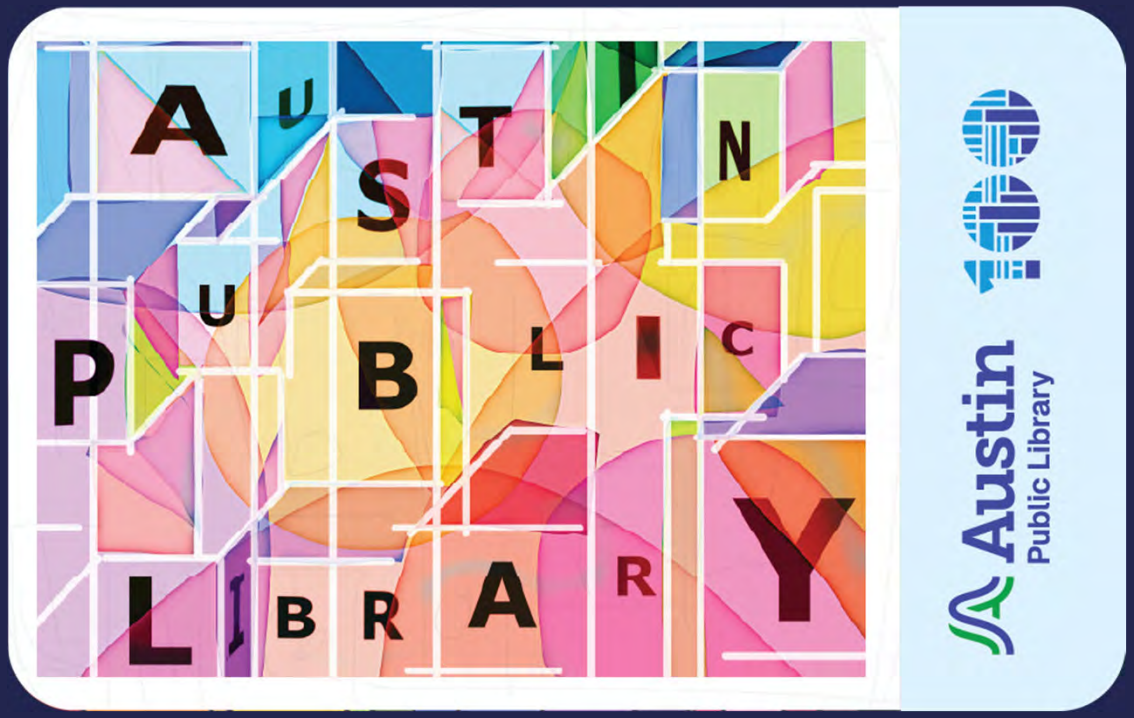
Over **10,000 votes** were cast online to determine the winners.

Centennial Library Card Art Contest



Winning Children's Card, designed by Ishana Jain

Centennial Library Card Art Contest



Winning Teens Card, designed by Yaretzi Nicole Cruz Santiago

Centennial Library Card Art Contest



Winning Adults Card, designed by Lyle Lewis

Centennial Partnership Updates

- Austin History Center partnership with Flora Coffee on signature single-origin coffee
- Library Foundation partnership with Austin Beerworks on “CentenniaALE”
  - Tasting and celebration at ABW Taproom, June 24
- KAZI afternoon drive-time radio broadcast from Central Library, June 15







Recognition and Civic Milestones

Central Library recognized in Time Magazine's "Portrait of America in 25 Buildings and Monuments"

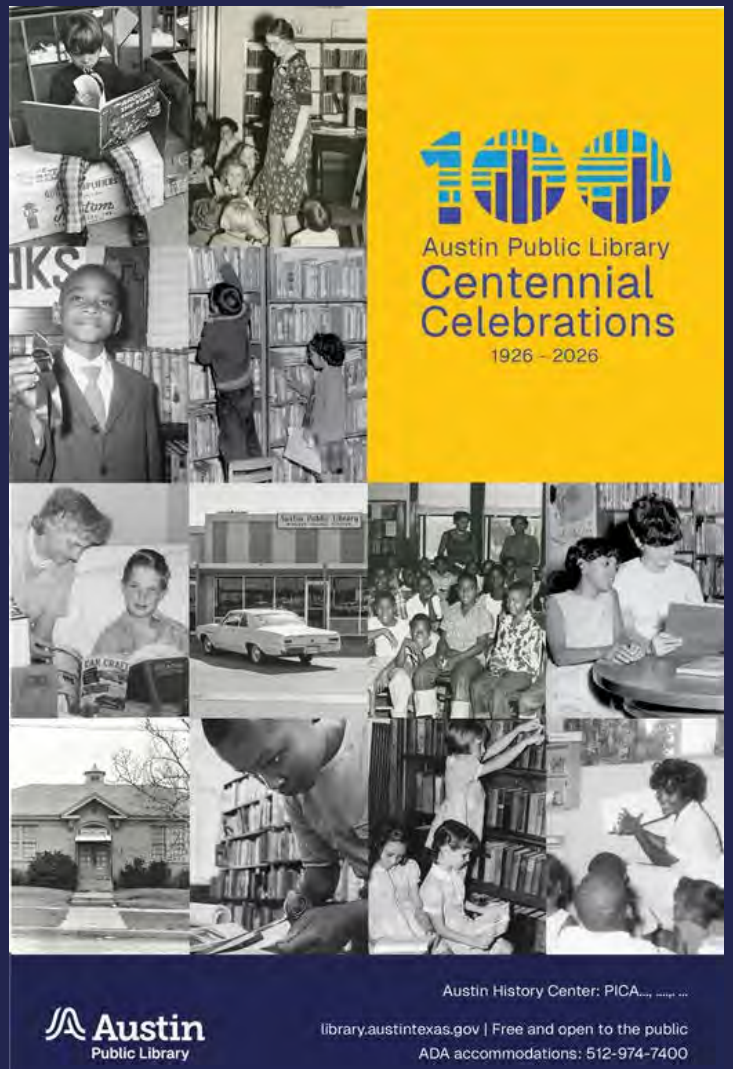
- List created as part of the America 250 celebrations
- Refers to Austin Central Library as "a palace for the people" and "a model of the social infrastructure that Americans want and deserve"



"Book Safe Harbor" City Council Resolution

- Resolution signifies "the City's commitment to safeguarding equitable access to library materials, protecting the community's freedom to read."





Austin

Q&A and Discussion