Highlights & Updates Report

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Austin Public Library

October 2026

Public Services Highlights



CABAM! Con

CABAM Con brought comics, anime, books, art, movies, and more together for APL's first-ever con-style takeover of the Central Library. Fans of all ages dove into cosplay swaps, creative challenges, anime dubbing, trivia, and photo ops, while enjoying pop-ups from local comic and book sellers, artists, and performers. With hands-on activities ranging from ATXLUG builds to Innovation Lab experiences, the day celebrated every kind of fandom under one roof. It was a full-on adventure of D&D, favorite-character cosplay, and community connection—creating a joyful con experience for all.



Hispanic Heritage Month



APL celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a vibrant lineup of programs that honored tradition, storytelling, and cultural pride. Families enjoyed bilingual storytimes rooted in Hispanic heritage, lively Lucha Libre mask-making workshops, heartfelt Peruvian dance performances that shared the rhythms, history, and heart of Peru, and so much more. The month culminated in a joyful community celebration at the Southeast Library, featuring folklórico dance, Latin American music, hands-on activities, and food, showcasing the rich cultural threads that shape Austin.

Film Strip Club Gets KUT Feature

The Howson Branch's Film Strip Club earned a recent feature on KUT, highlighting its unique 16mm direct-animation workshops. Each month, participants get hands-on with analog film—painting, scratching, and transforming strips into vibrant, experimental shorts. The program invites Austinites to explore a nearly lost art form and even digitize their creations through APL's partnership with the Texas Archive of the Moving Image. It's a standout example of how APL continues to ignite creativity in unexpected and inspired ways.

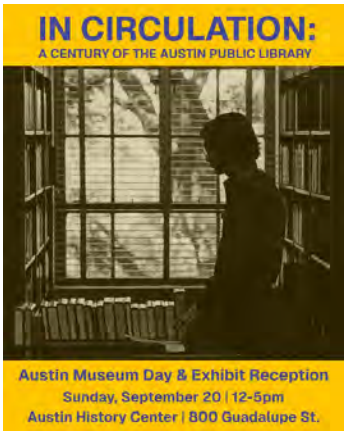


Centennial Planning Updates

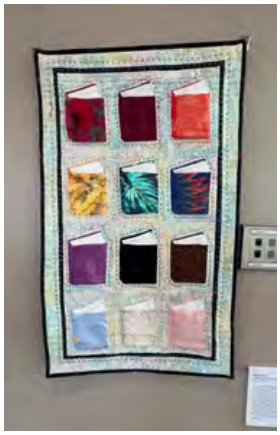
Austin Public Library's Centennial has unfolded as a citywide reflection on history, creativity, and community. At the Austin History Center, *In Circulation: A Century of the Austin Public Library*, an expansive exhibit tracing APL's evolution from a modest reading room into an essential civic institution, debuted on Austin Museum Day. Visitors explored archival photographs, architectural milestones, and stories of advocacy and public service, while interactive programming brought Austin's past into vivid conversation with its present. At the Central Library, *Pages to Palettes* deepened the Centennial storytelling through art, which explores the powerful connection between visual art and the written word. It showcases staff-made works that reflect how literature continues to spark imagination and shape APL's community.

After much anticipation and in time for Library Card Sign-up Month, patrons can now pick up the new Centennial Library Cards featuring community-selected designs, fresh additions that place a piece of APL's 100-year story directly into the hands of the people who shaped it. Meanwhile, South Austin's Twin Oaks Branch marked its 70th birthday with music, cupcakes, crafts, retired staff, and a look back at seven decades of neighborhood service, echoing the local pride fueling the Centennial year.

That sense of shared celebration continues as invitations go out for the Centennial Party on October 17 at the Central Library. For 100 years, APL has been a place of learning, connection, and possibility, and the day's schedule reflects that legacy with cross-generational programming including family activities, live painting, music, poetry readings, workshops with the Austin History Center, and so much more. As APL prepares to welcome the city to this once-in-a-century gathering, the celebration stands both as a reflection on a remarkable past and an open invitation to help imagine what comes next.







Special Events Updates

In September 2026, Central Library Event Services hosted a total of 21 events, including 16 rentals, 5 co-sponsorships, plus 2 film/photography requests. Total estimated attendance of 3,416.

Co-sponsorship partners include:

- Library Foundation – In Conversation: Deb Olin Unferth & Mary Helen Specht on 9/9
- Austin Equity and Inclusion – Welcoming Week on 9/10
- Texas Book Festival – TBF Author Reveal on 9/16
- The New Philanthropists – A TNP Fireside Chat with Danielle Coke Balfour on 9/22
- Torch Literary Arts – A Gathering of Flames: Celebrating 20 Years of Torch Literary Arts on 9/25-9/26

COA Department events include:

Austin Equity and Inclusion – Welcoming Week on 9/10

Events breakdown:

Total Events	Rentals	Co-sponsorships	Film & Photography	Total Attendance
21	16	5	2	3,416

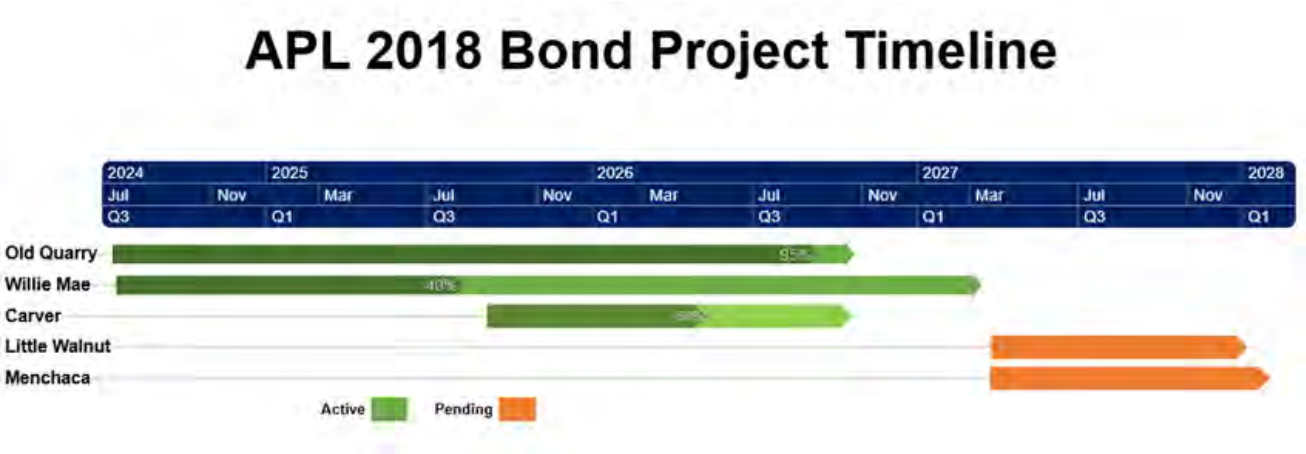
Budget and Expenditures

APL Finance	Fiscal Year 2026 (10/1/2025 - 09/30/2026)	
Total Budget	$	80,005,822
Materials Budget		
FTEs		462.55
Year to Date (General Fund) Expenditures, as of 09/30/2026	$	79,836,434
Year to Date Revenues, as of 09/30/2026		
Non-Resident Library Card Fee	$	320,872
Passport Services	$	569,572
Parking	$	527,038
Gift Shop	$	426,800
NCL Café Tenant	$	199,992
Facility Rentals	$	355,372
Donations, including Recycled Reads	$	184,539

Facilities Services Updates



APL Facility Services



2026 Bond

The Austin Public Library's 2026 Bond Development initiative aims to strengthen communities by positioning libraries as central hubs for education, resources, and connection. The program focuses on expanding access, enhancing facilities, and integrating sustainable practices to meet the city's growth—ensuring equitable opportunities for learning, health, and cultural engagement.

Austin voters will consider a 2026 bond measure that would fund a $20 million expansion of the Oak Hill Branch Library and invest $15 million in Phase 1 for a future Colony Park Branch Library.



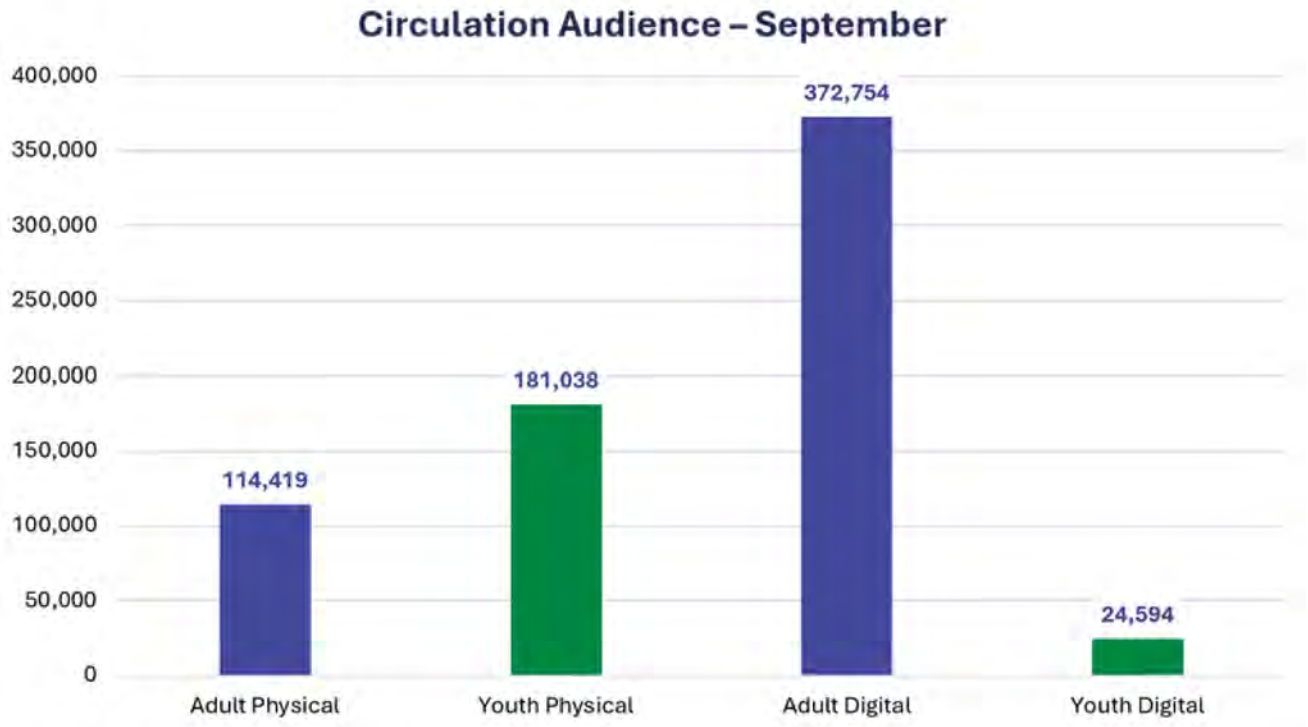


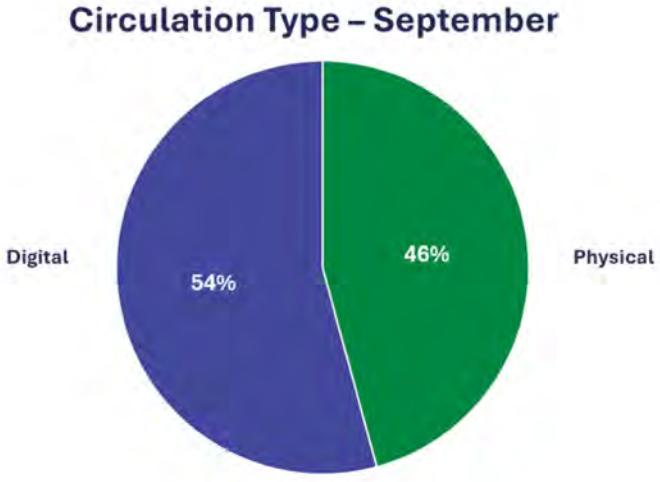
Data & Numbers



APL Data and Numbers

(as of September 30th)

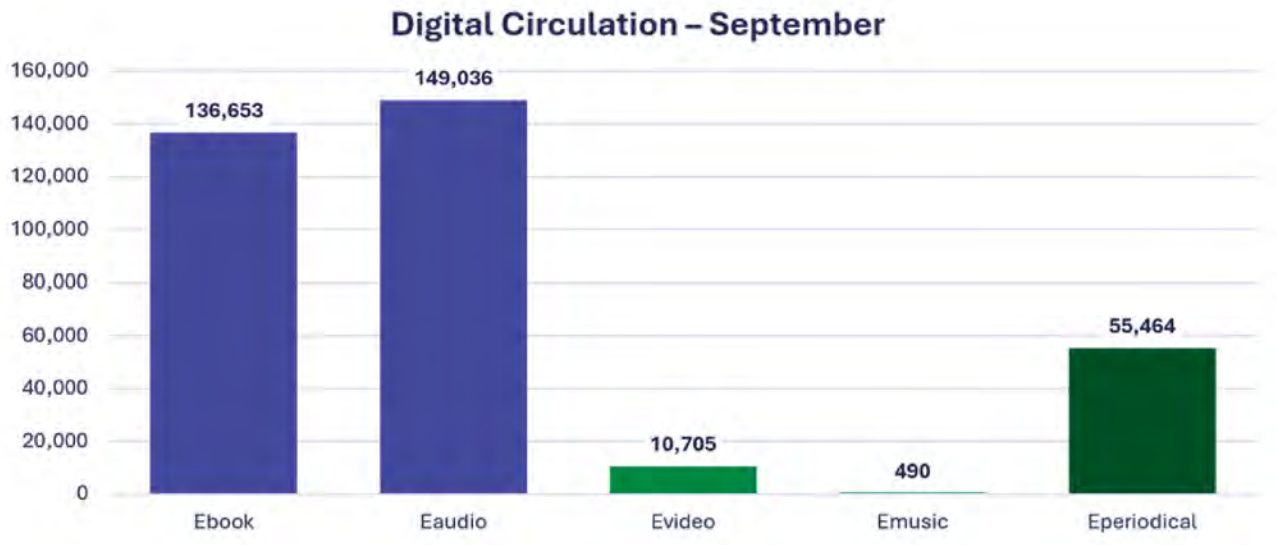




Cardholders

362,029
Active

4,277
New



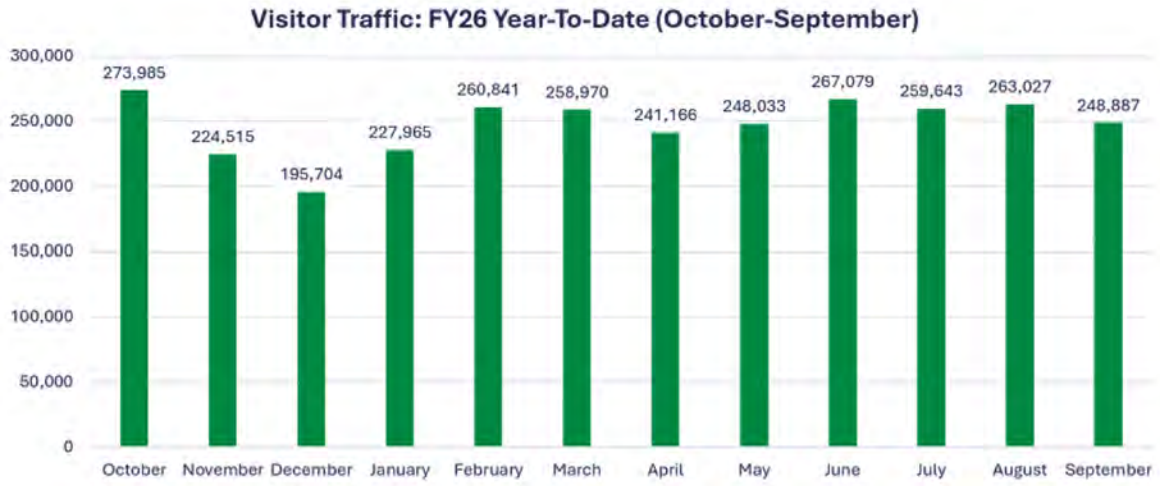
Digital Access

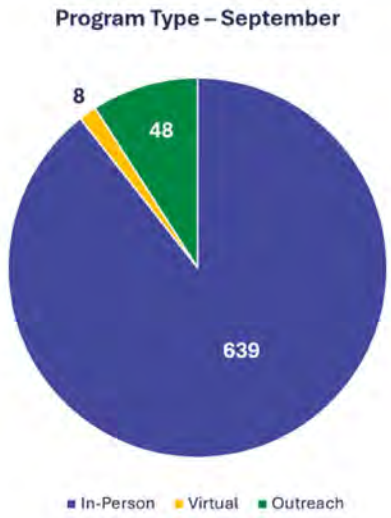
34,854
WiFi Connections

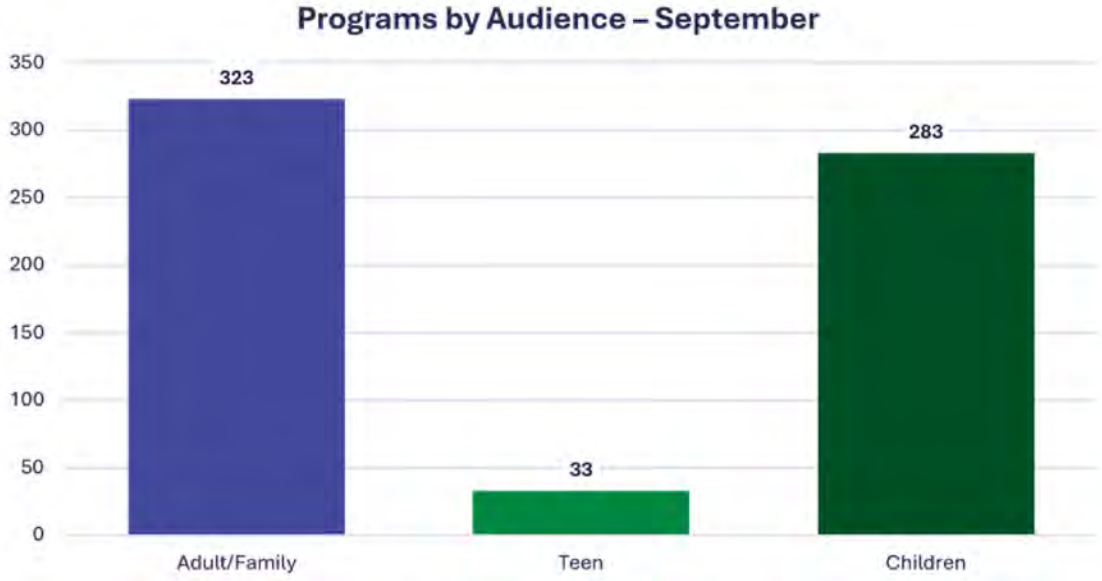
29,805
Computer Sessions






Visitor Traffic: FY26 Year-To-Date (October-September)
300,000
250,000
200,000
150,000
100,000
50,000
0
273,985
224,515
195,704
227,965
260,841
258,970
241,166
248,033
267,079
259,643
263,027
248,887
October
November
December
January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September


Program Type – September
8
48
639
In-Person
Virtual
Outreach


Programs by Audience – September
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
323
33
283
Adult/Family
Teen
Children

Program Participants

20,041

Visitors

248,887

Active Volunteers

191









