

A U S T I N P U B L I C L I B R A R Y

2014 FACT SHEET

HISTORY

On November 13, 1925, Grace Delano Clark persuaded the Austin Branch of the American Association of University Women to take on the project of establishing a library for Austin. On February 16, 1926, the Austin Public Library opened in a rented room at 819 Congress Ave. with 500 donated volumes. Grace Delano Clark served as the volunteer librarian. On December 23, 1926, the first Austin Public Library building, measuring 1,800 square feet, opened at West 9th St. and Guadalupe St. at a cost of \$4,190. It has since moved to become the first branch of the Library and the building is now part of the Carver Museum complex.

In 1933, a second 36,000 square-foot structure replaced the building at 9th St. and Guadalupe St. at a cost of \$145,000. The building currently serves as the Austin History Center. Miss Darthula Wilcox was appointed the first Library Director. In 1944, Mary Rice became the second Director, in 1967 David Earl Holt the third and, in 1991, Brenda Branch the fourth. In 1979, the current Central Library opened adjacent to the 1933 structure with 110,000 square feet at a cost of \$6 million. In 1995, the City Council voted to rename the Central Library after John Henry Faulk, a well-known Austin writer and humorist. In 2001 the Austin Public Library celebrated 75 years of service to the Austin community. On November 7, 2006, Austin voters overwhelmingly approved Bond Proposition 6 to build a New Central Library. On December 11, 2008, City Council selected Lake/Flato Architects and Shepley Bulfinch Richardson to design the new Central Library on the Seaholm Substation site, 704 W. Cesar Chavez St. The groundbreaking took place on May 30, 2013. The projected opening of the New Central Library will take place in 2016.

STATISTICS

- The Austin Public Library has 20 branches, the John Henry Faulk Central Library, the Austin History Center and Recycled Reads used bookstore.
- 497,527 people are registered card holders
- The collection is comprised of 1,480,479 items systemwide
- Customers visited the Austin Public Library 3,341,806 times last fiscal year and checked out a total of 5,138,390 items
- 17,114 volunteer hours were donated throughout the Library system in 2012/2013
- 35,984,062 virtual visits were made to Austin Public Library's website in 2012/2013

SERVICES

The Library supports its motto of "Lifelong Learning" by offering citizens the information and material necessary in a variety of formats to enable them to continue their learning experiences. In addition to books and magazines, services available through the Library include:

- Virtual Library: downloadables, ebooks Zinio online magazines, streaming video, digital audiobooks
- Audio books, CDs, MP3s, and DVDs
- Reference assistance at Faulk Central Library and Austin History Center
- Telephone Reference: (512) 974-7400
- Adaptive equipment for people with disabilities
- Tax forms accessible electronically at all locations and in paper format at some locations
- Online reference assistance: library.austintexas.gov/ask
- Computer training centers at Faulk Central Library and Little Walnut Creek and Ruiz Branches
- Computer and Job Search Center at Carver Branch
- Public Internet computers and wireless Internet access at every Library location during open hours
- Youth programming (puppet shows, storytimes, summer reading programs)
- Brainfuse online and chat homework assistance.
- VICTORY homework centers: Carver, Cepeda, Little Walnut Creek, Ruiz, Southeast, Twin Oaks and University Hills Branches
- Reference databases (searchable databases ranging in topics from the arts to science and technology)
- Book clubs for teens and adults
- Adult programming: film screenings, language practice and discussion groups
- Laptop computers available for check-out at Carver Branch, Ruiz Branch and 9 Connected Youth Teen Centers
- Large type books
- Magazine exchange tables at many locations
- Online reserves and renewals
- Interlibrary Loan
- Free meeting rooms for not-for-profit organizations
- Local history research collection and archives
- Reproduction of historical photos

SERVICES continued...

- New Immigrants Centers: Little Walnut Creek, Cepeda, Ruiz, St. John, Southeast Community, Terrazas and University Hills Branches
- World language collections
- Library tours: (512) 974-7400
- Ongoing Book Sales at most locations
- Everything Austin: selected links to key Austin

topics

- Austin Treasures: online exhibits of historical Austin topics
- Public scanner at Faulk Central Library
- Recycled Reads: the Library's Used Bookstore, 5335 Burnet Rd. (512) 323-5123
- Express Check Out machines at Faulk Central and five branch locations

SUPPORT GROUPS/LIBRARY COMMISSION

- The Austin Public Library Friends Foundation raises funds from individuals, community groups, foundations, and corporations to support Library programs that would otherwise be out of reach. Recent successes include the Buy One for the Library campaign, the Storytime outreach program, and the Michael & Susan Dell Connected Youth Centers.
- The Austin History Center Association is the citizen's support organization for the Austin History Center.
- The Library Commission is an advisory board appointed by the City Council. The Library Commissioners advise City Council on matters relating to the Library.

AWARDS

- 1993** Library Journal recognizes Austin Public Library as the second National Library of the Year.
- 1994** Texas Library Association Project of the Year for "Pepe's Magic Tales" Saturday morning television show about books, a joint venture between KVUE-TV, Fiesta, and the Austin Public Library.
- 1994** VICTORY Program is recognized by the American Library Association as one of 50 outstanding programs for youth in schools and public libraries in the U.S.
- 1995** Texas Library Association Project of the Year for VICTORY Program, an after-school tutoring program using VISTA volunteers.
- 1999** VICTORY Program Finalist for Governor's Volunteer Awards.
- 2000** Highsmith, Hotho, and Mora Awards for Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros Program.
- 2000** L. Percy Award for Web Page design.
- 2000** Giant Step Award for Youth Star Card outreach.
- 2003** Wired for Youth selected by YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) as an Excellence in Library service to Young Adults Project.
- 2004** Texas Library Association Project of the Year for "The Blue Bellies are in Austin: Readings from the Travis County Slave Narratives"
- 2005** Texas Library Association Hotho Award for Second Chance Books: Gardner Betts Outreach Program
- 2006** Texas Library Association Project of the Year Award for Second Chance Books: Gardner Betts Outreach Program
- 2006** Texas Library Association Public Relations Branding Iron Award for "Best Outdoor Advertising," and "Best Broadcast Advertising."
- 2009** Texas Library Association Public Relations Branding Iron Award for "Best Outdoor Advertising," and "Best Collateral Materials."
- 2010** The Twin Oaks Library won a First Place Commercial Interior Design Award for Sustainable Design.
- 2010** Branding Iron Award for Best Outdoor Advertising
- 2011** YomiCon, the Austin Public Library's annual manga and anime convention for teens and tweens, won the 2011 Wayne Williams Library Project of the Year Award.
- 2011** TLA Branding Iron awards for Best Print and Outdoor Advertising
- 2012** TLA Branding Iron awards for Best Print Media and Best Non-Traditional Media
- 2013** TLA Branding Iron Awards for Best Print Media and Non-Traditional Media



AUSTIN PUBLIC
LIBRARY

(512) 974-7400
library.austintexas.gov

