



**Austin Public Library
Director's Report
December 2014**

More Than Books

Highlights

- AHCA's annual Angelina Eberly Luncheon will be January 23, 2015, at noon, at the Driskill Hotel. The luncheon will feature a panel discussion of "renovators" of historic downtown Austin, who will share first-hand what it was like to rescue properties nearly lost to demolition, neglect and arson.
- The Milwood Branch renovation is anticipated to begin February 2015.
- January 14, 6:30 PM, AHC Opening Reception for "Divided City: Civil War & Reconstruction in Austin."

Facilities Services

New Central Library Project: Concrete is currently being placed on the fourth level of the New Central Library building. Other ongoing work includes but is not limited to creek work, vertical formwork, decking, shoring, rebar installation and asbestos abatement of materials previously abandoned in place at the screen wall site. The design of the screening wall to surround Austin Energy's substation just north of the New Central Library includes art components to ensure that the substation is screened in a way that will enhance this high profile area of the city. On November 20, 2014, the Austin City Council approved a funding increase of \$2.85 million for the Seaholm Substation Art Wall Project to construct the full scope of the wall project, integrating this screen wall into the overall Seaholm development by building all four walls with lighting, benches and other aesthetic features in addition to the safety and security elements required due to the proximity of the wall to the critical Austin Energy substation. Another Council action taking effect on December 1st and affecting the New Central Library Project was the passage of an ordinance allowing contractors to deliver and place concrete in the downtown Public (P) zoning district between the non-peak hours of 7:00 PM and 6:00 AM in special circumstances of short duration. This development was of critical importance for the progress of our project as restricted access to our site requires concrete pump trucks to park in the right-of-way in West Avenue and the Fire Department would not allow us to block access along West Avenue during daytime hours. Finally, Austin was host for the National League of Cities 2014 Congress of Cities and Exposition, which took place November 19th through November 22nd at the Austin Convention Center. This is one of the premier local government conferences held in the US each year, and it provided a unique forum to demonstrate to more than 5,000 public officials from across the country how Austin has been driving change and finding successful solutions to the most pressing challenges in local government. On Thursday, November 20th, the New Central Library Project was the focus of the Sustainable Downtown Workshop and Panel Discussion at this prestigious event. The project schedule for the New Central Library remains as follows:

- ~ August 2013 ~ Site Development Permit received
- ~ August 2013 ~ Construction Begins
- ~ February 2014 ~ Garage Building Permit received

- ~ October 2014 ~ Complete Building Permit received
- ~ Spring 2016 ~ Building Construction completed
- ~ November 2016 ~ Grand Opening Ceremony

Milwood Branch Library Renovation Project: A design review meeting with the community was held at the Milwood Branch on the evening of Wednesday, November 19th, from 6:30 until 8:30. The Library Department shared an updated timeline for the project and discussed with attendees the logistics of maintaining a "pocket library" in the Milwood Branch Library meeting room while renovation construction was in progress in the rest of the building. There was a strong desire on the part of the community that this interim library outlet, equipped with a children's early reader section, be provided in the area to allow for reserves to be picked up as well as the return of library materials. The conclusions drawn during this second Milwood area community meeting will be posted on the Library Department's website. In other project developments, the 65% complete construction drawing sets submitted by the architectural consultant team of Stanley-Salaiz Joint Venture were reviewed by the Quality Standards Management Division (QSMD) of the Public Works Department and returned with comments on November 5th. These comments have been reviewed and incorporated into the 95% complete construction documents for QSMD. An audit of the complete Milwood Branch Library site to determine Americans with Disabilities/Texas Accessibility Standards was performed by a Registered Accessibility Specialist (RAS), as recommended in the QSMD 65% review. APL will insure that access to the Milwood facility is compliant to the new 2012 Americans with Disabilities standards. 90% complete renovation plans have just been delivered for the QSMD review and comment process and this process will be repeated for the 100% complete construction drawings. Utilization of the City of Austin Job Order Contract (AJOC) is being considered as the construction delivery method for this limited scope project, as the AJOC bidding and negotiation process is typically much shorter than an open bid process. This strategy will allow for the shortest closure of the facility for renovation work as is possible. At this time, the Milwood Branch Library is anticipated to close on February 1, 2015 so that it can be remodeled and repaired. The meeting room will first be converted into a "pocket library" so that it can open on March 16th offering abbreviated library services. The renovated Milwood Branch Library is anticipated to reopen in December 2015.

The University Hills Branch Library Parking Lot Expansion Project: On November 3rd, the Watershed Protection Department (WSPD) sent staff to determine the condition of the storm sewer pipe in the drainage easement running through the property identified for the expansion of the University Hills Library parking lot. There has been concern about the condition of this storm sewer since it has been in place throughout the length of the easement since 1969. However, WSPD was unable to access the

storm sewer from either the inlet (the upstream surface connection where run-off water enters the drainage pipe) or the outlet (the point at which rainwater is released). WSPD may need to construct a manhole access point in order to assess the condition of the storm sewer, which will then be left in place for future inspection needs. A request for further study has been submitted, but the proposed manhole will not impact the layout of the parking lot expansion plans now in design.

Zaragoza Warehouse Fire Sprinkler Upgrade Project:

The Library Department has reviewed and accepted the proposal from Stanley Consultants to conduct a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the project. The project's consultant engineers are now authorized to move forward and complete the PER for this important retrofit of life/safety equipment. The project's Kickoff Meeting was conducted on December 9th at 10:00 AM with the consultant engineers and Zaragoza Warehouse managers and supervisors in attendance.

Renovation of the Will Hampton Branch Library at Oak Hill Project:

Hatch +Ulland Owen Architects are finalizing their proposal to perform the design and construction management work required by the project. A process of public outreach will be initiated to inform and engage the community regarding the upcoming infrastructure renewal project at their branch library once the architects are under contract.

Austin History Center Interior and Exterior

Improvements Project: In current Fiscal Year 2014-15, the Library Department received an appropriation to initiate design on this 2012 Bond Program project. In anticipation of this funding, a request from the Library Department was submitted on July 31, 2014 to the Contract Management Division (CMD) for the services of a rotation list consultant architect specializing in historical preservation. Rotation list contracts allow the City of Austin to consistently have a group of qualified consultants available to perform a specific type of recurring work, as well as expedite the selection of the consultants to meet the project needs of the various City departments. Unfortunately, the spending authority was exhausted for the professional services agreements under the 2014 architectural rotation list. Council authorization was required by CMD to negotiate and execute a 2015 rotation list for professional architects, and on October 16th, Council approved of this new rotation list. The Library Department has been informed by CMD that the formal process of executing contracts for the eight (8) architects selected for the 2015 rotation list will take approximately 45 days. An architect assignment for the Austin History Center project is anticipated during December, whereupon specific program requirements will be developed along with a contract proposal for review and approval by the Library Facilities Services project manager. The infrastructure upgrades planned for the Austin History Center include wheel chair lift retrofits, lead-based paint abatement, replacement of worn finishes, a select lighting retrofit and renovation of exteriors to redress structural and aesthetic concerns. The work of the project will, essentially, be comprised of miscellaneous improvements to the historic, three-storied building. Improvements are anticipated to include HVAC and electrical components,

life safety systems, minor demolition, salvaging of existing materials, miscellaneous new construction, signage and retrofit for ADA compliance, minor exterior work including replacement of landscaping, interior construction, patching and equipment retrofits. Interior work will likely impact partitions, ceilings, wall and floor finishes and toilet accessories. A grant application has been submitted to assist with the restoration of the highly regarded fresco painting on the ceiling of the loggia at the 9th Street entrance to the building. The grant application seeks a \$50,000 match from the Texas Historical Preservation Trust Fund, which is essentially half of the funds required to complete the restoration of the painting.

Austin History Center

Programming and Outreach

- On November 6, AHC manager Mike Miller gave a presentation to the Community College Humanities Association conference in Austin. He spoke about Austin's historic landmarks to a group of 45.
- On November 12, assistant manager Nancy Toombs gave a presentation to a Cub Scout troop, with 38 in attendance. She centered the talk on the Treaty Oak to show the different types of collections that the AHC has. The boys seem very engaged and responded enthusiastically to her questions. She plans to write this presentation up as a standard "canned" talk for school groups that anyone at the AHC could use, as needed.
- On November 18, the AHC hosted a program with local tour guide and author Howie Richey. Richey gave a presentation to an audience of 20 about local festivals and a reading from his new book, *Party Weird: Festivals and Fringe Gatherings of Austin*.

Collections

- AHC staff finished processing 5 collections, the Marlette Reborn Slide Collection, the Kuykendall Family Photograph Collection, the Jose Flores Papers, the Robert Leon and Viola Baker White Papers, and the Kent Hemingson Austin 2010 Records, and placed EAD encoded finding aids for the collections on the Internet at the TARO website. The finding aids are available online at: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html.
- The AHC received two collections donated by members of the Austin dance community – one collection came from the former director of the Austin Contemporary Ballet, Greg Easley, - programs, photographs, newspaper articles, correspondence documenting Austin Contemporary Ballet during the 1990s. The other collection came from the founder of Movin' Easy Dancewear Tim Hurst and includes posters and flyers for dance performances held in Austin by local dance companies from the 1980s to present day.

Exhibits

- The AHC opened a small, traveling exhibit at the John Henry Faulk Library on the 2nd Floor. "19th Century Mystique" is a small photo exhibit from the Jones Glass Plates collection. The exhibit is a series of portraits, some identified, from this late-19th century image collection. The AHC hopes to have this exhibit travel to interested branch locations.
- The AHC loaned items to the George Bush Presidential Library for joint exhibit with the Texas A&M Forest Service "History in the Making: Texas A&M Forest Service" (March 16 - November 8, 2015).

Publications

- Research was conducted at the AHC and photos from the AHC were purchased for use in an upcoming book on the history of the Headliner's Club, the book "Texas Chili Country" (Texas Tech UP), a KVUE news story on Austin snowstorms, and a mobile tour app from the Texas Historical Commission.

Upcoming Events

- January 14, 6:30 PM, AHC Opening Reception for "Divided City: Civil War & Reconstruction in Austin."
- AHCA's annual Angelina Eberly Luncheon will be on January 23, 2014, 11:30 AM, at the Driskill Hotel

Branch Services

Irma Flores-Manges, Cepeda (ACP) Branch Manager, shares an anecdote: *I helped a young man in a chair with Cerebral Palsy yesterday get a library card. He had all the info just could not fill out the form and I filled it out for him. We found the Judy Blume books he was looking for and he left elated. He needed to get to Travis Medical to get his wheelchair fixed and while I helped him find his books Curtricia Thompson got him the bus routes he needed to take to get to 38th street from ACP.*

North Village (ANV) reported a very large turnout for the November 4, Travis County/COA elections. The parking lot was nearly full by 9 AM with a steady pace throughout the day. Over 725 people voted. Kudos were given to APL Security Officer Robert Wilturner for his great job providing crowd control and assuring that everything went smoothly. Eighteen adults attended the monthly YA for Adults program, hosted by ANV staff member Cory Williams. They discussed *The Winner's Curse*, by Marie Rutkoski.

The Windsor Park Book Club November meeting had 11 readers discussing *Soldier Girls: The Battles Of Three Women At Home And At War* by Helen Thorpe. Community Cinema screened *Evolution of a Criminal* on November 4; there were 12 viewers.

Citizenship classes continued on Tuesdays in November at Little Walnut, with the fall session ending November 25th. A total of twelve students attended 3 Tuesday night sessions. The teacher agreed to continue offering the classes, and a new session will start on January 13th.

Youth Services

Youth Services created four episodes of Literature Live's puppet web series *The Shoemaker and the Elves*. Showings were held at various branches. The final program was at the Manchaca Branch and participants were able to view the entire series and also able to try out their own puppets on the stage, get behind-the-scenes insider puppet knowledge, create lovely seasonal crafts and get autographs from the puppets themselves. It was a successful series.

Youth Services' Literature Live team visited Crockett High School's musical theatre group to present a puppet lab to the students. The team provided instruction on making puppets and performance. The team will give three more workshops in January to help the students get ready for their production of Avenue Q!

Recycled Reads

November revenue for Recycled Reads was over \$10,400 and over 4,000 people visited the store. Donated materials were received from over 180 people, and over 120 people attended events.

More than twenty volunteers on average, donated over 180 hours of their time to the bookstore. Goodwill Industries picked up 32 pallets of discarded materials. Staff received 24 pallets of materials from the warehouse, branches and donations and sorted approximately 40 pallets of materials representing almost 55,000 items at the bookstore. Over 20 tons of materials were kept out of the landfill.

Staff crafted the table centerpieces purchased by the APL Friends Foundation for Illumine. Two pallets of new books were donated from the Austin American Statesman and the Buda Public Library sent a large donation of weeded books.

On November 19, the store hosted the National League of Cities Fashion Show and Luncheon. Forty City leaders from across the U.S., including Bob Gedert from Austin Resource Recovery, were amazed by APL's ingenuity and creativity. The event included an original song, Paper Dress, written for Recycled Reads by Joe Blanda who also performed.

Volunteer Services

November 2014 - STATISTICS

Number of Volunteers	240
November - Volunteer hours	1432.45
Volunteer Value*	\$22.55
	\$ 32,301.75

November Policy Violations

33	Theft of Library, staff, or customer property
17	Harassment of Library staff or customers (Not Sexual)
16	Disturbing others using the Library
15	Sleeping in the Library
11	Disorderly conduct
12	Using obscene language
10	Blocking access to Library entrances, passageways or resources
8	Leaving personal belongings unattended
7	Smoking in the Library
7	Mistreatment or vandalism of Library facilities, materials, or equipment
7	Using obscene language
5	Intoxication resulting from alcohol or drugs
5	No outside food or beverages allowed in the Library
4	Violating Internet Policy
4	Physically attack or threaten to attack another person
3	Bringing in bedrolls, blankets or sleeping bags.
3	Indecent exposure
3	Appropriate clothing is required
3	Blocking access to Library entrances, passageways or resources
2	Destruction of Library property
2	Entering unauthorized areas
2	Soliciting and panhandling

2	Public Lewdness
2	Strong Odor
1	Bringing animals into the Library
1	Voyeurism and peeping
1	Making bomb threats against Library property, or from Library property
168	Total

Locations # of Incidents

ACE	28
ATB	24
ATO	9
ALW	8
ARZ	8
ASR	7
ASE	6
AMR	5
ACP	4
AUH	4
AWK	4
AOK	3
APH	3
AWP	3
AHO	2
ASJ	2
AYB	2
AHC	1
ACB	1
AMI	1
AOQ	1

To see the complete up to date listing of events visit
<http://library.austintexas.gov/events>

Brenda Branch,
 Director of Libraries

