



## Talking Points | Recycled Reads

- > Austin Public Library's Recycled Reads program took the place of the Annual Book Sale in order to more efficiently handle library discards and library resources
  - Celebrated 5 Year Anniversary in February 2014
  - Powered by volunteers: Programming and organization, sale of books
    - o Groups from National Charity League, corporations, nonprofits such as Keep Austin Beautiful
  - Accepts donations from public and other organizations
    - o Between 150 and 200 donations from the Austin community per month
    - o Organizations that know we recycle (including area libraries) send us their ex-library material to ensure that it is responsibly recycled
  - Responsibly recycles/diverts books and media from any landfill
    - o With help from recycling partner, Goodwill of Central Texas, diverts 10 to 14 tons of material per month
  - Routes ex-library resources and donated material back into the Austin community by selling items at low, low prices (thus making it easy for a teacher to fill a classroom library with \$10, for example)
  
- > An unintended consequence was the creation of Recycled Reads as a hybrid library branch
  - Offers on-floor, makerspace type programming
    - o "Upcycle This," a craft night focusing on repurposing, has seen exponential growth in 15 months, Open-Mic poetry reading, creative writing classes
    - o Ongoing, self-paced repurposing crafting tables (book folding, origami, paper airplanes, homemade paper) that invite customers to engage with each other and the materials
  
  - Routes customers to other Austin Public Library services as well as other City of Austin recycling/waste management resources (Austin 311, Household Hazardous Waste Facility)



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