

# Austin Public Library Commission

## Director's Report

### July 28, 2008

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#### Highlighted Events

##### **Budget Schedule:**

July 23: Proposed budget was presented to City Council  
August 7, 21, and 28: Budget presentations and Public Hearings

September 8-10: Budget Readings

Highlights for APL Budget: 6% increase, includes a one day a week branch closing, savings from the closures will be reallocated back into the Library budget for increased security, and maintenance of facilities.

##### **Several Austin Public Library Branches will be closed this summer for all day Staff Training**

This summer six Austin Public Library Branches will be closed for all day Staff Training on safety and security in the work place. Training will assist all library staff with their daily job duties. The training is taking place across the entire library system and will end in August.

Summer closing:

The last branch to close this summer is:

Thursday, August 21, Milwood Branch

#### **FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION**

New Central Library Project: A Design Team Selection Committee, composed of City of Austin staff, is currently evaluating and scoring the Statements of Qualifications received on June 22, 2008 from design teams interested in being considered for the architectural/engineering consultant contract for this project. Each proposal received will be evaluated, providing that the proposal is first determined to be both responsive to the specifications of the Request For Qualifications issued and compliant with the requirements of the Minority and Woman-owned Business Enterprise Ordinance of the City of Austin. The evaluation matrix used to score the proposals is based upon but not limited to such criteria as the prime firm's design experience, the consultants' history and success with comparable projects, the design teams' experience with Austin issues, and the design teams' structure and project approach. From this evaluation, a short list of approximately five design teams will be selected and invited to participate in an interview process with the Selection Committee. For this phase, presentations led by the design team's architect and project manager are expected to address issues including 1) the team's prior experience, design philosophy and work plan for the design of the New Central Library; 2) traditional and multimedia presentation methods proposed for communicating the project design to the public, City staff and elected officials; and 3) past experience with community involvement during the design phase of services. Based upon

these presentations and interviews, the Selection Committee will designate up to three design teams to make presentations to the Austin City Council in a regularly scheduled meeting in October, 2008 that will include a question and answer period with the Council Members. Following the presentations to Council, the presentation materials will be made available at City Hall and the Faulk Central Library for public inspection and comment. The City Council action to select a design team for the award of contract will take place approximately two weeks after the presentations during a regularly scheduled meeting in November, 2008.

North Village Branch Library Replacement Project: The construction site for the new North Village Branch Library continues to be a veritable beehive of activities these days. Exterior stucco and interior plaster work are ongoing, while the roofing sub-contractor is in the process of completing the final roof panel installation and preparing to start installation of the exterior metal wall panels. The irregular surface of the Durisol block wall has admittedly complicated the flashing of windows and is expected to be a factor in the installation of the metal wall panels as well, but the design team is working closely with the contractors to mitigate the effects of this challenge on the project schedule. Meanwhile, the interior metal framing and installation of wood blocking to support book shelving is underway, as is the installation of the spiral mechanical duct. The electrical rough-in at the building interior remains in progress, but the site light pole bases and the ICF walls at the east mechanical yard have been erected and poured out. Regrettably, the contractor's job superintendent for this project was lost last week to another employment opportunity, but hopefully, an equally qualified replacement will be found in a timely manner. On Thursday, July 24, 2008, the Austin City Council will be asked to authorize the award and execution of a contract for the purchase of library shelving for the new North Village Branch in an amount not to exceed \$75,495. The necessary funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Budget of the Library Department. At the present time, it is believed that the established opening date of January 24, 2009 for the new North Village Branch Library remains possible to meet.

Twin Oaks Branch Library Replacement Project: The construction site for the new Twin Oaks Branch Library is only marginally less busy than the North Village Branch Library site, and the Library Facilities Services Division has consequently been occupied of late answering calls from nearby residents excited over the progress being made on their community library. The major cause for the excitement appears to be the substantial completion of steel structure erection, which gives onlookers a good idea of the volume of the building-to-be as well as an indication of its unique aesthetical appeal. In other project developments, the final testing reports are expected shortly for the concrete retaining wall at the North end of the parking lot while the driveway approaches to the site are now formed up, ready for inspection and subsequent pouring upon approval being received. Meanwhile, the repairs of the site's existing storm drain have been completed and the backfilling begun on the excavations made to enable those repairs. Unfortunately, as at the North Village site, the job superintendent for this project has been lost, in this instance

to medical problems, but the general contractor is presently seeking a replacement employee for this critical position, and Library Department remains confident that the new library can be constructed in time to open on August 8, 2008 as scheduled.

Faulk Central Library Automated Doors Retrofit Project: The schedule for this infrastructure renewal project has slipped a number of weeks due to the recent, fortunately temporary, loss of the project manager to a medical emergency as well as to unexpected employee turnover in the Financial Services Department, the funding authority for the work at hand. The revised project schedule now stands as follows:  
Monday, August 4, 2008 ~ Project Issued for Bid  
Wednesday, August 13, 2008 ~ Pre-Bid Meeting for Vendors  
Thursday, August 28, 2008 ~ Bid Opening  
Thursday, October 9, 2008 ~ Council Award of Contract  
Monday, November 24, 2008 ~ Notice To Contractor to Start Ordering Materials  
Monday, February 16, 2009 ~ Start Demolition/New Work at Faulk Central Library

Monday, March 30, 2009 ~

Substantial Completion Inspection  
Recycled Reads Bookstore Project: On Thursday, July 18, 2008, a pre-bid meeting was held with Library Facilities Services staff, the Library Department's architectural/engineering consultants and the property owner's construction manager to discuss the details of the value engineering performed to bring the project within budget. On Monday, July 21, 2008, revised construction documents were delivered to the construction manager so that the necessary bids for the work required might be gathered. The Library Department is now awaiting the results of the bidding process to see if the proposals can indeed be accommodated within the established budget, or if further modifications to the finish-out plans are necessary. By terms of the lease agreement, the owner has agreed to complete the finish-out work in a timely, good and workmanlike manner. To that end, the owner has already reroofed the facility and modified the parking lot to bring the designated handicapped spaces into compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Cepeda Music Garden Project: The consultant contract for design services required for the Cepeda Music Garden Project is currently being finalized between Cotera and Reed Architects and the Austin Public Library Foundation. Design work on this multi-phased project is anticipated to start as soon as the referenced contract is in place. By way of background, the Cepeda Music Garden Project is envisioned as a unique public art project intended to recognize East Austin's rich musical legacy. The project will not only serve the purpose of honoring important Latino and African-American musicians from that community but will greatly improve the aesthetic appeal of the entryway and grounds of the Cepeda Branch Library. The design of the project will be funded by the Austin Public Library Foundation from private contributions raised for this purpose, while actual construction will be funded by appropriations in the Library Department's Capital Improvement Budget.

Cesar Chavez Commemorative Art Project: The selected artist team of Arismendi/Garanzuay for the Cesar Chavez Memorial have further developed their proposal to install their artwork on the existing site of the information kiosk at the Terrazas Branch Library, while incorporating elements of the kiosk into the art piece. On July 11, 2008, the artist team studied the site

conditions at the Terrazas Branch Library in the company of their electrical contractor. On Tuesday, July 21, 2008, a meeting has been scheduled with Library staff and personnel from Art In Public Places/Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office to review the artists' proposal and determine probable budgetary feasibility and degree of constructability. Since the kiosk under discussion was created as a joint effort between the Library Department and the East Cesar Chavez Community Neighborhood Association, the artists will need to secure the approval of the neighborhood association for their proposal before the work can move forward.

## Austin History Center

### Staffing

- Catherine "Katie" Causier joined the AHC staff as a reference archivist on July 7. Katie recently graduated from the University of Texas, receiving her M.S. in Information Studies with a concentration in Archival Enterprise. She has previously worked at the Center for American History, UT, as a reference intern. Katie is a welcome addition to the AHC staff, and as soon as she is oriented and trained, she will be a regular feature at our reference desk.

### Programming & Outreach

- Not surprisingly, our African American Neighborhood Liaison Karen Riles had a busy June helping with various Juneteenth (and other) events. She helped with and served as an on-camera expert for a documentary on Juneteenth produced by The Institute for the Preservation of African American History and Cultures. The film was screened at Prairie View A&M on June 19. Karen also gave a Juneteenth presentation to the LCRA on June 13.
- Karen Riles serves as a member of the Design Committee for the 19th Century Black Texas Legislators Memorial to be placed in the State Cemetery. Karen worked with Steve Schwolert, Exhibits Specialist, to create a design concept, which was accepted by the Texas State Cemetery Board.
- Reference Archivist Mark Lambert gave a presentation on Governor E. M. Pease and the Pease family papers at the Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Conference in Houston on June 23. Mark was part of a panel discussion on legal records in archives, and Mark spoke about Pease's legal career in Austin and Brazoria County.
- The AHC provided pictures and loaned exhibit panels to the Travis County Clerk's office for an exhibit on the history of the Courthouse. Their exhibit opened on June 24 and is viewable on the 3rd floor of the Courthouse.

### Collections

- The AHC received a small transfer of records from outgoing Council member Jennifer Kim's office.

### Photos used in Publications

- For June, images from the AHC were used in the Austin Chronicle, a newsletter from the Junior League of Austin,

and in a television program "Arizona Stories" for the Arizona PBS affiliate KAET-8.

### Upcoming Events

- On Wednesday, August 13, at 6:30pm, the AHC will host a "Meet the Author" event with author Mike Cox. Mike recently published a history of the Texas Rangers, *Wearing the Cinco Peso* (Forge Books, 2008), and will give a presentation on the history of this storied law enforcement agency. A book signing will follow.
- On August 20, the AHC will open its new exhibit, "Austin Americana: The Beal Douglass Photograph Collection." Neal Douglass was the first staff photographer for the Austin Statesman as well as a noted studio photographer. The exhibit will explore the visual record of Austin as captured by his camera from the 1930s to the 1970s. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, September 20, at 2:00 pm. More details on guests at the reception to come.
- On Monday, October 13, at 6:30pm, the AHC will host a "Meet the Author Event" with author Maryann Miller, author of *No Small Victory* (Gale 2008). Her book is a mystery set in a fictional, small North Texas town. From the book jacket: "Life can change in just an instant. That's the harsh reality that Jenny Jasik faces when her son is killed in an automobile accident, but never in her wildest dreams did she ever expect to be working undercover as a member of a drug task force. She is, after all, just a Mom. In the course of her work, she discovers that she is capable of much more than running a household and managing her floral shop." In addition to being a writer, Maryann is also the mother of AHC Manager Mike Miller.

### Central Library Services

Central Library Services Reference staff came up with some great ideas for the Billboards advertising the Library's databases. Our suggestions were forwarded to Marketing Communications to use in this project. Marketing/Communications will finalize the image that will be billboarded. The Billboards will be up on 12 locations across Austin from August 4 to Sept. 30.

In collaboration with ALIS, John Henry Faulk now provides Internet ports so that customers can plug in their laptops to access the Internet.

In order to tap into our resources more seamlessly, Bonnie Brzozowski and Lisa Hamilton have been working on a wiki for the use by the ACLS Reference team. Although it is an ongoing project, the wiki has been rolled out to the Reference team for their use and scrutiny. This provides many shortcuts to information we use frequently.

Carolyn Rogers, Managing Librarian for ACLS Reference team, has developed a wonderful new research tool for finding statistics. Organized by subject of statistic needed, this exciting new tool should not only greatly assist customers but staff as well on finding this often asked for information. Link is [http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/rg\\_statistics.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/rg_statistics.htm)

### Circulation Support News

APL customers are now being emailed a due date reminder 3 days before items are due. Notifying customers sooner will hopefully help reduce the fines accrued on Library material checked out by our customers. The email notifications are sent from Austin Public Library Customer Service [sirsi@ci.austin.tx.us].

### Library Grants and Records Management

In June, Sue Soy, Grants and records manager received recognition and an award from the Office of the City Clerk for "Extraordinary" efforts and the many ways that Sue has helped the City Clerks office succeed and provide quality service to citizens.

### Media Relations

A total of 12 media releases were initiated by the library resulting in a value of almost \$19,900 for the month of June.

### Advertising this Summer and Fall

Through a grant from the State Library and Archives Commission the APL Marketing and Communications TEAM developed Bus wraps promoting both Adult and Summer reading programs. These have been seen on the streets of Austin from June 1 through end of July.

Additionally, from August 4, through Sept. 30 through the same grant the Marketing team produced billboards ADs promoting the online database resources.

Media Kits were sent to all Spanish language outlets promoting the library services in Spanish. Radio and TV, Arriba Art & Business News, El Mundo, Ahora Si, La Prensa, La Voz, La Ley 98.9 & Norteno 1490, KOKE/KTXZ/KELG.

Increased publicity efforts from the new PIO at the Library Kanya Lyons has resulted with the Spanish media, as well as, PR outreach. Kanya has taken to the streets have delivered our APL presents newsletter to several business groups around town, such as BookPeople, Cafe Mundi, Little City, Bouldin Creek and others.

APL Marketing team has set up an online calendar for customers to view adult programs happening daily, weekly and/or monthly.

### Youth Services Division:

A look at last month, from Austin Public Library Youth Services:

Alison O'Reilly, Teen Librarian at Southeast Community Branch, spent some time connecting a regular reluctant reader with a favorite children's book character: "I found my inner pigeon and read all of Mo Willems' pigeon books to Nicole, who is 8 years old and thinks she doesn't like reading. She left the library grinning ear to ear, her arms full of all the pigeon books we read together, plus

Knuffle Bunny.

Wait until she sees the pigeon puppet I brought back from Anaheim!"

As you may have heard, the Texas State Champion Book Cart Drill Team, made up mostly of youth services staff (85%), took Second Place in the World Championship Book Cart Drill Team competition at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Anaheim, California! The members of the team are: Youth Program Coordinator Anita Rizley (Captain), Program Specialists Karen Carlson (Choreographer), Ambray Gonzalez, Devo Carpenter and Ellen Scott, Children's Librarians Elizabeth Murphy (Costume Assistant), Stephanie Shipman and Suzanne Sanders, Teen Librarians Jenn Freeman, Jenn Hartley, and Rachel Wilson, Pleasant Hill Administrative Assistant Sandra Ferreira, and Circulation Support Technician Noa Baron. A number of folks in the youth services division were there to cheer them on, and we couldn't be prouder!

Also at the ALA Annual Conference, Teen Librarian Brazos Price and Teen Coordinator Heath Rezabek presented on Austin Public Library's Second Chance Books Program. That program, which brings library services to incarcerated teens at the Gardner Betts Juvenile Justice Center, was featured in the fifth edition of Excellence in Library Services to Young Adults, published by the Young Adult Library Services Association, which highlights twenty-five of the best programs across the country.

Celia Holm, Children's Librarian at Spicewood Springs, is having a blast with the particular business of summertime library service to kids. And "business" is the best possible word to describe the enthusiastic traffic that descends on the branch every day. In addition to capacity crowds at the programs, Celia happily reports that, on one particular afternoon, a page shelved an entire book cart of Early Reader books, only to come back ten minutes later to find the shelves absolutely bare! It's very gratifying to see the deeper efforts of the Summer Reading Program – to highlight reading as an enjoyable and valuable summer activity – paying off.

Debbie Keith, Children's Librarian at Old Quarry Branch, spends two days a week helping out at the Youth Desk at Central. She recently gave a tour to a group of 43 active campers from a local YMCA camp. Debbie's interaction with the group included a group tour of the area, covering how and where materials are shelved, as well as individualized attention, helping them identify and find books to read.

Children's Librarian Heather Valdez, who splits her attention between the North Village and Howson branches, has special kudos for the staff at Howson this month, who have worked tirelessly to bring the number of young people signed up to read for a reward book this summer to over 700! This kind of success is a terrific example of the

residual benefits of a truly cooperative effort!

Joanna Nigrelli, Teen Librarian at Terrazas, is doing a weekly storytime at the Manchaca Branch Library, to support Patti Cook, the Teen Librarian there, who has her hands full with responsibilities for system-wide selection of all Y Fiction and Non-Fiction, and Graphic Novels for kids, teens, and adults. Joanna calls the experience awesome, and is really enjoying the wide age-range of the young people who are regular attendees.

Josefina Rodriguez Gibbs, Children's Librarian at Milwood, is one of the many youth services librarians who work a regular rotation at the John Henry Faulk Central Library on the weekends. All of Central's special Summer Reading Program activities for kids at Central happen on Saturdays, and on a recent Saturday Josefina was there to pitch in with the ever popular Underwear Fair. With her gracious assistance we were able to put on a program that celebrated all things silly on the surface. But, at a deeper level, the program did a lot to support the growing understanding, in the minds of kids and their families, of the library as a place of welcome ebullience and substantial fun.

Michelle Beebower, Teen Librarian at University Hills, had a terrific experience with a "read-a-licious" book club targeting particularly reluctant readers, ages 8 to 11. Says Michelle:

"During my read-a-licious book club, we read a Choose Your Own Adventure story aloud and the kids were really, really into it. I think I ended up reading at least 6 different endings! These are the same kids that tell me they hate reading every day. I was soooooo happy!!!"

Nancy Tays is the Children's Librarian at Central chiefly responsible for selecting books and media for young children. As the fiscal year winds down, Nancy has been working furiously to stay on top of the annual collections spending inside her (enormous) chunk of responsibility. Of particular attention over the past few weeks have been juvenile non-fiction and DVDs. We're thrilled to have our materials selection in such capable hands.

Sally Miculek, Children's Librarian at Little Walnut Creek, has this wonderful story about making lemons into lemonade, complete with adaptation, creativity, teamwork, and pre-literacy letter knowledge acquisition:

"Since Little Walnut Creek has reopened, I've had an ongoing problem of children deciding that the whiteboard I use to describe my whereabouts is a fun toy. It gets erased while I'm away. It gets moved around on my desk (it's magnetic and sticks to the front of my desk nicely). Sometimes it's hiding when I return from a weekend absence. So I decided that, rather than continue to feel annoyed that my board was a toy, I should provide the young customers at Little Walnut Creek with a toy that they could stick on the side of my desk and play with while not mucking up my communication tool. As it happened,

Debbie Keith had only recently brought a most impressive set of magnetic letters and numerals (including letters used only in other languages and many arithmetic signs) to Phyllis, asking if she might find a home for it. I was pleased to take the set off Phyllis' hands, found a nice box for it, put a note on the box inviting folks to make use of its contents, and for the last month children have been happily pulling the box off my desk, writing words with the letters, creating math expressions, or just sorting the colors, then putting everything back in the box and popping the box back up on my desk when they're finished. My whiteboard still endures occasional indignities, but not nearly so much as it once did."

Youth Services Manager Thom Barthelmess attended the American Library Association Conference in Anaheim as a Member of the Board of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC). For the past twelve months Thom has been the Chair of an ALSC Board Subcommittee charged with "pruning" the ALSC Committee structure, realigning the division's efforts with its strategic plan, and concentrating and focusing their efforts towards their most important goals. While in Anaheim, he presented to the Board the cumulative work of that Subcommittee, which was received enthusiastically, and will find much attention in the year to come.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### JULY

- o July 28: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry Branch, Library Commission Meeting Scheduled
- o July 28: 2:00 p.m., North Village Branch, Summer Reading Program, "Whodunnit?"
- o July 28: 2:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch, Summer Reading Program, Literature Live presents, "Puppet Pandemonium"
- o July 29: 2:00 p.m., Cepeda Branch, Summer Reading Program, Super Pal Universe Rock Band
- o July 29: 2:00 p.m., Little Walnut Branch, Summer Reading Program, "Blaze Sports," with Kimberly Messer
- o July 29: 2:00 p.m., Old Quarry Branch, Summer Reading Program, "Let the Games Begin"
- o July 29: 2:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, Summer Reading Program, Capital of Texas Zoo Show
- o July 29: 2:00 p.m., Ruiz Branch, Summer Reading Program, "Olympic Games"
- o July 29: 2:00 p.m., Terrazas Branch, Summer Reading Program, "Optical Illusions"
- o July 29: 2:00 p.m., University Hills Branch, Summer Reading Program, "Duct Tape Creations"
- o July 30: 3:00 p.m., Cepeda Branch, From Books To Movies, For ages 8-17, Friday Night Lights (PG-13)
- o July 30: 2:00 p.m., Hampton Branch, Summer Reading Program, "Optical Illusions"
- o July 30: 2:00 p.m., Howson Branch, "Underwear Fair"
- o July 30: 2:00 p.m., Oak Springs Branch, Summer Reading Program, "Magic," with Sensei Strange
- o July 30: 2:00 p.m., St. John Branch, Summer Reading Program, Literature Live presents, "Puppet Pandemonium"
- o July 30: 2:00 p.m., Twin Oaks Branch, Summer Reading Program, Capital of Texas Zoo Show
- o July 30: 2:00 p.m., Windsor Park Branch, Summer

- Reading Program, "Sports and Toy Science"
  - o July 30: 6:00 p.m., University Hills Branch, Summer Reading Program for ages 12 and over, Chick Lit on Wheels
- o July 31: 2:00 p.m., Carver Branch, Summer Reading Program, "Magic," with Sensei Strange
- o July 31: 2:00 p.m., Milwood Branch, Summer Reading Program "Optical Illusions"
- o July 31: 2:00 p.m., Manchaca Road Branch, Summer Reading Program, Storyteller, Bernadette Nason
- o July 31: 2:00 p.m., Southeast Austin Community Branch, Summer Reading Program, Super Pal Universe Rock Band
- o July 31: 2:00 p.m., Yarborough Branch, Summer Reading Program, Literature Live presents, "Puppet Pandemonium"

### August

- o August 1: 2:00 p.m., North Village Branch, Summer Reading Program for ages 12 and over, Gaming Tournament
- o August 4: North Village lease space library closes to relocate to new facility
- o August 4: 7:00 p.m., Central Library, Downtown Book Club, We will be discussing Per Patterson's Out Stealing Horses
- o August 5: Hampton Branch @ Oak Hill, "Game Night Cinema," Family Movies, Free Refreshments Provided, Zathura (PG)
- o August 6: 6:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch, European Movie Night
- o August 9: 1:00 p.m., Howson Branch, Ages 8 and up, Re-Roll: D&D Game On! Attendees have a chance to get one of our D&D kits, with miniatures and dice.
- o August 11: 6:30 p.m., Southeast Austin Community Branch, CINEMAGIC, Family Movies, Free Refreshments Provided, Uncle Buck (PG)
- o August 12: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club. This month's selection for discussion is Edith Wharton's THE AGE OF INNOCENCE.
- o August 13: 6:30 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch, CINEMAGIC, Family Movies, Free Refreshments Provided, Grease (PG)
- o August 14: 2:00 p.m., St. John Branch, From Books To Movies, For ages 8-17, The Golden Compass (PG-13)
- o August 19: 1:30 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch, Book Club, Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen
- o August 19, 6:30 p.m., CINEMAGIC, Family Movies, Free Refreshments Provided, Princess Bride (PG)
- o August 20: 2:00 p.m., University Hills Branch, From Books To Movies, For ages 8-17, Friday Night Lights (PG-13)
- o August 28: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Mystery Book Club, title(s) to be announced

### September

September 9: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club. This month's selection for discussion is Albert Camus' THE STRANGER.

### October

October 14: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club. This month's selection for discussion is Wilkie Collins' THE MOONSTONE.

oOctober 27: 7:00 p.m., Yarborough Branch, Library Commission Meeting Scheduled

### November

November 24: 7:00 p.m., Austin History Center, Library

Commission Meeting Scheduled

**December**

oDecember 27: 12:00 p.m. Carver Branch Library Hosts  
Kwanzaa Celebration

**2009**

- January, 2009: Grand Opening of new North Village Branch,  
2505 Steck Avenue (tentative)
- July 2009: Grand Opening of the new Twin Oaks Branch,  
1806 S. 5th Street (tentative)

Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries









