

Austin Public Library Director's Report

September 2008

Budget Schedule:

September 8-10: Library Budget was passed on Sept. 8.

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, maintenance, custodial of facilities and an increase to the book budget. New branch hours will begin on Oct. 2, 2008. See Branch Services below for the schedule.

New Central Library presentations

A date of Oct. 23, 2008 has been reserved for City Council to review the short list of design teams that have submitted proposals to design the new Central Library. The Library Commission, Library Foundation and APL are planning a public input session for citizens to meet the architect teams and complete comment cards to send to City Council, following the presentations on Oct. 23. Time not certain.

FACILITIES SERVICES DIVISION

New Central Library Project: The New Central Library Project is presently progressing in accordance with the schedule presented to Council earlier this year. The Design Team Selection Committee, composed of City staff members, has completed its scoring of all responsive and compliant Statements of Qualifications received from architectural/engineering teams interested in being considered for the project's consultant contract. The six (6) top scoring teams, as determined by the evaluation matrix employed for this purpose, will be invited to make presentations and be interviewed by the Design Team Selection Committee prior to the end of the present month of September. Based upon these presentations and interviews, the Design Team Selection Committee will designate up to three (3) design teams to make presentations to Council on October 23, 2008. Following the presentations to Council, the teams' presentation materials will be made available at City Hall and the Faulk Central Library for public inspection and comment. Two (2) weeks after the presentations, Council will take action to select a design team for the award of contract during a regularly scheduled Agenda meeting on November 6, 2008. The remainder of the project's proposed schedule is as follows:

December 2008 ~ Construction Manager at Risk Solicitation issued

March 2009 ~ Design Team consultant contract executed

April 2009 ~ Citizen/stakeholder input process conducted

May 2009 ~ Council award of Construction Manager at Risk contract

March 2011 ~ Design completed

December 2011 ~ Start of Construction

December 2013 ~ Construction completed

May 2014 ~ Grand Opening

North Village Branch Library Replacement Project: On August 21, 2008, Council authorized the award and execution of a contract through the Texas Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (Buyboard) with Worthington Contract Furniture, LP, for furniture, fixtures and equipment for the North Village Branch Library in an amount not to exceed \$76,571.49. However, construction progress on the new North Village Branch Library has been hampered by a number of problems encountered in the last two months. Working out a solution for the flashing and framing of windows in the thick and irregularly surfaced Durisol block walls has taken longer than originally anticipated. Difficulties also emerged with the installation of the subgrade prepared in the mechanical yards to support the pervious paving system; it now appears that the design will need to be modified to allow for conventional concrete to be substituted in these areas. Delays have likewise occurred with getting a subcontractor to apply the ice and water shield correctly prior to the exterior metal wall panels being installed. Due to the multiple construction problems presently being encountered at the site, it is no longer believed that the original date of January 24, 2009 planned for opening the North Village Branch Library can be met. A tentative date of April 25, 2009 has now been targeted as the new date for opening the facility. The North Village Branch lease space library is now planned to close on December 1, 2008, which will allow sufficient time for the collection to be boxed, moved and processed to interface with the new RFID security system to be installed at its permanent home.

Twin Oaks Branch Library Replacement Project: Unfortunately, construction at the site of the new Twin Oaks Branch Library has also slowed considerably over the last two months as the general contractor was forced to terminate his steel erector sub-contractor for reasons of poor performance. Solicitation for a new steel erector has been completed, and the general contractor is now awaiting approval from the City to use the low, responsive bidder for these services. In other developments, the general contractor will submit an engineer's stamped, detailed drawings for proposed reinforcement of the concrete retaining wall at the North end of the parking lot, and grades are being shot at the request of the civil engineer at specific points along the the new South driveway's approach, curb, gutter and street. The civil engineer will then review the grade points and determine grade slope percentages in order that the concrete/asphalt difference at the new approach can be reconciled. At this time, it is hoped that the lack of construction progress over the last two months can be made up over the remainder of the contract period, thereby enabling the Library Department to open this new facility on August 8, 2009 as planned.

Faulk Central Library Automated Doors Retrofit Project: On August 4, 2008, the Faulk Central Library Automated Doors Retrofit Project was first advertised for bids, and on August 18, 2008, beginning at 10:30 AM, a mandatory vendor conference was conducted at the Faulk Central Library. On August 28, 2008, two (2) bids were received from interested contractors and those bids are presently undergoing technical review by the City

of Austin. The project management team is confident that the remainder of the project schedule can be maintained:

Thursday, October 9, 2008 ~ Council Award of Contract

Monday, November 24, 2008 ~ Notice to Contractor to Order Materials

Monday, February 16, 2009 ~ Start Demolition/New Work at Faulk Central Library

Monday, March 30, 2009 ~ Substantial Completion Inspection
Recycled Reads Book Store Project: Difficulties have been encountered with getting the Recycled Reads Book Store Project successfully through the development review and permitting process. Much of the trouble has revolved around the need to revise the construction plans to satisfy the building inspector's directions for placement of delivery doors and ADA compliant emergency exits for the facility. Also, further time-consuming value engineering of the project has proved necessary in order to bring the cost of construction within the Library Department's budgetary reach. While most of the project problems confronting both the design team and the construction manager appear to be resolved at this point, it is not believed that the book store can be made completely ready to open before January 10, 2009, and that date has now been proposed as the target date for the grand opening of the facility.

Cepeda Music Garden Project: Good news has emerged from the project architect's meeting with the City of Austin Development Assistance Center. A new and costly site development request will not need to be sought as the Cepeda Branch Library has an existing Site Development Permit which is open until 2010 and covers the entire site, including the site of the Cepeda Music Garden. A correction to the existing site permit will need to be made, which will require the architect's civil engineer to make clouded revisions to the drawings and submit them for approval to the City of Austin. Securing the City's approval should be a relatively quick process, taking from one to three weeks, and there will be a fee of perhaps \$300. In the meantime, the architect is routing a final draft of the contract for his services to the Austin Public Library Foundation, and when it is signed by all parties, design work on the project will start in earnest.

Cesar Chavez Commemorative Art Project: On August 21, 2008, additional appropriations in the amount of \$15,700 from the Holly Mitigation Fund were requested for this project by the Art In Public Places Program and were subsequently approved by Austin Energy. The additional funds are intended to assuage previously unanticipated costs affecting the Library's electric utilities on site. On September 8, 2008, the artists, Connie Arismendi and Laura Garanzuay, presented their developing design to the AIPP Panel for a mid-design review, and the Panel provided feedback for the artists to consider as they complete their design. It is now anticipated that the artists will submit their art design to the AIPP Panel for final review on October 6, 2008. The artists now intend to use all new materials in their re-design of the exterior kiosk to combine it with their art piece, so the existing kiosk will be disassembled and relocated by the East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Association. If all continues to go well with their work, the artists anticipate installation of their sculpture to begin early in January, 2009.

Austin History Center Programming & Outreach

- The AHC hosted a group of 30 high school social studies teachers on August 6. These teachers were part of a week-long

training program through Texas State University and came to the AHC to learn about incorporating archival materials into their curriculum. Neighborhood Liaison Karen Riles gave a brief presentation about the AHC, and then Manager Mike Miller took small groups on tours of the AHC while Karen and Reference Archivist Katie Causier assisted the teachers in exploring the archival collections.

- On August 13, the AHC hosted local author Mike Cox. Mike, author of *Wearing the Cinco Peso: The Texas Rangers, 1820-1900*, gave a presentation and answered questions about the early days of the Rangers in Texas. His book is the first of a planned 2-volume history of the Rangers, and the AHC plans to have Mike back when vol. 2 is published.
- Neighborhood Liaison Esther Chung represented the AHC at the India Independence Day Festival on August 16. Approximately 500 people attended the festival.

Collections

- Neighborhood Liaison Karen Riles acquired the video archive of Jam City for the collections. Jam City was a public access program that featured local hip hop and rap artists during the early days of Hip Hop.

Photos used in Publications

- Upcoming publications using AHC images include two textbooks: *Texas Politics Today* (Marshall Cavendish) and *The American Democracy* (Patterson/Halter), an exhibit at the Texas Civil War Museum, and the 2008-09 issue of *Texas Historian* (Texas State Historical Association).

Exhibits

- On August 20, the AHC opened its new exhibit, "Austin Americana: The Neal 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. Guest speakers for the reception are free lance photographer Brian Loflin and Austin American-Statesman photographer Jorge Sanhueza-Lyon.
- Neighborhood Liaison Gloria Espitia partnered with the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) to create an exhibit, *Nuestras Tradiciones: Diez y Seis de Septiembre en Austin*. This exhibit explores the history and pageantry of how Austin has celebrated Mexican Independence Day through the years. The exhibit opened at the MACC on September 14 and will be on display until October 18.

Upcoming Events

- 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.
- On Wednesday, October 29, at 6:30pm, the AHC will host a "Meet the Author Event" with author Terrell Blodgett, author of *The Land, the Law and the Lord: The Life of Pat Neff*.

- On Saturday, November 1, 2:00 – 4:00, the AHC will host, in partnership with the UT student chapter of the Society of American Archivists, its annual Archives Clinic. Archivists from around Central Texas will be on hand to help the public learn about how to preserve their personal archives. Experts in family papers, photographs, and home movies will be on hand to assist. This is a come and go event, and you can bring materials with you to show and discuss, or just bring your questions. This event is part of the National Archives Month (October) and is the culminating event of a series of programs for “Archives Week” in Austin.

Media Relations

A total of 15 media releases were initiated by the library resulting in a value of over \$19,000 for the month of August.

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. Viewable on the library’s home page www.cityofaustin.org/library.

Grants

The Library was awarded two grants in September. The first was from the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation for \$185,000 to refresh and create mobile workstations using laptop computers at the 10 Wired for Youth Centers.

The Second grant was from the Dell Foundation for \$50,000 for Library school interns to assist library staff at the Wired for Youth Centers.

Both of these grants came through the Austin Public Library Foundation.

Central Library Services

Central Library Services created several wonderful displays over the last month. The displays were Fiction from Africa, American Artist Appreciation Month, and Texas Music. ACLS also displayed staff picks for the fiction titles.

Lisa Hamilton, ACLS Librarian II, developed a new class for the public called Introduction to Power Point. The class will be taught every other month.

Branch Services:

The Proposed budget was presented to City Council July 23. The Council Budget Readings will be September 8 - 10. Highlights for Branches include a one day per week branch closing. Branches will be paired together for service. One branch closes on Thursdays and the other one in the pair closes on Fridays. The branches will close Starting October 2, 2008.

Branches are paired geographically.
 Carver (closes Friday) and Oak Springs (closes Thursday) 2 miles apart
 Cepeda (closes Friday) and Terrazas (closes Thursday) 1.8 miles apart
 University Hills (closes Friday) and Windsor Park (closes Thursday) 2.1 miles apart
 Little Walnut (closes Friday) and St John (closes Thursday) 3 miles apart
 Milwood (closes Friday) and Spicewood (closes Thursday) 4.5 miles apart
 Howson (closes Friday) and Old Quarry (closes Thursday) 4 miles apart
 North Village (closes Friday) and Yarborough (closes Thursday) 3.1 miles apart
 Manchaca (closes Friday) and Oak Hill (closes Thursday) 4 miles apart
 Pleasant Hill (closes Friday) and Southeast (closes Thursday) 2.8 miles apart
 Ruiz (closes Friday) and Twin Oaks (closes Thursday)

We looked how service would be impacted and in particular Youth Programming such as storytimes, the VICTORY tutorial program for at risk youth, classes (computer classes, ESL, GED) and meeting room usage.

Closing branches one day per week will mean the elimination of 10.3 FTE’s (13 branch positions). This will save \$419,007 which will be reallocated back into the Library Budget for increased security, maintenance and custodial services plus an additional \$100,000 in the Book Budget.

The 10.3 FTE’s are currently vacant and branches spent July writing Position Review Forms to justify hiring temporaries, inputting job ads in e-Career - the City’s online job data base, reviewing applications, setting up interviews, interviewing, obtaining references, preparing hiring packets and rejection letters, obtaining signatures for hire, obtaining paperwork for conducting Criminal Background Investigations, obtaining a salary calculation from HR and calling to offer the job. After accepting the job, the temporary receives approximately 2 weeks of training. The process to get a temporary on board is the same as hiring a

regular position.

In the best circumstance, it takes 6-8 weeks.

At present time, Branch Services, all branch managers and lead staff are scrambling to keep the Branches open. In addition to the 10.3 FTE's held for elimination, an additional 8 positions have become vacant since the budget was presented. An additional 6 people are out for extended medical leave.

As a result, all time employees who can pick up extra hours are doing so, and we have hired a handful of temporaries.

When offered temporary positions, most people are hesitant to leave a job they have with benefits to take a temporary job that does not have benefits. Managers and staff are working split shifts to keep the doors open until we can close a day per branch. Everyone is exhausted!

In addition to the proposed Closures, Branch Services moved many staff members this month to optimize service delivery. Regular positions in Branches cannot be advertised or filled until October.

Therefore, with the retirement of Kent Middleton at Manchaca and resignation of Cynthia Charles at Carver, Anita Fudell was temporarily transferred to Manchaca to cover this busy 7 day per week branch.

Sharon Herfurth is Acting Branch Manager at Howson. Branch Manager Steve Reich transferred to Carver, Eric Travis to Terrazas, DJ Harris to Windsor, Patti Fowler to Pleasant Hill, Elva Garza to Southeast, and Paola Ferate-Soto is now at St John as Acting Branch Manager.

Other moves include Jackie Johnson to Windsor currently as Acting Library Assistant, Jessica Champion as Acting Administrative Senior at Ruiz and now at Milwood, Patricia Ruiz as Administrative Senior at Ruiz, Carlos Brondo-Rodriguez Administrative Senior to Oak Springs, Sharon Black-Greene at Oak Hill as Acting Administrative Senior, Janet Starnes as Administrative Senior at Spicewood, and Judy Autrey to North Village as Administrative Assistant. Milwood currently has 2 eliminated positions, 2 vacant positions, 1 position transferred to Bookstore Manager, and 1 vacant temporary position. Needless to say, we will be hiring and moving additional staff in the coming weeks.

The VICTORY Tutorial Program is also making changes for Fall 2008.

With increasing costs and no increase in the budget, VICTORY Tutorial is cutting 1 position in the Fall. Some sites will drop to two days or change days. Linda Miracle will be sharing the schedule with her Staff in the coming week.

Branches have been extraordinarily busy and our programs Adult and Youth exceedingly popular this summer!

Youth Services Division:

A look at last month, from Austin Public Library Youth Services: **Thanks to the terrific, hard work of the Youth Services Staff,** and the support of the entire Austin Public Library staff, we're happy to report that Summer Reading 2008: Game On! was an unqualified success.

This summer:

10,201 young people registered to participate in Summer Reading and set their own reading goal (that's an increase of 9% over 2007).

3,336 young people met their goal and chose a book to keep (that's a rate of 33%, on par with 2007 completion).

Those 3,336 young people read 72,000 books!

Austin Public Library Youth Services Staff put on 831 programs, which 26,162 people attended.

We offer our special appreciation to:

Accounting and Purchasing, for helping register many performers as City of Austin vendors, and purchasing books and materials galore.

Austin Energy, for supporting the program, helping to pay for incentive books and performer fees.

Branch and Central Library Services, for welcoming hordes and hordes of children, week after week, and sharing in the excitement of growing readers.

Building Services, for keeping our libraries clean, before and after the aforementioned hordes descended.

Circulation Support, for helping to process hundreds of Library Card Applications that we received through Summer Reading Promotion Outreach activities.

Collection and Cataloging Services, for ordering incentive books, giving the kids of Austin a real, varied selection.

Facilities Services, for shepherding tables, tools, program props and books all around the system.

Library Information Systems, for creating a best-so-far online presence for Summer Reading, and entering lots (and lots) of program data.

Marketing and Communications, for delivering terrific materials, and publicizing the program from corner to corner.

Volunteer Services, for recruiting and placing terrific Summer Youth Volunteers to assist us in the day-to-day Summer Reading ritual.

Brenda Branch and Toni Lambert, for stepping up and substituting at Storytimes while folks were away at the American Library Association Conference.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

oSeptember 24: 4:00 p.m., Ruiz Branch Library, Free Adult Vision Screening

oSeptember 25: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Mystery Book Club

oSeptember 25: 7:00 p.m., South Austin Science Fiction Readers' Club

oSeptember 25: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Mystery Book Club

oSeptember 29: 7:00 p.m., Author Pierce Burns at Austin History Center

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October

oOctober 1: 6:30 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Absolute Beginners Beaded Jewelry

oOctober 4: 1:00 p.m., University Hills Branch: Zombie Fest Movie

oOctober 4: 2:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Beginners Conversational Chinese Class

oOctober 6: 6:30 p.m., Manchaca Branch Movie Monday, "The Superhero In You" series of films at the Manchaca Branch Library will be showing the film "Simon Birch"

oOctober 7: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Beginners Conversational Chinese Class

oOctober 7: 7:30 p.m., Milwood Branch: From Books to Movies Book Club

oOctober 9: 7:30 p.m., University Hills Branch Library Bookclub

oOctober 11: 1:00 p.m., University Hills Branch: Zombie Fest Movie

oOctober 11: 2:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Beginners Conversational Chinese Class

oOctober 13: 6:30 p.m., Meet the Author: Maryann Miller. East Texas author and screenwriter Miller will be at the Austin History Center to talk about her new mystery novel, One Small Victory (Five Star, 2008).

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

oOctober 14: 7:00 p.m., Windsor Park Book Club Meeting, The Windsor Park Book Club will be discussing Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA by Tim Weiner.

oOctober 14: 6:30 p.m., Milwood Branch: From Books to Movies Book Club

o October 15: 6:00 p.m., The Power of the Social Entrepreneur, program & panel at Yarborough

o October 15: 7:30 p.m., University Hills Branch-Club de Lectura

o October 16: 7:00 p.m., University Hills Branch: Zombie Fest Bookclub, World War Z: The Oral History of the Zombie Wars, by Max Brooks

o October 18: 10:00 a.m., University Hills Branch Computacion Basica en Espanol

o October 18: 1:00 p.m., University Hills Branch: Zombie Fest Movie

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oOctober 18: 10:00 a.m., University Hills Branch Computacion Basica en Espanol

o October 18: 1:00 p.m., University Hills Branch: Zombie Fest Movie

oOctober 21: 1:30 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Book Club

oOctober 23: 6:00 p.m., Power of the Social Entrepreneur - Building an Action Plan - APL & United Way

o October 25: 1:00 p.m., University Hills Branch: Zombie Fest Celebration, Survival games, Zombie imitation contest, Zombie Art Show, Zombie-themed refreshments and much, much more

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

November

oNovember 1: 2:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Beginners Conversational Chinese Class

oNovember 1: 2:00 p.m., University Hills Branch: Dia De Los Muertos Celebration

oNovember 3: 6:30 p.m., Manchaca Branch Movie Monday, "The Incredibles"

oNovember 4: 6:30 p.m., Milwood Branch: From Books to Movies Book Club

oNovember 4: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Adult Poetry Circle

oNovember 5: 6:30 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Absolute Beginners Beaded Jewelry

oNovember 8: 1:00 p.m., University Hills Branch: Art From The Heart. Poetry contest, Art Show, Displays, Performances, and Networking

oNovember 8: 2:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Beginners Conversational Chinese Class

oNovember 11: 7:00 p.m., Windsor Park Book Club Meeting

oNovember 13: 7:30 p.m., University Hills Branch Library Bookclub

oNovember 15: 10:00 a.m., Computacion Basica en Espanol. University Hills Branch: Como usar la computadora y como aprender ingles en el internet

oNovember 15: 1:00 p.m., Ruiz Branch Library 40th Anniversary Celebration

oNovember 18: 1:30 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Book Club

oNovember 19: 7:30 p.m., University Hills Branch: Club de Lectura

oNovember 24: 7:00 p.m., Austin History Center, Library Commission Meeting Scheduled

December

oDecember 2: 7:00 p.m., University Hills Branch: 8th Annual Lighting of the Peace Tree

oDecember 2: 7:00 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Adult Poetry Circle

oDecember 9: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club. This month's selection for discussion is THE GOOD SOLDIER by Ford Maddox Ford.

oDecember 9: 7:00 p.m., Windsor Park Book Club Meeting

oDecember 10: 7:30 p.m., University Hills Branch Library Bookclub

oDecember 11: 7:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library-Talk Time, Talk Time is a fun and informal program to give individuals a comfortable and non-threatening place to practice speaking English.

oDecember 16: 1:30 p.m., Spicewood Springs Branch Book Club

oDecember 17: 7:30 p.m., University Hills Branch: Club de Lectura

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)
- February 10: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club
- •March
- oMarch 10: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club
- o April 14: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club
- o May 12: 7:00 p.m., Old Quarry 2nd Tuesday Book Club
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- July 2009: Grand Opening of the new Twin Oaks Branch, 1806 S. 5th Street (tentative)

Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries