

# Austin Public Library Director's Report October 2010

---

## Highlights

- November 18, 2010, is the date that has been set for the presentation to City Council for the Building Program of the New Central Library. It will then be presented to the Library Commission on November 22, at the Austin History Center.
- The Building Program will go back to City Council for approval on December 9, 2010.
- Dana McBee was named the new Assistant Director over Support Services. Her start date is October 24.
- The Southeast Branch will close Monday, December 6, 2010, for renovations. The facility will be ready to reopen by the Summer of 2011.

## Facilities Services

**New Central Library Project:** On Monday, September 27, 2010, a professional services agreement was executed with Sebesta Blomberg & Associates (Irving, Texas) for Commissioning Services for the New Central Library Project. On Friday, October 1, 2010, a New Central Library Work Session was held from 11:00 AM until 3:00 PM at the Austin History Center. In attendance, along with key Library staff members, were representatives from the City Manager's Office, the Capital Planning Office, and the departments of Financial Services, Public Works, and Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services. Library planning presentations were made by Joan Frye Williams, Library Futurist, and Dr. Julie Todaro, Dean of Library Services at Austin Community College, while Dean Andrew Dillon of the University of Texas School of Information provided valuable insights on the role of the central library in a community like Austin. The project's consultant architects, David Lake of Lake/Flato Architects, Inc. and Sid Bowen of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott Architects then made a presentation on their vision for Austin's new central library. After a lengthy discussion about the building program elements and key elements of the staff recommendation to City Council, it was decided to move forward with the project as outlined in the working schedule provided below. On Thursday, October 7, 2010, a Construction Manager at Risk contract negotiations meeting was held with Hensel Phelps Construction Company for the New Central Library Project. In attendance were representatives from the Hensel Phelps Construction Company, involved City of Austin staff members from the Library, Public Works, Risk Management Division/Human Resources and the Contract and Land Management departments, and a representative from the City of Austin's legal counsel, the firm of Andrews Kurth, LLP. A number of contract items were discussed at length, but it is still believed by both parties that this contract can be finalized before the end of the current month.

September 2010 ~ Commissioning Agent Contract Executed

October 2010 ~ Construction Manager at Risk Contract

Executed

November – December 2010 ~ Architectural Building Program

- November 18, 2010 ~ Building Program presented to Council

- November 22, 2010 ~ Building Program presented to Library Commission

- December 9, 2010 ~ Council Approval

January 2011 ~ Design Phase begins

Late Spring/Early Summer 2011 ~ Schematic Design Completed (30% Complete Design Package Delivered)

- Council briefed

- Library Commission briefed

- Council Approval

Late Fall/Early Winter 2011 – 2012 ~ Design Development Completed (60% Complete Design Package Delivered)

- Council briefed

- Library Commission briefed

- Council Approval

Summer 2102 ~ Design Phase completed

Summer 2012 ~ Guaranteed Maximum Price Determined and Approved by Council

Fall 2012 ~ Permits received

Late Fall ~ Groundbreaking Ceremony conducted

Late Fall/Early Winter 2012 ~ Construction begins

Late Fall/Early Winter 2014 ~ Construction completed

Late Spring/Early summer 2015 ~ Grand Opening Ceremony celebrated

**Security Camera Installation Project:** A number of working issues remain for the ESAS Project Team, including, but not limited to:

- Lack of personnel resources on the part of the Communications Technology Management Department and the contractor to implement the growing list of required sites outside of the original Spending authority and on short notice.

- The City of Austin's overall direction regarding the sole source status of the ESAS vendor.

However, the cabling contractor has been given approval by ESAS to move forward with making the remaining 16 out of 21 Library locations "camera-ready" by working directly with the Library Department during this initial phase of the project. Preliminary work is anticipated to begin in November, 2010, with completion of the cabling at all Library locations hoped for by March, 2011. High priority sites and critical components, such as Windsor Park and its need for exterior cameras, are scheduled to be addressed first during the cabling phase of the project. Upon completion of the cabling phase, the installation of security cameras and recording devices will be initiated.

**Austin History Center ADA Compliant Ramp Installation Project:** Five bids were received by the City of Austin for this project on Thursday, October 7, 2010, and these were publically opened and read aloud at 3:00 PM that day,

in Suite 1045 at the One Texas Center. This project is now officially in the Bid Award Phase, and it is anticipated that the contract will be ready to be taken to Council by mid-December, 2010, for approval of award to the low, responsive bidder.

Ongoing Infrastructure Renewal Projects: The Library Facilities Services Division is currently making good progress on a number of much needed improvements to the Austin Public Library's physical plant across the department's inventory of properties. A number of the most prominent of these projects are:

Austin History Center Sewer Retrofit: The waste water line from the Austin History Center has partially collapsed beneath the parking lot the Austin History Center shares with the Faulk Central Library, and the Library Department has contracted an engineering firm to design a complete replacement for this failed underground conduit. The project has successfully moved from the Preliminary Design Phase into Design Development. Due to the location of the sewer line falling within an easement and the need for a street closure to allow the retrofit to be carried out, our consultant engineers are coordinating closely with the City of Austin Inspection Department as well as the Traffic Control Division in creating the requisite construction documents for the project.

Southeast Austin Community Branch Library Renovation: The Southeast Austin Community Branch Library is scheduled to close on Monday, December 6, 2010, so that the building may be prepared for a renovation of both exterior and interior building elements and finishes. Library branch staff will box the collection so that it may be transported, along with furniture needing to be refurbished, to the Library's Zaragoza Warehouse. The sidewalk leading from the parking lot to the accessible entrance will be re-leveled to meet ADA standards, and the original Congress Avenue pavers on site will be salvaged and reinstalled in the new sidewalk. New perimeter building light fixtures and exterior security cameras will be added to enhance site safety. The problematic South doors will be replaced with a new storefront system. Interior renovations will include a new and inspiring color palette and a new shelving layout plan for better access and security. Additional electrical outlets will be installed to accommodate laptop computer use by customers. All new building materials specified will have recycled content and low VOC (volatile organic compounds) in keeping with our departmental Climate Protection Plan. This much needed remodel will be carried out by both contractors and in-house Facilities Maintenance staff, and it is anticipated that the revamped facility will be ready to reopen to the community by the Summer of 2011.

Security Enhancement Project: This operating budget funded project will provide additional and upgraded exterior security lighting at a number of branch library locations, including Windsor Park, Southeast Austin Community, Ruiz, University Hills and Little Walnut Creek. The lighting improvements will consist of both new installations as well as modifications to existing pole lights, perimeter lighting, and exterior wall pack fixtures. Although major time restraint issues were encountered at the end of Fiscal

Year 2009-2010 with encumbering the funds for Austin Energy's work orders, it is still anticipated that the work will be carried out in the coming months by Austin Energy personnel working in liaison with Library Facilities Services staff members.

## Austin History Center

### **Programming & Outreach**

- On September 8, Asian American Neighborhood Liaison Esther Chung gave a presentation to the Texas Historical Commission's Diversity Committee.
- Mexican American Neighborhood Liaison Gloria Espitia promoted the Mexican American Firsts: Trailblazers of Austin and Travis County project at a presentation to the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on September 14, with 45 people in attendance. On September 21, she gave a tour of the exhibit to a group of students from St. Edward's University.
- On September 15, the AHC hosted a contingent from the Spartanburg County Public Library. Spartanburg is considering creating an equivalent to the AHC and considers it the model to follow for local history repositories. AHC manager Mike Miller gave them a tour of the building, then staff representing the different work units met with the Spartanburg group to answer questions about how AHC operates. It was a learning experience not only for the visitors from Spartanburg, but for AHC staff as well.

### **Collections**

- Archives staff finished processing 8 collections and placed EAD encoded finding aids for these collections on the Internet at the TARO website. These collections include the African American Quality of Life Project Records, the Walter Sign Co. Ledger, the Old Neighborhood Reunion Records, the Otting Family Papers, the Pinget Family Papers, the Simnacher Family Papers, Pany and Schwabe Families Papers, and the Hall Family Papers. The finding aids are available online at: [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse\\_ahc1.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html).
- The AHC acquired a small collection of drawings from local architect Paul Pressler. Pressler attended the UT school of architecture 1929-1933 and worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the Great Depression.
- The AHC is hosting 3 different student processing projects in conjunction with the Archives I class at the University of Texas, Austin. These students will be processing 3 archives collections over the Fall Semester as part of their course assignments.

### **Publications**

- Photos from the AHC were purchased for use in The American Journey: A History of the USA History of the US by Pearson Education, Government and Politics in Texas, 7th ed., by McGraw Hill, an article about Oak Hill in the Community Impact newspaper, and for public display in a special 100th anniversary celebration of the Scarbrough Building.

### **Exhibits**

- The Mexican American Firsts: Trailblazers of Austin and Travis County project launched its traveling exhibit

component on September 11. The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center hosted a 10-panel traveling exhibit that features the 32 trailblazers that are recognized in the main exhibit at the AHC. On September 15, Gloria Espitia served as a hostess at the MACC during the Grito de Independencia Festivities, directing attendees to the exhibit. After the MACC, the exhibit will travel to Martin Middle School, then Highland Mall. A video kiosk that will accompany the exhibit is nearing completion and will be included in future installations.

- Work is underway for the next big exhibit at the AHC on the history of the SXSW Music Festival. The exhibit will explore the Austin music scene leading up to the 1st festival, how the festival got started, and how it has grown and impacted the city. Planning is underway for a mini-festival to be held at the AHC and Wooldridge Square on Saturday, March 5, 2010, with live music, including a band that played at the 1st festival, a panel discussion with some of the SXSW founders, and a movie in the park after dark.

## **Central Library Services**

Central added two new computer classes that will be taught by a volunteer. They are Job Searching/Computer Lab at 7:30-8:30 p.m. on November 9 and December 14 and Resumes & Cover Letters at 2-3:30 p.m. on October 23.

## **Youth Services**

### **Teen Services**

Starting in October Teen Services will offer a new service, Homework Hours. Teen Centers at 10 locations will be offering the hours from 6-7pm on Mondays/Wednesdays or Tuesdays/Thursdays as a time set aside for those coming in to focus on homework. Through the help of Interns, APL will be able to offer this as part of the goals for the Connected Youth grant into 2011. A new program type was introduced: Lego Story Lab. Several kits of Lego blocks allow attendees to explore buildings, shapes, constructions, and most of all their imaginations. Related library materials are available during these Labs to help young people bridge their interest in Legos with whole new worlds of the imagination. Additionally, the interview process continues for the new Teen Services Librarian positions.

### **Program Services**

Literature LIVE! spent September rehearsing for the presentation of "Strega Nona" which began touring all library locations October 5 through November 18th. The September monthly program at the Dell Children's Hospital was well attended by older teens. Using recycled bike tubes to make accessories, the teens created belts, cuffs, necklaces, headbands, earrings and masks. APL provided an information table at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum for an Education Fair serving teachers from Austin and the surrounding area; library information was available for the taking and two librarians were available to answer questions.

The ever popular Kids In Space science program series, a partnership with the Austin Nature and Science Center (ANSC), kicked off at the Hampton Branch at Oak Hill and

the Windsor Park Branch. In addition to providing up-to-date media, database, and on-line science resources programs included art activities, telescope viewings, astronomer appearances, storytelling and more. This fall includes "A View from Space". ANSC features this traveling exhibit, an exciting, hands-on installation (on view at ANSC through January 7th, 2011) that was designed by NASA and created by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. Author Ellen Hopkins visited two Leadership units at the Gardner Betts Juvenile Justice Detention Center through the Second Chance Books Program. .

### **Children's Services**

In September, Children's Services librarians began presenting the Fall series of programs, using a new schedule designed to make programs available to customers on a larger variety of days and at more times of day. Additionally, Children's Services librarians are working with staff from other Youth Services teams to bring a variety of special programs to APL this fall. The Kids in Space program has continued to be successful, and this fall sees the start of the Alien Carnival which will be travelling to several locations. Additionally, several Children's Librarians will be hosting Big Read program events in partnership with Austin Community College. APL/ACYS has decided to feature the Julia Alvarez story, "A Gift of Gracias: The Legend of Altigracia," as a youth-oriented partner to Ms. Alvarez' "In the Time of the Butterflies."

## **Grants**

The Austin Public Library received word that it will be participating in Learner Web, a grant application funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, aimed at increasing use of broadband access by low-income, low-literate and/or Limited English speaking adults and out-of-school youth.

Portland State University (OR) is the prime recipient and creator of the Learner Web partnership which establishes a multi-state support system for broadband adoption by vulnerable adults; those with low literacy and proficiency with the English language. In the Central Texas area, the Austin Public Library will be one of several partners in this effort to increase literacy levels led by the Central Texas sub-recipient lead, the Literacy Coalition of Central Texas.

Other participating partner agencies include Austin Free-Net, Community Action, Inc. (San Marcos), Adult Education Division, Austin Community College District, San Marcos Public Library, Workforce Solutions, Capital Area, and Workforce Solutions, Rural Capital Area. The implementation of the Learner Web will take place over a multi-year period ending March 31, 2013.

Participation, at the Ruiz Branch Library, Faulk Central Library, and Little Walnut Branch Library, will include providing access to existing broadband services to help improve literacy levels in Central Texas. Expectations are that more people will become aware of broadband access available to them through libraries, new resources and instruction leading to increased literacy will be provided using Learner Web at libraries, and broader awareness of community needs will grow among the partner organizations.

A second multi-state grant, the Libraries and E-Government Project: New Partnerships in Public Service, has been funded by the IMLS 2010 National Leadership Grant. Austin Public Library will participate in this grant and has assigned Diana Miranda-Murillo, Chair of the Austin Public Library Immigrant and Literacy Services Committee as its representative to the project advisory group. APL's commitment is to work closely with immigrants through the New Immigrant Centers providing support. This grant will develop a Web-based resource to help libraries and governments provide better e-government-related services such as filing taxes, applying for citizenship, enrolling children in schools, and applying for social services. The grant aims to reduce costly duplication of effort. Austin Public Library will be helping to design, and test Web-based resources.

This grant was proposed by the American Library Association and includes the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, state library agencies in CT, FL, MD, NJ, the IRS, USCIS, and GPO and a number of public libraries

## Recycled Reads

September revenue for Recycled Reads was approximately \$11,200. Over 3,650 people visited the store and donations were received from over 225 people.

More than twenty volunteers on average donate over 500 hours of their time to the bookstore. More than 120 pallets of materials from the warehouse and approximately 40 pallets worth of donations were processed. Books Beyond Borders picked up the equivalent of 16 pallets of discarded materials per week. The NCI volunteers have continued to implement the media sorting process established with Books Beyond Borders in June.

Recycled Reads gave Solid Waste Services a tour of the store and discussed partnering. An article was submitted to the TLA Journal for the upcoming winter issue.

## Volunteer Services

SEPTEMBER 2010 - STATISTICS	
SEPTEMBER - APL web visits	1,480
Number of Volunteers	167
SEPTEMBER - Volunteer hours	1,635.00
Volunteer Value*	\$20.85
	<b>\$34,057.05</b>

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### October

- o October 27: 4:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Introducción a Microsoft Word. Estudiantes aprenden las opciones básicas del programa para empezar a teclear documentos y cartas inmediatamente. Requisitos: Conocimientos de principios básicos, uso del ratón y teclado.
- o October 27: 5:00 p.m., Oak Springs

- Branch. Chess Club. The Oak Springs Chess Club is open to beginner through advanced level players, adult and youth ages 8 and up. Historically women have been underrepresented in the chess world, so we especially encourage women and girls to join in the game.
- o October 27: 6:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Qué me cuentas! Through reading and discussion of Latin-American cuentos, or short stories, the class offers a unique way to learn and practice Spanish. 40% proficiency in Spanish is preferred, but if you feel you are not yet at this level, join us and we will help you.
- o October 27: 7:00 p.m., Milwood Branch. Milwood Craft Club. All mediums are welcome, from macaroni to knitting, crochet, scrapbooking, beading, jewelry, embroidery, sewing, felt, and more. Not sure where to begin? We have some great resources in our Fabric Crafts Research Guide to get you inspired. The Milwood Craft Club is free and open to adults and kids.
- o October 27: 7:00 p.m., Terrazas Branch. Talk Time
- o October 28: 10:30 p.m., Old Quarry Branch. Talk Time
- o October 28: 4:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Español. Practiquemos Español offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with other Spanish learners under the guidance of a Spanish-speaking facilitator. Practiquemos Español is not a Spanish class, but rather a place to fine-tune your Spanish in a non-threatening and relaxed environment. In order to participate you will need to know a little Spanish.
- o October 28: 7:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Talk Time
- o October 30: 10:00 a.m., Yarborough Branch. Talk Time
- o October 30: 11:00 a.m., Faulk Central Library. Practiquemos Español. Practiquemos Español offers adults who are studying Spanish an opportunity to practice speaking Spanish with other Spanish learners under the guidance of a Spanish-speaking facilitator. Practiquemos Español is not a Spanish class, but rather a place to fine-tune your Spanish in a non-threatening and relaxed environment. In order to participate you will need to know a little Spanish.
- o October 30: 11:00 a.m., Little Walnut Creek Branch. Talk Time
- o October 30: 11:30 a.m., St. John Branch. Talk Time
- o October 30: 1:00 p.m., University Hills Branch. Zombie Fest 3: Zombie Blow-Out. The month long Zombie Fest includes Zombie Movies, a Zombie Game Tournament, a Zombie Book Club, and a Zombie Blow-Out featuring games, contests, an art show and a zombie survival discussion. The festival is brought to you in part by L.A.Z.A.R.U.S. -- Libraries Against Zombie Affected Residents of the United States. L.A.Z.A.R.U.S. would like to urgently remind all library customers, "Don't be carefree and foolish with your most precious asset – life!" Zombie Fest is free and open to the public.
- o October 30: 2:00 p.m., Carver Branch. Learn to Paint Day! In Celebration National Toile Month. Celebrate National Toile Month and learn how to paint decoratively. Join the Austin Public Library and the Heart of Texas Toler (HOTT) for a class on how to do decorative painting. Discover techniques to transform tin, wood or

fabric into works of art. No experience required. Materials will be provided for the first 12 participants. Learn to Paint Day is free and open to the public.

o October 30: 2:30 p.m., Cepeda Branch. Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.

o October 30: 6:30 p.m., Milwood Branch.

Weeknight Cinema: Contemporary Gothic Horror

o October 31: 2:30 p.m., Carver Branch. Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.

## **November**

o November 1: 6:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. . Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.

o November 1: 6:30 a.m., University Hills Branch. Atomic Cinema: Dr. Strangelove or: How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb

o November 1: 7:00 p.m., Hampton Branch. "Breathing Life into Words" Presents "Soundtrack of Life" The workshop will be held in the large meeting room of the branch. Join us as Author Rose McCorkle leads us through the "Soundtrack of Life," a workshop designed to stimulate life writing through songs, jingles and playground rhymes. According to McCorkle, a lifetime writer and reader, listening to or recalling music or rhymes can jolt strong memories and help recreate a sense of place in your writing. Expect to be transported back in time to a forgotten piece of your life story. Come ready to write about your life!

o November 1: 7:30 p.m. Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.

o November 2: 12:00 p.m., Cepeda Branch. BILINGUAL Computer Training for Beginners/Taller de Computación para Principiantes. Get started with basic computer skills. BILINGUAL Computer Training for Beginners takes place every Tuesday from noon to 2 p.m.

o November 2: 1:00 p.m., Faulk Central Library. Basic Computer Skills. Class defines basic computer terms and provides practice with basic Windows operations. Students receive an introduction to what is available on Library public computers, including the Internet, e-mail, and Microsoft Office. No class prerequisites.

o November 2: 5:00 p.m., Ruiz Branch. Talk Time

o November 3: 10:00 a.m., Terrazas Branch. Beginners Computer Lab/Taller de Computación para Principiantes. Come with general questions about copmputers, programs such as Microsoft Word, or resume writing. You can also learn how to use computers to find a job. The class is free and open to the public. No sign up is required.

Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries

