

# Austin Public Library Director's Report November 2010

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## Highlights

- The New Central Library Project Briefing was presented to City Council on November 18 and will go back to City Council for approval on December 9, 2010.
- Interviews have been conducted to fill three Teen Services Librarians positions. The chosen candidates should start in January.

## Facilities Services

**New Central Library Project:** After addressing all issues and concerns, the City of Austin routed the final contract documents to Hensel Phelps, the selected Construction Manager at Risk for the New Central Library Project, on November 10, 2010. The City of Austin requested that Hensel Phelps return the signed documents, along with their executed Security Bond and Certificate of Insurance, by Friday, November 19, 2010. On Thursday, November 18, 2010, staff and the design team of Lake/Flato Architects with Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott briefed the Austin City Council on the highlights of the draft Architectural Building Program. At 7:00 PM on Monday, November 22, 2010, the same presentation will be made to the Library Commission in their monthly meeting at the Austin History Center (810 Guadalupe St.). The completed Architectural Building Program for the New Central Library will be hand delivered to the Mayor, Council Members and Library Commissioners on Monday, November 29, 2010. On Thursday, December 9, 2010, staff and consultants will seek Council's approval of the New Central Library Architectural Building Program so that the project's Schematic Design Phase may be initiated on Monday, January 3, 2011. At this time, the working schedule for the New Central Library Project is as follows:

November 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

Summer 2011 ~ Schematic Design Completed (30% Complete Design Package Delivered)

- Council briefed
- Library Commission briefed
- Council Approval

Winter 2011 ~ 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

January 2013 ~ Construction begins

January 2015 ~ Construction completed

Summer 2015 ~ Grand Opening Ceremony celebrated.

**Security Camera Installation Project:** The City's ESAS (Enterprise Security Access System) Project Team continues to struggle with contractor issues including but not limited to:

- loss of their second key staff member
- key detailed proposals not provided
- gaps of technical knowledge
- availability of staff to complete tasks
- missed deliverables and milestone dates

However, the prime contractor for the installation of Security cabling has performed walkthroughs and provided the City with cost proposals confirming the Cat 6 cabling, plenum wiring for power and the scope of work for all cameras at the following Library sites:

- Will Hampton Branch at Oak Hill
- Windsor Park Branch
- Little Walnut Creek branch
- Milwood Branch
- Spicewood Springs Branch
- Old Quarry Branch
- Yarborough Branch
- Austin History Center

Currently, the general contractor has not been engaged through a Purchase Order to begin work with the Library Department due to overall ESAS ongoing project priorities. Communication Technology Management Purchasing is working on verification of adequate spending authority for projected ESAS sites in present Fiscal Year 2010-11.

**Austin History Center ADA Compliant Ramp Installation Project:** On Thursday (12/9/10), staff will ask City Council to authorize execution of a construction contract with Muniz Concrete & Contracting, Inc., for the Austin History Center ADA Accessible Ramp Addition Project in an amount not to exceed \$89,389.79. The bid submitted by Muniz Concrete & Contracting, Inc., was the lowest bid of the five received by the City of Austin for the project. The work will deconstruct and replace the obsolete and failing wheelchair lift at the Austin History Center with a more efficient, effective and sustainable, ADA complaint ramp. The new work will include the installation of coursed limestone and architectural guardrails designed to match existing building elements. This project will also involve the protection of the existing structure from any damage during construction.

**Ongoing Infrastructure Renewal Projects:** The Library Facilities Services Division continues to make good progress on a number of much needed improvements to the Austin Public Library's physical plant throughout the

department's inventory of properties. A number of the more prominent of these projects are:

Austin History Center Sewer Retrofit: The main sewer line from the Austin History Center is collapsing beneath the weight of the parking lot that the Austin History Center shares with the Faulk Central Library, and the Library Department is now working with a consulting engineering firm to completely replace this failed underground utility conduit. The project is on the cusp of proceeding from the Design Phase into the Permitting Phase. The problematic location of the sewer line within an easement, coupled with the physical requirement for a street closure in order that the retrofit may be carried out, have led our engineering consultants to coordinate their efforts closely with the City of Austin Inspection Department and the Traffic Control Division in completing the construction documents for the project.

Southeast Austin Community Branch Library Renovation: The Southeast Austin Community Branch Library will close to the public on Monday, December 6, 2010, so that the building may be made ready for a renovation of both exterior and interior building elements and finishes. Library branch staff will box the collection, and furniture needing to be refurbished will be transported to the Library Facilities Services shops at the Zaragoza Warehouse. The sidewalk leading from the parking lot to the accessible entrance will be re-leveled in order to meet ADA standards. 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 installed to enhance site safety. The malfunctioning South doors will be replaced with a new storefront system. Interior renovations include a lively, new color palette and a new shelving layout plan to provide 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 involve both contractors and in-house Facilities Maintenance staff, and it is presently 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. Lighting improvements have now been made to exterior perimeters of the University Hill Branch, greatly enhancing security and safety at that site. Due to Austin Energy's bucket trucks being needed at the moment to install Holiday Season lighting for the City, pole light improvements planned for the parking lots at our University Hills, Southeast Austin Community, and Little Walnut Creek branches will be scheduled for completion within 30 to 60 days. Austin Energy has promised to initiate the work sooner if one of their bucket trucks becomes available sooner than anticipated. Civil engineering work is required at the site of the Ruiz Branch prior to lighting improvements being made at that location. That site work is now scheduled to

begin between Monday, November 29, 2010 and Friday, December 3, 2010, and is expected to take at least one week to complete.

## **Austin History Center**

### **Programming & Outreach**

- On October 2, the Austin History Center sponsored the "Unraveling our historical past: Mexican Americans in Austin and Travis County" Seminar at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center.
- On October 17, Curator of Archives & Manuscripts Susan Rittereiser gave a presentation about the AHC to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Austin.
- On October 23, Asian American Neighborhood Liaison Esther Chung gave a speech and served as the emcee for the dedication of the Texas Historical Marker at the Sing Family house. This is the first historic marker in Travis County for a site related to Asian Americans.
- The National Trust for Historic Preservation held its national conference in Austin Oct 27-30, and the AHC played a very active role in the programming. On October 27, Mexican American Neighborhood Liaison Gloria Espitia hosted a group of 24 at the AHC as part of the "Transition of the Mexican American Experience in Austin" field session. The next day, Asian American Neighborhood Liaison coordinated a tour for the Asian American Caucus of the National Trust of Asian American sites in Austin, including a private viewing of the "Pioneers of the East" exhibit at the AHC. Additionally, the AHC and the AHCA co-sponsored and hosted 2 field sessions for the conference at the AHC. The sessions were a Historic Corridor Walking Tour of the historic properties around the AHC, including the Bremond block, the Hirshfeld House, Wooldridge Square, and the AHC.
- The AHC, in partnership with the UT Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists, hosted its annual Archives Clinic on October 30. Area archivists and preservation experts were on hand to answer questions from the public and to provide one-on-one consulting on how to preserve their personal papers.

### **Collections**

- Archives staff finished processing 5 collections and placed EAD encoded finding aids for these collections on the Internet at the TARO website. These collections include the Sarah Sitton Papers, Hispanic Women's Network of Texas, Austin Chapter Records, Jesse and Mary LaDorna Mallett Papers, Abbie Kerbow Lusby Papers, and the Dorothy and Terrell Blodgett 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).

### **Publications**

- Photos from the AHC were purchased for use in the 2nd edition of American Democracy, published by McGraw Hill, the Texas Genealogical Society Journal, and for display at the Allendale HEB store, the Colorado Bend State Park, Ney Museum, and the JJ Pickle Conference Center at the MD Anderson Cancer Center.

### **Exhibits**

- A new photo exhibit opened in the David Earl Holt Reception Room. This new exhibit is called "Blue Plate

Special: Photos from the Diner Era.” This exhibit looks at the diner tradition, when fast food meant something completely different than it does today, and the diners that made Austin home, such as 2-Js, Toonerville, and of course, the Nighthawk. The exhibit will run through April 2011.

## Youth Services

### **Teen Services**

In October, Teen Services began offering Homework Hours at its sites, giving motivated tweens and teens a time and place devoted to working on their assignments and getting help. Teen Services continues to provide after school programming of all kinds, including the growing and popular Lego Story Lab and University Hills’ Japanese Social Club. The Teen Services Coordinator undertook a month of intensive interviews to fill three Teen Services Librarian openings. Hopefully, the positions will start in January. This will let Teen Services try some new things, including regional coverage of several branches. The three incoming librarians will each spend four months in rotation at the St Johns Branch, the Ruiz Branch, and the Southeast Branch. This will give them a unique perspective on the system as a whole, and make the team more flexible in its coverage. As December approaches, staff prepares to say farewell to long-serving Teen Services Librarian Rachel Salvaggio.

### **Program Services**

Literature LIVE! kicked off the fall puppet show selection of Strega Nona, an Italian folktale that delights audiences of all ages. The show unveiled at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum and will tour all APL library locations in October and November. The show was also shared with children and their families at the Dell Children’s Hospital in October.

Children’s Librarians Aubrey Sanders and Jean Holland presented literature based programs at the Texas Book Festival in conjunction with the APL Friends Foundation, the sponsors of the Children’s Activity Tent. These programs were well received by the public and library information was available for the public throughout the two day programming bonanza.

October kicked off the BIG READ partnership program between APL Youth Services and Austin Community College. This is the second year of program offerings based on the BIG READ’s author selection. This year APL featured a reading of the book “A Gift of Gracias: The Legend of Altagracia” by Julia Alvarez. Guest readers were Liz Garton Scanlon and Aimee Step.

In October, four author visits were featured at the Gardner Betts Juvenile Justice Center through APL’s Second Chance Books program. Featured authors included Ellen Hopkins, Matt de la Pena, Charles Benoit, Naomi Mitchell Carrier and Sarah Cortez. In addition, Second Chance Books received copies of the Bluford High series from the Townsend Foundation as part of the Light the Way grant.

### **Children’s Services**

In October, Children’s Services librarians continued working with Teen Services and Program Services staff to host Alien

Carnivals, culminating in a Halloween-alternative Alien Carnival at the North Village branch on October 30. Fifty-five children and adults participated in this fun program, where they were able to take UFO photos, make alien souvenirs of various types and check out space and alien-themed library books.

Children’s services staff members also participated in the Texas Book Festival, in particular in the Children’s Activity Tent, where Aubrey Sanders and Jean Holland hosted two events connected to books featured at the festival.

Children’s Services coordinator Sally Miculek assisted with a Halloween storytime at the Library’s used bookstore, Recycled Reads, on Sunday, October 31. A cowgirl named Jessica Champion presented the program, with assistance from Cookie Monster.

## Grants

Second Chance Books coordinator, Kathleen Houlihan, received the Bulford Books Grant from the Townsend Foundation for the Second Chance Books program at the Gardner Betts Juvenile Justice Center.

Townsend Press, Inc. was founded by John Langan who designed a young adult novel series using topics that successfully engage reluctant readers. All of the stories in the Bluford Series take place at Bluford High School, a fictional urban high school in a predominantly African American setting. As part of the grant, the Library will conduct a twice a year measurement using a survey and to report the results to the Embracing the Child Foundation. These books will be used in a book club with youth who are in the Leadership Academy portion of the Juvenile Justice Center.

## Recycled Reads

October revenue for Recycled Reads was approximately \$12,00. Over 4,250 people visited the store and donations were received from over 260 people. Recycled Reads now has the domain [www.recycledreads.org](http://www.recycledreads.org).

More than twenty volunteers on average donate over 570 hours of their time to the bookstore. More than 140 pallets of materials from the warehouse and approximately 20 pallets worth of donations were processed. Books Beyond Borders picked up the equivalent of 16 pallets of discarded materials per week.

## Volunteer Services

<b>OCTOBER 2010 - STATISTICS</b>	
OCTOBER - APL web visits	1,305
Number of Volunteers	213
OCTOBER - Volunteer hours	2,091.00
Volunteer Value*	\$20.85
	<b>\$43,597.00</b>

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### November

- o November 22: Austin History Center. Library Commission Meeting
- o November 22: 7:30 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o November 23: 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 23: 5:00 p.m., Ruiz Branch. Talk Time
- o November 23: 7:00 p.m., Southeast Branch. Talk Time
- o November 24: 10:00 a.m., Terrazas Branch. Beginners Computer Lab/Taller de Computación para Principiantes. Bring your questions about basic computer skills, how to use the Internet, and e-mail. Come with general questions about computers, 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.
- o November 24: 5:00 p.m., Oak Springs Branch. Oak Springs 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 November 27: 10:00 a.m., Yarborough Branch. Talk Time
- o November 27: 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 November 27: 11:30 a.m., Little Walnut Creek Branch, Talk Time
- o November 27: 11:30 a.m., St. John Branch, Talk Time
- o November 27: 2:30 p.m., Cepeda Branch, Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o November 28: 2:30 p.m., Carver Branch. Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o November 29: 6:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o November 29: 7:30 p.m., Pleasant Hill Branch. Free Salsa Lessons with instructor Raul Ramirez.
- o November 30: 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 30: 5:00 p.m., Ruiz Branch. Talk Time
- o November 30: 6:30 p.m., Milwood Branch. Madden NFL 11 Tournament (Xbox 360)
- o November 30: 7:00 p.m., Southeast Branch. Talk Time.

Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries

