



**Austin Public Library
Director's Report
April 2013**

More Than Books

Highlights

- The Financial Forecast will be presented to Council on May 2, at 9 a.m.
- The Library's Employee Appreciation Awards Luncheon will be Friday, May 17, 11 a.m. at the Airport Hilton
- The groundbreaking ceremony for the New Central Library will be Thursday, May 30 at 11 a.m.
- The 2013 READ *and you will become more powerful than you could possibly imagine* poster features Peter Mayhew—the actor who played Chewbacca in *Star Wars*, reading to young *Star Wars* fans
- The 2013 Mayor's Book Club will feature two novels: *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk* by Ben Fountain and *The Yellow Birds* by Kevin Powers. Both novels explore the impact of the Iraq War on soldiers, families and the American mindset. Ben Fountain will visit in October for a series of events.
 - Join Kevin Powers:
 - ~ for a Q and A at the Austin History Center Tuesday, April 30, 11:30am-12:30pm
 - ~ for a Writing Workshop at the Hampton Branch Library at Oak Hill ,Tuesday, April 30, 2-3pm.
- Upcoming April City Council agenda items for APL:
 - May 9, 2013, the Contract Management Department will submit an RCA asking Council to authorize Construction Cost Limitation (CCL) funding in the amount of \$109,100,000 plus a \$2,600,000 Owner contingency for a total not to exceed amount of \$111,700,000, and authorize negotiation and execution of a Guaranteed Maximum for construction of the New Central Library and related improvements (to include 2nd Street Bridge, Utilities, Roadway Extension and Seaholm Substation Screen Wall) with Hensel Phelps Construction Company, Austin, Texas, Construction Manager at Risk.

Facilities Services

New Central Library Project: The New Central Library project continued to make great strides forward during April. Public Works, PARD and the Library will meet to finalize roles and responsibilities for the Groundbreaking Ceremony and to discuss the event program and logistics. Other project issues dealt with this month include: confirming that the reuse of an underground pump room on the site as a cistern meets water quality requirements, resolving discrepancies in the draft Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of the construction manager-at-risk, integrating Green Water Treatment Plant artifacts within the New Central Library design, and determining the effect upon the project of a recent Council ordinance requiring amphitheaters to undergo a conditional structure approval process. The project schedule for the New Central Library remains as follows:

May 2013 ~ Construction Cost Limitation approved by Council

- May 30, 2013 ~ Groundbreaking Ceremony conducted, 11 a.m.
- June 2013 ~ Site Development Work begins
- June 2013 ~ Construction Document Phase completed (100% Complete Design Package Delivered)
- August 2013 ~ Building permits received
- December 2013 ~ Construction begins
- December 2015 ~ Construction completed
- Spring 2016 ~ Grand Opening Ceremony celebrated.

- 2012 Bond Development Process:** The Library Department has proposed that the design of the three following projects, as well as the land acquisition required by the University Hill parking lot expansion project, be funded in current Financial Year 2013, with funds for construction to be provided in Financial Year 2014:
- University Hills Branch Library Parking Lot Expansion
 - Pleasant Hill Branch Library Roof Replacement and HVAC Upgrade
 - Milwood Branch Library Renovations

In Financial Years 2015 and 2016, the Library Department requests that appropriations be provided to initiate and complete the three following renovation/retrofit projects:

- Will Hampton Branch Library at Oak Hill Renovations
- Austin History Center Interior and Exterior Improvements
- Zaragoza Warehouse Fire Sprinkler Upgrade

Finally, the Library Department intends to carry its share of the 2012 Bond Program through to completion by designing and constructing its last three renovation projects during Financial Years 2017 and 2018, when the necessary funding may be provided. Those projects are:

- Cepeda Branch Library Renovations
- Yarborough Branch Library Renovations
- Windsor Park Branch Library Renovations

Financial Year 2014 Capital Improvement Program Plan: Continuing to make good progress on the New Central Library Project will remain the primary goal of the Library's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) work plan for Financial Year 2014. However, three pressing renovation projects funded by means of the 2012 Bond Program likewise figure prominently in the department's Financial Year 2014 CIP work plan:

- The University Hills Branch Library Parking Lot Expansion Project will correct vehicular and pedestrian access safety hazards at this increasingly popular East Austin community library.
- The Pleasant Hill Branch Library Roof

Replacement & HVAC Upgrade Project will prevent further water penetration of the building envelope and restore interior climate control for this important South Austin library facility.

- The Milwood Branch Library Renovation Project will repair a failing sanitary sewer and replace worn finishes, furniture and equipment at this heavily used library serving the Northwest quadrant of the City.

The currently unfunded but critically needed RFID Installation for Branch Libraries Project has also been proposed for inclusion in the CIP work plan of the Austin Public Library for Financial Year 2014. This project will upgrade obsolete electromagnetic-based collection security and management equipment throughout the departmental inventory of properties to match the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology currently utilized at our two newest branches (North Village and Twin Oaks) and planned for the New Central Library. The Austin Public Library proposes to upgrade this essential equipment at its facilities to RFID incrementally, beginning with its busiest branch locations. The remaining schedule for finalizing the Financial Year 2014 Capital Improvement Program is:

June 25 ~ Planning Commission recommends FY14 CIP Plan

August 1 ~ Proposed Capital Budget presented to Council

September 9 – 11 ~ Budget Readings/Approval

Exterior Security Cameras Installation Project:

CTM has just informed the Austin Public Library (APL) that the City's master cabling contract is being negotiated at the present, therefore all cabling work on the APL security camera installation project has been halted until a new contract is in place. In the meantime, APL is working with CTM to have the necessary spending authority released to Schneider Electric in order to finish the installation of security cameras at the Spicewood Springs, Cepeda, Manchaca Road, Pleasant Hill, Howson, Milwood, Old Quarry, Yarborough and Oak Hill branch libraries.

Faulk Central Library Boilers and Flue Retrofit Project:

The project's construction documents and drawings are now 90% complete, but the project manager has requested additional information from the design engineers needed to meet the Electronic Plan Review requirements of the Quality and Standards Management Division. A project construction schedule will be established and announced to both Library staff and customers as soon as proves possible.

Twin Oaks Branch Library Real-Time Controls for Rainwater Harvesting Project:

This is a pilot project sponsored by the Watershed Protection Department to retrofit the rainwater harvesting system at the Twin Oaks Branch Library with Real Time Controls. The intent is to achieve better balance between the sometimes conflicting goals of storm water treatment and water conservation. In storm water treatment, storm water is expected to be discharged from cisterns to infiltrate the ground quickly so that cisterns are empty for the next storm. In water

conservation, the water in cisterns is held as long as possible for regular use in irrigation, Real Time Controls are being proposed as a potential solution to this conflict. These controls are connected to weather stations and will automatically draw down the cistern contents by the amount of rain predicted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This approach will allow cisterns to be emptied for storm events while insuring a reservoir for irrigation purposes. The City of Austin Watershed Protection and Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) has teamed with Geosyntec to carry out this pilot study for evolving technology on a shared cost basis. Following installation, the new control system will be monitored for 24 months. Real Time software will allow information on the system to be displayed in the interior of the library for customer viewing. During the initial inspection of the Twin Oaks site, it was discovered that the existing rainwater harvesting system was not performing to design criteria and bio-filtration system improvements were needed. That work has been scoped and priced, but is now awaiting approval by the Watershed Protection Department's director and assistant city manager before being initiated.

Austin History Center **Programming and Outreach**

- African American Community Archivist Cynthia Evans actively promoted the Building a Community Exhibit during its last weeks on display. On March 7 she gave a presentation to the Austin Appraisal District about the exhibit, with 40 people in attendance. She also gave 2 separate tours to ACC students on March 10 and March 12.
- On March 20, the AHC held an opening reception for the "Birthday of a Beautiful Building" exhibit on the 80th birthday of the AHC building. Speakers included Reference Archivist Ashley Adair, Manager Mike Miller, former Mayor Carole Keeton Strayhorn, and Councilmember Chris Riley. The event also marked the official public launch of the planning process for the AHC expansion into the JHF building, with an opportunity for public comment about the planned expansion. Over 60 people attended the event. The public comment period will last until the exhibit closes on Sept. 15, 2013.
- On March 27th, Reference Archivist Ashley Adair and Assistant Manager Nancy Toombs spoke to a Lifetime Learning Institute class on Antiques and Collectibles. The presentation included a history of the AHC, its the holdings, and information about donations – what the AHC collections want and how to donate - and preservation of books and photos. The program had 26 people in attendance.
- Mexican American Community Archivist Gloria Espitia was a presenter @ the Texas Folklife Border Radio Series sponsored by Texas Folklife and held at the Texas Music Museum on, Thursday, March 28th. Her presentation was on Austin and Travis County Latina singers & musicians during the early twentieth century to the present. There were 20 people in attendance

Collections

- AHC staff finished processing 6 collections and placed EAD encoded finding aids for these collections on the Internet at the TARO website. These collections include the Austin Coffee House Show Collection, the Emmett

Shelton Johnson Family Papers, the John E. Shelton Family Papers, the Austin (Tex.). Boards and Commissions. Austin Convention and Visitors Commission Records, the Austin (Tex.). Boards and Commissions. Historic Landmark Commission Records, and the Austin (Tex.). Boards and Commissions. Firefighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission Records. The finding aids are available online at: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html.

- The AHC acquired donation of a couple hundred photos of the groundbreaking, construction, and opening of the bank building at 400 W 15th Street that was not otherwise documented in its photo collections. Other interesting acquisitions include 4 oral history interviews with Greg Easley about Stanley Hall, founder of the Austin Ballet Theatre, and the Austin Firefighters' and Police Officers' Civil Service Commission Records (1948-2009) that provide some insight into the efforts in the 1970s and 1980s to diversify these departments.

Exhibits

- The next exhibit at the AHC, "How to Prepare a Possum: 19th Century Cuisine in Austin," is scheduled to open on May 7. The exhibit explores all avenues of early Austin food, including what food was indeed local, how food was prepared, how and where people shopped for food, what it cost, and where people went out to eat. The exhibit runs through January 10, 2014.

Publications

- Photos from the AHC were purchased for use in upcoming books on the history of Waller Creek and the Manchaca/Onion Creek area, for an exhibit on the 125th anniversary of the Capitol Building at the Capitol, the Republic Square Master Plan Report, and a news story about the Travis County Courthouse in the Austin American Statesman.

Upcoming Events

- June 1, 2013. Opening Reception for "How to Prepare a Possum" exhibit (time TBD). The program will feature a menu designed by chefs and students from the Escoffier School of culinary Arts inspired by early 19th century recipes and foods common to the area. The head chef and students will talk about their experience adapting these early foods to modern cooking practices. Event will be in the Holt Photo Gallery at the AHC.

Branch Services

Oak Hill hosted the "Art From The Street", exhibit in March which featured artwork created by homeless artists. They had a closing reception for the artists on March 30. About 30 people attended this reception. Staff started a new Magazine Exchange area. They will recycle old AOK magazines here and customers can recycle their own personal magazines, as well. Their customers are slowly noticing this new service.

At Windsor Park, the Community Cinema film "Wonder Woman" attracted 68 citizens on the 5th. The Windsor Park Book Club had 4 readers at the meeting on the 12th discussing The Big Thirst: The secret life and turbulent future of water by Charles Fishman – this selection was coordinated w/ a City-wide observation of water issues. They screened the film "Blue Gold" on the 19th for 4 viewers as a part of this observation, too. They hosted a

writing workshop for older adults on Monday mornings at the Branch – 60 older adult proto-authors attended.

At University Hills, 192 people came for AARP tax help during the month of March. They held a two day workshop for Travis County Summer Youth Workers on March 16 and March 23. 28 teens attended. This program was put on by two of our staff members, Katrina Townsend and Billy McConnell.

Carver Branch Manager Steve Reich, Victory Coordinator Corrina Noriega, and Cris Gonzalez (ACB Victory Specialist) took part in a photo shoot to highlight the donation of youth materials by the National Women of Achievement.

Youth Services

In March, the Very Hungry Caterpillar Day celebration at ANV was very successful with over 50 people in attendance. The children retold the story of the Very Hungry Caterpillar using an oversized, laminated set of images. All the crafts and activities were also well received. Parents and children had wonderful, happy things to say about how much they loved the program.

Sally Miculek, Children's Services Coordinator, is working with the Library's Grant Specialist on a possible presenters' grant for the Summer Reading Program. The grant would be funded through the State of Texas and would provide \$10,000 to pay presenters to perform during the Library's Summer Reading Program.

Kathleen Houlihan, Librarian III, is also working with the Specialist on a grant to help fund Storytime Connection. This is another State grant that could be used for promotion of the program and could assist in developing training videos for the new trainers.

Central Library Services

Service Changes

The Central Library now has two 3M RFID Triple Isle Gates and two RFID SelfChecks with media unlockers. The first floor reconfiguration and media conversion to RFID was completed at the same time. When a few technical issues are worked out customers will be able to checkout their own CDs/DVDs and unlock the cases before they go through the RFID Security gates. With this streamlining process in place, media will be self-serve, and APL's media assets better protected. The Gates and SelfChecks were installed April 2nd, but are not yet functioning. The 2 RFID self-check units have been configured and issues are being worked out. Prior to going "live" with the RFID Gates and SelfChecks, we will have a "locking" party for the AV materials. The non RFID SelfCheck unit that had been in the CD/DVD area was moved to the 2nd floor and placed at the beginning of the new non-fiction.

Over the past months Central's media collection was converted to the RFID format. The CD and DVD collections were weeded before retagging and recasing began. Recasing into lockable cases and tagging took

approximately 6 weeks since all of the work was done by ACCS before the library opened for the day. The New Central Library will be entirely RFID, the Twin Oaks and North Village Branches are already RFID.

Information Systems

Library Information Systems developed and implemented two major projects in March of 2013 on the Library website. The Virtual Library landing page and the Local Austin Music page will have noteworthy benefit for Austin Public Library customers.

The Virtual Library landing page (<http://library.austintexas.gov/virtual>) brings together, organizes and explains the various eResources that the Austin Public Library makes available. The page ties together many services and continues to make it easier for Library customers to access digital services from their electronic devices.

The Library also implemented the Local Austin Music page (<http://library.austintexas.gov/austinmusic>). APL partnered with the Music Division of the Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office to facilitate discovery of local Austin artists. The page on our public website highlights our Local Austin Music collection, curated by the Music Division, and the page features album covers that link directly to the Austin Public Library catalog. The website and the links pointing to the Library catalog engage our customers by fostering the use of social media, customer reviews, blogging and tagging, while improving the content and information about local artists, as well as providing access to local artists' recordings.

Recycled Reads

March revenue for Recycled Reads was approximately \$14,750 (13,000 items) and over 4,600 people visited the store. Donations were received from over 280 people, approximately 53,000 items.

More than twenty volunteers on average donate over 260 hours of their time to the bookstore. Goodwill Industries picked up 11 pallets of discarded materials from the store and an additional 22 from the warehouse. Image Microsystems picked up 13 pallets of media from the store and an additional 4 from the warehouse. Staff received 18 pallets of materials from the warehouse, branches and donations and sorted approximately 30 pallets of materials representing almost 65,000 items at the bookstore. We sorted an additional 30 pallets of materials at the warehouse. We kept over 12 tons of materials out of the landfill.

On March 2, Recycled Reads celebrated its 4-year anniversary with the Literature Live Puppet Show, live music from Joe Blanda, a craft demo, the unveiling of our new window display and the sale of custom book planters. Over 460 people were at the store, 62 specifically attended the puppet show and 15 participated in the craft demonstration.

On March 7, Recycled Reads began extended Thursday hours, and we are now open until 8:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings. The store averaged 12 shoppers between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. each Thursday evening in March.

Mindy Reed met with COA Green Committee to make plans for Earth Day. Recycled Reads will be repurposing outdated Austin Energy magnets, turning them into magnet chalkboards for participants to write their green commitments. Recycled Reads will also be crafting the prizes for the event.

On March 15, Recycled Reads hosted the ACYS craft exchange. Youth Librarians shared crafting ideas with ARR staff and learned some of the upcycling techniques used at the store in our efforts to advance ARR as a Maker Space as well as a retail store and recycling hub.

On March 16, Recycled Reads hosted the Austin Resource Recovery's Composting class. 38 people were in attendance. On March 28, Mateo Scoggins of Watershed Protection did a presentation at Recycled Reads in conjunction with March Water Madness.

Volunteer Services

FEBRUARY 2013 - STATISTICS

Number of Volunteers	160
FEBRUARY - Volunteer hours	1364.90
Volunteer Value*	\$ 21.79
	\$29,740.73

March Policy Violations

19	Harassment of Library staff or customers (Not Sexual)
18	Disturbing others using the Library
10	Disorderly conduct
10	Using obscene language
6	Violating Internet Policy
6	Physically attack or threaten to attack another person
5	Sleeping in the Library
5	Strong Odor
5	No outside food or beverages allowed in the Library
4	Leaving personal belongings unattended
3	Entering unauthorized areas
3	Intoxication resulting from alcohol or drugs
3	Theft of Library, staff, or customer property
2	No hat policy
2	Public Lewdness
2	Unintended use of restrooms
2	Blocking access to Library entrances, passageways or resources
1	Mistreatment or vandalism of Library facilities, materials, or equipment
1	Abandoning children or failing to supervise children at the Library
1	Bringing in bedrolls, blankets or sleeping bags
1	Destruction of Library property
1	Appropriate clothing is required
1	Soliciting and panhandling
1	Unlawfully carrying or displaying weapons
112	Total

Locations # of Incidents

ACE	33
ATB	11

AUH	8
ARZ	8
ASR	7
ACB	6
AYB	4
ANV	4
ALW	4
ACP	4
AWK	3
AMR	3
ATO	2
ASE	2
APH	2
AWP	1
AVL	1
ARR	1
AOK	1
AMI	1
AHO	1

To see the complete up to date listing of events visit

<http://library.austintexas.gov/programs>

Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries

