

# More Than Books

## Highlights

- Join us in welcoming the Chad Ibison and Janet Grohovac Duo. Listen to their guitar strummings, perfect for the holidays. Central Concerts: Holiday Classical Guitar. Sunday, December 3, 2 PM, Central Library Demonstration Area.
- The Elves and the Shoemaker is a traditional puppet show produced and performed by Austin Public Library's Literature LIVE. The show will be filled with happy surprises and fun. Monday, December 4, 3:30 PM, Spicewood Springs Branch.
- Meet Jesse Sublett, author of *Esther's Follies: the Laughs, the Gossip, and the Story* . . . Come learn more about one of Austin's premiere entertainment groups. Several key performers from the troupe will also be on hand. Tuesday, December 5, 6:30 PM, Austin History Center.
- Make crafts, mingle, dance and nosh at the Adult Holiday Craft Crawl. Friday, December 8, 8-10 PM, Carver Branch.
- *Wander* is a new public artwork that offers an immersive choose-your-own adventure throughout downtown Austin. Gather at the 2nd Street entrance of the Central Library to meet the artists and participate in your adventure. Saturday, December 9, 3 PM, Central Library.

## Facilities Services

The Facilities Services report will be updated in the December edition.

## Austin History Center Programming & Outreach

- On October 3 Amanda Jasso gave an Intro to Genealogy/Intro the AHC workshop to a group of 20 St. Edward's students in the Holt Gallery. Their interests were particularly geared towards individuals and histories within the East Austin communities. A week later on October 10 she delivered a Hispanic Heritage program for approximately 40 executives at Texas Gas Service, specifically focusing on Mexican American heritage in Austin.
- On October 17 the AHC hosted a program on the history of The Broken Spoke Saloon, Austin's long-running "honky-tonk." Broken Spoke owner James White regaled the audience of 40 with stories of the adventures of running an iconic music venue as well as stories of country music legends that have graced the Spoke's stage.
- The AHC participated in a state-wide virtual Genealogy Lock-in on October 20, with the local role coordinated by LaToya Devezin and Nancy Toombs. LaToya taught a beginner's genealogy workshop at AHC, with a special section on African American, German, and Mexican genealogy. The AHC partnered locally with the Texas State Library & Archives Commission. Laura Saegert, TSLAC's Assistant Director of Archives, taught a workshop on regional records pertinent to genealogy use. Both workshops streamed state-wide. Customers were able to take workshops from 11 AM to 5 PM virtually and in person. The program was organized by Bill Buckner of the

Waco Genealogy Center.

- The AHC again partnered with the Travis County Archives for Travis County History Day, on October 28, with Nancy Toombs serving on the planning committee. The AHC provided imagery and artifacts for the one day exhibit and had a table at the event. Over 200 people attended.

## Collections

- AHC staff finished processing 7 collections: the Judy R. Arnold Papers; the Citizens for Airport Relocation and Airport Neighborhoods Environmental Defense Association Records; the Bertram Family Papers; the Paul Quinn College Records; the Carrington, Pearce and Imboden Families Papers; the Travis Audubon Society Records; and the Sandra Lynn Dykes 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 recently acquired records from the Circle of Theaters/Austin Creative Alliance, including their board meeting minutes, photographs, programs, and other material. We also received a large donation of materials for the Camacho Family Papers. This new addition comprised most of Danny Camacho's papers; Danny was a long-time AHC volunteer who passed away last year.
- The first phase of the project to digitize a portion of the Dewey Mears photography collection is complete and 499 images are now available for viewing on the Portal to Texas History: [https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/partners/ASPL/browse/?fq=untl\\_collection%3ADMPA](https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/partners/ASPL/browse/?fq=untl_collection%3ADMPA). An additional 401 images are being scanned and will be added to the online collection in the coming months.

## Publications & Reference

- Research was conducted at the AHC and photos from the AHC were purchased for use in an upcoming documentary film about the Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team Program R/UDAT, the upcoming book *First Ladies of Texas and Their Inaugural Gowns*, an article in the *Southwestern Quarterly*, a news story in the *Statesman* about Confederate monuments, and exhibits at the Bullock Museum and on the Capitol grounds. Staff have also helped customers looking to learn more about Austin theaters, helping a family learn more about an old family cemetery located in a recently purchased ranch, and African American historic sites in need of historical markers, to name just a few. It was also a very busy month for reference related to Hispanic Heritage month, with approximately 150 reference questions by phone/email/in person, with some relating to Dia de la Raza and Indigenous histories and rights in Central Texas.

## Central Library Services

The Central Library opened October 28, 2017 at 12:15 PM after ribbon cutting and photos were taken. The Grand Opening ceremony started at 10 AM. with entertainment from the Sanchez Elementary Ballet Folklorico Traditional Mexican Dance, followed by Kevin Li on the Guzheng, a Traditional Chinese Stringed Instrument, then Music: Indrajit Banerjee on Sitar and Gourisankar Karmakar on Tabla and ending with the Huston-Tillotson Choir A Capella. Library Director, Roosevelt Weeks, welcomed the large crowd to this historic

occasion. Speakers included Interim City Manager, Elaine Hart; Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo; Mayor Steve Adler and closing remarks were made by Toni Lambert, Assistant Director of Public Services. The Library doors opened to the Pecan Street Brass playing Trumpet Voluntary. Artist, Lance Letscher signed art cards in the gallery and Christian Moeller discussed his Art in Public Spaces red CAW sculpture that hangs in the Atrium. Later in the day the Austin Symphony Orchestra Woodwind Quintet played in the demonstration area. The official door count was 18,000 people, who checked out 6,022 items. It was a constant stream of people climbing up and down the beautiful "Harry Potter" stairs as one customer referred to them. Sunday, October 29 was almost as busy with 3,497 items checked out. By comparison, approximately 1,500-1,600 items were checked out at Faulk on Saturdays and Sundays in July 2017. The attendance numbers and items checked out continue to be amazing, and it is clear that Austinites love their new Central Library. The comments are overwhelmingly positive with words such as beautiful, clean, open, great, awesome used to describe it.

Reference staff enthusiastically welcomed the public into their new library this month and continue to work through how to best their needs in the new building. Reference Librarian, Meg Holle, reports that Opening Day at the Central Library was a whirlwind, full of hundreds of questions and dozens of conversations about the library. "My favorite was with a man who insisted that he knew everything there was to know about the library. Over the course of our conversation he was gob smacked to learn that he could access The Wall Street Journal remotely." Reference Librarian, Layla Andros, reports that "After the buzz of grand opening weekend, it was thrilling to see people begin to engage with their new Central Library. A student with a stack of art history books writing an essay, equations and brainstorming on the whiteboards in the Shared Learning Rooms, a question about how to get started with a project on immigration, strangers helping strangers with the virtual reality, and whole a lot more."

Cesar Garza, Reference Librarian, adds "Roosevelt Weeks began his tenure as director of the Austin Public Library recently in September 2017. Now that the formal job interview is over, let's get to know Mr. Weeks with an interview of our own on the APL Facebook Live at this link or [www.facebook.com/austinlibrary/videos](http://www.facebook.com/austinlibrary/videos).

On October 22, the Reference and Youth staff hosted a Staff Open House for staff, families and friends who had not seen the Central Library. John Gillum, Heidi Tse and Lee Parish-Butler gave tours on the half hour.

That same day, the weekend before the New Central Library's grand opening, APL's social media super-fans (a.k.a. our Social Media Ambassadors) got a sneak preview of the new library and shared hundreds of positive posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and beyond. In doing so, they helped kick start a wave of enthusiastic buzz about the new library heading into grand opening day October 28.

At the same time, Kanya Lyons provided tours to the broadcast media. It was all good preparation for the grand opening. Youth Services – 3rd floor – has been an overwhelming success. The place has been mobbed. Their first story hour on Friday had 209 participants. The first adult program, Nightcrafters on October 30 was also a hit. We had 43 very happy crafters join Jennifer Connor on the 6th floor in the living room. It was so successful that she is seeking a volunteer assistant.

## **Branch Services**

During this month, the Southeast Branch partnered with the Dove Spring Recreation Center to offer a Dia de los Muertos/Halloween event on October 31. The library provided multiple activities to families attending, including a storytime session presented by Ambray Gonzalez. The Recreation Center reported attendance of about 550 people, making it a total success!

Ruiz Branch management met with members of the Digital Empowerment Community of Austin's Tech Hire group to identify opportunities and methods of delivery designed to engage low income residents of Austin in pursuing employment within Austin's technology sector, as well as representatives from AISD to discuss implementing a weekly program at Ruiz that focuses on involving area youth in a variety of STEAM activities.

St. John Branch hosted the Literature Live puppet show, "Strega Nona" on October 20 with 49 attendees. Prior to the program, they handed out mini-flyers to customers, took flyers to Pickle Elementary for inclusion in Pre-K take-home "Thursday folders," and hand-distributed them to parents in the cafeteria on two occasions. Approximately half of the audience were Pickle Elementary families and half were from outside the school community.

Pleasant Hill Branch reports that they've had a noticeable increase in activity since the mid-September closures of Central, and the nearby Southeast Branch. This includes youth program attendance, circulation, and more customers in need of computer and job/resume assistance. Since mid-September they've had a large sculpture in front of their outdoor book drop, as part of the CaA Art in Public Places program. "Era Gate" is made out of oil barrels, by artist George Sabra, and the staff remark they've had (mostly) positive feedback from patrons about this. It has definitely captured the imagination of young children, who can't resist stepping up onto the platform to get a better look!

Howson Branch staff were proactive in giving away the gift postcards acquired for our Customer Appreciation week. Howson management contacted several other branches and obtained a small stack of each of the postcards (five different photographs from the AHC collections) as Howson customers are really enjoying them. Additionally, they had two Medicare 101 sessions on the 10th of October – one in the morning and one in the evening. The morning session had 8 in attendance and the evening session had 9.

The Spicewood Springs Branch Manager was accepted into the 2017-18 cohort for the Round Rock ISD Leadership program, one of 30 community members to attend this monthly program throughout the school year. The purpose of this program is "To inform and engage members of the community and develop interest in district level committee service. The Spicewood Springs branch is located in the Round Rock ISD boundaries and a majority of their school-aged customers attend RRISD schools. We see this as an opportunity to learn more about the school district and to network with community members who are engaged with the schools and hopefully the library as well. The monthly meeting in October focused on preparing students of all ages for the future through fine arts programs, STEAM programs, and career and

technical education.

Generation Citizen hosted a community hackathon at the Twin Oaks Branch on top issues affecting middle/high schoolers and their families which included: affordable housing, immigration law, teen pregnancies, and others. The Twin Oaks Branch Manager had the opportunity of meeting the director of this newly established Austin office, participated in the hackathon for a short period of time to understand this process, and discussed the possibility of APL partnering with this organization.

### Recycled Reads

October revenue for Recycled Reads was approximately \$10,250. Approximately 3,500 people visited the store, including 265 attending the 17 scheduled events. Donations were received from 250 people. More than twenty volunteers donated over 200 hours of their time to the bookstore.

Goodwill Industries picked up 34 gaylords of discarded materials from Recycled Reads. Staff received 24 pallets of materials from the warehouse, branches and donations and sorted approximately 40 pallets of materials representing approximately 76,100 items at the bookstore. Approximately 20.5 tons of materials were kept out of the landfill.

Recycled Reads provided books to APL branches for sales at the North Village, Little Walnut Creek, Twin Oaks, Cepeda, and Ruiz Branches.

Recycled Reads was recognized at City Hall for the Annual Reuse Day and received a proclamation.

### Volunteer Services

October 2017 - STATISTICS

Number of Volunteers	312
Total Volunteer hours	1,780.83
Total Value*	\$42,989.24

\*Volunteer Value Rate \$24.14 per hour.

Volunteer Services welcomed 15 new volunteers to APL this month. Additionally, the Volunteer Services Coordinator would like to thank all of the 100 volunteers who helped during the new Central Library's Grand Opening Weekend, October 28-29. Their hard work and dedication of the Austin Public Library is greatly appreciated.

### Policy Violations

- 21 Vandalize, steal or damage property (Library or another person)
- 20 Sleeping
- 18 Abusive, indecent, profane, or vulgar language
- 14 Entering a non-public area
- 12 Disrupting use of Library services or property
- 8 Block access to an entrance, passageway, or resource
- 7 Harass, sexually harass, abuse, threaten or fight with a person
- 5 Intoxicated by drug or alcohol
- 4 Improper use of restrooms
- 3 Incite a breach of the peace
- 3 Possession of illegal drug or alcohol

- 3 Offensive gesture or display
- 3 Leaving personal belongings unattended
- 2 Bringing animals into the Library
- 2 Perform a criminal act
- 2 Violating Internet Policy
- 1 Access sexually explicit material
- 1 Abandoning children or failing to supervise children at the Library
- 1 Smoking & tobacco use; burning materials
- 1 Bringing in a bedroll, blanket, or sleeping bag

**131 Total**

### Locations # of Incidents

Terrazas	19
Little Walnut	17
Cepeda	11
Pleasant Hill	9
Hampton	7
Faulk	7
Ruiz	7
Central	6
Carver	6
Manchaca Rd	6
North Village	6
Windsor Park	5
Twin Oaks	4
Milwood	3
Old Quarry	3
Southeast	3
St. John	3
Willie Mae Kirk	3
Spicewood	2
Yarborough	2
History Center	1
Howson	1
University Hills	1

To see the complete up to date listing of events visit <http://library.austintexas.gov/events>

### Roosevelt Weeks Director of Libraries