

Austin Public Library

Director's Report

February 2011

Highlights

- The Texas Library Association Annual Conference will be April 12-15 in Austin
- The 10th Annual Mayor's Book Club opening event will be March 5, 2 p.m. at John Henry Faulk Central Library
- The Library's Employee Appreciation Awards Luncheon will be April 7, 11 a.m. at the Norris Conference Center
- The Southeast Austin Community Branch Library is scheduled to reopen in August.
- The Austin Public Library's Friend's Foundation New Fiction Confab will be April 15-16 at various branch libraries
- 5X5Y: 25 Years of SXSW Music will be on exhibit in the Grand Hallway and Lobby of the Austin History Center until July 31, 2011. The exhibit will officially open on Saturday, March 5, 2011 with the 5X5Y Fest at the Austin History Center.

Facilities Services

New Central Library Project: On the evening of Monday, February 7, 2011, Library and Public Works personnel made a presentation regarding the New Central Library Project to the Art in Public Places (AIPP) Panel at City Hall. The Art in Public Places Program is considering commissioning a Lead Artist to work in collaboration with the design team and stakeholder team to identify artwork opportunities that fit within the New Central Library Project's goals. The Lead Artist would create an "Artwork Master Plan" for the facility that will include preliminary information about the types of artwork that might be created (both conceptual and material), potential physical locations, and the ways in which the artwork are integrated into the overall functional and aesthetic design of the building and the surrounding community space. Other artists would then be selected and commissioned to design, fabricate and install the artwork identified through the "Artwork Master Plan". In addition to serving as a strategic development tool, the "Artwork Master Plan" may serve as a fundraising tool to attract sponsorships and donations toward the public art component of the New Central Library. A follow-up meeting to further discuss the New Central Library Project with the AIPP Panel is now scheduled for Friday, February 25, 2011. On Monday, February 14, 2011, a meeting was held at City Hall to coordinate utility projects impacting the New Central Library construction schedule. The Seaholm Substation Remediation and the Seaholm Wastewater Line Modifications projects must be completed before construction of West Second Street, West Avenue and the New Central Library projects can be initiated. A construction sequence and an approach to construction which will best serve the Seaholm Substation Remediation, Seaholm Wastewater Line, West Second Street, West Avenue and the New Central Library projects were defined at the coordination meeting. With the receipt of an Estimate of Probable Cost and the acceptance of the Architectural Building Program document, the City of Austin issued Notice to Proceed with Schematic Design to

design team joint venture with an effective date of February 18, 2011. At this time, the working schedule for the New Central Library Project stands as follows:

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 2012 ~ 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.

Financial Year 2011-2012 Five Year Capital

Improvement Program (CIP) Plan: During March, 2011, all City departments will transmit their capital budget updates and proposals for the coming financial year to the Capital Planning Office. The Library Department's FY 2011-2012 CIP proposal will focus on progressing with the New Central Library Project, but will also seek funding to provide exterior security cameras at all Library locations, replace the failing roof of the Will Hampton Branch at Oak Hill, install RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) collection management and security equipment at three (3) branch libraries, retrofit the failing boilers and flue at the Faulk Central Library, remodel the Will Hampton at Oak Hill and Milwood branches, expand the parking lot at the University Hills Branch, and renovate the interiors of the Austin History Center. The Capital Planning Office will finalize their comprehensive CIP proposal for FY 2011-2012 in May, 2011, and will then submit the document for review to the Planning Commission. After receiving input from their CIP Sub-Committee as well as the public, the Planning Commission will forward their recommended FY 2011-2012 CIP Plan to the City Manager and Council in June, 2011. The City Manager then reviews the Planning Commission's recommendations to prepare the Capital Budget for delivery to the City Council in July, 2011. The City Council will hold public hearings on the FY 2011-2012 Capital Budget in August, 2011, and the entire CIP process culminates with the City Council's approval of the Capital and Operating Budgets in September, 2011, for the fiscal year beginning in October, 2011.

Security Camera Installation Project: On February 17, 2011, the Library Department had a very successful

Security Camera Installation Project Kickoff meeting with the City's Enterprise Security Access System (ESAS) contractor. The five (5) initial Library sites to receive security cameras were prioritized, and the scope of work for each site was reviewed with the contractor. The contractor is presently developing an implementation schedule to allow their installation work to be performed on the days each library location is closed to the public. A followup meeting is being scheduled for the week of February 21, 2011 to review the Library's Change Order Request to install exterior as well as interior security cameras at the Windsor Park Branch, discuss the Device Matrixes for the initial five (5) Library sites, establish training requirements for administrators and end users, prioritize the next five (5) to ten (10) Library sites to receive security cameras, and define the asbestos issues at some Library sites.

Austin History Center ADA Compliant Ramp Installation

Project: Notice to Proceed with the construction phase of this accessibility improvement project was issued to the selected contractor on February 7, 2011. The contract now executed calls for project completion to be achieved within 90 calendar days, with Substantial Completion to be reached within 60 calendar days. The contractor has been engaged to date in preparing the required site signage and materials submittals for approval by the project manager. Construction activities are anticipated to start on site during the week of February 21, 2011, with the first priority being to create temporary ADA compliant parking and access to the building prior to the existing wheelchair lift being deconstructed.

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 has almost completely collapsed beneath the weight of the parking lot that the Austin History Center shares with the Faulk Central Library. Consequently, the Library Department has hired a consulting engineering firm to design a comprehensive retrofit for this failed underground utility pipeline. The challenging location of the sewer line underneath a drive-through easement, coupled with the logistical necessity for a street closure so that a new wastewater line can be connected to the main trunk sewer, have led the engineering consultants to coordinate their efforts closely with the City of Austin Inspection Department and the Traffic Control Division to devise exacting construction specifications for the project. The project drawings and specification manuals continue to be developed to the level of completeness required for a Quality Assurance/Quality Control Review by the Contract and Land Management Department of the City of Austin. The project manager has now given the consulting engineers a deadline of February 25, 2011 to expedite completion of the remaining work needed on the design packet of documents.

Southeast Austin Community Branch Library Renovation:

The Southeast Austin Community Branch Library is undergoing a renovation process promised to the surrounding neighborhoods by the City Manager during area meetings in August of 2009 and September of 2010. Although no Capital Improvement Program funds were made available for the project, the Library Department put together a budget from various operating budget sources in order to make this much needed renovation work possible. The Branch closed to the public on Monday, December 6, 2010. Staff packed and stored the collection while interior infrastructure improvements such as voice and data upgrades were being made. During the current month, exterior infrastructure improvements are being carried out, including the installation of additional security lighting for the parking lot as well as the installation of security cameras. A pre-construction meeting was conducted on February 7, 2011 to coordinate tasks associated with re-leveling the sidewalk leading to the accessible entrance and the installation of new double doors at the North Entrance. The contractor was issued Notice to Proceed with an effective date of February 21, 2011, in hopes that warmer weather would be available by then to allow the new concrete to dry and cure properly. Postponing the deconstruction of the existing approach to the library allowed Library Maintenance staff to bring a scissor lift into the building so that their personnel could paint the clerestory ceiling area. The painstaking repainting of the interiors of the building will proceed in phases, as almost every square inch of wall space is covered with anchored book shelving which must first be removed, then re-secured after the new paint has dried. The re-carpeting of this tightly packed facility will also need to be carried out in phases after all the interior painting work has been finished. Additional electrical outlets will then be strategically provided along with a sustainable WiFi counter for the convenience of laptop computer users. Finally, the facility's existing wooden chairs are presently being refinished at the Library Maintenance workshop. It remains the intention of the Library Department to have the thoroughly revamped branch library ready to reopen to the community by August of 2011.

Security Enhancement Project: This operating budget funded project was initiated to provide upgraded exterior security lighting at a number of branch library locations, including Windsor Park, Southeast Austin Community, Ruiz, University Hills and Little Walnut Creek. To date, the planned lighting improvements have been successfully completed at the Little Walnut Creek, Southeast Austin Community and Windsor Park branches. The lamp wattage of the pole lights at the University Hills Branch has been increased from 250 watts per fixture to 400 watts. Library staff will now monitor the nighttime, exterior lighting levels at the University Hills Branch to determine if these lamping upgrades have significantly improved site security. The underground electrical conduits and concrete pedestals required for the installation of additional pole lights at the Ruiz Branch Library have been successfully constructed, and the pole lights are anticipated to be erected in the next few weeks.

Faulk Central Library Chiller and Cooling Tower Retrofit:

On Thursday, March 3, 2011, the Austin City Council will be asked to authorize award and execution of a contract

through the Texas Multiple Award Schedule (TXMAS) with Trane U.S., Inc. of La Crosse, Wisconsin to purchase and install two cooling towers at the Faulk Central Library in an amount not to exceed \$139,692. Funding for this contract award is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Capital Budget of the Library Department. A cooling tower is a heat rejection device that extracts waste heat to the atmosphere through the cooling of a water stream to a lower temperature. The towers being replaced provide cooled water for air-conditioning at the Faulk Central Library/Austin History Center complex. The existing towers are in poor condition and susceptible to failure. An equipment failure of this type would have far reaching effects by causing a total loss of air conditioning to both the Faulk Central Library and the Austin History Center. The new cooling towers will be equipped with variable frequency drives to improve dependability, operation and reduce energy consumption. On March 3, 2011, Council will also be asked to authorize award and execution of a contract through the Texas Multiple Award Schedule cooperative purchasing program with Trane, U.S., Inc. for the purchase and installation of a centrifugal chiller at the Faulk Central Library in an estimated amount not to exceed \$203,229. Funding for this contract award is available from the Department of Energy (DOE) as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 for the grant period of December 28, 2009 to December 27, 2012. Chillers are refrigeration units that cool water to be distributed to buildings for the purpose of temperature and humidity control. Once the chilled water is used it is returned to the chiller, and the water is chilled once again and sent back out through a continuous loop. This contract will purchase and install a centrifugal chiller in the basement of the Faulk Central Library to replace an old, inoperable chiller. The chiller being replaced provides chilled water for the Faulk Central Library and the Austin History Center complex. When the Faulk Central Library opened in 1979, its mechanical system was designed for two (2) chillers. One of those chillers was replaced in 1998, but that chiller has failed and cannot be repaired. As a result, both buildings are being cooled by the remaining original chiller, which is both nearing the end of its life span and no longer an efficient component of the air-conditioning system for the facilities. This contract with Trane U.S., Inc., will replace the failed chiller with a new high efficiency machine, while installing two (2) variable frequency drives (VFD) on the pumps that serve it. The new chiller and VFD combination will reduce energy consumption, facility maintenance, and operating costs as well as a significant reduction of the carbon footprint of the City of Austin. This retrofit of the chiller and cooling towers at the Faulk Central Library/Austin History Center will reduce the site's electrical demand by an estimated 20.4 kW, and annual energy usage by an estimated 113,150 kWh per year. These savings are equivalent to an estimated 75 tons of Carbon Dioxide, 152,547 vehicle miles traveled, removal of 13 cars from our roadways, the planting of 1,745 trees, or 87 acres of forest in Austin's parklands.

Creek Bank Stabilization Project: Wednesday, January 26, 2011, the Watershed Protection and Development Department (WPD) completed their critically needed bank stabilization project on a tributary of Shoal Creek adjacent to the Yarborough Branch Library. Watershed Protection's

North field operations crew carried out the project in an impressively professional manner. The Library Facilities Services Division has fully expressed its appreciation to the foreman of the WPD North field operations crew for all their hard work to prevent the Yarborough Branch Library's parking lot from being washed out during storm events.

Austin History Center

Programming & Outreach

- On January 8, the AHC hosted the 4th in its series of programs in its Mexican American Firsts: Trailblazers of Austin and Travis County project. *Vamos a Platicar: Preserving Austin's Mexican American History* was a panel discussion with representatives from area libraries, museums and archives that collect materials relating to the Hispanic community.
- Asian American Neighborhood Liaison Esther Chung gave a presentation to the University of Texas LAMP group on January 11. 150 people attended the presentation. On January 22, she represented the AHC at the Asian Studies Southern Consortium at Rice University where she gave a presentation and was part of a roundtable discussion.
- Mexican American Neighborhood Liaison Gloria Espitia gave the presentation "Transition of the Mexican American community in Austin" to the board of the Mexic-Arte Museum on January 15.
- On January 17, African American Neighborhood Liaison Cynthia Evans had a booth at the Austin Heritage Council/Huston-Tillotson University Martin Luther King Day March and Festival.
- The Trailblazers project held a closing reception at the Palmer Events Center on January 29. The event was co-sponsored by the Office of Mayor Pro Tem Mike Martinez. Over 200 people came to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of the 32 trailblazers in the exhibit and to view the AHC documentary-short, *Abriendo Brecha – Making Our Way*.

Collections

- Archives 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 Tejanos In Action Collection, Dot Thornton Papers, Austin Poetry Society Records, Austin Lyric Opera Program and Poster Collection, Austin Shakespeare Club Records, and the UT 10 Collection. The finding aids are available online at: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html.
- The AHC received an interesting donation. Ruth Harris (nee Woody) donated her papers to the AHC. She was Governor Ferguson's nurse shortly before his death in 1994, and included in her papers is a log of her care of the governor.

Publications

- Photos from the AHC were purchased for use in the *Austin American Statesman*, *Texas Monthly*, the upcoming book *Bold Women of Texas* (Mountain Press), and for public display at the Travis County Court of Law #6, Cain & Abel's Restaurant, Starseeds, and Abel's on the Lake.

Exhibits

- The AHC 5X5Y exhibit team is putting the final touches on the new exhibit, 5X5Y: 25 Years of SXSW Music, scheduled to open on February 16. Chock full of historic photos, documents, video and audio clips, the exhibit offers a glimpse into the early years of the SXSW Music Festival, placing the festival in the context of the overall effort by Austin to position itself as the "Live Music Capital of the World." 5X5Y: 25 Years of SXSW Music will be on exhibit in the Grand Hallway and Lobby of the Austin History Center from February 16, 2011 to July 31, 2011. It will officially open on Saturday, March 5, 2011 with the 5X5Y Fest at the Austin History Center, a chance for Austinites to get a taste of the excitement and energy generated by the conference, which starts the following week. 5X5Y Fest begins at 4:30 p.m. with a panel discussion, moderated by noted author and journalist Joe Nick Patoski, featuring Roland Swenson and Louis Black, two of the founders of SXSW. At 6:00 p.m. a free concert begins on the front steps of the AHC. 9th street will be closed so that festival goers can use the street and Wooldridge Park to enjoy the music. The first band will be the under 18 award winning band SCHMILLION, followed by WHY NOT SATELLITE. All the members of WHY NOT SATELLITE played in the first SXSW Music Festival or played at the New Music Seminar in New York City, the event that inspired SXSW. After dark, join us for a free double feature movie presentation in the park, courtesy of the Downtown Austin Alliance and Alamo Drafthouse. The first film will be a short preview of an upcoming documentary on the 25 years of SXSW. The second feature film will be the premiere screening of the recently restored Austin: The Friendly City, a 1943 Chamber of Commerce film in the AHC's film collection. There will be food vendors stationed along 9th street, and the event is free and open to the public.

AHCA News

- The AHCA held a very successful Angelina Eberly Luncheon on Wednesday, February 2. Over 150 people were treated to a wonderful lunch at the Driskill Hotel and an entertaining presentation by three former mayors of Austin, Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Frank Cooksey, and Gus Garcia. This was the first of a planned 3-year cycle of honoring living former mayors of Austin at the annual Eberly luncheon, the main fundraiser for the AHCA. This was the 2nd year of a revitalized luncheon program by the AHCA, and attendance was nearly twice as high this year as in 2010.

Youth Services

Teen Services

Teen Services three new librarians all began working across the Teen Services regions. They will be rotating in their coverage, to help Teen Services cover its sites with more flexibility

Program Services

Planning for upcoming program partnerships between APL Youth Services and the Parks and Recreation Department include two exciting initiatives. The first is a combined effort to promote the Celebration of Urban Birds! Events will be featured at four library locations - Oak Hill, Milwood, Ruiz, and Windsor Park branches and at the Austin Nature

and Science Center. Families will learn about local bird species and find out how to assist the Cornell Lab of Ornithology by doing a bird count in their own backyard! The second partnership initiative is the DACARTS reach program that will be featured at Manchaca, Old Quarry, Terrazas, and Yarborough branches. Each program will feature artists from the Dougherty Arts Center. Programs will feature well known children's literature selections with a theatrical twist. In exchange, the APL Literature LIVE! performance troupe will present Tuesday Tales @ the DAC. Groups too large to visit a library show may enjoy a Literature LIVE! program in a real live performance theater while learning about library services and resources.

Literature LIVE! is in the midst of touring the puppet show Wiley & the Hairy Man. This production utilizes characteristics of Western "bunraku" Japanese Theater including multiple, visible puppeteers who manipulate the puppets directly. Here is a comment from an audience member following the presentation at Old Quarry Branch.

Anita Rizley coordinated the roll out of a Sign Language Storytime in cooperation with the Texas School for the Deaf and the Twin Oaks Branch. Programs will be available once a month beginning in February. Stephanie Shipman, Children's Librarian will facilitate these sessions for both the deaf and hearing community.

Program Services continues to coordinate outreach with the Raise a Reader program spear-headed by Ethel Tarleton, a member of the APL Friends Foundation. In 2010, Raise a Reader packets were available to 740 families. Some of the organizations served include: St. David's Hospital, Austin Birthing Center, South Austin Pregnancy Center, and the Childbearing Years.

The Bibliofiles Book Cart Drill Team are currently preparing for the Texas Library Association state competition in April.

Children's Services

In January, Children's Services welcomed Ann Minner, the Children's Librarian for the Howson branch, and the Oak Hill Youth Services team. She is taking over storytime programs at both Howson and Oak Hill, and she is working to get to know the collections at both locations and to begin assessing community needs from the Library.

January also saw the beginning of a new programming schedule for APL's ACYS. Programs that typically occur weekly, including storytimes and after school activities, will now be set in three spring sessions, one summer session, and two fall sessions. Sessions last for 6 weeks, and short, two-week breaks between sessions give librarians a chance to work on time-consuming collection projects, or to offer concentrated school tours, or to prepare for special programs they may be involved in, such as Summer Reading and Yomicon. These shorter sessions will also allow ACYS staff to try new program formats for shorter periods, and will be able to accommodate community needs by rearranging program plans from session to session.

Grants

The Michael and Susan Dell Foundation funded the Austin Public Library Friends Foundation in the amount of \$152,000 for year three and four of the Connect Youth program at the Austin Public Library. This program consists of ten Teen Centers providing equipment and activities for youth primarily in underserved areas of the city.

Goals for the program include: emphasizing mobile media creative programs and activities for youth that will have a positive effect on academic success, hiring interns to assist with operation of the Teen Centers and deployment of technology, collaborating with the Dell (Giving) Make a Difference community engagement program to brainstorm ways to reduce barriers youth face when using Library resources, building content for the Youth Web Presence from the Library, and creating broader awareness for the Connected Youth program so that more teens will have access to it.

The Michael and Susan Dell Foundation continues to anchor this program, but a diverse array of funding resources are needed to move the program forward. Giving opportunities exist in five areas: Connected Youth Intern Fund, Connected Youth Technology Fund, Connected Youth Program Support Fund, Connected Youth Collection Fund, and Connect Youth Spaces Fund.

Recycled Reads

January revenue for Recycled Reads was approximately \$16,500 and over 4,200 people visited the store

More than twenty five volunteers on average donate over 750 hours of their time to the bookstore. More than 25 pallets of materials from the warehouse were processed and over 230 individual donations from the public were received. Books Beyond Borders picked up the equivalent of 45 pallets of discarded materials per week.

Recycled Read participated in the annual Texas Booksellers Association's Book and Paper show at the Norris Conference Center. Once again Recycled Reads was the top seller, with revenue over \$3000 at the event. Information about Recycled Reads was featured in the insert accompanying customers' Austin Energy's bills. Recycled Reads has a banner ad at the bottom of the APL system maps.

Recycled Reads is participating in AISD's Austin Corps Internship program. Three high school students (two from Crocket, one from Eanes) are working 10/hrs. each at the bookstore on the weekend until mid May.

Staff met with Kim Armstrong and Christopher Johnson of Better World Books who work with library systems all over the United States. They noted that no other library system is doing what APL is with Recycled Reads and its sustainability model.

Volunteer Services

JANUARY 2011 - STATISTICS

Number of Volunteers	204
JANUARY - Volunteer hours	2014.75
Volunteer Value*	\$20.85
	\$42,007.54

January Incidents

- 3 Abandoning children or failing to supervise children at the Library
- 2 Bringing animals into the Library
- 2 Bringing in bedrolls, blankets or sleeping bags.
- 32 Disturbing others using the Library
- 1 Fighting
- 23 Harassment/Sexual harassment of Library staff or customers
- 18 Violating Internet Policy
- 7 Intoxication resulting from alcohol or drugs
- 10 Mistreatment or vandalism of Library facilities, materials, or equipment
- 3 Sleeping in the Library
- 1 Soliciting and panhandling
- 2 Appropriate clothing is required
- 3 Blocking access to Library entrances, passageways or resources
- 11 Disorderly conduct
- 4 Strong Odor
- 7 Unintended use of restrooms
- 11 Using obscene language
- 5 Leaving personal belongings unattended
- 1 Physically attack or threaten to attack another person
- 1 Public Lewdness
- 4 Theft of Library, staff, or customer property
- 7 Destruction of Library property
- 158 Total**

To see the complete up to date listing of events visit

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/calendar.htm>

Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries

