

Highlights

- City of Austin Budget Timeline and next steps: **July 27-** Proposed Budget presented to City Council; **August 17 & 24-** Budget work sessions; Library's Presentation is August 17, time TBS. **September 12-14-** Council adopts Budget & Tax Rate
- The Southeast Austin Community Branch Library is scheduled to reopen September 17, 2011
- Effective August 1, in order to apply for a new library card, renew or replace an existing library card, or to co-sign for a juvenile account, all charges on all accounts must be paid in full.
- August 13 from 12 to 5 p.m. is the University Hills Branch 25th Anniversary Celebration and Community Open House.
- The installation of the internal security cameras has been completed in all libraries.

Facilities Services

New Central Library Project: On July 12th, the architectural/engineering consultants for the New Central Library Project provided Schematic Design drawings and specification manuals to the Construction Manager at Risk, the Commissioning Agent and involved City of Austin staff members. The architectural/engineering consultants have asked the recipients to complete their review and provide comments for the drawings and specifications by August 2nd so that the final Schematic Design documents may be prepared for presentation to Mayor and Council, the Library Commission and the Design Commission prior to the end of September, 2011. At the request of the Library Department, and for the benefit of the New Central Library Project, the Planning Commission initiated a draft ordinance amendment which would allow downtown properties with P (Public) zoning to have the same parking reductions as CBD (Central Business District) and DMU (Downtown Mixed Use) zoning. It was recommended by the Codes and Ordinance Subcommittee on July 19th, the draft ordinance was approved by the Planning Commission and will allow the New Central Library Project to be built with a 200 space parking garage as budgeted. On Thursday, July 14th, the Artist Selection Panel for the New Central Library Project reviewed the 234 submissions received for artistic merit and probability of success, then chose three finalists to be further considered for approval of contract award. During the week of August 8th, the three finalists will visit Austin for project orientation by the project team, and then during the week of October 10th, the finalists will present their proposals to the Artist Selection Panel. The Artist Selection Panel will recommend one Artist and one Alternate to be presented to the AIPP Panel, Arts Commission and Council for approval. After approval, the artist will be put under a Design Team contract to work with the project team to develop location and design of artwork for the New Central Library. The final designs will be approved by the AIPP Panel and the Arts Commission

before any fabrication is begun. The project schedule for the New Central Library stands as follows:

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

- September 22, 2011 ~ Council briefed
- September 26, 2011 ~ Library Commission + Design Commission briefed
- October 20, 2011 ~ Council Approval of Schematic Design

Summer 2012 ~ Design Development Completed (60% Complete Design Package Delivered)

- Council briefed
- Library Commission briefed
- Council Approval

Spring 2013 ~ Construction Document Phase completed

Summer 2013 ~ Guaranteed Maximum Price Determined and Approved by Council

Summer 2013 ~ Permits received

Summer 2013 ~ Groundbreaking Ceremony conducted

Summer 2013 ~ Construction begins

Fall 2015 ~ Construction completed

Winter 2015 ~ Grand Opening Ceremony celebrated.

Financial Year 2011-2012 Five Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Plan:

The various City of Austin departments submitted a long list of potential projects to the Capital Planning Office for the Capital Needs Assessment, as staff worked hard to identify the overall capital needs in their areas of responsibility. Due to the large number of capital needs received, the Capital Planning Office will further refine the needs assessment as they look forward toward a potential 2012 bond referendum. The following parameters will be used in the refinement process and each department will be asked to scale down its submittal accordingly:

- Projects that can be reasonably started and/or completed in the 5-year planning horizon (2013 – 2017)
- Projects that represent urgent or critical needs – i.e., that address impending health/safety/security hazards, infrastructure/facility failure, substantial degradation of existing services levels, etc.
- Projects that represent top priorities/first short-term steps in implementing departmental or organization-wide

master plans

- Defined capital projects as opposed to program areas or “bucket” funding requests to address areas of need
- Focus on capital projects as opposed to creation of master plans or other plan deliverables

Facilities requests will be further reviewed to insure coordination with the developing City of Austin Facilities Master Plan now in progress.

Security Camera Installation Project: The installation of interior security cameras has been completed at all Library sites. Exterior security cameras have been ordered for the Windsor Park Branch Library and will be installed as soon as the equipment is delivered. In anticipation of additional project funding being received next financial year, pricing proposals have been requested of the contractor for the cabling work required to install exterior security cameras at eight other Library locations deemed to be high risk sites by the Library Department. Meanwhile, the training manual for the interior security camera surveillance system has been reviewed, revised and approved by the Library Department, and training will be initiated on August 4th for Library staff.

Austin History Center ADA Compliant Ramp Installation Project: The Austin History Center ADA Compliant Ramp Project has reached substantial completion and the architectural modification to the building has been accepted by the Library Department for use by staff and customers. The few construction items remaining to be completed have been duly noted and stipulated in writing to the contractor. To date, the response of the community to this new and much needed amenity at the City of Austin’s archival repository has been overwhelmingly favorable.

Austin History Center Sewer Retrofit: The branch sewer line servicing the Austin History Center has collapsed in large part beneath the weight of the parking lot that the Austin History Center shares with the Faulk Central Library. The Library Department is working currently with a consulting engineering firm to design a comprehensive retrofit for this failed underground utility pipeline. The construction documents for the project remain 90% complete at this time. The engineering consultants have just provided a Trade Summary of the businesses, occupations and crafts expected to be needed to complete the scope of work. This information is required so that the Minority and Small Business subcontractor goals can be established for the project prior to it being advertised for general construction contractor bids.

Southeast Austin Community Branch Library Renovation: The Southeast Austin Community Branch Library is approaching the end of a renovation promised to the surrounding neighborhoods by the City Manager during meetings with the community in August of 2009 and September of 2010. In the absence of available Capital Improvement Program funding, this project has been made possible through the Library Department’s operating budget resources and the efforts of “in-house” crews from the Library Facilities Services and Library Information

Systems divisions. The repainting of all interior spaces has now been completed, as has the sidewalk repairs at the entrance to the facility. The original Congress Avenue pavers at the site were successfully salvaged and reinstalled, while new exterior security cameras and enhanced security lighting now better protect the site for use by customers and staff. When customers enter the facility through the new set of double doors installed at the north entrance, they will be greeted by the playful hopscotch pattern of carpet tiles in the vestibule. Within the library reading room, bold stripes of color on the more neutral tones of the walls make the interior spaces more interesting by mimicking the exterior masonry stone banding of the building. Areas of bright color now delineate the different collections and serve to draw visitor further into the interiors of the building. The shelving ranges have been realigned closer to the orientation of the building axis allowing additional natural lighting to better illuminate the interiors. The reading chairs have been thoroughly refurbished to appear new, and sustainable countertops will be installed next month to create additional areas for laptop computer users. The Library Department is excited to announce that this thoroughly renovated and much beloved branch library will ready to reopen to the community on Saturday, September 17, 2011, and the theme of our Open House party that day will be a continuing celebration of Diez y Seis de Septiembre festivities.

Faulk Central Library Chiller and Cooling Tower Retrofit: The acquisition of a much needed new chiller to serve the Faulk Central Library/Austin History Center Complex has been made possible through the use of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds managed by Austin Energy, while new cooling towers for the site are being provide by means of the Library’s Capital Improvements Program. The new chiller was delivered and installed in the basement of the Faulk Central Library on July 7th and a temporary cooling tower was placed at the site on July 14th. The temporary cooling tower will allow interior climate control to be maintained for both buildings while the existing cooling tower on the roof of the Faulk Central Library is being deconstructed and new structural support beams added. Currently, the new chiller is being tested to determine its operational readiness prior to the scheduled delivery of the new cooling tower to the site on July 28th . While cranes are hoisting the new cooling tower to the roof, the parking lot will be cordoned off to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic, as safety is one of the primary goals of this infrastructure renewal project. Substantial completion of the project is scheduled before the end of August, but it is anticipated that the new chiller will be contributing to full air conditioning capacity for both the Faulk Central Library and the Austin History Center by the end of the current month.

Austin History Center

Programming & Outreach

- On June 11, the AHC presented a program “From Pease Plantation to Clarksville Community.” Dr. Fred McGehee regaled the audience of 75 with a discussion of Governor E. M. Pease, his stance on slavery and secession, and how his experience serves as an illustration

for the somewhat unique experience of slavery, slave life, and emancipation in Austin and Texas. This program was partially funded by a grant from Humanities Texas (through the Austin History Center Association).

- African American Neighborhood Liaison Cynthia Evans participated in numerous Juneteenth events around town. Through these efforts, the AHC had a presence at the Travis County Juneteenth celebration in Wooldridge Park, the ground breaking for the new African American Cultural Heritage Center, the City's Juneteenth celebration in Rosewood Park, and an Intercultural event at the Four Seasons Hotel. Asian American Neighborhood Liaison Esther Chung joined Cynthia at this last event, and Esther secured or confirmed 3 potential archival donations at the event.

Collections

- Archives staff finished processing 5 collections and placed EAD encoded finding aids for these collections on the Internet at the TARO (Texas Archival Resources Online) website. These collections include the Travis Bar Association Records, the Austin Airport Advisory Commission Records, the Tina Marsh Papers, the John E. Sanders Journals, and the International Hospitality Council of Austin Records. The finding aids are available online at: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html.
- Among the interesting items acquired by the AHC were the Tina Marsh Papers. Marsh was a jazz vocalist, composer and co-founder of the Creative Opportunity Orchestra (CO2) who died of breast cancer in 2009. She had requested that her papers be donated to the AHC. The collection contains event programs, press clippings, CO2 administrative materials and sheet music, some of which were original compositions.
- Asian American Neighborhood Liaison Esther Chung acquired the records of the Austin Filipino-American Association.

Publications

- Photos from the AHC were purchased for use in three upcoming books: African Americans: A Concise History from Pearson Education, Speaking Ill of the Dead from Globe Pequot Press, and Distant Publics: Development Rhetoric from the University of Pittsburgh Press.

Exhibits

- The AHC's current exhibit, 5X5Y: 25 Years of SXSW Music ends on Sunday, July 31. Interest continues to be high for this exhibit. On June 6, Video Archivist Tim Hamblin gave a guided tour of the exhibit to students from St. Mary's Cathedral School. A couple of weeks later he gave a tour to a business delegation from Turner Broadcasting of Atlanta. They were in Austin on a trade mission and interested in the growth of the conference over the years.

Reference

- During the month of June, AHC staff answered 1100 reference questions. Austin American Statesman writer Ben Wear spent time at the AHC researching an article, and gave a special thank you to Video Archivist Tim Hamblin and Reference Archivist Ashley Adair in an email to the AHC as well as in print. A City staff member from another department was so impressed with the service he received

from Processing Archivist Molly Hults that it inspired him to improve his performance at his job.

Youth Services

Teen Services

In June, Teen Services staff began offering programs as part of the Summer Reading program for 2011, Dig Up A Good Book! Staff prepared for YomiCon, an event that brings together teens as well as younger and older enthusiasts to enjoy their interest in manga, anime, and the many media which connect to them through their local library. This year, the event was held at the Ruiz Branch Library, with an estimated 1200 attendees. June was also an intense period of activity for the grants that fuel the Connected Youth Project, the creative technology initiative aimed at tweens and teens. Teen Services Coordinator Heath Rezabek wrote the interim report for the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation's major grant underlying Connected Youth, as well as a report for the former Dell Foundation's legacy funds to keep Interns assisting Teen Services Librarians at APL. The former Teen Services position at the Central Library was reclassified to a Youth Services Specialist, providing 8 Teen Services Librarians. Staff continued to assist in the development of a grant to create a Discovery Lab at the Oak Springs Branch Library, with a focus on Science and Information technology.

Program Services

Literature LIVE! launched the summer reading program puppet show Chicken Big based on Keith Graves book of the same title. The puppet show is currently touring all library locations. Anita Rizley continues to work with summer reading program special event vendors scheduled to perform during June and July.

Program Services assisted with the planning stages of the YOMICON event. In addition, staff offered hands on activities and face-painting.

Staff participated in the Gardner Betts Community Resource Fair in June and spoke to many teens about the library's summer programs for youth and resources for teens at the library. Summer library programming at Gardner Betts is in full swing. Residents can sign up with their librarian in June and July, and will be eligible to pick out a free book to keep upon completion of the program. In addition, Program Services is proud to bring Story Talk, a short story literature discussion group funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to residents at Gardner Betts. Residents participate in 8 short story discussions, and at the end, receive a certificate of completion and a free book of short stories. The Story Talk model is designed to encourage teens to think deeply about the literature they read, stretch themselves beyond their comfortable reading level, and empower them to articulate their thoughts about literature, and their own personal connections to it.

Devo Carpenter and Kathleen Houlihan attended the ALA conference in New Orleans. Highlights from their conference activities include accessing workshops on library outreach strategies, service to special needs

customers, service to incarcerated people, and the new Every Child Ready to Read information.

JUNE - Volunteer hours 1623.70
Volunteer Value* \$21.36
\$34,682.23

Children’s Services

APL kicked off its 2011 Summer Reading Program: Dig Up a Good Book! in June. Librarians set up Summer Reading registration stations in branches, and encouraged young customers to register and set their reading goals for the summer. Children’s Services librarians also worked extensively on the Yomicon event in mid-June. Beginning mid June, Children’s Services librarians have been hosting Summer Reading Program special events in branches throughout the system. Due to ongoing staffing shortages as well as high levels of participation in summer activities, every Children’s Services librarian has been working at numerous locations this summer, assisting customers before, during, and after special events Children’s Services Manager, Sally Miculek, attended the American Library Association conference in June, fulfilling her obligations as a member of the 2011 Pura Belpre Medal selection committee.

Central Library Services

Central Library Services received an **Austin Past and Present** kiosk and placed it on the 3rd floor. **Austin Past and Present** is Austin’s first multimedia history, a comprehensive documentary that chronicles Austin’s past, via a computer presentation. Rich with historic photos, film, and audio recordings from over 160 other archival collections, **Austin Past and Present** features 300 slide shows comprising 1600 images and accompanying stories. The project also features eight videos that chronicle Austin’s history from the geologic formation of the area to the present day. All of these stories and videos are accessible simply by clicking a computer mouse through a user-friendly interface that uses interactive timelines and maps to bring Austin’s history to life.

Recycled Reads

June revenue for Recycled Reads was approximately \$13,250 and over 4,250 people visited the store.

More than twenty volunteers on average donate over 320 hours of their time to the bookstore. More than 10 pallets of materials from the warehouse were processed and over for pickup and 180 individual donations from the public were received.

Goodwill Industries of Central Texas provided necessary equipment to streamline the discarding process. City Purchasing staff began the selection of a vendor for unsellable media in the RFP for the City’s reclamation bid. A dedicated email has been established for the store recycled.reads@ci.austin.tx.us.

Volunteer Services

JUNE 2011 - STATISTICS
Number of Volunteers 147

June Incidents

- 3 Abandoning children or failing to supervise children at the Library
- 2 Bringing in bedrolls, blankets or sleeping bags.
- 28 Disturbing others using the Library
- 2 Fighting
- 2 Entering unauthorized areas
- 21 Harassment/Sexual harassment of Library staff or customers
- 18 Violating Internet Policy
- 8 Intoxication resulting from alcohol or drugs
- 6 Mistreatment or vandalism of Library facilities, materials, or equipment
- 16 Sleeping in the Library
- 1 Voyeurism and peeping
- 2 Appropriate clothing is required
- 2 Blocking access to Library entrances, passageways or resources
- 9 Disorderly conduct
- 2 Unintended use of restrooms
- 8 Using obscene language
- 11 Leaving personal belongings unattended
- 3 Physically attack or threaten to attack another person
- 1 Unlawfully carrying or displaying weapons
- 17 Theft of Library, staff, or customer property
- 8 Destruction of Library property
- 6 Bringing food or drink into the Library

176 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

