

### **Highlights**

- City of Austin Budget Timeline and next steps: Library's Presentation is August 24, the session starts at 9am. The public hearings for the entire budget for all departments are August 25 and September 1.  
**September 12-14** Council adopts Budget & Tax Rate
- The Twin Oaks Branch Library received one of the top four regional 'Design Excellence' awards at the International Interior Design Association's TX-OK Awards Gala in Dallas
- The Southeast Austin Community Branch Library is scheduled to reopen September 17, 2011

### **Facilities Services**

**New Central Library Project:** Following the June 20th City of Austin charette on "Lessons from the Sustainability Conference in Portland, Oregon", staff is exploring the idea of developing 2nd Street from the Shoal Creek Bridge to West Avenue (the north side of the New Central Library) as a "Festival Street", based on the "Woonerf" concept from the Netherlands. A woonerf (Dutch plural: woonerven) in the Netherlands and Flanders is a street where pedestrians and cyclists have legal priority over motorists. The techniques of shared spaces, traffic calming, and low speed limits are intended to improve pedestrian, bicycle and automobile safety. On the morning of Tuesday, August 9th, all three artist finalists – Alice Aycock (Los Angeles), Benjamin Ball (New York), and Christian Moeller (New York) were in town for a four hour Finalist Orientation Meeting of the New Central Library Art In Public Places Project at City Hall. An AIPP Panel Representative discussed the Goals for the Artwork at the New Central Library at length with the finalists. Then, an overview of the Austin Central Library CIP Project was provided, with the Library Facilities Process Manager speaking to the Goals and Values of the Library Department while the Public Works Project Manager and the Consultant Project Architect gave insights into the Project Construction and Schedule as well as an overview of surrounding development for the New Central Library site. The meeting was concluded with a tour of the New Central Library site provided for the artists. On the afternoon of Tuesday, August 9th, representatives from a wide array of involved City departments met with the project's consultant architects to discuss review comments on the New Central Library Schematic Design. The City's core project management team continued to meet with the consultant architects on Wednesday, August 10th, and Thursday, August 11th, to review architectural, structural and MEP (Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing) items of the Schematic Design and to discuss "next steps" activities. On Tuesday, August 16th, Austin Energy will allow the New Central Library project management team and engineers to explore an underground structure at the Seaholm Substation site that is being considered for use as a storage tank for the New Central Library's rainwater harvesting system. On

Wednesday, August 17th, the Downtown Commission will discuss and possibly take action on a proposed Ordinance Amendment to reduce parking requirements of property zoned P-Public in the downtown area. On Thursday, August 18th, the Austin City Council will vote to set a public hearing to consider this ordinance amending Chapter 25-6 of the City Code, modifying parking requirements for properties in the downtown area that are zoned P-Public. The suggested date and time for this public hearing is Thursday, September 22nd, 4:00 PM at Austin City Hall. The Ordinance Amendment under discussion is sought because the New Central Library Project was approved by City Council on December 9, 2010 with a requirement of 200 spaces. However, the zoning classification of "P" in the Urban Core currently would require the building to have a parking capacity of 320 spaces. If the requirements of CBD – Central Business District Designation were applied to the project (as per the Amendment), our building's required parking capacity would be between 80 and 240 spaces. 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.

**City of Austin Facilities Master Plan:** The City of Austin is in the process of developing a Facilities and Logistics

Roadmap to serve as a guide for the City's immediate (next 5 years) and long range (10 – 15 years) facility development. The City of Austin is currently in the second phase of this planning process. During this phase, the staff and consultant project team will be gathering the quantitative information that, in conjunction with the more qualitative information gathered in Phase 1, will form the foundation of the desired Roadmap. At the first of August, the City of Austin initiated the Space Needs Assessment to:

- Establish current and projected space needs by department and building
- Identify major support areas
- Identify internal (with other City departments) and external agencies (proximities)
- Identify key issues and concerns

A web-based tool, along with updated departmental inventories of properties, have been provided to assist staff in gathering the above-mentioned information by department and location prior to the two week deadline for completion of the exercise.

**Security Camera Installation Project:** All interior cameras have been installed throughout the Austin Public Library's departmental inventory of properties. Library Security Officers' training on the protective surveillance system was completed on August 4th, with subsequent training for Managing Librarians to be scheduled shortly. The new software will allow both Security Officers and Librarians to remotely monitor many more areas of Library property while remaining available to provide customer service at circulation desks and security stations. Meanwhile, the Windsor Park Branch Library will be the first APL facility to have a complete complement of exterior security cameras installed and made fully operational by August 18th. In anticipation of further funding being provided for this security improvement project in the coming Fiscal Year, APL is in the process of pricing and project scoping exterior security cameras for the remainder of its facilities, as recent, troubling bouts of vandalism, theft and other crimes at Library locations have made this endeavor a top priority for the department.

**Austin History Center ADA Compliant Ramp Installation Project:** This architectural modifications project, undertaken to improve accessibility to the Austin History Center, is completed. The project was inspected by an independent contractor for the purpose of determining compliance with provisions of the Texas Architectural Barriers Act, Article 9102, Texas Civil Statutes. The independent contractor found the project to be in compliance with the applicable provisions of the referenced Act. On August 10, 2011, the project was approved by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations; Compliance Division/ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS.

Austin History Center Sewer Retrofit: Due to the difficulties they are experiencing with completing the bid documents for this project, the consultant engineers have replaced their project manager once again. A meeting is now being

arranged to discuss how best to overcome the current impasse, with the proposed attendees to be the Library's Facilities Process Manager and Project Coordinator, the consultant firm's principal engineer and the last two project managers, as well as the MEP Engineering Rotation List Manager from the Contract and Land Management Department.

Southeast Austin Community Branch Library Renovation: The newly renovated Southeast Austin Community Branch Library will now welcome visitors with brilliant colors that enliven interior spaces and reflect the vibrancy of the community this library serves. The revamped branch also promotes the collaborative method of learning, so prevalent among our younger customers today, by providing a variety of work spaces such as work counters, desk seating, computer work stations and soft seating. The customer's experience of the library has also been enhanced by the window views being opened up and adding more daylight to the interior spaces. The renovation process employed the sustainable processes adopted by the Library Department, including using carpeting made from recycled products. The old carpet when removed is diverted from the landfill to be repurposed. Marmoleum flooring, made from highly regenerative material and therefore often called "a living floor", was installed throughout the staff areas of the facility. The new WIFI bar not only provides additional seating, but is constructed from 100% recycled paper that has been processed to be as durable as granite. While the facility was closed for remodeling, Library staff took the opportunity to carry out security upgrades such as installing interior and exterior security cameras and enhancing the parking lot lighting to provide better visibility at night. APL is excited to bring this thoroughly renewed branch library back into service for the community and it is hoped that our customers turn out in large numbers to help us celebrate the reopening of the Southeast Austin Community Branch Library on Saturday, September 17th, from 10:00 AM until Noon.

Faulk Central Library Chiller and Cooling Tower Retrofit: In a carefully planned sequence of work, the defunct screw chiller in the Faulk Central Library basement was replaced with a new, highly efficient 220 ton centrifugal chiller. The initial startup of the equipment proved to be immediately and impressively successful. This new chiller was custom built with the latest energy efficiency technology, as per the Library Department's and its longtime commissioning agent's specifications. This retrofit constitutes a tremendous upgrade from the previous chiller. For one, the noise level was reduced dramatically, always a worthwhile goal in the Library environment. Secondly, the controls feature a touch screen LCD display that it is much more intuitive to operate than any previous generation of mechanical control systems, allowing APL HVAC technicians to troubleshoot problems at the point of contact with the equipment. Additionally, the interface of these chiller controls with our automated "smart building" system is virtually seamless as the new controls are completely compatible with our current software. Phase II of the project called for the existing and deteriorated cooling towers on the roof of Faulk Central to be replaced.

First, a temporary cooling tower was installed near the loading dock area of the facility to keep the new chiller operational, avoiding closure of the Faulk Central Library/ Austin History Center Complex due to a loss of interior climate control. Using a crane, the old cooling towers were removed from the roof and the new dual cooling towers were installed in a meticulous one day operation on August 17th, negating the need to close the Complex's parking lot for two days as originally planned. Now that the new cooling towers are in place, technical adjustments will be made during the next several weeks to ensure that the site's mechanical equipment is interfacing properly and operating at optimal levels. Anticipated completion of the project is approximately at the end of September, but APL customers and staff immediately experienced the benefits of the retrofit as ideal temperatures have been maintained since the new chiller was started.

## **Austin History Center**

### **Programming & Outreach**

- African American Neighborhood Liaison gave a presentation to the Texas Historical Commission on July 12. The presentation was about outreach efforts and the liaison program. The presentation has already netted positive results as THC staff has agreed to help with oral history training for a project the AHC is working on with the African American Cultural District.
- On July 29, Video Archivist Tim Hamblin gave a tour of the SXSW exhibit for staff from the Austin Music Office. This tour led to a larger discussion of how the AHC can work with this office in documenting and preserving Austin's music heritage.

### **Collections**

- Archives staff finished processing 4 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 Harry Jander Papers, the Triangle Development Records, the Grandmothers' Delight Records, and the Becker Family 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).
- Among the interesting items acquired by the AHC were several collections from different Mexican American families. Among the donations were the family papers from Bea Fincher, Nellie Tellez, and the Quintanilla-Reyes families. These donations, and many other smaller ones, are part of the Voces Latinas project, led by Mexican American Neighborhood Liaison Gloria Espitia.

### **Publications**

- Photos from the AHC were purchased for use in recent issues of the Lake Travis View, the Austin Bulldog, and the Austin American Statesman. Also, AHC images and collections have played an important role in a new mural at the Deep Eddy Pool, serving as inspiration for different historical themes in the project. See <http://www.deepedymural.org/> for more about the mural.

### **Exhibits**

- The AHC is working hard on the next exhibit, Sounding Together: 100 Years of the Austin Symphony, scheduled to open on September 13, 2011. Historic photographs, documents and artifacts trace the history of the Austin Symphony Orchestra from its beginnings as an informal group of Austin classical music enthusiasts to its present status as a leading professional symphony orchestra. To mark the opening of the exhibit the Austin History Center and the Austin Symphony Orchestra Society, Inc will co-host a musical event at the Wooldridge Square Park, 900 Guadalupe St. (across the street from the Austin History Center) on October 2, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Austin Symphony Brass Quintet will perform from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public and is made possible by the generosity of the Austin Symphony Orchestra and the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department.
- Mexican American Neighborhood Liaison Gloria Espitia is working on multi-institutional exhibit, Voces Latinas: An Exhibit in Five Parts. This exhibit explores the contributions and roles of 100 noted and notable Austin Latinas and will be on display across 5 locations: Terrazas Branch Library, Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, Ann Richards School for Girls, Nettie L. Benson Latin American Collection, and Mexic-Arte Museum. The exhibit kicks off with a reception on September 25 (Austin Museum Day) at 2:00 pm at the MACC.

### **Grants**

- The AHC, through the AHCA, received a grant from the Austin Foundation for Architecture to support an upcoming exhibit in the David Earl Holt Photo Gallery. The exhibit will be about Art Deco architecture in Austin, and the grant will pay for the construction of large frames for displaying architectural drawings. The exhibit will travel to the offices of the American Institute of Architects, Austin Chapter, after it closes at the AHC.

### **AHCA**

- The AHCA recently received word of a \$75,000 donation to the AHCA from the estate of Gladys Marian Pharr Posey, who passed away a couple months ago in San Marcos. She had been a teacher and coach at the Texas School for the Deaf. The AHCA had approached Posey a few years ago for support. While it may take up to a year before the funds are released, this is a great gift to the AHCA, and the AHC.

## **Youth Services**

### **Teen Services**

Throughout July, APL's Teen Services Librarians continued to offer an amazing variety of activities and hosted programs for the young people of Austin. Legos and cameras made amazing animations possible to the youngsters who gave it a try. Terrariums were built, Bento Boxes – A unique Japanese format for small delightful bite-sized foodstuffs – were constructed, and all the while APL's

young customers continued to read feverishly so they could get a book prize at the end of the program.

### **Program Services**

Literature LIVE! is wrapping up a very successful run of "Chicken Big." Many of the audience members were familiar with the book written by Austin author/illustrator Keith Graves. Mr. Graves attended the show at Manchaca Road Branch with his wife and children. What a thrill for the Literature LIVE! team to create & perform this sweet and humorous story!

APL's Second Chance Books project has received a Kids Need to Read grant. The grant provides books for use at the Gardner Betts Juvenile Justice Center. The Kids Need to Read Program also provides literacy activities to accompany their book donations, to help engage at-risk youth in reading. Because so many incarcerated youth have low reading levels, it is critical for them to read so they can improve their literacy skills and the easiest way to do that is with high-interest materials. The Library has received the first shipment of over 100 titles and will receive additional shipments as they complete the literacy activities with the youth at Gardner Betts. Kids Need to Read works to create a culture of reading for children by providing inspiring books to underfunded schools, libraries, and literacy programs across the United States, especially those serving disadvantaged children. For more information visit [www.kidsneedtoread.org](http://www.kidsneedtoread.org).

In July, Literature LIVE! presented storytime training to BookSpring and People's Community Clinic volunteers in support of literacy activities for Reach Out and Read clinics. BookSpring provides essential literacy programs based on distinct program models to create a continuum of literacy development. They provide books, reading experiences and tools to children and their families so that they can develop a desire to read and succeed in school. People's Community Clinic is a Reach Out and Read clinic where APL trained volunteers offer storytime for children and their parents in the waiting room. Both organizations are excited about partnering with APL Youth Services. Ellen Scott, Youth Program Specialist attended the Puppeteers of America 2011 National Festival in Atlanta for its 75th anniversary. The National Puppetry Festival is a venture of the Puppeteers of America, a nonprofit organization founded in 1937. It provides information, encourages performances, and builds a community of people who love puppet theatre.

### **Children's Services**

In July, Children's Services librarians continued presenting Summer Reading Program activities, storytimes, and encouraging youngsters to register for the Summer Reading Program. Many libraries hosted capacity crowds at programs and events throughout the month, and participants were overwhelmingly enthusiastic about the activities on offer at the Library this year.

Josefina Rodriguez-Gibbs, Elizabeth Murphy, Aubrey Sanders, and Celia Holm completed the materials selection and ordering for the areas where they are responsible and submitted orders to the ACCS division for final ordering.

## **Central Library Services**

Because of customer interest in this training, Central Library Services' has expanded Job Searching / Computer Lab to three times a week from 3:00 to 4:00 PM.

Joe Bond and Peggy Owen, Central Library Services Reference Librarians, attended the training for the online City Code database. In an effort to go green, the City is replacing many of its printed copies of the City Code with the online version.

## **Recycled Reads**

July revenue for Recycled Reads was approximately \$14,420 and over 4,650 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 over 250 individual donations from the public were received.

City Purchasing staff formed a selection committee for a vendor for the City's PC reclamation and media recycling requirements. Book Art went on sale at Recycled Reads. Volunteer Groups such as NCL and Girl Scouts helped make book art, book safes and jewelry. Pieces were sent to branches to sell or display.

## **Volunteer Services**

### **JULY 2011 - STATISTICS**

Number of Volunteers	137
JULY - Volunteer hours	1523.68
Volunteer Value*	\$21.36
	<b>\$32,545.80</b>

## **July Incidents**

- 8 Abandoning children or failing to supervise children at the Library
- 1 Bringing animals into the Library
- 1 Bringing in bedrolls, blankets or sleeping bags.
- 2 Child abuse
- 33 Disturbing others using the Library
- 3 Fighting
- 5 Entering unauthorized areas
- 21 Harassment/Sexual harassment of Library staff or customers
- 14 Violating Internet Policy
- 6 Intoxication resulting from alcohol or drugs
- 9 Mistreatment or vandalism of Library facilities, materials, or equipment
- 18 Sleeping in the Library
- 1 Voyeurism and peeping
- 2 Soliciting and panhandling
- 3 Appropriate clothing is required
- 7 Blocking access to Library entrances, passageways or resources

- 14 Disorderly conduct
- 4 Strong Odor
- 8 Unintended use of restrooms
- 2 Using obscene language
- 16 Leaving personal belongings unattended
- 3 Physically attack or threaten to attack another person
- 1 Public Lewdness
- 1 Theft of Library, staff, or customer property
- 5 Destruction of Library property
- 5 Bringing food or drink into the Library

**202 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

