

Austin Public Library Director's Report June 2012

More Than Books

Highlights

- City of Austin Budget Timeline and next steps: August 1-Proposed Budget presented to City Council; August 12 & 22-Budget work sessions; August 23 – Budget Public Hearing/Tax Rate Public Hearing/Utility Rate Hearings; August 30 – Budget Public Hearing/Tax Rate Public Hearing; September 10-12- Council adopts Budget & Tax Rate.
- The Milwood Branch received a \$5,000 donation from an anonymous donor who is "lover of books and a passionate Shakespearian."
- Anna Stavinoha is the new manager of Old Quarry, she started June, 18.
- The Old Quarry Branch will reopen Saturday, June 30, at 10 a.m.

Facilities Services

New Central Library Project: June, 2012, has proven to be yet another fast paced month for the many City staff members and consultants engaged in developing the design of Austin's New Central Library. On June 7th, a critically important meeting was held with Austin Energy engineering staff to discuss the extensive photovoltaic array planned for the roof on the New Central Library. On June 12th, the New Central Library Executive Team, chaired by Assistant City Manager, Bert Lumbreras, met to review the project's progress and to review the public parking opportunities planned in the redevelopment of the entire Seaholm/Lower Shoal Creek/Green Water Treatment Plant area. Of equal importance are ongoing discussions with Austin Water Utility officials regarding the foundation options for the New Central Library, given the current understanding of the interaction between the waste water tunnel beneath the site and the layout of the structural piers. Conference calls are likewise being conducted with the artist commissioned to produce a significant work of public art for the New Central Library, as he has proposed changes to his design and will also need to pursue a variance request from local building code officials in order to provide electrical power to his artwork through a firerated wall. On June 19th, an Owner's Update Workshop will be provided by the consultant design team to review the latest architectural, program, budget and sustainability developments occurring with the project. The consultant design team will also meet with the City's Technical Team (Technology and Security) to review updated drawings and specifications. On June 28th, the Austin City Council will be asked to authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with the Joint Venture of Lake/Flato Architects, Inc. / Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott Inc. for architectural services to the New Central Library in the amount of \$1,300,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$8,500,000. This amendment to the professional services agreement is required in order to continue with the design of the project, allowing design phase services to fulfill the new definition of the New Central Library as the "Library

of the Future". These modifications to the architectural/ engineering scope of work include the complete design and construction of the 192,000 net square feet of space, the design of a detailed rainwater collection system utilizing an underground, former Austin Energy pump room as a storage tank, design of a detailed foundation system responsive to the geotechnical engineering investigation outcome as well as the flood conditions of Lady Bird Lake, the selection and procurement of additional furnishings and equipment, and the additional detailed coordination with adjacent, ongoing projects. The project schedule for the New Central Library is as follows:

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

- Council briefed
- · Library and Design Commissions briefed

December 2012 ~ Construction Cost Limitation approved by Council

June 2013 ~ Construction Document Phase completed (100% Complete Design Package Delivered)

August 2013 ~ Permits received

November 2013 ~ Groundbreaking Ceremony conducted

December 2013 ~ Construction begins

December 2015 ~ Construction completed

Spring 2016 ~ Grand Opening Ceremony celebrated.

2012 Bond Development Process: The Bond Election Advisory Task Force (BEATF) has completed its work and developed recommendations for a \$575 million package as well as a \$400 million package to be presented to Council. The City Council will make the final determination on the composition of a possible bond package in August. The BEATF's recommendations and any staff recommendations will be presented to City Council at a work session on June 26th. Council will further discuss the recommendations and consider possible bond proposition language at a work session on August 7th. The Council must schedule any possible bond election no later than August 20th, and the last scheduled regular Council meeting before that date is August 16th. Individuals and organizations interested in providing input on the potential bond package will have opportunities to do so before Council takes final action, and are encouraged to check the www.austintexas. gov/bonddevelopment web site for updates. The Library Department's priority order for these critically needed projects is:

- Pleasant Hill Branch Library Roof Replacement & HVAC Upgrade (\$1,234,000)
- 2. Renovation of the Will Hampton Branch Library at Oak Hill (\$1,340,000)
- 3. University Hills Branch Library Parking Lot

Expansion (\$1,022,000)

- 4. Milwood Branch Library Renovation (\$1,066,000)
- Austin History Center Interior & Exterior Improvements (\$1,168,000)
- 6. Zaragoza Warehouse Fire Sprinkler Upgrade (\$497.000)
- 7. Cepeda Branch Library Renovation (\$684,000)
- 8. Yarborough Branch Library Renovation (\$592,000)
- 9. Windsor Park Branch Library Renovation (\$439,000)

Austin History Center Wastewater Line Retrofit Project: Unfortunately, the new engineering consultant firm assigned to this project from the City's Mechanical/ Electrical/Plumbing Rotation List has gotten off to a slow start. A second engineer from the firm visited the site on May 31, 2012, but there was little evidence that he had been briefed by the first engineer to visit the Austin History Center on May 18th. On June 11th, a proposal status

update was requested from the selected firm, but to date

the Library Department has not received a response.

Faulk Central Library/Austin History Center Chiller and Cooling Tower Retrofit: The Austin Public Library and its project partner, Austin Energy, have received the contractor's revised change order proposal for exhaust system modifications needed to bring the Faulk Central Library basement chiller room within compliance to new mechanical codes. The building permit for these modifications has been extended by the City of Austin with several stipulations which added costs to the original estimate. However, the new change order proposal will allow the Faulk Central Library mechanical room and equipment to be brought into full compliance with the requirements of the new building code. Council's approval will be needed to award the new change order amount, and Austin Energy and the Library Department are working together diligently to place this item on a Council agenda during August of 2012. The funding for this change order proposal will be provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The work required to enact the desired building engineering modifications is not expected to exceed six weeks in length, nor is the work expected to cause any interruption of normal business at the Faulk Central Library and Austin History Center complex.

Exterior Security Cameras Installation Project: Security cameras and lightning protection grounding for those devices have been installed at critical Library sites. The cameras and their associated software are now undergoing several weeks of testing and control programming. The critical Library sites where security camera installation and equipment grounding activities have been completed are: Ruiz, Carver, University Hills, Southeast Austin Community, Little Walnut Creek, Terrazas, St. John's and the Willie Mae Kirk branch libraries..

Faulk Central Library Boilers and Flue Retrofit Project: On June 14th, the contract was executed with the mechanical engineering firm selected to design the Faulk Central Library Boilers and Flue Retrofit Project, and official Notice To Proceed with the assignment was issued by the City of Austin. After rejecting, due to lack of commissioning experience, the first engineering firm assigned from the MEP Rotation List to serve as Commissioning Agent for

this project, the Library Department had a much more promising interaction with the second, and far more experienced engineering firm seeking the award of this critically important contract. A proposal for this service provision is now anticipated from the favored firm prior to June 25th. Commissioning will ensure that all elements of the project are designed, installed, functionally tested, documented and capable of being maintained to perform in compliance with the Library Department's project requirements.

Branch Libraries Photovoltaic System Installation Project:This joint project with Austin Energy, utilizing a State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) grant, calls for the installation of solar panels on the roofs of the Carver, Spicewood Springs, Cepeda and Ruiz branch libraries. The solar panel array at the Carver Branch Library is substantially complete with the exception of some minor programming issues. It is the largest such installation found in the Library's inventory of properties and one of the largest planned to date for any City of Austin facility. The three roof levels of the Carver Branch Library will be covered by 276 modules (solar panels) set at a 5 degree angle. This roof mounted photovoltaic system will provide 60 KW for the Carver Branch Library and whatever electricity is not used by the library will be absorbed by the City grid for distribution elsewhere. Austin Energy is planning to conduct a media event celebrating the successful installation of the photovoltaic array installation at the Carver Branch Library and the Carver Museum on June 20th, at 9:00 AM, in synchronization with the Summer Solstice, the first day of summer. The work to install photovoltaic panels at the Ruiz Branch Library has been substantially completed as well and the installation of photovoltaic panels at the Spicewood Springs Branch Library has been started. The work at the Spicewood Springs Branch will take an additional four (4) weeks to allow time for the Public Works Department to perform a limited asbestos abatement project that is necessary before installation can proceed. Special solar panel mounting racks required for the Cepeda Branch Library have been ordered and work at that site will commence as soon as those racks are delivered. The Library Department anticipates that all work on this solar energy project will be completed within sixty (60) days and will necessitate no interruption of library services.

Willie Mae Kirk Branch Library Naming Ceremony:

Production of the replacement signage for the Willie Mae Kirk (formerly the Oaks Springs) Branch Library has been initiated by the selected vendor. Approval was given to the vendor to begin fabrication after the design template and text for both sides of the monument sign and the building signage was reviewed for accuracy and aesthetic appeal. Signage fabrication is currently in the first of a four step process; step one consists of first manufacturing the stainless steel pans and then delivering them to the etcher to ensure that the etched panels are exactly the same size as the structural pans to which they will be attached. Deconstruction of the existing signage at the branch library, and installation of the new, is now tentatively being scheduled for mid-August. The Library Department is in close liaison with the Kirk family regarding the facility renaming ceremony, and discussions are currently

underway regarding the scheduling of the event in the Fall, when temperatures should be more conducive for staging the celebration outdoors. Due to the large turnout of friends and admirers expected, conducting the ceremony indoors at the branch library does not appear feasible.

Old Quarry Branch Library Plumbing Repairs: The Old Quarry Branch Library will be closed from June 18th through June 29th to allow a major plumbing repair project to be safely carried out. Customers may continue to use the book drop at Old Quarry while the facility is closed and are encouraged to seek full library services at the nearby North Village and Yarborough branches, or at any one of the City's other nineteen lending library locations. The plumbing repairs being enacted at this site include the excavation and deconstruction of a badly sagging sewer line and its replacement with a new pipeline. Following the successful completion of the project, the Old Quarry Branch Library will reopen to the public at 10:00 AM on June 30th.

Austin History Center Programming & Outreach

- Mexican American Liaison Gloria Espitia gave a presentation on the history of Cinco de Mayo and how this holiday is celebrated in Austin and Travis County at the Manor Excel Academy School in Manor on Saturday, May 5. Over seventy-five people attended.
- Asian American Liaison Esther Chung served as the keynote speaker for the first annual APA (Asian/Pacific American) Symposium at the National Archives in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 19. The APA Historical Society invited Esther to be the featured speaker for their inaugural conference because the AHC's efforts to document the local Asian community is unique in the country and is seen as a role model for other communities.

Collections

- Staff finished processing 7 collections and placed EAD encoded finding aids for these collections on the Internet at the TARO website. These collections include the Austin Ballet Theater Records, the Howson Community Association Records, the Blackshear Elementary Parent-Teacher Association Scrapbooks, the Kate and Carl Bergquist Papers, the Ora Elliott Houston School Board Campaign Scrapbook, the Bobo Family Papers, and the Emma Holman Scott Scrapbook. The finding aids are available online at: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_ahc1.html.
- The AHC recently acquired the archives of the East Austin organization PODER, People Organized in the Defense of Earth and her Resources. An archives intern from Texas State University is hard at work processing this collection. Over its 20 year history, PODER has been involved in numerous community based projects in East Austin, and their records are treasure trove for researchers interested in topics such as gentrification, the Holly Power Plant, the tank farms, Montopolis, and many others.
- Two UT students worked with the FronteraFest (Hyde Park Theater) organizers and the Austin History Center to establish a program for annually archiving materials from this long running Austin arts event. In its 19th year, this fringe theater festival has three components: the Short Fringe, which consists of pieces of 25 minutes or less; the

Long Fringe, which includes works up 90 minutes long; and Mi Casa Es Su Teatro, which will feature site-based works performed in local homes and businesses. The first donation includes programs, posters and administrative records dating back to the 1990s.

Publications

 Photos from the AHC were purchased for use in an upcoming book by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, in the Headliner's Club newsletter, and in public displays at the State Bar of Texas and Mary's Hair Studio

Exhibits

• The AHC recently received 2 new exhibit cases, custom designed and built for the AHC by Henry Levine, LLC. The cases are hand built oak cases with side carvings to match the decorative motif in the loggia paintings on the AHC's front porch. They feature a clear top for viewing from all angles and are lit with LED lights to protect original materials on display. These cases were made possible through generous donations to the AHCA in memory of George Attal, owner of Attal Galleries. Family and friends of George established the George Attal Exhibit Fund through the AHCA to support the AHC's exhibits.

Youth Services

The 2012 Summer Reading Program is in full swing. In addition to a summer full of great reading, with events beginning June 10 for young people of all ages, including storytimes for children under age 5, afternoon special events for children aged 5 to 12. Schedules can be picked up at the branches or viewed online at http://library.austintexas.gov/youth-events?field_event_loc_tid=All&term_node_tid_depth=405&field_date_value_1%5B value%5D%5Bdate%5D=&=Apply

The 5th annual YomiCon event at the Ruiz Branch was a great success. YomiCon is APL's annual teen anime and manga convention. YomiCon encourages teens and tweens to develop digital, media, cultural, and traditional literacy skills while exploring their interests. This free program is open to all ages, but is targeted for teens age 11-17. YomiCon was started in 2008 as a way to get teens more involved in the library's Summer Reading Program, and has been wildly successful, growing in size and scope each year. This year's program had approximately 1000 attendees who checked out about 650 items.

Recycled Reads

May revenue for Recycled Reads was approximately \$11,500 and over 3,800 people visited the store.

More than twenty volunteers on average donate over 200 hours of their time to the bookstore. More than 19 pallets of materials from the warehouse were processed and over 200 individual donations from the public were received. Approximately 24 pallets of materials were sorted representing over 48,500 items. Good Will picked up over 35 gaylords of material, and approximately 14 tons of materials were diverted from the landfill. Image Microsystems picked-up 2 pallets of materials.

On May 2, YNN's Bonnie Gonzalez filmed four two minute spots about Recycled Reads. Those spots ran throughout the day and are archived on YNN website.

Volunteer Services

MAY 2012 - STATISTICS

Number of Volunteers 160 MAY - Volunteer hours 1389.27 Volunteer Value* \$ 21.36 \$29,674.80

May Incidents

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

251 Total

Locations # of Incidents

ACE 64 ATB 22

ALW 15

ASE 11

ACB 10

AMR 8

ARZ 8

ASJ 7

ACP 6

AOQ 6

APH 6

AUH 6 AWP 6

ASR 5

AMI 4

AOS 4

AWK 4

AHC 3 ANV 3

ATO 2 AOK 1

AOK 1 AYB 1

To see the complete up to date listing of events visit

http://library.austintexas.gov/events

Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries



