

## Austin Public Library Director's Report May 2014

## More Than Books

#### **Highlights**

- The Proposed Budget is presented to Council on July 31.
   Departmental presentations to Council are on August 13.
- June 10, 5:30 PM, at Willie Mae Kirk Branch & June 19, 10:30 AM, at Ruiz Branch, the Library is partnering with the City's Small Business Development Program to present BizAid Business Orientation workshops that give valuable information on opening a small business or re-evaluating an existing business during its growth.
- June 11, 6:30 PM, at the Austin History Center there
  will be a panel discussion with Carole Keeton and
  Wilhelmina Delco about their lives and political careers,
  moderated by St. Edward's professor Paula Marks.
  This program is part of the current exhibit, Backwards
  in High Heels: Getting Women Elected, 1842-1990.
- The 2014 Adult Summer Reading Program runs through August 31. This year's prizes were donated by the Austin Public Library Friends Foundation. Summer reading events for adults kick off on June 15, 2 PM, at Manchaca Road Branch, She Blinded Me with Science @ The Library! We will conduct science experiments that you can easily replicate at home to impress friends and family. Come out and enjoy a bit of electronics, chemistry and other scientific tidbits. Please don't wear your fanciest duds as there is a possibility of getting messy.
- June 21, 12 PM & 3:30 PM, at Recycled Reads, Random Acts of Harping will present harp concerts, interactive discussion about the harp, and a harp "petting zoo."

## **Facilities Services**

New Central Library Project: On Friday, April 10th, starting at 10:00 PM, the project's Construction Manager at Risk, Hensel Phelps, began placing approximately 9,000 cubic yards of concrete for the foundation of the New Central Library. This was a very challenging, 24 hour operation involving over 1,000 cement trucks and five pump trucks to construct a mat slab roughly 200 feet by 200 feet in area and 5 and a half feet thick. Over 1,433 tons of reinforcing steel was used in the construction of the mat slab. The placement of the mat slab is a significant milestone in the construction of the New Central Library, heralding the beginning of the vertical construction of the building. The extensive planning required to accomplish the successful, non-stop delivery of concrete by more than a 1,000 trucks to the site typifies the teamwork that continues to be the hallmark of the New Central Library Project. In another New Central Library development, Library Facilities Services staff toured Austin Energy's Downtown Chilled Water Plant on Thursday, May 1st, in order to become familiar with its operation. Large buildings typically use chilled water for cooling and dehumidification purposes, and the New Central Library building will be provided with chilled water from the downtown district central plant by means of a network of underground pipes. Acquiring

chilled water services for the New Central Library from Austin Energy provides numerous benefits for the Library Department including avoidance of a capital investment of millions of dollars for cooling system equipment (chillers, cooling towers and pumps) that take up valuable building space. Gaining additional building space was of critical importance to the project, but utilizing district cooling also allows us to enhance the aesthetical appeal of the building while reducing noise and potential environmental hazards for future operations. On May 5th, Library staff advised City Management of its intent to issue "A Request for Qualifications and Concepts for the Development/Operation of a Restaurant at Austin's New Central Library." By means of this RFQ, the Library will seek responses from qualified candidates to establish a restaurant in a portion of the New Central Library building that faces W. Second Street. In the meantime, the Library continues to discuss the shelving layout, lighting plan and furniture arrangement for the New Central Library with its consultant architects, and on Wednesday, May 28th, the P1 (Parking Level 1) Concrete Conference will be held at the construction site to review the foundation wall sequence and the deck placement plan. The project schedule for the New Central Library remains as follows:

- ~ August 2013 ~ Site Development Permit received
- ~ August 2013 ~ Construction Begins
- ~ February 2014 ~ Garage Building Permit received
- ~ May 2014 ~ Complete Building Permit received
- ~ Spring 2016 ~ Building Construction completed
- ~ November 2016 ~ Grand Opening Ceremony

Exterior Security Cameras Installation Project: The Library Department's Exterior Security Camera Project was carried out as part of the Communications Technology Management Department's (CTM) larger Enterprise Security Access System (ESAS) Project. The ESAS provides an integrated enterprise level security solution towards installing new services and replacing end of life and/or updating access control, video surveillance and alarm systems throughout the City of Austin. CTM advised APL that sufficient spending authority would be released to their vendor, Schneider Electric, to perform the work required on the remaining nine (9) Library sites to receive exterior security cameras. Those nine (9) Library locations are the Spicewood Springs, Cepeda, Manchaca Road, Pleasant Hill, Howson, Milwood, Old Quarry, Yarborough, and Oak Hill branch libraries. Although the two newest branches, North Village and Twin Oaks, opened with security camera surveillance systems in place, APL has now replaced their digital video recorders (DVRs) with newer network video recorders (NVRs) in order to make their monitoring more compatible with the rest of the department's protective services operations. APL has previously received conditional approval from the Public Works Department (PWD) for the asbestos

and lead-in-paint remediation work necessary prior to the installation of any equipment. However, APL and PWD has commissioned a testing lab and consultant to collect samples in order that a more definitive survey report might be generated regarding asbestos and/or lead containing materials found in the path of the Library Exterior Security Cameras Installation Project. Material samples were successfully taken between August 12th and August 16th at each of the nine branch library work sites. Following analysis of the samples, the Austin Public Library and the Quality and Standards Management Divisions (QSMD) Division of Public Works concluded that three of the nine branch library sites might well require hazardous materials remediation before the work of installing the security camera system can proceed. However, following further investigative activities, it was determined that only the Old Quarry and Yarborough branches will require asbestos abatement. APL and the PWD finalized a contract for both a remediation consultant and a remediation contractor so that this remediation process can take place, on February 19th; the necessary notification was submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for approval prior to work commencing. The approval was granted, and remediation was started and completed on March 7th as scheduled. Work related to this project was completed at the Pleasant Hill, Spicewood Springs, Will Hampton at Oak Hill, Howson and Manachaca Road branch libraries. Now that asbestos containing materials have been cleared from the path of construction at the Old Quarry and Yarborough branches, the installation of security cameras needed at those sites is expected to be wrapped up by April 25th. The co-located Cepeda Branch and the Zaragoza Warehouse were then outfitted with a full complement of security cameras along with upgraded controls software. Final installation steps were completed on May 16th, and a fourteen day testing period subsequently initiated. Final acceptance by the Communications Technology Management and Library departments for Phase II of this project is anticipated within the next thirty days.

Milwood Branch Library Renovation Project: To initiate this project's Design Phase required that the Library Facilities Services Division obtain the services of an architectural firm from the City of Austin's preapproved rotation list of architectural consultants. The Library's request for an architect from this rotation list was granted by the Contract Management Department and the architectural firm of Stanley Salaiz Joint Venture has met with the project manager, and a detailed scope of work for the project was developed. Library Facilities Services' project manager, working in conjunction with the City's Interdepartmental Sustainability Working Group (ISWG) further determined that the Milwood Renovation Project does not meet the baseline criteria for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, as the work consists primarily of an interior remodel. As the project is not a LEED candidate per Municipal Building LEED Resolution 20071129-045, it will follow the LEED Commercial Interiors scorecard as its baseline template for the work involved. The Library Department and the consultant architects and their sub-consultants have now refined the scope of work for an accurate professional services agreement. A proposal of fees from the consultant architects has been reviewed and accepted by the Austin

Public Library, and the Small Minority Business Resource Department (SMBR) has reviewed and accepted the consultants' Compliance Plan. A formal acceptance of the professional service agreement in the form of a written Notice To Proceed was issued by the Contract Management Department on April 15th. A kick-off meeting for the design phase of the project was then conducted at the site on May 7th with the project manager, branch library staff, SMBR personnel and the design consultant team in attendance. Preliminary design and building programming are now underway, with a review of the proposed preliminary design expected in early July.

Pleasant Hill Branch Library Roof Replacement and HVAC Upgrade Project: The selected engineering firm, Stanley Consultants, Inc., is currently revising their proposal to include a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the project. Preliminary Engineering Reports investigate engineering problems for which construction proposals will be made and seek to provide background information both on the problems and past attempts to address those problems, both successful and unsuccessful. The purpose of the report is to provide a general background of the problem to the design engineers charged with proposing a solution with a specified performance goal.

RFID Installation for Branch Libraries Project: Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) security gates and Selfcheck units have now been installed and any required circulation desk modifications completed at both the Spicewood Springs Branch Library and the Will Hampton Branch Library at Oak Hill. Library Facilities Services and Library Information Services staff are now coordinating with Milwood Branch library staff in a concerted effort to install RFID security gates and Self-check units, while making any circulation desk modifications necessary, at that facility on or about June 6th. A delivery date of May 27th has been established for a shipment of new RFID security tags which will allow the Milwood Branch Library staff sufficient time to tag their collection with RFID protection strips before RFID security gates and Self-check units are installed at their location.

The University Hills Branch Library Parking Lot Expansion Project: HVJ Associates, the civil engineering firm selected to design and oversee construction of the parking lot expansion at the University Hills Branch Library is presently in the process, along with their sub-consultants, of finalizing a proposal to perform the scope of work for the Austin Public Library.

Terrazas Branch Library: On April 17th, the Austin City Council approved on consent a resolution directing the City Manager to conduct a parking occupancy study of the parking lot serving the Terrazas Branch Library and to make excess capacity available to the public at large or nearby businesses, and to work with the neighborhood on ways to use the property more efficiently in the long term, such as for affordable housing or other uses, while integrating parking for that library branch. The Austin Public Library immediately initiated an hourly parking use count at the Terrazas Branch Library during all normally open business hours as soon as the aforementioned Council resolution was forwarded to the department's attention. In addition,

the Austin Public Library has been in conversation with key staff members in the Transportation Services Department as well as the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department regarding this Council initiative. The possibility of making extra parking spaces, if any, available to the public through the installation of parking meters has been discussed with the Transportation Services Department. A Request for Information (RFI) for the redevelopment of the Terrazas Branch Library parking lot is now being drafted by the Austin Public Library in liaison with the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department. The RFI will seek input from the community, including but not limited to the affordable housing community, the development community as well as the East Cesar Chavez neighborhood.

# Austin History Center Programming and Outreach

- Media Archivist Nicole Davis gave several tours and presentations related to the current "Backwards in High Heels" exhibit. On April 3 she gave a presentation for the UT Learning Activities for Mature People (LAMP) program, with 75 in attendance. A few days later, 12 of the attendees came to the AHC for a tour. Additionally, she hosted a group of 32 6th graders from the Ann Richards School and gave them tours of the exhibit on April 24.
- Mexican American Community Archivist Gloria Espitia served on a panel at a program sponsored by the Texas Latino Archives on April 8 called "No lo Tidas: Don't Throw it Away." Gloria also led a couple of very successful programs for the opening of the "Latinas in the Shadow of the Live Music Capital of the World" exhibit. The opening reception was held on April 13, and approximately 130 people came for the reception and a concert in Wooldridge Square Park. On April 16, she hosted a program called "They Sing from their Hearts," attended by 35 people. Gloria gave a presentation about the history of Latina musicians in Austin, followed by a panel discussion with Leticia Rodriguez, Manuel "Cowboy" Donley, Martha Fuentes Rodriguez, Peggy Vasquez, and Rose Reyes.
- On April 22, Reference Archivist Ashley Adair and African American Community Archivist Cynthia Evans gave a presentation about local African American history and tour of the AHC to a group of Anderson HS seniors.
- On April 25, Asian American Community Archivist Esther Chung gave a presentation at the Asian Pacific American Public Affairs ceremony to 70 people.

#### Collections

- AHC staff finished processing 8 collections, the Jim Innes Photograph Collection, Austin (Tex.). Parks and Recreation Department Photo Negative Collection, Austin (Tex.). Boards and Commissions. Urban Transportation Commission Records, Austin (Tex.). Boards and Commissions. Environmental Board Records, Austin (Tex.). Boards and Commissions. Downtown Commission Records, Austin (Tex.). Boards and Commissions. Renaissance Market Commission Records, the FAB-100 Records, and the Hart Family Papers; and the finding aids were placed online. EAD encoded finding aids for the collections are on the Internet at the TARO website at: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse ahc1.html
- Among the more interesting donations to the collections are a 1983 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request

for records related to The Rag from the FBI and a small addition to the Walter Long Papers related to a couple of his publications.

#### **Exhibits**

The AHC opened a new photo exhibit in the David Earl Holt Photo Gallery: "Latinas in the Shadow of the Live Music Capital of the World: Queremos Realizar Nuestra Musica Para Usted." The exhibit gives recognition to local Latina singers, musicians and other Latinas who are or have been part of the local music scene since the early twentieth century to the present but whose presence has not been totally documented or preserved in the annals of Austin's music history. The exhibit recognizes 25 local Latinas and will consist of photographs, biographies and other documents that showcase their presence in various genres of Austin's music scene. As part of the exhibit, a kiosk containing musical recordings by 14 of the women featured in the exhibit will be also be available in the Gallery. It opened April 8, 2014 and runs through September 11, 2014.

#### **Publications**

• Research was conducted at the AHC and photos from the AHC were purchased for use in an upcoming book about Col. House, news stories about Civil Rights in Austin for Fox 7 news and the Austin American Statesman, an LCRA report to the Texas Historical Commission, publicity material for the Old Enfield Association, Cycling Sweethearts of Texas, and the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau, and for exhibit at the Capitol Visitors Center, Hamilton Pool, Health Management Associates, and the Wells Fargo Museum in San Francisco.

### **Upcoming Event**

- June 11, 6:30 PM, AHC: Panel discussion with Carole Keeton and Wilhelmina Delco about their lives and political careers, moderated by St. Edward's professor Paula Marks.
- The AHC, in partnership with the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at UT, will participate in a new exhibit at the Bob Bullock Texas History Museum. The exhibit, called "When Austin Got Weird," will feature early Austin music posters and document the growing Live Music culture in Austin in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The exhibit will be on the 3rd floor Rotunda and opens July 11, 2014. It is scheduled to coincide with the arrival of a large traveling exhibit, "1968," that opens at the Bullock in June. Several items from the AHC collections will be featured.
- July 19, 2:00 pm, AHC: Author program with Carol O'Keefe Wilson, author of *In the Governor's Shadow: The True Story of Ma and Pa Ferguson*. This program is part of a series of programs featuring women that are part of the Backwards in High Heels exhibit.
- July 29, 6:30 pm, AHC. Author program with Richard Zelade, author of *Guytown by Gaslight: A History of Vice in Austin's First Ward.*
- August 9, 2:00 pm, AHC: Screening of the new documentary *Austin Revealed: Civil Rights Stories* and discussion with the filmmakers. The film features Wilhelmina Delco, one of the women in the Backwards in High Heels exhibit.
- September 3, 6:00pm, Scholz Garden: Reprisal of the AHC's "Beer Garden Social." In partnership with Esther's Follies, the evening program will be a celebration of Ann Richards' career.

## **Central Library Services**

ACLS' Blair Parsons worked with Tim Staley, Executive Director of the Friends' Foundation to host the APLFF's New Fiction Confab. A collection of the most notable authors publishing new work were invited to spend a day in Austin's libraries leading writing workshops and reading from their latest work. The New Fiction Confab is a unique opportunity for Austinites to explore and discuss current literary fiction with the critically acclaimed authors shaping the future of American literature. The Confab is one of the Library Foundation's largest literary programs, spotlighting the finest fiction on bookshelves today, and the authors who bring these novels and stories to life. This was the Confab's 5th season.

Manager Karen Baker gave Assistant City Manager, Ray Arellano, a tour of the JHF and spoke about the current challenges of the building and the opportunities in the New Central Library. Staff conducted a week long hour by hour patron and circulation count for the City Council.

Starting June 1, Faulk Central Library will host an exhibit of Mexican maps from the Benson Latin American Collection. The exhibit is Mapping Mexican History: Territories in Dispute, Identities in Question. The maps will be displayed on the Herman Miller wall panels on the 2nd floor near the Reference Desk. "This collection of historic maps, reproduced at actual size from the Benson's rare books and manuscripts collection, serve as visual histories of Mexican territory, culture, and identity through three centuries of transformation. Through image and text, these documents trace the intertwined and often contentious relationships between indigenous and European, civil and religious, and "national" and foreign, in Mexico's evolution from colonial territory to modern state."

## **Youth Services**

ACYS is excited to report that the ECRR (Every Child Ready to Read) workshop staff did for the YMCA's Early Learning Readiness Program on May 22 went very well.

Celia Holm, Youth Librarian at North Village Branch, presented the English version with four mothers in attendance and Josefina Gibbs, Youth Librarian at the Little Walnut Creek Branch, presented to the Spanish-speaking group with ten mothers in attendance. This is a training to prepare and instruct parents on the ways to work with their children to become effective readers.

This spring the Austin Foundation for Architecture (AFA) partnered with APLFF and APL to present two Construction Zone (Hear a story; Build stuff) programs. There was a Homeschool program and an After School program. AFA provided grant funds to purchase safety vests, "play" hard hats, books on architecture and building design, and three Lego Architecture Studio kits. AFA also provided two guest architects. The "future architects" got to build their own buildings and enjoyed talking with the two guest architects about their designs. There were also teen volunteers from AustinCorps to assist. The programs were very successful

## **Branch Services**

Howson extends its thanks to AARP/TCE staff who handled steady business the first two weeks of April for income tax preparation. Many of their visitors are repeat customers who have depended on this service a number of years. Howson also received their annual donation of \$250 from the Austin Community foundation. Willie Mae Kirk staff are happy to report that circulation stats continue to rise and are nearly matching the stats at the St John's Branch. They also report that their Program Specialist continues to do well and is assisting many customers at the library; they created a desk on the floor where she can work and be readily available to help customers with their computer needs. She received several comment cards this month, all positive. To help promote the Geek The Library advocacy campaign, Southeast staff members are wearing their black "What do you Geek" t-shirts to work each Friday. The Assistant Branch Manager participated in the Dove Springs Community Health Fair at Mendez Middle school on Saturday, April 5th, and talked with approximately 100 individuals about APL programs. In addition to signing people up for Million Mile Month, this was an excellent opportunity to promote the new Southeast morning storytime and the Talk Time program.

Cepeda has partnered with Fulmore Middle School to show a series of movies that relate to history topics the students are covering. Movies shown include The Patriot, The Alamo, and Rio Bravo.

## **Recycled Reads**

April revenue for Recycled Reads was over \$11,160 and over 4,000 people visited the store. Donated materials were received from over 167 people, and almost 1000 people attended events.

More than twenty volunteers on average, donate over 200 hours of their time to the bookstore. Goodwill Industries picked up 36 gaylords of discarded materials. Staff received 20 pallets of materials from the warehouse, branches and donations and sorted approximately 44 pallets of materials representing almost 65,000 items at the bookstore. Over 27 tons of materials were kept out of the landfill.

# **Volunteer Services**

April 2014 - STATISTICS
Number of Volunteers
April - Volunteer hours
Volunteer Value\*

183
1551.35
\$22.14
\$34,165.69

# **April Policy Violations**

- Theft of Library, staff, or customer property
- 25 Harassment of Library staff or customers (Not Sexual)
- 22 Disturbing others using the Library
- 12 Sleeping in the Library
- 10 Using obscene language
- 9 Disorderly conduct
- 8 Unintended use of restrooms

- Physically attack or threaten to attack another person
- 7 Destruction of Library property
- 5 Intoxication resulting from alcohol or drugs
- 4 No outside food or beverages allowed in the Library
- 4 Violating Internet Policy
- 4 Leaving personal belongings unattended
- 4 Sexual harassment of Library staff or customers
- 3 Mistreatment or vandalism of Library facilities, materials, or equipment
- 3 Entering unauthorized area
- 3 Soliciting and panhandling
- 3 Abandoning children or failing to supervise children at the Library
- 3 Fighting
- 2 Blocking access to Library entrances, passageways or resources
- 2 Bringing in bedrolls, blankets or sleeping bags
- 2 Voyeurism and peeping
- 2 Smoking in the Library
- 1 Bringing animals into the Library
- 1 Strong Odor
- 1 Public Lewdness
- 174 Total

## **Locations # of Incidents**

ATB 26 ACE 25 ARZ 14 ALW 10 AOQ 8 APH 7 7 ASE AUH 6 5 5 ANV ASJ 4 ACB ACP 4 4 **AWP** 4 AYB 3 ASR 3 ATO AOK AHO 2 2 AMI AMR 1

ARR 1 AWK 1

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

> Brenda Branch, Director of Libraries



