

### **Highlights**

- The *Talk Green to Me: Sustainable Living Series*, starts April 2 and runs the whole month of April. All locations will host a series of events focused on how APL can help you to live a more sustainable life.
- The Milwood Branch pocket library opened March 16.
- The 1st Annual Music Fest, presented by the Culture and Diversity Committee, starts March 7 at Twin Oaks and ends March 28 at Carver.

### **Facilities Services**

**New Central Library Project:** The New Central Library Project has been a very fast paced endeavor for all concerned during the month of March, 2015, both from the point of view of managing construction activities as well as the planning and coordination perspective. The placement of FRP (fiber-reinforced polymer) topping slabs on multiple levels of the building continues to progress well. Such composite topping is designed to increase the strength of the underlying slab. Additional, ongoing construction activities at the site include: construction of CMU (concrete masonry unit) walls at stairs, spraying insulation on ceilings, installing rain water pipes, erection of support framing, building the parking garage ramp, setting the heat exchanger and installing the chill water connection. Public Works, APL and the City of Austin Purchasing Office held a conference call on March 3rd with the New Central Library interior design consultants to discuss the procuring process for the Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E) package required for the facility. A value engineering discussion was held via telephone on March 6th with the Public Works, APL, and the Communications & Technology Management departments along with the New Central Library Information Technology (IT) consultant to review the planned use of Library spaces (/Event Forum, Demonstration Kitchen, Shared Learning) and the specifications for the audiovisual equipment required (Speaker System, Audio Mixer, Display Screens, Polycon Video). On March 11, as required by the City of Austin Fire Department, the New Central Library Project secured the services of Engineered Air Balance Company, Inc., to provide special inspection of the smoke control system to be installed in the building. On March 12, a conference call was conducted between the architects, contractors and artist, Christian Moeller, to plan the installation of his Art in Public Places (AIPP) artwork in the New Central Library, including schedule and duration of installation work, equipment (scissor lift, etc.) the installer will use and anchor locations on the metal wall panels upon which the sculpture will be secured. Finally, the signage sub-consultant will join the rest of the design team and the contractors at the job site on March 17, to discuss the signage submittal for the New Central Library in detail. 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

- ~ October 2014 ~ Complete Building Permit received
- ~ Spring 2016 ~ Building Construction completed
- ~ November 2016 ~ Grand Opening Ceremony

**Milwood Branch Library Renovation Project:** While the Milwood Branch Library is closed for renovation, abbreviated library services will be provided in the facility's meeting room, converted and opened as of March 16, to serve as a "pocket library" for the convenience of the nearby neighborhoods. In preparation for construction activities, the Milwood Branch's collection of books and other materials has been boxed and is presently being relocated to the Zaragoza Warehouse. In like fashion, the steel library shelving has been disassembled and transported to the Zaragoza Warehouse along with the other furniture, fixtures and equipment housed at the Milwood Branch. 100% complete Milwood Branch Library Renovation Project plans are now under review by the Quality Standards Management Division (QSMD) of the Public Works Department. A City of Austin Job Order Contract (AJOC) will be negotiated shortly as the construction delivery method for this renovation project. Job Order Contracting significantly reduces the amount of time it takes to purchase construction services, and as overseen by Library Facilities Services, Job Order Contracting also reduces the cost while increasing the quality of construction. The thoroughly renewed Milwood Branch will reopen in December. Service hours for the pocket library will be:

- Monday through Thursday: 1PM - 7PM
- Friday: 1PM - 6PM
- Saturday: 10AM - 5PM
- Sunday: Closed

Services include:

- Children's Collection
- Reserve and Pick up of Holds/Reserved Materials
- Copier
- Exterior Book Return open 24/7

**Pleasant Hill Branch Library Roof Replacement and HVAC Upgrade Project:** The consultants' contract for this project has now been finalized and is expected to be executed by March 20. The scope of their design, construction phase services and administrative support work will include but is not limited to:

- Hazardous Building Material (HBM) abatement required as part of the removal of the existing roof
- Replacement of the existing roof along with the installation of package HVAC units on the new roof
- Screening the rooftop units
- Relocation of the internal book drop to the vacated mechanical room. A new, external book drop unit will be provided and weather protected by the addition of an overhang
- Coordination of ADA access to the building
- Minor revisions to accommodate new circulation desk and computer locations, along with any layout changes needed to enhance visibility and security

- ADA upgrades to restrooms

#### **The University Hills Branch Library Parking Lot**

**Expansion Project:** Research continues to determine the governmental agency owner and purpose of a monitoring well discovered on the future site for the University Hills Branch Library parking lot expansion. The Watershed Protection Department (WSPD) is presently scheduling a second attempt to conduct a closed circuit television inspection of the storm water conveyance pipe crossing this property and remain committed to constructing a manhole for future inspection and repair access to the line. On March 26, Council will be asked to approve a resolution authorizing the filing of eminent domain proceedings for the University Hills Branch Library Parking Lot Expansion Project for approximately 22,147 square feet of undeveloped land adjacent to the branch library to accommodate the expansion of the parking lot by twenty-five (25) spaces. The City of Austin has attempted to purchase the needed property, but the City and the owner were unable to agree on the value of the needed acquisition.

#### **Southeast Austin Community Branch Library**

**Foundation/Flatwork Repairs Project:** Now in the Design Phase of project development, the project's schematic design drawings and specifications were received by the Library Department from the consultants in February and were reviewed, corrected and returned to the consultants by March 3. The Commercial Building Review Division has informed the consultants that a building permit will be required in addition to the site plan correction for the remedial work planned. The project manager and the consultants are planning to walk the site soon to document any trip hazards found in the sidewalks requiring repair or replacement.

#### **Zaragoza Warehouse Fire Sprinkler Upgrade Project:**

Stanley Consultants, the engineers for this important life/safety improvement project, remain in the process of composing an updated and extensive Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for the work at hand. Using narrative and drawings, the PER will provide the necessary explanation to understand the basic deficiencies of the existing fire sprinkler system at the Zaragoza Warehouse, analyze retrofit alternatives, propose a specific equipment replacement plan based upon the most reasonable engineering solution, and present the estimated total cost to construct the preferred alternative. At this time, the engineers are reviewing electric metering information for the site, recently received from Austin Energy, while awaiting cost estimates from contractors for retrofitting two building elements planned for replacement. Receipt of a Draft PER from the engineers is anticipated by Library Facilities Services by the end of the month.

#### **Renovation of the Will Hampton Branch Library**

**at Oak Hill Project:** Hatch +Ulland Owen Architects have finalized their proposal to perform the design and construction management work required by this important renovation project. The proposal is now being reviewed by the Contract Management Department (CMD) in its role of administering the procurement and management of professional and construction service contracts for capital

improvements for the City of Austin. Once the service agreement with the architects has been fully executed, public outreach efforts will be initiated to engage the Oak Hill community in the planning process for the upcoming remodel of their branch library.

#### **Austin History Center Interior and Exterior**

**Improvements Project:** At the specific request of the Library Department, the architect assignment for the Austin History Center Interior and Exterior Improvements Project was given to Limbacher & Godfrey by the Contract Management Department. During the February 2nd tour of the Austin History Center provided for architect, Laurie Limbacher, it was decided that a preliminary architectural scope report should be generated before proceeding with design. Much like a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), the preliminary scope report will provide a description of the needs to be addressed, projections of future needs, and descriptions of alternative renovation solutions, including cost estimates for each alternative. Also discussed during the initial meeting with the architect was the preference of the Library Department to utilize open invitation for construction bidding at the construction delivery method for this particular project, with City of Austin prequalification restrictions. Prequalification is a method of determining bidder responsibility and expertise. As this project is a renovation of a historic building, prequalification is recommended to restrict the bidding to a group of bidders who meet predetermined responsibility and expertise standards. APL is now waiting for a proposal from Limbacher & Godfrey Architects to perform the preliminary scope report. In the meantime, a meeting is being scheduled with the City of Austin Asbestos, Lead & Mold Group (ALMG) to request a proposal for the lead-based paint abatement required before refurbishment of the building's wrought iron balconies can proceed.

#### **Willie Mae Kirk Branch Library Foundation Repairs**

**Project:** A draft proposal has been received from the engineering consultants to provide the soils investigation and structural analysis needed to determine the causes for the settling, or lowering in elevation, of this branch library structure, as well as their recommendations for repairs and opinions of probable cost. The proposal is being reviewed and commented upon by Library Facilities Services at this time, with particular care being taken to ensure that customer safety is provided for during the drilling and excavation processes anticipated.

#### **Little Walnut Creek Branch Library Accessibility**

**Improvement Project:** Drawings detailing the desired Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to the entrance of the Little Walnut Creek Branch have been received from the consultant architect and are now being reviewed by Library Facilities Services. The following items are planned to be addressed:

- Remove and replace slippery tile on porch with cementitious, textured coating
- Replace all handrails and guardrails to meet both Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS) and IBC (International Building Code) requirements
- Extend the length of the upper landing to meet TAS requirements
- Repair cracked and spalling concrete of existing

landing

**Recycled Reads Bookstore:** On March 26, Council will be asked to authorize the negotiation and execution of an 84-month lease renewal for 7,675 square feet of retail, office and storage space for the Book Sale Program of the APL Department, located at 5335 Burnet Road, from PAJO Properties, Ltd., Georgetown, Texas, in an amount not to exceed \$1,151,643. The City of Austin has leased this space which houses the APL's Recycled Reads used bookstore program since March, 2008. The lease was last renewed in August, 2012.

## **Austin History Center**

### **Programming & Outreach**

- AHC Manager Mike Miller gave two public presentations in February. On February 7, he spoke about the AHC's current exhibit, "Divided City: The Civil War & Reconstruction in Austin," at the monthly meeting of the Manchaca/Onion Creek Historical Association. On the February 27, he delivered the luncheon address, "Historic Austin: A Landmark Tour" for the Society of Psychologists in Management conference in Austin.
- African American Community Archivist LaToya Devezin helped plan and implement the City of Austin Black Heritage Network Black History Program on February 3 at the Palmer Center. LaToya used materials from the AHC collections to document and celebrate the history of the local African American community as part of the program. Over 1200 COA employees attended - the largest attendance ever for the event.

### **Collections**

- AHC staff finished processing 5 collections, the Haschke Family Photograph Collection, the Daisy Barrett Tanner St. David's Episcopal Church Slide Presentation Collection, the Greg Easley Papers, the Austin (Tex.). Urban Renewal Agency Board of Commissioners Records, and the Walsh Tarlton Neighborhood Association Records, and placed EAD encoded finding aids for the collections on the Internet at the TARO website. 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).

### **Exhibits**

- On January 14, the AHC opened its newest exhibit, "Divided City: Civil War & Reconstruction in Austin." Over 80 people attended the opening. The AHC again partnered with the Escoffier School of Culinary Arts to create a special menu of foods from the time period. A week after the opening a group of 7 from the Westminster Manor retirement community visited the exhibit and received a guided tour from Exhibit Coordinator Steve Schwolert. AHC manager Mike Miller gave another tour of the exhibit to 20 members of the UT LAMP program on January 24. The exhibit runs through June 21, 2015.

### **Publications**

- Research was conducted at the AHC and photos from the AHC were purchased for use in upcoming books *Blood and Glory: The Texans at Gettysburg* and *Tales of Jazz Age in Austin*, the 2015 Celebrate Austin visitor's guide, TV news features on KVUE and KEYE, and for an audio tour/podcast on the Servant Girl Murders by Radiolab/Detours.

### **Staff**

- The AHC welcomed its newest staff member, Amanda

Jasso: the new Mexican American Community Archivist on February 24th. Amanda comes to the AHC from Seattle where she had completed her graduate studies and began her professional career.

### **Reference**

- AHC staff answered over 1000 reference questions during February covering all kinds of topics. Property research continues to be one of the biggest research interests at the Center, and sometimes the quest has some serious ramifications for the researcher, such as a lawsuit or similar matter. One customer was able to settle a dispute over their land resulting from their research at the AHC: *"I wanted to let you know that with the information from my last trip to the Austin History Center, the engineering company that claimed my property was the source of the arsenic in their water report, admitted their mistake. It was such a relief and I cannot thank you both enough for all your help. You are both such an asset to the history center. I am still in awe of all the information you have there."*

### **Upcoming Programs**

- March 28, 2-4 PM, AHC. Meet the Author: Aralyn Hughes. Women's History Month event.
- April 14, 6:30 PM, AHC. Book Release program for AHC's new book, Austin's First Cookbook.
- May 2, 4-6 PM, Scholz Garten. 3rd Annual "Beer Garden Social." This year's event is "Music of the Civil War."
- May 29th, 7 PM, AHC. Austin History Center Association Annual Meeting.

## **Branch Services**

- The Aural Literature program continued at Terrazas with approximately 30 people attending. This month the program was conducted in the public area of the library and it went perfectly well; there wasn't sufficient room in the meeting room last time we did this program, so they moved it to the front of library. This program gives young writers the opportunity to read their own works to an audience.
- The Windsor Park Book Club had 12 readers at the meeting on the February 10, discussing *Consider the Lobster and Other Essays* by David Foster Wallace and had 19 viewers at their screening of Community Cinema selection "American Denial" on the February 3.
- Pleasant Hill's "Blind Date with a Book" display was up through the month of February and garnered 31 entries to the drawing for a \$25 gift card to Recycled Reads, including a customer who couldn't make it into the branch and mailed in her reply instead. Many customers found new favorites from the display and wrote glowing compliments about the books selected by staff. Staff received a lot of positive comments about the display idea itself, even if the customers didn't always like the books
- North Village had a very successful Romance Reader's Social Event, on Valentine's Day, February 14. The event was attended by more than 75 people who participated in a variety of activities. There was a panel with 3 local authors, all of whom were very participatory and entertaining, as well as giving really insightful responses about publishing romance in Texas.

## **Youth Services**

Several Youth Services librarians worked at the annual



Regional Science Fair at Parmer Events Center in February. Over 1000 students, parents and family members visited the Austin Public Library table making this a very successful event. They received information about APL while watching and playing with the scribble bots the staff was demonstrating.

Staff developed a new parent early literacy training in the Play Read Grow series that is a hands on workshop where parents get to practice what they just learned as they play with their babies through five different stations full of activities. The first one will be held at Windsor Park. The focus of these trainings is validating what parents are already doing, while also giving them more ideas for ways to incorporate early learning into play with their young child.

## **Recycled Reads**

February revenue for Recycled Reads was over \$13,600. Over 4,570 people visited the store, including the six-year anniversary celebration. Donated materials were received from over 240 people.

More than twenty volunteers on average, donated over 200 hours of their time to the bookstore. Goodwill Industries picked up 32 gaylords of discarded materials. Staff received 20 pallets of materials from the warehouse, branches and donations and sorted approximately 20 pallets of materials representing almost 56,000 items at the bookstore. Over 22 tons of materials were kept out of the landfill. Between sales, donations and weeded material from APL, over 62,400 items were processed.

Staff attended the Office of Innovation Divergence/Convergence training and participated in the Austin Materials Marketplace group. A presentation was made to the Mteam on the Office of Innovations' business model training. Staff worked with Legal for approval on offering the ETSY training program and had the initial planning conference call with ETSY headquarters. Staff is working with Finance to ensure that ARR has the proper templates to file financial reports.

## **Volunteer Services**

February 2014 - STATISTICS

Number of Volunteers	210
February - Volunteer hours	1428.00
Volunteer Value*	\$22.55
	<b>\$ 32,201.40</b>

## **Policy Violations**

26	Theft of Library, staff, or customer property
22	Harassment of Library staff or customers (Not Sexual)
21	Disturbing others using the Library
11	Disorderly conduct
11	Using obscene language
9	No outside food or beverages allowed in the Library
9	Unintended use of restrooms
6	Intoxication resulting from alcohol or drugs
6	Sleeping in the Library

6	Mistreatment or vandalism of Library facilities, materials, or equipment
5	Violating Internet Policy
4	Physically attack or threaten to attack another person
3	Abandoning children or failing to supervise children at the Library
3	Bringing in bedrolls, blankets or sleeping bags.
2	Destruction of Library property
2	Soliciting and panhandling
2	Strong Odor
2	Leaving personal belongings unattended
2	Smoking in the Library
2	Appropriate clothing is required
2	Blocking access to Library entrances, passageways or resources
1	Bringing animals into the Library
1	Unlawfully carrying or displaying weapons
1	Entering unauthorized areas
<b>157</b>	<b>Total</b>

## **Locations # of Incidents**

ACE	20
ALW	7
ARZ	7
ATB	6
ATO	5
APH	4
AWK	4
ACP	2
AWP	2
AHC	1
ACB	1
AMR	1
ASE	1
AUH	1
AYB	1

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

Brenda Branch,  
Director of Libraries