

# More Than Books

## Highlights Programs

### Youth Summer Reading

- It's that time again! The Austin Public Library is your free ticket to a summer full of reading and loads of fun activities this June through August. You can also win prizes for reading!

### Teen Summer Reading

- Teens age 13-18 will take over the library this summer with MAKER SPACE, and take over libraries all over town with the following events: You Print, APL Studios, K-Pop Idol Party, Cooking for the Cosmos, Library Escape Room: Return of the Demogorgon, Silent Rave & Twitch Lab
- Teens who complete reading challenges will be rewarded with books.

### Adult Summer Reading

- Adults 18+ are invited to travel To the Library and Beyond at the Austin Public Library's Adult Summer Reading events. Get a closer look at the universe at A Celestial Conversation, party at PRIDE Prom, laugh along with Master Pancake, dance to a DJ's beat at a Silent Rave, team up with friends for a Jigsaw Puzzle Competition or swoon under the stars at Piano Latino. Multiple locations will offer opportunities to snuggle animals at Cosmic Crafts and Cuddles and brave the Return of the Demogorgon in an all-new Escape Room. Check our event calendar for details.
- Reading is its own cosmic journey, so get a reading prize with your Adult Summer Reading event schedule. Write the title of your favorite 2019 summer read on the schedule's bottom tab and turn that tab in for a prize at your closest Austin Public Library location between June 15 – August 31, while supplies last.

### Exhibits

- Susan Scafati, Solo Exhibition is a 2-story, site-responsive, mixed-media installation. April 19 - June 12, Central Library.
- Calder Kamin's exhibition *What a Mess* showcases trash transformed into sculptures, animations and installations. April 16 - May 24, Central Library Gallery.
- Off the Rails: The Rise and Fall of Austin's Streetcars. December 11, 2018 – May 26, 2019. Austin History Center. Documents the history of the operation of streetcars in Austin from 1875 to 1940.

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

## Facilities Services

**2018 Bond Program:** The Austin Public Library Department's 2018 Bond Program is now in the project initiation stage. The Austin City Council's recent \$3.7M appropriation to the Austin Public Library will fund the solicitation and execution of the Professional Service Agreements necessary to implement the Library's 2018 Bond Program. Two 2012 Bond Projects with estimated shortfalls totaling \$744,878 will also be funded from the 2018 Bond Program 2018 appropriation. An upcoming Council RCA will reference the transfer of funding to cover

the estimated shortfall. The 2018 Bond Program for the Library Department consists of fifteen different facility improvement projects located across the City of Austin. The projects are grouped into the following categories: Site/Civil Engineering Projects, Faulk Library Building/Austin History Center Complex Improvements, Branch Library Interior Renovation Projects, and Roof Replacement & HVAC System Upgrades. The development framework to deliver the Library's 2018 Bond Program will include Construction Manager at Risk, Competitive Sealed Proposals and Design-Bid-Build. The program's deliverables have a 60-month time line, and construction starts will be staggered over this period to minimize impacts to existing levels of library service. It is anticipated that pre-design, which includes contract development thru execution for said services, will take 6 to 8 months, and will require Council approval for methodology.

**New Central Library Project:** On April 26, Austin Water Utility honored a number of commercial and industrial water customers for excellence in a variety of categories. The Central Library was among those recognized, garnering the award of Excellence In Water Conservation, 2017-2018, for its commitment to conserving Austin's water resources and a sustainable environment. On April 27, the Central Library held the First Annual Kid's Block Party, with an estimated seven thousand people in attendance.

**Pleasant Hill Branch Library Roof Replacement and HVAC Upgrade:** The Pleasant Hill Branch Re-roof and HVAC Upgrade Project is currently being reviewed in the Permitting Department of Public Works. Depending on this review, and the strategic decisions from Library Administration, this project may proceed by the end of June. Because this project involves asbestos abatement work, and the City is contracted with asbestos professionals shared by AISD, waiting until after June may mean the work will not be able to proceed until September, as AISD's needs take precedence in the summer when children are out of school. Either way, the General Contractor and Engineering Consultant are working to be ready to begin as soon as scheduling can occur, getting all of their samples and submittals reviewed and approved.

**University Hills Branch Library Parking Lot Expansion Project:** The civil engineering firm assigned to the project, Stantec Consulting Services, is in the process of producing the 90% complete Construction Documents (CDs) for review by Library Facilities Services. As soon as the 90% CDs are received, then the plan sets will be submitted by May 25, 2019, to the Quality Management Division of the Public Works Department for their review/comments. When the construction documents reach 100% completion, then the plans will be submitted for plan site review with the CoA Development Review Department. The project's primary scope of work consists of the construction of a new, 25-space parking lot expansion on the north side of the branch library. The work will include, but is not limited to, the demolition of existing structures and pavement, installation of erosion/sedimentation control and tree protection fencing,

construction of associated walkways, landscaping and lighting as well as the provision of parking lot signage. The site contains an existing, monitoring well, and Library Facilities Services is seeking to cap and abandon the well in place prior to construction, should this course of action prove to be acceptable to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

### **Zaragoza Warehouse Fire Sprinkler Upgrade**

**Project:** The Zaragoza Warehouse Fire Sprinkler Upgrade Project is currently under review in the Quality Management Division of Public Works. Once the 90% complete plans are approved, which is anticipated within the next month, the consultants and project manager will make any necessary changes and begin the process for taking the project out for bid. The Invitation for Bid process is anticipated to take approximately two months. Facilities Services remains hopeful that the retrofit work can begin in September, 2019.

### **Renovation of the Will Hampton Branch Library at Oak Hill**

As of May 6, 2019, construction activities were moving forward well at this site, and the project schedule was being maintained. Our contractor for the project is Harley Blackburn Holdings LLC dba HB Construction. Headquartered in Spicewood, Texas, HB Construction is a premier general contractor with 30 years' experience in the construction industry and is well known for high standards of building quality and safety. Currently, HB Construction crews are in the process of securing CoA permits for the upgrade of the heating and air-conditioning for the building and installing the ceiling tile. Their crews are completing the enclosed new quiet reading room area along with the partitions needed for the library materials self-check machines, book return area and the circulation desk. Also, the completion of the interior painting and installing new countertops and tile in the restrooms of the facility will be accomplished by the end of May 2019. Demolition work on the existing roof and skylights is also expected in mid-May to make way for the installation of the new roofing system and skylights. Mobilization of equipment, such as lifts, and various roofing materials will soon be present on site in preparation for this upcoming work on the exterior of the building. While the work is in progress, customers are encouraged to visit the other South Austin branches – including Manchaca Road, Pleasant Hill and Twin Oaks - to acquire library services. Bookmobile services are also being offered to the Oak Hill area from Dick Nichols Park during the closure of their neighborhood branch. The scope of work for this comprehensive renovation includes replacing the deteriorated modified bitumen roof and Kalwall skylights, upgrading plumbing fixtures, redressing low water pressure, modernizing the heating, ventilation and air conditioning controls, replacing the circulation desk and other worn furniture, making architectural modifications to ensure compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, and revising the furniture/shelving layout to the "Library of the Future" template.

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

**Improvement Project:** Since this project received additional funding in the 2018 Bond Program, the Library Department will combine this restoration work with the 2018 Bond Program Faulk Library Building Repurposing Project. The

Faulk Library Building Repurposing Project is intended to re-engineer the former central library facility to serve as a state-of-the-art archival repository.

### **Little Walnut Creek Branch Library ADA Ramp**

**Improvements Project:** This accessibility improvement project will be combined with the larger 2018 Bond Program Little Walnut Creek Branch Library Roof Replacement and Renovation Project to achieve economy of scale for both the design and construction processes.

### **Yarborough Branch Library Renovation Project:**

On May 1, the newly assigned Project Coordinator for this project, Minh Bruce, met with Brown & Root (the Job Order Contractor,) along with Communications & Technology Management (CTM), Stanley Consultants and Library Facilities, Safety, and Security staff. On May 8, Library Safety and Security staff members met again with Brown & Root to go over safety guidelines. That same day, Brown & Root began preparation work to begin painting the interiors. Involved personnel from Stanley Consultants, Library Security, Facilities Services, and Brown & Root will meet again at the site on Wednesday, May 15 to go over any pending changes to the scope of work.

### **Cepeda Branch Library Renovation Project:**

Library Facilities Services has transferred funds to the Development Review Department to update the building permit. Also, additional funding is being transferred to the project to allow the renovation construction activities to proceed. An updated Americans with Disabilities (ADA) report has been received, as well. The new Project Coordinator for this project, Minh Bruce, met with Art in Public Places (AIPP) staff members on May 7 to discuss protecting the arts work at the branch while renovations are in progress.

### **Faulk Central Library Roof Replacement:**

As of May 6, Library Facilities Services and the Capital Contracting Office completed the evaluation process of scoring of all bid proposals received for this project and a contractor was selected. On June 20, the Austin City Council will be asked to authorize negotiation and execution of a Competitive Sealed Proposal Agreement with LD Tebben Company, Inc., for construction services for the Faulk Library Roof Replacement in an amount not to exceed \$911,069. Building Exterior Solutions (BES), Engineering Consultants, developed the 100% Complete Construction Documents for demolition and replacement of the entire 29,000 square foot roofing system at the Faulk Library Building. The Faulk Library Building, a four-storied structure with a concrete roof deck, is currently topped with a twenty-two year old, modified bitumen roofing system. Construction estimates to replace the aging roof have ranged from \$900,000 to \$1,300,000. The project is expected to begin construction on August 12, 2019 and to reach substantial completion by October 28.

### **Twin Oaks Sail Shades Project:**

The Job Order Contractor (JOC) assigned to this project, Brown & Root, has just received the final water-line placement information required for permitting. This information is now en route to the Civil Engineer who will take the shop drawings and overlay them onto the original civil drawings. Once this information is back from the Civil Engineer, the General Contractor will take

the project documents to the Permitting Office. Concurrently, and due to the rise of steel prices nationally, the General Contractor will be submitting a change order to the Capital Contracting Office. Hopefully within the next month, the General Contractor will be able to award to his steel sub-contractor, and a 4-6 week production period will begin. Following that, 1-2 weeks for installation is anticipated. A potential road block would be discovering rock deeper than 4" beneath the soil. This would necessitate a change order and the scope of work required in digging the holes as deeply as needed to support the structures.

### **Spicewood Springs Branch Library Grounds**

**Improvement Project:** The new Project Coordinator for this project, Minh Bruce, met for the first time with the Jamail & Smith Construction Project Manager on May 10 to discuss the project. The Capitol Contracting Office (CCO) will issue a Notice to Proceed (NTP) for Monday, May 13. The contractor plans to start the work that same day, weather permitting. The landscaping improvements planned for this branch location include: replanting flowering and other native plantings along the front entry and parking lot, clearing drainage channels, removing pea gravel and replacing it with a more suitable material and planting additional trees.

### **Austin History Center Awards**

- The AHC received the 2019 Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab "American Book Prices Current" Exhibition Award, given by the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries. The AHC received the Division Four (brochures) award for the exhibit catalog for "Taking it to the Streets: A Visual History of Protest and Demonstration in Austin."

### **Programming & Outreach**

- On April 9, the AHC hosted a book talk with author Joe Nick Patoski whose new book, *Austin to ATX*, chronicles the modern evolution of the quirky, bustling, funky, self-contradictory place known as Austin, Texas. Patoski describes the series of cosmic accidents that tossed together a mashup of outsiders, free spirits, thinkers, educators, writers, musicians, entrepreneurs, artists, and politicians who would foster the atmosphere, the vibe, the slightly off-kilter zeitgeist that allowed Austin to become the home of both Armadillo World Headquarters and Dell Technologies.
- On April 13 the AHC held its Know Your District History – District 4 pop-up at the Little Walnut Branch. Though attendance was not high, we had some very engaged attendees who provided many items for the community gallery – probably the most so far in the series, and we made some good connections at the Little Walnut Branch.
- On April 18, the Asian American Community Archivist co-taught We Are Asian Texans program for 40 4th graders at Lake Travis Elementary with AARC Education Coordinator Santanu Rahman. The program focused on Asian American immigration to Texas and Austin Asian American narratives (Lung, Wong, Sing, Susan Fifer and Savan Kotecha).
- In collaboration with Chulita Vinyl Club, the Latinx Community Archivist helped plan and implement the "Building Bondad: Cultivating Compassion Through

Shared Experiences of Austin, Tejas" exhibit activation at the Contemporary Art Museum on April 20. Along with distributing a variety of outreach materials, Latinx archival photos were distributed for viewing throughout the gallery space. The AHC also set up an oral history booth and pop-up exhibit in the conference room (obtained one oral history) and provided the community with access to our wifi printer so that they could add a photo and a story about "A place in Austin that makes me smile." ATX Barrio Archives and several community members shared personal stories about Austin in front of an audience of about 25 people. In total, we had between 150-200 people visit us that day

- On April 25 author, professor, and former Austin resident Andrew M. Busch, PhD, spoke about his new book, *City in a Garden: Environmental Transformations and Racial Justice in Twentieth Century Austin, Texas* (University of North Carolina Press, 2017). Busch traces Austin's development through the twentieth century and asks readers to consider the social ramifications of sustainable urban development.

### **Collections**

- AHC staff finished processing 3 collections, the Activism and the Brown Berets of Austin Project Recordings and Digital Images Collection, the Roberta Crenshaw Papers, and the Ashworth 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).
- The AHC acquired raw video footage of Tim Jones' research of Barton Creek and Springs dating from 1991-2000 and additional photographs, newspaper clippings and reports regarding Friendly Rice that were added to an existing collection.

### **Exhibits**

- The AHC contributed much content to a new exhibit at the Asian American Resource Center, Pioneer Painter: The Art of R.C. Wong. R. C. Wong's papers reside at the AHC, including many sketchbooks and other art study materials that helped influence the exhibit. Ayshea researched and wrote the labels for the archival photographs and items on display/loan for the exhibit. 49 people were in attendance, including Mitchel and Kay Wong.

### **Reference**

- Research was conducted at the AHC and photos from the AHC were purchased for use in an upcoming KLRU documentary "Citizens at Last" about women's suffrage, a KVUE news story about South Congress, an exhibit at the Carver Museum about Blackshear Elementary, an article in *Southwestern Archivist*, and upcoming exhibits at the Bob Bullock State History Museum and the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum. We also worked with the Mexican Consulate helping them with a permanent exhibition of prominent Mexican Americans in Austin's history at the new consulate offices.

### **Upcoming Programs**

- June 8, 2019. 12-4 PM, Spicewood Springs Branch. Know Your District History – District 6
- July 13, 2019. 12-4 PM, North Village Branch. Know Your District History – District 7
- August 3, 2-4 PM, AHC. Story Slam with the South Asian American Digital Archive
- August 10, 2019. 12-4 PM, Hampton Branch. Know Your

- District History – District 8
- August 24, 2019, 10 AM -2 PM, AHC. ACTV Collection Pop-Up Exhibit
- September 22, 2019. 12-4 PM, AHC. Know Your District History – District 9
- October 19, 2019. 12-4 PM, Old Quarry Branch. Know Your District History – District 10
- October, date and time TBD. “Unearthing Haunted Austin.”

## Staffing Update

Austin History Center Video Archivist Tim Hamblin retired on April 26 after 20 years with the AHC and almost 30 with the City.

## Library Priorities

### Literacy Advancement

- Branch staff across the city have been busy reaching out to neighborhood schools to get the word out about the Summer Reading Program. We’re making preparations for special events like puppet shows, reptiles, art, and plenty of books! Activities for youth, teens and adults are being planned during June and July.
- Spring is nearly over and summer is upon us: for schools, this means field trips while STAR testing is being done. The Central Library Youth Floor is a destination spot for groups of all sizes and at all grade levels. Throughout an increasingly busy spring season, Central Youth Services has welcomed thousands of young people, teachers, parents, and chaperones to the library to discover the many services we have to offer. Groups get to hear about the library and its architecture, and enjoy guided introductions to our Children’s and Teen areas. We have now prepared the foundation for an incredibly busy month of May as the final field trips happen before summer: taking into account only the groups we know are coming, (additional groups often drop in), we are expecting over 1,700 students throughout the month. It is truly gratifying that the Central Library has become such a magnet for these young explorers. We are proud to be so ready for their first steps into the larger world of the library.

### Digital Inclusion & STEM

- The University Hills branch provided crafting programs for a variety of ages. From Unicorn University, which engaged attendees with Cricut machines to make iron-on transfers, to perler beads and pendulum paintings, adults and youth were able to express their creative talents at the branch. Another program at University Hills utilized a 3D printer, sewing machine, and sculpting clay to help participants make cosplay costume props. There is no shortage of ways to make things at this branch!

### Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

- Reference staff continued to create digital content for display throughout the Central Library via APLTV in support of our six strategic priorities. Examples include: National Jewish American Heritage Month and Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month (Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion); Choose Privacy Week (Digital Inclusion & STEM); and Mom-Oirs, World Press Freedom Day, and What Our Moms Are Reading (Literacy

Advancement). These digital displays were accompanied by complementary reading lists featured in the library’s catalog to broaden their reach to visitors of the Central Library and customers accessing the library’s catalog remotely from anywhere in the world.

- On April 16, we partnered with the Sustainable Food Center’s Farmers Market Team for an educational cooking program titled The Seasonal Kitchen. 46 customers attended this cooking demonstration featuring local ingredients made in a healthy, tasty, and timely manner. Customers sampled the culinary creations and enjoyed the opportunity to gain confidence in cooking with healthy and local ingredients. The Central Library’s seed library team created a pop-up library for attendees to peruse and select seeds to take home. The Seasonal Kitchen’s next offering will be in Fall 2019, and we look forward to this continued partnership with the Sustainable Food Center as an opportunity to positively impact our shared community.

### Workforce and Economic Development

- Our posting for Teen jobs at the Central Library and Southeast Branch Library was extended, to allow for additional recruiting in the Dove Springs area. The 11 applicants received so far have been impressive—representing a wide swath of Austin area schools, neighborhoods, demographics, and referral sources indicating that the outreach the Teen Team did to Austin organizations serving underprivileged youth to assist in recruiting applicants has been a successful strategy. The talents and interests listed by applicants range from music theory to music therapy, to SAT prep and computer programming, entrepreneurship, graphic design, philosophy, and animal rights. Hiring is wrapping up as we report this.

### Civic and Community Engagement

- On April 27, over 100 people came to North Village to hear Thor & Friends play on the patio for the branch’s celebration of being open in its Steck location for 10 years! There were activities for children and snacks for all who attended.
- On April 20, Windsor Park hosted the Yellow Bike Maintenance Clinic, a joint effort between Austin Resource Recovery and Yellow Bike to train customers on basic bicycle maintenance skills.
- April was a huge month for youth and family engagement at the Central Library. On Saturday April 27, the Central Library hosted the first annual Kids Block Party, a featured event. The library welcomed 7,000 customers of all ages to the library that day to celebrate literacy and different ways of learning. The event featured multiple forms of creative art activity for children; technology (STEM) and digital literacy activities throughout the library; several music and dance performances performed outside; a nature walk; a showcase of authors and illustrators including Rosemary Wells; and a full complement of community organizations with information about their services, led by United Way. Staff from throughout APL’s divisions and workgroups came together to make this event happen, and it could never have been done without such wide collaboration. Smiles abounded throughout the day, and several library customers who were utilizing other aspects of the library and not participating in the

Kids Block Party complimented APL for creating such a rich opportunity for Austin's children. We look forward to continuing to develop this event for future years.

### **Staff Development**

- On May 3, all Austin Public Library staff came together for Staff Development & Appreciation Day, a day of fun, learning and sharing.

## **APL By the Numbers**

### **Performance Indicators for March**

Visitors 317,555

Circulation 450, 447

Number of computer sessions 42,087

Number of wifi sessions 44,159

Program attendance 18,566

### **Revenue**

During April, Recycled Reads Bookstore generated \$8,800, and received and sorted 68,000 items, keeping 21 tons of materials out of the landfill.

Gift Shop revenue was \$27,930.\*

Events Revenue was \$22,123.\*

Parking Revenue was \$39,142.\*

\*These numbers are not from the official accounting record.

All revenue comes back to the Library.

### **Volunteers**

April Number of Volunteers	203
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Total Volunteer hours	1641
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Total Value*	\$40,527.40
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\*Volunteer Value Rate \$24.69 per hour.

## **Policies**

APL policies pertaining to youth ages 10 - 17 remain under review by Library administration and staff. Input from community organizations is being factored into the discussion.

## **Roosevelt Weeks Director of Libraries**

