AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

2017 FACT SHEET

"MY LIBRARY teaches children that reading is the key to success."

— Chavonne with daughter Princess

HISTORY

In 1925, Grace Delano Clark persuaded the Austin Branch of the American Association of University Women to take on the project of establishing a library for Austin. In February of 1926, the Austin Public Library opened in a rented room on Congress Avenue with 500 donated volumes. Clark served as the volunteer librarian. By December of 1926, the first Austin Public Library building, measuring 1,800 sq. ft., opened at West 9th and Guadalupe Streets at a cost of $4,190. The building later moved to become the first branch of the Library, and it is now part of the Carver Museum complex.

In 1933, a second 36,000 sq. ft. structure replaced the original one at a cost of $145,000, and Darthula Wilcox was appointed the first Library Director. The building currently serves as the Austin History Center. In 1944, Mary Rice became the second Director of the Austin Public Library, in 1967, David Earl Holt the third and in 1991, Brenda Branch the fourth. In 1979, the current Central Library opened adjacent to the 1933 structure with 110,000 square feet at a cost of $6 million. In 1995, the City Council voted to rename the Central Library after John Henry Faulk, a well-known Austin writer and humorist.

On November 7, 2006, Austin voters overwhelmingly approved Bond Proposition 6 to build a New Central Library. On December 11, 2008, City Council selected Lake/Flato Architects and Shepley Bulfinch to design the new Central Library on the Seaholm Substation site, 710 W. César Chávez St. The groundbreaking took place on May 30, 2013. It is projected to open in the spring of 2017.

STATISTICS FY 2015 – 2016

- The Austin Public Library has 20 branches, the Faulk Central Library, the Austin History Center and the Recycled Reads used bookstore.
- 570,446 people are registered card holders.
- The collection comprises 1,869,385 items systemwide.
- Customers visited the Austin Public Library 3,203,534 times last fiscal year and checked out a total of 5,923,484 items.
- 22,985 volunteer hours were donated throughout the Library system in 2015/2016.
- 21,838,222 virtual visits were made to Austin Public Library's website in 2015/2016.

SERVICES

Serving knowledge, technology and inspiration to the Austin community, the Library is more than a hub of books and education, it's a meeting place of minds and an incubator of ideas. In addition to traditional Library books and materials, here are some other Library services that APL provides:

- Virtual Library: eBooks, eAudiobooks, streaming video, digital magazines, online music and eLearning programs
- Audio books, CDs, MP3s and DVDs
- Reference assistance at Faulk Central Library and Austin History Center
- Telephone Reference: 512-974-7400
- Adaptive equipment for people with disabilities
- Tax forms accessible electronically at all locations and in paper format at some locations
- Online reference assistance: library.austintexas.gov/ask
- Computer training centers at Faulk Central Library and Little Walnut Creek and Ruiz Branches
- Computer and Job Search Center at Carver Branch

- Public internet computers and wireless internet access at every Library location during open hours
- Youth programming (puppet shows, storytimes, summer reading programs)
- Brainfuse online and chat homework assistance
- VICTORY homework centers: Carver, Cepeda, Little Walnut Creek, Ruiz, Southeast, Twin Oaks and University Hills Branches
- Reference databases (searchable databases ranging in topics from the arts to science and technology)
- Book clubs for teens and adults
- Adult programming examples include: film screenings, language practice and discussion groups
- Laptop computers available for check-out at Carver Branch and Ruiz Branch
- Large-type books
- Magazine exchange tables at many locations
- Online reserves and renewals
- Interlibrary loan
- Free meeting rooms for not-for-profit organizations
- Local history research collection and archives
- Reproduction of historical photos
- New Immigrants Centers: Little Walnut Creek, Cepeda, Ruiz, St. John, Southeast Community, Terrazas and University Hills Branches
- World language collections
- Library tours: 512-974-7400
- Ongoing book sales at most locations
- Everything Austin: selected links to key Austin topics
- Austin treasures: online exhibits of historical Austin topics
- Public scanner at Faulk Central Library
- Recycled Reads: the Library's used bookstore, 5335 Burnet Rd. 512-974-7460
- Express check-out machines at Faulk Central and each branch location

SUPPORT GROUPS/LIBRARY COMMISSION

- The Austin Public Library Friends Foundation raises funds from individuals, community groups, foundations and corporations to support Library programs that would otherwise be out of reach. Successes include the New Fiction ConFab, the Mayor's Book Club and the Michael & Susan Dell Connected Youth Centers.
- The Austin History Center Association is the citizen's support organization for the Austin History Center.
- The Library Commission is an advisory board appointed by the City Council. The Library Commissioners advise City Council on matters relating to the Library.

AWARDS

1993 Library Journal recognizes Austin Public Library as the second National Library of the Year.
1994 Texas Library Association Project of the Year for "Pepe's Magic Tales" Saturday morning television show about books, a joint venture between KVUE-TV, Fiesta and the Austin Public Library.
1994 VICTORY Program is recognized by the American Library Association as one of 50 outstanding programs for youth in schools and public libraries in the US.
1995 Texas Library Association Project of the Year for VICTORY Program, an after-school tutoring program using VISTA volunteers.
1999 VICTORY Program Finalist for Governor's Volunteer Awards.
2000 Highsmith, Hotho and Mora Awards for Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros Program.
2000 L. Percy Award for web page design.
2000 Giant Step Award for Youth Star Card outreach.
2003 Wired for Youth selected by YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) as an Excellence in Library Service to Young Adults Project.
2004 Texas Library Association (TLA) Project of the Year for "The Blue Bellies are in Austin: Readings from the Travis County Slave Narratives."
2005 TLA Hotho Award for Second Chance Books: Gardner Betts Outreach Program.
2006 TLA Project of the Year Award for Second Chance Books: Gardner Betts Outreach Program.
2006 TLA Public Relations Branding Iron Awards for "Best Outdoor Advertising" and "Best Broadcast Advertising."
2009 TLA Public Relations Branding Iron Awards for "Best Outdoor Advertising" and "Best Collateral Materials."
2010 Twin Oaks Library wins First Place Commercial Interior Design Award for Sustainable Design.
2010 TLA Branding Iron Award for Best Outdoor Advertising.
2011 YomiCon, the Austin Public Library's annual manga and anime convention for teens and tweens, the 2011 Wayne Williams Library Project of the Year Award.
2011 TLA Branding Iron Awards for Best Print and Outdoor Advertising.
2012 TLA Branding Iron Awards for Best Print Media and Best Non-Traditional Media.
2013 TLA Branding Iron Awards for Best Print Media and Non-Traditional Media.