Reflections: A Year of Retrospect
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A Year of Retrospect

“Reflection is looking back so that the view looking forward is even clearer.”
– Anonymous

Tulsa City-County Library has seen a whirlwind of change over the last several years as we have introduced many new programs and services to keep relevant in the fast-paced, high-tech 21st century. But sometimes it is prudent to slow down, take a deep breath and reflect on the past before making changes that indelibly may impact the future. That is what we have done in 2017 as we have spent the last year in retrospect, reflecting on everything we do and why we do it to ensure we are stronger, wiser and able to serve our communities, our customers most effectively for many future generations to come. So, please join us in taking a few moments to relax and reflect on our many highlights from the past year, while looking forward to a wonderful future.

2017 was a year of progress and growth for the Tulsa City-County Library. While the year brought many new opportunities to the library system, it also offered a time for reflection and focus on the core goals and mission of our libraries. We are living in a very exciting time. Each day, new technologies and capacities emerge that seemingly make yesterday’s capabilities obsolete.

In this shifting landscape, one of the questions I am asked most frequently is: “How will libraries stay relevant?” I can’t speak for others, but in Tulsa County, our library system continues to innovate and transform its buildings, collections, services and programs to meet the ever-changing needs of our communities. We have grown and evolved by embracing new technologies and a customer-centered service model. We remain a prominent player in the county’s continuum of learning and inspiration, providing books, magazines, movies and music people want in the ways they want them – both traditional formats and online with our continuously updated digital collection and new library app. We are and will continue to serve as a sustainable, sustaining resource by feeding local creativity, preserving our collective history, advancing technologies, supporting small businesses and nonprofits, and providing a much needed, comfortable place in the community where everyone may enrich their lives.

Tulsa City-County Library’s ability to adapt and grow enables us to continue to transform the lives and experiences of our customers. Speaking of transformation, in 2017, we completed a full year in our newly renovated downtown Central Library. This space is truly a state-of-the-art, 21st century facility … and according to The Tulsa Voice magazine, the city’s “Best Place to Learn Something New.” That’s right, our lovely new library was the recipient of several awards this year including Oklahoma’s Henry Bellmon Sustainability Award, as well as recognition in the Library Design Showcase by American Libraries magazine.

Our library system as a whole was a winner of the 2017 Oklahoma Quality Award for Commitment to Excellence and a finalist for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service. In short, great things are happening at the Tulsa City-County Library and our state and nation are taking notice. We’re doing more than remaining relevant – our library system is thriving and it’s all thanks to you. We are truly grateful for your ongoing support and look forward to seeing you again soon at the library.

Warmest regards,

Kimberly Johnson
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Library Friends,

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Warmest regards,

Kimberly Johnson
Chief Executive Officer
behind the scenes

TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
William L. Peacher, chair
G.T. Bynum, mayor of Tulsa
Moises Echeverria
Sally Frasier
Leanne Helmerich
Rebecca Marks Jimerson
Charles O. Meyers, Jr.
Ron Peters, Tulsa County Commissioner
Judy Randle
Richard D. White, Jr.
La Verne Ford Wimberly, Ed.D.
Peggy V. Helmerich, emeritus

TULSA LIBRARY TRUST BOARD
Bonnie Henike, 2017 president
Martin L.J. Newman, 2018 president
Steven H. Austin
Robin F. Bal linger
Ann Shannon Cassidy
Kathie Coyle
Rik Helmerich
Shelley S. Jackson
Paul Johnson
Robert J. LaFortune
Ruth K. Nelson
Susan Savage
Jana Shoulders
Clifton Taulbert

FRIENDS OF THE TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARIES OFFICERS
Debora Riggs Grillot, president
Glenna Anderson
Todd Dallenbach
Linda Jenkins
Sherry Leslie
Mary Olzawski
Lynn Peacher
Diane Pennington

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY GROUPS
Tulsa City-County Library has six active Friends of the Library groups that devote numerous volunteer hours and donate funds to support and enhance the library’s programs, services and collections.

The Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries group offers an annual Adult Creative Writing Contest, Books Sandwiched In, First Book, Great Decisions, Music Sandwiched In, Travels With Tu l sans, and other programs and events. Founded in 1957, the Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries celebrated its 60th anniversary during National Friends of Libraries Week (Oct. 15-21, 2017). Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum and Oklahoma Sen. Dave Rader joined the group on Oct. 16 at Central Library to kick off the celebration and acknowledge the group for all its wonderful work.

Other active Friends of the Library groups are:
Friends of the Collinsville Library
Friends of the Judy Z. Kishner Library
Friends of the Peggy Helmerich Library
Friends of the Rudisill Regional Library

SPECIAL HOMAGE TO PEGGY
As we reflect on our many accomplishments from last year, we would like to pay special homage to Peggy V. Helmerich, who, with vision, vigor and perseverance, significantly contributed to the success of the Tulsa City-County Library over the past 44 years. Each year, the Tulsa community is so fortunate to have the wonderful opportunity to spend a few days with an internationally renowned author who is brought to Tulsa to receive the prestigious Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award. Thank you, Peggy, for your generosity and continued devotion to our libraries!

Photo: Peggy Helmerich and Richard Ford, winner of the 2017 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award.

Photo courtesy of Bob McCormack Photography.

financial summary
June 30, 2017

POPULATION SERVED ................................ 642,840
LIBRARY CARD HOLDERS .............................. 417,263
LIBRARY SITES ............................................. 24
OUTREACH VEHICLES ................................... 2

PERSONNEL
Full-time equivalents .................................. 306.5

OWNED COLLECTION
Physical ..................................................... 1,338,826
Digital (eBooks/audiobooks) ......................... 45,299
Total owned collection ................................ 1,384,125

SUBSCRIPTION COLLECTION
eBooks & audiobooks .................................... 336,131
eMagazines & eNewspapers ......................... 14,764
Movies & TV to stream ................................ 14,685
Music to stream or download ....................... 9,279,208

VISITS
Physical visits ........................................... 2,939,680
Virtual visits ................................................ 5,732,530
Total visits ................................................. 8,672,210

CIRCULATION
Print materials ........................................... 5,458,699
Digital materials ......................................... 1,223,842
Total circulation ........................................ 6,682,541
Circulation per capita .................................. 10.4

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Friends of Genealogy Inc.
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Photo: Peggy Helmerich and Richard Ford, winner of the 2017 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award.

Financial Summary
June 30, 2017

REVENUE
Ad valorem taxes ........................................ 28,500,575
Fines and fees ............................................ 1,805,264
Interest earned .......................................... 48,379
Grants ...................................................... 97,022
State aid .................................................... 203,673
Library Trust ............................................ 1,471,799
Miscellaneous .......................................... 38,459
Total revenue ........................................... 30,835,091

EXPENSE
Personnel services ...................................... 17,617,639
Maintenance and operations ......................... 4,563,623
Materials .................................................... 111,767
Miscellaneous ............................................ 97,022
Capital outlay ............................................ 11,868,351
Total expense ........................................... 38,685,960

TRANSFER IN
FROM TULSA LIBRARY TRUST FOR CENTRAL LIBRARY PROJECT .............................................. 38,685,960

NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCES ................. 46,014

Photo courtesy of Bob McCormack Photography.
On Jan. 1, 2017, Kimberly Johnson assumed the leadership helm as Tulsa City-County Library’s chief executive officer. A New York native and lifetime library user, Johnson began her distinguished career at TCCL in 1998 as the first coordinator of the African-American Resource Center. Over her 19-year tenure at TCCL, Johnson has held several key positions, including serving as chief operating officer.

The Zarrow Regional Library reopened Jan. 23 after closing for two weeks for improvements. Interior changes were made to the library to better serve the 21st century library customer and take advantage of all available space for customer resources and materials. The Zarrow Regional Library was the 12th TCCL branch to transition to the new customer-centered service model.
In February, Moises Echeverria, president and CEO of the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice, joined the Tulsa City-County Library Commission, replacing the Rev. Wendell Hope Sr., who served two terms on the commission.

On Feb. 1, nearly 150 people of all ages spent an evening with George Washington at Central Library as Dean Malissa, the official and sole George Washington historical actor at Mount Vernon, portrayed the first president.

In recognition of African-American History Month, TCCL’s African-American Resource Center hosted an author presentation and book signing, plus a writing workshop for teens, presented by New York Times best-selling author Omar Tyree (aka The Urban Griot), founder of the Urban Literacy Project, on Feb. 2 at the Rudisill Regional Library. Tyree’s Urban Literacy Project aims to increase the overall literacy rate among urban and other disadvantaged youth.

Suburban Acres Library reopened Feb. 15 after closing for one week for improvements and to transition to the new customer-centered service model.
# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017

On March 2, TCCL celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday by participating in Read Across America Day. More than 1,200 students in 65 preschool classrooms each received a free Dr. Seuss book, provided through TCCL’s Krueger Read and Grow program. Funded by the Krueger Charitable Foundation, the Krueger Read and Grow program gives underserved preschool children books they can claim as their own and take home during the school year. In 2017, more than 11,000 books were distributed through the program.

- **Choctaw storyteller and award-winning author Tim Tingle received the 2017 American Indian Festival of Words Writers Award on March 4 at Hardyston Regional Library. Tingle mesmerized the audience as he eloquently spoke about his life and work. Afterward, attendees enjoyed the sights and sounds of the American Indian culture at the American Indian Festival of Words, featuring traditional dances, a tribal languages preservation forum and other native cultural activities, hosted by TCCL’s American Indian Resource Center.**

- **Interior changes were made to the Maxwell Park Library last March to better serve the 21st century library customer. The Maxwell Park Library was the 14th TCCL branch to transition to the new customer-centered service model.**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 1-31</td>
<td>Teen Tech Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Read Across America Day</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>American Indian Circle of Honor • 10:30 a.m. Zarrow Regional Library</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Young People’s Creative Writing Contest entry deadline</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Books Sandwiched In 12:10-12:50 p.m. Central Library</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Adult Creative Writing Contest deadline</td>
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<td>Good Friday Passover begins at sundown</td>
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The American Indian Festival of Words features traditional dancers and other enlightening cultural activities.
HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017

In April, TCCL celebrated National Library Week by offering “Bring Back the Books,” an amnesty program forgiving fines for all overdue library materials. About 7,000 items were returned for a total worth of $151,000.

The Glenpool Library closed April 24-29 to undergo interior changes to transition to the new customer-centered service model.

The Friends of the Helmerich Library offered its annual Book Sale April 20-22, with more than 900 people attending, and raising nearly $8,000 to benefit TCCL programs and services.

More than 250 children and their families explored Russian culture and learned about space exploration at Central Library’s Global Alliance’s “From Russia to the Stars” event on April 15 to celebrate Cosmonautics Day and Children’s Day/Book Day.

Hosted by the Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries and Tulsa Library Trust, TCCL honored its invaluable volunteers for years and hours of service at the 43rd annual Volunteer Recognition on April 23. From shelving books to helping children and adults learn to read, 794 volunteers donated 33,317 hours in 2016, saving TCCL $780,708 - the equivalent of nearly 16 new full-time employees. Also at the recognition, the Bank of Oklahoma and Tulsa Library Trust presented the Marcus R. Tower Service Award to Ruth K. Nelson, longtime member of the Tulsa Library Trust, for her vision and invaluable service to the library system’s development and achievement.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017

On May 23, TCCL officially kicked off its 2017 Summer Reading Program by announcing a partnership with A Gathering Place for Tulsa and issuing a county-wide Reading Tree Challenge. TCCL CEO Kimberly Johnson was joined by Tulsa Gathering Place Director Tony Moore and Mayor G.T. Bynum in Central Library’s A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Foundation Children’s Garden to make the announcement. Afterward, Mayor Bynum read a story to young readers in the audience. The Gathering Place announced that it will feature a Reading Tree, but it needs Tulsa County children to grow its leaves before the park opens in late spring/summer 2018. Children can make the magical tree come to life by helping the Gathering Place reach its goal of 2 million books.

The Tulsa Master Gardeners presented a nine-week series of brown-bag lectures and workshops at Central Library in April and May, teaching participants how to create a beautiful butterfly garden, grow gardens in small spaces, attract bees and other pollinators.

Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum helped kick off TCCL’s 2017 Summer Reading Program by sharing a story in the A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Foundation Children’s Garden at Central Library.
More than 1,500 people enjoyed the sights and sounds of Asia at TCCL’s 15th annual Asian-American Festival on June 3 at the Martin Regional Library. Funded by the Tulsa Library Trust, the free festival featured a delightful dance performance by the Korean Angels, a demonstration of the Kendo fighting form, Asian food and crafts.

- TCCL’s African-American Resource Center hosted its 17th annual Historic All-Black Town Tour commemorating Juneteenth on June 10. The daylong trip began with a walking tour of Muskogee, followed by a presentation in Fort Gibson by historian Omar Reed, dressed in period clothing as a soldier, and then ended with a stop at the Four Mile Branch Cemetery.

- To complement TCCL’s Adult Summer Reading Program, Central Library hosted “Ignite Tulsa: Build a Better World Edition,” an evening of networking, education and entertainment, on June 15. More than 130 people came to listen to 11 speakers who each had 5 minutes to share 20 slides on topics detailing what they’re doing to build a better world right here in Tulsa.

- To encourage children to live their dreams and become avid readers, Bixby native Chris Harris Jr., Denver Broncos cornerback, returned to his hometown library in Bixby to present a sports-themed storyline on June 19 and inspire children to join the library’s Summer Reading Program. He also provided some prizes through the Chris Harris Jr. Foundation for the end-of-the-summer drawing for youth who completed the Summer Reading Program.

- The Korean Angels delighted festivalgoers with a traditional fan dance at the Asian-American Festival at Martin Regional Library.
HONORS RECEIVED IN 2017

TCCL’s Central Library was selected by Tulsa Voice readers as Tulsa’s Best Place to Learn Something New in 2017. “As a 21st century library system, we understand the importance of innovative education,” said TCCL CEO Kimberly Johnson. “Whether you’re learning to use one of our 3-D printers or taking a modern-day sewing class, our libraries constantly are evolving to offer relevant learning opportunities for all ages.”

TCCL was selected as one of 30 finalists for the 2017 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, given by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

TCCL was awarded the 2017 Henry Bellmon Planet Award for Environmental Stewardship for its Central Library Renewed project. Solar panels, high-efficiency lighting, chilled-beam heating and air-conditioning system, and rainwater collection system are among the sustainable factors that earned Central Library the award.

TCCL received the 2017 Oklahoma Quality Award for Commitment to Excellence for implementing continuous improvement efforts at all levels. The award is modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

TCCL CEO Kimberly Johnson was recognized by Tulsa World Magazine as one of the 2017 Tulsans of the Year. “We are known as a leading library in the country, and we want to be on the cutting edge of what’s next,” Johnson said.
Founded in 1917, the Collinsville Library is the oldest library within the TCCL system. In August, the library was updated, adding new technology, stripping and refinishing the floors, repainting all of the walls, adding shelves and rearranging the layout to make more room for customers. The Collinsville Library was the 16th TCCL branch to transition to the new customer-centered service model. The improvements took place right on the heels of Collinsville Library’s centennial celebration, held July 18. The centennial celebration marked a successful past but also looked to the future. Hundreds of people turned out to enjoy birthday festivities, complete with cupcakes, a magician, a time-capsule dedication and selfies in front of the original cornerstone.

On Aug. 2, the YWCA, in partnership with the Mayor’s Commission on the Status of Women, announced the winners of its coveted 2018 Women of the Year - Pinnacle Awards. TCCL CEO Kimberly Johnston and TCCL Case Manager Deborah Hunter were among the 10 selected recipients. The honorees were chosen from more than 60 online nominations for their outstanding accomplishments and/or projects of distinction within the past two years.

TCCL kicked off its new Build A Reader program in September. The program is designed to help parents and caregivers of babies and young children develop the early literacy skills necessary for learning to read.

On Sept. 7, nearly 150 people spent an enjoyable evening with three favorite authors at Hardesty Regional Library while raising more than $23,000 to benefit TCCL’s Ruth G. Hardman Adult Literacy Service. At the annual fundraiser “Chapters: A Casual Evening of Books, Bards and Bites,” guests got to mingle with featured authors Jennifer Latham, David Leite and Julia Thomas, while enjoying delicious edibles donated by 17 local restaurants and businesses.

Central Library’s Starbucks® coffee shop celebrated one year of business in September. To commemorate the event, Central’s Starbucks® created a special drink just for the day.

In an effort to increase TCCL’s 2017 Summer Reading Program participation at Rudisill Regional and Suburban Acres libraries, Tulsa’s District 1 City Councilor Vanessa Hall-Harper personally challenged youth in her district to “increase participation by at least 5 percent and earn an end-of-summer cookout.” Young library customers met the challenge, and Hall-Harper made good on her word by hosting a children’s barbecue on Sept. 9 at the Suburban Acres Library. Nearly 60 residents turned out and 10 lucky kids got to throw pies in the councilor’s face.

Members of Collinsville Library’s All Thumbs Knitters group show off some of their needle-craft creations.
Rudisill Regional Library reopened on Oct. 2 after closing for two weeks to transition to TCCL’s new customer-centered service model. The new model opened up the library, making it more inviting and easier to use. Improvements included an enlarged children’s area and child-size book bins so kids easily can browse for their own books.

TCCL’s Hispanic Resource Center kicked off its Hispanic Heritage Month festivities on Sept. 15 with a Mexican fiesta at the Kendall-Whittier Library. The celebration culminated on Oct. 12 at Martin Regional Library with a family friendly evening of mariachi music and a fascinating presentation by award-winning author and illustrator Angela Dominguez, whose new children’s book Sing, Don’t Cry shares the story of her musician grandfather and the importance of sharing music together as a family.
Every November, TCCL celebrates the beauty and power of children’s literature by connecting children with books to inspire a love of learning and reading. Each year a prominent children’s book illustrator is invited to Tulsa to participate in Books to Treasure, and a featured book is selected from among the illustrator’s work and a copy of this book is given to every second-grader in Tulsa County. On Nov. 3, children’s author and illustrator Hannah E. Harrison delighted more than 400 children and their families at the Books to Treasure presentation held in Hardesty Regional Library’s Connor’s Cove Theater. Nearly 12,000 copies of Harrison’s book *Extraordinary Jane* were given to area second-graders, plus thousands of these young readers took advantage of the opportunity to get a special library card featuring an illustration from the book. Books to Treasure is sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust through a grant from the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation.

The Skiatook Regional Library reopened Nov. 16 after closing for two weeks for interior improvements to transition to the new customer-centered service model. New features include the addition of a Business Center, where customers can copy, scan, print or fax.

Nearly 150 literacy supporters enjoyed delicious edibles donated by area restaurants and businesses at TCCL’s 2017 Chapters: A Casual Evening of Books, Bards and Bites fundraiser benefiting adult literacy.

Call 918-549-7322 for date of 2018 Books to Treasure event.

The Highlights from 2017.
Warmth of family was the theme of the décor for the 33rd annual Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award Gala, held Dec. 1 at Central Library. About 375 people attended the gala honoring internationally renowned American novelist Richard Ford and celebrating Peggy V. Helmerich and her beloved family. The Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award was established in 1985 by the Tulsa Library Trust and is given in recognition of a distinguished body of work written in the field of literature and letters. The award consists of a crystal book and an honorarium of $40,000.
Tulsa City-County Library locations

1. Bixby Library
   201 E. Breckenridge, 74008 | M, W, F, 10-6; T, Th, 12-8; Sat., 10-5
2. Broken Arrow Library
   300 W. Broadway, 74012 | M-Th, 10-8; Fri, 10-6; Sat, 10-5
3. Broken Arrow Library/South
   3600 S. Ochard, 74011 | M-Th, 10-8; Sat, 10-5
4. Brookside Library
   100 W. 46th Place, 74105 | M-Th, 10-8; Fri, 10-6; Sat, 10-5
5. Central Library
   400 Civic Center, 74103 | M-Th, 9-9; Fri, 9-6; Sat, 9-5, Sun, 1-5
6. Charles Page Library
   101 E. Fourth St., Sand Springs, 74063 | M, W, F, 10-6; T, Th, 10-8; Sat, 10-5
7. Collinsville Library
   1223 Main, 74012 | M-Th, 10-8; Fri-Sat, 10-5
8. Glenpool Library
   730 E. 141st St., 74033 | M, W, F, 10-6; T, Th, 12-8; Sat, 10-5
9. Hardesty Regional Library and Genealogy Center
   5130 S. 101st St., 74103 | M-Th, 9-9; Fri, 9-6; Sat, 9-5, Sun, 1-5
10. Heimerich Library
    5131 E. 91st St., 74137 | M-Th, 10-8; Fri-Sat, 10-5
11. Herman and Kate Kaiser Library
    530 S. Hudson Ave., Suite B, 74103 | M-Th, 10-8; Fri, 10-6; Sat, 10-5
12. Jenks Library
    523 W. B St., 74037 | M, W, F, 10-6; T, Th, 10-8; Sat, 10-5
13. Judy Z. Kishner Library
    6038 E. 23rd St., 74114 | Mon-Fri, 10-6; Sat, 10-5
14. Maxwell Park Library
    1331 N. Cardinal, 74106 | Mon-Fri, 10-6; Sat, 10-5
15. Nathan Hale Library
    6338 E. 23rd St., 74114 | Mon-Fri, 10-6; Sat, 10-5
16. Owasso Library
    103 W. Broadway, 74055 | M-Th, 10-8; Fri, 10-6; Sat, 10-5
17. Pratt Library
    532 W. B St., 74037 | M, W, F, 10-6; T, Th, 10-8; Sat, 10-5
18. Rudisill Regional Library and African-American Resource Center
    1520 N. Harvard, 74006 | M-Th, 9-9; Fri-Sat, 9-5, Sun, 1-5
19. Schusterman-Benson Library
    5333 E. 27th Place, 74106 | M-Th, 10-8; Fri-Sat, 10-5
20. Skiatook Library
    316 E. Rogers, 74063 | M, W, F, 10-6; T, Th, 12-8; Sat, 10-5
21. Suburban Acres Library
    4160 N. Gann, 74016 | Mon-Fri, 10-6; Sat, 10-5
22. Zarrow Regional Library and American Indian Resource Center
    2224 W. 51st St., 74107 | M-Th, 9-9; Fri-Sat, 9-5, Sun, 1-5