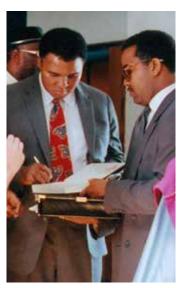
A LEGACY OF INNOVATION, INTEGRATION, INSPIRATION



2023 ANNUAL REPORT WITH 2024 CALENDAR



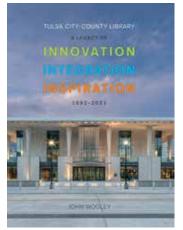






MESSAGE FROM THE CEO





Several years ago, we embarked on an exciting journey to chronicle the past three decades of Tulsa City-County Library's inspiring history for a sequel to our first volume, *Tulsa City-County Library 1912-1991*, written by Mildred Ladner Thompson and published by Lion & Thorne Publishing. In October 2023, we exuberantly reached our final destination with the publication of *Tulsa City-County Library: 1992-2021: A Legacy of Innovation, Integration, Inspiration*, written by John Wooley and published by Babylon Books.

A must-have for all library lovers, this beautiful book recounts TCCL's wonderful legacy, while showcasing through vivid stories and photographs how our library system continually celebrates the diversity of our customers, supports intellectual and artistic freedom, serves as a bulwark against suppression and censorship, and deeply enriches the intellectual life of all the communities we serve.

This annual report continues the celebration of our rich legacy of innovation, integration and inspiration as we look back at our major accomplishments from 2023. We began the stellar year with a five-star rating in *Library Journal*'s national rating of libraries, placing fifth out of 5,359 public libraries in the country for library usage. What a remarkable achievement this was! We could not have done it without our dedicated staff, and loyal customers and supporters. I am so proud to be a part of this amazing organization.

Another accomplishment from 2023 was the opening of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of TCCL last spring. Imagine receiving a free age-appropriate, high-quality book every month for your child until their fifth birthday. That is what this free book-gifting program provides for Tulsa County families. If you enroll your newborn in the program, you would receive nearly 60 books by the time they reached their fifth birthday. We are so grateful to our partners – the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Birth through Eight Strategy for Tulsa, an initiative of George Kaiser Family Foundation.

Speaking of children's books, consider yourself fortunate if you were among the lucky families who got in to see rock star illustrator Ben Clanton at our 20th anniversary Books To Treasure event on Nov. 10, 2023, at Hardesty Regional Library. More than 1,000 children and adults packed Connor's Cove Children's Theater and Frossard Auditorium, with some people waiting in line over four hours to get their *Narwhal and Jelly* books signed. What a turnout! The best thing of all was that every child went home excited about books and reading.

As you turn the pages of this annual report, you will see other significant milestones and achievements, plus discover some photo blasts from the past from our new history book.

Kimberly Johnson, TCCL CEO

BEHIND THE SCENES



PICTURED FROM LEFT:
Tulsa City-County Library
Commissioners Richard
D. White Jr.; Ellen Duecker;
Rodrigo Rojas (representing
Mayor G.T. Bynum);
La Verne Ford Wimberly, Ed.D.;
Leanne Helmerich;
Danny Williams; Cynthia
McGhee; Rik Helmerich;
and Moises Echeverria

Tulsa City-County Library Commission

Leanne Helmerich, chair
G.T. Bynum, mayor of Tulsa
Kelly Dunkerley, county commissioner
Moises Echeverria, vice chair
Ellen Duecker
Rik Helmerich
Cynthia McGhee
Richard D. White Jr.
Danny Williams
La Verne Ford Wimberly, Ed.D.
Peggy V. Helmerich, emeritus

Tulsa Library Trust Board

Bri Ghosn, president
Isaac Ellis
Jordan Helmerich
Paul Johnson
Annette LaFortune Murray
Martin Newman
Mike Redman
M. Susan Savage
Clifton Taulbert
Julie Watson
Melissa Easterling, Trust executive director

Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries Board

Dorothy Minor, president
Nancy Carroll
Ros Elder
Lillie Haddican
Gisele McDaniel
Cindy McDonald
Glad Platner

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES GROUPS

Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries

This group supports educational and cultural programs for the entire TCCL system. The Friends group sponsors Books Sandwiched In, Travels With Tulsans, Great Decisions and the Adult Creative Writing Contest, and provides scholarships for library staff. The group assists with the Ruth G. Hardman Adult Literacy Service and brings outstanding speakers and authors to Tulsa.

Friends of the Helmerich Library

The purpose of this organization is to aid and promote the activities and goals of the Peggy V. Helmerich Library. Every year, this dedicated group hosts a very successful book sale and uses the proceeds to fund programming across the TCCL system. Since its inception in 2004, the Friends of the Helmerich Library has given more than \$120,000 to benefit TCCL locations.

Friends of the Rudisill Regional Library

This group supports the Rudisill Regional Library and the African American Resource Center by raising funds, volunteering at library programs, encouraging new customers to use the library, hosting book discussions and supporting TCCL staff in continuing education with the Freddie Martin Rudisill Scholarship Award.

QUICK STATS



POPULATION SERVED

677,358

LIBRARY CARDHOLDERS 347,814





LIBRARY SITES 26 (24 Public, 2 Nonpublic)







PERSONNEL 418

OWNED MATERIALS

Physical **1,082,977**



Total Owned Materials 1,228,791



PHYSICAL MATERIALS BREAKDOWN

Children's Items 376,480
Adult Items 706,497



SUBSCRIPTION eMATERIALS

eBooks/eAudio 1,009,106

eMagazines

and eNewspapers 25,190

Access to Streaming or

Downloadable Music 384,311

Streaming Movies and TV 70,405





NOTE: STATS REFLECTED ARE FOR CALENDAR YEAR AND INCLUDE ESTIMATED NUMBERS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

JUNE 30, 2023

REVENUE

Ad Valorem \$ 39,477,343

Other Government

Income \$ 602,980

Library Services Income \$ 263,952 Miscellaneous Income \$ 208,179

\$ 40,552,454

EXPENDITURES

 Personnel
 \$ 20,053,258

 Operations
 \$ 3,992,252

 Maintenance
 \$ 1,882,498

 Materials
 \$ 4,328,096

 Capital Expenditures
 \$ 1,527,074

\$ 31,783,178



JANUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	New Year's Day Libraries closed Kwanzaa ends					
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Travels With Tulsans			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Martin Luther King Jr. Day Libraries closed	Library Inventory Day Libraries closed	Travels With Tulsans			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Great Decisions Kickoff			Travels With Tulsans			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			Travels With Tulsans			
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

TCCL rings in the new year as a five-star library

2023 kicked off as a celebratory year as Tulsa City-County Library was named one of the top libraries in the country. TCCL received a five-star rating in Library Journal's national rating of public libraries. Five stars is the highest rating a library can receive. Library Journal comprises its scores for its annual America's Star Libraries from eight service criteria: circulation of physical items, circulation of e-materials, library visits, program attendance, public computer users, Wi-Fi sessions, electronic retrievals such as database usage and website visits. For 2022, 5,359 U.S. public libraries received *LJ* Index scores and less than 2% (84) received recognition as five-star libraries. The 2022 ratings and scores were based on 2020 data



from the Institute of Museum and Library Services Public
Library Survey. Learn more at
www.tulsalibrary.org/5-stars.

PICTURED ABOVE:

TCCL staff offer a big thank you to our loyal customers and supporters for helping make us a five-star library!



FEBRUARY 2024

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					Groundhog Day	
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
			Travels With Tulsans			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			Valentine's Day Travels With Tulsans			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Presidents Day Libraries closed		Travels With Tulsans			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			Travels With Tulsans	Young People's Creative Writing Contest deadline Leap Year Day		
25	26	27	28	29	1	2

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Telehealth booth reduces health inequities

TCCL now offers a telehealth booth at Central Library to help customers unable to travel to a doctor or who don't have the ability to conduct virtual appointments at home. The ADA-compliant booth includes computer access with dual monitors and an adjustable table, soundproofing and frosted glass to ensure privacy, a variety of basic medical equipment upon request, and HEPA filtration and advanced sanitization practices to



ensure a safe environment. Learn more at www.tulsalibrary.org/ ■ telehealth.

Students compete in trivia competition

Edison Preparatory School and Crossover Preparatory Academy, respectively, took home first-place trophies for the high school and middle school competitions in TCCL's 2023 African American Heritage Bowl, hosted by the African American Resource Center at Rudisill Regional Library on Feb. 23. Nearly 75 people attended the trivia bowl, which featured questions about "Black Resistance" in celebration of Black History Month.

PHOTO BLAST FROM THE PAST

Pictured above, world-renowned boxer Muhammad Ali visited Rudisill Regional Library on May 8, 1992.



MARCH 2024

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
25	26	27	28	29	1	Read Across America Day American Indian Festival of Words Circle of Honor 2 Award
	20	<i>Z1</i>	28	29	1	Z Awara
World Wildlife Day					International Women's Day	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Daylight Saving Time begins Set clock ahead one hour	Books Sandwiched In					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
St. Patrick's Day	Books Sandwiched In	Spring begins				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Books Sandwiched In				Good Friday	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Easter Libraries closed						
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Recognizing outstanding American Indian writers

Nearly 400 people honored bestselling novelist Stephen Graham Jones at the American Indian Festival of Words Writers Award ceremony, held March 4 at Hardesty Regional Library. The audience included representatives from at least 10 American Indian tribes. Given biennially by the American Indian Resource Center, the award recognizes outstanding American Indian authors, poets, journalists, and film and stage scriptwriters. Recipients receive a \$10,000 cash prize, sponsored by the Maxine & Jack Zarrow Family Foundation and Tulsa Library Trust.

Free books for little ones



TCCL is working 9 to 5 enrolling kids in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a free book-gifting program that mails high-quality, ageappropriate books monthly to children until their fifth

birthday. Since launching in March 2023, the Imagination Library has enrolled nearly 17,000 children and put more than 100,000 books in their hands. Ja'kiera, pictured above with her father, Justin Tackett, received her first book, *The Little Engine That Could*, from the Imagination Library and loved it!

PICTURED ABOVE:

Stephen Graham Jones with Native princesses at the American Indian Writers Award ceremony



APRIL 2024

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NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Adult Creative Writing Contest deadline Books Sandwiched In	International Children's Book Day				
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
National Library Week April 7-13	Books Sandwiched In					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Books Sandwiched In					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Earth Day Passover begins at sundown				Arbor Day	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Día, Children's Day/Book Day Passover ends at sundown				
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Book sale raises \$13,000

The Friends of the Helmerich Library's (FOHL) Annual Book Sale took place in April over the course of two weekends and brought in more than \$13,000 in sales, the highest amount ever made from the sale. In addition to the annual book sale, FOHL also manages an ongoing book sale at the Helmerich Library that offers a smaller, but still high-quality, selection of books and media for sale year-round. Proceeds from the book sale are used to fund programming across the TCCL system.

Volunteers save library over \$100,000

From shelving books to helping children and adults learn to read, TCCL volunteers are the binding that holds the library story together. TCCL honored 32 volunteers for their years or hours of service at the 49th Annual Volunteer Recognition Celebration, held April 16 at Central Library. The Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries hosted the reception, and the Tulsa Library Trust provided the volunteer gifts. In 2022, 246 volunteers collectively donated 3,348 hours at their local libraries, saving TCCL \$100,272, according to the Independent Sector of Washington, D.C., which calculates volunteer time at \$29.95 per hour in Oklahoma.

PICTURED ABOVE:

The Friends of the Helmerich Library's Book Sale featured thousands of gently used books and media.



MAY 2024

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature	
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Cinco de Mayo	Holocaust Remembrance Day					
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Mother's Day					Endangered Species Day	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Memorial Day Libraries closed					
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Asian American Festival moves to May

More than 1,000 festivalgoers of all ages celebrated the colorful cultures of Asia at TCCL's 21st Annual Asian American Festival on May 20 at Martin Regional Library. Traditionally held in June, the festival moved to May to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. China, India, Japan, Korea and Vietnam were among the Asian countries represented at the half-day festival.

Zarrow Award winner encourages young readers and writers

New York Times bestselling author Steve
Sheinkin got children and young adults excited about history and reading as he shared his experiences as a renowned nonfiction author at the 2023 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature award presentation, held May 5 at Hardesty Regional Library. Afterward, he presented awards to winners of the 2023 Young People's Creative Writing Contest.

Nearly 450 youths, ages 8 to 18, collectively submitted 598 entries in the contest. Jenks High School senior Emma Cinocca won the Writer to Watch Award, which is given to a current winner who has won the most times previously and is aging out of the contest.

PICTURED ABOVE:

A Korean janguu drum dance performance at the 2023 Asian American Festival



JUNE 2024

CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH NATIONAL IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH LGBTQIA+ PRIDE MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						Summer Reading Program begins
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
						United Nations World Oceans Day
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
					Flag Day	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Father's Day	Music Sandwiched In		Juneteenth National Independence Day Libraries closed	Summer begins		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

All-Black Town Tour commemorates Juneteenth

TCCL's African American Resource Center and the Tulsa Library Trust commemorated Juneteenth on June 10 with the 24th Annual Historic All-Black Town Tour, which celebrates existing and historical towns and communities built after emancipation. The 2023 bus tour sold out with 112 tourists visiting the town of Rentiesville with stops at the Down Home Blues Club and Oklahoma Blues Hall of Fame, and the Honey Springs Battlefield Museum. The Blues Club hosted a mini blues concert, catered by Bronko's Pit BBQ. Historians Shirley Ann Ballard Nero and Jimmie White returned as tour guides.

Happy birthday, Hardesty and Connor's Cove!

Nearly 400 partygoers turned out for a big birthday bash on June 30 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Hardesty Regional Library and 15th anniversary of Connor's Cove. Hot Toast Music Company headlined the festivities. Special party guests included members of the Hardesty family: Roger, Michelle and Connor Clary Hardesty, and Paul and Jessie Cristo and their son, Huck.

PHOTO BLAST FROM THE PAST

Pictured above, Connor's Cove opened Sept. 8, 2008, with a performance by a touring show from the PBS hit television series *Between the Lions*.



JULY 2024

FAMILY HISTORY MONTH DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Music Sandwiched In			Independence Day Libraries closed		
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Teddy Bear Picnic Day			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Music Sandwiched In					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Music Sandwiched In		Summer Reading Program ends			
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

All together now at the library!

One out of four children ages 0-9 in Tulsa County participated in TCCL's 2023 Summer Reading Program, "All Together Now," held June 1 through July 31. The free program for all ages offered nearly 1,000 free events, plus numerous incentives, including coupons for free food and entertainment from area businesses, and prize drawings for program completion. Of the 57,100 participants, nearly 32,000 completed the program and collectively read more than 375,000 books. Thank you to the 2023 Summer Reading Program presenting sponsors: FC Tulsa, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Tulsa Trust, Tulsa Oilers, Tulsa State Fair, Tulsa Zoo, Whataburger and Williams.

Growing up Korean American

The lead vocalist of the alternative pop band Japanese Breakfast, Michelle Zauner, delighted a full house of more than 500 at Central Library on July 28 as she discussed her bestselling memoir *Crying in H Mart* as the featured book for TCCL's 2023 One Book, One Tulsa communitywide reading initiative. Prior to the author's visit to Tulsa, TCCL hosted community conversations at local Korean restaurants to discuss Zauner's memoir about growing up Korean American and to sample foods referenced in it.

PICTURED ABOVE:

Nathan Hale Library's Summer Reading Program Kindness Fair



AUGUST 2024

NATIONAL BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
		National Root Beer Float Day			Book Lovers Day	
		Float Day				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
-	5	0	,	•	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	1	1				

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Grow your business at the library

An edible snack garden, a sports app and a mobile hair salon were among the business ideas generated by the 35 participants in TCCL's inaugural Grow Academy, a 10-month program connecting local entrepreneurs to library and community resources to plan or grow a business. Participants received advice from community experts, training on TCCL's nine business databases, a workbook and webpage curated with relevant information on trending business topics, and then met monthly to discuss a featured topic.

\$5 million donation for new Brookside Library

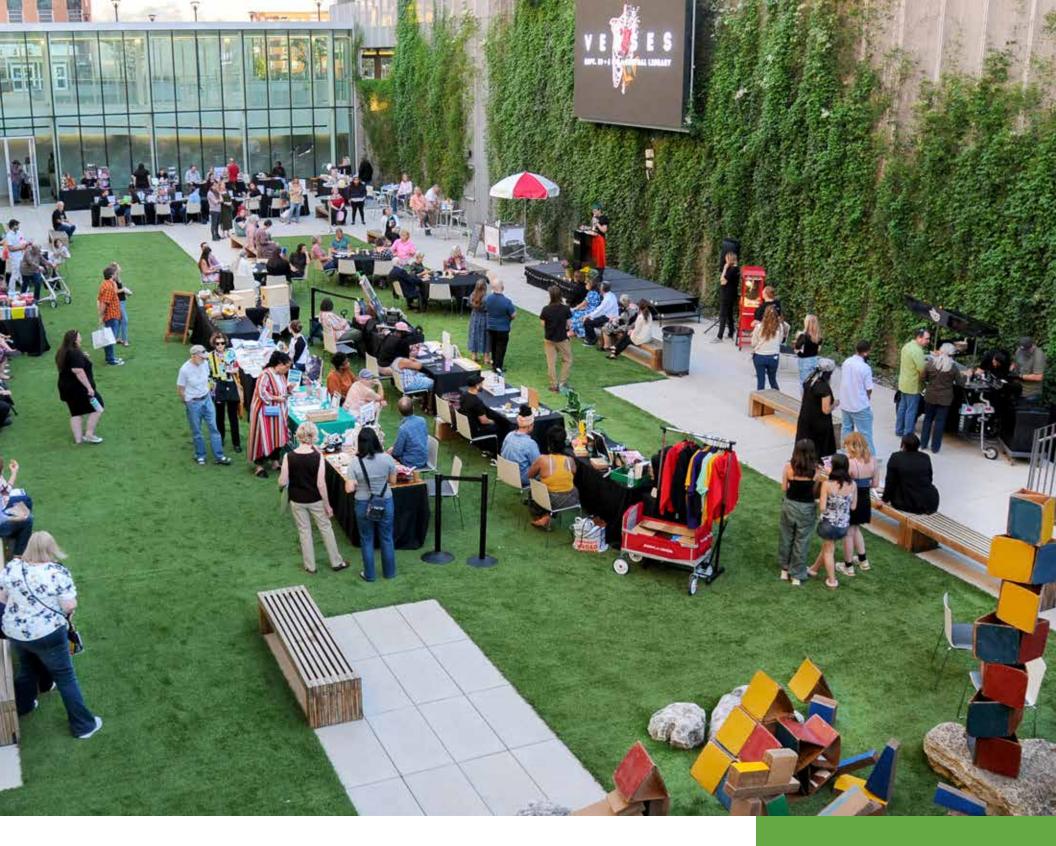
TCCL received a \$5 million gift from Tulsans Bob and Leslie Pritchard to support the MY Library, OUR Future capital campaign, a private fundraising effort to replace the Owasso, South Broken Arrow, Rudisill Regional and Brookside libraries. The Pritchards' gift will specifically support the Brookside location, which will be named the Bronson Brookside Library, in honor of Leslie's father, Donald



Bronson Atkins. Learn more
about the MY Library,
OUR Future campaign at
www.MYlibraryOURfuture.org.

PICTURED ABOVE:

Grow Academy 2022-23 cohort members celebrated their new knowledge and future successes at a special graduation ceremony, hosted by 36 Degrees North on Sept. 8.



SEPTEMBER 2024

LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH NATIONAL LITERACY MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Labor Day Libraries closed					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Grandparents Day						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15-Oct. 15	After-School Homework Club begins					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Fall begins						VERSES
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Supporting literacy, celebrating community

TCCL launched VERSES, a fundraiser benefiting the Ruth G. Hardman Adult Literacy Service, on Sept. 30 at Central Library. "VERSES is a hybrid of a market, an auction, an art show and performances. It's also an opportunity for us to raise awareness around our literacy program and why we are needed in the community," said VERSES creator Mandy Durham, manager of TCCL's literacy service. The fundraiser featured 32 vendors, including a variety of local artists and authors, booksellers and small presses, and generated nearly \$8,000 for the literacy service.

Fostering meaningful conversations

The Hispanic Resource Center kicked off its 2023 Hispanic Heritage Month programming with a bilingual conference, Conferencia Communidades Creciendo, held Sept. 15 at Martin Regional Library. More than 75 people participated in the half-day conference, featuring Latinx-serving organizations and panel discussions to foster authentic community engagement and discuss what the future holds for the Latinx community.

PICTURED ABOVE:

Literacy supporters enjoyed a night market in the A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Foundation Children's Garden at Central Library at the inaugural VERSES fundraiser.



OCTOBER 2024 GLOBAL DIVERSITY AWARENESS MONTH LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						World Teachers' Day
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
	Library Staff Development Day Libraries closed					
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Indigenous Peoples' Day					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
National Friends of Libraries Week Oct. 20-26						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
National Mentoring Day				Halloween		
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Nathan Hale Library celebrates Diamond Jubilee

Dozens of neighbors and former TCCL staff, including four previous Nathan Hale managing at Nathan Hale Library's 60th anniversary celebration, held Oct. 21. Attendees enjoyed punch and cookies, provided by the Friends of the Helmerich Library; signed the original vintage guest book from 1963; perused a scrapbook of vintage photos; and shared memories. Afterward, the library hosted its annual Pumpkin Palooza extravaganza featuring pumpkin painting, cute crafts and a bad art contest. Books and puzzles were given away as treats.

A legacy of innovation, integration, inspiration

TCCL chronicled its last 30 years of history and impact within Tulsa County into a new book, Tulsa City-County Library: 1992-2021: A Legacy of Innovation, Integration, Inspiration by John Wooley, published in October 2023. The beautiful book illustrates how the library system continually celebrates the diversity of its customers, supports intellectual and artistic freedom, serves as a bulwark against suppression and censorship, and deeply enriches the intellectual life of all the

PHOTO BLAST FROM THE PAST

Pictured above, Pinky and Rod Jones created the first Buddy Bookworm for a late-1950s Saturday morning kids show on Channel 6.



NOVEMBER 2024

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NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Daylight Saving Time ends Set clock back one hour		United States Presidential Election			Books To Treasure	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Veterans Day Libraries closed					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				Thanksgiving Day Libraries closed	Native American Heritage Day	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Books To Treasure celebrates 20 years

More than 1,000 children and adults overflowed Connor's Cove at Hardesty Regional Library to see rock star illustrator and author Ben Clanton, creator of the bestselling Narwhal and Jelly series, at the 20th anniversary Books To Treasure celebration on Nov. 10. Some children stayed up way past their bedtime as they waited in line many hours to meet Clanton and get their books signed. One pleased parent commented on TCCL's website: "If at all possible, please extend my sincerest thanks to Ben Clanton for staying until everyone had a chance to get their book signed. Our family stood in line for over four hours, and were still greeted by both Ben and library staff alike with warm smiles and kind words. I can't tell you what it means to me to see that many children spending Friday night at the library because they are excited about books. Thank you, TCCL, for all that you do for the community." Books To Treasure is funded by the Tulsa Library Trust through a grant from the Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation. Special thanks to *TulsaKids* Magazine for its support of the 20th anniversary Books To Treasure celebration.

PICTURED ABOVE:

2023 Books To Treasure celebration



DECEMBER 2024

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UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		International Day of Persons With Disabilities		Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award Public Presentation	Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award Black-Tie Gala	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
						Winter begins
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Christmas Eve Libraries closed	Christmas Day Libraries closed Hanukkah begins at sundown	Kwanzaa begins		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		New Year's Eve				
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Master storyteller Amor Towles delights adoring fans

As soon as word got out that New York *Times* bestselling novelist Amor Towles was coming to town to receive the 2023 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award, the phones at Tulsa City-County Library started ringing off the hook as his adoring fans called to ensure they did not miss this wonderful opportunity to meet their favorite author. The black-tie gala sold out in record time, with more than 320 guests dining among the stacks, amidst brilliantly colored decorations sporting an art deco theme, at the gala held in Towles' honor on Friday, Dec. 1 at Central Library. On the previous evening, the master storyteller delighted a packed-house crowd of more than 400 who came to Central Library to get their books signed and enjoy a free Q&A, moderated by Zhenya Yevtushenko, son of the late poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko. Given annually since 1985 by TCCL and the Tulsa Library Trust, the Helmerich Award consists of a \$40,000 cash prize and an engraved crystal book.

PICTURED ABOVE:

Vibrant hues lit up the night at the blacktie gala at Central Library. TCCL staff and members of the 2023 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award Gala Committee, composed of more than 60 volunteers, worked tirelessly behind the scenes for months in advance to make the gala so spectacular. PHOTO BY JESSICA KARIN TROUT

2023 REMEMBRANCES AND RETIREMENTS



Remembering Ruth K. Nelson

Ruth K. Nelson, one of Tulsa's most admired philanthropists and community servants, passed away on Jan. 25, 2023, at the age of 87. "Ruth K. Nelson was a tremendous supporter of the Tulsa City-County Library system and numerous other Tulsa-area nonprofit organizations," said Kimberly Johnson, TCCL CEO. "She served on the Tulsa Library Trust for 18 years, a notable commitment of time and leadership. The list of Mrs. Nelson's generosity is long including the gift that made TCCL's bookmobile possible and her support of the Central Library Renewed campaign. In addition, she lent her name and various avenues of support to the library system in many ways over the years. Although named for her parents, the Herman and Kate Kaiser Library became a reality largely because of Mrs. Nelson."

PICTURED: Ruth K. Nelson visited with young readers during a stop on TCCL's bookmobile in 2006. Ten years later in 2016, TCCL purchased a new bookmobile, due to Nelson's generosity.



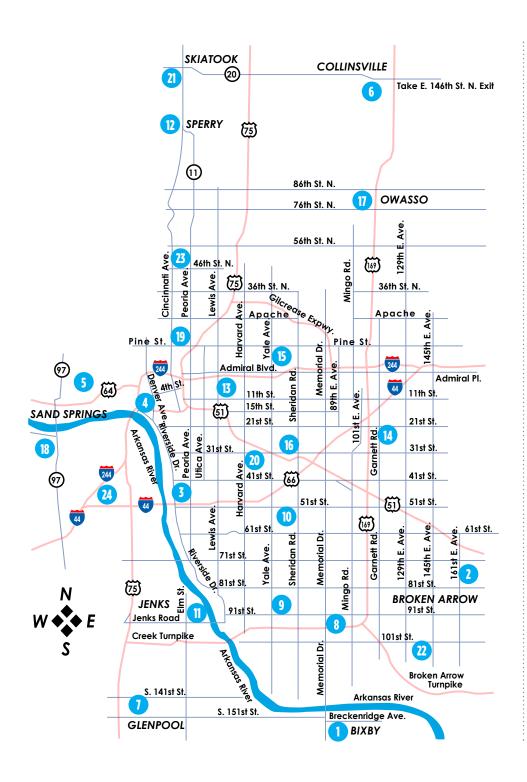
Remembering Tony Vice

Anthony "Tony" Vice, TCCL director of security, passed away on March 26, 2023. Vice worked for TCCL for nearly 33 years. TCCL celebrated and remembered Vice's legacy on May 24 at Rudisill Regional Library as friends, family, and library staff and retirees gathered to reminisce about Vice and his many contributions to TCCL and the community.

PICTURED: Tony Vice

Six longtime employees retire from TCCL in 2023

TCCL extends best wishes and a happy retirement to Deann Day, circulation assistant, Central Library; Suzanne Gunn, library associate, Outreach Services; Lisa Hansen, library associate, Genealogy Resource Center; Melinda Jenkins, customer service assistant, South Broken Arrow Library; Ronda Maloy-Holt, circulation team leader, Central Library; and Marie Welden, branch manager, Broken Arrow Library. TCCL greatly appreciates your dedication to libraries and years of service.



TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY LOCATIONS

- **Bixby Library** 20 E. Breckenridge, 74008
- **Broken Arrow Library** 300 W. Broadway, 74012
- 3 **Brookside Library** 1207 E. 45th Place, 74105
- 400 Civic Center, 74103
- 5 Charles Page Library 551 E. Fourth St., Sand Springs, 74063
- 6 Collinsville Library 1223 Main, 74021
- **Glenpool Library** 730 E. 141st St., 74033
- 8 Hardesty Regional Library and Genealogy Center 8316 E. 93rd St., 74133
- **9 Helmerich Library** 5131 E. 91st St., 74137
- Herman and Kate Kaiser Library 5202 S. Hudson Ave., Suite B, 74135
- 11 **Jenks Library** 523 W. B St., 74037
- 12 **Judy Z. Kishner Library** 10150 N. Cincinnati Ave. E., Sperry, 74073

- **Kendall-Whittier Library** 21 S. Lewis, 74104
- Martin Regional Library and Hispanic Resource Center 2601 S. Garnett Road, 74129
- Maxwell Park Library 1313 N. Canton, 74115
- 16 **Nathan Hale Library** 6038 E. 23rd St., 74114
- **Owasso Library** 103 W. Broadway, 74055
- 18 **Pratt Library** 3219 S. 113th W. Ave., Sand Springs, 74063
- 19 Rudisill Regional Library and African American Resource Center 1520 N. Hartford, 74106
- **Schusterman-Benson Library** 3333 E. 32nd Place, 74135
- Skiatook Library 316 E. Rogers, 74070
- South Broken Arrow Library 3600 S. Chestnut, 74011
- **Suburban Acres Library** 4606 N. Garrison, 74126
- Zarrow Regional Library and American Indian Resource Center 2224 W. 51st St., 74107

