

Growing With Us!



2025 Annual Report With 2026 Calendar



Message from the CEO

What a remarkable year of growth we experienced at Tulsa City-County Library in 2025! Last year, we celebrated significant milestones for three of our four MY Library, OUR Future projects. On July 17, we held a topping-out ceremony for the new Rudisill Regional Library, which is under construction in the historic Greenwood District and projected to open in fall 2026. On Oct. 15, we broke ground on the new Eddy Gibbs Library in Owasso, which will be the first multiuse library in Oklahoma. And, one week later on Oct. 23, we opened the doors of the brand-new Bronson Brookside Library in midtown (pictured on cover).



In addition to these major achievements, we also unveiled our 25th location – TCCL Express – a self-service book vending kiosk located at the Tulsa Premium Outlets in Jenks. Plus, we grew our Summer Reading Program with more than 66,000 readers of all ages participating, which was a 14% increase from 2024, and more than 44,500 of those readers completing the program, which was a 28% increase from the previous year. I personally would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the 24 local businesses and organizations that donated a collective total of over \$6.1 million in coupons and prizes for the Summer Reading Program. Please see the next to last page of this annual report for a complete list of sponsors.

Our 2025 annual report theme, “Growing With Us,” celebrates all the many ways we grew with you last year. Whether we’re growing libraries or readers, we couldn’t have accomplished any of this growth and success without you – our loyal customers, generous donors, dedicated partners and passionate staff.

We started the year by celebrating the Imagination Library of TCCL and Dolly Parton’s 79th birthday at the Gathering Place. Since the program’s inception in 2023, the Imagination Library of TCCL has enrolled more than 30,000 children and mailed more than 500,000 free books to families all over Tulsa County. In April, we celebrated the graduation of 10 adult learners who received their high school diplomas through the online, self-paced Excel High School, thanks to support from TCCL. In November, we celebrated the beauty and power of children’s literature through Books To Treasure and gave away more than 10,000 copies of featured illustrator Raúl the Third’s book *¡Vamos! Let’s Go Read* to area second graders. In December, we closed our remarkable year honoring Pulitzer Prize-winning author Hernan Diaz with the 40th annual Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award.

Perhaps for me, our most significant achievement in 2025 was the opening of the Bronson Brookside Library, named after Donald Bronson Atkins. This new library represented a shared dream realized and was the result of a powerful community effort. From the earliest conversations to the final beam, many groups and individuals came together with a shared vision: to offer the city of Tulsa a new space that would inspire curiosity in all ages and facilitate endless possibilities for library users. The Bronson Brookside Library is a shining example of what we can achieve when we work together.

As you turn the pages of this annual report, you will see many other significant milestones and achievements that reflect the many ways we grew together in 2025 with the many diverse communities we serve.

Kimberly Johnson

Kimberly Johnson, TCCL CEO

Behind the scenes



PICTURED FROM LEFT: Tulsa City-County Library Commissioners Rik Helmerich; Richard D. White Jr.; Ellen Duecker; Leanne Helmerich; La Verne Ford Wimberly, Ed.D.; Cynthia McGhee; and Danny Williams

Tulsa City-County Library Commission

- Leanne Helmerich, *chair*
- Ellen Duecker
- Moises Echeverria, *vice chair*
- Rik Helmerich
- Cynthia McGhee, *secretary*
- Monroe Nichols, *mayor of Tulsa*
- Lonnie Sims, *county commissioner*
- Richard D. White Jr.
- Danny Williams
- La Verne Ford Wimberly, Ed.D.
- Peggy V. Helmerich, *emeritus*

Tulsa Library Trust Board

- Annette LaFortune Murray, *president*
- Stacey Helmerich Dunn
- Isaac Ellis, *secretary/treasurer*
- Jordan Helmerich, *president-elect*
- Kara Gae Neal
- Mike Redman, *vice president*
- Julie Watson
- Melissa Easterling, *Trust executive director*

Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries Board Officers

- Ros Elder, *president*
- Nancy Carroll, *treasurer*
- Lillie Haddican, *assistant treasurer*
- Janet Holland, *first vice president*
- Glenda Huckabay, *corresponding secretary*
- Gisele McDaniel, *recording secretary*
- Cindy McDonald, *second vice president*

Friends of Libraries groups



PICTURED ABOVE: Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries members pause for a photo after a sneak peek of the new Bronson Brookside Library prior to the grand opening in October 2025.

Friends of the Helmerich Library

The purpose of this organization is to support the activities of the Peggy V. Helmerich Library and offer programming grants to all Tulsa City-County Library locations. This dedicated group hosts an ongoing book sale throughout the year, as well as a bigger annual book sale that takes place over two weekends each April. The group's 2025 annual book sale was the most successful yet, generating a record-breaking \$25,000 in sales. Since its inception in 2004, the Friends of the Helmerich Library has given more than \$156,000 to fund programming for all TCCL locations.

Friends of the Rudisill Regional Library

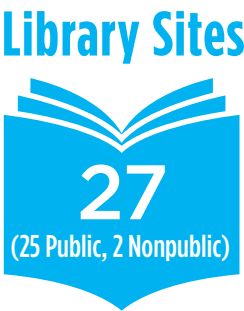
This group supports the Rudisill Regional Library and the African American Resource Center by raising funds, volunteering at library programs, encouraging new customers to use the library, hosting book discussions and programs, and supporting TCCL staff in continuing education with the Freddie Martin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

Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries

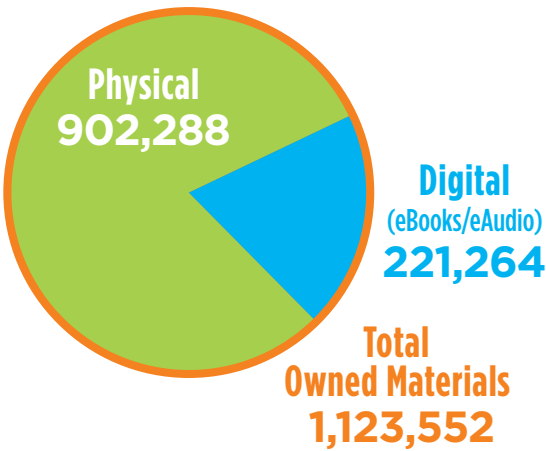
This group supports educational and cultural programs for the entire TCCL system. The Friends group sponsors Books Sandwiched In, Travels With Tulsans, Great Decisions and the Adult Creative Writing Contest, and provides scholarships for library staff. The group assists with the Ruth G. Hardman Adult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

Quick Stats

Population
Served
690,533



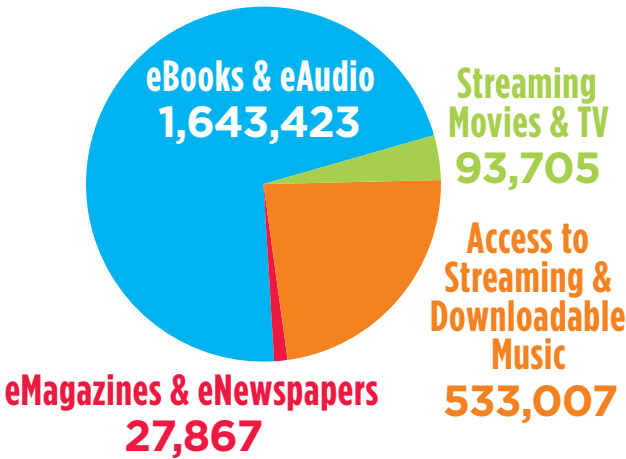
Outreach Vehicles 3



Owned Materials



Physical Materials
Breakdown



Subscription eMaterials

NOTE: STATS REFLECTED ARE FOR THE 2025 CALENDAR YEAR AND ARE ESTIMATES.

Financial Summary

June 30, 2025



Revenue

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Ad Valorem | \$ 44,844,370 |
| Other Government Income | \$ 338,374 |
| Library Services Income | \$ 344,509 |
| Miscellaneous Income | \$ 1,086,490 |
| | \$ 46,613,743 |

Expenditures

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Personnel | \$ 22,937,943 |
| Operations | \$ 4,140,792 |
| Maintenance | \$ 2,517,076 |
| Materials | \$ 4,984,923 |
| Capital Expenditures | \$ 1,784,839 |
| | \$ 36,365,573 |

NOTE: TOTALS REFLECTED ARE FROM UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.



January 2026

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------------|---|---------|----------------------------|---|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 New Year's Day Libraries closed Kwanzaa ends | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Travels With Tulsans | 15 | 16 | 17 Dolly Parton's Birthday Bash |
| 18 Great Decisions Kickoff | 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Libraries closed | 20 | 21 Travels With Tulsans | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Travels With Tulsans | 29 Library Inventory Day Libraries closed | 30 | 31 |

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

Growing 30,000 readers

On Jan. 18, numerous families came out to the Gathering Place to celebrate the Imagination Library and Dolly Parton's 79th birthday (pictured above). Since the program first launched in March 2023, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of TCCL has enrolled more than 30,000 children and mailed more than 500,000 free books to families all over Tulsa County. In June 2025, the Imagination Library introduced a new option for families enrolled in the program – a fully bilingual Spanish/English book collection. Families who choose this option receive bilingual books every month, from enrollment up to the child's fifth birthday. The Imagination Library of TCCL is paid for through a partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Education, the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness and private funding through the Birth through Eight Strategy for Tulsa, an initiative of the George Kaiser Family Foundation.

Encouraging global awareness

With interest piqued in foreign affairs in 2025, the Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries quickly sold out of Great Decisions study books and added a new discussion group to the program, which kicked off Jan. 19 with a keynote address on U.S.-China relations by Bob Donaldson, former president, The University of Tulsa. Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. For more than 50 years, the Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries has hosted Great Decisions groups that meet across Tulsa County.



February 2026

Black History Month

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--|---------|----------------------------|----------|--------|--|
| 1 | 2 Groundhog Day | 3 | 4 Travels With Tulsans | 5 | 6 | 7 National Take Your Child to the Library Day |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Travels With Tulsans | 12 | 13 | 14 Valentine's Day |
| 15 | 16 Presidents Day Libraries closed | 17 | 18 Travels With Tulsans | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Travels With Tulsans | 26 | 27 | 28 Young People's Creative Writing Contest deadline |

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

Connecting with educators, engaging with students

About 25 Tulsa County middle and high school educators spent a Saturday morning in February at Central Library learning about author Kwame Alexander's *The Door of No Return* and how to use the historical fiction work in their classrooms. Each educator received 50 copies of the book for their students to keep, along with lesson plans, created by TCCL's Youth Services Department. Held annually in February, the free Mr. Henry's Books Educator Workshop complements the Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature. Kwame Alexander received the 2025 Zarrow Award on May 2, and one lucky educator who attended the workshop – Zachary Felty from Hale Middle School – won a school visit from Alexander when he came to Tulsa to receive the award. Mr. Henry's Books is sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust, made possible by a grant from The Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation.

Sharing the history of African Americans

Last February, TCCL's African American Resource Center (AARC) celebrated Black History Month with enlightening programs featuring the contributions of African Americans in the Labor Movement, including an exhibit created by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, and the annual African American Heritage Bowl for middle and high schoolers, and community teams, with Booker T. Washington High School and Hale Middle School among the winning teams. Throughout the year, the AARC shared the history and legacy of North Tulsa and the Greenwood area with area students, organizations and others in the community.



March 2026

Women's History Month
Greek-American Heritage Month
Irish-American Heritage Month
Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------|---------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 Read Across America Day | 3 World Wildlife Day | 4 Travels With Tulsans | 5 | 6 | 7 American Indian Circle of Honor Ceremony |
| 8 International Women's Day Daylight Saving Time begins Set clock ahead one hour | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 St. Patrick's Day | 18 | 19 | 20 Spring begins | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 Adult Creative Writing Contest deadline | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

Honoring American Indian heritage

Sponsored by TCCL's American Indian Resource Center (AIRC), the 2025 American Indian Festival of Words was a huge success with more than 1,000 customers attending or watching American Indian programming throughout March, including make-and-take programs featuring Cherokee pottery, Native patchwork, traditional Mvskoke beaded ornaments, pony bead creations, corn husk dolls and traditional stickball balls. The festival kicked off on March 1 with the American Indian Writers Award honoring bestselling author Brandon Hobson, Cherokee, who received a \$15,000 cash prize. About 350 excited customers turned out for the award ceremony. The Mvskoke Nation Honor Guard posted the colors, followed by the "Lord's Prayer" in sign language presented by Miss Indian Tulsa, Junior Miss Indian Tulsa, Little Miss Choctaw Nation District 7, Oklahoma City Powwow Princess, Miss Indian Oklahoma, Junior Miss Indian Oklahoma and Ioway Tribe of Kansas/Nebraska Princess. The Cherokee National Youth Choir (pictured above) also gave a beautiful performance. The American Indian Writers Award is sponsored by the AIRC, Tulsa Library Trust and the Maxine & Jack Zarrow Family Foundation, with additional support provided by Draughton Trust, Southwest Trading Company, and Visions and Voices.



The AIRC provides cultural, educational and informational resources, activities and services honoring American Indian heritage. Scan the QR code to learn more.



April 2026

National Volunteer Month
National Arab American Heritage Month

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--------|---|---------------------------------|--|------------------|----------|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 Passover begins at sundown | 2 International Children's Book Day World Autism Awareness Day | 3 Good Friday | 4 |
| 5 Easter Libraries closed | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Passover ends at sundown | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 Holocaust Remembrance Day Americans and the Holocaust Exhibition opens | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 National Library Week April 19-25 | 20 | 21 | 22 Earth Day | 23 After-School Homework Club 2025/2026 ends | 24 Arbor Day | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Día, Children's Day /Book Day | 1 | 2 |

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

Enriching lives, broadening horizons

“For many people, the idea of returning to school can feel unrealistic. Often, the pathway to accessing a diploma is filled with obstacles and barriers. Here at TCCL, we wanted to offer an alternative path – one that was as unique as the individuals who would seek it out,” said TCCL CEO Kimberly Johnson at TCCL’s second annual Excel High School Graduation ceremony, held April 26. About 10 graduates and their families and friends attended the ceremony. Excel is a fully online, self-paced program designed for adults ages 24 and older who have not completed high school. Thanks to support from the Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries and the Tulsa Library Trust, TCCL is able to offer scholarships for Excel High School at no cost to a select number of adult learners each year.

Making a difference

Volunteers are the lifeblood of every nonprofit, including TCCL. On April 13, TCCL honored 31 volunteers for years or hours of service at the 51st Annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration. In 2024, 591 volunteers collectively donated 20,232 hours at their local libraries, saving TCCL \$643,337, according to the Independent Sector of Washington, D.C., which calculates volunteer time at \$31.80 per hour in Oklahoma.

Branching out

The Tulsa International Airport is a destination spot for several library storytimes throughout the year (pictured above).



May 2026

Asian American, Native Hawaiian
and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
Jewish American Heritage Month
Mental Health Awareness Month

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|-----------|----------|---|----------|
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 Cinco de Mayo | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Mother's Day | 11 | 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 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

Inspiring young readers and writers

To celebrate the Young People’s Creative Writing Contest’s 40th anniversary, the winning Comix entries went head-to-head in a public vote for a segment of their entry to become a limited-edition library card design. About 3,710 votes were cast, and the winning design – an illustration from “The Little Things in Life” by Aveah Riner – was announced during Teens Read Month. Held May 2, the awards ceremony (pictured above) featured author Kwame Alexander, 2025 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers’ Literature recipient. Alexander received the \$10,000 Zarrow Award, spoke about his writings and handed out awards to contest winners.

Giving emergent readers a sense of achievement

Comics support reading motivation, language acquisition, and give children and adult emergent readers a sense of achievement. Nearly 120 people attended the Ruth G. Hardman Adult Literacy Service’s Free Comic Book Day on May 3 at Martin Regional Library. Participants took home nearly 800 comics, and enjoyed crafts, a raffle giveaway and learning about the literacy service. Impulse Creations and Friends of the Helmerich Library sponsored the event.

Experiencing Asian culture through tea ceremony

Since 2003, Japan native Yumie Farringer has presented the Japanese tea ceremony at TCCL’s annual Asian American Festival in May. Scan the QR code to learn about the ceremony.





June 2026

National Caribbean American Heritage Month
National Immigrant Heritage Month
LGBTQIA+ Pride Month

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------|-----------|----------|--|----------|
| 31 | 1 Summer Reading Program begins | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 World Oceans Day Music Sandwiched In | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Flag Day | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Juneteenth National Independence Day Libraries closed | 20 |
| 21 Summer begins Father's Day | 22 Music Sandwiched In | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

Celebrating a legacy and a vision that continues to evolve

Partygoers jammed out with The Red Dirt Rangers at Central Library’s 60th anniversary party on June 11 in the A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Foundation Children’s Garden. Historian John Wooley, author of *Tulsa City-County Library: A Legacy of Innovation, Integration, Inspiration: 1992-2021*, joined the band for a song and signed copies of his book afterward. Guests shared old memories while the kids danced with Buddy Bookworm. “Central Library was built for the future in 1965 – and rebuilt for the future in 2016. So tonight, we celebrate a legacy and a vision that continues to evolve – just like us,” said TCCL CEO Kimberly Johnson at the celebration.

Readying the shelves for eager readers

Last spring, TCCL added 12,300 new juvenile books, totaling \$100,000, to the collection to ready the shelves for those eager readers planning to participate in the 2025 Summer Reading Program. Thanks to the hard work of TCCL’s Collection Management team, who ordered, cataloged and processed the new books, the 30,000-plus children and littles who participated in the Summer Reading Program had plenty of picture books, beginning readers, graphic novels, and juvenile fiction and nonfiction titles to check out and complete their reading logs. Over the summer, children and littles read a combined total of 413,360 books.

Pictured above:

A young reader reads to Henry at PAWS for Reading at Collinsville Library.



July 2026

French-American Heritage Month
Disability Pride Month

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|---|---|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Independence Day Libraries closed |
| 5 | 6 Music Sandwiched In | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Teddy Bear Picnic Day | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Music Sandwiched In | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Summer Reading Program ends One Book, One Tulsa | 1 |

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

Creating community conversations

Last summer, Tulsa County residents were invited to read *This Great Hemisphere* by Mateo Askaripour and join the conversation about this speculative novel about how far we'll go to protect the ones we love. Each year, TCCL hosts One Book, One Tulsa to foster literacy within our community and create conversation about a meaningful book. Prior to Askaripour's visit to Tulsa on July 18 for One Book, One Tulsa, TCCL offered Appetizers: Community Conversations in June and July at three libraries and three local Black-owned businesses. At the Appetizers discussions, participants were treated to a delicious meal and a conversation about the book, led by librarians and guests from the Friends of the Rudisill Regional Library.

Topping out new Rudisill Regional Library

On July 17, TCCL celebrated the topping-out construction milestone for the new Rudisill Regional Library, located at 1017 N. Greenwood Ave. Donors and community partners joined TCCL to sign the final structural steel beam and watch as it was hoisted into place (pictured above). The \$21.2 million facility is projected to open in fall 2026. Major donors include the Bank of Oklahoma, the Sanford & Irene Burnstein Family Foundation, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, George Kaiser Family Foundation, Coretz Family Foundation, The H.A. and Mary K. Chapman Foundation, Tulsa County, Waters Charitable Foundation, Judy Gayle Waters Trust, AAON, Cherokee Nation, Hille Foundation, ONEOK, The David E. & Cassie L. Temple Foundation, Helmerich & Payne and Frances Conkling.



August 2026

National Black Business Month

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 National Root Beer Float Day | 7 | 8 |
| 9 National Book Lovers Day | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

Cultivating generations of readers

One in 11 people in Tulsa County, from babies to adults, participated in TCCL's 2025 Summer Reading Program, "Color Our World," held June 2 through July 31. The 66,163 total participants represent a 14% participation increase from 2024, and with 44,577 of those readers completing the program, TCCL saw a 28% completion increase from the previous year. Participants read a total of 520,112 books. The free program offered 1,260 free events, plus numerous incentives, including coupons for free food and entertainment from area businesses, and prize drawings for program completion. Donated by 24 local businesses and organizations, the coupons and prizes collectively were valued at over \$6.1 million! Library customers were very appreciative of the businesses and organizations that sponsored the program. One customer, Jody McEndarfer, wrote in a thank you to TCCL staff: "My children are all adults now, but during their growing-up years the library reading program was a highlight of our summers. This year four of our grandchildren participated in the Summer Reading Program for the first time. They were amazed that there would be so many wonderful businesses that would reward them for reading. Thank you so much for continuing the Summer Reading Program. I wish I could convey the enthusiasm and gratefulness that my grandchildren expressed."

Pictured above:

Bike giveaway, sponsored by the Sand Springs Women's Chamber of Commerce, to complement the Summer Reading Program



September 2026

Library Card
Sign-Up Month
National Literacy Month

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|------------------------|---|--|-----------|----------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 Labor Day Libraries closed | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Grandparents Day | 14 After-School Homework Club 2026/27 begins | 15 Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15-Oct. 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 Fall begins | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 VERSES literacy fundraiser |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

Commemorating golden anniversary

The Jenks Library celebrated its 50th anniversary on Sept. 12. Nearly 70 people turned out for the afternoon reception, including three generations of Jenks Library managers. Carissa Kellerby, current branch manager, was joined by her predecessors Cheryl Newman and Ann Hunt. Jenks Mayor Cory Box and City Manager Christopher Shrout, as well as several Jenks city councilors and Jenks Chamber of Commerce staff, were also in attendance. A special after-hours event featuring former Jenks Public Schools alumna and bestselling author Lisa Wingate topped off the day's festivities.

Supporting adult literacy

More than 120 guests enjoyed a night of poetry, spoken word, storytelling and art at TCCL's third annual VERSES fundraiser on Sept. 27 at Central Library (pictured above). The immersive, collaborative event celebrated Tulsa's diverse creative voices and raised awareness of the need for adult literacy services. The fundraiser generated about \$4,500 in proceeds for the Ruth G. Hardman Adult Literacy Service.

Providing free homework assistance

About 80 third through eighth graders participated in TCCL's After-School Homework Club at seven libraries during the 2024-25 school year. Students met weekly with volunteer homework coaches



to work on assignments and dig deeper into areas where they were struggling. Scan the QR code to learn more.



October 2026

Family History Month
Hindu American Heritage Month
Global Diversity Awareness Month
LGBTQ+ History Month

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|-----------------|
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 World Teachers' Day Library Staff Development Day Libraries closed | 6 German-American Day | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Indigenous Peoples' Day | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 National Friends of Libraries Week Oct. 18-24 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 National Mentoring Day | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Halloween |

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

Breaking ground on new Eddy Gibbs Library
TCCL broke ground on Oct. 15 on the new Eddy Gibbs Library, located at 103 W. Broadway in Owasso. The \$14 million library will replace the Owasso Library and will be the first multiuse library in Oklahoma. In partnership with West Development, TCCL will occupy the ground floor of the building while apartments will be constructed on the top three floors. While the two entities will be separately owned and operated, the partnership saved TCCL \$4 million in construction costs. Major donors include the Eddy Gibbs Foundation, Dee and Shirley Sokolosky, Tulsa County, the City of Owasso and the Cherokee Nation.

Opening doors of new Bronson Brookside Library
Hundreds of library enthusiasts turned out for the grand opening of the new Bronson Brookside Library, located at 4607 S. Madison Place, on Oct. 23. The first branch completed as part of the MY Library, OUR Future Capital Campaign, Bronson Brookside Library is named in honor of the late Donald Bronson Atkins. The \$9.4 million project was funded by foundation grants, corporate support and individual donations. Major donors include Bob and Leslie Pritchard, The Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation, The Helmerich Trust, the Hardesty Family Foundation and the Sanford & Irene Burnstein Family Foundation. Scan the QR code to watch a tour of the new library, led by Buddy Bookworm.





November 2026

Native American
Heritage Month
National Veterans and
Military Families Month

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--------|---------|--|--|---|----------|
| 1 Daylight Saving Time ends Set clock back one hour | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Books To Treasure | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Veterans Day Libraries closed | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Thanksgiving Day Libraries closed | 27 Native American Heritage Day | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

Treasuring children

TCCL treasures books ... but we treasure children more! That is the idea behind Books To Treasure, which celebrates the beauty and power of children’s literature. Nearly 320 children and their families were captivated by featured illustrator Raúl the Third at the 2025 Books To Treasure program, held Nov. 7 at Hardesty Regional Library. At the presentation, Raúl the Third (pictured above) created several drawings and shared a lot about his life growing up in El Paso across the border from Mexico and how the public library impacted his whole family in a deeply positive way. He said he learned to read and discovered his love of drawing because of librarians! As part of Books To Treasure, every second grader in Tulsa County receives a free copy of the featured illustrator’s book. More than 10,000 copies of Raúl the Third’s *¡Vamos! Let’s Go Read* were given out. Plus, about 3,500 second graders received a custom TCCL library card featuring an illustration from the featured book. Books To Treasure is sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust through a grant from The Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation.

Merging self-service and convenience

On Nov. 23, TCCL unveiled its 25th location – TCCL Express – at Tulsa Premium Outlets in Jenks. TCCL Express merges self-service and convenience in



a library vending kiosk that holds hundreds of popular books for all ages. Scan the QR code to learn more.



December 2026

Universal Human
Rights Month

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|---------------------|---------|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | International Day of Persons With Disabilities Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award Public Presentation | Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award Black-Tie Gala Hanukkah begins at sundown | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Hanukkah ends at sundown |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 Winter begins | 22 | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve Libraries closed | 25 Christmas Day Libraries closed | 26 Kwanzaa begins |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve | 1 | 2 |

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

Finding inspiration through love of language

“I always knew I wanted to be a writer. I grew up in a rather bookish home, which helped. But as a child, I never wanted to become an astronaut or a firefighter. An unexplainable love of language, which has been with me forever, was my motivation,” said Hernan Diaz, recipient of the 2025 Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award. The Pulitzer Prize-winning and bestselling author of the novels *Trust* and *In the Distance* received the \$40,000 Helmerich Award at an elegant black-tie gala held amongst the bookshelves at Central Library on Dec. 5 (pictured above; photo by Emily Steward Photography). Earlier that same day, Diaz spoke to about 90 high schoolers from Will Rogers High School and the Tulsa School of Arts and Sciences at a special student presentation at Central Library. On the previous evening, he delighted nearly 200 fans at a public presentation, featuring a Q&A moderated by Public Radio Tulsa’s Rich Fisher, followed by a book signing. Diaz was extremely honored to receive the Helmerich Award. “It defies belief to find one’s name in a list including so many heroes, from Toni Morrison to Kazuo Ishiguro, from Ian McEwan to Hilary Mantel. Just imagine a list from which one could produce such names at random,” Diaz said. Given annually by TCCL and the Tulsa Library Trust, the Helmerich Award celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2025.

2025 remembrances and retirements



PICTURED ABOVE: Former TCCL Executive Director Pat Woodrum, Jan Keene and former TCCL CEO Linda Saferite

Remembering Jan Keene

Janis (Jan) C. Keene passed away on Oct. 19, 2025, in Tulsa. Keene served as business manager for TCCL for more than 40 years and as the library’s assistant director of nonpublic services for part of that time. She also served a brief stint as interim executive director in 1996 and later was named deputy director of Central Library and business services. Keene was inducted into the TCCL Hall of Fame in 1996 and received the library’s Lifetime Achievement Award on her retirement. According to her retirement proclamation, presented by then TCCL CEO Linda Saferite, on Sept. 16, 2003: “What began as a secretarial position in the library’s administration services has turned into a legacy unmatched by anyone in the history of the Tulsa City-County Library. It would take a book to document her accomplishments, as Jan truly has dedicated her life to libraries. For nearly four decades, she helped shape the library’s policies, made long-range financial forecasts more accurate than even the County Assessor’s office, and kept the library in the black when other government agencies fell in the red.”

Eight longtime employees retire from TCCL in 2025

TCCL extends best wishes and a happy retirement to Irrick Bramlett, senior security officer, Security; Sandy Forbes, processing clerk, Collection Management; Nancy Kattein, processing clerk, Collection Management; Chris Lair, branch manager, Pratt Library; Sara Martinez, branch manager, Nathan Hale Library; Javier Valdes, customer service assistant, Central Library; Kelly Waters, lead customer service assistant, South Broken Arrow Library; and Konrad Yarbrough, generalist library associate, Tulsa City-County Library.

A special thanks to our 2025 Summer Reading Program sponsors!

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Tulsa City-County Library Locations

- 1

Bixby Library
20 E. Breckenridge, 74008
- 2

Broken Arrow Library
300 W. Broadway, 74012
- 3

Bronson Brookside Library
4607 S. Madison Place, 74105
- 4

Central Library
400 Civic Center, 74103
- 5

Charles Page Library
551 E. Fourth St., Sand Springs, 74063
- 6

Collinsville Library
1223 W. Main, 74021
- 7

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
- 10

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
- 13

Kendall-Whittier Library
21 S. Lewis, 74104
- 14

Martin Regional Library and Hispanic Resource Center
2601 S. Garnett Road, 74129
- 15

Maxwell Park Library
1313 N. Canton, 74115
- 16

Nathan Hale Library
6038 E. 23rd St., 74114
- 17

Owasso Library - Temporary location
314 E. Fifth Ave., Suite 202, 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
- 20

Schusterman-Benson Library
3333 E. 32nd Place, 74135
- 21

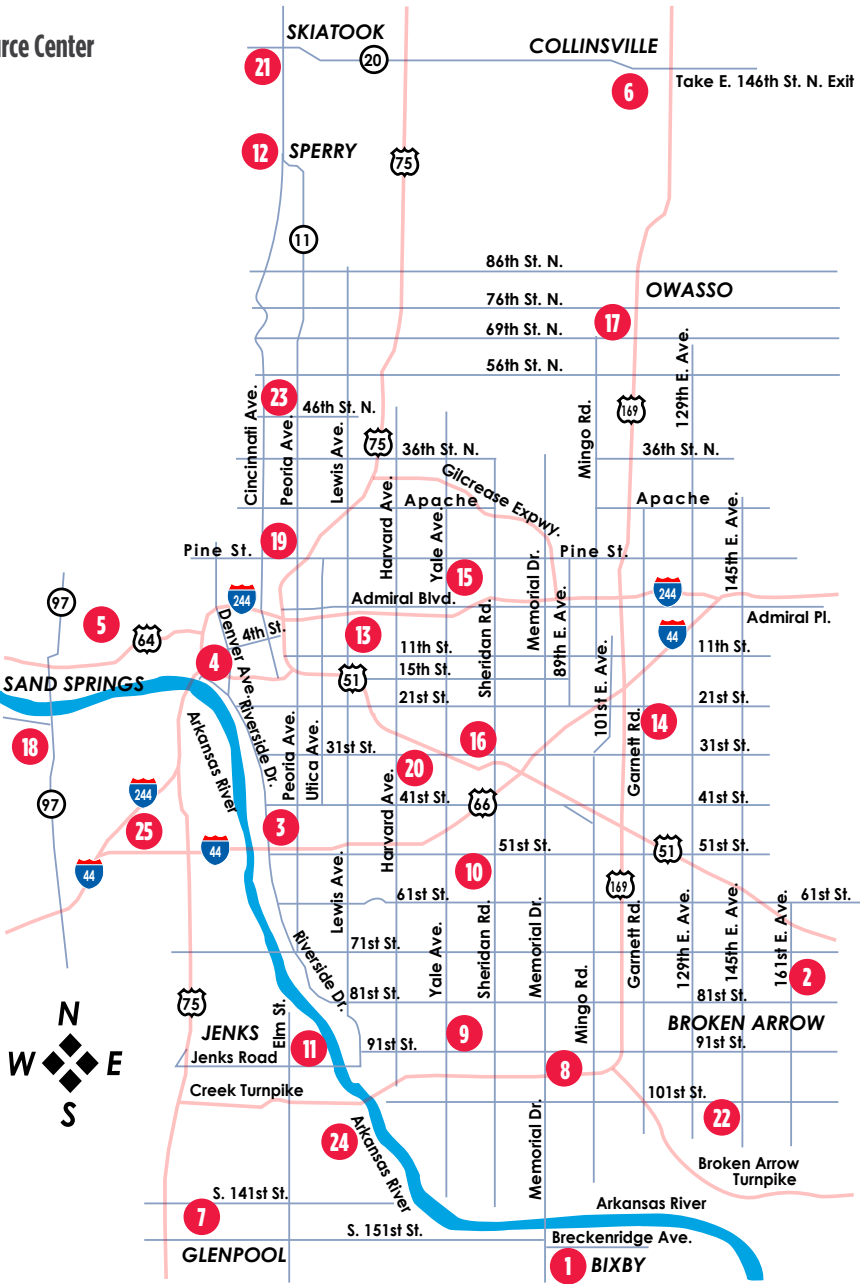
Skiatook Library
316 E. Rogers, 74070
- 22

South Broken Arrow Library
3600 S. Chestnut, 74011
- 23

Suburban Acres Library
4606 N. Garrison, 74126
- 24

TCCL Express
24/7 self-service library vending kiosk
Tulsa Premium Outlets
801 E. Outlet Drive, Jenks, 74037
- 25

Zarrow Regional Library and American Indian Resource Center
2224 W. 51st St., 74107



As the MY Library, OUR Future building project is underway, some location addresses may change. For the most up-to-date location information, visit www.TulsaLibrary.org/locations.

