

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

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.

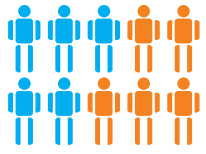
Friends of the Helmerich Library

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)

**OUTREACH
VEHICLES** 3



PERSONNEL 418

OWNED MATERIALS

Physical 1,082,977

Digital (eBooks/eAudio) 145,814

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

**NET CHANGE IN
FUND BALANCES** \$ 8,769,276

NOTE: TOTALS REFLECTED ARE FROM UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.



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



JULY 2024

FAMILY HISTORY MONTH
DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	Music Sandwiched In	2	3	Independence Day Libraries closed	5	6
7	8	9	Teddy Bear Picnic Day	11	12	13
14	Music Sandwiched In	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	Music Sandwiched In	30	Summer Reading Program ends	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 Drillers, *TulsaKids* Magazine, Tulsa Library 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
4	5	National Root Beer Float Day	7	8	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

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 Comunidades 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.



DECEMBER 2024

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 black-tie 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

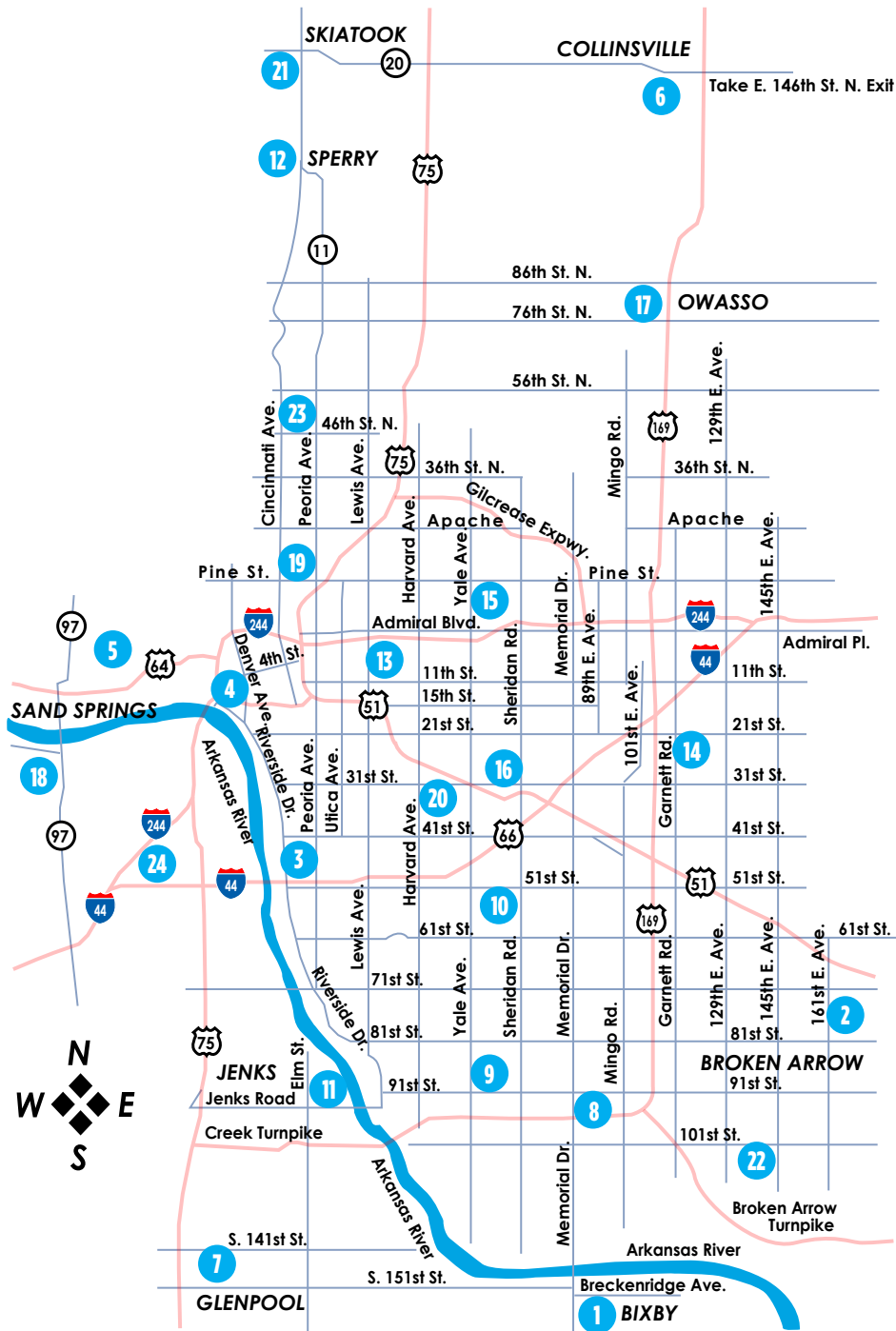
Anthony "Tony" Vice, TCCL director of security, passed away on March 26, 2023. Vice worked for TCCL for nearly 33 years. TCCL celebrated and remembered Vice's legacy on May 24 at Rudisill Regional Library as friends, family, and library staff and retirees gathered to reminisce about Vice and his many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



- 1 Bixby Library**
20 E. Breckenridge, 74008
- 2 Broken Arrow Library**
300 W. Broadway, 74012
- 3 Brookside Library**
1207 E. 45th Place, 74105
- 4 Central Library**
400 Civic Center, 74103
- 5 Charles Page Library**
551 E. Fourth St., Sand Springs, 74063
- 6 Collinsville Library**
1223 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**
103 W. Broadway, 74055
- 18 Pratt Library**
3219 S. 113th W. Ave., Sand Springs, 74063
- 19 Rudisil 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 Zarrow Regional Library and American Indian Resource Center**
2224 W. 51st St., 74107



918.549.READ • www.TulsaLibrary.org

Email jackie.hill@tulsalibrary.org or call 918-549-7389 for additional copies or address changes.

PICTURED: TCCL staff gathered for a photo at Staff Development Day on Oct. 2 at Hardesty Regional Library.

