

SPOTLIGHTS

House and Senate Introduce Competing Budgets

The Texas House and Senate introduced budget bills and there is an \$8 billion difference between the two. The proposed Senate budget is \$213.4 billion and the House budget is \$221.3 billion, about an \$8 billion difference.

The Senate budget includes \$103.6 billion in general revenue which is less than the \$104.9 billion the Texas Comptroller estimates is available. In contrast, the House version proposes \$108.9 billion in general revenue, about \$4 billion more than the Comptroller's estimate. As proposed, the House budget has \$2.2 billion more for education and \$2 billion more for health and human services in state spending than the Senate's.

TLA's Legislative Priorities

No cuts to TSLAC budget as requested

\$8.4 million for quality, affordable STEM e-resources

\$1 million to increase access to affordable broadband

How did libraries fare? The Texas State Library and Archives Commission budget in both versions is at the level requested by the agency with some minor differences. However, as expected, the exceptional item requests for expanding e-resources, broadband access, computer security, staff pay equity, and state and local records programs support were not included.

Senate Finance Hearing on State Library Budget – Time to Take Action!

On Monday, February 6, the Senate Finance Committee will consider agency budgets under Article I – General Government, which includes the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC). TLA will have school, public, and academic librarians on hand who will testify to TSLAC's critical role in the library community, the need for adequate funding, and why increasing funding for e-resources and broadband access are so critical.

Please contact your Senators, especially if they are a [member of the Finance Committee](#), and ask them to support education, workforce development, and Texas' knowledge-based economy by supporting the full budget and exceptional items requested by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Phone calls are the most effective way to communicate with elected officials ([Why You Should Call, Not Email, Your Legislators](#)). If you call the office, ask to speak with the staff person working on Finance and share your information with them. Introduce yourself as a constituent, and if you are unable to call, please feel free to email or send a letter. The more people from Senators' districts that communicate with their offices prior to February 6 the better!

Fact sheets on the key budget issues, additional information and tips for contacting your legislators, and a link to find out who represents you in the Texas Senate are available on www.txla.org/take-action.

Texas Public Libraries: Economic Engines

According to *Texas Public Libraries: Economic Benefits and Return on Investment*, a [research report](#) just issued by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and conducted by the Bureau of Business Research IC2 Institute (The University of Texas at Austin), public libraries have significant economic impact on their communities and the state of Texas.

- For every one dollar invested in Texas public libraries, communities see a return on investment (ROI) of \$4.64 in access to resources, programming, services and technology, a 5% increase since the last study in 2012.
- Texas public libraries produce \$967 million in economic activity and 11,000 jobs.
- Services including educational programs, books, digital media, research databases, and wireless Internet access offered by Texas public libraries are valued at over \$1.6 billion.

So the next time someone asks what exactly libraries contribute to their communities, let them know that in addition to being centers for learning, discovery and support for educational activities, libraries are valuable economic engines of growth and opportunity.

2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2017 Conference Mobile App Now Available

The conference mobile app is available for iPad and iPhone through the [Apple App Store](#) and Android devices through [Google Play](#). This application enables attendees with a web-enabled phone or other mobile device to access their schedules while on the go, and receive real-time updates to sessions and author events. It will also offer Twitter, exhibitor information, show documents, and speaker content. You can also access conference mobile app information from your desktop computer or other devices [here](#). If you are a current TLA Member, use the same email and password you use to login to Members Only to access the app. If you are not a current TLA Member, use the same email and password you created during the registration process.

Fun Times at Conference

After a busy day at conference, be sure to enjoy some social time with your fellow attendees. There are many great events to choose from. Here are just a few; more information about these and other events can be found in the 2017 Conference Program. Note that all tickets must be purchased by Friday, April 7.

Wednesday, April 19

BiblioTech / Via Ride & Read Party Bus & Reception *(Ticketed, register online only)*

6:15 – 9:30 pm

Hop on the bus and travel to a reception at BiblioTech. Space is limited!

Networking with New Members

7:30 – 8:30 pm

It's all about who you know! Meet other TLA members at this Dutch-treat event.

San Antonio After Dark: Ghost Tour *(Ticketed, register online only)*

8:15 – 10 pm

San Antonio is considered one of the most haunted cities in the world. Take a walk back in time

and hear the blood curdling stories, and learn about the ghostly happenings that continue today.

Thursday, April 20

Public Libraries Division Membership Party

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Join fellow public librarians at a happy hour at Casa Rio on the Riverwalk.

An Evening with the Authors *(Ticketed)*

6:00 -9:30 pm

Enjoy an amazing dinner, and get a glimpse behind the scenes and into authors' worlds at the treasured La Orilla building.

Library School Dinners and Receptions *(Ticketed)*

6:30 – 8:30 pm.

SHSU, TWU, UNT, UH Clear Lake and UT-Austin are hosting dinners and receptions around the city.

CycloSocial Party Bike Ride *(Ticketed, register online only)*

7-8 pm or 8-9 pm

Spend time on a party bike socializing with 14 other conference attendees and experience some of the city's hidden gems.

Evening Storytelling Concert

7-9 pm

Circle of Excellence storyteller (and former librarian) Beth Horner headlines this evening at the Grand Hyatt. She'll be joined by bilingual musician-storyteller Sue Young, African-American griot DeCee Cornish, and librarian teller Candy Casseb.

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Round Table Meet & Greet

7-9 pm

Whether or not you're a member of the round table, or if you're LGBT or an ally, come party at Brooklynite.

Small Community Libraries Round Table Networking Social *(Ticketed)*

7-9 pm

The Small Community Librarian of the Year and the Advocate of the Year will be honored at this fun evening at The Buckhorn and Texas Ranger Museum.

Intergalactic Dance Club Party *(Ticketed)*

9 pm – 12 am

Join us at the Brooklynite for a party that rises to the upper stratosphere of celebration and revelry.

Friday, April 21

Hetherington 30th Fun Run/Walk *(Ticketed)*

6-7 pm

Start the walk at Hemisfair Park and finish at the President's All-Conference Party!

Latino Caucus Social

6:30 – 8:30 pm

The LCRT is hosting its first ever social event at conference at the convention center.

TLA NEWS

The Search is On!

Since Pat Smith announced her retirement effective June 30 after 30 years of leadership, the TLA Executive Board has been working on a process to ensure that the best possible person is found to step into this essential role.

The position has been posted on [TLA's Jobline](#) and will also be posted on other industry sites including the Texas Society of Association Executives, American Society of Association Executives career centers, and ALA job list. Résumés will be accepted through March 6.

The search committee, chaired by President Walter Betts will include Ling Hwey Jeng (TLA president-elect), Susan Mann (TLA past president), Sharon Amastae (TLA president 2014-2015), Yvonne Chandler (TLA president 2013-2014), Dana Rooks (TLA president 2004-2005), and Gloria Meraz (former TLA director of communications). This committee will review the initial applications and select candidates to advance to Phase I of the process which will be evaluated by a focus group representing the TLA divisions, districts, and Executive Board.

Focus group evaluations are due April 10 and the search committee will meet and invite the top candidates to participate in Phase II, face-to-face interviews. Candidates will be interviewed in San Antonio on the day preceding the start of Annual Conference. The committee will recommend a finalist to the Executive Board, and after conference, negotiations will begin with the goal of signing the contract with the new executive director in mid-May, and a start date of mid-June. This allows for some overlap with the current executive director for orientation.

NEW Branding Iron Award Category

The TLA Branding Iron Awards now feature a new category to offer a **Power Up Award** for the outstanding programs, promotions, outreach, and services incorporating the [Powered Libraries/Power Up at Your Library](#) campaign. This new award will be given to a library that participated in our first-ever Power Up Day, held on September 15, 2016.

The deadline to apply for the Branding Iron Award is February 15. Awards are presented in each category, with one Best of Show prize announced at the TLA Annual Conference. Visit www.txla.org/branding-iron for more information.

Announcing Power Up Week | October 1-7, 2017

Join the Powered Libraries campaign in celebrating **Power Up Week** October 1-7, 2017, a week where libraries across the state will showcase innovation and dynamic leadership. Last year to great success, hundreds of libraries from around the state took part in [Power Up at Your Library Day](#) on September 15.

Participants organized events geared to promote technology, innovation, creativity, and literacy in their respective communities. Thanks to last year's positive feedback, we are expanding the Powered Up celebration to encompass an entire week. Save the date and start making plans now to incorporate Powered Up programs this October.

Help us demonstrate the campaign's key messages:

- Libraries are essential to the creation and sharing of ideas in the community
- Libraries are forward-thinking, technology-driven institutions, more vital today than ever before
- What libraries do reflects a truly diverse field of information work, representative of the variety and scope of libraries in the state.

Receive the most up to date campaign news through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) (#poweredlibraries and @poweredlibrary), and poweredlibraries.org. WATCH the [video](#).

Check out our [corporate members!](#)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing Education Corner

All webinars will be recorded. A link to the recording will be sent to all registrants (i.e. you may want to register even if you know you cannot attend the live event). All webinars will carry Continuing Education credit, some also have CE credit available for viewing the recording. See individual descriptions for details.

February 16 | 1:00 pm | The Role of Support Staff in Community Partnerships

(A-Z webinar series for support staff)

Strategic partnerships with nonprofit, for-profit, and governmental organizations are a hot topic in libraries now, with benefits for programming, collection development, and library instruction. Learn how support staff can help libraries offer better services by connecting to other institutions.

[REGISTER](#)

March 2 | 1:00 pm | CFPB: Partnering with Libraries to Financially Empower Patrons

(A-Z webinar series for support staff)

Presenter - Ken McDonnell

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau wants to help make libraries the go-to source for unbiased financial education resources in every community. Through this program we will provide program ideas, resources and tools; help libraries connect with local partners; share best practices already working in libraries; provide materials that promote financial education; and conduct trainings for library staff and patrons.

[REGISTER](#)

March 30 | 1:00pm | The Most Unique Services in Today's Libraries

(A-Z webinar series for support staff)

Although our libraries have similar services for today's constituents, there are a wide variety of very different services - some that meet local needs and some that are just unusual and represent very different ideas for serving constituents! Coupon exchanges, borrowing small pets, pattern giveaways, tool checkout, circulating artwork - are long time, well-used services but libraries are making way for circulating bicycles, WIFI-unit checkouts, self-publishing, business spaces to check out, intermittent access to buses outfitted for showers for the homeless and even more unusual services!

[REGISTER](#)

LIBRARY NEWS

KERA News Spotlight on Downtown Dallas Public Library

The downtown Dallas Public Library has committed to not just tolerating—but *welcoming*—every homeless person who walks through the door. Congratulations to the hardworking and talented team at the Dallas Public Library. The news story is available on [KERA News](#).

Thousands Consider Libraries' Immediate & Future Needs at ALA Midwinter

The thousands of librarians, library workers and supporters at the 2017 [American Library Association Midwinter Meeting and Exhibits](#), held Jan. 20-24 in Atlanta, delved into the future of libraries, while also bringing a heightened sense of urgency to examining current needs and aspirations. In formal and informal settings, in engaged conversations and productive problem-solving sessions, and in the exhibit hall, they shared the latest library-related trends, updates, innovations, products, titles and services. The 1,120 scheduled meetings and events took place throughout the Georgia World Congress Center and other nearby sites. There were 8,326 registered for the event, including 2,916 exhibitors.

Remembering Christine McNew

Christine McNew, youth services coordinator in the Library Development and Networking Division at the Texas State Library and Archives passed away this week. Over the years, Christine made remarkable and highly visible contributions to the services offered to Texas libraries. She was a widely respected statewide expert on the topic of library services to children, and was a veteran of many workshops, webinars, and conference presentations on the subject.

Christine was always a tireless advocate of the power of summer reading programs and recently added important groundbreaking work encouraging summer nutrition programs at libraries. Christine will be long remembered for her substantial contributions over her entire career to excellence in library services to children. For decades to come, many thousands of children in Texas will benefit from her work.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

- **Jane Darling**, assistant library director, City of Coppell, has retired and relocated to Florida.
- **Jessica Hughes** is now the director of library services for Spring Branch ISD (Houston). She succeeds **Jo Ann Conlon** who is relocating to Colorado.
- **Bonnie Juergens** retired as president and CEO of Amigos Library Services after more than 28 years of service.
- **Barbara Knotts** of Alamo Colleges in San Antonio receive her Ph.D.
- **Alan Kornblau**, formerly library director of the Delray Beach Public Library in Florida, is the new president and CEO of Amigos Library Services.
- **Gordon Woolley** has joined ITC Systems as director of sales for the central region.

Deceased

- **Sherri Grieb**, formerly with the Dallas Public Library, passed away in January.
- **Christine McNew**, youth services coordinator in the Library Development and Networking Division at the Texas State Library and Archives passed away this week.
- **Clara Mounce**, former director of the Bryan College Station Public Library System and longtime TLA conference volunteer passed away in December, 2016.