

Noteworthy

Library Installs New Hearing Loop To Make Programs More Enjoyable

According to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, “Approximately 17 percent of American adults over the age of 55 report some degree of hearing loss.” Hearing loss is a common aspect of aging. Tulsa City-County Library (TCCL) recognizes this is a hurdle to enjoying a full range of library programming. TCCL recently installed an audio induction loop at these locations:

- Central Library’s Aaronson Auditorium • 4th St. and Denver Ave.
- Rudisill Regional Library’s Ancestral Hall • 1520 N. Hartford
- Martin Regional Library’s Auditorium • 2601 S. Garnett Road
- Hardesty Regional Library’s Frossard Auditorium and Connor’s Cove • 8316 E. 93rd St.

This new technology creates a magnetic field that broadcasts undistorted sound directly to people who are within the loop and have a hearing aid containing a telecoil. The major benefit for the listener is the hearing aid receives only the sounds coming directly from a microphone, excluding background noises and creating direct communication between speaker and listener. “A large percentage of our program audience is over the age of 55 and many of them have some degree of hearing loss,” said Gretchen Hannefield, TCCL volunteer coordinator. “The new hearing equipment will enhance their enjoyment of the varied programs that the library offers including programs like the Friend of the Tulsa City-County Libraries’ Books Sandwiched In and Travels With Tulsans.” Funding for the hearing loop installations was provided by Founders of Doctors’ Hospital, Inc. and the Hardesty Family Foundation. The library’s monthly event guide indicates the program locations where the hearing loop is available. For more information on the hearing loop, call the Ask Us Hotline, (918) 549-7323, or visit the library’s website, www.tulsalibrary.org.