



Local & Regional

2:57 PM FRI MAY 16, 2014

Tulsa Library Trust Launches Public Fundraising Campaign

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By **MATT TROTTER**



Diane Cariker shows off library merchandise patrons may buy to support the Central Library renovation.

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Matt Trotter KWGS

Tulsa's City-County Library and Library Trust are looking to raise \$1 million from the community to help renovate Central Library.

The two-year project should cost around \$50 million. Patrons can contribute by purchasing library merchandise, attending upcoming fundraising events or putting cash donations in collection boxes that evoke the downtown branch's new look. That's what Mayor Dewey Bartlett and former Mayor Bob LaFortune did today at an announcement of the fundraising campaign.

"He said, 'Why don't you put one of those \$100 bills in there?'" LaFortune said after putting a \$20 bill in the box. "I didn't want to upstyle you."

Trust President Steve Austin says the library system is as important to the community today as it was to him as a kid exploring Tulsa in the 1960s.

"I couldn't cross Admiral, certainly not Pine or Memorial, but my parents allowed me to cross to go to the library," Austin said. "I remember that distinctively."

The inside and outside overhaul of the downtown branch will begin in August. There's already \$53 million available from a combination of dozens of private donors, \$15 million in library funds and \$10 million from the Improve Our Tulsa package.
