

# MY LIBRARY, OUR FUTURE

2024 ANNUAL REPORT WITH 2025 CALENDAR



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



One of many ways we can judge the value of a community's library system is to look at its foot traffic, circulation of materials and overall use of programs and services, among other metrics.

In Tulsa County, that means more than 5 million physical and virtual visitors annually, total circulation well past 7 million items per year and well over 300,000 individuals attending programs this past year. That's a lot of children learning to read, adults starting businesses or finding jobs, people completing their high school diploma and so much more. Even with 24 public locations throughout Tulsa County, the aforementioned numbers mean TCCL routinely sees public use outpacing the size and functionality of our branch locations.

That's why over two years ago we ambitiously set out on a capital campaign, called MY Library, OUR Future, to raise \$58 million for four branches in desperate need of growth and modern offerings - two in Tulsa, one in Owasso and one in Broken Arrow. Today, we have secured funding for the two Tulsa locations - the new Bronson Brookside Library at 4607 S. Madison Place and the new Rudisill Regional Library at 1017 N. Greenwood Ave. - and officially broke ground on each location in June, with grand openings projected for 2025 for the Bronson Brookside Library and 2026 for Rudisill.

Each groundbreaking marked a significant milestone and the keeping of a promise that TCCL made to the citizens of Tulsa County, and that is to provide resources that inspire curiosity and creativity and offer opportunities for lifelong learning, and to build and sustain a library system for future generations.

We could not have accomplished any of this success without MY Library, OUR Future Campaign Chair Tim Lyons, retired TTCU Federal Credit Union CEO, and our generous supporters and donors, including Leslie and Bob Pritchard, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, Bank of Oklahoma, The Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation, Sanford & Irene Burnstein Family Foundation, George Kaiser Family Foundation, The Helmerich Trust, Hardesty Family Foundation, Coretz Family Foundation, William K. Warren Foundation, Mary K. Chapman Foundation, Tulsa County, Hille Foundation, ONEOK, Helmerich & Payne, Cherokee Nation, Waters Charitable Foundation, The Arrow Group, The David E. & Cassie L. Temple Foundation, Jim Norton, Hannah and Joe Robson, Lee Lobeck-Marks, Ramez and Katrine Hakim, Tim and Carol Lyons, Tulsa Library Trustees and Tulsa City-County Library Commissioners.

Through MY Library, OUR Future, tomorrow's TCCL will continue to inspire, promote learning and create connections that strengthen our communities, and expand our reach and improve our usability by revamping traditional services, removing barriers to service and adding new, more convenient ways to use the library.

As you turn the pages of this annual report, you will see how MY library is OUR future as you take a look back at significant milestones and achievements over the past year that show how TCCL continues to meet the ever-changing needs of society and, of course, our local communities.

*Kimberly Johnson*

Kimberly Johnson, TCCL CEO



# BEHIND THE SCENES



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

## Tulsa City-County Library Commission

**Leanne Helmerich**, *chair*  
**G.T. Bynum**, *mayor of Tulsa*  
*(term ended Dec. 1, 2024)*  
**Moises Echeverria**, *vice chair*  
**Cynthia McGhee**, *secretary*  
**Monroe Nichols**, *mayor of Tulsa*  
*(term began Dec. 2, 2024)*  
**Stan Sallee**, *county commissioner*  
**Ellen Duecker**  
**Rik Helmerich**  
**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**  
**Jordan Helmerich**  
**Paul Johnson**  
**Kara Gae Neal**  
**Martin Newman**  
**Mike Redman**  
**M. Susan Savage**  
**Clifton Taulbert**  
**Julie Watson**  
**Melissa Easterling**, *Trust executive director*

## Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries Board

**Ros Elder**, *president*  
**Nancy Carroll**  
**Lillie Haddican**  
**Janet Holland**  
**Gisele McDaniel**  
**Cindy McDonald**  
**Dorothy Minor**  
**Glad Platner**

# FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES GROUPS



## 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. This dedicated group hosts an ongoing book sale throughout the year, as well as a bigger annual book sale each April. The group raised \$19,631 from the 2024 annual book sale, which was the highest amount they have ever made. The sale took place over two weekends. Since its inception in 2004, the Friends of the Helmerich Library has given more than \$140,000 to fund programming for all Tulsa City-County Library locations.

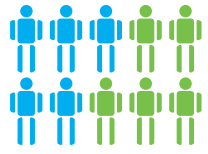
## Friends of the Rudisill Regional Library

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.

## 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

682,868

## LIBRARY CARDHOLDERS

379,115



## LIBRARY SITES 26

(24 Public, 2 Nonpublic)

## OUTREACH VEHICLES 3



## PERSONNEL 419

## OWNED MATERIALS

Physical 1,031,771

Digital (eBooks/eAudio) 178,003

Total Owned Materials 1,209,774



## PHYSICAL MATERIALS BREAKDOWN

Children's Items 350,414

Adult Items 681,357



## SUBSCRIPTION eMATERIALS

eBooks/eAudio 1,271,725

eMagazines and eNewspapers 26,420

Access to Streaming or Downloadable Music 476,987

Streaming Movies and TV 78,676



NOTE: STATS REFLECTED ARE FOR CALENDAR YEAR AND INCLUDE ESTIMATED NUMBERS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## JUNE 30, 2024



## REVENUE

Ad Valorem	\$ 43,291,488
Other Government Income	\$ 616,073
Library Services Income	\$ 306,861
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 1,540,558

**\$ 45,754,980**

## EXPENDITURES

Personnel	\$ 22,287,556
Operations	\$ 4,432,998
Maintenance	\$ 1,840,426
Materials	\$ 4,715,692
Capital Expenditures	\$ 2,977,796

**\$ 36,254,468**

NOTE: TOTALS REFLECTED ARE FROM UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.



# JANUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>New Year's Day</b> Libraries closed  <b>Kwanzaa ends</b>			
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			<b>Travels With Tulsans</b>			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>Great Decisions Kickoff</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> Libraries closed	<b>Library Inventory Day</b> Libraries closed	<b>Travels With Tulsans</b>			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			<b>Travels With Tulsans</b>			
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

### Furry friends make reading fun

PAWS for Reading matches young readers with certified therapy dogs to improve reading confidence, motivation, fluency and joy. In 2024, 20 dog-human pairs visited with nearly 500 children over 100 sessions at 14 libraries. At PAWS, each child gets a special time to read to a furry friend and receives a free book provided by the Tulsa Library Trust and Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries. Pictured above, the Hardgrave family reads to Arson and his handler, Deanna Lombardo, at PAWS for Reading at Charles Page Library.

### Happy birthday, Dolly!

On Jan. 19, Tulsa County celebrated the Imagination Library and Dolly Parton's 78th birthday at the Gathering Place with cake, crafts and stories. Since March 2023, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of TCCL has enrolled almost 25,000 children and mailed more than 300,000 books to families. The Imagination Library is paid for through a partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Education and private funding through the Birth through Eight Strategy for Tulsa, an initiative of the George Kaiser Family Foundation.

### Keeping the dream alive

Nearly 30 TCCL staffers, accompanied by the bookmobile and a float, marched in the 45th Annual Tulsa Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Parade to honor Dr. King's legacy. Originally scheduled in January, the parade was postponed until Feb. 17 due to frigid temperatures. TCCL has participated in the parade since 1990.



# FEBRUARY 2025

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Groundhog Day			Travels With Tulsans			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Books Sandwiched In		Travels With Tulsans		Valentine's Day	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Presidents Day Libraries closed		Travels With Tulsans			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			Travels With Tulsans		Young People's Creative Writing Contest deadline	
23	24	25	26	27	28	1

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

### Sankofa Award honors Terry McMillan

The African American Resource Center and Tulsa Library Trust honored bestselling novelist Terry McMillan (pictured above in purple) with the biennial 2024 Sankofa Freedom Award on Feb. 9 at Rudisill Regional Library with nearly 300 in attendance. An NAACP Image Award and *Essence* Magazine Lifetime Achievement Award winner, McMillan is known for her vivid portrayals of African American women's lives, relationships and journeys of self-discovery. The program featured a Q&A with McMillan and the audience followed by a book signing with refreshments served by Sisserou's restaurant.

### Mr. Henry's Books engages educators

More than 20 middle school educators from Broken Arrow, Glenpool, Jenks, Owasso, Tulsa and Union school districts attended the 2024 Mr. Henry's Books Educator Workshop on Feb. 17 at Central Library. The continuing-education workshop focused on the works of Raina Telgemeier, winner of the 2024 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature. Each educator received 50 copies of Telgemeier's graphic novel *Sisters* for their students to keep, along with lesson plans on how to use her works in their classroom. Named in honor of Mr. Henry Zarrow, Mr. Henry's Books is sponsored by Tulsa Library Trust, made possible by a grant from The Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation.



# MARCH 2025

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH  
 GREEK AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  
 IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  
 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<b>American Indian Festival of Words Writers Award</b>
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
<b>Read Across America Day</b>	<b>World Wildlife Day</b>		<b>Travels With Tulsans</b>			<b>International Women's Day</b>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Daylight Saving Time begins</b> Set clock ahead one hour	<b>Books Sandwiched In</b>					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	<b>St. Patrick's Day</b>			<b>Spring begins</b>		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	<b>Adult Creative Writing Contest deadline</b>					
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

### Retired astronaut receives Circle of Honor Award

The American Indian Resource Center honored retired astronaut and Navy Cmdr. John B. Herrington, Chickasaw, with the American Indian Festival of Words Circle of Honor Award on March 2 at Central Library (pictured above). Herrington was the first enrolled citizen of a federally recognized tribe to go into space. About 465 people attended the day's events. The Tulsa Air and Space Museum kicked off the festivities with a fun family presentation in the Children's Department and Magic City Books sold copies of Herrington's children's book *Mission to Space*. At the award ceremony, the Chickasaw Nation Honor Guard posted the colors. The Kaw Nation, Osage Nation, Sac and Fox Honor Guard and Tulsa Indian Club princesses beautifully signed "The Lord's Prayer." Homage was paid to the American Indian Resource Center as it celebrated 20 years of service to the Native community. Pawnee Public School's Pawnee Language Class sang their rendition of "Major Tom" in the Pawnee language. To top it off, Herrington and his wife, Debra, donated his \$10,000 honorarium back to the American Indian Resource Center! These funds will go toward more cultural and language programs. The Circle of Honor Award is sponsored by the Maxine & Jack Zarrow Family Foundation and the Tulsa Library Trust.



# APRIL 2025

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH  
NATIONAL ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			International Children's Book Day Autism Awareness Day			
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
National Library Week April 6-12						Passover begins at sundown
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Books Sandwiched In				Good Friday	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Easter Libraries closed Passover ends at sundown		Earth Day		Holocaust Remembrance Day After-School Homework Club 2024/2025 ends	Arbor Day	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			Día, Children's Day/Book Day			
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

### Volunteers save TCCL over \$450,000

TCCL honored 42 volunteers for years or hours of service at the 50th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on April 21. The Friends of the Tulsa City-County Libraries hosted the reception and the Tulsa Library Trust provided the volunteer gifts. In 2023, 453 volunteers (84.5% growth from the previous year) collectively donated 14,155 hours (322.8% increase from the prior year) at their local libraries, saving TCCL \$450,129, according to the Independent Sector of Washington, D.C., which calculates volunteer time at \$31.80 per hour in Oklahoma.

### Solar eclipse creates communal experience

People of all ages flocked to Broken Arrow, Central and South Broken Arrow libraries to view the near-total eclipse of the sun on April 8. Nearly 350 showed up for South Broken Arrow's "Solar Eclipse of the Heart" event. After running out of free solar eclipse glasses, staff helped customers make their own viewers. At the Broken Arrow branch, nearly 600 watched the eclipse from the front lawn, while many shared glasses after the library ran out. And at Central Library, 400 gathered in the A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Foundation Children's Garden for the communal viewing. All TCCL branches had free solar eclipse glasses available for the community. Pictured above, Broken Arrow Library staffer Angela Martinez and South Broken Arrow Library staffers Melody Palmer and Erica Stefanek helped plan the hugely successful solar eclipse events.





# MAY 2025

ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH  
 JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  
 MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	1	2 <b>Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature</b>	3
	<b>Cinco de Mayo</b>					
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>Books Sandwiched In</b>					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	<b>Memorial Day</b> Libraries closed					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

### Are you an ARMY, STAY or BLINK?

K-pop fans celebrated their favorite fandoms and learned about Korean culture at Hardesty Regional Library's K-pop Festival, while Japanese animation aficionados dressed up as their favorite characters and enjoyed activities and crafts at Herman and Kate Kaiser Library's Studio Ghibli Fest. Both programs were a part of TCCL's monthlong Asian American Festival held throughout May, celebrating the many Asian American cultures and traditions that enrich and vitalize our community. More than 2,000 people participated in nearly 20 programs and nearly 1,500 customers picked up take-and-make craft kits from their neighborhood library to enjoy at home. The Tulsa Library Trust sponsors the annual festival.

### Graphic novelist receives 2024 Zarrow Award

*New York Times* bestselling author of *Smile*, *Sisters*, *Ghosts* and *Guts*, Raina Telgemeier, delighted more than 500 attendees at the 2024 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature ceremony, held May 3 at Central Library. Her adoring fans especially loved it when she did live drawings on a projector during the Q&A portion of the public presentation. The graphic novelist's trademark drawing style and the semi-autobiographical nature of her works – from braces to sibling rivalry – resonate with young readers across America. Telgemeier was the first graphic novelist to receive the Zarrow Award, inaugurated in 1991. Pictured above, Telgemeier takes a selfie with her fans at the award ceremony.



# JUNE 2025

NATIONAL CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  
 NATIONAL IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH  
 LGBTQIA+ PRIDE MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Summer Reading Program begins					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
World Oceans Day	Books Sandwiched In Music Sandwiched In					Flag Day
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Father's Day				Juneteenth National Independence Day Libraries closed	Summer begins	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Music Sandwiched In					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

### New Rudisill Regional Library breaks ground

On June 14, TCCL broke ground at 1017 N. Greenwood Ave., the site of the new Rudisill Regional Library (pictured above). TCCL officials were joined by dozens of community leaders and donors to celebrate the start of construction of the \$21.2 million facility. Speakers included BOK CEO Stacy Kymes, who expressed his company's strong support for libraries, backed by BOK's lead pledge of \$2.5 million for the new BOK Harmony Hall at Rudisill. Additional donors include the Sanford & Irene Burnstein Family Foundation, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, George Kaiser Family Foundation, Coretz Family Foundation, Mary K. Chapman Foundation, Tulsa County, Waters Charitable Foundation, Cherokee Nation, Hille Foundation, ONEOK, The David E. & Cassie L. Temple Foundation and Helmerich & Payne. The new Rudisill Regional Library is projected to open in 2026.

### Groundbreaking held for Bronson Brookside Library

On June 27, TCCL broke ground on a second MY Library, OUR Future project – the new Bronson Brookside Library to be built at 4607 S. Madison Place. Scheduled to open in 2025, the \$9.6 million facility will replace the Brookside Library. Lead donors Bob and Leslie Pritchard chose to honor Leslie's late father, Donald Bronson Atkins, by naming the new branch the Bronson Brookside Library. Additional donors include The Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation, The Helmerich Trust, the Hardesty Family Foundation and the Sanford & Irene Burnstein Family Foundation.



# JULY 2025

FRENCH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  
DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	1	2	3	4 Independence Day Libraries closed	5
6	7 Music Sandwiched In	8	9	10 Teddy Bear Picnic Day	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Music Sandwiched In	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Summer Reading Program ends	1	2

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

### Calling for a blanket dance



About 120 community members hand-stitched and embroidered quilt pieces for a communal quilt to complement TCCL's 2024 One Book, One Tulsa communitywide reading initiative, focusing on Oscar Hokeah's *Calling for a Blanket Dance*.

Readers were invited to explore and deepen their understanding of Hokeah's book through "Appetizers: Community Conversations," a series of book discussions leading up to Hokeah's visit to Tulsa on July 19. "Appetizers" programs included quilting circles, a tasting menu at Burning Cedar Sovereign Wellness with Chef Nico Albert and a meal with the Tulsa Global District. Also, TCCL's bookmobile served fry bread from Natv Restaurant in downtown Broken Arrow. Sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust, the One Book, One Tulsa presentation featured a conversation with Hokeah, followed by a dance and drum circle performance by the Tulsa Indian Club to give audience members a glimpse of the cultural celebrations described in Hokeah's book.

### Imagination Library mails 1 millionth book

Oklahoma mailed its 1 millionth Imagination Library book in July 2024! One-year-old William Key (pictured above with his parents Evan and Laura Key at the Herman and Kate Kaiser Library) is among the tens of thousands of kids under age 5 across the state who receive a free book each month from the Imagination Library.



# AUGUST 2025

NATIONAL BLACK BUSINESS MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	National Root Beer Float Day	7	8	National Book Lovers Day
10	Books Sandwiched In	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	6

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

### Adventure begins at your library!

One out of 12 people in Tulsa County, from babies to adults, participated in TCCL's 2024 Summer Reading Program, "Adventure Begins at Your Library," held June 1 through July 31. The 64,538 total participants represent a 12% participation increase from 2023, and with 63% of those readers completing the program, TCCL saw a 21% completion increase from the previous year. The free program for all ages offered over 1,000 free events, plus numerous incentives, including coupons for free food and entertainment from area businesses, and prize drawings for program completion. Donated by 11 local businesses and organizations, the coupons and prizes collectively were valued at over \$4 million! Among the rewards for kids and teens who completed the program was a free ticket to Library Summer Reading Night at ONEOK Field to cheer on the Tulsa Drillers. Library mascot Buddy Bookworm (pictured above) was at the game, held Aug. 3, to congratulate reading program participants. To complement the Summer Reading Program and encourage communities to compete in a friendly challenge to earn the distinction as a community of active readers, TCCL offered the annual Summer Reading Program Mayor's Challenge. Congratulations to Bixby for having the highest percentage of children and teens (38%) enrolled in the 2024 program. Thank you to the 2024 Summer Reading Program presenting sponsors: FC Tulsa, IHOP, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, Tulsa Drillers, Tulsa Ice Centers, *TulsaKids* Magazine, Tulsa Library Trust, Tulsa State Fair, Tulsa Zoo, Whataburger and Williams.



# SEPTEMBER 2025

LIBRARY CARD  
SIGN-UP MONTH  
NATIONAL LITERACY MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>Labor Day</b> Libraries closed					
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Grandparents Day</b>	<b>Books Sandwiched In</b>					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	<b>Hispanic Heritage Month</b> Sept. 15-Oct. 15 <b>After-School Homework Club 2025/2026 begins</b>	<b>National Voter Registration Day</b>				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	<b>Fall begins</b>					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

### Providing students with a positive learning experience

Each school year, the free After-School Homework Club provides an opportunity for learners in grades three through eight to focus more deeply on homework assignments and dig deeper into areas where they are struggling. Registered students are assigned a homework coach to work with them weekly for up to 30 minutes. For the 2023-2024 school year, TCCL's After-School Homework Club facilitated 639 individual homework sessions to 84 registered students. Students from Bixby, Broken Arrow, Jenks, Sand Springs, Tulsa and Union public school districts participated in the free program offered at five TCCL branches Sept. 18, 2023-April 25, 2024. The 2024-2025 school year kicked off Sept. 16 with seven TCCL branches offering the club.

### Literacy - Art - Community

TCCL's second annual VERSES fundraiser featured an eclectic makers market with over 30 vendors and a community festival with over 20 poetry readings and musical performances (pictured above). More than 200 people attended the three-hour event on Sept. 28 at Central Library, and nearly \$9,000 was raised for the Ruth G. Hardman Adult Literacy Service. The VERSES promotional poster (pictured left) featured original art by local artist and illustrator Dan Lynh Pham.





# OCTOBER 2025

FAMILY HISTORY MONTH  
 HINDU AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  
 GLOBAL DIVERSITY AWARENESS MONTH  
 LGBT+ HISTORY MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
<b>World Teachers' Day</b>	<b>Library Staff Development Day</b> Libraries closed <b>German American Day</b>					
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	<b>Indigenous Peoples' Day</b> <b>Books Sandwiched In</b>					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>National Friends of Libraries Week</b> Oct. 19-25						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	<b>National Mentoring Day</b>				<b>Halloween</b>	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

### Reyna Grande shares inspirational message

The 2024 Hummingbird Award in Literary Arts, given by TCCL's Hispanic Resource Center and the Tulsa Library Trust, was a resounding success, drawing in over 70 attendees for a memorable event on Oct. 19 at Martin Regional Library. Award recipient Reyna Grande (pictured above in center) spoke powerfully about the importance of channeling trauma into creative expression and the necessity of taking ownership of our Latinx voices and stories. During her visit to Tulsa, TCCL also engaged over 300 students from San Miguel Middle School and Tulsa School of Arts and Sciences, bringing Grande's inspirational message to younger audiences in the community. Her visit was a profound reminder of the power of storytelling and its role in affirming diverse voices and was a great way to mark the Hispanic Resource Center's 25th anniversary by making the event a meaningful celebration of resilience, heritage and community.

### Happy 20th anniversary, Zarrow Regional Library

Named in honor of Henry Zarrow, the Zarrow Regional Library welcomed 75 guests for a 20th anniversary celebration on Oct. 4. CEO Kimberly Johnson presented Zarrow's daughter, Judy Z. Kishner, with a commemorative photo album signed by library staff; former Zarrow Regional Library managers Barry Hensley and Ellen Cummings shared memories; and the Tulsa Indian Club presented a traditional dance exhibition, sponsored by the American Indian Resource Center. Following the event, guests enjoyed a reception, sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust.



# NOVEMBER 2025

NATIVE AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH  
NATIONAL VETERANS AND  
MILITARY FAMILIES MONTH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Daylight Saving Time ends Set clock back one hour					Books To Treasure	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Books Sandwiched In	Veterans Day Libraries closed				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
				Thanksgiving Day Libraries closed	Native American Heritage Day	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

### Books To Treasure celebrates the beauty and power of children's literature

Award-winning children's book author and illustrator Sophie Blackall shined brightly as the featured presenter for TCCL's 2024 Books To Treasure program, held Nov. 8 at Hardesty Regional Library (pictured above). About 350 people of all ages gathered in Connor's Cove for the free presentation by the beloved writer and illustrator of such works as *Finding Winnie*, illustrated by Blackall (and for which Blackall won her first Caldecott Medal) and written by Lindsay Mattick, and *Hello Lighthouse*, which won Blackall her second Caldecott. Blackall shared her childhood artwork, her current artistic inspirations and her life story, from growing up in Australia to making her home in the United States. As part of her visit to Tulsa, Blackall visited several schools to talk with second graders about her work. Sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust through a grant from The Anne & Henry Zarrow Foundation, Books To Treasure has grown into a Tulsa tradition for all second grade students in Tulsa County. As a part of the annual program, every second grader receives a free copy of the featured illustrator's book. This year, nearly 11,000 copies of *If You Come to Earth*, written and illustrated by Blackall, were given out. Plus, thousands of second graders received a custom TCCL library card featuring an illustration from the featured book.





# 2024 REMEMBRANCES, RETIREMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS



Donna J. Juedes



Maralee (Mary) Waidner

## Remembering Donna Juedes and Mary Waidner

Donna J. Juedes passed away on Aug. 12, 2024, in Tulsa. Juedes worked as a reference library associate at Martin Regional Library from June 2003 to September 2014, and then as a teen library associate at Herman and Kate Kaiser Library until she retired in October 2018. After retiring, Juedes served as a substitute customer service assistant for TCCL until June 2024. Maralee (Mary) Waidner died on Aug. 17, 2024, in Tulsa. Waidner joined TCCL in 1991 and retired from her job as collection development selector in 2009.



John Fancher



Marcous Friday



Martha Gregory



Sandra Hall



Karen McCullough



Jennifer Pawlowski



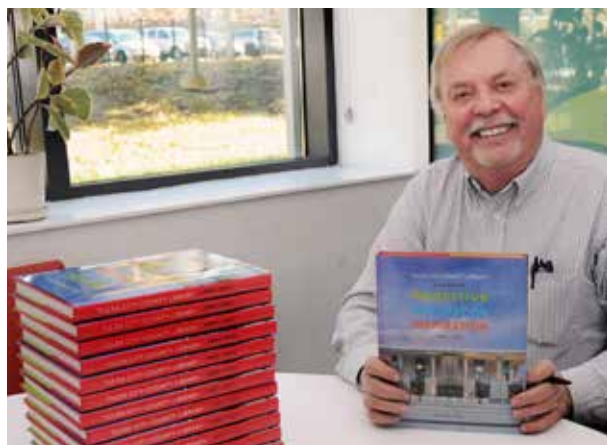
Antonio Rodriguez



Rhonda Weldon

## Eight longtime employees retire from TCCL in 2024

TCCL extends best wishes and a happy retirement to John Fancher, communications specialist, Public Relations Office; Marcous Friday, facilities lead, Facilities & Engineering; Martha Gregory, partnership and projects coordinator, Research Services; Sandra Hall, lead customer service assistant, Hardesty Regional Library; Karen McCullough, circulation assistant, Central Library; Jennifer Pawlowski, data literacy associate, Research Services; Antonio Rodriguez, IT technician, Information Technology; and Rhonda Weldon, branch manager, Collinsville Library.



## TCCL history book named finalist in design in Oklahoma Book Awards

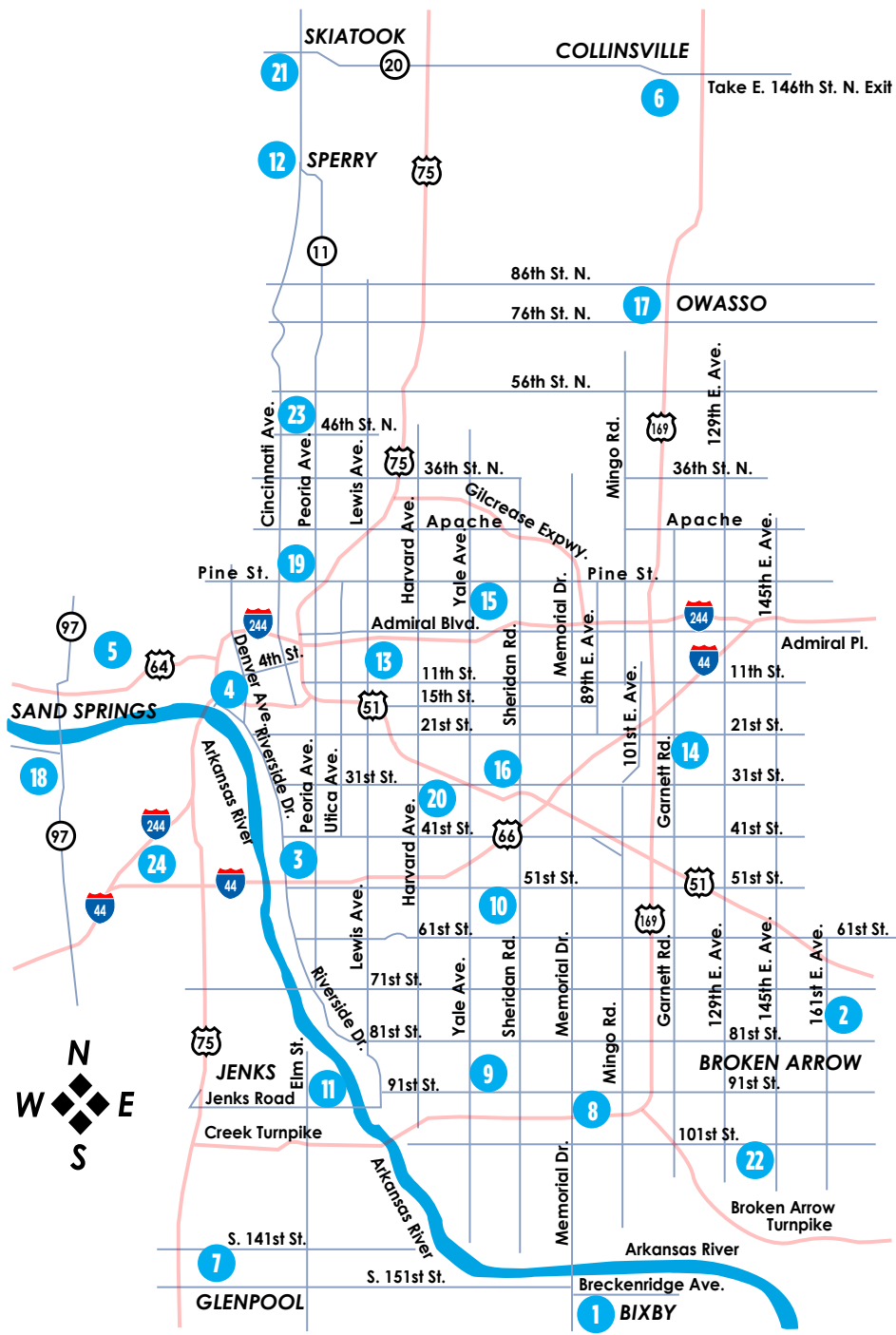
*Tulsa City-County Library: 1992-2021: A Legacy of Innovation, Integration, Inspiration*, written by John Wooley (pictured left) and designed by Carl Brune, was selected as a 2024 Oklahoma Book Awards finalist in the design/illustration/photography category. Published in October 2023, the beautiful book illustrates how the library system continually celebrates the diversity of its customers, supports intellectual and artistic freedom, serves as a bulwark against suppression and censorship, and deeply enriches the intellectual life of all the communities it serves.



## Kimberly Johnson recognized as distinguished alumna and Tulsan of the Year

TCCL CEO Kimberly Johnson was one of four alumni recognized by The University of Tulsa Alumni Association at the Distinguished Alumni Award Ceremony, held Oct. 24, 2024. The love of literature and the opportunity to share her passion with others guided Johnson (B.A. '96) from the Bronx, N.Y., to The University of Tulsa. "I have always valued and sought to expand my knowledge and understanding of the world through the pages of books," she said on TU Alumni's website (tualumni.com). "As a kid, I read to the children in my Bronx neighborhood and taught several of them to read. I got a great deal of satisfaction from seeing their achievements. That passion never left." To top off her honors for the year, the *Tulsa World* named Johnson one of its 2024 Tulsans of the Year for her exceptional fundraising efforts for MY Library, OUR Future and tireless devotion to expand and enhance TCCL's reach and build a robust library system for future generations to enjoy.

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



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Email [jackie.hill@tulsalibrary.org](mailto:jackie.hill@tulsalibrary.org) or call 918-549-7389 for additional copies or address changes.

PICTURED: Renderings of the new Bronson Brookside Library (photos on the left) and Rudisill Regional Library (photos on the right)