

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Bee Cave Public Library

Director's Report

2022: GRADUALLY RETURNING TO NORMAL

Our year started off in January with COVID still affecting many aspects of library operations. We continued to offer Storytime at the Park in lieu of indoors, and programs like Teen Advisory Board and Book Club often included a hybrid Zoom option in addition to in-person gatherings. A local surge of cases in the schools during January caused visits to drop just as we began to return certain programs to in-person. By February, our numbers began to pick up again, although the number of visitors was still only half of what it would have been in a typical pre-COVID February. In March, with the weather warming up and the virus subsiding, we introduced our new Spring Into Reading programs during Spring Break, honoring Eric Carle during our first year of what is intended to be an annual celebration of beloved children's authors. The activities taking place outdoors were particularly well-attended.



By April, library visits were steadily increasing, up another 14% over the March numbers. When we held our inaugural Books and Bees Festival on April 30th, the response from the community was very positive, with nearly 1,500 people attending the festival. In June and July, our annual Summer Reading Program drew hundreds of participants, more than we had seen since 2019. Outdoor events like our off-site Reading Rodeo held at Star Hill Ranch and the Bike Rodeo held in front of the library were much appreciated by our patrons. In August, with vaccinations finally available for infants six months and older, we reintroduced Baby Bumblebees, the lapsit version of Storytime for our littlest patrons. One mom told us tearfully how thrilled she was to be able to bring her second child to this program before he outgrew it since she had enjoyed it so much with her first child before the pandemic.

In September, we re-introduced our twice-yearly Family Place parent-child workshops, the last of our pre-pandemic programs to return. Early voting in October took the community rooms out of commission, causing some disruptions in programming, while the construction of the ice skating rink in front of the library negatively impacted our daily visitor count. By December, however, we were back in the swing of things and welcomed a record 1,200 people to our Grinch-themed Merry Making Saturday kick-off to the holiday season. All in all, 2022 was an exciting, challenging year in the life of Bee Cave Public Library!

~Barbara Hathaway, Library Director

Mission Statement

The Bee Cave Public Library will provide intellectual, cultural, educational, and recreational resources in a variety of formats. The library will offer an inviting environment, promote lifelong learning, and foster a sense of community.

Annual Statistics

2022 BY THE NUMBERS for Bee Cave Public Library

OPERATIONS

52 weeks open to the public

VISITS

62,400 Visitors

PROGRAMS

165 Programs for a range of ages

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

9,508 Attended programs in 2022

CHECKOUTS

71,408 Physical Items Circulated

28,251 Digital Items Downloaded



Librarian Melissa Slaughter, right, at BeeTweens program for kids in grades 4-6



Attendance picked up dramatically by the time of our Summer Reading Program.

Library Collections

The library's physical collection of books, audiobooks, and DVDs for children, teens, and adults numbers slightly over 30,000 items, the maximum that can fit in our current space. To make room for newly published items, deselection takes place year-round, where less popular or outdated materials are weeded so we can keep the collection fresh and up-to-date. Our digital collection contains more than 38,900 items through our membership in the Central Texas Digital Consortium. Frequent posts on social media and displays in the library highlight new materials across a variety of formats and genres.



Thanks to our status as an accredited member of the Texas State Library system, we have access to \$108 million worth of databases across a wide range of research fields at a tiny fraction of the cost. We also subscribe directly to numerous databases including Ancestry for genealogy research; Data Axle Reference Solutions for business research; Mango Languages for language learning; Access World News for full-text news sources; TumbleBooks for children's literature and games; and streaming video services, Access Video On Demand and Access Video: Just for Kids.

Library Website

In conjunction with the makeover of the City of Bee Cave website, Communications Director Jenny Hoff helped us launch a new website for the library with modern colors and features that gave it a fresh, new look and made it more functional and intuitive for staff and patrons alike.



Library Staff, Operations & Planning

Library Clerk Jennifer Vickery was promoted from part-time to full-time in February 2022, after Anna Jensen left the library staff to join the Parks and Facilities Department. Public Services Manager Gretchen Hardin completed the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Lake Travis program. Technical Services Librarian Megan Fischer presented workshops on OverDrive during both the Texas Library Association's annual conference and The Library Corporation's annual conference for its customers.

In August, we held meetings to discuss the library's wants, needs, and wishes for the proposed new building. A Request for Qualifications was posted in September for architectural firms for the design and construction of the new library. A total of eighteen firms responded and interviews were conducted with the top five firms. After a second round of interviews, the firm of Lake/Flato was selected and recommended to the City Council at the December meeting.

Programs

In 2022, we returned to in-person programming, gradually adding programs back into the schedule as the threat of COVID subsided. By summer, attendance at in-person programs had returned to levels approaching those from 2019, our last pre-pandemic year.

For Adults

Book Club, monthly

What's New Wednesday, monthly

Lake Travis Reads, annually



*Torn-paper collage-making at
What's New Wednesday*

For Children

Family Storytime (twice weekly)

Baby Bumblebees Lapsit Storytime
(weekly, returned in August)

Family Place Parenting Workshop (twice-yearly for 5
weeks, returned in September)

Summer Reading Programs (June-July)

Included programs for all ages such as the Trick Roper, Reptile Show, Star Party, Bike Rodeo, and the Reading Rodeo at Star Hill Ranch, as well as age-specific programs such as Special Storytimes, Drive-In Movie, Magic Treehouse Book Party, and more

For Tweens

Bee-Tweens every other month for grades 4-6

Lego Club every other month for grades K-6

Tween programs during Summer Reading

For All Ages

Spring Into Reading

Books and Bees Festival

Summer Reading Program

Merry Making Saturday

For Teens

Teen Advisory Board, monthly

Teen Service Project

Teen volunteers at Merry Making Saturday

Summer Reading Teen programs



Terrarium-making for teens



Children's concert with Joe McDermott during Spring Into Reading

Summer Reading Program 2022: Reading Roundup

The annual Summer Reading Program (SRP) is a hallmark of public libraries around the country and a favorite tradition of ours. In a nod to our Texas roots, we chose a theme of “Reading Roundup” for 2022 and had lots of fun with Western-themed programs, activities, and more. A professional trick roper kicked things off for us in early June, and our friends at Star Hill Ranch opened their facility to us for a one-day Reading Rodeo that drew 250 kids and their families for a morning of crafts, games, and live music in a beautiful outdoor setting. At the end of the summer, the Bee Cave Police Department assisted us with an outdoor Bike Rodeo at the Galleria to wind things up. The Friends of the Library purchased colorful “bee” bandanas that we handed out to all participants who wore them whenever they attended an event at the library. Rewards for the children who reached their reading goals included chances to win prizes and a personalized “Wanted” poster hanging on the library wall all summer.



Above and right, cowboy crafts and live music during the Reading Rodeo held at Star Hill Ranch; below, the Bike Rodeo held out in front as our final event for the 2022 Summer Reading Program; at right, a personalized poster for a top reader.



Books and Bees Festival, Year 1

Planning began in January for our inaugural Books and Bees Festival with a launch date of April 30, 2022. Funded by a generous donation from the Friends of the Library, the festival took place the last Saturday in April and featured author talks and panels in City Hall, at Barnes & Noble, and at The Hive. Outside on the lawn, tents featured crafts and games for kids, bee education from an area beekeeper, free wildflower seeds and planting instructions, and a children's concert, as well as booksales by Barnes & Noble and giveaways from the Friends of the Library. More than 1,500 people participated in the festival, many expressing their surprise at such a unique event in our small city.



Activities took place inside City Hall, out on the lawn and plaza, inside Barnes & Noble, and at The Hive during the first Books and Bees Festival which was attended by 1,500 people on April 30, 2022.

Merry Making Saturday 2022

Our annual holiday program, Merry Making Saturday, took place with a special twist in 2022 with the appearance of City Manager Clint Garza as The Grinch and the library decorated to look like Whoville in a tribute to the Dr. Seuss classic, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*. With the added attraction of the skating rink taking place in front of the library, the event was rollicking fun, drawing more than 1,200 visitors to the library on the first Saturday in December.



At right, Clint Garza as the Grinch and Public Services Manager Gretchen Hardin as Cindy Lou Who delighted fans during Merry Making Saturday. Below, families enjoyed crafts and live music, while the entire staff dressed in character for the day.



Library Wins State-wide Award

The Texas Library Association announced in April that Bee Cave Public Library won the “Wayne Williams Project of the Year Award” for 2021’s outdoor, life-sized Candyland game that we offered over the course of four weekends during the height of the pandemic. Director Barbara Hathaway accepted the award on behalf of the library at the TLA Annual Conference. This is the second time the library has won a state-level award, following the Branding Iron Award in 2019 when we were recognized for our outstanding social media campaign.



Library Director Barbara Hathaway accepts the “Project of the Year Award” on behalf of the entire library staff at the 2022 Texas Library Association annual conference.

Social Media

The library continued to use social media platforms as a fun and informative way to keep patrons apprised of upcoming programs, highlight parts of the collection, and have fun with current events or pop culture trends, meeting our community where they are already spending a lot of their time. Our follower base continues to grow and the goodwill generated by our efforts is a morale-builder among both staff and patrons.

More than 3,200 people follow the library on Facebook, with 1,680 following on Instagram and 2,050 on TikTok. The content posted ranges from informational to whimsical, with humorous posts usually garnering the most attention.



Social media is an effective tool to make announcements about library programs and services. Whimsical posts have occasionally gone viral like 2022’s Chaotic Book Recs, shown at right, which had 10,000 views on TikTok.



Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Original Library Budget	\$ 891,147
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 721,947
Maintenance & Operations	\$ 160,092
Professional Services	\$ 9,108
Capital Outlay	\$ 0

Fiscal Year 2022-2023

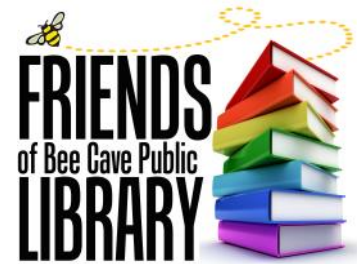
Original Library Budget	\$ 1,016,928
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The budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 included 9 full-time and 3 part-time positions for a total of 10.5 FTEs. The 0.5 FTE was used to hire a summer intern who helped out in programming and circulation.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of Bee Cave Public Library is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation founded in 2006 to support the library through fundraising, volunteering, and advocacy. The group's annual fundraiser is the Rolling Sculpture Car Show which took place two weeks earlier than usual in order to avoid a conflict with the skating rink construction on the plaza in front of the library. Since this caused a conflict with other car shows in the area, we hope to return to our traditional last Sunday in October date in 2023.

The show raised \$8,500 in 2022 through sponsorships and registration fees. An army of volunteers from local car clubs, the Friends group, and our Teen Advisory Board members helped put on the show under the leadership of organizer Doug Chambers. Funds raised by the show supported scholarships for graduating teen volunteers and prizes and incentives for the Summer Reading Program as well as the Books and Bees Festival.

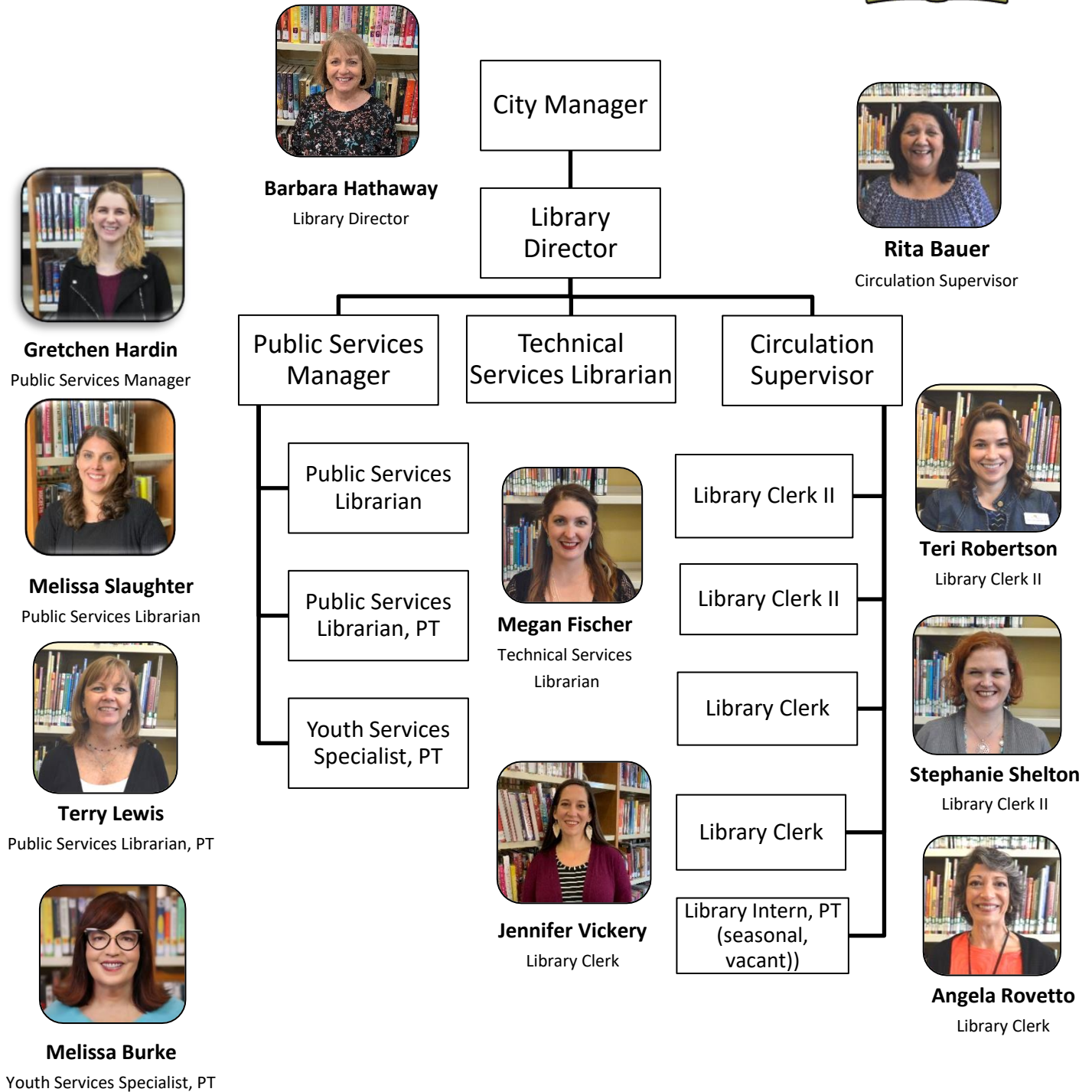


Cars on display at the 2022 Rolling Sculpture Car Show



Friends and staff joined RSCS organizers for a "big check" presentation at a City Council meeting.

BEE CAVE PUBLIC LIBRARY 2022 ORGANIZATION CHART



NOTE: The budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 included 9 full-time and 3 part-time positions for a total of 10.5 FTEs. At the beginning of Fiscal Year 2021-22, Library Clerk Anna Jensen transferred to the Parks and Facilities Department, leaving a full-time clerk position vacant. In February of 2022, Jennifer Vickery was promoted from part-time to full-time library clerk, leaving a part-time position vacant which was used to hire a part-time, seasonal library intern during the summer months.