

**Buda Public Library
Youth Services
Five Year Strategic Plan 2015-2020**

MISSION/VISION STATEMENT

The mission of the Buda Public Library is to improve the quality of life for all residents of the community by providing resources and services that enhance their access to education, enjoyment, and lifelong learning through library materials, services, programs, and online access.

Vision: Connect with the world at the Buda Public Library

INTRODUCTION

The Buda Public Library, nestled in the heart of downtown Buda, is part of a rapidly growing community. Buda's most recent city population estimate is almost 12,000. The most recent estimate for the 78610 zip code is 23,502. In five years, Buda's city population is estimated to be 19,443 with the 78610 zip code increasing to 44,654. As the City of Buda grows, so does the need for quality services. In November of 2014 the citizenry of Buda voted in favor of a municipal bond that will fund a new state-of-the-art library designed to meet the needs of an expanding community. The Buda Public Library strives to provide resources and services that enhance and enrich the citizenry of Buda. We also value our part in promoting literacy by providing quality programs and materials for the youth of our community.

This five year strategic plan looks specifically at the services the Library currently offers to the youth of our community and the services patrons would like to see offered. It also considers the staff required to manage youth services effectively. Early in the process, we solicited community input by asking patrons to complete a survey. There were 280 responses that provided valuable data to analyze. We also looked at libraries that either serve a comparable population of where we see ourselves in the next 5 years or offer youth services that we find inspirational.

CURRENT YOUTH SERVICES

General Library Services

Books – print and digital	Magazines
Audio books – in library and downloadable	Readers’ advisory
Databases	Public computers

Weekly Programs

Toddler Storytime	Preschool Storytime
Family Storytime (evening)	Homeschool Storytime
Homeschool Teen Group (teens and tweens)	Bilingual Storytime

Special Events

Valentines and Holiday Extravaganzas	Dia de los Niños
Boo-da Halloween	Teen Tech Week
International Game Day	

Summer Programs

Summer Kick-off Celebration	Teen Kick-off Party
Summer Reading Club (newborns through high school)	
At least 6 age-specific enrichment programs per week	
Various special programs	Reading Club Award Ceremonies (3)

During fiscal year 2013-2014 the Buda Public Library offered 273 youth programs and attracted 9,863 attendees. Many of these events provide volunteer opportunities for high school students, as they facilitate craft stations and assist staff with preparing craft materials. The Buda Public Library offers many programs considering its staff and building size.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM SURVEY

The survey results clearly show that the community would like the library to continue providing quality youth programming and would like us to begin offering additional programming to students, especially kindergarten through fifth grade students and middle school students. Programs suggested were:

- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) focused activities
- Book clubs
- Arts and crafts
- Volunteer opportunities for teens

The ultimate goal is to have weekly activities for each age group, toddlers through middle school students. These goals and objectives will start the library in moving to achieve this.

PRIMARY PROGRAMMING GOALS

Goal: Youth will have access to activities which will aid in their literary development.

Objectives:

- Third through fifth grade students will have a monthly book club beginning June 2016.
- Sixth through eighth grade students will have a monthly book club beginning June 2016.
- Ninth through twelfth grade students will have a summer book club beginning June of 2016.

Goal: Youth will have access to activities which promote an interest and understanding in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

Objectives:

- Three through five year old children will have a monthly STEM storytime by September 2016.
- Kindergarten through second grade students will be offered 5 STEM programs per year beginning September 2017.
- Third through fifth grade students will be offered 5 STEM programs per year beginning September 2018.
- Sixth through twelfth grade students will be offered 3 STEM programs per year by September 2019.

Goal: Students will have access to activities which will aid in their creative development.

Objectives:

- Kindergarten through second grade students will be offered 5 arts and crafts programs per year September 2016.
- Third through fifth grade students will be offered 5 arts and crafts programs per year beginning September 2016.
- Sixth through eighth grade students will be offered 3 arts and crafts programs per year by September 2018.

Goal: Teens will have opportunities to develop leadership skills

Objectives:

- Create a Teen Advisory Board that meets once per month to discuss teen initiatives beginning fiscal year 2018.
- Strengthen relationships with local high schools to promote volunteer opportunities beginning fiscal year 2017.
- Develop partnerships with high school honor students to plan and implement special programming for elementary and middle school students beginning fiscal year 2019.

CURRENT STAFFING

The Buda Public Library currently has five full time employees and one part time employee:

- Library Director
- Assistant Director/Children's Librarian
- Administrative Assistant
- Circulation Coordinator
- Circulation Clerk
- Circulation Clerk (part time)

The Assistant Director/Children's Librarian is devoted nearly full-time to program development and implementation. Two staff members plan and present programs weekly. An additional two staff members plan and present several programs yearly.

STRATEGIC STAFFING

Developing a workforce of energetic individuals who enjoy working with youth ensures that the library's youth service goals become reality, and that the youth of our community will have an opportunity to attend educational and creative programs at the Buda Public Library.

Goal: Manage and expand the library's youth services workforce to focus on the need to align staffing with the goals and objectives of youth services.

Objectives:

- Assistant Director will begin to delegate the number of programs personally presented and will assume more of a supervisory role in managing youth services.
- Hire a full time, well-qualified and high performing Youth Coordinator whose primary responsibility is to plan and implement programs for elementary aged children and teens.
- Hire two additional full-time library assistants to assist with the planning and implementation of programs and other library services.

CONCLUSION

Over the next five years, the Buda Public Library will see many exciting and positives changes as we move forward into our new spacious facility. One constant will be the need for the Library to continue to provide educational programs and dynamic services for the youth of our community that are in line with the Library's goals and the community's expectations. Growing an educated and high performing workforce will ensure that the library continues to be a place where our youth can explore and experience lifelong learning opportunities.

Recommended for approval by the Library Commission on May 14th, 2015
Approved by City Council on June 2nd, 2015

ADDENDA

CURRENT PROGRAMS DESCRIPTIONS

Providing high quality service to youth of all ages remains a high priority of the Buda Public Library. Services include: an up-to-date collection of reading materials including print, e-books, magazines, audiobooks, and e-audiobooks, storytimes, summer reading book clubs, youth programs, reader's advisory, homework help databases, and public computers.

Currently we offer year-round weekly storytimes for toddlers (18 months-36 months), preschoolers (3-5 year old children), including an evening Family Storytime offered to families of toddlers and preschoolers. Recently the library added a preschool bilingual storytime that meets once a week. During the school year, the library also offers two weekly homeschool programs: one geared toward early elementary students and the other with a tween/teen focus.

During the school year, the library hosts two holiday-themed craft days for 8-11 year old children and a fun multicultural program called Dia de los Niños which celebrates children, books, and diversity in action. We also coordinate our efforts with Buda's Parks Department to host a city-wide Halloween event which brings over 2000 people to downtown Buda. All of these events provide volunteer opportunities for high school students, as they facilitate craft stations and assist staff with preparing craft materials. Also for tweens and teens, the library offers Teen Tech Week activities and other volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

To jump start the library's summer programming, in early June, the library hosts an annual Summer Kick-off Celebration which is enjoyed by more than 300 people. Train rides, craft booths, face painting and more bring smiles to the many participants. Also during the summer, children of all ages come to the library to participate in our age-specific programs. The summer reading program is open to all youth, from babies to teens. The library offers age-specific enrichment programs Monday through Thursday for kindergarteners through high school students, which aim to keep youth engaged during the summer break.

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

Five libraries were selected for our analysis, either because they provide services for a community the size we expect our library to be serving in 5 years, or because they offer exemplary youth services. The information summarized below came from a personal interview with either the Director or Children's Librarian of each library, their website, and the Texas State Library 2013 Annual Report.

The Boerne Public Library serves a population of 21,183 and offers youth services in a 30,250 square foot building. In 2013 they offered over 300 children's programs and over 200 young adult programs. As gleaned from their website, these are the programs Boerne offers their community:

- WeePlay for prewalkers - 2 times per week
- Preschool Storytime - 2 times per week
- Read to Me Book Club for 1st-3rd graders
- Page Turners Book Club for 4th-5th graders

- Paws 4 Reading - 1st Saturday of the month for young readers
- Teen programs offered throughout the year
- Teen Advisory Board meeting once per month

They have fifteen full time employees including four who primarily work with youth; a children's librarian, a young adult librarian, and two library assistants. They also have an area teacher come in once a month to present a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program to elementary students.

Kyle Public Library serves a population of 40,476, and offers youth services in a 20,000 square foot building. In 2013 they offered over 100 children's programs and a little over 10 young adult programs. The programs they offer include:

- Preschool Storytime
- Lapsit for 0-18 month olds
- Baby Sign & Play for 0-5 year olds
- Lego Club for 1st graders & up – once per month
- After School Crafting for 5-10 year olds
- Teen Advocacy Group for 12-17 year olds
- Talk it Up! Book Club for 10-14 year olds

They have nine full time and two part time employees with mostly everyone helping out with programming. The director has assigned one staff member to primarily work with infants, another to work with toddlers, one for preschoolers, and another for tweens/teens. Her assistant director trains and oversees the programming team and presents a few programs.

Dripping Springs serves a population of 32,323, and offers youth services in a 9,220 square foot building which they are quickly outgrowing. In 2013 they offered 163 children's programs and 14 young adult programs. The programs they offer include:

- Chess Club for various ages and all skill levels
- Preschool Storytimes
- Toddler Storytime
- Lapsit Storytime
- Teen Time – once per month

They have six full time and four part time employees which include a full time children's librarian and a library assistant who is responsible for their young adult programming as well as some adult programming.

Pflugerville Public Library serves a population of 51,894 and offers youth services in a 28,000 square foot building. In 2013 they offered a little over 200 children's programs and about 30 young adult programs. The programs they offer include:

- Baby Time Mondays for 3-18 month olds
- Bilingual Storytime Mondays
- Toddler Storytime Tuesdays
- Preschool Storytime Thursdays
- Paws & Read for 6-7 year olds or K-2nd graders to read to dogs
- Tweens Lego Club the 1st Tuesday of month
- Paperback Pirates Book Club for 8-12 year olds

- Kids Club Thursdays for 5-8 year olds

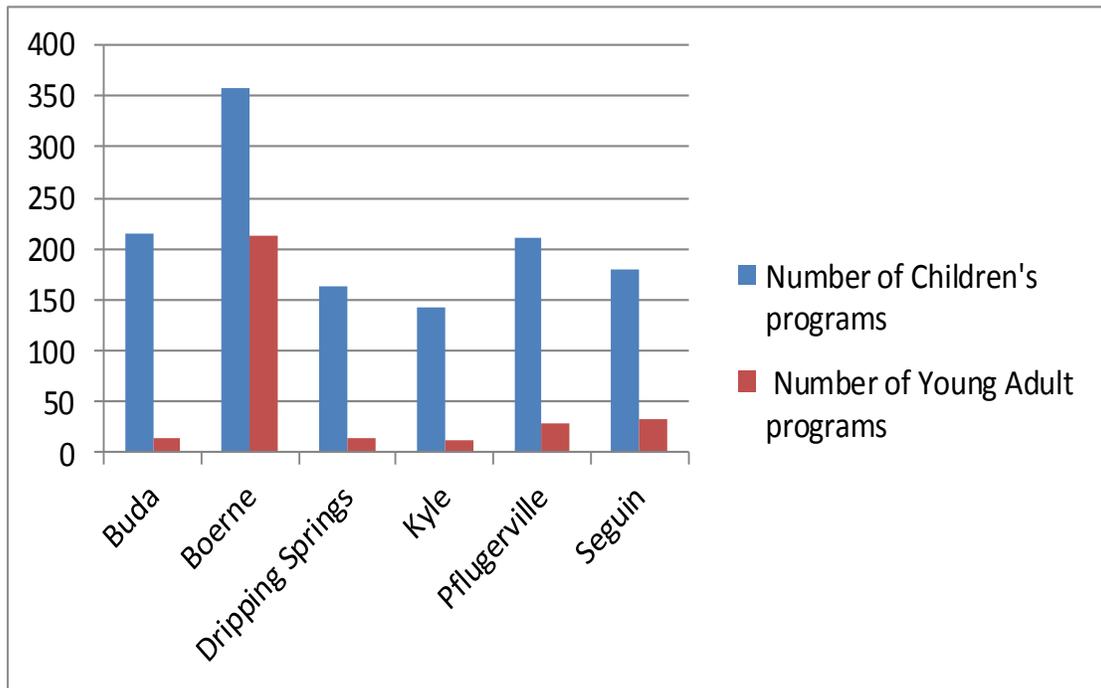
They have fourteen full time and eight part time employees. Four, plus the assistant director, make up the program team which includes a youth librarian who works primarily with their teens. The assistant director oversees and monitors the program team.

Seguin Public Library serves a population of 39,609 and offers youth services in a 15,000 square foot building, although, they will be moving soon into their new library. In 2013 they offered 180 children’s programs and 32 young adult programs. The programs they offer include:

- Kids Discover (STEM related) – once per month
- Crafty Kids for 4th-5th graders – once per month
- Toddler Time Tuesdays for 18-36 months olds
- Movie Time – once per month
- Homeschool Hangout – once per month for children, tweens, and teens
- Preschool Storytime

They have ten full time employees including a children’s librarian who is responsible for planning and implementing programs for the youth of their community. The staff assists with preparing materials for the programs.

**Youth Programs Offered
Based on Texas State Library 2013 Annual Report**



SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

Question 1 (269 responded 11 skipped): Which of the groups below would you like to see more programs for at the library? Check all that apply.

A good majority (63.5 % - 171 respondents) would like more programs planned for K-5. Many would also like to see more programs offered for 6th-8th grade students. (49.4% - 133 respondents)

Question 2 (231 responded 49 skipped): What programs would you like to see the library continue to offer or begin offering for children (infant-Pre-K) at the library? Check all that apply.

Preschool Storytime received an overwhelming thumbs-up (68.83% - 159 respondents), but almost as many respondents want us to begin offering Preschool Science (67.10% - 155 respondents). Toddler Storytime remains popular with 56.71% (131 respondents) wanting us to continue offering Toddler Storytime. Bilingual Storytime and Lapsit received 38% (88 respondents) and 35% (83 respondents) respectively.

Question 3 (267 responded 13 skipped): What programs would you like to see the library continue to offer or begin offering for elementary students at the library? Check all that apply.

The majority of respondents want us to continue offering the Summer Reading Club (75.66%). They also want us to begin offering after school science club (60.3%), after school crafting (50.19%), book club (59.93%), and homework help (50.94%).

Question 4 (258 responded 22 skipped): What programs would you like to see the library offer or begin offering for middle school students at the library? Check all that apply.

Once again, a majority of the respondents like the Summer Reading Club (65.89% - 170 respondents), but almost as many respondents want us to begin offering book club (65.12%), technology classes (63.95%), and homework help (58.53%). Chess club, games, crafting, and knitting club all had over 35% respondents in favor of the library offering such programs.

Question 5 (244 responded 36 skipped): What programs would you like to see the library continue to offer or begin offering for high school students at the library? Check all that apply.

The majority of respondents want the library to provide opportunities for Teens to volunteer (86.48% -211 respondents). They also would like to see technology classes (69.26% - 169 respondents) offered, as well as hosting book clubs (66.80% - 163 respondents). Over half of the respondents want us to continue offering the Summer Reading Club (62.70% - 153 respondents). Art classes and a Teen Advisory Board each received 50%

Question 6 (270 responded 10 skipped): How do you typically find out about programs offered by the library? Check all that apply.

Most of the respondents learn about our programs by visiting our website (57.78%). Word of mouth and flyers in the library were the next mode of discovering our programs. (37.78% and 31.85%)

Question 7 (277 responded 3 skipped): Do you have any children or grandchildren under 18 who participate in any of the library's programs?

Most of the respondents have children or grandchildren that participate in the library's programs. (62.09%)

Question 8 (278 responded 2 skipped): What is your age?

The majority of the respondents fall into the 30-49 age group.