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BEE CAVE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL
REPORT

2025

Director's Report 2025

2025 began on a high note with the late-2024 decision of the City Council to move the site of the proposed new library to the Skaggs property from its original location on the Revival tract. The open, flat Skaggs property, off Bee Cave Parkway, offers an ideal location for a library, away from the traffic noise and congestion of SH 71. The year ended disappointingly when voters approved the use of Skaggs for a new library by a healthy margin, but failed to approve the \$19.9M bond, the first in the City's history, by a similar margin.

The library's need for more space has been a concern for many years. The City hired consultants to study the library's space needs in 2013-14 and concluded that the library needed at least 11,000 SF to maintain the levels of service it was already providing in the 4,200 SF footprint it still occupies today. After considering the space needs of all city departments and looking at potential costs to remodel City Hall, no action was taken to give the library more space. In the decade that followed, the population of Bee Cave and the surrounding area continued to grow, and the library adapted as best it could: by juggling program schedules to accommodate competing needs for the community rooms, by carving offices out of storage areas, and by making creative use of the atrium, council chambers, the plaza, and more. Requests from the public for more storytimes, more adult programs, more book clubs, and more speakers were turned down because that would require more program space and more staff. Requests for larger collections and additional seating prompted a makeover and reconfiguration in 2017 that added mobile shelving, smaller service desks, and additional tables and chairs, maximizing the use of all existing floor space with no further room to grow. Ongoing requests for quiet reading rooms and private study spaces have to be turned down with no way to provide those in the current library. While library staff have developed creative solutions for some of the challenges in the current space, the list of unmet community needs continues to grow.

As I write this report with my retirement from the library just days away, I want to stress how proud Bee Cave should be of its "small but mighty" library. It really is a gem, thanks to an incredible team of dedicated employees who do their very best, often under challenging conditions, to serve this community. I hope the City Council will have confidence in their original proposal to build a new library and find a way to make it happen. The problems the library faces will not fade away; the pressing need for more space will not disappear. The City of Bee Cave is an outstanding place to live and work, and the library is an important part of a healthy civic ecosystem. With a larger, stand-alone space, the Bee Cave Public Library can address the needs of a growing community, evolve with the changing times, and add to the quality of life in this unique and beautiful city.



Thank you for the opportunity to be a small part of the Bee Cave Public Library since the beginning. I look forward to seeing what the future holds.

~Barbara Hathaway, Library Director

Annual Statistics

2025 By The Numbers

Visits

75,000 Visitors

Programs

251 Programs for All Ages

Program Attendance

14,500 Attended Programs

Checkouts

68,700 Physical Items Circulated

44,200 Digital Items Checked Out

***Digital checkouts increased by 15%** in 2025 as the library experimented with ways to reduce the wait time for popular items.*



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.

Library Staff & Operations

Assistant Director Gretchen Hardin continued to learn more about the responsibilities of the library director and became actively involved in the budget process for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Collections and Technical Services Director Megan Fischer oversaw the completion of an RFID-tagging project approved in the FY 2024-25 budget. Megan, Library Assistant Jennifer Vickery, and others added RFID tags to the 30,000 physical items in the library collection, linking them to the catalog records and barcodes to allow for eventual self-checkout by library patrons. Megan completed an inventory of the entire collection for the first time since 2020 using the RFID Wand, which allowed her to scan large numbers of books in a short period of time, and to identify items that were misshelved or missing from the collection. Purchase of a self-check kiosk was included in the FY 25-26 budget. The library also added Online Borrower Registration to streamline the process of applying for a library card.

Part-time Public Services Librarian Terry Lewis retired in August after eleven years of service to the Bee Cave community. Terry pioneered the Baby Bumblebees infant storytime program, coordinated our local author fair for years, and worked on many other programs, including Book Buzz, Bee Creative, and Summer Reading Program initiatives like Choose Your Own Adventure and others. Audra Israk joined the team as a part-time librarian in October.



Gretchen Hardin, Megan Fischer, and Samantha Wallace attended the 2025 Texas Library Association annual conference and met with Books and Bees Festival author, Katherine Center, second from left.



Terry Lewis retired after 11 years of service.

20th Anniversary Party

More than a thousand people came to the library on a Saturday in October to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Bee Cave Public Library. With balloons, cake, music, and a stunning backdrop, the community turned out to honor the contributions of the library to the life of the community for the past 20 years. In the weeks leading up to the celebration, the library posted old photos on social media and invited old-timers to share their memories of “the trailer,” the temporary building where the library got its start in 2005. Photos from past Summer Reading Programs and storytimes lined the walls. A special video created by the communications team showcased how the library builds a sense of community. Free shirts provided by A+ Federal Credit Union were a special treat for kids, and the Friends of the Library talked to the public about the upcoming bond election and the need for a new library. It was a joyous way to celebrate the first 20 years of the library.



New Library Planning

With the City Council having selected a different site for the new library late in 2024, library staff turned their attention in early 2025 to working closely with the Capital Improvements Plan Subcommittee and the Lake Flato Architecture team to scale down the design of the proposed library for the new site on the Skaggs property. The size of the building was reduced from 24,000 SF to 18,500 SF with a maximum cost of \$19.9 million, and language was drafted to put the project to the voters on the November 2025 ballot.

A public information session about the project was held at City Hall in mid-October, shortly before early voting opened. Proposition A asked voters to approve the use of the Skaggs property for the library, and Proposition B asked voters to approve the bond. While Prop A passed, Prop B did not. As of the time of this report, the future of the new library is unknown.

Library Collections

The library continues to maintain a robust collection of materials for all ages and interests, with a heavy focus on materials of popular interest. The collection, as a whole, is evenly split between materials for adults, accounting for 48% of titles, and those for children and teens, at 52% of the titles. Due to the constraints of the 4,200 SF space in the current library, the collection reached its maximum size of 30,000 items many years ago, and new material can only be added by a year-round process of “weeding,” removing items that are no longer circulating to make room for new materials.

Check-outs of physical items reached 68,000 in 2025.

The library’s digital collection is maintained through membership in the Central Texas Digital Consortium, giving patrons access to 90,000 items in the shared collection on OverDrive. The library also purchases some items for its OverDrive Advantage collection, which is only accessible to Bee Cave library cardholders. This helps keep the wait times lower for patrons, unlike the shared collection, where Bee Cave members are competing with members of the other 65 libraries in the consortium for popular titles.

Bee Cave patron usage of OverDrive was up nearly 15% in 2025 over the prior year at 44,200 downloads.

Other digital resources include the following databases:

- TexShare Databases covering homework help, health, business information, career development, and more
- Data Axle Reference Solutions for business research
- Mango Languages for language learning
- Ancestry Library Edition for genealogy research
- Access World News
- Parent TV, provided by Family Place Libraries
- TumbleBooks for children’s literature
- Comics Plus

News databases include:

- New York Times
- Wall Street Journal
- Austin American-Statesman (through Access World News)

OUR DIGITAL RESOURCES ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE

The New York Times
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Access World News

NewsBank
A WORLD OF INFORMATION

Libby

Parent TV

data axle
reference solutions

TumbleBookLibrary

MANGO
LANGUAGES

ACCESS VIDEO
ON DEMAND

JUST FOR KIDS
ACCESS VIDEO

COMICSPLUS
LIBRARY

Scan for all of our digital resources

Follow on Social Media

For more details, email us at library@beecavetexas.gov

BEE CAVE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Programming

14,500 people attended programs at Bee Cave Public Library in 2025.

For Adults

Bee Cave Book Club, monthly
Book Buzz, monthly
Bee Creative, 6 times a year
Lake Travis Reads, annually
Books and Bees Festival, annually
Puzzle Swap, bi-annually



For Teens

Teen Advisory Board, monthly
Teen service projects, 2-3 times a year
Summer Reading teen programs
Teen volunteering opportunities

- Merry Making Saturday
- Rolling Sculpture Car Show
- Books and Bees Festival
- Weekly shelving shifts

For Tweens

BeeTweens for grades 2-5, monthly
Lego Club for grades K-6, monthly
Summer Reading tween programs



For Children

Family Storytime, twice weekly
Baby Bumblebees Lapsit Storytime, weekly
Family Place Parenting Workshop (three 5-week sessions per year)
Summer Reading Programs, June-July

- Included programs for all ages such as the Bubble Party, Magic Show, Crafternoon, Reptile show, Dance Party, and more

Merry Making Saturday, annually
Spring Into Reading, annually



Books and Bees Festival 2025

The 4th annual Books and Bees Festival took place on April 11-12, to the delight of the community. The celebration of literacy and nature drew more than 3,500 people to enjoy author readings, book sales and signings, illustrator demonstrations, bee education, honey tasting, crafts, live music, and so much more. Sponsors gave out swag at their booths, children made crafts and posed for photos with costumed characters, conservation educators spread the word about protecting our pollinators, and our invited authors enjoyed spending time with each other before and after their individual talks. Dozens of teen and adult volunteers kept things running smoothly.



Friday night featured an “Evening with the Author” event at signature sponsor Keystone Bank’s beautiful community room, where readers mingled with best-selling author Katherine Center, who charmed the audience with tales of her writing process and more. Opening ceremonies for Saturday included welcoming remarks from Mayor Kara King, a performance by the Bee Cave Elementary Choir, and a sneak peek at the summer’s musical from Magnolia Musical Theatre. Most of Saturday’s activities took place in and around the plaza in front of the library, and at Barnes & Noble, where Bee Cave teens moderated the panel of young adult authors. At the conclusion of the author panels, a rollicking concert with children’s entertainer Joe McDermott ended the day. As the festival’s reputation grows, the festival plays a big role in bringing the community together.



Author Katherine Center speaking at Keystone Bank



Young Adult author panel led by Bee Cave teens at Barnes & Noble

Summer Reading Program

This year the library held its 20th annual Summer Reading Program, continuing the tradition of encouraging kids and their families to read for fun over the summer to maintain hard-won reading skills obtained during the school year. It was a busy summer with 231 kids logging 374,000 minutes, while 165 teens and adults read 2,400 books as part of the challenge.

The Friends of the Library provided free books and other prizes to reward the participants, adding to the excitement. For kids who read at least 250 minutes, the library continued its 20-year tradition of making a personal poster for each child and hanging one copy on the wall while they took a second copy home as a keepsake.

Every Saturday during the summer featured a family-friendly program for all ages, ranging from a bubble party on the lawn to a magic show or an afternoon of crafts, with a grand finale dance party joined by the cast of the Magnolia Theatre's SpongeBob production dancing in full costume with the kids. Other programs during the summer were geared to different ages and included tie-dyeing with teens, choose-your-own-adventure with tweens, and a drawing challenge with a professional illustrator who encouraged kids in grades K-5 to try their hand at illustrating their own stories.

400 kids, teens, and adults logged their reading during the summer using Beanstack.

2,000 people attended one of the 46 programs offered during June and July.



I love this library. You all played such a special role in our lives when the kids were little and gave them a great foundation to love books and reading.

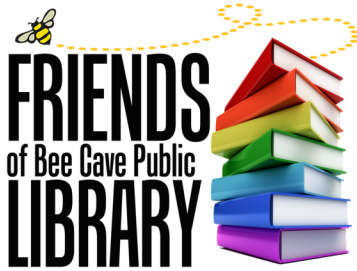
Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2024-35

Original Library Budget	\$1,239,884
Salaries and Benefits	\$1,035,753
Maintenance & Operations	\$ 192,775
Professional Services	\$ 11,356
Capital Outlay	\$ 0
FY 2024-2025 Actual	\$1,225,095

Fiscal Year 2025-26

Original Library Budget	\$1,337,557
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Friends of the Library

The Friends of Bee Cave Public Library continued its role of increasing community involvement in the library and supporting the library in its mission through fundraising, volunteering, and advocacy. During the lead-up to the bond election, Friends members answered questions, distributed fliers, and helped talk up the need for the new library in the community. The size of the group doubled to nearly 20 members over the course of the year, and new officers assumed leadership roles in 2025. The group raised \$17,000 through its annual fundraiser, the Rolling Sculpture Car Show, and generously donated funds to support the Books and Bees Festival, the Summer Reading Program, Teen Advisory Board service projects, and scholarships for graduating teen volunteers, among other things. The library is grateful to the Friends for their hard work on behalf of the entire community.





**BEE CAVE
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Bee Cave Public Library Organization Chart



City Manager
Julie Oakley



Library Director
Barbara Hathaway



Assistant Director
Gretchen Hardin



Circulation Manager
Rita Bauer



**Collections and Technical
Services Manager**
Megan Fischer



**Public Services
Manager**
Melissa Slaughter



**Youth Services
Librarian, PT**
Melissa Burke



**Public Services
Librarian, PT**
Audra Israk



**Public Services
Specialist**
Samantha Wallace



Library Assistant II
Teri Robertson



Library Assistant II
Stephanie Shelton



Library Assistant II
Angela Rovetto



Library Assistant II
Jennifer Vickery