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Dunbar Library Receives the Texas Library Association's 2018 Wayne Williams Library Project of the Year Award

AUSTIN –The Dunbar Library in San Angelo, Texas received the 2018 Wayne Williams Library Project of the Year Award, a top statewide honor from the Texas Library Association (TLA). The award recognizes a project that exemplifies the highest levels of achievement, professional standards, and inspiration to other libraries

The Dunbar Library was the only library that served the African-American community from 1932 – 1972. When efforts toward integration came to San Angelo in the 1980s, it was sold to the North-Northwest Lion's Club. In 2017, through the efforts of interested citizens, the Lion's Club, thousands of hours of labor, grants and donations, the library was renovated in 12 months, and celebrated its grand re-opening as a library in September of that year.

The purpose of the restoration was to bring to life a historical site that would educate the entire San Angelo community about the years of segregation in the city, and Black History and Civil Rights in the United States. With the efforts of a core group of six people and the enthusiasm of a community, the Dunbar Library is the only building connected with the African American heritage of San Angelo that has not been torn down or converted for other use. The Dunbar Library collection includes many original books from 1932 to 1972 which can be browsed in house and adult fiction, juvenile fiction, non-fiction, children's picture books and DVDs that can be checked out. In addition, the space provides Wi-Fi, meeting space for local clubs and groups, as well as several displays on the history of the community and Civil Rights.

Dunbar Library and its supporters brought to life a time period and a history that were at risk of vanishing, and its restoration of services and the building itself gives the community of San Angelo a place to remember and learn. This prestigious award was presented on April 4, during the TLA Annual Conference in Dallas.

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About the Texas Library Association

TLA is the largest state library association in the United States with almost 6,500 members who work in public, school, academic, and special libraries. TLA offers a wide range of services, including advocacy, continuing education, research, and public relations. www.txla.org