



Rosenberg Library
History Center & Museum

2025 ANNUAL
REPORT



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Message from the President and Executive Director

The year 2025 proved to be another exceptional year for the Rosenberg Library. Through the expansion of our program offerings, the revitalization of museum spaces, and continued enhancements to the visitor experience, we remained steadfast in our mission to serve the community while preserving the island's distinctive history and character.

Throughout the year, we celebrated numerous accomplishments, including:

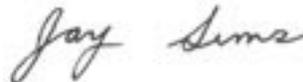
- The launch of *Weathering the Storm*, commemorating the 160th anniversary of Juneteenth
- The introduction of *The Great Storm* film and its new permanent home at the Rosenberg Library, along with a refreshed *Great Storm of 1900* exhibit
- The welcoming of hundreds of visitors for special film screenings marking the storm's 125th anniversary
- The celebration of the Port of Galveston's 200th anniversary during National Maritime Day
- Hosting acclaimed children's author and illustrator Jason Chin and featuring his *Your Place in the Universe* traveling exhibit throughout the summer
- Presenting meaningful and thought-provoking programming through the Rosenberg Library Museum and the Galveston & Texas History Center
- Being recognized in the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's *Lone Star Libraries* series, which highlights outstanding libraries across Texas
- The launch of new digital assistance appointments through our Adult Services Department
- And many additional initiatives that strengthened our connection with the community

Looking ahead to 2026, we are focused on modernizing our facilities through a comprehensive audiovisual upgrade and enhancing the technology infrastructure across our public meeting spaces. These improvements will elevate the quality of our programming and events, ensuring they are more engaging, accessible, and impactful for all who visit.

We are deeply grateful for the continued support of our Board of Directors and Trustees, our donors, our partners, and our community members. We look forward to a productive year ahead and to further strengthening the Rosenberg Library's role as a vital resource at the heart of our island community.



Dancie Ware
President, Rosenberg Library Board of Directors



Jay Sims
Interim Executive Director, Rosenberg Library



Dancie Perugini Ware, President



Jay Sims, Interim Executive Director

Message from the Friends of Rosenberg Library

Friends of Rosenberg Library’s Mission statement is to support and promote Rosenberg Library as a cultural and educational asset and to raise money for books, equipment and related materials for the library.

Every year Friends of Rosenberg Library has a new and exciting adventure as we volunteer to promote and provide resources for the library. This year has been no different. We have received several large book donations from estates, which have provided books for us to sell or to share with our community.

Our volunteers spend hundreds of hours processing books in the book room, listing books for sale on Amazon, selling books at the Farmers Market, offering books for sale to Friends membership online, replenishing books in the Friends Bookshop, promoting Friends memberships, working at the annual book sale and reaching out to others with books through our outreach program.

Thanks to a great group of volunteers who make it possible for us to fulfill our mission. Our contributions would not be possible without the support of our library staff and the Rosenberg Library Trustees, Directors and Administration.

Helena Aucoin
President
Friends of Rosenberg Library

Friends’ Gifts to the Library in 2025:

Book Sales & Membership: \$50,495.72

Children’s Programs: \$5,500

Galveston Reads: \$2,000

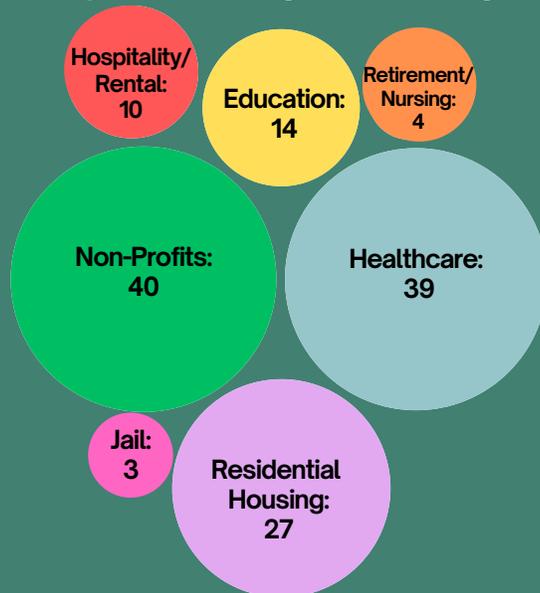
Staff Support: \$1,804.26

**Total
 Donations to
 Rosenberg
 Library in
 2025:
 \$59,799.98**



Pictured: Friends of Rosenberg Library Board President, Helena Aucoin; and Secretary, Happy Spillar.

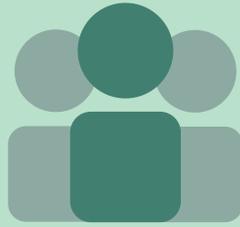
The Friends’ outreach team gave away 236 boxes of books last year, including the following:



Highlights: 2025 by the Numbers

221,905

Visitors



48,760

reference transactions

263,248

items checked out

512,851

Rosenberg website visits

PROGRAMS

EXTENSION SERVICES

ONSITE PROGRAMS

730 sessions

23,036 attendance

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

83 sessions

4,461 attendance

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

59 sessions

401 attendance

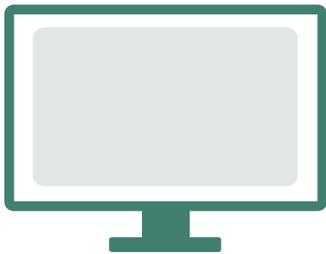


10,587 items delivered

676 homebound visits

COMPUTER USE

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



34,943 public computer sessions

43,431 wi-fi sessions



333 linear feet of archival collections processed



17 collections added



14,657 items digitized

DATABASE USAGE

MEETING ROOMS

343,372 total database uses



Database use

GTHC Digital views



1,513 reservations

16,890 attendance

Highlights: Circulation and Customer Experience



Achievements:

- We celebrated our third year of partnership with Excel High School and congratulated **four graduates** who earned their diploma this year! (Nine total have graduated throughout our Excel High/Rosenberg partnership history.)
- Our **Adult Anime Club**, one of the Rosenberg Library's longest-running reading/cinema clubs, celebrated its seven-year anniversary!
- We **completed 20 outreaches** in 2025, making sure as many community members as possible - from the West End all the way to the Galveston-Port Bolivar Ferry - learned about the great resources the library has to offer.
- We circulated **322 free hotspots** in 2025 - the library's most circulated single item!
- The circulation team welcomed **5,925 new card holders** this year - a more than 20 percent increase compared to 2024 library card sign-ups.

Highlights: Children's Department



Achievements:

- We partnered with the Southwest Regional Puppets to sponsor their Puppetry Festival in November (2024) and it was an energizing, creative endeavor! All ages, abilities, and skill levels were included. The Historic Puppetry Exhibit was in the Grand Hall. First graders from Galveston ISD's Oppe Elementary attended daytime puppet shows. The event also included hands-on workshops, lectures, and puppet shows.
- Our **Harry Potter Night of Wizardry** continues to explode with family happiness! Literally every library area both inside and out is utilized and community partners help create the magic. The event has occurred annually since 2017, skipping 2020 and venturing to include outdoor space in 2021. It expanded to include other departments in 2024.
- **Growing readers** is our mission. A rock-solid book collection is the foundation. We include reading challenges (summer reading challenge and Season's Readings) to encourage and motivate, and programming for all ages and abilities to promote curiosity. We featured two author visits this year.
- Your Rosenberg Library Children's Department puts the public first! We take all opportunities to partner with community organizations (**34 this year!**) and actively seek out new opportunities to provide the most powerful experiences for patrons. We greet and reach out to every single person who comes into our department.
- Our **Jason Chin Collaboration** paid dividends. Through the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature (NCCIL) in Abilene, the Jason Chin traveling exhibit was displayed on the second floor. Our department also participated in ArtWalk, planned several accompanying programs to coincide with the exhibit featuring art, science and literature, and arranged for an author visit at no cost to the library.

Highlights: Adult Services



Achievements:

- **Computer Lab Librarian:** The creation and addition of the Computer Lab Librarian role strengthened daily technology support and digital-literacy services, ensuring consistent access to computing resources and improving patron success with essential online tasks.
- **Día de Muertos Altar:** The interdepartmental project of creating a Día de Muertos altar expanded cultural programming by honoring community traditions while increasing visibility and patron engagement within the library.
- **Texas Book Festival Grant:** Our department secured a Texas Book Festival Grant that funded the updating and addition of high-quality, Spanish-language materials to the Adult materials collection.
- **Computer Lab – Quick Print & Spanish Language Interface:** The addition of Quick Print services and a Spanish-language computer interface reduced access barriers for Spanish-speaking patrons and streamlined high-demand computer lab services.
- **Teen SRP Intern:** The Teen Summer Reading Program intern initiative provided the opportunity for one teen intern to increase workforce skills while expanding program capacity and strengthening teen engagement during the library's busiest season, funded by a grant from the Mary Moody Northern Endowment.

Highlights: Galveston & Texas History Center



Achievements:

- Our Museum Curator, Rachel Hooper, created and mounted exhibits.
- The Jason Chin summer exhibit featured original artwork from children's author and illustrator Jason Chin. Our **Weathering the Storm** exhibit told the story of African Americans living on Galveston Island from June 19, 1865, through the Jim Crow era.
- The Digital Collections software, **Recollect** was installed and digital collections were uploaded.
- **The 1900 Storm film** was installed to great acclaim in September for the 125th anniversary of the 1900 Storm. Within the first month, local 5th, 6th, and 7th graders visited the library to view the film.
- **Katelyn Landry-Carranza** joined the GTHC team in August. She graduated from New York University with her master's in archives and public history in May 2025 and completed her bachelor's in history and anthropology at Rice University in 2022.
- The Special Collections Manager, Gerianne Schaad, wrote and received an **Institute of Museum and Library Services** grant through the Texas State Library and Archives to digitize 10 more years of the *Galveston Tribune*. Issues will be uploaded to the Portal to Texas History where they will join issues from 1887 to 1922.

GTHC: Donations and Purchases

DONATIONS

- **Galveston and Texas City 1915 Storm postcards**; donated by anonymous
- **Dominican High School Alumnae records, 1924-2025**; donated by Patty Allen for Dominican High School Alumnae
- **Holy Rosary Catholic Church collection, 30 March - 23 April 2025**; donated by Thomasine Allen
- **Yearbooks from O'Connell High School, 1969, 1971, 1972**; donated by Lisa M. Campo
- **Glennig family photographs and documents circa 1910s-1930s**; donated by Carol Carlson
- **City of Galveston 1900 Storm Committees meetings logbook, 9-14 September 1900**; donated by City of Galveston
- **Galveston snowstorm photographs, 21 January 2025**; donated by Kaitlen Eckmann
- **Edwin Nesbitt Ketchum letters, 1863 and 1913-1916**; donated by Richard Eisenhour
- **Galveston photographs and postcard, 1914, 1925, 1940**; donated by Richard Eisenhour
- **Beta Study Club minutes, 2023-2024**; donated by Eleanor Grant
- **Galveston Academic Excellence Booster Club, 2023-2024**; donated by Shelley Kessler
- **Galveston Ministerial Alliance minutes, 2017-2024**; donated by Peter Kessler for Galveston Ministerial Alliance
- **Lisa Bell McGonigle Papers, 1985-2020**; donated by Lisa Bell McGonigle
- **Galveston snowstorm photograph, 21 January 2025**; donated by Mike Miller
- **1900 Storm Movie, circa 1990s**; donated by Mitchell Historic Properties Inc.
- **Galveston snowstorm photograph, 21 January 2025**; donated by Shannan Pfeiffer
- **Marsha Wilson Rappaport collection, 1990-2000**; donated by Marsha Wilson Rappaport
- **1315 21st Street interior video circa 1990s**; donated by Denise Sandoval
- **Galveston snowstorm photographs, 21-22 January 2025**; donated by Gerrienne Schaad
- **Construction files for rehab of Letitia Rosenberg Women's Home, 1992-1996**; donated by Gayle Weber Strange
- **Stavenhagen and Weber family collection, 1903-2024**; donated by Gayle Weber Strange
- **Letitia Rosenberg Women's Home reconstruction photographs, 1992-1994**; donated by Gayle Weber Strange

PURCHASES

- **Union blockade collection, 1861-1880s**
- **Post-Storm of 1900 military photographs**
- **Report on correspondence with the government of Mexico, 14 May 1836**
- **Grand Army of the Republic letter 24 September 1900**
- **Tate family letters, 1852-1856**
- **Storm of 1900 stereographs**
- **"Mexique Antilles et Californie" and "Mexico and West Indies" (2 maps); circa 1840 + 1860**
- **An Act of Parliament Effecting a Treaty between Great Britain and the Republic of Texas for the Suppression of the African Slave Trade pamphlet, 1843**

Museum: Donations and Purchases

DONATIONS

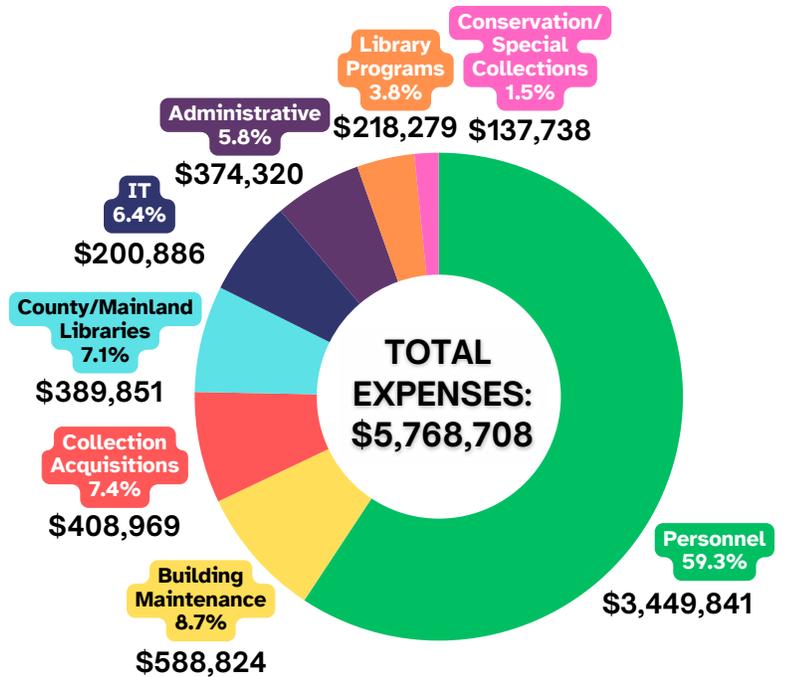
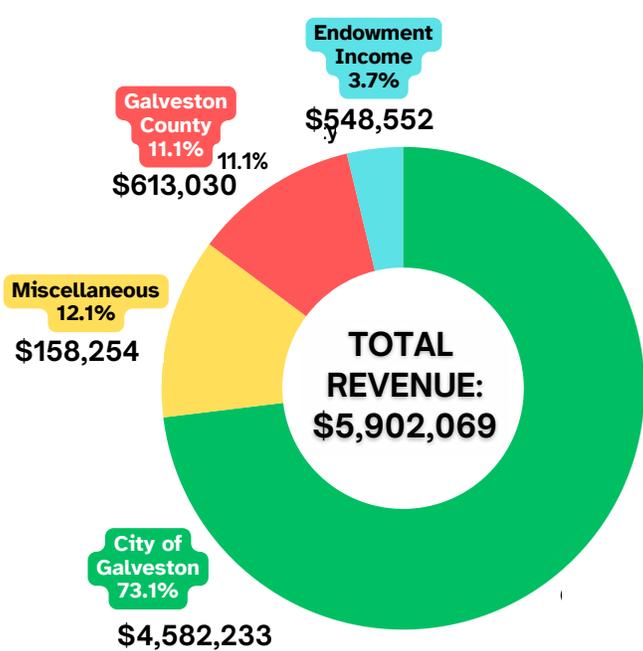
- **First National Bank coin banks and money clip and Nathan's department store beaded purse, 20th century;** donated by Toni & Harry McCoy
- **Knight of Regina Mardi Gras posters, 1989-1992;** donated by Leslie Loughhead
- **Silver bowl from the Buccaneer Hotel, 1929-1962;** donated by Marlene Rubin
- **Jane Allensworth acrylic painting, "Red Waters Running," 1994;** donated by the Coggeshall Family
- **Ralph L. Stuart prints of Galveston buildings, 1970s;** donated by Sally Meyer Brannen
- **Mardi Gras, Ball High School, and 1900 Storm 100th anniversary memorabilia, late 20th century – early 21st century;** donated by Marsha Wilson Rappaport
- **Eddie J. Filer, Jr. oil painting of James Baldwin, 2022;** donated by Samuel L. and Doris Collins, III
- **Set of drafting tools used in the Battle of Galveston, c. 1863;** donated by Don Whitehurst
- **Salvaged items from the Letitia Rosenberg Women's Home, 1895-1992;** donated by Gayle Weber Strange
- **Victorian garden edging tiles from Galveston homes, 1880s;** donated by Richard Eisenhour
- **Two detachable shirt collars;** donated by Charles Shelton
- **Toy disappearing coast defense gun, 1930s;** donated by William Hill
- **Sacred Heart commemorative plate, East End Historic District flag, and 1980 Erni Cabat watercolor painting of Bishop's Palace;** donated by Erica Stepchinski

PURCHASES

- **Triple XXX Cola sign, 1930s.**
- **Lisette McClung oil painting. "Moonlight at the Martini," 2025. *McGivney Award**



Finances



***\$263,766 IN DONATIONS**

*Most donations are part of the library's Building Fund. This fund is used for capital expenses. These are not reflected in the Total Revenue graph. All numbers reflect Fiscal Year 2024-2025 numbers.

21st Century Giving

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If any errors or omissions have occurred, please accept our apology and notify the Administration office at (409) 763-8854, ext. 121 or admin@rosenberg-library.org.



Mission

The Rosenberg Library will enhance and enrich the quality of life for every member of the Galveston community as a major center for culture, learning, and creativity.

Directors

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- Fred D. Raschke, Vice President
- Douglas G. Rogers, Treasurer
- Billie Hoskins, Secretary
- Eugene Hornstein, Assistant Secretary
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