

# Walking Tour:

## Treasures at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Dallas Public Library

### The Building



The J. Erik Jonsson Central Library opened in April of 1982. Designed by Fisher and Spillman Architects, Inc., the building compliments the inverted structure of City Hall directly across the street.

With eight subject-specialty floors, it is one of the largest public library facilities in the nation.

### 1st floor Central Downtown Branch



**Top:** *Textured Screen* by Bertoia

**Right:** *Square Form with Circles* by Barbara Hepworth



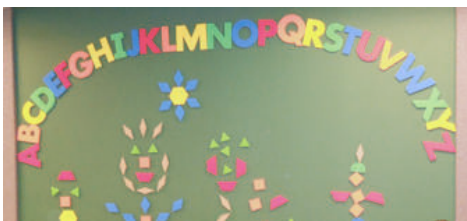
Several of the library's treasures are on display in the concourse, including the 1900 cornerstone from the library's first building, built with funding from Andrew Carnegie.

Hanging up high is Harry Bertoia's *Textured Screen*. Commissioned in 1955, its initial placement in the library created a controversy among those who felt it was too modern and should not have been purchased with tax-payer dollars. After the piece had been removed, architect George Dahl and a group of citizens responded by paying for the piece privately so that it could be restored.

Nearby you'll find Barbara Hepworth's *Square Form with Circles*, a 1963 bronze sculpture created by the famed artist and donated by Lillian Clark, and David W. McCullough's mixed media piece *Mantra "Topsy Turvy"*. You'll also find several exhibit cases filled with items from the collections upstairs.

**On this floor:** Current Collection (fiction and non-fiction) · DVDs · Audiobooks · Sports Collection

### 2nd floor Children's Center



**Above:** *Magnetic poetry and art wall*

Recently renovated, the Children's Center offers a colorful splash of activity and artwork for children.

Features include a Discovery Wall where groups of students can meet children from around the world in a virtual environment, magnetic poetry walls, and craft tables.

Because the floor is still undergoing partial renovation, not all artwork is currently on display. Artwork will eventually include a large-scale model of a *Viking Ship Drakkar* donated in memory of J. Erik Jonsson, a dollhouse collection, and Robert Rauschenberg's 1971 piece, *Star Quarters I-IV*

**On this floor:** Children's Books, DVDs, & Audiobooks · Historic Children's Collection

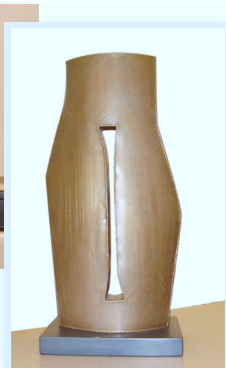
# Treasures at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Dallas Public Library

## 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Humanities



**Top:** *Morning News* by Marinsky

**Right:** *Untitled* by Charles T. Williams



Once you're on the 3rd floor, take a few moments to look at the display cases near the elevators and the photographs hanging on the wall. Treasures from the Humanities Division and works by local artists are often on display.

After you've had a chance to explore, wander back to the Newspaper Room and check out Harry Marinsky's *Morning News*, a 1979 bronze sculpture donated by Mr. and Mrs. Trammell Crow.

Back to the stacks: amongst books in the middle of the floor, you'll find an untitled 1964 copper sculpture by Fort Worth artist Charles T. Williams and the nearby Poetry Pillar - an interactive place to write what's on your mind.

**On this floor:** Literature • Religion • Philosophy • Languages • Journalism & Writing

## 4<sup>th</sup> floor Fine Arts



**Top:** *Margo Jones* by Raiberto Comini

**Right:** *Music Stand* by Frank Lloyd Wright



The ultimate place for art lovers, the 4th floor is filled with artistic masterpieces, starting with the display cases by the elevators and the surrounding art hanging on the walls.

While you're exploring, you may notice a large wooden sculpture. Presented to the library in 1956, this piece is actually a music stand for four designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Nearby, you'll find Raiberto Comini's hand-painted photograph of Margo Jones, a vivacious local playwright who helped put Dallas on the map for regional theater. The library also houses her manuscript collection.

Before heading to the fifth floor, take some time to walk around and check out *The Book Family*, a marble and rock sculpture by Xavier Corbero and the Bradshaw Gallery, which features different exhibits each month.

**On this floor:** Visual Arts • Music • Performing Arts • DVDs • Audio Recordings

## 5<sup>th</sup> floor Business & Technology



**Top:** Early oil exploration equipment

**Right:** *Amoeba* by Stillman



With a rich oil and gas collection, the 5th floor offers a wonderful photo gallery detailing the history of oil and gas exploration as well as display cases filled with early survey equipment once used by geologist Dilworth S. Hager.

Other treasures include pastel works by renowned artist Karl Umlauf and a wind sculpture created by the famed Bruce Stillman. Donated by Mr. and Mrs. Jack A. Strube, *Amoeba* constantly moves and changes form with the passing breezes of the 5th floor balcony.

**On this floor:** Business Collection • Technology Resources • Science & Medicine

## 6<sup>th</sup> floor Government & Urban Information



**Above:** Celestial globes

A floor filled with maps galore (and more!), here you'll find celestial globes showing the night sky and its constellations, moon globes detailing craters, and maps of all shapes and sizes. Also, as you explore, look outside and see if you can spot the *Texas Star*, the tallest Ferris wheel in North America.

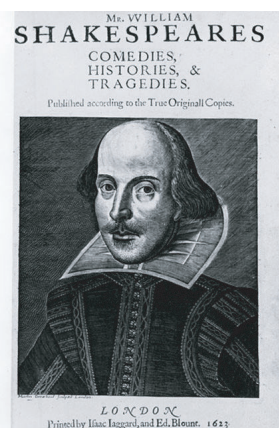
Additional exhibits and displays include *Flying Clouds*, an oil painting by American artist Albert Lorey Groll, and an exhibit on African-American inventors.

**On this floor:** Grants · Maps · Patents & Trademarks · Regulations · Community Information

## 7<sup>th</sup> floor Texas/Dallas History & Archives Fine Books



**Top:** Declaration of Independence  
**Right:** Shakespeare's *First Folio*



The 7th floor holds many of the library's most prized treasures, including William Shakespeare's *First Folio* (compiled in 1623) and one of the original broadside copies of the *Declaration of Independence*, printed on July 4, 1776.

Nearby, you'll find Frank Reaugh's 1883 painting, *Scene on the Brazos*. This painting, donated by the artist himself, has been with the library since its inception in 1901.

Also take a moment to look at the display cases in the hallway and the reading room, which contain rotating exhibits and are often filled with unique artifacts from the past. If you're a history buff, you'll also get a kick out of the historical photograph collection. Just ask at the desk!

**On this floor:** Historic Photographs and Maps · Local newspapers · Manuscript Collections

## 8<sup>th</sup> floor History & Social Sciences Genealogy



**Top:** Native American Clay pots  
**Right:** Navajo blanket details



Split in two sections, the 8th floor's History & Social Sciences Division and nationally acclaimed Genealogy Division contain a beautiful array of hand-woven Navajo blankets created in the latter part of the 19th century and donated to the library by Margaret and Eugene McDermott. Simply walk around the floor to explore the blankets and read more about each one.

As you walk, you'll also notice display cases filled with Native American pottery, including a black ceramic pot with a serpent design, a piece which was created by Maria Martinez, the most famous of the 20th Century potters at New Mexico's San Ildefonso Pueblo.

**On this floor:** Family Histories · College Assistance Center · Ethnic, Cultural & National Histories