

Friends of the Pflugerville Library

Р. О. Вох 671 Pflugerville, TX 78691-0671

February 19, 2025

Ms. Sereniah Breland City Manager City of Pflugerville 100 East Main Street, Suite 300 Pflugerville, Texas 78660

Dear Manager Breland,

In accordance with the City of Pflugerville's Policy and Procedures for Naming of City Property (Resolution No. 2162-24-10-08-1265, Exhibit A, Section VIII. E.), the Friends of the Pflugerville Library, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, respectfully requests that the original wing, a sub-facility, of the Pflugerville Public Library be named in memoriam for **Audrey T. Dearing**.

Audrey Dearing was a beloved community leader whose influence on Pflugerville began in 1958. Known for her dedication and tireless involvement, she is most closely associated with the Pflugerville Public Library through her advocacy, volunteer work, and support over more than 43 years. Mrs. Dearing's contributions continued until her passing in November 2024.

In 1981, Mrs. Dearing co-founded the Friends of the Pflugerville Library with the primary goal of establishing a library for the community after Travis County discontinued its popular bookmobile service. She envisioned the library as a place for local artists to showcase their work, programs for all ages, and access to technology as well as books. Mrs. Dearing served as President from 1981 to 1983, again in 1991-1992, and in 1995. She was Treasurer from 2001 to 2019, and later served as Treasurer Emeritus from 2020 to 2024.

The Friends opened the city's first all-volunteer library in April 1982, operating out of a small, rented storefront on Railroad Avenue. The library later moved to a larger space on 3rd Street, owned by the city. The Friends gifted the library's collection, equipment, and furniture—valued at approximately \$250,000—to the city in 1992. Recognizing the need for a larger facility, the City pursued the construction of a new library, receiving the approval of a bond election in 1996. The Friends then donated 1.6 acres of land at 10th and Pfluger Streets for the new building.

The new library was dedicated in April 1999 with First Lady of Texas Laura Bush as the guest speaker. Audrey Dearing's vision for the library was to create an inclusive space accessible to all, symbolized by the "Window to the World," the stained-glass window which features images of children from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Mrs. Dearing coordinated the design and crafting of the two-year project. This artwork was donated to the city in gratitude for the library's construction and adorns the south wall of the original part of the library. It is this original section of the current library that we request be named the "Audrey T. Dearing Wing."

Continuing her legacy, the Friends organization has supported the Pflugerville Public Library for the past 43 years, contributing funds and capital items valued at over \$750,000, as well as thousands of volunteer hours. The Pflugerville Chamber of Commerce recognized the organization for its support by naming it "Citizen of the Year" in 1993.

In addition to her work with the Friends, Mrs. Dearing was a dedicated community leader who tirelessly supported literacy, education, and civic involvement.

She was active with her church, Immanuel Lutheran Church, serving in numerous capacities, including the Church Council. She was a businesswoman, running a family partnership in Pflugerville as well as a farm on the edge of Pflugerville until her last days.

She also had a distinguished career at Tracor, where she served as the corporate secretary, playing a pivotal role in the company's operations and governance. Her work was crucial in driving the company's growth and expanding the presence in the defense industry. Her leadership and attention to detail were highly regarded within the organization and the local business community.

Numerous accolades were bestowed on Mrs. Dearing, including the Pflugerville Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008, the Texas Library Association's Outstanding Service to Libraries Award in 2017, and the Friends' inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019.

Mrs. Dearing was a charter member of the Pflugerville Education Foundation, serving as an officer for many years. As a 4H leader in the Pflugerville Independent School District, Mrs. Dearing provided guidance to young homemakers and worked with Pflugerville students to show their livestock at the Austin Livestock Show for many years. The Leonard and Audrey Dearing Elementary School is named for Audrey and her husband, who served on the school board, in recognition of their dedication to quality education of Pflugerville children.

In the interest of preserving the history of the Pflugerville community, Mrs. Dearing co-authored four books recording the rich history of the area. The books, co-authored with the Pflugerville History Diggers, are still available in local stores and archived at the library.

Mrs. Dearing's family has consented to the use of her name for the "Audrey T. Dearing Wing." A letter of consent from the family is enclosed.

Letters of endorsement for naming the original wing of the Pflugerville Public Library in honor of Mrs. Dearing are also enclosed. A page of significant photos of the timeline and Mrs. Dearing's involvement in the development of the library is included. Also enclosed is a map indicating the location of the city facility and photos of the area of the facility to be named.

The Friends of the Pflugerville Library agrees to bear the appropriate costs associated with the naming of the sub-facility the "Audrey T. Dearing Wing." The required application fee of \$50.00 is enclosed.

Please advise us on the next steps to formalize this request. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of this tribute to Audrey T. Dearing's enduring legacy in our community.

Sincerely,

aron J Millin

Aaron Millis President aaron.millis@friendsofthepflugervillelibrary.org

cc: Pflugerville City Council Members Enclosures Application fee of \$50.00 Map of location of city facility Photos of sub-facility to be named Proposed signage Dearing Family Letter of Consent Letters of Endorsement: Jeff Coleman, Former Mayor Pastor Matthew Groenke, Immanuel Lutheran Church JoAnne Thornton, First Library Director, Vernagene Mott, community leader, current PfISD School Board Trustee, Pflugerville History Diggers co-author Carol Fletcher, Former PfISD School Board Trustee, Pflugerville Education Foundation Elaine Boozer, Former PfISD School Board Trustee Pamela Stephenson, Pflugerville History Diggers co-author Jennifer Griswold, Director, Pflugerville Public Library

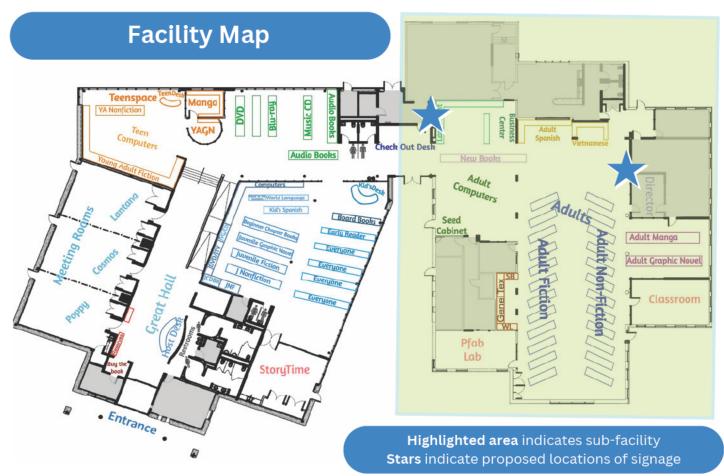


# Audrey T. Dearing Wing Naming Proposal - Maps

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## **Location Map**









**Stars** indicate possible locations of signage suggested by the Library Director. These images are only illustrative and not representative of final design or placement.





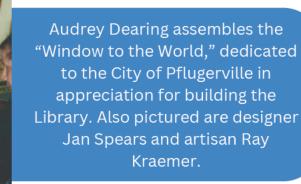
**Above** imagines the propsed name in the style of existing Library signage. It also features a plaque explaining who Audrey T. Dearing is and her commitment to the Library.

**Left** demonstrates what a plaque dedicated to Audrey T. Dearing might look like next to the check out desk.



Audrey Dearing at the 1998 groundbreaking of the first Pflugerville library on land donated by the Friends of the Pflugerville Library.

Friends Audrey Dearing, Nancy Pruitt and Nadine Whiteley with Guest Speaker First Lady of Texas Laura Bush at the 1999 Library Dedication.



Audrey Dearing speaks at the opening of the new Library Extension with Mayor Jeff Coleman (far left) in 2013.



February 3, 2025

Harry Dearing

Pamela Stephenson, Board Member Friends of the Pflugerville Library PO Box 671 Pflugerville, TX 77381

Dear Pam,

This letter is in response to your request for the family's consent for using Audrey T Dearing's name for the original wing of the Pflugerville Public Library. We enthusiastically give our consent!

Mom spent so many years working to make the library a great place for books and learning. As you and the other Friends know, she continued to remain an interested contributor to the library up to her passing. Naming the original wing of the library for her is a fitting tribute to her efforts over the years. I hope that the Friends are successful in the effort.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Sincerely,

Havy Dearing

Harry Dearing

#### Jeff Coleman



City Manager Pflugerville City Hall 100 E Main St Pflugerville, TX 78660

Dear Ms. Breland,

I am writing to formally propose that the original wing of the Pflugerville Public Library be named the Audrey T. Dearing Wing in honor of her remarkable contributions to our city. Mrs. Dearing's tireless dedication to education, history and community service has left an enduring impact on Pflugerville, and it is fitting that her legacy be preserved in a place she helped bring to life.

In the early 1980's, she recognized the need for a public library in our growing community. She co-founded the Friends of the Pflugerville Library, an organization instrumental in establishing and expanding the library that we have today. Her vision and leadership laid the foundation for an institution that has enriched the lives of countless residents through access to knowledge, literacy programs, and educational opportunities.

In addition, Mrs. Dearing was a dedicated member of the Pflugerville community for many years. She served on various committees and boards, including the Pflugerville Library Board, where she personally played a key role in the development and expansion of the library. Her passion for literacy and education has been evident in her work, and she was a driving force behind many of the library's successful programs and initiatives.

Beyond her work with the library, her commitment to Pflugerville extended to historical preservation by co-authoring four books that documented our city's rich history. This endeavor has assured that future generations can appreciate and learn from the past.

Additionally, she and her husband Leonard, were instrumental in founding the Pflugerville Education Foundation, further demonstrating her passion to make Pflugerville a better place for all its residents. In recognition of her extraordinary service, the Pflugerville Independent School District honored her and Leonard by naming Dearing Elementary School after them. Now it is time for the City of Pflugerville to similarly acknowledge her legacy by dedicating a space within the very institution that she helped to establish.

I believe that renaming the original section of the Pflugerville Public Library to the Audrey T. Dearing Wing would be a fitting tribute to her many accomplishments and contributions to our community. It would serve as a reminder of her dedication and commitment to the library and to the residents of Pflugerville.

I urge you to bring this recommendation to the attention of the Pflugerville City Council for their consideration. I am confident that they will see the value in honoring Audrey T Dearing in this way.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeff Coleman, Mayor 2007-2016



GATHER and Worship. GROW in the Word. SERVE God by serving people.

I am writing to recommend using Audrey Dearing's name for a specific place in the Pflugerville Library. During the early 1980's, Audrey was instrumental in the founding of The Friends of the Pflugerville Library, a nonprofit which has focused its energy and resources on growing the Pflugerville Library into what it is today. I served as Audrey's pastor beginning in the summer of 2021, and Audrey would frequently tell me during our conversations how thankful she was for the numerous opportunities God had given her to serve others and the community of Pflugerville, particularly through her participation in the vision and growth of the Pflugerville Library. As part of the "Pflugerville History Diggers", Audrey helped to write and publish four books chronicling the history of Pflugerville from its inception until today. Using her name on a wing of the Pflugerville Library would further cement her legacy as an advocate for serving others and life-long learning.

Sincerely,

Garty Marthe Miche

Pastor Matthew Groenke

Senior Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Pflugerville

500 Immanuel Rd. Pflugerville, TX 78660 www.ilcpville.org

#### February 6, 2025

To the Pflugerville City Manager and City Council,

I am writing this in support of naming the large room of the Llugerville Library in honor of Audrey T. Dearing.

Mrs. Dearing was a major force in establishment of the Library and continued to be an active and vital participant in the activities and management of the Friends group She was a member of the original Friends which established the Library in 1981. She was treasurer and remained in that role until recent years when her health forced her to relinquish that job. Thirty plus years as treasurer!

One of the jobs Mrs. Dearing took on was as supervisor of the stained glass window project. The Friends, specially Audrey, had always wanted some kind of significant artistic rendering—a statue, a mobile, a mural—for the new building, from the Friends-something to set it apart. After much consideration by the group, a stained glass window for the massive south window was decided upon. The design was basically Audrey's suggestion, and Window to the World. was started. It was two years in production, and Audrey co-ordinated everything during that time, and I believe she also produced some of the pieces!

Throughout all this, Mrs. Dearing maintained her full-time job as Executive Secretary at Tracor, and her part-time farm work with her husband, Leonard.

Mrs. Dearing remained an active participant in the Friends, helping with book sales, meetings, reaching out to Jake Lickle and Liz Carpenter to attend our Gala----doing whatever it took to further the Library and her educational projects. She has received the first Lifetime Achievement Award, for her dedication to the Library.

It seems fitting and proper that a room at the Library she helped bring to Llugerville , and which she held so dear, should have her name on it.

Jurge you to seriously consider and decide on the affirmative.

Coance - Thrown ton

Jo Anne Thornton Library Director 1987-2003

### Vernagene H. Mott

January 20, 2025

Ms. Sereniah Breland City Manager City of Pflugerville 100 East Main Street, Suite 300 Pflugerville Texas 78660

Dear Manager Breland,

I, Vernagene H. Mott, whole heartedly support naming the original wing of the current library in remembrance of Audrey T. Dearing.

Mrs. Dearing was a visionary community volunteer possessing energy and intellect to collaborate with others to formulate a plan to develop a local library which would benefit all ages within the city and surrounding area. Such a mammoth task entailed a multitude of tasks facing challenge after challenge (location, funding, operational equipment and systems, etc.). The historic evolution from collecting books in a storefront room (original US Post Office space) to a period home to acquiring property for a standalone structure reflects her perseverance, endurance and resilience through the decades. Following the dedication of the first building, she continued to dream and support expanded programs serving all ages and meeting community needs. She was proud and grateful that the supportive Friends group of volunteers remains vibrant and actively engaged in promoting the goals and mission of now Pflugerville Public Library.

The Audrey T. Dearing Wing recognizes her stellar contributions, honors her labor, and preserves her legacy.

With respect and admiration of an amazing trailblazer who has impacted thousands who have visited finding peace, joy, romance, or been inspired by an art display or were transformed by a resource or program, I endorse the naming.

Sincerely,

Vernagene H. Mott

Vernagene H. Mott

February 1, 2025

Ms. Sereniah Breland City Manager City of Pflugerville 100 East Main Street, Suite 300 Pflugerville, TX 78660

City Manager Breland,

I am pleased to write this letter of support regarding the naming of the original portion of the Pflugerville Library the Audrey T. Dearing Wing. I had the pleasure of getting to know Audrey on a personal basis through my 18 years as a school board member and as a founding member of the Pflugerville Education Foundation. Pflugerville has been blessed to have such an intelligent, professional, and dedicated community leader like Audrey serving as an advocate for our children and their education. Audrey was a champion for Pflugerville children and literacy, well before there was even an official city library, and she left of legacy of impact that we can all be proud to recognize.

Sincerely,

Carl Flitcher

Carol L. Fletcher, Ph.D.

Dear City Manager:

I promise not to take too long, as there would not be enough time needed to remind all of us what one of our finest citizens did for our city. Audrey Dearing devoted much of her life to bringing one of our finest assets to Pflugerville. Starting with little but a dream, her initiative and tireless efforts, Audrey was instrumental from the beginning to take Pflugerville from a mobile library provided by Austin to our current location. Audrey was a founding member of the Friends of the Library and they raised enough funds to purchase 16 acres on Pecan and 10<sup>th</sup>. The Pflugerville Public Library opened in 1999 with a formal dedication with guest speaker, Former First Lady Laura Bush. Without Audrey's dedication and vision the outstanding Pflugerville Public Library would not be the facility we have today. The Library was a much needed resource for our PISD students and our community.

I respectfully request that the City Council consider honoring the memory of Audrey Dearing by naming the original section of the Pflugerville Public Library named The Audrey T. Dearing Wing.

Sincerely, Elaine Boozer Former PISD Trustee

#### Pamela A. Stephenson

January 22, 2025

Ms. Sereniah Breland City Manager City of Pflugerville 100 East Main Street, Suite 300 Pflugerville, Texas 78660

Dear Manager Breland,

It is my pleasure to endorse the request of the Friends of the Pflugerville Library to name a section of the Pflugerville Public Library to honor Audrey T. Dearing in recognition of her exceptional efforts to establish and support a library for Pflugerville.

Audrey saw a need for the small rural community of Pflugerville in the 1980s and took action. She cofounded the Friends of the Pflugerville Library and proceeded to raise funds to create a library to serve everyone, young and old. She and a team of volunteers held bake sales, ran a Thrift Store, and found sponsorships with local businesses to collect used books and furniture. With her leadership skills, professional insight, and determination she met the many challenges and obstacles to succeed. Once the City of Pflugerville agreed with her vision to have a modern facility to serve everyone in the city and throughout the Pflugerville Independent School District, the new facility took shape. The facility opened in 1999 and was expanded in 2013, more than tripling its size. In recognition of Audrey's dedication, the Texas Library Association awarded her their Award for Outstanding Services to Libraries in 2017.

Love for the Pflugerville community, where she raised her children who attended Pflugerville schools, led Audrey to volunteer in other ways in the community. For years she worked tirelessly with 4H students, devoting hours to support Pflugerville students showing livestock at the Austin Livestock Show. She co-founded the Pflugerville Education Foundation and worked closely with the Pflugerville Chamber of Commerce, both of which recognized her with awards.

I served with Audrey on the Board of the Friends of the Pflugerville Library. In partnership with the Library and the Heritage House Partners, the Friends were successful in receiving a grant from the Texas Humanities to interview over 20 Pflugerville residents to record stories of their daily lives, including challenges and accomplishments. The project culminated with the publishing of the first history book to preserve the rich history of the community. Since then, four of us, Audrey, Vernagene H. Mott, the late Lois G. Shrout, and I formed the Pflugerville History Diggers and co-authored three additional history books chronicling the events from Pflugerville's settlement times to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. During this project. I witnessed Audrey's fierce work ethic, love for the community, and her enthusiasm for the library.

During Audrey's almost seven decades of exceptional service and volunteering spirit, she has made an indelible mark on the Pflugerville community, but the library remained her passion. The perfect way to recognize her long history of service is naming the original wing of the library in her memory, the Audrey T. Dearing Wing.

Thank you for your consideration of recognizing this most worthy Pflugervillian.

Sincerely,

Panuelo d. Steptienso

Pamela A. Stephenson Board Member, Friends of the Pflugerville Library and Co-Author, Pflugerville History Diggers



February 18, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for naming the older part of the current Pflugerville Public Library after Audrey Dearing in recognition of her dedication to education and her hard work for the Pflugerville Community.

As a long-time staff member of the Pflugerville Community Library, I have witnessed Audrey's dedication to literacy, historic preservation, and the positive impact she has had on our community through the Friends of the Pflugerville Library, and the Pflugerville History Diggers.

Audrey's dedication to ensuring access to a library for the children of Pflugerville led to her participation in the founding of the Friends of the Pflugerville Library and in the eventually the founding of the public library.

Audrey's contributions align perfectly with the values that the Pflugerville Public Library represents, as a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone in the community.

Naming the adult wing after Audrey Dearing would serve as a lasting tribute to her legacy and inspire future generations to continue their commitment to the Pflugerville Community.

Thank you for considering my recommendation.

in

Jennifer Griswold, MSIS

Director, Pflugerville Public Library