



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **STATE MUSICIAN SARA HICKMAN LAUNCHES TSLAC'S 54TH TEXAS READING CLUB PROGRAM**

Lorenzo de Zavala  
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**AUSTIN** – Enthralling 220 third- and fourth-graders with a song she made up on the spot and the true story of her guinea-pig-rescuing childhood cat, Sara Hickman officially launched the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's 54th annual Texas Reading Club program May 23. Her performance, on the State Capitol lawn just across from TSLAC's Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building, motivated students from Dawson, St. Elmo and Zavala elementary schools to join the summer reading program and "dig up a good book!" at their local libraries.

Students chimed in on cue as she talked about reading and sang along to a variety of songs; with Sara's encouragement, one teacher even delivered some gymnastic dance moves. Students from St. Elmo and Zavala also toured the Zavala building, which shares its namesake with the school. Every child received a book upon returning to class, courtesy of Bookspring, an organization that promotes early literacy. (Bookspring and Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas co-sponsored the event with TSLAC.) Students also received posters and bookmarks featuring the 2011 "Dig Up a Good Book!" theme, created by E.B. White Award-winning children's book author and artist Keith Graves of Austin.

TSLAC Chairman Sandra Pickett attended the event along with TSLAC Director and Librarian Peggy D. Rudd, who started her career as a children's librarian.

"It was great to see so many students fired up about reading over the summer," Rudd said. "Sara has a unique way of engaging and inspiring young people."

Students may participate in the program or the Texas Teens Read! version simply by signing up at any participating Texas public library. For more information, visit [www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/projects/trc/2011/index.html](http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/projects/trc/2011/index.html).

**Hi-res image caption:** Sara Hickman encourages students to "dig up a good book!" during her Texas Reading Club kickoff performance on the Capitol lawn Monday, May 23.

**Credit:** Texas State Library and Archives Commission

### **ABOUT THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION**

*Formed in 1909, TSLAC is committed to giving Texans access to information and programs they can use to improve their lives and communities. We provide historical and genealogical search assistance, federal and state government documents, electronic research and library services to all Texans, including those who are unable to read standard print material because of physical or reading disabilities. For more information, visit [www.tsl.state.tx.us](http://www.tsl.state.tx.us).*