

Your City,
Your Team

Meet The Communications & Cultural Arts Director



Samantha Denbow, CPLA
Communications & Cultural Arts Director since 2024.

Previously:

- Library Director since 2014
- Hired in 2008 as a part-time Library Clerk

Can you briefly describe the responsibilities of your department and how it serves the community?

Our department brings together communications, tourism, and the library—each with its own mission, but all working toward the same goal: connecting people to the information and services they need, when they need it, whether they are a resident or visitor.

What inspired you to pursue a career in public service or city government?

I began in the library in 2008, where I've held many roles all boiling down to helping people. That grew into a passion for public service and a desire to make a difference in Bay City no matter what I'm working on.

What do you enjoy most about working for Bay City?

Being a lifelong Bay City resident and raising my son here gives me a special connection to this community. I'm honored to contribute to its growth and success. Through my work, I've gained a deep understanding of what makes a city function and the dedication of those who serve it. Above all, I'm grateful for the talented and passionate team I work alongside—they make everything possible.

What are your goals or vision for your department in the next few years?

Each division supports a growing Bay City, and my focus is on moving from reactive to innovative, building services that don't just meet needs but go beyond to enhance what our residents and visitors have access to. Progress takes time, but it is happening.

What is a project or accomplishment you're particularly proud of in your role?

I'm proud of the work across all three divisions. The library has received the Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award every year since 2018. In tourism, we're working toward a Birding Capital of Texas designation for Matagorda County. And in communications, we are developing a department that keeps residents informed and promotes how great Bay City is.

HURRICANE SEASON IS JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30

CITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEBSITE



CITY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS



What is the City doing about all of the train horns?

If you've ever been woken up or interrupted by a loud train horn in Bay City, you're not alone. The City is currently studying the possibility of creating a Quiet Zone, which would reduce the need for train horns at certain railroad crossings within city limits.

Right now, federal rules require trains to sound their horns whenever they approach a public crossing. A Quiet Zone is a special designation that allows a city to limit this horn noise—but only if extra safety features are added to protect drivers and pedestrians. These features could include gates, medians, new pavement markings, and better signage.

The City hired an engineering firm, HDR, to help study all the railroad crossings in town along the BNSF and Union Pacific lines. The goal is to see where quiet zones could be possible, how much they might cost, and what improvements would be needed to keep everyone safe.

The study is underway. A Town Hall meeting was held on May 21 to gather public input, and a City Council workshop is scheduled for May 27 to review findings and discuss next steps.

If the City moves forward, the process includes developing cost estimates and designs, submitting a Notice of Intent to federal and railroad agencies, completing the necessary construction, and observing a 21-day waiting period before the Quiet Zone becomes officially active and enforceable. The full process could take 18 to 24 months to complete.

There's no final cost yet, but the project is being funded through the City's General Fund, with possible contributions from the state and federal government if any crossings are closed.

To share your thoughts, attend the Council Workshop on May 27 or drop off written input at City Hall or the Municipal Services Building.

For more information about Public Works projects including the Quiet Zone, call 979-323-1659 or visit our website for departmental reports.

Upcoming City Events:

May 30 - Beyond the Brush Art Exhibit
5 - 7 PM - USO/Service Center

June 7- Go Wild! Park Hike
10 AM - Riverside Park

June 10 - Police Officer Swearing-in Ceremony
9 AM - City Hall

June 10- Library Summer Program Kick Off - Discovery Dome
10 AM - 5 PM - Library

June 11, 18, & 25 - Texas Parks & Wildlife Discover Trunks
10 - 5 PM - Library

June 11- Senior Fish
10 AM - Riverside Park

June 12 - Drop In Activity
12 PM & 5:30 PM - Library

June 14 - Fishing 101
10 AM - Riverside Park

CITY MEETINGS



Find agendas and minutes for city meetings. Stream Council meetings live or watch the recordings.

DID YOU KNOW?

Camofest was started to honor Forrest Bess, world-renowned artist who was born in Bay City, and lived in the area most of his life.

Bay City is home to 26 city parks, including Le Tulle Park, Riverside Park, and a number of neighborhood parks.

Public Service: The Heart of a Strong Community

When you think about what makes a city work—clean streets, safe neighborhoods, reliable utilities, responsive emergency services, it all comes down to one thing: public service.

Public service is the work done by city employees and local government to support the community's daily needs and long-term growth. It includes everything from firefighters and police officers, to librarians, park staff, public works crews, and those who manage city finances, planning, and communication.

Here in Bay City, public service is more than a job, it's a commitment to the people who live and work here. City employees are dedicated to making Bay City a better place through problem-solving, professionalism, and a passion for helping others.

Public servants often work behind the scenes. They plan for the future, maintain essential infrastructure, respond during emergencies, and ensure that community services like parks, events, roads, and libraries remain strong and accessible.

It's also a field where residents can make a difference. From applying for city jobs to volunteering on boards or attending public meetings, there are many ways to be part of the city's progress.

Public Service Recognition Week is the first week of May, a time to celebrate the people who serve our community year-round. Whether it's fixing a pothole, answering 911 calls, or organizing youth programs, these individuals play a vital role in keeping Bay City safe, connected, and growing.

To learn more about careers in public service or how to get involved locally, visit the City of Bay City website or stop by City Hall.



Keep Bay City Beautiful is back!
Contact kpenewitt@cityofbaycity.org for information about joining this committee.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

MONDAY, MAY 26
MEMORIAL DAY

THURSDAY, JUNE 19
JUNETEENTH