

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

OCTOBER 2024

*prepared for the
Library Board of Trustees*



**SAN ANTONIO
PUBLIC Library**
information. imagination. ideas.

INTERIM LIBRARY DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

System-wide Highlights

The San Antonio Public Library served as voting centers for the November 5, 2024, Uniform Election, with eighteen locations available for early voting. On the first day of early voting, 20,128 ballots were cast at Library locations. On Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2024, the Library hosted Bexar County Elections Vote Centers at 18 branch libraries as well as the Central Library. To enhance security, the Library collaborated with ITSD Physical Security, which provided Elections Security Navigators through a federal grant. Additionally, as a new initiative for this election, the Library partnered with the Alamodome on selected early voting days and with Center City Downtown Operations on Election Day to provide parking attendants at three Library branches.

The Igo Branch Library reopened for full public service on Monday, October 28, 2024, after completion of a \$500,000 project for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades. The Igo Branch Library closed on August 5, 2024, and interim service was provided curbside during the closure period of 12 weeks. The project required an expansion of scope for additional concrete work to ensure the stability of the HVAC pad, but this added scope was able to be delivered within budget and on time. The Igo Branch Library was a vote center, and the meeting room was available for early voting starting on October 21, 2024.

The Pan American Branch Library reopened for full public service on Monday, October 28, 2024, after completion of a \$500,000 project for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades. The Pan Am Branch Library closed on August 5, 2024, and interim service was provided curbside during the closure period of 12 weeks.

The Great Northwest Library celebrated its 30th Anniversary on Saturday October 19, 2024, with a Fall Festival. District 6 Councilmember Melissa Cabello-Havrda, Library Board of Trustees representative Fernanda Cardenas, Assistant City Manager David McCary and Interim Assistant Director Jessica Zurita participated in the speaking program.

Carver Branch Library 2022 Bond Project Informational Meeting was held on Thursday October 24, 2024, at 6:30pm at the Second Baptist Church located next door to the Library. The schematic design for the project was shared with the Carver community. The community had opportunity to share their feedback. Speakers included District 2 Councilmember Staff, lead architect with Alta Architects Geoff Edwards, City Architect Byron Smith, Public Works Department, and Interim Library Director Kathy Donellan.

The Learn at SAPL program celebrated its 10th anniversary on Thursday, October 10, 2024. Open house events took place at several library locations, including Bazan, Carver, Central (5th floor, Learn at SAPL space), McCreless, Memorial, and Westfall, to commemorate a decade of adult education services. Launched in fall 2014 at four locations (Bazan, Carver, Cortez, and Westfall), Learn at SAPL has grown to seven locations, with an eighth site, Las Palmas, scheduled to open in Fiscal Year 2025. The program offers personalized job support and computer training through walk-in assistance, one-on-one appointments, and small group classes, both in libraries and at community locations

Interim Library Director Activities

Interim Library Director Kathy Donellan

- attended the Office of the City Clerk's Robert's Rules of Order Training on October 5, 2024. Library Board Trustees representing Districts 2, 4, and 5 were also in attendance, along with Interim Assistant to the Director Haley Holmes and Executive Assistant Edward Mayberry.
- met the Mexican General Consulate Rubén Minutti Zanatta and his staff on October 8, 2024
- met with the UTSA School of Social Work Staff on October 11, 2024
- met with the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library leadership on October 16, 2024
- attended the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's Executive Committee meeting at the SAPLF Office on October 16, 2024
- attended the Carver Branch Library Community meeting in District 2 at Second Baptist Church on October 24, 2024

Performance Highlights:

Almost 800,000 library materials were checked out the first month of the new fiscal year, which is just below the FY25 target by 1% and is 22,000 more compared to the same time period last year. Over 170,000 hours of technology use occurred, which is below the year-to-date target by 21% and 32,000 less hours compared to the same time period last year. Starting in June 2024, several wireless access points were replaced and as a result the new devices are reporting less use. SAPL is actively working with the City's IT Department to validate data. The number of in-person library visits for the first month of fiscal year 2025 was over 486,000, which is ahead of the target by 44% and up from the same time period last year by 73%. Overall, in person visits have not returned to pre-COVID levels.

Media Highlights:

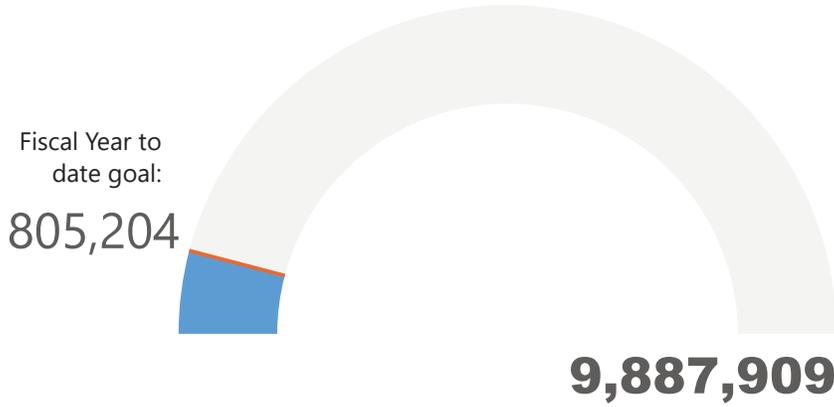
In October, mentions of the San Antonio Public Library in the news media were driven heavily by the availability of Library locations as voter centers. KENS 5 also aired a feature segment about the Menstrual Equity program that featured an interview with Interim Assistant to the Director, Haley Holmes.



I. Key Performance Indicators - Summary

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

Circulation: Goal

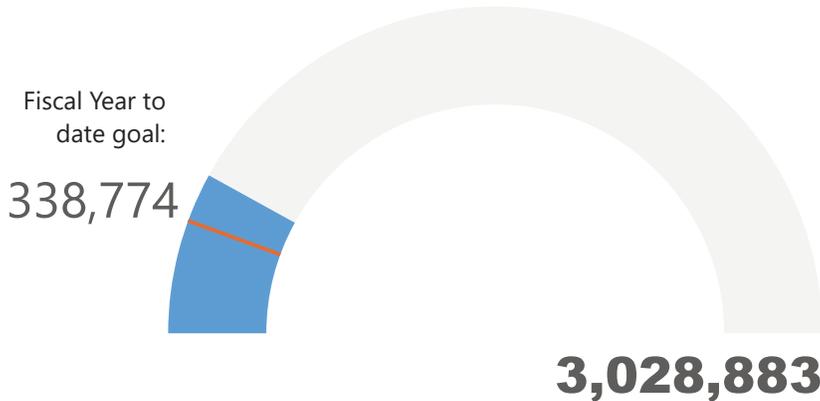


FY 2025 to date Items Borrowed



797,543
(-0.95%)
Circulation

Visits: Goal

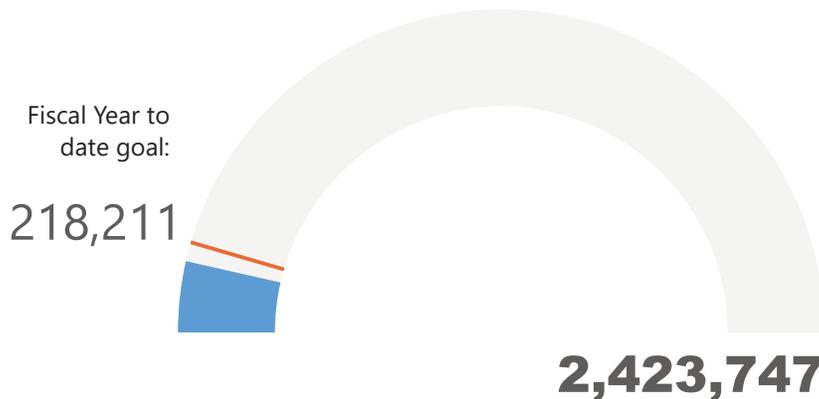


FY 2025 to date Library Visits



486,239
(+43.53%)
Visits

Digital Access: Goal



FY 2025 to date Digital Access



28,198
Hours of Computer Use



143,618
Hours of Wi-Fi Use

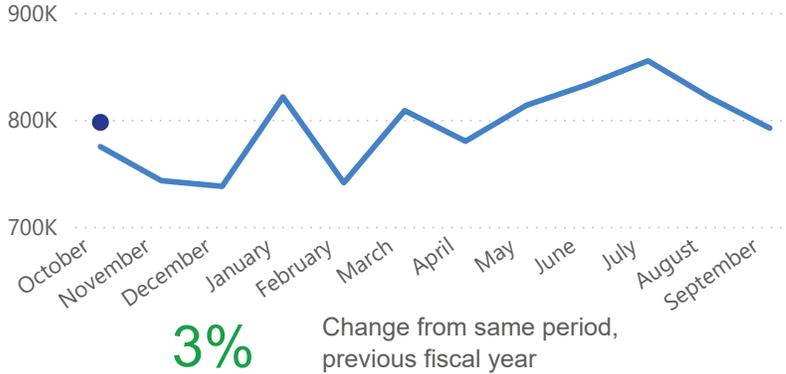
171,816
(-21.26%)
Hours of Technology Use

FY25 year to date Total Circulation

The total circulation of library materials of both physical and digital formats.

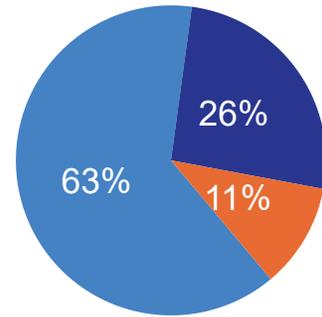
797,543

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



FY25 to date total circulation by service area

● City ● Bexar County (Outside COSA) ● Misc.

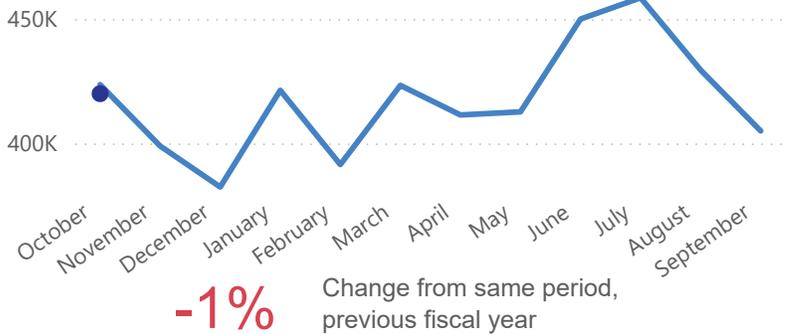


FY25 year to date Physical Circulation

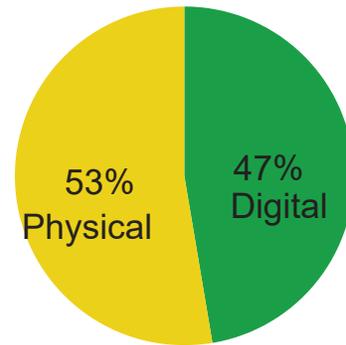
The number of checkouts and renewals of physical library materials.

419,953

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



FY25 to date total circulation by type

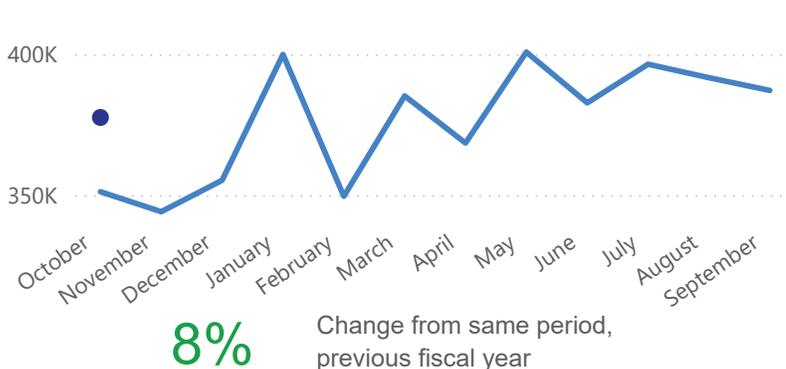


FY25 year to date Digital Circulation

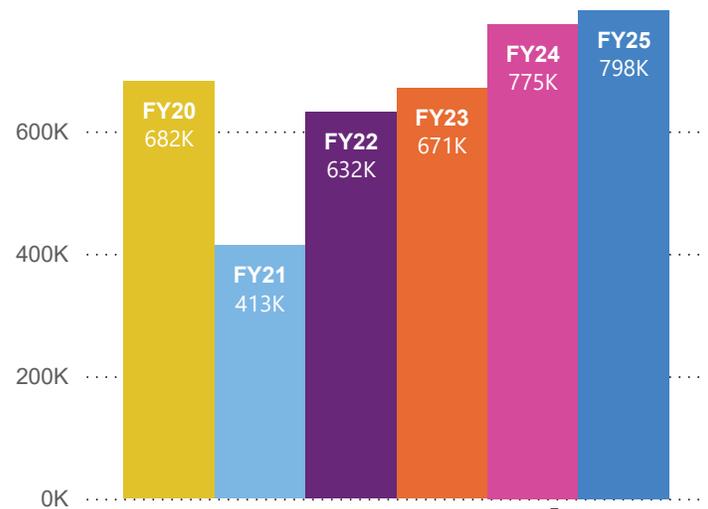
The number of checkouts, downloads, views and plays of electronic library materials.

377,590

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



Year to date total circulation comparison

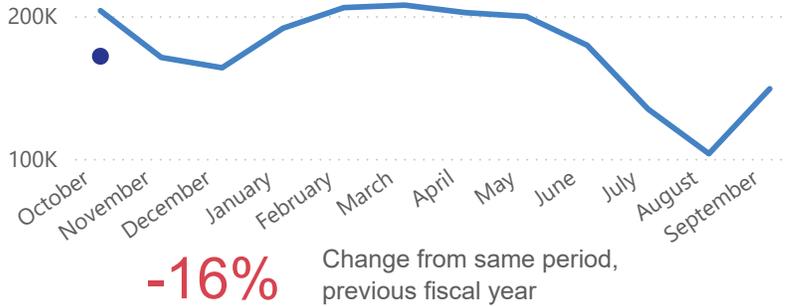


FY25 year to date Hours of Technology

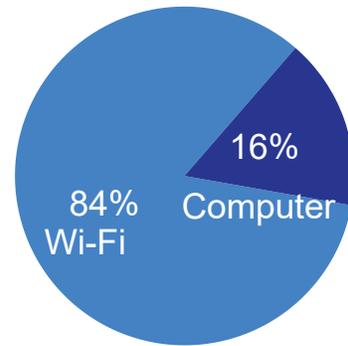
The total number of hours of technology used from both public computers and public Wi-Fi.

171,816

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



FY25 to date Technology Use by type

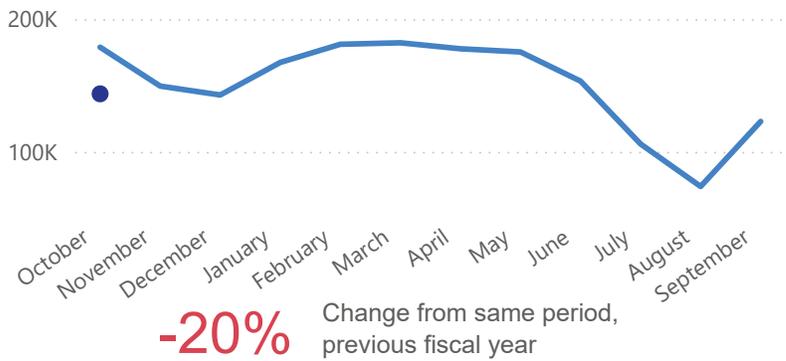


FY25 year to date Wi-Fi Hours

The number of hours public Wi-Fi was used.

143,618

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



FY25 year to date Computer Hours

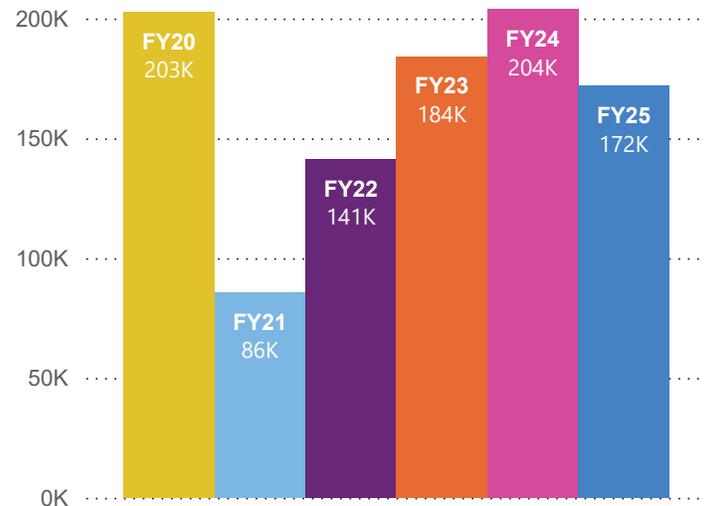
The number of hours public computers were used.

28,198

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



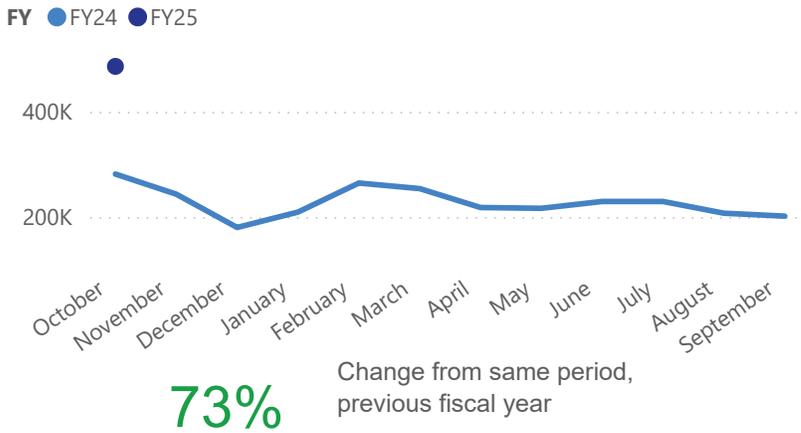
Year to date Technology Use comparison



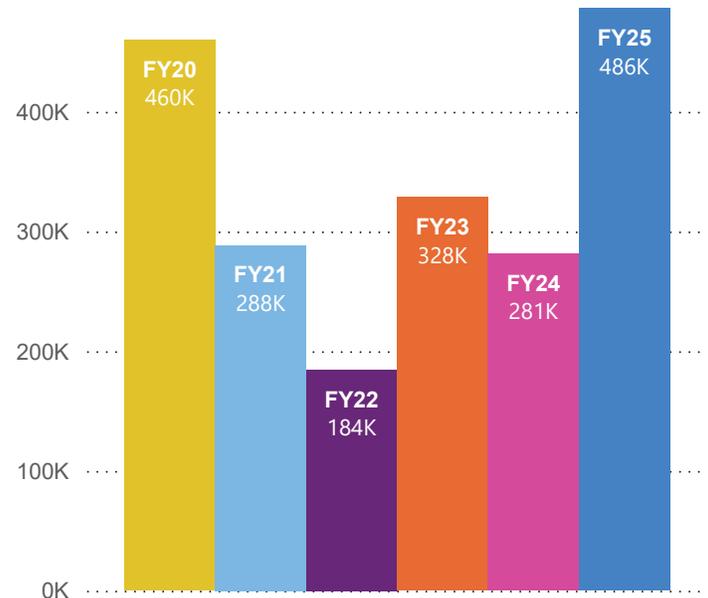
FY25 year to date Visits

The number of visits (physically) at any library location reported annually to Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

486,239



Year to date Visits comparison



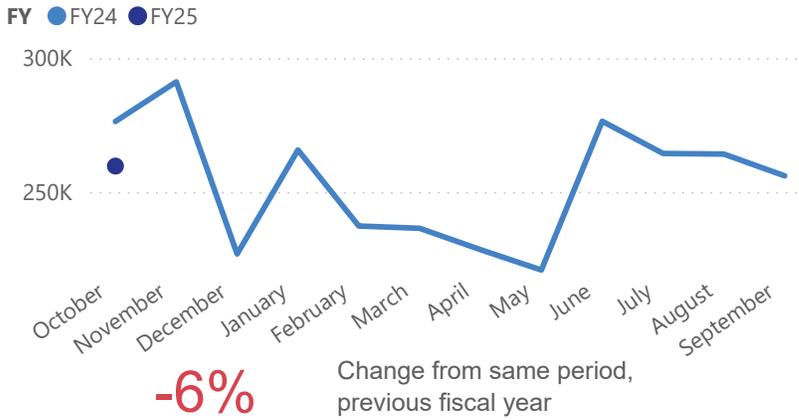
Fiscal Year 2025 location closures:

- Las Palmas October 1, 2024 - TBD
- Johnston October 1, 2024 - TBD
- Igo October 1, 2024 - October 28, 2024
- Pan American October 1, 2024 - October 28, 2024

FY25 year to date engagements

The number of engagements on the library's online platforms. Includes user engagements on Overdrive, Kanopy, SAPL social media sites, Mysapl.org, and the Mysapl app.

259,622



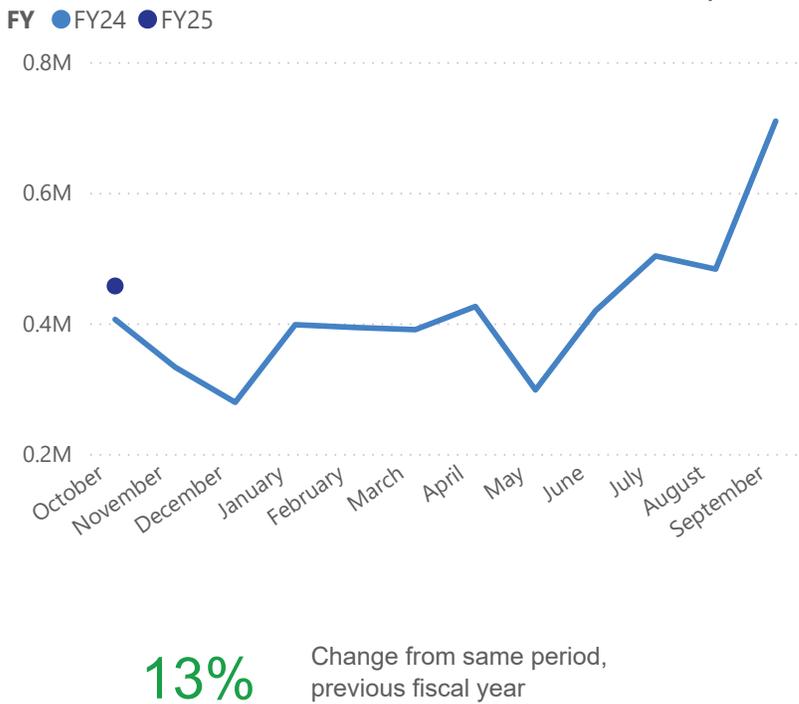
Most engaged post on SAPL social media profiles in October 2024



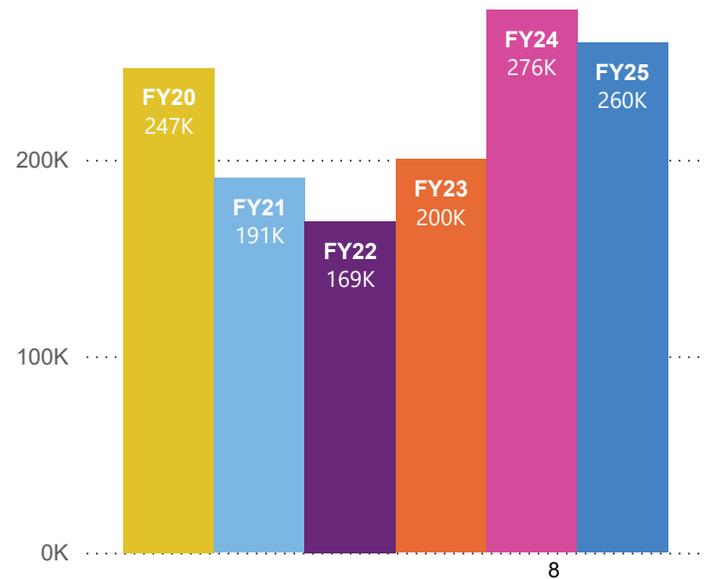
FY25 year to date impressions

The total number of impressions on the library's social media profiles and the MySAPL website.

457,094



Year to date virtual engagement comparison



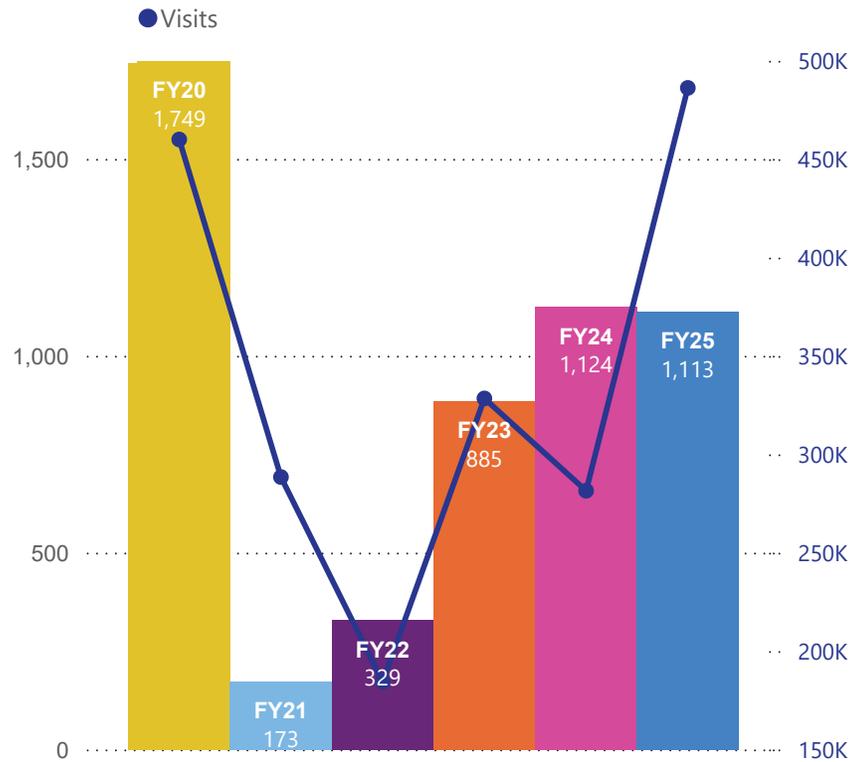
Fiscal year to date program comparison

Total Programs

1,113 Total Programs **21,254** Total Attendance

-1%

Change from same period, previous fiscal year



Early Literacy (0-5)

272 Programs **7,698** Attendance

School Age (6-12)

221 Programs **4,534** Attendance

Teens (13-18)

223 Programs **1,997** Attendance

Adults (19+)

242 Programs **2,706** Attendance

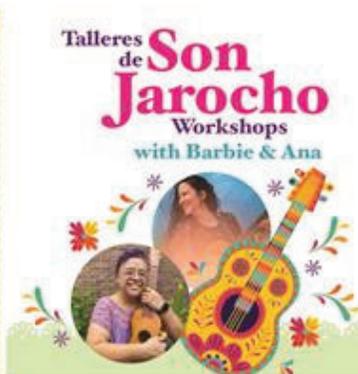
Older Adults (60+)

64 Programs **479** Attendance

General Interest*

91 Programs **3,840** Attendance

*General Interest Programs are not targeted to one age group and/or are targeted for two or more age groups



San Antonio Public Library

October 2024 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
Bazan	2,879	7,171	6,497	1,630	4,867
Brook Hollow	23,677	28,791	5,570	746	4,824
Carver	2,613	4,691	4,349	1,106	3,243
Central	31,927	25,984	45,507	8,237	37,270
Cody	33,293	31,130	8,322	1,255	7,067
Collins Garden	4,178	12,753	3,223	635	2,588
Cortez	7,167	20,281	2,651	483	2,168
Digital	377,590	0	0	0	0
Encino	21,157	30,403	5,367	202	5,165
Forest Hills	6,020	2,882	2,304	393	1,911
Great Northwest	30,405	26,043	4,779	692	4,087
Guerra	9,576	19,339	3,516	776	2,740
Igo	11,316	23,054	2,258	87	2,171
Interlibrary Loan	1,005	0	0	0	0
Johnston	1,080	9,242	680	3	677
Kampmann	0	715	192	0	192
Landa	18,089	12,467	4,345	707	3,638
Las Palmas	279	117	122	0	122
Maverick	35,181	27,766	5,336	1,270	4,066
McCress	7,754	18,454	5,543	1,483	4,060
Memorial	4,917	13,106	6,908	1,348	5,560
Mission	11,752	19,286	5,511	911	4,600
Pan American	964	403	921	38	883
Parman	29,273	32,995	4,447	351	4,096
Potranco	16,020	9,185	9,236	701	8,535
Pruitt	3,700	6,092	3,773	245	3,528
San Pedro	2,870	3,683	4,188	422	3,766
Schaefer	10,516	11,376	5,566	449	5,117
Semmes	25,579	32,333	5,858	1,114	4,744
System	33,906	0	0	0	0
Thousand Oaks	6,863	27,729	4,449	699	3,750
Tobin	16,043	22,807	4,625	796	3,829
Westfall	9,954	5,961	5,773	1,419	4,354
Total	797,543	486,239	171,816	28,198	143,618

Circulation includes Physical, Digital and NEISD materials to SAPL patrons at Pruitt

San Antonio Public Library Programs

October 2024

Location	Early Literacy Programs (0-5)	School Age Programs (6-12)	Teen Programs (13-18)	Adult Programs (19+)	Older Adults Programs (60+)	General Interest Programs*	Total
Bazan	2	13	4	7	3	3	32
Brook Hollow	3	11	11	0	0	4	29
Carver	4	13	0	6	1	0	24
Central	16	12	77	39	3	14	161
Cody	11	14	19	7	2	1	54
Collins Garden	18	5	5	9	8	2	47
Cortez	5	13	1	14	9	1	43
Encino	10	5	5	3	6	1	30
Forest Hills	21	7	5	4	0	6	43
Great Northwest	10	3	5	1	0	4	23
Guerra	15	15	5	6	2	1	44
Igo	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Johnston	0	1	0	2	1	1	5
Kampmann	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landa	24	13	7	2	0	0	46
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Little Read Wagon	18	0	3	8	0	1	30
Maverick	8	2	5	6	0	0	21
McCreless	0	3	4	17	5	1	30
Memorial	4	6	3	23	1	10	47
Mission	5	3	5	9	0	1	23
Pan American	3	2	1	0	0	0	6
Parman	25	10	3	15	5	6	64
Potranco	4	6	6	11	0	5	32
Pruitt	9	3	4	0	0	4	20
San Pedro	6	10	0	4	2	1	23
Schaefer	16	10	2	8	0	2	38
Semmes	15	10	6	3	0	2	36
System	0	3	24	7	0	9	43
Thousand Oaks	6	4	0	12	3	2	27
Tobin	6	14	5	11	3	4	43
Westfall	7	10	7	8	10	4	46
Total	272	221	223	242	64	91	1,113

*General Interest Programs are not targeted to one age group and/or are targeted for two or more age groups

San Antonio Public Library Program Attendance

October 2024

Location	Early Literacy Attendance (0-5)	School Age Attendance (6-12)	Teen Attendance (13-18)	Adult Attendance (19+)	Older Adults Attendance (60+)	General Interest Attendance*	Total
Bazan	12	36	11	86	13	30	188
Brook Hollow	76	178	120	0	0	251	625
Carver	27	55	0	38	15	0	135
Central	351	306	625	1,007	38	301	2,628
Cody	439	404	276	68	8	0	1,195
Collins Garden	302	28	21	62	9	111	533
Cortez	36	355	128	91	48	0	658
Encino	432	358	43	19	47	31	930
Forest Hills	250	355	36	23	0	47	711
Great Northwest	255	52	35	7	0	21	370
Guerra	226	72	15	36	25	0	374
Igo	45	0	2	0	0	0	47
Johnston	0	450	0	33	55	0	538
Kampmann	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landa	1,064	295	44	26	0	0	1,429
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	899	0	19	80	0	0	998
Maverick	293	79	60	53	0	0	485
McCreless	0	34	27	114	19	0	194
Memorial	15	143	35	166	4	55	418
Mission	81	26	24	83	0	55	269
Pan American	43	8	58	0	0	0	109
Parman	1,194	503	18	274	102	676	2,767
Potranco	184	38	40	82	0	63	407
Pruitt	168	27	81	0	0	26	302
San Pedro	54	109	0	8	10	24	205
Schaefer	503	168	7	53	0	44	775
Semmes	516	141	50	25	0	40	772
System	0	15	177	53	0	2,000	2,245
Thousand Oaks	84	67	0	88	10	2	251
Tobin	62	143	32	76	36	49	398
Westfall	87	89	13	55	40	14	298
Total	7,698	4,534	1,997	2,706	479	3,840	21,254

*General Interest Programs are not targeted to one age group and/or are targeted for two or more age groups

II. SYSTEMWIDE SERVICES

LATINO COLLECTION AND RESOURCE CENTER

On October 1, the Latino Collection & Resource Center (LCRC) hosted an author talk with local author and educator Juan Tejada. Tejada presented an overview of his latest book titled, *Mi Carnal Frank*, which documented his brother's rise as one of San Antonio's most powerful Mexican American politicians. From October 3 – 5, the LCRC hosted a taller (workshop) de Son Jarocho. Presenters Barbie Hurtado and Ana la Tejana guided a group of beginner students through the history of Son Jarocho, which included song, dance and playing the jarana (instrument).



On October 7 and 8th, students Lee Denney and Marina Oquendo from Trinity's *Conmemorando a la Comunidad* project presented their archival research to the community. Denney presented on the

Chicano Movement at Trinity University, while Oquendo presented about Latinx artists that emerged from Trinity University during the 1970's and 1980's. On October 12, the LCRC co-sponsored a screening of the film *Blue Beetle*, at Cassiano Park in partnership with the Mexican American Civil Rights Institute and Monte Video.



On October 19, the LCRC presented *Noche de Música y Memoria*, a performance night, zine release and culmination of the "¡En Vivo desde San Anto!" workshop with program creator Bonnie Cisneros. The 'after library hours' event was held on the 3rd floor East Terrace and food for guests was sponsored by La Familia Cortez. On October 26, the LCRC sponsored Information Services' sugar skull crafting program titled *Calaveras de Azucar*. On October 30, LCRC program manager Sarah De La Rosa and librarian Patricia Perez presented at the Texas

Library Association's District 10 mini conference. The presentation focused on LCRC history, resources, and programming.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.
- 📖 Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.

LEARN AT SAPL

Learn at SAPL celebrated its 10th anniversary this month! Founded in 2014, Learn has grown from four locations with four adult educators, to seven sites with a team of 16. Learn continues to offer learner-centered, empowering, adaptable, respectful, nurturing, and individualized job support and computer training.

Open Houses were celebrated across all open locations, inviting the community in to “meet your friendly neighborhood technology teacher” and enjoy a few refreshments. Learn staff



were joined by regular patrons, new patrons, and ongoing community partner representatives.



Learn at SAPL served over 1,000 patron visits and assisted during nearly 1,200 hours of public computer use this month. Learn staff taught nearly 70 programs, including Civics for Citizenship, English as a Second Language, and computer basics.

Additionally, Learn participated in National Digital Inclusion Week (DIW), offering 20 technology-related programs October 7-11.

Partners from Launch SA spoke to new entrepreneurs at Maverick Library, and Restore Education presented “Tech Night Out” to adult students at Bazan Library.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

📖 Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.

LITTLE READ WAGON

The Little Read Wagon is the San Antonio Public Library’s early literacy outreach team. The team builds connections between families with young children and the library. On October 5th the team hosted Baby’s Super Saturday, an event that celebrated play. Play is the optimal way that children learn. The event filled several spaces at the Central Library. The event was for children ages birth through three years old and their families. At the event, children built important early literacy skills.



Outside, children chased bubbles. They banged on drums. They made marks with tempera sticks. They scooped sand. They watched pinwheels spin in the wind. They heard the wind blowing through wind chimes. Children used many senses to experience the world. Children enjoyed big body play in the auditorium. This allowed them to develop their core strength. Children built with giant blocks. They rolled colorful balls. They rolled cars down ramps.



On the second floor, children and parents read together in tents. Reading together encourages children to develop a love of reading. It also helps children and parents bond. Having close relationships with caring adults protects children against stress. In the story room on the third floor, children played in the Shimmer and Shine sensory play space. Children tapped lamps to watch the colors change. Children crawled into boxes and looked up to see a constellation of lights overhead. They crawled over mattresses covered in various textures. They peered at their own faces reflected in

silver bowls and plates. They used many senses to explore. Over four hundred people attended this event. Many of the attendees asked when the event would happen again. The library is a place of information, imagination, and ideas for all, even for its youngest community members.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.

TEXANA

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Dr. Erika Arredondo-Haskins, Los Alcaldes de Bexar president and professor at University of the Incarnate Word, partnered with Librarian Sylvia Reyna for the October



12 event From Spain to Texas: Unveiling Manuel Yturri y Castillo. This program featured the portrait unveiling of Alcalde, Manuel Yturri y Castillo (1790-1842), a special presentation by Arredondo-Haskins, and remarks by Bexar County Clerk Lucy Adame-Clark, and Conservation Society Executive Director Dr. Vincent Michael.

For Halloween, Librarians Andrew Crews and Arland Schnacker hosted two programs, Haunted Texas: Murders, Legends, and Haunted Stories that featured spooky Texas

stories and Spooky Craft Time a skeleton cut-out and assembly, and mask making in collaboration with Information Services and Children’s Department.

Ms. Reyna was invited to lead an Eastside Historic Cemetery Tour on October 6 for the Conservation Society's junior members. The tour highlighted Odd Fellows and Alamo Masonic cemetery burial sites. Additionally, the San Antonio Herb Society invited Ms. Reyna to give a presentation at their October 6 meeting focused on preserving and organizing documents.



Library Assistant Kaylee Avila hosted a poetry slam for the Big Pride Zine release at Midtown Meetup on October 12. On October 17, she co-moderated a virtual panel on the

evolution of Pride as protest and celebration with speakers Anel Flores, Amy Stone, and Melissa Gohlke.



On October 19, Ms. Avila hosted editors Katherine Gillen, Adrianna M. Santos, and Kathryn Vomero Santos for the volume 2 release of their book, *The Bard in the Borderlands: Shakespeare Appropriations en La Frontera*. The discussion was followed by a performance from the Rio Grande Valley “Creative Arts Studio” student actors.

Librarian Lucia Agado and Ms. Avila attended Texas Library Association’s District 10 Fall Meeting on October 30. Ms. Agado participated on a panel of first year librarians from academic, school, and public libraries who shared insight into their roles within the profession. Ms. Avila presented on the Menstrual Equity program from its start as an idea incubator proposal to a system-wide program.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library’s mission and achieve its vision.

III. AGE-BASED SERVICES

CHILDREN’S

Cortney L. John, Chief Development Officer with ChildSafe, joined the October 9 Children’s Services Team meeting. Ms. John provided an overview of ChildSafe services and their impact on children and families. ChildSafe is a trauma focused care center for child victims and survivors of abuse and neglect. Ms. John’s visit was arranged by Veronica Anderson (Organizational Health). Children’s Services Team members were encouraged to refer patrons to 211 to help them connect to a variety of resources, including ChildSafe.



On October 5, the Little Read Wagon team hosted Baby’s Super Saturday. They were joined by Children’s Library at Central, Gina Brudi and Brianna Herrera (Collins Garden), Jasmin Salinas (Landa), and Amanda Watson (Tobin) to host Baby’s Super Saturday. Families brought their infants and young toddlers to Central Library. They explored different activities on the first, second, and third floors. All the activities invited strengthening of connections between the adults and their children.

Throughout the month, multiple Library locations provided children with their own opportunities to vote. Each location determined what would be on the ballot. At Encino children chose between cats and dogs. At Central the election was between sharks and dinosaurs. At Igo and other locations there were more opportunities. This was a fun way to introduce

children to the idea of voting and civic engagement. Relevant books were displayed near the ballot boxes.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

📖 Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library’s mission and achieve its vision.

TEENS

The monthly Teen Librarian / Liaison meeting took place on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 in the Teen Library at Central. The meeting began with a “Get to know our community partner” session from Communities in Schools staff. Also, during the meeting, Library Service Manager for Teen Services Jennifer Velasquez reported that spending of FY24 funds was completed on time and the FY25 funding request was submitted for consideration. The Teen Services group discussed strategies for in-school and



in-library visits for large school groups desiring library card registration. The Minors and Vulnerable Adults in the Library Administrative Directive Draft was shared and discussed in the group. The Teen Services group discussed strategies for in school and in-library visits for large school groups desiring library card registration. Processes for the Discord Server request system for 3D printing was reviewed by Matthew Loiza.

Teen Services is elated to report the hiring for a new Librarian I position recently earmarked for the Cortez Library. Ciana Flores, who has served as a part-time Library Assistant in the Teen Library at Central for the past 8 years, was selected for the position and will join Cortez branch staff next month. This leaves the number of remaining branch libraries without a dedicated Teen Services

librarian to 5 (Memorial, Semmes, Maverick, Thousand Oaks, and San Pedro).

Additions to the Teen Volunteer Opportunities portion of the Teen Services Web were made by Danilla Toll (Teen Librarian II /Assistant Manager, Collins Garden). The new information is provided to help teens and staff understand the types of opportunities available for teen volunteers to undertake at their local library.

The flagship of system-wide teen services, the Teen Library at Central continues to experience high traffic with often 60+ teens (age 13 to 18) visiting afterschool. October 1 saw the beginning submission period for this year's Young Pegasus Poetry competition. Poets through the age 18 may submit their original work online through the end of November.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

📖 Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.

ADULTS

On October 19, the Library hosted a culminating event for a three-part series of workshops. Through The workshop series, *En Vivo Desde San Anto*, participants researched, created, and performed pieces about unforgettable Mexican American music venues in San Antonio. The culminating after hours event on the 3rd floor terrace of Central Library featured performances from the workshop series presenters and participants, DJ sets, and the launch of an archival zine of works created during the series. On October 10th, all six open Learn at SAPL locations celebrated 10 years of offering adult education to the San Antonio community through individualized computer training and job support. Each location offered an open house that provided community members that have accessed Learn at SAPL services to celebrate what they have accomplished with the help of this adult education service and for all community members to learn about the services available through Learn at SAPL.

In October, the Library offered two events in recognition of LGBTQ+ History Month. On October 12th, the Library hosted a poetry slam offsite at Midtown Meetup. This event was an opportunity for local poets to showcase their creative work and celebrated the release of the 2024 Big Pride Zine. On October 17th, the Library hosted an online event with three authors, activists, and educators to discuss the history, evolution, and importance of Pride events as a form of protest and celebration. In addition to the regular monthly introductory session to American Sign Language (ASL), the Library offered two additional opportunities for community members to learn ASL in October in recognition of National Disability Awareness Month. One of the additional sessions offered in October was an introductory session that included basic general vocabulary, fingerspelling, and etiquette. The other session focused on vocabulary related to Halloween.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

OLDER ADULTS

The Library regularly offers opportunities at many library locations for older adults to engage in forms of exercise and stretching such as yoga, tai chi, and qi gong. These opportunities are inclusive in that they can be modified for any ability level. Additionally, these opportunities combine movement and stretching with experiences such as meditation that are intended to provide opportunities related to mental and emotional wellbeing. Library locations that offer regular yoga, tai chi, and/or qi gong classes include Thousand Oaks, Parman, Westfall, and Pan American.

On October 23rd, a group of participants from the Walker Ranch Senior Center — one of the City of San Antonio’s Comprehensive Senior Centers — visited the Central Library. Senior center participants came to view the LCRC exhibit VIAJE ONÍRICO and were then provided with a tour of Central Library by LCRC Program Manager Sarah De La Rosa.

In October, Potranco Library wrapped up another session of the seven-week workshop series Viva Health, which is presented by the City of San Antonio’s Metro Health department. This series provides participants with the knowledge and skills to eat better, live healthier and live longer. Participants also learned about ways to attempt to prevent or delay many chronic diseases through better nutrition and increased physical activity. Additionally, participants who have chronic diseases learned about ways to better manage their symptoms through applying what they learned from these helpful sessions.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

IV. LOCATION-BASED SERVICES

CENTRAL LIBRARY

October was a special month at the Children’s Library with additional spooky programs added to the roster including movie screenings, a scary story read aloud and Pumpkin Baby Time. The fun culminated with a joyful Family Story Time on the outdoor terrace, led by Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin. The children used fresh herbs harvested from the Tween Garden to create a sensory collage on contact paper. Librarian Madeline Nezat developed the very successful Halloween Party, complete with a performance by child violinists in costumes! She transformed the Story Room into a spooky wonderland of engaging activities, which over 200 people enjoyed.



Librarian Ashley Palacios held very popular weekly Tween Times that featured hands-on messy activities like slime making and potion mixing. The Teen Library continues to see an average of 60 teens after school on weekdays and teen regulars on Saturdays. As always, teens take ownership of the Teen Library by developing, leading, and engaging in activities that speak to their interests—some highlights this month include teens testing out a new 3D printer, running an impromptu gaming tournament, making jewelry, and creating ciphers. In addition to planning and leading weekly Teen Tuesday cooking activities (featuring Hispanic Heritage Month and

Halloween inspired recipes), teens also planned and hosted two Halloween parties with activities including costumes, crafts, cookie decorating, movies, and games.

Information Services Librarian Cynthia de Leon worked with LEAD (Language Equity Access Advocacy and Advancement for the Deaf) to host a Beginner's American Sign Language: Halloween Edition for Disability Awareness Month. ASL Instructor Melissa Escamilla taught students how to finger spell, how to make some



basic signs, and shared Halloween and library vocabulary. Interpreter Liana de la Cruz discussed how to be an ally to the Deaf community.

TLA District 10 Fall Meeting and Mini Conference was held at Region 20 on October 30. Librarian Patricia Perez and Latino Collection and Resource Center Program Manager Sarah De La Rosa presented El Tesoro Cultural de la Biblioteca Central de San Antonio/The Cultural Treasure of San Antonio's Central Library. Ms. Perez provided an overview of the Latino Collection and engaged the educational community. TLA members learned about opportunities to incorporate the Latino Collection materials into educational lessons, scholarly research, and general knowledge.

Learn at Central Training Officers Denise, Daniel, and Gerardo have been visiting Haven for Hope weekly to help patrons with technology, job help, and resumes. The attendees learn more about library services and many go on to visit Learn at Central. Learn at Central Library Assistant Bri finished up her Nonprofit Technology Enterprise Network (NTEN) fellowship with effective and popular computer programs for seniors. Attendance grew each session, and both the individual seniors and the Senior Center staff were excited and grateful for the growth in digital literacy skills. Multiple students from the Bilingual computers y Creative Learning class got jobs and returned to create zines that will help others. Another previous student delivered a hand carved Halloween pumpkin filled with their own original spooky zine and treats to share with the Learn community.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

📖 Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.

DISTRICT 1

Landa Branch Library

Landa Library's annual "Landa Boo" Halloween party drew in almost 300 children on the library grounds. Patrons were treated to a spooktacular time with a bubble party, magic show, and even a petting zoo! Children and adults alike had a blast getting their faces painted by Landa's awesome teen volunteers, and everyone left with creepy-cool goodie bags. But the highlight? Landa staff's absolute favorite costume—an adorable mini chef pushing a "Tacos Don Andres" cart and serving up pretend felt tacos al pastor with flair! It was a monstrously good time all around!

On Thursday, October 10, Landa Garden Conservancy celebrated their 20th anniversary with their Landa Nights fundraiser. This annual event brings together community members to raise money for the upkeep and improvement of the grounds around



Landa Library. About 300 attendees and other sponsors raised about \$310,000.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

San Pedro Branch Library



On October 26th, City of San Antonio Council District 1 the Spooktacular Family Event and Movie Night outside San Pedro Branch Library. Attendees were encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes for trick-or-treating while at the event. The program featured refreshments and a family friendly movie. Additionally, the council staff an update with the community about all the feedback they collected to support the park over the summer!

Ever wondered how they create the cool and creepy affects you see in the movies? How do they get regular human actors to look like goblins or witches or elves or trolls? Professional makeup and special effects artist Miguel Cantu stopped by San Pedro Branch Library for the 2nd year in a row to give a full makeup and prosthetics demonstration. An entrepreneur and owner of his own business called Altered Vision Studios, Miguel has been working in the film and television industry for two decades, making monsters and makeup and magic effects for many films and television episodes. His skills are impeccable and rank among some of the best in the business. It was a spooky evening of fun and insight not found anywhere else!

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

Westfall Branch Library

The 10th anniversary of the Learn at SAPL program, celebrated at Westfall Library on October 10, 2024, marked a decade of empowering community members through job application support, computer training, and providing educational resources. Over the past ten years, the program has become a vital resource of technology development in the area, helping individuals enhance their skills, gain confidence, and improve their job preparation skills. Attendees of the anniversary event reflected on the program's impact, which has provided vital tools for personal and professional growth - from resume building and interview preparation to mastering digital literacy, Learn at SAPL continues to bridge gaps and develop skills for lifelong learning. The event highlighted the program's ongoing success in helping

individuals achieve their personal goals and adapt to an ever-changing technology driven world. The Learn at SAPL program remains committed to supporting the diverse needs of the community.

On October 1st, Library Assistant Amber Hughes hosted a Spooky Book Exchange at Westfall Library for patrons to celebrate the spooky season. The goal was for patrons to bring a book (for example- Thriller, Horror, Mystery) to the event to exchange with another patron. This would allow patrons to talk about books with one another and get/give book recommendations. Amber decorated the meeting room and provided light snacks and blind book picks in case any patron came empty handed. The blind book picks were all books related to spooky season. Amber gift wrapped them, and patrons were able to keep these books. In total Amber had about 24-25 patrons attend this event and many asked if she would host something like this again. Any extra blind book picks that were left were put on the October book display, and they all were taken home before the month was over.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.
- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.
- 📖 Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.

DISTRICT 2

Carver Branch Library

On Friday, October 18th, the branch hosted Day One of the two-day Verso Frontera Literary Festival. Writers and poets from across the state and turned out to read selections from their work and encourage aspiring writers. Sponsors were Carver Branch, Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) and the Master of Fine Arts Creative Writing program. The event was founded by Octavio Quintanilla, Ph.D., as a one-day event in 2019. However, after attending Carver's Prudence Curry Writers' Series, which concluded last spring, Quintanilla asked to partner with the branch to expose another audience to the festival, which is usually held at the OLLU campus. This year marked the first time a second day was added. Quintanilla is a celebrated poet whose recent work, *The Book of Wounded Sparrows*, was longlisted the National Book Award. Attendees expressed interest in returning to the branch.



Carver Branch Manager D.L. Grant Jr. delivered the monthly Taboo Topics address at the October 8th General Membership meeting of the Junior League of San Antonio (JLSA). Grant’s remarks centered on banned or challenged books, a theme suggested by JLSA which sought a better understanding of the controversial issue and the local impact. He spoke of San Antonio Public Library’s (SAPL) mission of “changing lives through the transformative power of information, imagination and ideas” and the commitment of the City of San Antonio (COSA) to protect freedom of access, in its statement: “City Council embraces the belief that individuals have the right to free inquiry and the equally important right to form their own opinions.” The event was held at the Garden Center, located inside the San Antonio Botanical Garden. Grant rounded out the discussion, outlining SAPL’s Request for Reconsideration policy in case anyone wishes to question acquisition of an item.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library’s reach in the community.

Schaefer Branch Library

Schaefer offered a Halloween Story Time: Sing & Stroll for young children and their families on Thursday, Oct. 31. Children dressed in their Halloween costumes and Children’s Librarian Leslie Elsasser led the program by sharing songs, stories and activities as the group walked along the Schaefer trail. The trail starts and ends at the playground, so when they made it all the way around, there were games and an art activity, as well as trick-or-treating for the children! Staff members Zoe Paz and Gibby Martinez also helped. Members of the Schaefer Friends group generously donated the candy.

For the fall scavenger hunt, staff created ghosts to hide throughout the month of October for children to find in the library. Staff take great care to move the shapes around each day, as children are eager to complete the scavenger hunt multiple time throughout the month. Members of the Schaefer Friends group also donated stickers and pencils for the finisher prize.



These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

DISTRICT 3

McCreless Branch Library

This October, the McCreless Learn Center joined other locations in celebrating Learn's 10th Anniversary. Patrons were treated to refreshments and invited to meet and celebrate with San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) Learn Officers. McCreless's Learn Officers Lodie Mueller and Christina Flores continue to be essential team members who provide one-on-one assistance with job placement as well as computer training. Both Lodie and Christina serve the McCreless community with helpful and friendly attitudes appreciated by Learn patrons. Their efforts extend to outreach and programming crucial for patrons as they integrate into the community, learn English, and study civics.

The teens at McCreless celebrated with a Halloween party on October 22nd. In this impactful program, nine teen patrons enjoyed a movie, games, and snacks thanks to the generous donations from H-E-B and the Friends of McCreless Branch Library. This program provided the teenagers with a safe space to bond, socialize, and celebrate the holiday as they mature out of door-to-door trick-or-treating. By encouraging fun, programming like this can positively impact mental health and stimulate imagination in a crucial time of development.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

Mission Branch Library

Library Assistants Amanda Flores and Jennifer Olivarez hosted a sugar skull decorating program on Monday, October 28th. The turnout was more than expected and after 25 participants, there were no more sugar skulls. Everyone who got the opportunity to decorate a sugar skull enjoyed it a lot.

Mission served as an early voting location for the community for the Presidential election. Mission staff answered many phone calls each day, as well as in-person questions from people needing how to find out information regarding the voting process. To accommodate voting, librarians adjusted their regular shifts to have full coverage for the election staff to successfully host voting.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

 Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.

Pan American Branch Library

Teen Librarian Gladys Nunez and Teen Librarian Ami Sarabia attended an outreach at Harlandale High School. The school librarian wanted students to have the opportunity to sign up for library cards. They had a table set up in the school's library with some free items including pens, pencils, and flyers. Teens were also able to pick a free button to take with them. They talked with the students about library

services and resources including the 210teenlibrary Discord, Libby, Kanopy, mySAPL app, and the various free teen activities available throughout the branches.

Children’s Librarian, Rachel Forbes, collaborated with Mission Branch Library and acted as a substitute for their two weekly story times. This enabled Mission Branch Library to continue their engagement with the local community and introduce another local library, Pan American Branch Library, to their community. Patrons expressed interest in visiting Pan American Branch Library and were excited to learn about a new local library.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.

DISTRICT 4

Cortez Branch Library

This October, the Cortez branch hosted two school tours for local elementary schools. Children's Librarian Childs showed Pre-K and kindergarten students around the library, showed them how the library was organized, and talked to them about the different things the library has to offer. Once the tours were over, children and their parents were excited to sign up for their very first library cards and check out their first books! Children also lined up to take pictures of themselves with their first library cards and books.



These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.

Johnston Branch Library

Despite the continued closure for minor interior improvements, Johnston served as an Early Voting location during October. More than 9,000 people voted at Johnston during the Early Voting period. Johnston staff created multiple displays for Voters to enjoy while they waited, including Halloween/Fall

displays featuring picture books and a Horror display for adults. While Voters were waiting to Vote many of them spoke with staff. Some Voters shared childhood memories of coming to Johnston. Others spoke of bringing their children or grandchildren to Story Time. Still others spoke of all the library services they have missed having close by while Johnston has been closed including computer assistance. Voters told staff they appreciated the book displays, staff, staff's work, and the Johnston branch as a whole. Regular Johnston patrons expressed condolences for the death of Johnston's Circulation Attendant Vida Salas last year.



Johnston staff represented the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) at two Trunk-or-Treat events in October. Johnston's staff prepared two Take-and-Make kits to give away at the events: a chenille stem spider making kit and a paper plate with yarn spiderweb making kit. Staff even made examples so the children would have some idea of the completed craft. The first trunk-or-treat event was at Alan Shepard Elementary School on October 30. Children's Librarian Jackie Gonzales and Part-time Circulation Attendant Cynthia Blancas served over 450 children and their families. The second event—on Halloween--was District 4's Trunk-or-Treat at Pearsall Park. Branch Manager Cristine Mitchamore, Circulation Attendants Raquel Gonzales and Cynthia Blancas served 500 children and their families. The chenille stem spider kit was the clear favorite at both events. Staff spoke with families, friends, and children about Children's events such as Story Time and the work being done at Johnston during the closure. Through the small interactions outside of a library location SAPL staff provided information about library services to people that had not been to the library in a long time and that may have otherwise never spoken with library staff.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.

DISTRICT 5

Bazan Branch Library

The Bazan Branch Library came alive with poetry and music as members of the Voces C3smicas poetry group, along with guests, gathered to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The invited poets delivered a great array of readings that highlighted Latino history, culture, and contributions. Their poetry kept the audience engaged, while musical performances by The Mario Arias Project and guest musician Gary Davenport, a library aide at Bazan, added to the experience during intermissions. Voces C3smicas, a nonprofit



literary group, is dedicated to sharing poetry and prose, sparking ideas, promoting literature, and supporting emerging writers and artists. They meet regularly at the Bazan Branch Library.



The Bazan Branch Library hosted a community altar or ofrenda created by Training Officer Carlos Loera in celebration of Día de los Muertos and Hispanic Heritage Month. The ofrenda, displayed on the main floor, received a lot of attention and praise. Library Assistant Elvia Ramos, Children’s Librarian Lisa Leandro, and Assistant Manager Cassie Garza also organized a Día de los Muertos craft program featuring a sewing activity and miniature ofrenda decorating. One patron who attended the program later shared images of her personal home ofrenda, which included the crafts she made at the library, and expressed her appreciation for the library offering these activities.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

Collins Garden Branch Library

Teens at the Collins Garden Branch took agency of the experiences available to them at their location. Using the craft supplies from the Collins Garden Friends group and pumpkins donated by HEB, teen creatively expressed their interests in art, by decorating pumpkins, mugs, and canvas, with support from Teen Services Librarian Daniella Toll. One teen, who had worked as a summer intern, stopped by the branch to vote, and was able to see some of the décor he had made on display in the Teen Area.



Adult Services Librarian Rosa Villa spent time helping a Spanish-speaking couple print documents needed for naturalization. The couple only spoke Spanish and needed to print documents for the dad and son. As a fluent Spanish speaker, Rosa expertly guided them through using SAPL's print portal. Because both father and son share the same name, she also helped them organize the documents and made sure that nothing was missing, ensuring they accomplished everything needed.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

📖 Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.

Las Palmas Branch Library

In October, Las Palmas Branch Library was invited to participate in National Night Out alongside community partners H-E-B and the Las Palmas Friends of the Library. This popular and growing event provided the library with an opportunity to share resources, update the community on library branch news, and create new library cards. McGruff the Crime Dog and HEB Buddy, were excited to be first in line to receive a new library card design from Assistant Manager Nicole San Martin and Library Assistant Elvia Ramos! The library looks forward to fostering more community connections in the future.



Las Palmas Branch Library continues to strengthen its connection with the community at Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU). This month, Las Palmas was invited to participate in the university's Día de los



Muertos (DOTD) celebration. On this day approximately 130 students from Rodriguez Montessori Elementary School, were welcomed on a tour of the DOTD altares displayed throughout the university campus. The tour concluded at the Sueltenfuss library, where Assistant Manager Nicole San Martin and Senior Circulation Attendant Lila DeLosSantos greeted the students with a vibrant display of children's books and unique bookmarks that guided them to the library catalog and DOTD-themed books. The bookmarks were a hit with the students! Las Palmas Branch Library has genuinely enjoyed working with OLLU and will continue collaborating with the university to share valuable resources.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

DISTRICT 6

Great Northwest Branch Library

On October 5 Adult Services Librarian Christina Montero along with two other colleagues, Melissa Carroll and Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard, represented San Antonio Public Library at the Access Ability Fest as part of the Disability Awareness Initiative. This Festival is hosted by disAbilitySA. Organizations came together to share resources. Visitors stopped by the SAPL resource table and shared how much they appreciated the library and were excited to learn about SAPL services, like Libby and Kanopy.

Great Northwest Library staff at the reference desk had a wonderful interaction with a patron this month. A grateful patron shared with library assistants, Donna Borel and Vanetta Coker, how much she appreciated the free internet the library provides. She said that it is cheaper than any plan she could buy, and that SAPL saves her about \$50 a month.



These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.

Guerra Branch Library

The Guerra Branch Library was the first branch to "sell out" of the new limited edition library cards. The cards were very popular at the branch. Patrons expressed their excitement for the new designs and all staff used every opportunity to promote the cards and get them into the hands of patrons of all ages. These opportunities allowed staff to promote library services and share with patrons, all the wonderful and free services available to them.



Librarian II Stephen Jackson coordinates and leads the Guerra Branch Club de Lectura. This club is one of the longest running book clubs in the system with



monthly discussions in Spanish. This program started in 2007. To date, the book club has read and discussed 207 books. Beginning in 2021, the club has included both in-person and Zoom discussion. The group has discussed a large range of fiction titles as well as some biographies and history books. Attendees have expressed their satisfaction with the book group, hence its continuity with most of its original members. Mr. Jackson encourage all who would like to read and improve their Spanish to join the club.

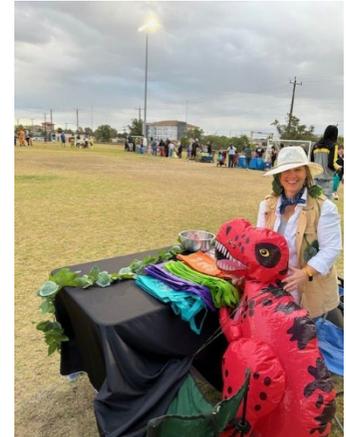
These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.

Potranco Branch Library

On Friday, October 17th, Potranco Teen Librarian Sherry Ross and Branch Manager Tim Johnson represented SAPL at the Mays Family YMCA's annual Boo Bash event. Johnson and Ross handed out candy and took the opportunity to urge the more than 900 attendees to visit the library and see what it had to offer.

Adult Librarian II Dawn Zeig partnered with the Metro Health department's Diabetes Management division to deliver a holistic, 7-week program on diabetes prevention and management. Topics included shopping at the grocery store, food choices, exercise and more. Metro Health gave away small prizes related to the topic for that week. People who attended all the meetings got an HEB gift card.



These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
-  Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.

DISTRICT 7

Maverick Branch Library

Maverick hosted the Bexar County Election Department for the Joint General, Special, Charter and Bond Election (Presidential) during early voting. Over a thousand voters turned out daily at the branch. The faithful presiding judges did an outstanding job assisting the enormous crowd each day. The collaborative reference staff also did a superb job opening early and closing the building for the judges. As other libraries were also voting sites, this important civic event made an impact for Maverick's community. First the library provided the Maverick community a welcoming familiar space for voters to cast their vote. Second, having the event at the library became an opportunity for some voters to come inside the library to explore and even encouraged people to sign up for or renew their library cards.

In recent years, Maverick Library has offered a bi-weekly Mah Jongg program to the community. The Mah Jongg group has met consistently and has welcomed many who have expressed interest in joining the famous game. From the Mah Jongg group, another game group is starting to emerge. A small group of players are starting to play the game of Canasta on a weekly basis. The game of Canasta is a card game played in various forms, yet often played from 2 to 4 players. Some of the players have built a close bond within one another allowing for an opportunity for engagement with others who have similar interest. This demonstrates Maverick Library offers a friendly and welcoming environment. It is an indication that customers enjoy spending time at its local library and find it as one of the places to socially gather and learn new things.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.
- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.

DISTRICT 8

Cody Branch Library

The Cody Branch Library has seen huge community engagement with the recent addition of a Puzzle Exchange. This began when the branch received a large donation of puzzles for the community puzzle table that was too big to store in the previous location. To encourage people to take puzzles home, the Puzzle Exchange was created. Located under the digital display screen, across from the Reference desk, patrons can take or donate puzzles for others to enjoy. Cody has seen over 20 donations and regular substitution. The growing collection has selections for all age levels and varied difficulty levels. With the popularity of self-serve activities like the puzzle station and exchange Cody has also introduced other all-ages passive activities from donated materials like word searches, Sudoku, coloring pages, and materials, which patrons are welcome to complete at the library or at home.



Cody served as a polling place for early voting in the 2024 Presidential election, October 21 through November 1, serving over 17,000 voters in the eleven service days in October. With a veteran staff of election judges, voters enjoyed a fast and efficient set up, with short wait times.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

District 9

Brook Hollow Branch Library

The Read to a Dog Program @ Brook Hollow Library allows children 5 years and older to experience the joy of reading to a K9 Buddy. Golden Labs, and brothers, River and Scout visit the BHL monthly and are thrilled to see the regular children who participate. Twenty-five guests sat with the dogs and read books about other dogs and a variety of stories. Reading to a dog can benefit reluctant readers by making them feel comfortable in a welcoming, stress-free environment. The K9 Reading Buddies Organization advocates



reading to dogs is fun and children learn to associate practicing to read with a positive memory. Developing a positive attitude about reading encourages children to develop reading as a hobby and become lifelong learners.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library’s reach in the community.

Encino Branch Library



Bexar County Elections consistently select Encino Branch Library as an Early Voting and Election Day Voting site due to its location in the city. Encino Branch hosted 21,740 voters during the October early voting period of October 21-31, which resulted in Encino being the number one early voting site in San Antonio.

Fall Fest at Encino was the highlight of the branch’s October programming. Encino hosted 125 adults and 175 children throughout the event, which included pumpkin painting, face painting, a fall family photo booth, lawn games, creepy sensory items and a Bunnacula (bunny) Petting Zoo from Happy Tails.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library’s reach in the community.

Parman Branch Library at Stone Oak

In addition to regular themed programming and displays, this year the Parman Branch celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with two special programs brought to Parman by the branch manager Barbara Kwiatkowski and presented by the Parman community members. The branch hosted the amazing work of local artist Mary Carmen Sessions. Her exhibit, “Refranes y Raíces: Honoring Hispanic Heritage” showcased a series of paintings with profound connections to family, Hispanic culture, and tradition. Over sixty patrons attended a meet the artist reception for the exhibit, and shared how much they enjoyed the bold, expressive artwork in the gallery. The branch also hosted professor of Hispanic Literary and Cultural Studies Małgorzata Oleszkiewicz-Peralba, PhD for presentation on Hispanic culture. Her presentation, “Symbolic Structure of the Universe in Pottery, Textiles, and Rituals of Eurasia



and Mesoamerica” explored similarities between traditional Mesoamerican and Eastern European designs. Attended by more than thirty patrons, this presentation was extremely informative, with many remarking how much they enjoyed the chance to see physical artifacts with those cultural designs.



With early voting on the horizon to make sure they met the different needs of the community Parman branch got creative with its scheduling of events. On top of the ongoing programs Parman staff was able to fit in two major events to ensure Halloween fun for patrons. To make up for the limited October space for the annual Halloween Carnival — this year visited by 560 patrons — they added an additional event for pets and their owners called Parman's Pet-Stravaganza. Dogs were wearing costumes and owls, along with a falcon, posed for pictures with humans. Over 60 human guests now have a picture with a falcon or owl on their phone. The carnival included games, old-fashioned trick-or-treating crafts, a witchy Storytime for little ones, and a Beetlejuice room for older visitors and an opportunity

for a dance party in the amphitheater with friendly ghosts.

During early voting the community showed an interest in attending their weekly programs, so all staff adjusted to ensure ongoing programs were available and enjoyable for all. Early voting guests enjoyed the seasonal decorations in front of the library as well as books that were made available to them by the Parman Friends.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

DISTRICT 10

Semmes Branch Library

After a short absence, Semmes Library's "Read to a Dog" program returned in October. This program pairs reluctant readers with trained therapy dogs, allowing the reader to practice reading to someone who is utterly non-judgmental and completely supportive... because they are a dog. Children look forward to specific dogs, who appear on a regular schedule, and the return of the program brought back many smiles.

Semmes Library played host to Bexar County elections once again, serving more than eighteen thousand voters across the eleven days of October voting (the 12th day of early voting being in November). As the hosting location, Semmes staff has the important job of ensuring that campaign signs follow library policy and explaining those policies to both campaigns and curious voters. While voters are at the library,

the staff also works to make sure they know of library services; it is a yearly chance to showcase what San Antonio Public Library can do.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

Thousand Oaks Branch Library

Library Assistant Mari Carmen Castellano coordinated with library colleagues and partnered with Mia Cortez, the owner of Midtown Meetup, to host the “Werk the Stacks Poetry Slam” program on Saturday, October 12. Ms. Castellano led the team in meeting to plan the event, creating a promotional flyer, producing the Big Pride Zine, and setting up the event space. At the event, she launched the Big Pride Zine, kept a tally of the participants, acted as score keeper for the poetry slam, and answered questions from the attendees. There were 25 attendees at this successful community outreach event.

The Thousand Oaks Library partnered with David Goree, an education coordinator with the Parks and Recreation Department, to host a Birding for Beginners program on October 26. During the instructional session, participants were guided through the basics of hearing and observing birds, identifying bird species, using binoculars, and using the free digital app Merlin Bird ID. For a real-time birding experience, participants were invited to join Mr. Goree on the library grounds to practice their new skills while enjoying this fun and popular activity.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

Tobin Branch Library at Oakwell

Tobin at Oakwell Children's Librarian Lisa Ramirez participated in outreach at Garner Middle School's curriculum night on October 1 to tell students and families about homework help resources available through the library. Garner Middle School is situated next door to the Tobin branch and staff regularly see around 100 students visiting the library after school daily. This school year, Tobin staff have placed a great emphasis on building positive relationships with the students and school administration. Ramirez's visit to this important event was a continuation of that effort to grow strong community connections.

Tobin at Oakwell hosted Bexar County Elections for voting beginning October 21. The branch saw a total of 14,602 voters during the 11



voting days in October. Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse utilized the increased traffic to the building as an opportunity for passive programming, and voters were delighted with boredom-busting bubble wrap sheets to pop while waiting in line. This was a very clever way to promote the branch's other programming options to new patrons.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

V. MEDIA

Oct – Multiple media outlets reported on the availability of Library locations as places to register to vote and as voter centers throughout the month of October.

Oct 1 – Multiple outlets reported on the reopening of Launch SA, now operated by Geekdom at Central Library.

Oct 3 – KENS 5 reported on SAPL's Menstrual Equity program.

Oct 7 – Children's Librarian Linda Lopez from Guerra was featured during a craft segment on Great Day SA on KSAT.

Oct 8 – KBTX News in Waco reported on SAPL's Menstrual Equity program.

Oct 9 – KENS 5 posted an online feature story about the history of Landa Branch Library.

Oct 18 – KSAT aired a segment about an American Sign Language course offered for free at Brook Hollow Branch Library. The course is offered by MacArthur High School students.

Oct 25 – Multiple local and national outlets reported on the assault of a voting official at the Johnston Branch Library. Very few reports listed the library by name.