



San Antonio Public Library partnered with the Bexar County Master Gardeners to host a fall gardening series, Dig it!

San Antonio Public Library Director's Report

October 2023

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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The following is a summary of notable activities during the month of October related to the Library Director's professional involvement and engagement with San Antonio Public Library stakeholders.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar met with San Antonio Public Library Foundation Executive Director Amy Hone on October 2, 2023, to discuss library matters.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar welcomed San Antonio's City Manager Erik Walsh to the Landa Branch Library on October 4, 2023, for a Customer Service Workers week.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar virtually attended the Local Government Hispanic Network Central Chapter Board Meeting on October 10, 2023.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Executive Committee meeting on October 11, 2023, at San Antonio Public Library Foundation Office.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar virtually attended the University of North Texas Board of Advisors Meeting on October 16, 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS

Hispanic Heritage Month, Get Eclipse Ready and fall programming news were the main subjects of media coverage and marketing initiatives for San Antonio Public Library in October. These stories garnered significant media attention. The Communications Team also began developing campaigns to inform the public on the expanded Kanopy Library and Native American Heritage Month.

Media Highlights

- October 2 - KSAT 12 published an online article about where to get eclipse glasses for the upcoming eclipse and included a list of "Get Eclipse Ready" programs at San Antonio Public Library locations.
- October 2 - KENS 5 featured SAPL Branch Manager Kiyanna Stephens on a segment about fall and Halloween crafts at SAPL locations.
- October 3 - TPR aired an interview with Williams about the Chihuly cleaning.
- October 4 - San Antonio Express News published an article about the cleaning of the Fiesta Tower by Dale Chihuly on Central Library's second floor. San Antonio Public Library Communications Manager Scott Williams was interviewed for this article.
- October 4 - TPR published an online article with an interview with Scott Williams on the subject of the cleaning of the Chihuly.
- October 9 - SAXT Today listed the Library as a place to get solar eclipse glasses.
- October 9 - TPR reported on the reopening of Maverick Branch Library.
- October 12 - Spectrum reported on a new study on book banning and parents options of banned books. SAPL Coordinator of Children's Services Cresencia Huff participated in an interview for this segment.
- October 12 - KSAT 12 aired a segment about how to watch the October 14 eclipse and noted that the San Antonio Public Library was offering eclipse glasses to people who attended special programs.
- October 17 - News 4 WOAI reported that the Google Doodle on October 17 was in honor of Raoul A. Cortez, the pioneer Spanish-language media executive and namesake of San Antonio Public Library's Cortez Branch.
- October 17 - Telemundo reported on events going on at San Antonio Public Library
- October 17 - KSAT also reported on the Google Doodle honoring Cortez Branch Library's namesake.
- October 20 - San Antonio Current published an article on the anti-book banning mural created by Chalk Artist Lakey Hinson outside Central Library
- October 20 - KENS 5 hosted the Executive Director of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation for a feature segment promoting the Catrina Ball.
- October 21 - KSAT 12 aired a segment with an interview with Landa Branch Manager Kiyanna Stephens in promotion of fall programs happening at SAPL.
- October 21 - TPR aired a highlight on the Ready to Work Career Resource Fair at Mission Branch Library on Saturday, October 21.
- October 24 - KSAT also published an online article about fall events happening at San Antonio Public Library.
- October 24 - News 4 San Antonio published an online article and gallery featuring Dia de los Muertos ofrendas across the city. Central Library and Schaefer Branch were featured in this article. Additionally, Schaefer Branch Manager Maria Adams was interviewed for this piece.
- October 29 - Spectrum published an article on book ban attempts in Texas in 2022. The article is the written version of a broadcast piece that aired earlier in October. The piece contains an interview with Coordinator of Children's Services Cresencia Huff.

- October 30 - KSAT 12 promoted the Scary Texas Stories program at Central Library as well as the Classic Movie Monday: Halloween Edition happening at Westfall Branch.

Social Media metrics overview for October 2023:

- SAPL's social media generated **243,552** impressions
- SAPL's social media following base grew by **862** new fans
- Content shared across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram contributed to users engaging with our posts **11,597** times.

Social Media growth for October 2023:

- X: **21** followers
- Facebook: **586** followers
- Instagram: **225** followers

YouTube statistics for October 2023:

- Subscribers: **10**
- Impressions: **25,133**
- Total Views: **2,508**
- Videos published: **1**

Graphics

The Graphics Team created publicity materials for a variety of programs and events during this reporting period, including the Corazon Collection, Native American Heritage Month, Young Pegasus, and Disability Awareness Week, as well as social media and other promotions for branch events.

DIGITAL SERVICES

On October 16 and 17 Digital Library Services Analyst Tricia Masterson and the Digital Services team oversaw the installation of 4 new laptop dispensers at Central and Memorial; expanding self-service options for patrons needing internet access at those locations.

Ms. Masterson and Digital Library Services Assistant Christina Hess, with assistance from the Digital Services team, continued working throughout the month on the implementation of new RIFD devices.

LATINO COLLECTION & RESOURCE CENTER

On October 4 and 11th, the LCRC hosted the last 2 of 5 consecutive, weekly storytelling workshops titled Somos Storytellers as presented by LCRC partner, Somos Cultura. In these sessions, attendees learned how to access the resources they have available through SAPL, (LCRC, Texana/Genealogy Department and databases) to research and document their heritage, and family histories.



On October 5, the LCRC participated at an author talk presented by Trinity University, featuring Sandra Guzman. The LCRC outreach included distributing information about our collection and resources, while also promoting SAPL & LCRC's Hispanic Heritage Month programming.



The weekends of October 7, 14 and 21, the LCRC partnered with Gemini Ink to host a series of bilingual story telling workshops, presented by local poet and storyteller Eddie Vega. Attendees crafted their stories of choice during these first two sessions, where they refined their ideas and performance strategies. The final weekend the attendees presented their stories, which were recorded by Caesar Morales for future airing on Empower House's radio station. The workshops were held at Bazan Library.



El Poder del Voto/The Power of the Vote program, which honored Choco Meza's voting rights advocacy and activism, took place on October 10 in the LCRC programming space. The panel consisted of Rosie Castro, Dr. Charles Cotrell (President Emeritus of St. Mary's) and George Korbel, all of whom were instrumental in the success of obtaining voting rights for minorities.



On October 13, the LCRC in a partnership with Monte Video, presented an 'after library hours' film screening at Central Library, as part of an independent Latinx film festival called Raza Cósmica. The award-winning documentary *Hummingbirds*, created by two Latinx film makers from Laredo, TX, was screened for the community. The event took place on the 3rd floor terrace with regular SAPL collaborator, local activist and musician, Joaquin Muerte, as moderator and spinning vinyl for attendees.



On October 28, the LCRC sponsored a sugar skull crafting event in the LCRC programming space, as presented by Central librarian Patricia Perez and library assistant Leti Guerra. While learning about the

history of this tradition, attendees decorated sugar skulls that were created before the event, but also created a fresh sugar skull to take home with them. The class was full capacity.



LITTLE READ WAGON

The first in a series of six monthly Let's Play! events to be held on the lawn outside Cortez Library was offered on Saturday, October first. This initial event was a delight, with familiar and new faces alike stopping by to enjoy the beautiful day, child-led exploration and community connections. Additionally, Little Read Wagon (LRW) hosted weekly Let's Play! events throughout October at Garza Community Center. Library Services Specialists Jenifer Crier and Melisa Hill were present at each of the evening programs, providing a sense of continuity and welcome for children and their families. Parks and Recreation Staff assisted throughout the series, which concluded in October.



Megan Cruz, Library Services Specialist, presented programs to school age parents in Harlandale Independent School District (ISD), Northeast ISD, and San Antonio ISD. During these programs, teen parents learned about early literacy practices to use at home with their children. At each session, they also made items they can use with their children. Some of the items they made were personalized board books, sensory bottles, and gel boards used for writing. Eva Banda, Library Services Specialist, presented early literacy workshops to the school age parents of Southwest Highschool in Southwest ISD and Cooper Academy at Navarro in SAISD. Not only was Ms. Banda able to work with the teen parents at these schools, she also was able to offer services to their children through bilingual story time at both schools, which have childcare centers on site.

Julia Lazarin, Library Services Specialist, and Ms. Hill led an in-person early literacy workshop for parents and other primary caregivers at each of the four Pre-K 4 SA Education Centers during October. The workshops provide an opportunity for clarifying best early literacy practices, sharing and learning as a community, and promoting San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) services. Participants assembled bedtime routine charts for their families to use in developing the routine of reading together daily. A busy mother at Pre-K 4 SA North Education Center shared at the end of the session how happy she was to have made the hard choice to attend the workshop, forgoing other plans, because she learned so much useful information. Similar workshops were offered for adults at schools in Harlandale, Northside, San Antonio and Southwest ISDs respectively.



Family Reading Tents were offered at six schools in October as a means of promoting joyful early literacy connections within families. Half of these family programs followed early literacy workshops for parents.

Finally, LRW staff offered sincere thanks and well-wishes to departing team leader Clair Larkin, Library Services Lead, for her years of dedicated service and support.

CHILDREN'S (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Library and Parks representatives from around the country convened in San Antonio October 3-5 to learn and share how their cities are implementing the Nature Smart Library concept. On the evening of October 3, the group visited Central Library with a brief tour by Jake Odland, Public Services Administrator, and Kate Simpson, Children's Library at Central manager. Little Read Wagon staff was joined by Carrie Vance (Igo) in setting up a temporary demonstration of the natural elements used by San Antonio Public Library children's services. Clair Larkin, Little Read Wagon manager, briefed the group on how these elements are used in various activities.



Nature Smart Libraries convening participants tour the Hardberger Park Land Bridge and Skywalk

The Children's Services Team had their October 11 meeting at the Parman Branch Library. The meeting opened with a Rhythm and Rhyme presentation by Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson, San Antonio Poet Laureate Emeritus, and Zach Jewell. The team then began work group reports with a presentation on the Young Pegasus Poetry Competition, which began accepting submissions October 1. The submission window closes November 30. This was also the last meeting for Clair Larkin. The team wished her well and looks forward to seeing her around San Antonio.

Texas Library Association, District 10, held a meeting October 20 at the Holocaust Memorial Museum. Cresencia Huff was in attendance and Shannon Seglin (Children's Library at Central) presented a session on using books to teach empathy and compassion.

TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Virtual Teen Programs and Activities – The 210teenlibrary Discord workgroup, led by Matthew Loaiza (Teen Services Librarian II / Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) and consisting of Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons from around the system collaborated with virtual teen volunteers ("Teen Mods" and "Club Assistants") to host weekly virtual teen activities ("clubs") on Discord ("the server") and provide meaningful peer-to-peer connections. During the month, two teens became new Teen Mods and another teen became a new Club Assistant. These teens were selected by their peers and staff due to their positive contributions to the server environment, and teens on the server excitedly celebrated their new roles. For "Spooktober" activities, Teen Mods planned and implemented pop-up activities on their own without staff facilitation, including movie nights on Fridays. Teens on the server also attended an in-person "Spooktober" Party on Saturday, October 28 at the Teen Library @ Central. Teens, Teen Mods, and Club Assistants worked together to plan the entire event, which including watching a movie while

decorating pumpkins and masks, enjoying refreshments, helping each other with costumes, and more. Teens also submitted entries for the fourth annual Costume Contest on the server, with eight fabulous entries and three overall winners voted by teens. Three teens also submitted entries for the server's first Pumpkin Contest (as suggested by a teen), with an overall winner voted by teens.

Virtual Teen Content and Resources – The 210teenlibrary Instagram workgroup, led by Matthew Loaiza and consisting of Amisahari Sarabia (Teen Services Librarian I, Las Palmas Branch), Ciana Flores (Teen Services Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central), and Regina Almanza (Teen Services Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central) shared information, resources, activities, and other content for teens on Instagram, created by teen volunteers and Teen Services staff. During the reporting period, teens and teen volunteers continued to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a variety of food demos. Teens also got into the Halloween spirit with book displays and easy-to-make spooky snacks. Through Stories, teen volunteers highlighted important days throughout the month including Indigenous Peoples' Day, World Mental Health Day and National Coming Out Day.

Professional Development – On Friday, October 27, Matthew Loaiza assisted with an interview panel for a Teen Services Librarian II position.

Pictures below: teen volunteer-created YA horror book display post (@210teenlibrary Instagram Account), teen volunteer-created National Coming Out Day Story (@210teenlibrary Instagram Account), costume and pumpkin contest entries from teens (210teenlibrary Discord Server).



ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Tobin Library, lead by Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse, hosted a Supernatural Celebration at the branch on October 21, which required a great deal of collaboration and planning with others to accomplish. Over 70 attendees enjoyed an escape room, visiting an alpaca, games, crafts, and a presentation from a real ghost hunter.

As part of Digital Inclusion Week, the Library hosted a panel discussion on October 2nd called Exploring the Potential of ChatGPT. This discussion encouraged attendees to join leaders in government, education, and business as they share their insights into the evolving world of ChatGPT, a tool that uses Artificial Intelligence (AI). Panelists were Craig Hopkins, Chief Information Officer, City of San Antonio; Casey Royer, Digital Technologies Leader, Investment & Banking; Dr. Jennifer Henderson,

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success, Trinity University and the discussion was moderated by Brian Dillard, Chief Innovation Officer, City of San Antonio, and Library Board Chair Juspreet Kaur introduced the moderator and panelists. Attendees were very engaged and asked a number of thoughtful questions during the Q&A period at the end of the program.

El Poder del Voto/The Power of the Vote program, which honored Choco Meza's voting rights advocacy and activism, took place on October 10 in the LCRC programming space. The panel consisted of Rosie Castro, Dr. Charles Cotrell (President Emeritus of St. Mary's) and George Korbel, all of whom were instrumental in the success of obtaining voting rights for minorities.



On October 13, the LCRC in a partnership with Monte Video, presented an 'after library hours' film screening at Central Library, as part of an independent Latinx film festival called Raza C3smica. The award-winning documentary *Hummingbirds*, created by two Latinx film makers from Laredo, TX, was screened for the community. The event took place on the 3rd floor terrace with regular SAPL collaborator, local activist and musician, Joaquin Muerte, as moderator and spinning vinyl for attendees.



Learn at SAPL received over 900 patron visits in October across all seven service locations. The top three areas of assistance were computer skills, job search and applications, and online research.

Special events this month included Digital Inclusion Week (DIW) October 2-6, and a Career Resource Fair on October 21. DIW explored relevant and emergent topics surrounding digital literacy, including ChatGPT and mobile ordering apps. The week also brought in community partners Restore Education and Senior Planet from AARP for month-long engagements. Restore Education presented their Digital Skills for Life curriculum on computer basics, and Senior Planet provided cloud storage, Zoom, and Affordable Connectivity Program workshops.



Training Officer Daniel Gomez organized the Career Resource Fair at Memorial Library (pictured above), in partnership with Ready to Work from the City of San Antonio (COSA) Workforce Development Office. The Fair showcased Ready to Work intake partners Alamo Colleges, San Antonio Food Bank, Project Quest and Restore Education. CafeCollege, NXT Level, COSA Department of Human Resources, City Year, and City Council District 5 staff were also on-site to highlight public services. The event served as an exciting introduction to educational opportunities for community members and their families.

Finally, Learn at SAPL welcomed a new part-time Training Officer, Marcel Martinez Alvarez, to the Learn at Central Team. Marcel previously worked as a part-time Library Assistant at Westfall Library. He joins the new Library Services Supervisor, Cate Prazak in rounding out the Learn at Central staff complement.

OLDER ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Sylvia Reyna, Librarian in Texana, presented the class Conducting Cemetery Research: The Secret Life of Cemeteries at the Commander's House Senior Center on October 5. She discussed how grave markers can sometimes provide evidence of ethnicity and religion as well as maiden names and family groupings.

Librarian in Texana Deborah Countess led the virtual class, *Finding Your Family's History*, on October 9. Best practices for new family history enthusiasts were discussed, as well as the free resources available through the San Antonio Public Library's collections and databases.

Adult Services Librarian Vicky Villalobos continued to facilitate a Coffee & Crosswords program for Older Adults at McCreless. On Wednesday mornings, patrons are invited to have a cup of coffee while they work on crosswords, Sudoku, and word finds as they discuss the latest celebrity "chisme" (gossip)

Monty Holcomb, Adult Services Librarian at Westfall continued for this month his weekly dominoes program that is for seniors, giving older adults in the community an opportunity to play the game with other seniors. In the program, Mr. Holcomb continued to facilitate game flow and to give assistance as needed depending on the needs of those attending.

Adrian Leal, Adult Services Librarian at Pan American, held his biweekly Older Adults Game Time Program. This program is geared towards patrons 55+. Participants can select from an assortment of games to play individually or with others.

GET ECLIPSE READY – ALL AGES (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Volunteers from the Department of Planetary Science of the American Astronomical Association provided activities and a vast amount of subject matter knowledge at an October 2 event at the Mission Library. The event was part of their commitment to public outreach while in San Antonio for their annual conference. People of all ages visited activity stations to handle meteorites, make a scale model of the earth and sun, experiment with cratering, and ask lots of questions of the scientists.

In the month and a half leading up to the October 14 annular eclipse, Library staff distributed 20,000 free pairs of solar eclipse viewing glasses, provided by the Space Science Institute. Most of the glasses were distributed in conjunction with Get Eclipse Ready events featuring subject matter experts who provided informational presentations about safe solar eclipse viewing and how eclipses work. In the final week before the eclipse, staff distributed glasses to library visitors on a walk-in basis while supplies lasted. The final event before the eclipse was at Cody Library on October 13, where the team hosted six safety presentations with the help of Angela Speck, Ph.D and chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Texas at San Antonio, and Anne Holland, Senior Education Associate at the Space Science Institute.

Morgan Yoshimura, Coordinator of Services to Adults, and Cresencia Huff, Coordinator of Children's Services, joined teachers, students, and families at Highland Park Elementary for their solar eclipse viewing party. Local organizations shared activities, and the Library team brought out the Sunspotter solar projection viewers, a solar telescope, solar system sorting activity, and some Library information and swag. The team thoroughly enjoyed the collective excitement of viewing the eclipse as a community.



CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY



Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin presented the session, Empathy and Compassion: How to Use Books to Talk About Hard Topics at the Texas Library Association District 10 conference. She reflected on the past presentations she did during Holocaust Remembrance Week for the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio. She researched this topic and shared a variety of books that could be used for all ages. The presentation was very well received, and she was contacted for her book lists and presentation by school librarians.



The Children's Library at Central welcomed new Librarian I Madeline Nezat to the team in October. After several weeks of training and guidance from Ms. Seglin and Librarian Ashley Stubbs, she hit the ground running by taking over the Sensory Friendly Play Time program and making it her own. She focused on a self-guided sensory experience that gave children the agency to navigate their senses on their own terms in a calm environment. She set up stations that focused on different senses such as touch, sight, and hearing and she designed a "cool-down" tent where any sensory-avoidant or overstimulated children could regain their internal balance. While neurodivergent children were a major focus for the intended audience, anyone who could benefit from sensory exploration was also encouraged to play. Activities included kinetic sand, sensory bottles, shadow puppets, felt storyboard materials, and sensory bags, all made by Ms. Nezat. Sensory bins filled with everything from pumpkins to plastic dinosaurs, to shaving

cream, have been a hit with the children. The other sensory tools provided included noise cancelling headphones, sunglasses, and a comfort pillow.



Librarian I Ashley Stubbs created popular Tween Time programs for her devoted group of regulars. Activities included light tables with x-rays, Create Your Own Stickers, and Halloween-themed origami fortune tellers. One week's program was themed Whatcha Reading? They shared books had read, decorated Halloween-themed bookmarks, watched book trailers and had Halloween-themed writing prompts to spark their creativity. One of the tweens' favorite programs in October was the messy slime day. They were able to create their own slime using glitter and googly eyes! The week before Halloween, they watched the movie *Hocus Pocus*, ate pizza, pretzels, popcorn, fruit and sweet treats.

Ms. Seglin and Ms. Stubbs partnered to present weekly Family Story Time programs for young children on Wednesdays in October. Ms. Seglin developed the program in collaboration with Ms. Stubbs, with Ms. Nezat spending several weeks observing before joining in towards the end of the month. This popular program has a group of dedicated families. They enjoyed the spooky songs and stories and the open-ended play activities after story time. Ms. Seglin organized sensory activities such as washing little pumpkins and sticking different materials to the wall on contact paper.



Ms. Nezat and Ms. Stubbs represented SAPL at Bonham Academy's Literacy Night this October. They promoted library programs, answered questions, and handed out flyers and SAPL goodies to caregivers and children. They even brought along pumpkin slime for a hands-on activity that was a big hit with the students!

Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernandez cohosted the *Escape the Earth* podcast with Tim Johnson (Igo) and Elissa Vura (Brook Hollow). The crew discussed Nnedi Okorafor's post-apocalyptic, African futuristic science fiction novel, *Who Fears Death*. The *Escape the Earth* podcast can be found on Soundcloud on SAPL's Podcast TunedIn Channel.

Ms. Stubbs assisted with Tobin Library at Oakwell's Supernatural party and also recorded 2 stories for SAPL's Dial A Story service. Ms. Nezat participated in a Little Red Wagon outreach program at Garza Community Center, while also observing the strategies LRW employs when curating and designing free play spaces.

Children's Library staff continued to develop outreach connections with area childcare centers and schools. Ms. Stubbs visited Central Christian Day School where she presented story times to children and brought books for the teachers to use in class. Ms. Seglin shared stories and songs with two classes at Madison Square Child Development Center and delivered library books in support of their curriculum. Ms. Simpson delivered books for all 5 grades of children at Discovery School as well.



Ms. Nezat, with the help of the library assistants, made Halloween goodie bags for the children at Central Library. They were able to retrieve them the week of Halloween as a reward for completing the three Halloween scavenger hunt games. The goodie bags included an activity booklet Ms. Nezat designed, Halloween stickers, and DIY bat rings for the children.

TEEN LIBRARY

Kathleen Fordyce (Manager, Teen Library @ Central) and Connie Hejl (Teen Services Librarian I, Tobin Branch) host the "Random Fandom" club Thursdays on Discord, in which teens engage in discussions about fandoms that interest them and stream their favorite anime or pop culture shows.

Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager) continues to lead the 210teenlibrary Discord and Instagram workgroups. He also joins Daniella Toll (Assistant Manager / Teen Services Librarian II, Collins Garden Branch) for "Teen Time" every Friday on the Discord server.

Rosalie Barrera (Librarian I) continues to support and engage with teens as they explore and activate the Teen Library as their own space to serve their needs, such as studying, crafting, gaming, or gathering with friends. During the reporting period, Rosalie visited San Antonio Positive Solutions Charter School for an outreach opportunity. Rosalie provided two presentations to share information about Teen Services and the Teen Library at Central. After each presentation, teens were invited to participate in a button-making activity. Many teens expressed great interest in learning more about teen volunteer opportunities at the library.

Rosalie also joined Sherry Ross (Teen Librarian I, Potranco) for an outreach opportunity at John Jay High School where they engaged with teens in the school library during their lunch periods. These teens were provided with the opportunity to sign up for library cards, learn about Teen Services and volunteer opportunities, and participate in button-making.

Along with the assistance of Amisarahi Sarabia (Teen Librarian I, Las Palmas/Central), Rosalie provided a tour of Central Library and the Teen Library at Central for a visiting class from South San High School. This was the first visit to the Central Library for many of the students who were very enthusiastic to explore the art walk and library collection. Rosalie and Ami helped the students sign up for library cards as they were eager to check out items from the collection.

Ciana Flores (Library Assistant PT) continues to engage with teens both in the Teen Library and via the 210teenlibrary Instagram page. She is responsible for the 3D printing requests from teens on the Discord server. Ciana prints and sends the requested item out to the teens' preferred library branch for pick up.

Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): Teen Tuesdays after-school activities in October continued to highlight general teen interest and celebrations, such as celebrating the end of Hispanic Heritage Month and Halloween, learning new cooking techniques, and satisfying curiosities. Suggesting, participating, and leading these activities allow teens the chance to pick up a new skill or show their peers tips and tricks. For Hispanic Heritage Month, teens made *sopapillas* and *conchas* (popular Mexican desserts). The conchas took on many shapes: traditional spheres, hearts, a pumpkin, and an amazing Hello Kitty skull. Teens requested making pizzas using the tried-and-true dough recipe they used last year, and got creative by dying the cheeses different Halloween colors. Teen also enjoyed making other Halloween treats, such as pretzel webs and mummy tarts. On Halloween night, teens watched *Five Nights at Freddy's* and made spooky treats, including a marshmallow fluff ghost chocolate milk that teen volunteer Jade demonstrated while recording for a quick demo video. One surprise for the month was having a teen state that she wanted to visit the library on the day of her *quinceañera* to do activities with her court. She planned various ideas that would provide a moment of calm before her big party. It was a fantastic surprise to see her and her court arrive to the Teen Library fully dressed; they took many photos, hung out together, and made Vietnamese spring rolls and boba tea (which was the birthday celebrant's main request). The Monday after her quince, she asked if there were still ingredients; as there were, she and other teens created a Monday after-school activity on the spot. Perler beads continue to be a popular after-school craft activity, and a new craft box was introduced featuring the rainbow loom supplies that teens requested in Spring!

Teen volunteers contributed Story ideas for Instagram, like Christian's handmade clay figurines that highlight characters from the YA collection and Jade's Halloween video. Pictures and videos from program times can be found on the @210teenlibrary Instagram page.

Pictures: Teens making sopapilla dough; teen with a prom-posal sign she made using craft boxes at the Teen Library; the quince celebrant and her court; the Hello Kitty skull concha!; teens assembling tarts; teen volunteer-drawn decorations; Halloween shenanigans



INFORMATION SERVICES

On October 3, Arland Schnacker attended a Mother of Normandy program with French Ambassadors and local military aides to honor WWII veterans, before attending a meeting with the Texas Governor. This program introduced a documentary on Simone Renaud, who was the mother of one of the Ambassadors. Mrs. Renaud witnessed the liberation of her French town, Sainte-Mère-Eglise, which was liberated by WWII soldiers following the D-Day invasion. Arland secured information for the upcoming 80th anniversary of D-Day and explored how SAPL could take part in the celebration with some of our nations' greatest heroes.



Arland attended the Afghan Welcome Center outreach which was hosted at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center on October 25, 2023. Arland promoted SAPLs Learn centers, the San Antonio Community Resource Directory (SACRD), and other resources that would help them feel welcome in San Antonio.

On October 26, Christina Montero, Raquel Reyes and Kristin Gutierrez hosted a Sensory Craft Time program in honor of Disability Awareness Month, where patrons were able to make their own sensory paper spinner. Six people attended and they also took spinner supplies home to share with their family members.

On October 27, Christina Montero from Information Services and Kassandra Vela-Laosa from Mission Library went to a Vibrant Works resource fair. They shared information and resources that the San Antonio Public Library provides for visually impaired patrons.



On October 27, Jordan Torres invited Edward Martinez from the San Antonio Food Bank to assist adult patrons with filling out applications for SNAP (formally known as Food Stamps), TSAP (60 years+, or

Disabled), TANF, CHIP/Children's Medicaid, Adult Medicaid, Women's Health Care, Medicare Cost Sharing, WIC, and other Food Bank programs. Martinez answered any questions related to these programs for patrons. During their visit, they talked patrons and assisted with the application process. Martinez and Torres are exploring making this a monthly initiative.

On October 27, Pannaga Prasad and Patricia Perez offered virtual chair yoga over the Zoom platform. The class featured lower back exercises and was offered by a professional yoga teacher from the Idoyoga organization.

On October 28, as part of Disability Awareness Month, Cynthia de Leon hosted Jaclyn Owusu, Public Awareness Coordinator for the Texas Talking Book Program. Ms. Owusu and her colleague held an information and registration session for patrons of all ages who are not able to read standard print books due to a visual, physical or reading disability. Patrons were engaged in the presentation and took flyers and information for their friends and family.

Patricia Perez and Leticia Guerra facilitated the Sugar Skull Craft program on Saturday, October 28. The Sugar Skull program was presented in collaboration with the Latino Collection and Resource Center (LCRC) that provided all Sugar Skull programming supplies. Program attendees were provided with an opportunity to learn about Sugar Skull making and were given hands on instruction. Program attendees had fun decorating their sugar skulls. A total of twenty-four adults and ten children attended.

On Saturday October 28 Library Assistant JD Elizondo and Librarian Valerie Saucedo hosted 26 guests at the Creative Collective Open Mic. Music, poetry and comedy fueled the event.



Information Services hosted the StandUp for Kids information table on October 7th and 28. This organization helps the 16-24 year old homeless population. They provided free resources for food, shelter, and also assist at-risk youth to remain in their homes by helping them out with bill payments and clothing.

LEARN AT CENTRAL

Learn kicked off Fall and October by putting on two social media classes for Digital Inclusion Week. On October 4, Training Officer Denise Cadena and Library Assistant Brianna Glass held an Intro to Facebook class, and on October 6 a class called Let's Get Social: Facebook. The Let's Get Social class provided more tips and tools for creating different types of posts using Facebook. This month Learn staff also had patrons who requested appointments to work on specific projects such as utilizing Google Calendar, syncing up an iPad and Android phone and support in navigating PowerPoint.

Library Assistant Brianna Glass was accepted into Nonprofit Technology Enterprise Network (NTEN) National Digital Inclusion Fellowship on October 6, 2023. Brianna and Texana Library Assistant Kaylee Avila created a mock-up of the 2023 Big Read Zine and the mock-up was accepted as the Zine Committee's final layout. Brianna is actively creating new zines for library patrons and brainstorming new classes with colleagues such as introductions to social media and classes on how to keep a job.

Training Officer Daniel González and Brianna Glass taught three Creative Learning and Computers classes for the month of October. Daniel continues an ongoing dialogue with Afghan community leaders about Learn at Central services, classes and their learning and job needs.

TEXANA/ GENEALOGY



Scenes from the inaugural San Antonio Archives Bazaar that show the crowd, performers, and participants utilizing SAPL's Memory Lab Preservation Stations.

This month Librarian Sylvia Reyna conducted two presentations for the Somos Storytellers series, geared towards an adult audience 50yrs and up. On October 4 she presented *Methods in Conducting Cemetery Research and Texana/Genealogy Resources*, showing how these resources can be used to enrich family

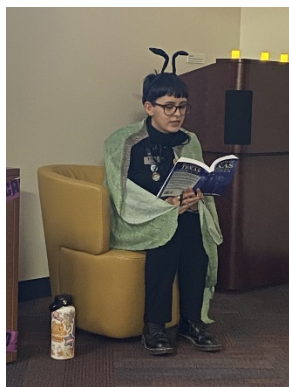
stories with historical information. Ms. Reyna also shared examples of the types of evidence that can be found among tombstones. On October 11, the final day of this five-part series, she answered questions concerning San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) resources.

Ms. Reyna also presented the class *Conducting Cemetery Research: The Secret Life of Cemeteries* at the Commander's House Senior Center on October 5. She discussed how grave markers can sometimes provide evidence of ethnicity and religion as well as maiden names and family groupings.

Librarian Andy Crews presented three classes as part of SAPL's Digital Inclusion Week initiative: an overview of the library's Ancestry Library Edition database at Encino Library on October 3; a class on the library's Newspaper Archive database in the Connect training area at Central Library on October 5 and a *Beginning Genealogy* class in the Connect training area on October 6. He also led two classes in Central Library's Connect training area on October 5 and 6. The first class went over how to use the library's Newspaper Archive database and the second class was designed for the beginning genealogist.

Ms. Reyna, Mr. Crews, and Special Collections Manager Heather Ferguson participated in the inaugural San Antonio Archives Bazaar on October 7. Organized by members of the San Antonio Regional Archivists group, this free community event was designed to highlight archival repositories and showcase their unique collections, while bringing awareness to American Archives Month, celebrated annually in October. Held at the Brick event space in the Blue Star Arts Complex it featured over 20 exhibitors & welcomed close to 400 attendees. Ms. Reyna participated in the Archives Registration and Participation subcommittee that invited a diverse group of exhibitors, including well known archival institutions and lesser-known community archives. Mr. Crews staffed the library's Memory Lab preservation stations assisting participants in digitizing 35mm slides and photographs. Ms. Ferguson invited two presenters to participate in the program—Musician Anthony Prater, who performed his historical concept EP *El Camaron* that explored the case of Clemente Apolinar, who in 1925 was the last man hanged at the Old Bexar County Jail. DJ Rambo Salinas, a contributor to the West Side Sound Oral History Project, played vinyl records featuring the unique music of San Antonio's West Side from the 50s, 60s, and 70s.

Librarian Deborah Countess led the virtual class, *Finding Your Family's History*, on October 9. Best practices for new family history enthusiasts were discussed, as well as the free resources available through the San Antonio Public Library's collections and databases.



On October 30, Library Assistant Kaylee Avila and Ms. Reyna presented the *Scary Texas Stories* program in the Latino Collection and Resource Center (LCRC). They decorated the room in a Halloween theme and recited local scary stories from the library's book collection. To accompany the reading, Ms. Reyna produced a short slide show, adding historical details from SAPL's Newspaper Archive database that helped connect the stories to real people and places.

BRANCH LOCATIONS

BAZAN



Bazan library had an influx of new visitors to the library this month! The branch hosted two solar eclipse presentations, one lead by Dr. Angela Speck, a professor in the department of physics and astronomy at the University of Texas at San Antonio and another lead by Assistant Branch Manager Cassie Garza. A presentation on Dia De Los Muertos was hosted at Bazan with guest speaker Blanca Reyes which demonstrated the rich history and traditions of Day of the Dead. October also included a visit from the San Antonio Paranormal Investigators which discussed haunted myths and legends of San Antonio.

Children's librarian Hope Sonnen continued programs in October with *LEGO club*, *Let's Build: Blocks and More*, and *Kids Time*.

Assistant Manager and Teen librarian Cassie Garza continued to facilitate the *210 Teen Library Discord Gaming Club*. Teens shared what games they played this month with a focus on browser games. Several teens are anticipating the release of a video game turned movie *Five Nights at Freddy's*.

She also hosted *Teen Time* at Bazan library and performed outreach to two different schools to speak to teens about solar eclipse safety. At Tafolla Middle School, Circulation Attendant Leslie Calderon, assisted Ms. Garza with presenting a solar eclipse presentation in Spanish for English as a Second language class.

Ms. Garza continued mentoring a library science student at Bazan. This month the intern was given three projects to work on which include a monthly data analysis of circulation numbers, a compilation of local resources for teens and a big project which looked at a population study of Bazan's service areas.

The BTS (Korean pop music group) Craft Club held their regular meeting in October and Ms. Garza shared videos of BTS members the die-hard fans hadn't seen yet. Several of the participants surprised the rest of the participants with pizza, beverages, and snacks to share.

The Bad Girls Romance Book Club, led by Library Assistant Enedina Prater, met-up in October to discuss *Extra Witchy* by Ann Aguirre, book three of the Fit-It Witches series. The book club has read the previous two books in the series and continued to be drawn to the riveting fictional world this writer created. The Bazan Book Club read and discussed *Garden Spells* by Sarah Addison Allen; the group really enjoyed this read as well.

The Bazan Branch Ink Slayers Writer's Group met bi-weekly in October. Writers participated in workshop style exercises and writing sprints and then had the option to share their work with each other. The group, which was just recently created, has already built a following of regulars.

The *210 Swifties*, a fan group celebrating all things Taylor Swift, met and enjoyed creating a Taylor Swift themed craft. The gathering wouldn't have been complete without a sing-along of the group's favorite TS songs. Great art and snacks made for an amazing gathering for all ages.

The Bazan Learn Center partnered with Restore Education to offer *Digital Skills 4 Life* during Digital Inclusion Week. The four-part series was presented every Monday in October with very good attendance throughout.

Hispanic Heritage Month was celebrated with a spoken word and poetry reading program by the Voces Cómicas Poetry Group. Members of the group shared original poetry with the audience and the program included a music performance by Bazan's very own Gary Davenport. The program was facilitated by Bazan Training Officer, Carlos Loera.

Bazan celebrated Day of Dead with an altar display honoring loved ones who have passed away. The altar was decorated by staff. The public was invited to participate by adding photos to the altar if they wished to.

The Learn Center at Bazan, staffed by Training Officer Carlos Loera, welcomed over a hundred individuals during the month of September for sessions covering computer skills, resume building, job search, job applications and help with personal devices. ESL (English as a Second Language) classes were offered every Tuesday evening where students continued to develop their English language skills. Mr. Loera also led painting classes for senior adults twice a month and hosted *Coffee and a Movie for Senior* adults on the first Friday of the month. *Coloring for Adults*, a place and time to enjoy creativity and make new friends, was offered every third Friday.

BROOK HOLLOW



BHL honored Day of the Dead via a colorful display by Circulation Attendant Ofelia Vallejo who creates a similar display each year. BHL Team members brought photos and items in memory of loved ones.

BHL hosted Bexar County Election Department's Early Voting October 23-November 3 and Election Day, November 7, 2023. Nearly 6,000 Bexar County Residents voted at BHL during the early voting cycle. 1,405 voters cast ballots on Election Day alone. Manager & BHL Team received ENCORE cards from a voter and the onsite Bexar County Election Judge Marilyn Jowdy. "Excellent support to Elections team! Doors opened timely, Wonderful to work with Jeannette and her Team!" Voter Janie Jones wrote that "you were graciously available as we needed information and assistance in securing an application for a mail-in ballot for my sister who is unable to go to the poll and urgently wanted to participate in the voting process. Our Thanks!"

Assistant Manager/Teen Librarian Grace Holt facilitated Brook Hollow Library's Get Eclipse Ready program October 4th. Kids sculpted their own planets, learned about shadows, and built rockets with LEGOs while families learned more about the eclipse from the Scobee Education Center's Director, Rick Varner. 180 patrons attended eclipse programming at the branch.

Holt facilitated Teen Time on Tuesday evenings throughout October, where teens engaged in activities they chose like playing Super Smash on the Switch and making papier mache *Five Nights at Freddy's* masks. Teen volunteers designed Teen Time flyers and help prep for Teen Time each week. Teen volunteers also created new book displays each week, including a Halloween display. Holt met with local Girl Scout Troop 66 October 29th to resume collaboration on a Free Little Library project. The Teen Area at BHL continues to make space available for teens to express themselves. October 8th, MacArthur High School Honors students led American Sign Language classes weekly on Sundays with attendance ranging from 57-103 participants.

Thousand Oaks Children's Librarian Cheryl Penick conducted story times at BHL on Thursday mornings throughout October. The Read to a Dog program is increasingly popular @ BHL featuring pups Sunny,

River and Rosie. BHL Library Assistant Lauren Revel hosted Let's Build on a weekly basis during October and continues to create come/go crates and themed scavenger hunts for children.

BHL Manager Jeannette Davies lead a pumpkin painting program in early October with pumpkins donated by District 9 Councilmember John Courage and the Friends of Brook Hollow Library. Kids & parents painted cute and creepy pumpkins to take home and display on their porches. Davies attended Walker Ranch Senior Center's (WRSC) Halloween and October's Birthday Celebration October 31st and created Halloween treats for seniors and promoted San Antonio Public Library Services. Davies also offered the BHL Hour every other Tuesday at the senior center. The manager just completed interviews to fill the BHL children's librarian position and is working closely with the BHL Team to streamline processes. BHL has welcomed new library aides who are training at the branch.

CARVER

Carver Branch was the place to be on Tuesday, October 3. Neighbors Together, formerly known as National Night Out, returned to the branch, attracting 150 Carver neighbors, customers, and friends. The event is a standing partnership of the branch and the Coliseum Willow Park Neighborhood Association. Sponsors this year included Starbucks, Shake Shack, and Smoothie King, to name a few. District 2 City Councilman's team donated sausage wraps that were devoured quickly. The Sam Houston High School Robotics Team showcased gadgets to the delight of the audience.

On Saturday, October 13 the Prudence L. Curry Writers' Series welcomed Dr. Octavio Quintanilla, director of the creative writing MFA program at Our Lady of the Lake University. Quintanilla, a former Poet Laureate of San Antonio (2018-2020), read from poems from his upcoming book. Quintanilla is the founder of the Fronteras Verso poetry series at OLLU, which attracts poets from across South Texas.



Caption: Quintanilla (center) visitors with audience members at his reading.



Caption: Quintanilla signs a copy of his book for an attendee

The Friends of Carver Branch, the Carver staff and the SAPL Communication team combined efforts to organize a huge milestone in the library's history -- 50 years of service at its East Commerce Street location. Originally, the branch sat at Hackberry and Center streets, the site of present-day Carver Community Cultural Center. The branch was relocated to 3350 E. Commerce and dedicated on Sunday, March 4, 1973. To mark the occasion, the commemorative medals were shared with attendees, two of whom were present at the branch's Commerce Street opening day. William Johnson II was a member of staff. His son, William Johnson III, also attended. The younger Johnson holds the distinction of having checked out the very first library book at its new location. That circulation was captured in a portrait of Johnson III and the book, *The Little Elephant* by Ylla.



Caption: Framed copy of the first book circulated at Carver Branch on dedication day, Sunday, March 4, 1973.



Caption: Friends of Carver Branch presented well-wishers with commemorative 50th anniversary medals

Highlights included an anecdote-filled presentation featuring rare, first-edition African American titles from the collection of Dr. Joseph and Mrs. Aaronetta Pierce. While the event celebrated the branch's presence on East Commerce Street, the Pierce's presentation was a nod to the library's past and reflected the importance of African American literature as well as the types of materials that Carver's first manager Mrs. Prudence Lewis Curry would have circulated during her tenure from 1930 to 1958.



Caption: Dr. Joseph Pierce and Mrs. Aaronetta Pierce discuss their library

The event also kicked off a month-long art exhibit featuring paintings by Glen Franklin. Franklin, a longtime supporter of the branch was commissioned to paint portraits of former Carver leader Prudence Lewis Curry and branch namesake and renowned scientist George Washington Carver which still hang in the meeting room.



Caption: Glen Franklin's paintings adorn the walls at 50 anniversary celebration

The celebration marked the return of the Nias and Beverly Harris Collection with new sculpture pieces from Ghana, Mali, Benin, and Ethiopia. To curate the exhibit, DL Grant and his team transformed a section of the branch into a gallery, allowing visitors to see and experience African artforms without leaving the city.





Caption: Carver Friend Nias Harris discusses the museum pieces with State Representative Barbara Gervin Hawkins and District 2 Councilman Jalen McKee Rodriguez

Guests included District 120 State Representative Barbara Gervin and City Council District 2 Jalen McKee Rodriguez and Precinct 4 County Commissioner Tommy Calvert Jr.



Caption: Jalen McKee Rodriguez shares history of the branch



Caption: Precinct 4 County Commissioner Tommy Calvert Jr. discusses Carver place in the community

Ralph Jarzombek is continuing to reach out to various schools, early childhood education centers, childcare centers, and child development centers in the area to try to establish new outreach opportunities. He did Story Time with four separate pre-Kindergarten classes at Tynan ECEC on October 11th, which included reading a couple of stories and singing some songs. After Story Time was finished, he left coloring sheets for the books with the teachers so that the children could color them later. Next month when he does Story Time with the classes, he intends to bring his guitar so that he can play the guitar when he sings the songs. He was pleasantly surprised that a teacher's assistant from one of the pre-Kindergarten classes from Tynan ECEC came to the library to give him a gift of appreciation for doing Story Time with their class. The gift included a picture of him reading to the children and a Thank You card signed by each of the children. He has scheduled to have a Story Time at Miller CDC next month and intends to follow-up on calls he has made previously so that he can schedule to do a Story Time at St. Phillip's CDC, Stephanie's Angels and Cameron Elementary.

By the morning of October 12th (two days before the eclipse), Carver Library had distributed their original allotment of 250 eclipse glasses. Morgan Yoshimura came to the library later that evening and brought a second allotment of 200 additional glasses. By the morning of October 13th (the day before the eclipse), Carver Library had distributed this second allotment of glasses as well so that in total, the library distributed 450 eclipse glasses.

Mr. Jarzombek attended a Boo Bash event at the Democratic Prep at Stewart on October 26th. He talked to 22 people about library services and told them about the 50-year anniversary of Carver Library event that was being held two days later on October 28th.

Mr. Jarzombek was involved in multiple tasks in preparation for the 50-year anniversary of Carver Library event:

- made initial calls to a local artist (Glenn Franklin) to schedule an exhibition of his artwork at the library.
- set up four tables in the Children's area of the library, with each table having a different activity – one with George Washington Carver coloring sheets and bookmarks to color, one with Checkers and Connect 4 games, one with Legos, and one with Mancala and Oware games, as well as a Fun with Hieroglyphics game (special thanks to Nias Harris, a friend of the library, for granting Mr.

Jarzombek the permission to use his Mancala and Oware games, as well as his Fun with Hieroglyphics game).

- put together several videos of George Washington Carver so that people coming into the library that day could watch the videos on a Mondopad located in the main passageway of the library (special thanks to Shauna Mendoza, the training officer at the library, for granting Mr. Jarzombek the permission to use the Mondopad).
- distributed Goldfish and Gummi Bear snacks to all the children who came to the library that day.

In the month of October, the Learn Center had a total of 123 patrons who used the Learn services. Among these patrons, Learn at Carver welcomed 11 new patrons who sought computer and job preparation training. Additionally, the Learn Center continued to support 112 patrons with their computer skills improvement needs. Besides computer skills, the most sought out program in October include online research and social services, reflecting the diverse needs within the community. Notably, the Learn Center played a crucial role in helping three patrons secure employment, providing essential services such as resume building, job searching, interviewing skills, and finally onboarding paperwork.

Training Officer, Shauna Mendoza, continues to conduct her weekly classes with great enthusiasm, offering a diverse range of opportunities for community engagement:

1. Computer Training: Held Monday through Friday, from 1 pm to 6 pm.
2. Crochet & Knitting Club: Takes place every Tuesday from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.
3. Smart Phone and Personal Device Training: Offered on Wednesdays, from 10 am to 11:30 am.
4. Introduction to Computers: Available on Fridays, from 10 am to 11:30 am.
5. Breast Cancer Support Group: Every first and third Monday, from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.



This year, Shauna has once again led the coordination of the Wall of Warmth. Carver established this initiative ahead of this season's initial cold spell. Generous donations from both the community members and staff have been received by Carver to aid those in need during the cold season.



Shauna remained actively engaged in the community by participating in various events and locations, including the Claude Black Community Center, District 2 Senior Center, Frank Garrett Multipurpose Community Center, Town Twin Village, YWCA: Think Pink, Memorial Library Career Resource Fair.



CODY

The Cody Library served as an early voting polling place for the Joint Constitutional Amendments, General, Special, Charter, and Bond Election the last two weeks of October 2023. Staff hosted a Get Ready for the Eclipse program, on October 13, the day before the annular eclipse. Eclipse glasses were a popular item, with the last few pairs given out the morning of the eclipse.

Storytime programs steadily grew in number in the month of October at Cody Library as patrons began sharing information about the weekly events with their friends. The Storybook Club focused on a different book each week and coordinated crafts and activities for the kids to retell the story throughout the week. Several customers have created playgroups or scheduled to make connections with families outside the weekly event. That was exciting for everyone to hear!

The ABC club, geared towards 2-3 year olds and their caregivers, enjoyed the collective open play activities and the guided learning games to celebrate the letter of the day. Several customers come from bilingual households, and they mentioned the repetitive weekly rhythm and music played at the end of each storytime helped them remember to practice at home. For many of the families, the parents and kids are learning English at the same time and this program has helped it be a more approachable experience.

Tween programs highlighted disabilities last month. The focus was to celebrate disabilities and learn how to ask questions, accommodate, and celebrate differences. The kids learned that many disabilities are visible, and others are not. Some are temporary and others are lifelong. One week, the kids created prototypes for leg prosthetics and learned about how the process for ordering prosthetics has changed in recent years for juvenile wearers.

Cody Teens have had a great month! We have several teen volunteers who lead programming every day after school. These volunteers plan programs, make snacks, and set up materials for their peers! This month we had "Twilight Tuesdays" where the teens watched one Twilight movie every week while completing their crafts. The teen volunteers made popcorn and "blood" (fruit punch) for everyone to enjoy. One of our teen volunteers has started putting questions up in the teen space on a dry-erase board for everyone to answer and it has been very popular.

Teens have also started doing cooking programs. They made pumpkin muffins at the end of the month. Teens have also been a huge help with the seed library, by assembling and illustrating the seed packets, as well as researching the growing requirements for some of the plants. Some of the other crafts teens have gotten into recently are sewing (making mini plushies to take home), making mini stamps (a bit of a learning curve on the mirror image but tons of fun), and making friendship bracelets.

Circulation Attendant Maria Treviño continues to offer art classes for the Cody community. Both programs, Art for Wellness and First Friday Art for Seniors continue to draw very appreciative audiences. To celebrate Dia de los Muertos, Maria hosted a calavera painting and paper monarch butterfly making class on October 20. With help from staff members, Maria set up an altar in the display case, where staff and patrons alike were able to place remembrances of their loved ones.



COLLINS GARDEN

The Collins Garden Book Club met on October 18 and discussed the book *Voice with no Echo* by Suzanne Chazin. The group discussion was moderated by Adult Services Librarian Rosa Villa and they enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the author via Zoom.

The branch continued to participate in the systemwide Get Eclipse Ready, leading up to the Solar Eclipse on October 14. On October 1 – 7, Ms. Villa hosted Come & Go Eclipse events where patrons watched two videos: Annular Eclipse and Total Eclipse by NASA. At these events, patrons picked up their free solar eclipse viewing glasses courtesy of the San Antonio Public Library. On October 17, in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, she hosted a Sugar Skull decorating event. Patrons enjoyed the opportunity to decorate sugar skulls and listen to Day of the Dead themed music. This program was well received with positive feedback. Ms. Villa created a Halloween Pumpkin Painting Contest for adults.

Participants dropped off their decorated pumpkins and patrons voted for their favorite pumpkin throughout the month. She mounted a Horror Movie display and hosted a Halloween Movie Marathon.

On October 28th the branch hosted a Family Halloween Bash where adults, teens and children were invited to create paint splattered pumpkins using salad spinners. They also enjoyed making spooky slime. The winner of the pumpkin painting contest was announced at the event. This event was well attended with over 100 attendees.



Teen Services Librarian Daniella Toll hosted five Teen Club events during the month, including a henna art activity where teens explored self-expression. The whiteboard, card games, art supplies, and butcher paper continue to be available for teens in the Teen Space. Ms. Toll supervised 210teenlibrary Instagram and Discord volunteers, who created content and volunteered as leaders in the San Antonio Public Library's digital space for 13–18-year-olds. She assisted Matthew Loaiza with the weekly Discord Teen Time. Ms. Toll also supervised the Collins Garden Teen Volunteers who created a Spooky book display, practiced graphic design skills by creating an accompanying sign, and decorated the Teen Area for Halloween. They created a coloring sheet for National Coming Out Day and set up a display with keychains from the Teen Pride workgroup 2023. Under Ms. Toll's supervision, the volunteers created a flier for ages 13-18 October events, keychains and participated in a food demo. They started piloting Homework Buddies, an idea they developed for highschoolers to make new friends at the library and help each other with homework projects. They assisted over 150 attendees with slime making at the branch's Halloween Bash.

Children's Librarian Gina Brudi presented five Lego Clubs, four Preschool Story Times, two Let's Create: Art Time and one Let's Build Blocks and More programs. She continued her monthly visits with books, stories and songs to Knox Early Literacy Center, Little Wonderland and the preschool classrooms at Collins Garden Elementary school. She also participated in two online Baby Time programs. On Saturday October 7th Ms. Brudi attended the AVANCE El Dia de la Familia Festival Dia de Los Ninos

annual event at Rosedale Park. Children decorated vinyl white banners with tempera paint sticks. Over 300 families attended. She attended the Blooming with Birdie workshop and received a Caterpillar Condo which she placed in the juvenile area. The condo allowed library patrons to observe the process of metamorphosis of a live monarch. As an extension of the Caterpillar Condo, children decorated their own butterflies to display on the whiteboard in the juvenile area and Ms. Brudi mounted a book display on butterflies complete with information on the metamorphosis stages of the monarch butterfly. The butterfly emerged on October 23. Before its release, Ms. Brudi tagged it with a special tag which will allow tracking of its migration patterns. She then entered the information on the monarchwatch.org app.

CORTEZ

In the month of October, Cortez served as an early voting location for Bexar County elections. The branch was decorated for fall by the talented Cortez Circulation team. Branch Manager Angela Morrow continued to produce and host *Name that Tune*, a music challenge with a weekly theme, on Monday nights. Librarian Morrow also co-hosted a Friday the 13th Tim Burton movie and Perler Bead extravaganza alongside Circulation Attendant Ana Rodriguez. Thirty-eight people participated, ten of which chose prizes for wearing costumes to the library.

Cortez's monthly Healthy Neighborhoods cooking program, led by Metro Health's Vince Escobedo, featured delicious Pesto Zoodles with Brussels Sprouts. Like past programs in this series, this was the first time tasting a healthy ingredient for several attendees. Four patrons admitted that they hated brussels sprouts, but this recipe converted them to loving them! Everyone went home with more ideas for adding healthy habits into their life and excited for this series to continue. Circulation Attendant Madeline Vasquez continued the Monster Meet program for horror film aficionados. This month fans watched *The Pope's Exorcist*. Adult Services Librarian Melissa Carroll arranged a presentation with Sixth Sense Paranormal at seven library branches, including Cortez. Jeff, a paranormal investigator and Director off Sixth Sense Paranormal, talked about the haunted myths and legends of San Antonio to an enthusiastic crowd. Ale from Metro Health's Diabetes Prevention & Control Group came for several days to talk to patrons about the upcoming Diabetes Prevention program series at Cortez. The library hosted two Solar Eclipse sessions with astrophysicist Dr. Angela Speck with 93 attendees. Librarian Carroll hosted the October Nothing Fancy Book Club had four new members come and join the discussion around the book Mexican Gothic. It was a great time talking about everyone's different reading tastes and favorite books.

Library Assistant Jo Ann Paredes continues her ninth year of her craft class, *Getting Crafty*. Devoted patrons that have been attending since 2014 are: Ana Marie Flores, Ana Rodriguez, Fabiola Rodriguez; 2015: Adrienne Santana; 2016: Judy Wooten; 2017: Julie Lopez, Virginia Lopez; 2019: Rose Gallegos, Terri Lopez; 2021: Barbara Sonnier; 2022: Patricia (CHCS). The awesome thing is that even during the pandemic and our HVAC closure, Ann Marie Flores, Judy Wooten, Terri Lopez, Barbara Sonnier, Rose Gallegos and Virginia Lopez all continued to do the assigned "Craft From Home" projects that Library Assistant Paredes sent out. In the nine years of craft class, attendance is at 2094. For the month of October, the crafts worked on were: Cheesecloth Ghost and Ghost Pillow cases, Felt Pumpkins and mesh wreaths.

October was an exciting month for Cortez children! Solar eclipse fun and spooky shenanigans for Friday the 13th joined Cortez's regular line up of events. Branch Manager Angela Morrow introduced perler beads as a regular weekly event for kids, which quickly became a hit. Perler beads reappeared at the Friday the 13th event, this time in shades of black and white, purple and green in keeping with the spooky and kooky Tim Burton feeling of the day! October was the start of the Little Read Wagon's once a month open-ended play visits, bringing their traveling smorgasbord of fun to Cortez! There were two outreach opportunities for Cortez this month, both at schools. The first was part of a larger Academic Night at Zamora Middle School, where 50 families had the opportunity to speak with Librarian Morrow and Circulation Attendant Madeline Vasquez about different programs at the library, how to get a library card,

and just how cool the library is. The second was a smaller event at Gillette Elementary School about the importance of reading at home in fostering good literacy skills. After the main talk was over, Children's Services Librarian Linda Childs got to have an impromptu story time en español, where, despite her shaky Spanish skills, she was told by the children that she did a 'pretty good job'. Circulation Assistant Ana Rodriguez created and installed her much-anticipated monthly scavenger hunt featuring cute and spooky items. The Cortez scavenger hunt is a monthly delight which children bee-line to when they enter the building to be able to win a treasure for finding all the items.



ENCINO

Children's Services

Encino's children have enjoyed a busy October! Our regular Story Time and Baby Time programs are still going strong, despite the last two weeks of meeting spaces being moved due to voting. We even enjoyed an outdoor story time with a surprise light sprinkling rain that everyone seemed to have fun with.

Our weekly Wednesday programs rotated between LEGOs (which are always a hit), Sensory Stations and Art. We added moon sand into the sensory stations this month and kids had a lot of fun playing with it. During art, children enjoyed creating their very own mask to use in a costume. It was fun to see the creative designs each kid came up with! We are also still enjoying Yoga for Kids on Fridays with Chrissy from Parks & Recreation.



Our biggest and most exciting event this month was Fall Fest! We enjoyed a visit from Happy Tails and their “spooky” petting zoo that featured a large yellow boa constrictor, a ball python, a scorpion, a couple of turtles and an iguana. We saw reactions ranging from excited and enthralled to hesitantly intrigued and scared, but all enjoyed the visit! Kids were also able to paint mini pumpkins, draw a face on a packing peanut and put it in water to make a disappearing “ghost”, play lawn games and explore the creepy touch and feel boxes created by adult librarian, Ann Laird. We also had help from several teen volunteers who monitored stations as well as painted faces. Overall it was a very successful event and we look forward to hosting again next year.



Adult Services

Adult services had an active October at Encino! On October 2, Encino partnered with the San Antonio Humane Society to present a program for all ages about “Choosing the Right Pet.” A presenter from the Humane Society came to do the presentation and brought cute bookmarks to hand out. Encino hosted another presentation for all ages on October 16; at this program Blanca Reyna gave a very informative presentation about Dia de los Muertos and the history and meaning of building ofrendas. After the presentation participants were invited to make colorful picture frames for their own ofrenda.

There were two installments of the “Get Craftin’” series that were held at Encino in October. On October 9 attendees learned how to create beautiful hoop earrings using a macrame technique. October 16 patrons were very excited to learn how to do soap felting. Soap felting is a fairly easy technique that creates a unique soap by felting wool around the bar of soap.

Encino’s all ages “Sunday Funday” monthly program took place on October 15. At this program patrons used “bleeding” tissue paper to create colorful butterflies! This program was popular with children and adults – everyone had fun seeing the magic of the color transferring from the tissue paper to the butterflies with just a spritz of water!



It's not too early to start thinking about Summer! Librarian Ann Laird met with age-based coordinators and other Summer Reading committee members on October 19 to start talking about how things went during Summer 2023 and share ideas for Summer 2024. We are looking forward to another fun-filled Summer with SAPL!

Teen Services

Encino Branch's Teen Time continues to be a consistent place for Encino teens to support one another, build leadership skills, play games, and, of course, "hang". Librarian Krystal Owen and Library Aide Kelli Pyles are providing coverage for Teen Time until the role of teen librarian is filled permanently. In October teens spent their time together playing board games, karaoke, and studying. On October 17, many teens volunteered their time for Encino's Fall Fest; others attended as patrons. For Halloween, teens made Oreo and pretzel spooky treats with candy melts and sprinkles and watched a movie.

Encino Branch continued Teen Art Club on Monday evenings. Planned, coordinated, and thoughtfully launched by our creative Encino teen volunteers, this program creates a safe space for teens to express themselves through art. October's theme was Autumn, but teens are always welcome to come and create art in any form.

FOREST HILLS

At Forest Hills, the eclipse program was a hit! University of Texas at San Antonio professor, Dr. Angela Speck, provided an engaging presentation related to the eclipse and safe viewing practices. Staff and presenters gave out over 200 glasses, and the librarians were each involved with activities for families. Ms. Menchaca made galaxy slime that changes colors with exposure to the sun, and had other things kids could add to the slime, like food coloring and glitter. Ms. Menchaca encouraged children to measure the glitter with their hearts – and they did! Mx. Prukop helped attendees make rainbow galaxy jars, having them choose their glitter and stars and making that custom galaxy for each person. Everyone was excited to plan out their combinations, and parents were intrigued to learn how to do this craft in their own homes.

Teen Librarian Shannan Prukop, as part of the Pop Culture committee, assisted with an outreach to Big Texas Comic Con on October 6th, sharing library resources, flyers for upcoming programs, and encouraging attendees to make their own mini lightsaber. They worked with a teen volunteer visiting from Great Northwest to change out displays in the Forest Hills Teen Space for October to spooky books. Forest Hills was happy to continue hosting the Great Northwest teens and volunteers the first few weeks of October until their branch re-opened. Mx. Prukop facilitated a weekly family movie program on Saturdays in October, showing different Halloween-related movies each week. They continued as staff liaison for the weekly Dungeons and Dragons club on the 210teenlibrary Discord server for teens, giving teens space to build confidence in public speaking and working with their peers to collaborate and solve problems.

Children's Librarian Ana Menchaca went to Head Start Day Care, she read books to the 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds. She goes monthly and checks out books to the classes that correspond to the subject they are studying that month. National Night Out at the Gilbert Garza Community center was a lot of fun. Ms. Menchaca was able to share valuable information about the library with attendees and take a picture with McGruff the Police Dog. Ms. Menchaca also helped select the children's magazine for the new fiscal year.

Ms. Menchaca continues to host Lego Time every Tuesday at 4:00; as always, she is amazed but what kids create. Storytime continues to be the highlight of Ms. Menchaca's week; children and their caregivers share stories with Ms. Menchaca, sing songs, create art, and have a fun playtime. She helped to run virtual Family Storytime and virtual Baby Time. With attendance declining, the librarians hosting the program decided October would be the last month for these two virtual programs. Baby Time at Forest Hills is bumping right along; babies and their caregivers share songs and a board book with Ms. Menchaca.

Library Assistant Shy Axelrod lead the Forest Hills Scrabble Club met up twice this month on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays and are always looking for additional players. She was proud to continue hosting the LGBTQ+ community of San Antonio for the Gaymer Table Top Night this month, with support from the Pride Committee. She also continued the BYOB Book Club on the second Saturday of the month; October's theme was to re-read an old favorite.

Library Branch Manager Mary Naylor visited the Doris Griffin Senior Center to host the monthly book club. The group discussed the book Black Cake by Charmain Wilkerson. The group will be reading Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby van Pelt for the month of November.

GREAT NORTHWEST

The Great Northwest Branch Library reopened on October 16 to the public. The branch received fresh new interior paint, a restroom renovation, and pavement restriping. Staff assisted at other branches while the Great Northwest Branch underwent renovations.

Teen Services Librarian Lisa Puchot worked with the Teen Librarian at Forest Hills, Shannan Prukop, to host the Great Northwest Teens during the closure. Teen volunteers & Teen Time members meet monthly to plan each month of teen events. Teen programs are teen focused, and teen driven. Teens learned how to hand sew cat toys, paint 3-D prints, make Rice Krispie treats, had a Boba Tea making class, and used Oculus for the first time! When the Great Northwest reopened, teens decorated the teen space for Halloween and picked a Halloween themed movie for each event including The Addam's Family and The Quiet Place. A local baker donated Halloween treats for our annual Hallow-Teen Party!

The Friends of the Great Northwest Library held a meeting on October 21. On October 16 Great Northwest Library hosted an adult craft celebrating Day of the Dead. Attendees were given the

opportunity to create a paper photo frame for their Day of the Dead ofrenda. The Potpourri Book Club reads and discusses a book of a different genre each month. They met on October 21 to discuss their current selection.

GUERRA

Guerra continued offering interim library services at Gill Community Center while the branch received HVAC renovations. Led by Guerra's Children's Librarian Linda Lopez and Circulation Attendant Abella Lazalde-Jimenez, the little library stayed busy with reader's advisory, limited laptop usage and creating and updating accounts for new and returning patrons.

Ms. Lopez and Guerra's Interim Branch Manager & Teen Librarian, Bek Corley, joined the community center on October 3rd for San Antonio's Neighbors Together event, sharing library resources and updates. They connected with many future and current Guerra patrons who shared praise for the services and staff at the community center. They also shared their eagerness for their branch to reopen!

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson presented a trivia game at the Willie Cortez Senior Center on October 3 with a special emphasis on its namesake, Willie Cortez as well facts about that senior center. He recorded *El puentecito azul (The little blue bridge)* by Brenda Maier for Dial-a-Story in Spanish on October 6. On October 13, *El pollito de la avellaneda (The hazelnut-grove chick)* by Antonio Rubio. He presented a trivia game at the Virginia Gill Community Center on October 23 with a special emphasis on Halloween. The next day, October 24, he recorded *Cara de pájaro (Bird face)* by Rocío Bonilla. Stephen moderated a book discussion group, Club de Lectura, both face-to-face and by Zoom which met at Potranco Library. They discussed *El viento de las horas (Wind of the hours)* by Angeles Mastretta. He presented another trivia game at the Willie Cortez Senior Center on October 28 with the same questions used at the Virginia Gill Community Center. Stephen recorded *Tengo miedo (I'm scared)* by Ivar da Coll on October 31.

IGO

The Joint Constitutional Amendment, General, Special, Charter, and Bond Election on November 7, 2023, marked a significant moment in civic participation for the community, with Igo Library playing a role as both a poll center on the election day and a host for early voting. Significant turnout at Igo Library showcased the community's active involvement and commitment to the democratic process.

On Saturday, October 21, 2023, **Adult Services Librarian, Gamini Haluwana** hosted an engaging American Sign Language (ASL) class from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The event aimed to provide participants with a foundational understanding of ASL, covering aspects such as the basic alphabet, numbers, vocabulary, an introduction to deaf culture, and a focused theme.

Melissa Escamilla and Darlene Shoemake, experienced ASL educators, served as the presenters and instructors for the class. Their expertise and passion for ASL education ensured a comprehensive and engaging learning experience for the participants.

The class covered a wide range of ASL fundamentals, including the basic alphabet, numbers, and essential vocabulary. In addition to linguistic components, the curriculum included an introduction to deaf

culture, offering participants insights into the rich and diverse aspects of the deaf community. The class also focused on a specific theme, providing a more immersive and contextualized learning experience.

The event was designed to cater to a diverse audience, including teens and adults. The inclusive nature of the class allowed individuals of varying ages and backgrounds to come together and learn the art of communication through sign language.

Participants left with a good understanding of ASL fundamentals, enhanced cultural awareness, and a newfound appreciation for effective communication through sign language. Igo library's commitment to hosting inclusive and educational events was evident, and the collaboration with experienced instructors contributed to the overall success of the ASL class. 18 people attended the program.

Teen librarian Annie Calonico continues to host Igo's monthly Better Read Than Dead book club, which brings together horror and true crime readers to talk about a chosen book. This month we added some energetic new members who helped us discuss our October pick, Shirley Jackson's classic, *The Haunting of Hill House*.

Igo's teen regulars worked with teen librarian, Annie Calonico, to plan activities and request materials for Teen Time, including crafts, art supplies, video games, and board games. They have welcomed new teens, socializing, and learning new things while making new friends and connections. Having teens take the lead in planning and implementation of teen activities strengthens their sense of belonging and ownership over their time and space in the library while supporting them as they become more independent.

Children's librarian Carrie Vance and teen librarian Annie Calonico continue to jointly run The Stitchery, a weekly adult fiber arts program. Each week fiber artists gather to work on their current projects while building community and connecting with other fiber artists of various ages and backgrounds.

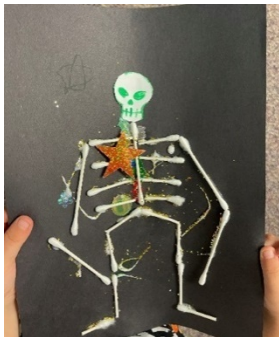
Children's programming at Igo continues with robust attendance. The most popular program at the branch remains Toddler Time where toddlers and their caregivers are engaged in both high energy and quiet focus activities that are designed to build early literacy skills for toddlers. Attendance is still strong at all other programs. Ms. Vance always provides an open-ended art activity at the end of Preschool Story Time program in the afternoons. This month, the children enjoyed making coffee filter butterflies, a tape town, foil sculptures and giant puppets. It would be hard to say which activity the children enjoyed most. However, Ms. Vance was absolutely astounded with the children's creativity when provided a roll of foil and some toothpicks, tape and markers. The children created a variety of foil people and creatures, but also made foil boots and a foil slip-and-slide. All the grownups were also amazed with how well the foil held up to the efforts of the children to get the longest sliding action.

JOHNSTON



On October 3rd, Adult Librarian Cris Yamada and Teen Librarian Ana Pina attended an outreach for the San Antonio Neighbors Together at Blue Skies of Texas. Johnston hosted the mobile market, "Mercado por tu Corazon", on October 10th as part of the American Heart Association's partnership with the library to provide the opportunity to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables to residents. Staff and volunteers decorated the Spanish-language area in celebration of the Dias de Los Muertos. Pictures of loved ones were placed in the altar with flowers, pastries, and other elements used for a traditional altar. Sugar skulls decorated during the family program on October 28th were also placed in the altar by families who participated in the event. On October 31st, Ms. Yamada and Circulation Attendant Raquel Gonzales attended the District 4 Halloween Trunk-or-Treat at Pearsall Park.

Librarian Yamada conducted two Adult Craft Club. On September 7th, patrons enjoyed the craft offered by the Halloween Monthly Initiative which was making picture frames for photos of loved ones, and on October 21st, the group kept working on their personal journals.



Children's Librarian Jackie Gonzales held Family Story Times every Thursday. Ms. Gonzales sang songs, told rhymes, and read stories to children and their caregivers. Targeted for preschool age children, families were encouraged to come and listen, learn, play, and sing along. Within the program, the children's librarian ensured to incorporate the five building blocks for early literacy: sing, talk, read, write, and play. Stories shared included *Who Am I?* by Jeffrey Turner; Douglas and *You Need Glasses!* by Ged Adamson. A simple craft was provided at the end of each Story Time where children and their caregiver(s) could work on something. Children who wished to opt out of doing the craft were provided toys to play with. Ms. Gonzales offered Let's Create: Come and Go Art every Thursday afternoon. Children were invited to follow the prompt or create another project with any materials provided. Prompts included: creating paper bats and skeletons out of q-tips. Children were encouraged to be creative and to challenge themselves with the materials provided. A particularly popular craft was UV bracelets in preparation for the Annular Eclipse. UV sensitive beads and other materials were to create bracelets. Lego Time was held on Wednesdays at 4pm. Children were given free build time and then challenges that they could do alone or with a partner. Projects created were then displayed until the next Lego Time. Ms. Gonzales visited La Petite Academy on Wurzbach on October 3rd and provided Story Time. She also visited both Kriewald Road School of Arts and Hidden Cove STEAM Academy where she talked to several classes about the Young Pegasus Poetry Competition, read poems, and talked about how they could get a library card.

Teen Librarian Ana Piña facilitated in-person Teen Time every Monday night of the month. Teens assisted in selecting and planning weekly activities throughout the month which included learning how to make bracelets and keychains, use a polaroid camera, and experimenting with Cubelets and other Arduino material. Ms. Piña also hosted the Johnston No-pressure Book Club on Sunday, October 15th where participants gathered to talk about the books they have been reading for the month of October. Many members chose spooky titles for the month such as *The Beginner's Guide to the Occult* by Deborah Lipp and *The Murder of Mr. Wickham* by Claudia Gray.

LANDA

October was the month of Landa Boo! This event has been the Branch's biggest event of the year. This year was no different! The event drew over 400 attendees in two hours. Visitors enjoy the wonderful festivities, such as a petting zoo, magician, and a bubble party. The program was a collaborative event prepared by Landa staff, with cooperation from major stakeholders.

Our teen space was buzzing with activity this month, especially around Halloween! The teens not only decorated the space, but also planned a scary movie viewing. It was wonderful to see them take ownership of their space. The comradery brought our teen librarian closer to the community.

Teen Librarian Stephanie Thomas-Rosen visited Alamo Heights High School twice this month and was pleasantly surprised to be recognized by some students. It's heartwarming to know that we're making a difference in their lives.

Landa Library received positive feedback from parents who were thrilled that their children had a safe and friendly space to spend time after school.

October brought out all the spooky season things! Adult Services Librarian Robin Alcorta requested another visit from Sixth Sense Paranormal. Jeff Sullivan led a lively discussion about the most haunted places around San Antonio. The group was so engaged that they stayed for an hour after the program to share their own ghost experiences.

Mystery Book Club read *The Spies of Shilling Lane* by Jennifer Ryan. The group was surprised by how much they liked the book. Their lesson was to never judge a book by its cover. Reader's Ink Book Club met this month to discuss *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde. The group had never read the book before. They weren't very impressed with it either, but there was in depth discussion about good vs. bad and nature vs. nurture.

Librarian Robin Alcorta visited with residents at The Village at Incarnate Word. They group read *The Last Thing He Told Me* by Laura Dave. The group enjoyed that the book was set in Austin, Texas, and Sausalito, California, as many members lived in both places.

LAS PALMAS

Las Palmas Branch Library closed its doors for renovations as of Monday, March 20, 2023. Interim services for Las Palmas Branch Library are located at Our Lady of the Lake University's Sueltenfuss Library (411 SW 24th St., San Antonio, TX 78207).

Interim services site hours of operation for the Fall:

- Monday – Tuesday | 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday - Friday | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday | 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



(San Antonio Public Library-Communications Department, 2023)

Las Palmas continues to be actively engaged with District 5 community members and organizations by participating in various outreach events:

On October 3rd, Assistant Branch Manager Nicole San Martin, and Library Assistant Elvia Ramos, represented the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) at the Annual HEB National Night Out neighborhood event. Ms. San Martin and Ms. Ramos promoted library resources, answered questions, distributed flyers, and handed out small goody bags that were prepared and funded by the Friends of the Las Palmas Library. La Palmas is thankful for the continued support provided by President Delia Trimble, who joined SAPL at the outreach event.



On October 7th, Assistant Branch Manager Nicole San Martin joined Collins Garden's Children's Librarian, Gina Brudi at the Dia de la Familia- AVANCE's annual family festival. Ms. San Martin and Ms. Brodi shared resources and created a collaborative art project to engage the children who attended.

On October 21st, Assistant Branch Manager Nicole San Martin, and Circulation Attendant Brenda Sanchez represented the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) at the 2nd Annual Westside Resource Fair and Tree Giveaway event. Ms. San Martin and Ms. Sanchez promoted

library resources, answered questions, distributed flyers, and created library cards.



On October 25th and October 26th, Branch Manager Lily Treviño Pérez, and Assistant Branch Manager Nicole San Martin, represented SAPL at the Afghan Welcome Center outreach event hosted at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. This was an excellent opportunity to share information about SAPL's Learn Centers, Enhanced Library Cards, and other resources. It was also nice to network with other organizations that provide free resources to the community.

Las Palmas hopes to continue collaborating with the District 5 community and looks forward to future events.

On October 11th, Assistant Manager Nicole San Martin assisted staff at McCreless Library with the *Coffee & Crosswords* Program.



On October 12th, as part of the systemwide campaign, *Get Eclipse Ready*, Ms. San Martin hosted the program, *Eclipse Ready with SEAL*, at Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU). The event was attended by over 60 members of the OLLU and Las Palmas community. By the next day, Las Palmas gave out two hundred and fifty solar eclipse viewing glasses, and twenty-five Take-and-Make kits that contained supplies to create Solar Eclipse Bracelets.

On October 17th, Branch Manager Lily Treviño Pérez contributed to Telecuentos this month by reading, "*A Lola le encantan los cuentos*" por Anna McQuinn.

Teen Librarian Amisarahi (Ami) Sarabia, led the *Music Monday Discord* Program every Monday for the month of October. Teens queue to listen to their favorite music ranging from Pop to Rock and K-Pop. Teens engage in conversation and talk about what is happening in school and in their lives.

On October 28th, Ms. Sarabia helped Central staff with the Teen Halloween Party. There were various activities for teens to participate in, like decorating small pumpkins and arts and crafts. Pizza was also included!

MAVERICK

The Lady Mav's Book Club and the Lady's Choice Book Club have resumed their regular meetings at Maverick. The Poetry Club also resumed their monthly meeting. Mah Jongg Group also returned twice in October. During the latter part of October, Maverick hosted the Bexar County Elections Office for the Joint Constitutional Amendment, General, Special, Charter and Bond Election. Reference staff collaborated to ensure the Election Judges had access to the building every morning. For instance, Children's Librarian, Amy Roberts, assisted with opening the Maverick Branch during Early Voting for 4 shifts during the reporting period.

Patrons are very pleased with the new paint job, particularly in the children's area of the library and the new flooring/carpet!

Children's programs are slowly gaining more momentum as patrons realize that Maverick is indeed back open for business. Ms. Roberts continues to conduct Baby Time, Toddler Time, Preschool Storytime and Lego Time. She also is active on a Tween committee with other children's librarians and a reader's advisory committee as well.

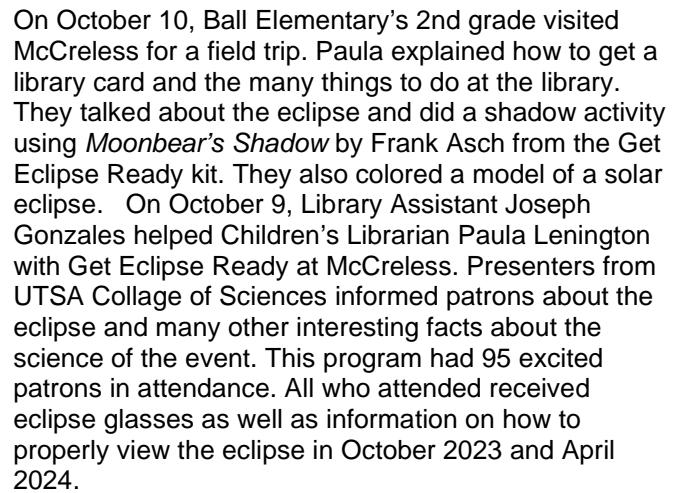
Maverick Teens were happy to get back to Teen Time at their home Library. At the first reunion, all the Teens enthusiastically interacted while snacking and crafting with beads, going around to different tables to get caught up with one another. Library Assistant Bleichwehl assisted Teens as they planned and implemented the remaining activities for the month. One Teen eagerly offered to Dungeon Master (lead and facilitate, aka DM) Dungeons and Dragons again if there was enough interest and then worked with attendees to build out their D & D characters. One Teen Volunteer recommended acrylic painting as a craft, which proved to be very popular. Another came in on a Saturday to create the October display near the Young Adult Fiction collection (photo below). The remainder of the month, Teens chose to personalize cloth pencil cases with fabric markers, play Uno and to work on homework while discussing their interests. One Teen mentioned having seen the musical Six and they enlightened other Teens and Bleichwehl of the plot, which led to an interesting history lesson, given by the Teen, on the life and wives of King Henry the VIII.



McCRELESS

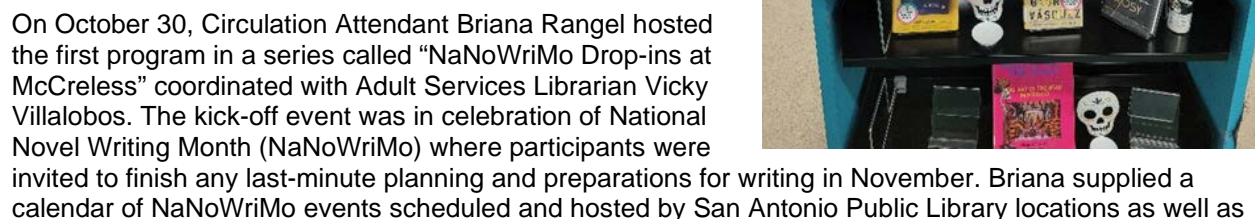
McCreless served as an early voting site during the month of October. Branch staff also impacted the community through various outreach opportunities and exciting programming.

Children Services Librarian Paula Lenington facilitated a Family Story Time every Thursday. The kids sang songs, listened to stories, and had an engaging time playing and building. Every Tuesday of the month, kids came to build and play with Legos during weekly Lego Time at McCreless. Young patrons did a fantastic job using their imagination to create. In addition to Family Story Time and Lego Time, Paula has a reoccurring crafting time called Creator Club. Anything can happen at Creator Club; it is only limited by the imagination.



Elementary's Hispanic Heritage Literacy Night and then Wright Elementary for their Literacy Night. There she engaged with the children and families giving them details about the events happening at McCreless library and how to sign up for a library card and highlighted online features available for card holders. There was a combined total of approximately 250 patrons engaged.

On October 8, Library Assistant Joseph Gonzales conducted outreach at Big Texas Con. While tabling, Joseph shared crafts as well as information about the San Antonio Public Library, interesting programming, and how to sign-up for a library card. Joseph also hosted two movie screenings at McCreless in October featuring *WALL-E* and *Moonfall* for the Eclipse Movie Series program. On October 17, Joseph also hosted a Paranormal Sixth Sense Hauntings in San Antonio presentation with over 24 attendees. He also decorated our branch with festive displays for both Halloween and Día de Muertos. Library Assistant Denise Melchor also continued to share her talent for decorating the branch, and staff names, pumpkins, and “ghosties” were all posted to the delight of those who saw them.



other resources for writers. Coffee was kindly provided by the Friends of McCreless Branch Library. Attendees enjoyed discussing how long they have participated in NaNoWriMo and what they were planning to write in November, fleshing out story ideas, and doing writing sprints to get the words flowing!

Adult Services Librarian Vicky Villalobos was joined by Teen Services Librarian Daniela Moreno for McCreless' weekly Coffee & Crosswords program for Older Adults. On Wednesday mornings, patrons are invited to have a cup of coffee while they work on crosswords, Sudoku, and word finds as they discuss the latest celebrity "chisme" (gossip). On October 5, Vicky continued to facilitate the monthly Drop-In Crafts Club and Queer Crafternoon on October 15. While working on individual projects the audio sample played in Queer Crafternoon was *The Secret Lives of Country Gentlemen* by KJ Charles. On October 27, she joined Librarians Brook Mjolsness and Dan Garcia and Adult Services Coordinator Morgan Yoshimura for SAPL Live Trivia. Vicky welcomed the assistance in research from Circulation Attendant Sarina Hackworth and Volunteer Andrea Aguilar as they supplied trivia for two categories: Mexican Candies & Sweets and Horror Movies & Shows.

LEARN Training Officers Lodie Mueller and Christina Flores continued to strengthen the active partnership with the Texas Center for Infectious Disease (TCID), conducting a 2-part series of Resume workshops on October 13 and 27. Flores also represented the Learn program through outreach during the USCIS's Afghan Welcome on October 26 and the Learn at SAPL HalloEast event on October 29. The event on October 29 included over 400 children and roughly 200 families. A big success!



A Learn patron called John came by to thank McCreless Learn staff for resume and job support, and to celebrate being hired for a new position with excellent salary, benefits, and a location close to his home. When interviewed, hiring staff told him, "We were ready to offer you the job as soon as we saw your resume."

MEMORIAL

In October, the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month continued at Memorial Branch Library with a Tejano Conjunto Dance Class on October 7 and a Pedro Infante film event on October 14. The dance class, led by Eduardo Garza, was attended by 23 eager dance students. The showing of *Los Tres Huastecos* attracted an audience of twelve, all of whom were deeply engaged in both viewing and discussing the film.

In addition to Memorial's regular Adult, Children's, and Teen activities, notable happenings at Memorial included a craft program focused on the annular eclipse, which drew in 60 attendees; a class on making ofrenda picture frames for a *Día de los Muertos* altar; and another class on making sensory bags.

The City of San Antonio Public Works Department held two successful community meetings about different projects in the area and Memorial Library hosted the Bexar County Elections Department in the meeting room for two weeks of Early Voting.

A major Career Resources Fair was led by Learn Center Training Officer Daniel Gomez. He conceived the concept, coordinated with multiple city and non-profit agencies, and worked with the San Antonio Public Library Communications team to promote the event. Nearly 80 job seekers attended and received information about training opportunities, resume support, and many other resources to aid them in their quest for meaningful and properly compensated employment.

MISSION

On October 2, Mission hosted an astronomy program which included family activities in preparation for the upcoming solar eclipses in the San Antonio area. Astronomers, educators, and storytellers shared ideas on ways to participate and celebrate these celestial events including advice on the best viewing techniques. Attendees had the opportunity to view the Sun through telescopes with solar filters until sunset around 7 pm, and planets afterward. 125 people attended the event.

On October 9th, Metro Health had a Vaccine Pop-up Clinic in both meeting rooms.

This month began a series of Fitness in the Park with a certified Pilates instructor. Each Friday at 11 AM, Mission offered Chair Pilates. Another partnership program, Alzheimer's Community Program also started in October and will continue through November and part of December. Various activities are offered each week on Wednesdays for not only persons with Alzheimer's, but caregivers of those with the condition.

On October 20th, Sixth Sense Paranormal of San Antonio came to Mission to offer a program, Haunted Myths and Legends of San Antonio, during which the presenter spoke about various haunted locations and stories of the area.

On October 21st, Friends of the Mission Library Branch hosted a book sale. Also on that Saturday, Adult Services Librarian Kassandra Vela-Laosa, partnered with Austin Typewriter Ink (ATI) from Austin, Texas, and 20 vintage typewriters were prepped with ink and paper and ready for anyone to jot down a poem, a few thoughts or even a letter. Many families attended, and for some young persons, it was a first introduction to this vintage technology. 35 people attended this unique event.



On October 27th, Adult Services Librarian, Kassandra Vela-Laosa, along with Adult Services Librarian Christina Montero, hosted a table representing the San Antonio Public Library at the Vibrant Works 1st Annual Senior Fair.

For the upcoming Dia de los Muertos celebration, Mission offered an Ofrenda picture frame craft. Seven attendees came and one mother of a 3rd grader said it was perfect because they needed to make one for her daughter's classroom float.

PAN AMERICAN

Adult Services Librarian, Adrian Leal, held his biweekly Puzzle Time for Adults Program. This program is geared toward Adult's 18+. It allows them the opportunity to select from an assortment of puzzle types to complete. The assortment of puzzles that can be selected are jigsaw puzzles, word searches, crossword, and wooden block puzzles.

Pan American helped patrons prepare for the annular eclipse. Rachel Forbes, the Children's Librarian celebrated the eclipse by having a Come and Go craft with more than 50 people in attendance. Families were able to make their own eclipse viewing tools, and children could also create their own night sky. Mr. Leal also organized and held three Get Eclipse Ready: Come & Go Programs. Each program had a great

turnout. The branch was able to issue approximately 500 eclipse glass to individual patrons over the course of the three programs.

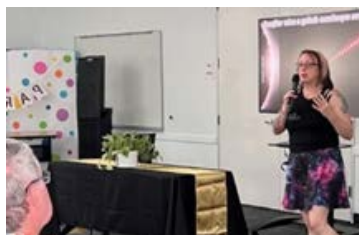
Mr. Leal held his biweekly Older Adults Game Time Program. This program is geared towards patrons 55+. Participants can select from an assortment of games to play individually or with others. Meditation Classes were held on 10/7, 10/21, and 10/28. Classes are free and open to the public, ages 18+. The program focuses on the benefits of meditation. Each session involves a little theory and then a meditating session. The instructor, Abel Menchaca, does a great job. Participants that attend regularly love the classes and travel from across town just to attend.

On October 7th, the Cancer Is One Cancer (C.I.O.C) held a support group session. This session was a little more solemn as one of the regular attendees lost their battle with Cancer. The group held a remembrance for their group member. This is why this support group is so wonderful. You just aren't an attendee, you become family.

Pan American celebrated Halloween throughout the month of October. Mr. Leal also organized a presentation entitled "Haunted Myths and Legends of San Antonio" in coordination with the Halloween Initiative Committee. The program was presented by the Sixth Sense Paranormal Group. The group discussed many of the "haunted" hotels and establishments in San Antonio. The presentation was very interesting and a little scary – just in time for Halloween. On the day before Halloween, with the help of Teen Librarian Gladys Nunez, the teens had a scary movie night and use the Branch's popcorn machine.

During Teen Time this month, attendees decided they wanted to create their own candles, bouncy balls, and soap. Other Teen Time activities this month included gaming, perler bead crafting, making DIY slime, and music listening nights. One of the teen volunteers created two YA displays (as well as the flyers) for the month of October. One centered on scary books and the other focused on horror love story books. Both displays proved to be popular with patrons. There has been more interest in teens wanting to volunteer at the Branch with two more teen submitting applications. They are eager to start once they are cleared.

PARMAN

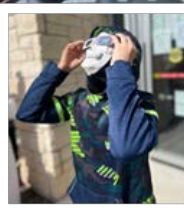
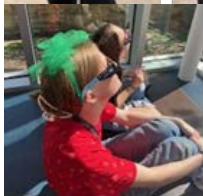


Dr. Angela Speck, Chair of the Department of Physics & Astronomy at UTSA and co-chair of the National Total Solar Eclipse Task Force, helped patrons get eclipse-ready this October at the Parman Library. Dr. Speck gave a warm and lively presentation about the science behind the upcoming annular eclipse that was easy for everyone to understand and gave tips on how to safely view the eclipse. Speck's overwhelming excitement about the celestial event was evident throughout the program and the 196 patrons who attended got caught up in it too. Staff and

patrons alike commented on how wonderful the presentation was specifically because Speck made every aspect so fun.



Parman's Annual Halloween Carnival was back this year and was made extra special by the annular solar eclipse. Parman staff decided to hold their carnival early this year due to early voting and since it fell directly on the day of the eclipse the hours of the festival were selected very carefully to ensure that anyone interested in watching the eclipse had the opportunity to do so after our festivities. The Halloween Carnival started outside with several different carnival games and then went inside for crafts and a very special treat, face painting! The artists created elaborate Halloween scenes on the cheeks of our community both young and old.



After the carnival, the eclipse was ready to view, and patrons flooded to the amphitheater and all available outside spaces to look up at the sky in awe. Everyone enjoying the celestial spectacle together was the perfect opportunity for the community to connect with one another.



Participants of Parman's Polish Language and Culture club (over 40 this month) were treated to a bit of sweet nostalgia this month thanks to the musical talents of Beata Cable. Ms. Cable, sang covers of popular Polish songs from the 60's, 70's, and 80's. Lyrics to the songs were printed out and given to everyone so they could sing along and fully enjoy the performance. The songs brought up a lot of memories for those who attended and of course led to some truly wonderful stories. These kinds of events are foundational for this

group and instill a real sense of community among its members.

In October Parman library was lucky enough to host Dr. Yanko A. Yankov in a special "meet the author" event to talk about his book, "How Our Brain Became Human: Genes, Environment, Microbiome, Social Life and Their Interactions". Dr. Yankov finished his medical education in 1974 and began working as a Neurologist. He worked as a devoted board-certified Neurologist and Sleep Medicine specialist for 18 years in San Antonio and Bulverde, Texas. The event attendant by 43 people started with a slideshow presentation and a discussion followed by a Q&A.



Parman adult programs continued to grow in popularity during the month of October. The Indecisive Book Club gained four new members and the Write Now, Parman writing club began a new project for its members to work on. These programs' success are due to the hard work and dedication of the presenters Melissa Moser and Larami Montgomery.

Tweens participated in various activities this month and especially enjoyed making spooky trail mix and giving each mix their own special name. They also decorated journals to take home and created colorful Halloween art on mini canvases with Miss Teague.

Creator Club kids and tweens created beautiful mermaids and scary sea monsters using sparkly paint, beads, ribbons, and their imaginations. To celebrate the upcoming eclipse, families created their own eclipses by moving suns painted on paper plates in front of paper plate moons they had made earlier. Kids had a blast one week by tracing their bodies with Miss Teague and then using fabric to dress their paper selves. They also really enjoyed blowing paint bubbles on to paper to make beautiful works of art.

The highlight for the toddlers at Toddler Story Time this month was using the parachute. Some of the little ones got underneath and some of them helped their parents with the handles of the chute. The babies at Baby Story Time loved being raised up in the air. The parents raised and lowered their babies along with the words of the rhyme. Seeing the anticipation on the babies' faces is priceless! Family Story Time practiced colors and taking turns with felt board games. Patrons enjoyed the nice October weather with an outside Story Time at the end of October. Children loved watching bubbles dance across the lawn after Story Time



For a spooky month, Parman's children needed a spooky book display! Patrons were encouraged to check out some of the creepy, kooky, mysterious, spooky, and all-together ooky books that Miss Lisa and Miss Teague shared in their monster-themed display. Kids also had a chance to search for favorite storybook characters dressed up in costumes hidden around the library in October's scavenger hunt.



The children thoroughly enjoyed the Halloween -themed Cuentos y Canciones (Story time in Spanish) with Miss Veronica and Miss Angelica. Their truly remarkable costumes were a big hit, creating enchanting and memorable experiences for all participants. Miss Veronica was dressed as Glinda and Miss Angelica as Wicked Witch of the West from loved by all book "Wizard of Oz". Some of the kids also came in costumes. A good time was had by all.

The highlight for the toddlers at Toddler Story Time this month was using the parachute. Some of the little ones got underneath and some of them helped their parents with the handles of the chute. The babies at Baby Story Time loved being raised up in the air. The parents raised and lowered their babies along with the words of the rhyme. Seeing the anticipation on the babies' faces is priceless! Family Story Time practiced colors and taking turns with felt board games. Patrons enjoyed the nice October weather with an outside Story Time at the end of October. Children loved watching bubbles dance across the lawn after Story Time

POTRANCO

October began with an outreach with to San Antonio Neighbors Together (SANT) National Night Out on Tuesday, October 3 at Rainbow Hills Park/Jean Yates Community Center. Librarians Zeig and Gonzales

(Johnston Library) gave out SAPL-branded swag and information to the many adults and children present. SAPL sunglasses were a hit!

On the 8th of October, Librarian Zeig hosted a fun fall craft: Paper Quilled Earrings. Participants learned the art of quilling and created various fall shapes that were turned into earrings. Many a pumpkin, cat, bat and witch's hat were made.

Librarian Zeig continued to host Hormones and Hot Flashes on the last Sunday of the month. Patrons that are experiencing perimenopause or are in menopause are encouraged to come listen to a podcast, chat, and color. This month's podcast featured oral historian Dr. Helen Foster of the East Midlands Oral History Archive at the University of Leicester giving a talk about The Bloody History of Menopause.

Librarian Zeig held two book clubs this month. The morning and evening versions of Shelf Indulgence, on October 24, were both well-attended and even had some new faces. This month's book was Recursion by Blake Crouch. Librarian Zeig and Circulation Attendant Laura Villalpando continue to host Dreaded Threads on Monday evenings and it continues to be one of our best attended adult programs.

In October, the Potranco Writers Group, led by Circulation Attendant and author Paschal Booker, continued its twice monthly meetings on the second and fourth Saturdays. Our numbers remain steady, from 8 to 10 participants at each meeting, with a mixture of new and regular members. Current ongoing projects include poems, novels, novel series, and short fiction. New participants are integrating nicely into the group. Group members are anxiously awaiting the November 4th arrival of their copies of the inaugural Potranco Writers Group anthology, entitled Ojalá: The Write Stuff.

Chess! At Potranco continues to be very popular. Volunteer Chess Master David Pacheco III brought his skills and enthusiasm for the game to Potranco on the 7th and 21st of October.

Teen Services Librarian Sherry Ross and Circulation Attendant Viviana Roldan conducted outreach events this month at two high schools, John Jay High School and Warren High School. At the schools, they visited teens during the lunch periods, setting up in the schools' libraries. In addition to sharing information and literature about the library, they brought the button-maker and helped teens create buttons from pre-printed inserts or the teens' own designs. Between the two schools, several hundred teens learned about library services and 50 teens opened new library cards. Teen Services Librarians Rosalie Barrera (Central) and Michael Harle (Carver) and intern Esperanza Meekins (Carver) assisted with the school outreach. Sherry also attended the monthly Teen Night at the Mays Family YMCA on October 28, setting up a Lego station and engaging with the teens while they participated in activities hosted by the YMCA staff. Sherry hosted weekly Teen Times throughout October. Currently, teen attendance during Teen Time is low, with the teen volunteer being the only consistent attendee. Sherry is focusing on outreach, recruiting additional teen volunteers, and passive programming in Potranco's teen space to attract and engage area teens.

Teen Services Librarian Sherry Ross and Circulation Attendant Laura Villalpando attended the annual Boo Bash at the Mays Family YMCA on October 20, handing out candy and books to trick or treaters and sharing library information with their parents. The estimated attendance at the event was 650-700.

On October 7th the branch hosted the *Get Eclipse Ready at Potranco* program. The program was so well-attended that the presenter offered two presentations to accommodate all of the attendees. During the program children and their families worked on a couple moon-themed crafts on the branch courtyard.

Children made their own moon and space scene by drawing on dark paper with chalk and oil pastels. Children also decorated a paper plate to look like the sun and then glued a peppercorn on the plate to represent the moon. The plate and peppercorn are about the same scale as the size of the sun to the size of the moon.

The Potranco Branch Children's Librarian Lisa Leandro continued to offer *Baby Story Time* every Friday morning this month. Babies and their caregivers gathered to sing songs, recite rhymes, and read books! At the end of the program, babies and their caregivers played with sensory toys, talked, and got to know one another. Babies especially enjoyed popping bubbles while listening to the song "All the Fish" by Caspar Babypants. Ms. Leandro also designed and ran the Supernatural Celebration at Tobin Library. More than 20 people participated in the escape room. Ms. Leandro also did a Fall Fest Outreach at Jordan Middle School, with the help of Linda from Guerra, interacting with close to 100 kids and adults. Ms. Leandro rounded out the month with a Halloween Story Time with stories, dances, a trick or treat march around the library collecting candy and ending with a photo op.



PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS

Pruitt's Children's Services celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month and the spookiness of Fall with seasonally themed Toddler Story Times and Sensory Play Times. Story Time participants learned new words in Spanish, sang songs about creepy crawly spiders, zoomed onto their brooms, and created Halloween spin art. Sensory Play Time attendees practiced fine motor and pre-writing skills with Halloween-themed playdough mats and sensory bins. Toddlers and their parents prepared for the eclipse by exploring space-themed sensory bins. Participants also practiced colors and counting while they searched for bats, toads, owls, pumpkins, and spiders in the branch's sensory swimming pool. Children's Yoga and Tween Yoga participants continued to celebrate the fall season and the increase in the Ayurvedic system's vata energy by practicing a grounding routine and guided meditation. Children were encouraged to "Go Batty for Books" while they conducted a bat-themed scavenger hunt in the Kids' Zone. The branch hosted a "Get Eclipse Ready" program and the branch's children's librarian provided a Galaxy

Spin art activity for the younger participants. 272 members of the Pruitt community attended the branch's 16 programs offered for early childhood and school-age children.



In October, Pruitt teens were especially enthusiastic about attending after-school activities, volunteering and continuing the clubs they created at the beginning of the school year. Teen Services Librarian Lauren Hime made sure that Teen Time stayed fresh and fun with a Halloween coloring contest, Spooky Wreath decorating and other teen-requested crafts and games. Pruitt Teen Volunteers were shining brightly this month as they helped to take pictures during teen activities and created displays for the Teen Zone. "Magic in the Pit" gained a new club leader as well as some new supplies donated from the Maverick Library branch. A big thanks to the Teen Services staff at Maverick! Opening the huge box of Magic: The Gathering cards was a big treat for the club members.



Patrons brought in family photos and created ofrenda photo frames for them at a Día de los Muertos Craft time. At Adult Craft Time, patrons created storage-friendly pumpkin mason jars.

Adult Virtual Coloring continued Friday afternoons. During Special Needs Adult Programming, patrons read *Snowy Owls* by Melissa Hill and made baby Snow Owls from pinecones, cotton, and felt.

Pruitt also hosted a Chess Simul Play for all ages where patrons played multiple games at the same time against Chess Master Alex Weinberg.



SAN PEDRO

The San Pedro Branch Library provided a variety of programs and services during the month of October. Programs for children, teen and adults were offered either weekly or once per month. As cooler weather approached, branch staff decorated and offered programs and service to match.

Children's Librarian Karen Braeuler continued outreach programming at Respite Children's Daycare and Davidson House. The children participated in a program of singing, reading and rhyme. Ms. Braeuler also represented the library at the Mark Twain Dual Language Academy Culture Fest in October.

Baby Story Time at San Pedro continued every Saturday morning with increasing attendance. New parents and their children were able to socialize while enjoying a good story and activity.

Thanks for the Friends of the San Pedro Branch, the children's area was decorated with festive pumpkins and paper vines. Staff also created a touchable, real pumpkin display with pumpkin facts available for kids and parents.

San Pedro librarian Karen Braeuler conducted the monthly book club at Chandler Senior Living. Residents discussed the book "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett. Afterwards, residents were given library copies of next month's book for their reading pleasure.

In October, the San Pedro Branch continued to provide the community an opportunity to play chess together. The matches were 30-minute time control for each side with an entire game of 1 hour. Additionally, the branch continued to host "Yarn Over to San Pedro" where the public could knit and crochet different projects. Needle crafters of all kinds were welcomed and invited to bring their own project to work on. Beginners were welcomed as well. Once you get started, we'll have you hooked!

In addition to ongoing adult programs at San Pedro, a plant swap Dia de los Muertos Craft-Ofrenda Picture Frame craft was also held in October.

October's Film Virtuosity: A Reflection of Art We opened with an experimental short film from 1943 entitled 'Meshes of The Afternoon' followed by two features: 'A Stormy Night' directed by local filmmaker Alec Dyer and 'Dead Enders' (a winner at this year's SXSW festival) directed by Fidel R Ruiz Healy.

Professional makeup and special effects artist Miguel Cantu visited the branch to give a makeup demonstration. Attendees watched as Mr. Cantu applied full makeup and prosthetics to create a spooky clown just in time for Halloween!

Also in October, patrons were given the opportunity to pick up a mini art kit at San Pedro. The kits contained a mini canvas, paints, and a brush. Finished works will be on display at the branch in November for the public to view. The supplies for the kits were donated by the Friends of the San Pedro Branch Library. Adult Librarian, Diana Starrett hosted a small reception for the artists and the public to meet and discuss their works.

SCHAEFER

Schaefer's children's librarian Leslie Elsasser presented a variety of programs for children during October. Baby Story Time, for babies younger than 18 months, and Outdoor Family Story Time, for kids five and younger, took place weekly. For school-age children, Let's Build: Blocks & More, Let's Build: LEGO Time, Robot Roundup, Read to a Dog, Video Games for Kids and Come & Go Art were available throughout the month.

During October, children participated in several seasonal passive activities. Each day, five pumpkins made from the Cricut machine were hidden by staff around the library. When kids found all five, they could choose a pencil and a sticker, which were generously donated by the Schaefer Friends group. Kids could also decorate a pumpkin made of construction paper to hang at the circulation desk. A real pumpkin with different felt eyes, noses and mouths lived at the circulation desk for kids to make pumpkin faces.

Throughout the month of October, the Adult Services Librarian coordinated a weekly, Monday afternoon health and fitness program at Schaefer: "Cardio-Dance Class", which features a moderate dance workout led by a Schaefer community member. On Tuesday, October 3, 2023, performed outreach at the Towne Twin Village housing development's first ever National Night Out festival which was attended by over 100 people. On Sunday, October 15, 2023, the Adult Services Librarian hosted a family-friendly screening of Disney and Pixar's *Coco* as a part of the Hispanic Heritage Month movie series.

On October 6th, Schaefer Branch hosted the "Space in a Jar" program as a part of the Get Eclipse ready series at Schaefer. Patrons who participated in the program were able to make their own galaxy in a jar with a variety of materials such as paint, cotton balls, and glitter. On October 9th, Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser and Library Assistant Isaai Ortega hosted the monthly program "Robot Roundup", children were able to learn how to operate a variety of robots.

Library Assistant Isaai hosted a "Photography for Beginners" program on October 14th. The program provided the opportunity for patrons to understand the fundamentals of operating a DSLR camera. The program encompassed key topics such as adjusting the camera's aperture, managing shutter speed, setting the ISO, and manual focusing techniques.

SEMMEs

Semmes Library Adult Services continues to provide patron-favorite programs. The month of October opened with Semmes Branch's final Plant Swap of the year; it will go dormant until spring. The library-wide eclipse event was extremely well attended, with almost one hundred adults and more than thirty children attending, and many more coming to the library on the day of the eclipse, in addition to the hundreds of eclipse glasses handed out in preparation. In addition to these events, regular programming, such as weekly Tai Ji classes, table tennis, chess, and the book club have loyal followings. As a voting location, Semmes welcomed 1873 patrons.

Teens at Semmes continue to love working with Perler Beads at weekly Teen Times. In addition to crafting with Perler Beads, teens also connect with peers over board games or drawing. A teen volunteer helped plan and put on the Teen Spooky Fall Fest held the Saturday before early voting. Teens were encouraged to dress up in costume to receive a goody bag and were treated to spooky games and crafts at the event.

This month was a busy one for children's programming at Semmes Branch Library.

On Wednesdays at 10:30 AM, Preschool Story Time was attended by 115 children and 111 grownups.

On Thursdays at 10:00 AM, Toddler Story Time was attended by 121 children and 94 grownups.

On Thursdays at 11:00 AM, Baby Story Time was attended by 55 babies and 47 grownups.

For school-age programming on Mondays, two sessions of Let's Build: Legos and More was attended by 25 children and 9 grownups. Three Read to a Dog sessions were attended by 17 children and 14 grownups.

Ms. Randi recorded a story on the Dial-a-Story line on October 3, 20 and 31.

Ms. Randi's curated toddler story time for *I Spy Under the Sea* by Edward Gibbs premiered on the SAPL website on October 16.

THOUSAND OAKS

Assistant Branch Manager Brooke Mjolsness hosted in-person Yoga Class programs on October 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. A certified instructor from the Parks and Recreation Department led the yoga classes. She hosted in-person Tai Chi classes led by certified instructor Debra Cox on October 5, 12 and 19. She hosted two in-person programs taught by instructors from Older Adults Technology Services – Intro to A.I. on October 5, and Intro to Digital Wallets on October 19. Ms. Mjolsness co-hosted the virtual Film Noir Movie program on October 10. On October 27, she served as Master of Ceremonies for the virtual SAPL Live Trivia program. On October 28, she held the in-person Classic Movie Showing program. Attendees watched *Witness for the Prosecution* and participated in a discussion.

Children's Librarian Cheryl Penick led the Brook Hollow Branch Library's Family Story Time programs on October 5, 12, 19 and 26 due to a Children's Librarian vacancy at that location. She held in-person programs for Baby Story Time, and Let's Create!: Arts & Crafts Friday on October 6, 13, 20 and 27. She held in-person Let's Move!: Music & Movement programs on October 7, 14, 21 and 28. Ms. Penick led outreach Story Time programs at Pinnacle Kids Academy on October 11, and Pre-K 4 SA on October 28. She co-hosted a Family Story Time Online program on October 18. She held a Halloween Story Time on October 31. She assembled themed book bundles highlighting the juvenile collection.

Librarian Kimberly King held Teen Time programs on October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. She represented SAPL at the Big Texas Comic Con outreach event on October 7. On October 12, she held the Thursday Book Club in-person program. Participants discussed *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro. She facilitated an outreach book group at the Northeast Senior Center on October 25. The book group participants discussed *The Maidens* by Alex Michaelides. On October 26, Ms. King provided a tour and presentation to students from the Academy of Creative Education. The students signed up for library cards, learned about library services and resources, and explored the library on their own. She created the “Have a Good Scare” book display highlighting horror titles in the young adult collection.

Library Assistant Mari Carmen Castellano created two book displays this month for Horror, and Investigative Journalism and True Crime. She created a list of fiction and nonfiction “Design” titles for BiblioCommons, the online catalog. She held a Plant Swap program on October 1. She assisted at the Mission Branch Library’s Division for Planetary Sciences eclipse event on October 2. Ms. Castellano held a Fiber Arts Community program on October 8. Participants worked on their needlecraft projects with other like-minded community members. She held a Tabletop Gaymer Night program on October 15. She held an Adult Craft Time program on October 18. On October 24, she held a DIY: Dia de los Muertos craft program at which Ofrenda photo frames were made.



TOBIN LIBRARY AT OAKWELL

Tobin Library at Oakwell served as a polling location for early voting, and saw 1,457 voters during the month of October.

Branch Manager Amanda Neace collaborated with others to represent the San Antonio Public Library at the Afghan Welcome Center event held at the convention center on October 27. Neace spoke with many service providers and families to share library information and resources.

Adult Services Librarian and Assistant Manager Rhonda Woolhouse continued her regular tai chi and stitching programs, in addition to representing SAPL at the Big Texas Comic Con. Woolhouse hosted a Supernatural Celebration at the branch on October 21, which required a great deal of collaboration and planning with others to accomplish. Over 70 attendees enjoyed an escape room, visiting an alpaca, games, crafts, and a presentation from a real ghost hunter.

Teen Services Librarian Connie Hejl collaborated with Woolhouse to represent SAPL at the Big Texas Comic Con and host the Supernatural Celebration. In addition to her weekly Teen Time and online Random Fandom, Hejl also hosted a popular After School Halloween Party where students played Lotería and crafted unique tiles. Hejl provided outreach to Garner Middle School for parent night at the school library, and shared SAPL resources with families.

Children's Librarian Lisa Ramirez added extra coloring sheets and play items to the children's space for families to enjoy. She hosted her regular Toddler Times, Play & Learn, Read To A Dog, LEGO Club, and After School Zone programs. Ramirez also represented SAPL at the Windcrest Elementary Trunk or Treat event, and recorded for Dial-A-Story. To celebrate the season, she had a Pumpkin Party program for little ones to paint pumpkins with their families.

Children's Librarian Kara Bailey planned a very successful murder mystery program for After School Zone during the week of Halloween. Tweens looked for clues, interviewed librarians and made paper pumpkins. Bailey also hosted weekly Preschool Story Times.

Circulation Attendant Lilliana Aguilar assisted Woolhouse with the October stitching program, and Circulation Attendant Lauren Nyreen created many book bundles for families to enjoy. Library Assistant David Hazlett and Circulation Attendant Sabrina Longoria continued their Dungeons & Dragons program with a popular Halloween event where participants dressed up in costume for gaming.



WESTFALL

Machaia McClenny, Branch Manager at Westfall, continued her Classic Movie Monday series on October 30 by showing Jaws and allowed patrons to vote for the next movie to be shown in November. The voting was so popular that two movies will be shown in November and December. Westfall also installed 32 new public chairs that were purchased with capital outlay funds. At the beginning of October, Ms. McClenny trained the staff on the use of the new ELC processes, and the new processes were integrated on October 9. Furthermore, Ms. McClenny attended Set Training Module II.

Monty Holcomb, Adult Services Librarian at Westfall, served as the organizer and coordinator for Westfall's eclipse presentation event. Even though the event's original astronomy presenter was replaced with a last-minute substitute who showed up late, Mr. Holcomb was able to quickly coordinate and work with the substitute to keep the delay to a minimum. The event had full room attendance and, even though neither Mr. Holcomb nor the substitute had any time to prepare a collaboration, the two of them were able to establish and improvise a working chemistry that satisfied the audience. Moreover, in the days leading up to the eclipse, Mr. Holcomb also helped to coordinate the method of distributing the eclipse glasses, which were in high demand by the members of the public. As part of the Hispanic Heritage Month programming, Mr. Holcomb showed the film *La Bamba* to a small but appreciative audience. Furthermore, Mr. Holcomb has continued his weekly chess program that is for all ages, giving the community an opportunity to play and/or learn informal chess games. In the program, Mr. Holcomb helps to facilitate game play flow among the players and gives assistance (including lessons) as needed depending on the needs of those attending. The program continues to have high turnouts. Mr. Holcomb also continued for this month his weekly dominoes program that is for seniors, giving older adults in the community an opportunity to play the game with other seniors. In the program, Mr. Holcomb continued to facilitate game flow and to give assistance as needed depending on the needs of those attending.



In October 2023, Children's Librarian Imelda Merino planned and presented three Preschool Story Times and three Family Story Times. The Discovery School First Graders visited the library on October 12 to listen to a couple of stories and check out books. Ms. Merino attended Literacy Night at St. George

Episcopal School on October 12. She shared library informational flyers and a very simple Halloween craft. Thirty-five children and eight adults visited the Library table. The “Get Eclipse Ready” program that took place on October 10 was very popular, and Ms. Merino assisted with the children’s craft that accompanied this program. Ms. Merino also selected books to be added to the Halloween and Native American Heritage Month “Book Picks” lists which can be found by clicking on “Children’s Services” from SAPL’s homepage.

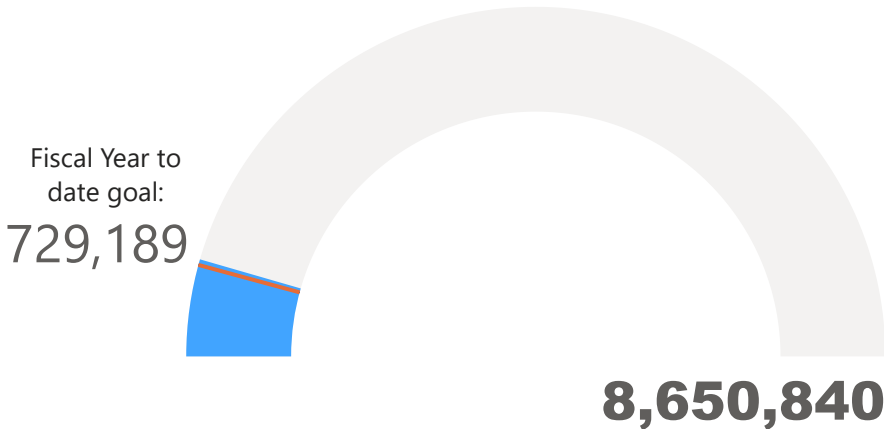
Heather, the Teen Librarian at Westfall, onboarded new teen volunteers and offered them increased responsibility in handling all aspects of the Teen Time program. They managed the selection, set up, and clean-up of activities on their own, and monitored the supply of program snacks to make sure they didn’t run out. Teens are starting to visit the branch more now that they’ve settled into their fall school and activities schedules.

During the month of October, the Learn Center gained a regular group that has been attending the Wednesday morning Smartphone and Smart Device class. The Learn Center at Westfall also continues to offer bi-weekly technology classes on Friday mornings. The number of patrons seeking job assistance continues to rise each month as well as those seeking resume assistance. Furthermore, many patrons are seeking out other resources such as GED information and citizenship classes that are offered at various locations.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Circulation: Goal

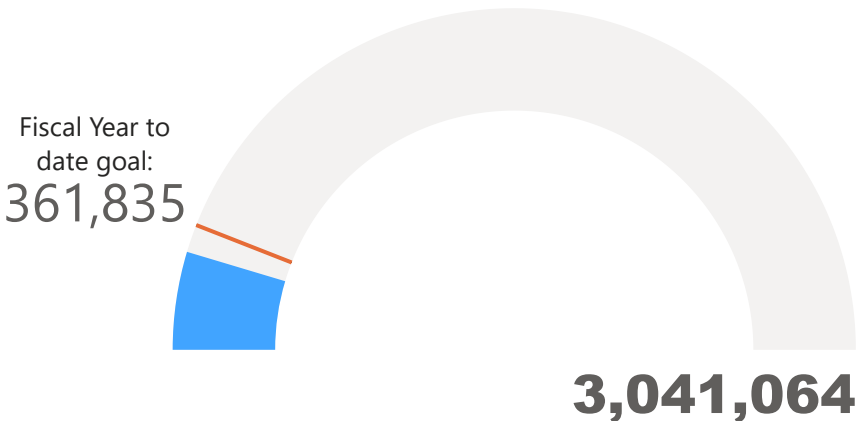
FY 2024 to date Items Borrowed



774,826
(+6.26%)
Circulation

Visits: Goal

FY 2024 to date Library Visits

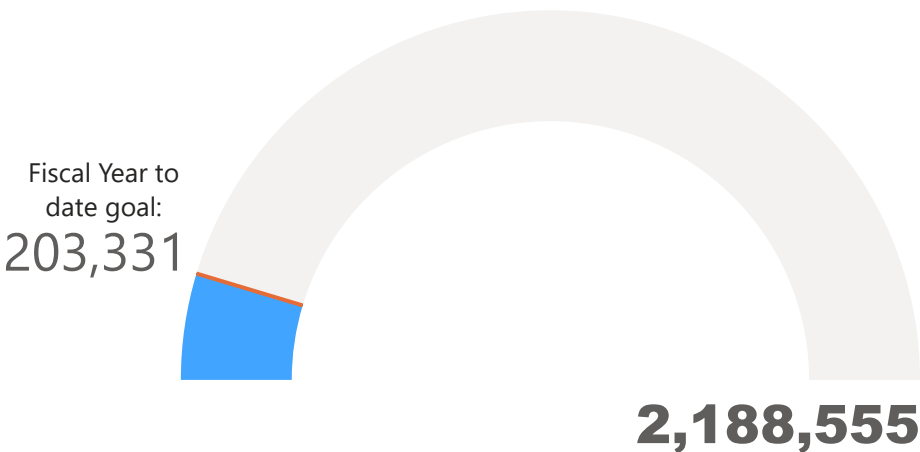


281,484
(-22.21%)*
Visits

*Overall less visits due to less voter turnout then estimated. Expected to reach year end target goal of total library visits.

Digital Access: Goal

FY 2024 to date Digital Access



25,013
Hours of Computer Use



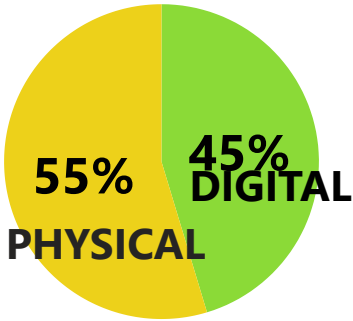
178,741
Hours of Wi-Fi Use

203,754
(+0.21%)
Hours of Technology Use

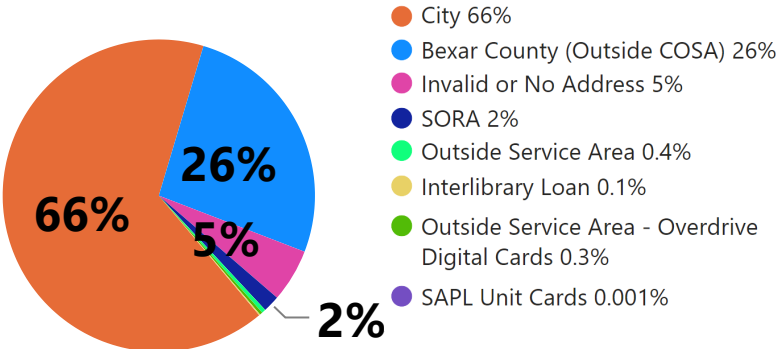
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS
October 2023 (CONTINUED)

USE OF COLLECTION: FISCAL YEAR 2024

CIRCULATION BY TYPE



CIRCULATION BY SERVICE AREA



VIRTUAL: FISCAL YEAR 2024



162,442
MYSAPL.ORG
VISITS

1,977
MYSAPL
APP DOWNLOADS

27,707
OVERDRIVE
SITE VISITS

243,408
SOCIAL MEDIA
IMPRESSIONS

PROGRAMS & ATTENDANCE: FISCAL YEAR 2024

Total	Early Literacy (0-5)	School Age (6-12)	Teens (13-18)	Adults (19+)	Older Adults (60+)	General Interest*
1,097 programs	255 programs	203 programs	262 programs	248 programs	47 programs	82 programs
20,952 attendance	6,728 attendance	4,096 attendance	2,214 attendance	2,447 attendance	544 attendance	4,923 attendance

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

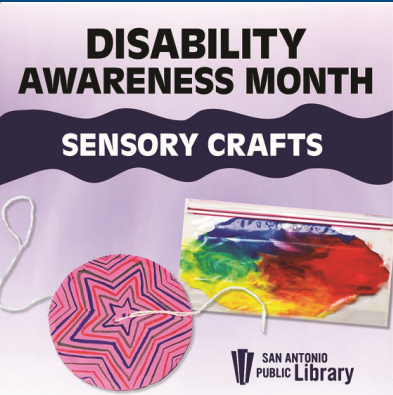
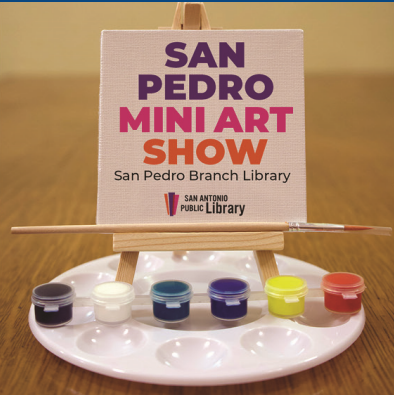
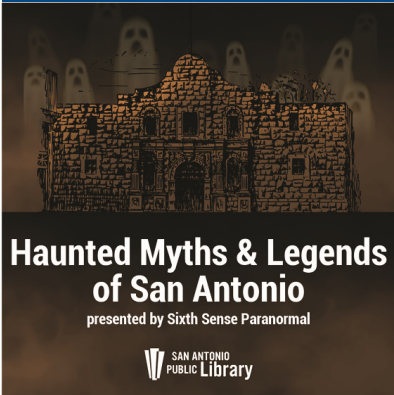
1

PROGRAM VIDEOS UPLOADED

2,508

PROGRAM VIDEO VIEWS

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS



San Antonio Public Library

October 2023 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
Bazan	3,225	6,118	7,095	1,414	5,681
Brook Hollow	23,165	13,243	5,971	759	5,212
Carver	2,328	4,791	3,679	985	2,694
Central	26,205	26,066	36,970	6,789	30,181
Cody	33,318	17,473	12,087	1,264	10,823
Collins Garden	4,297	5,423	4,662	479	4,183
Cortez	4,422	7,733	3,822	583	3,239
Digital	351,231	0	0	0	0
Encino	20,937	9,483	5,501	242	5,259
Forest Hills	9,074	4,679	3,864	296	3,568
Great Northwest	7,988	4,941	2,855	231	2,624
Guerra	1,898	246	792	0	792
Igo	49,885	27,413	13,678	901	12,777
Interlibrary Loan	1,350	0	0	0	0
Johnston	9,722	6,521	4,252	623	3,629
Kampmann	0	425	213	0	213
Landa	16,927	11,072	5,388	386	5,002
Las Palmas	261	47	84	0	84
Maverick	11,472	7,733	4,511	437	4,074
McCreless	7,749	4,761	7,008	1,126	5,882
Memorial	5,202	6,346	6,544	978	5,566
Mission	10,495	10,749	6,611	916	5,695
Pan American	4,072	4,456	2,864	479	2,385
Parman	33,227	23,066	7,582	274	7,308
Potranco	23,135	10,594	14,312	641	13,671
Pruitt	5,149	12,250	6,259	227	6,032
San Pedro	2,776	4,501	5,118	544	4,574
Schaefer	8,592	8,943	5,783	463	5,320
Semmes	26,906	16,097	8,574	1,250	7,324
System	35,886	0	0	0	0
Thousand Oaks	6,660	5,254	4,954	678	4,276
Tobin	17,089	13,287	5,700	775	4,925
Westfall	10,183	7,773	7,021	1,273	5,748
Total	774,826	281,484	203,754	25,013	178,741

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

San Antonio Public Library Programs

October 2023

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	0	14	5	12	5	3	39
Brook Hollow	5	4	5	0	2	4	20
Carver	1	1	0	14	2	0	18
Central	13	7	90	14	5	6	135
Cody	9	22	28	10	0	1	70
Collins Garden	8	8	5	3	0	6	30
Cortez	4	6	0	17	0	2	29
Encino	15	3	10	10	3	3	44
Forest Hills	10	8	3	1	1	5	28
Great Northwest	0	0	3	2	0	0	5
Guerra	0	2	0	2	2	1	7
Igo	16	5	5	10	0	0	36
Johnston	5	9	3	3	0	1	21
Landa	35	9	7	2	0	0	53
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Little Read Wagon	17	0	5	8	0	0	30
Maverick	6	2	4	2	0	0	14
McCreless	2	9	5	13	0	1	30
Memorial	4	4	2	25	1	2	38
Mission	8	4	7	15	0	12	46
Pan American	5	16	5	6	0	3	35
Parman	20	9	5	12	10	2	58
Potranco	7	3	7	12	0	1	30
Pruitt	10	6	9	4	1	4	34
San Pedro	7	7	0	6	2	3	25
Schaefer	9	12	5	5	0	5	36
Semmes	12	8	6	5	0	6	37
System	6	0	25	8	0	2	41
Thousand Oaks	10	5	1	14	3	1	34
Tobin	7	12	7	10	5	1	42
Westfall	4	8	5	3	5	6	31
Total	255	203	262	248	47	82	1,097

*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

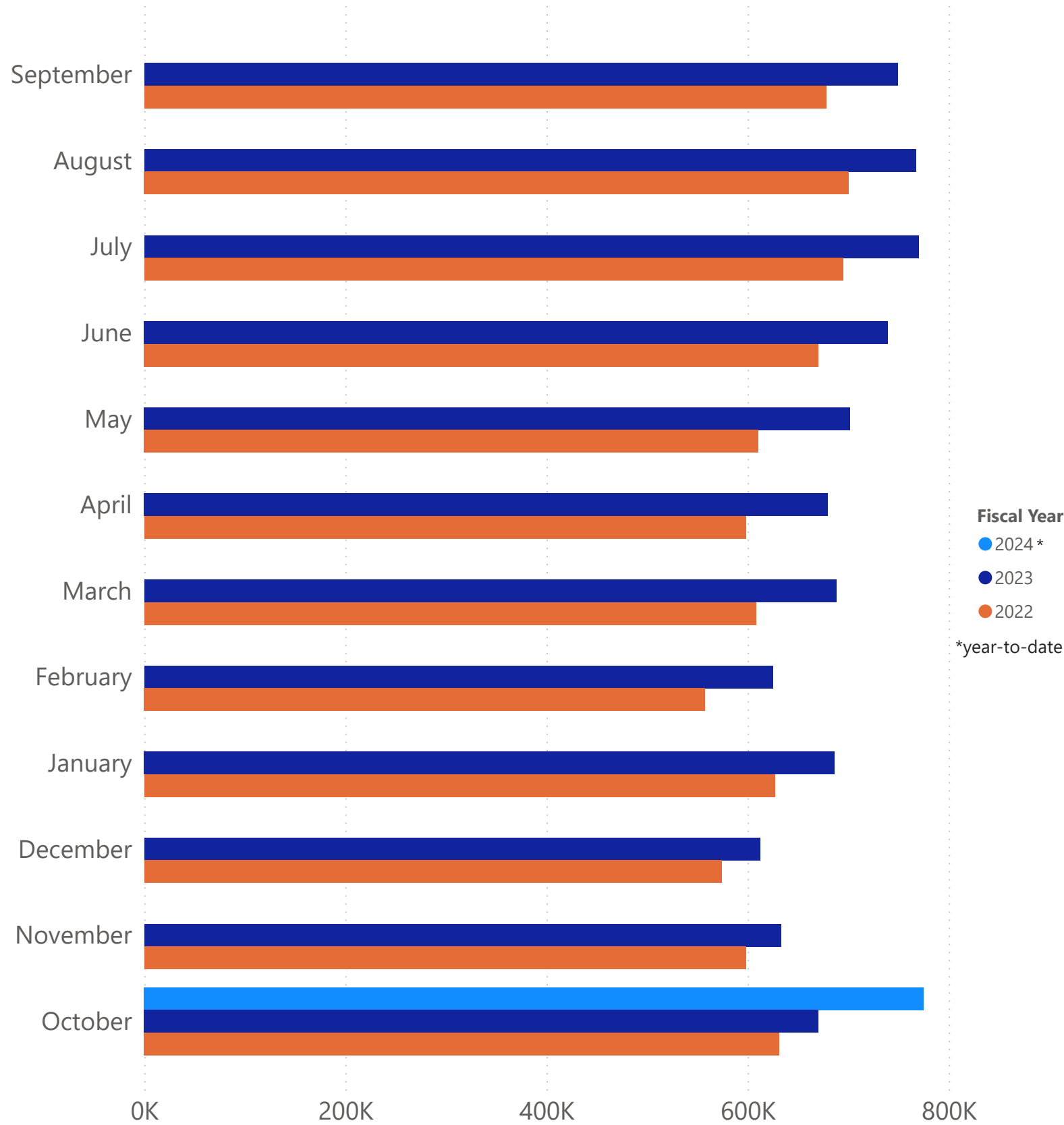
October 2023

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	0	10	141	188	106	54	499
Brook Hollow	95	72	21	0	12	251	451
Carver	69	8	0	199	115	0	391
Central	159	249	648	141	60	561	1,818
Cody	254	367	372	70	0	335	1,398
Collins Garden	587	43	17	15	0	233	895
Cortez	18	294	0	104	0	47	463
Encino	394	247	71	76	23	81	892
Forest Hills	198	26	14	8	5	178	429
Great Northwest	0	0	16	4	0	0	20
Guerra	0	297	0	22	39	39	397
Igo	867	70	25	82	0	0	1,044
Johnston	148	377	10	19	0	23	577
Landa	975	141	58	14	0	0	1,188
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	67	67
Little Read Wagon	331	0	37	104	0	0	472
Maverick	146	20	32	14	0	0	212
McCreless	11	174	20	84	0	95	384
Memorial	52	50	16	253	2	67	440
Mission	99	32	37	146	0	195	509
Pan American	92	665	8	42	0	547	1,354
Parman	894	144	31	303	70	796	2,238
Potranco	113	8	220	77	0	200	618
Pruitt	235	37	135	48	7	81	543
San Pedro	109	73	0	25	14	80	301
Schaefer	187	202	39	50	0	133	611
Semmes	513	103	25	32	0	197	870
System	38	0	136	130	0	526	830
Thousand Oaks	73	45	8	65	32	2	225
Tobin	41	244	62	124	32	3	506
Westfall	30	98	15	8	27	132	310
Total	6,728	4,096	2,214	2,447	544	4,923	20,952

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San Antonio Public Library

Circulation

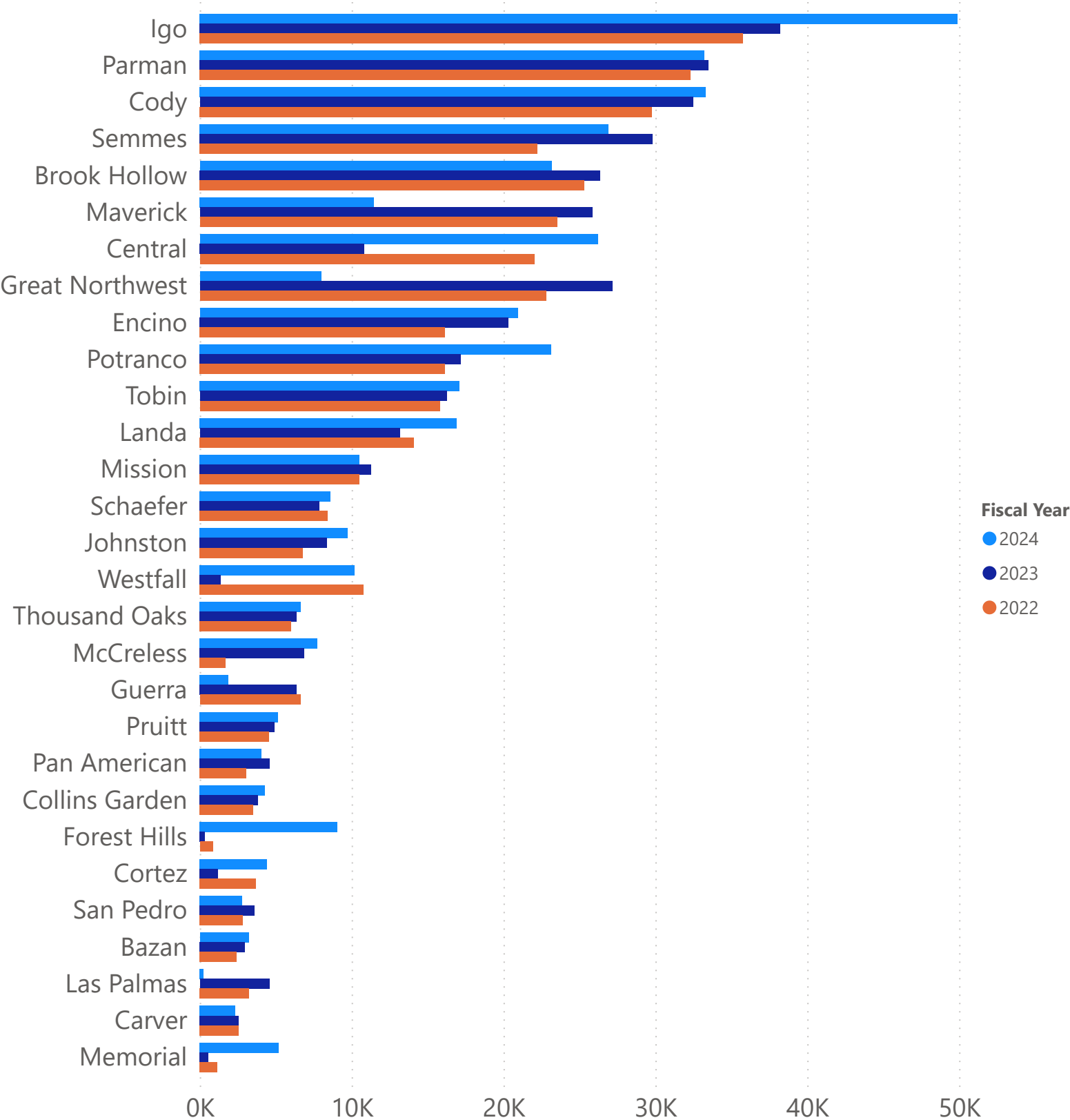


Location Closures:

FY24: Maverick Oct 1 - Oct 8, Great Northwest Oct 1 - Oct 15, Las Palmas Oct 1 - TBD, Guerra Oct 1 - Dec 3
FY23: Forest Hills Oct 1-March 18, Memorial Oct 1 - Feb 24, Westfall Oct 1 - Nov 29, Cortez Oct 1 - Feb 13, Las Palmas March 20 - TBD, Brook Hollow April 24- July 29, Maverick Aug 1 - Sep 30, Great Northwest Aug 7 - Sep 30, Guerra Aug 21 - Sep 30
FY22: Forest Hills Oct 1-Sep 30, McCreless Oct 1-Apr 15, Memorial Oct 1 - Sep 30, Westfall Mar 28 - Sep 30, Bazan April 11-June 4, Cortez Sept 6 - Sep 30

San Antonio Public Library

Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - October 2023

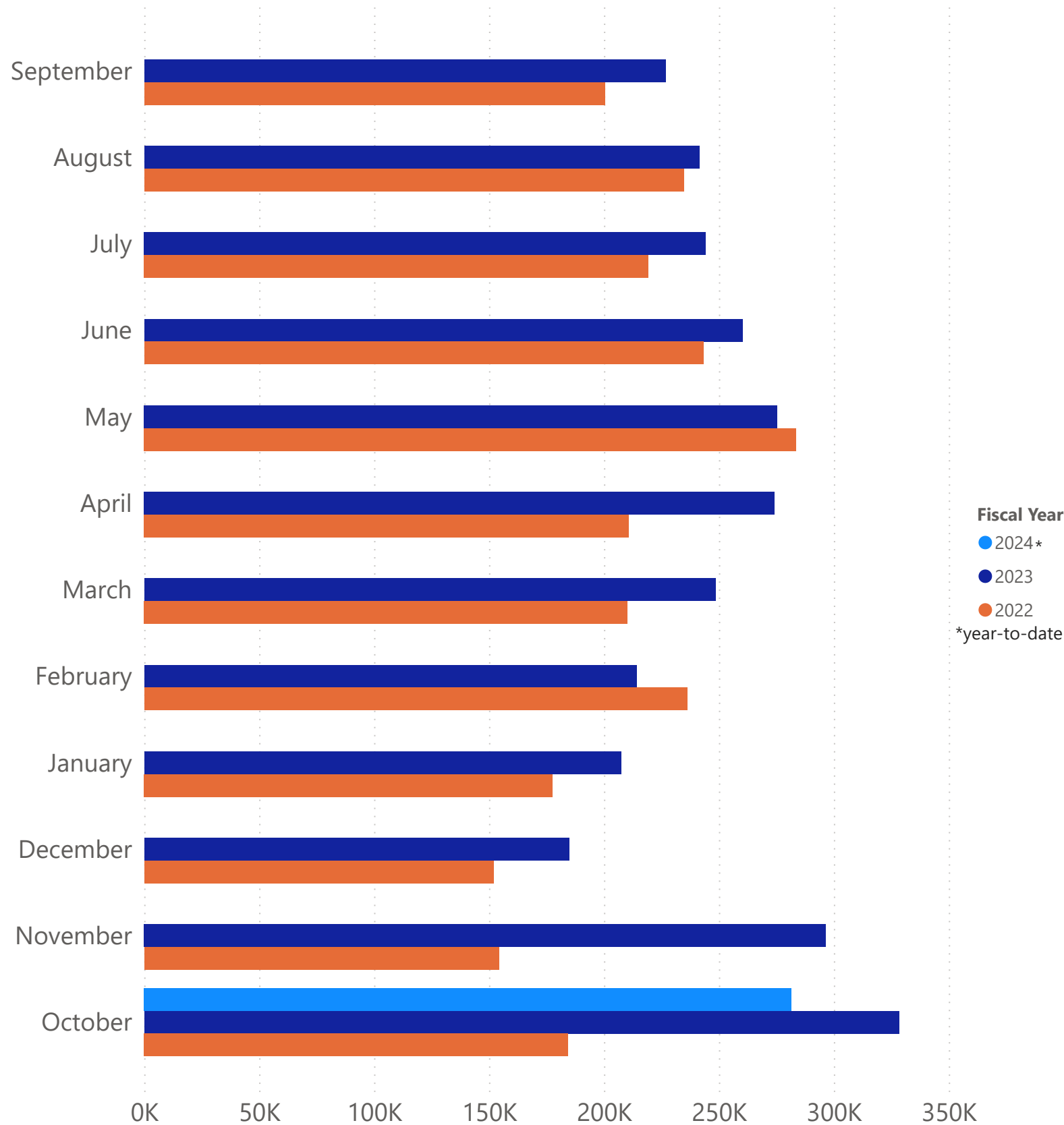


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San Antonio Public Library

Visits

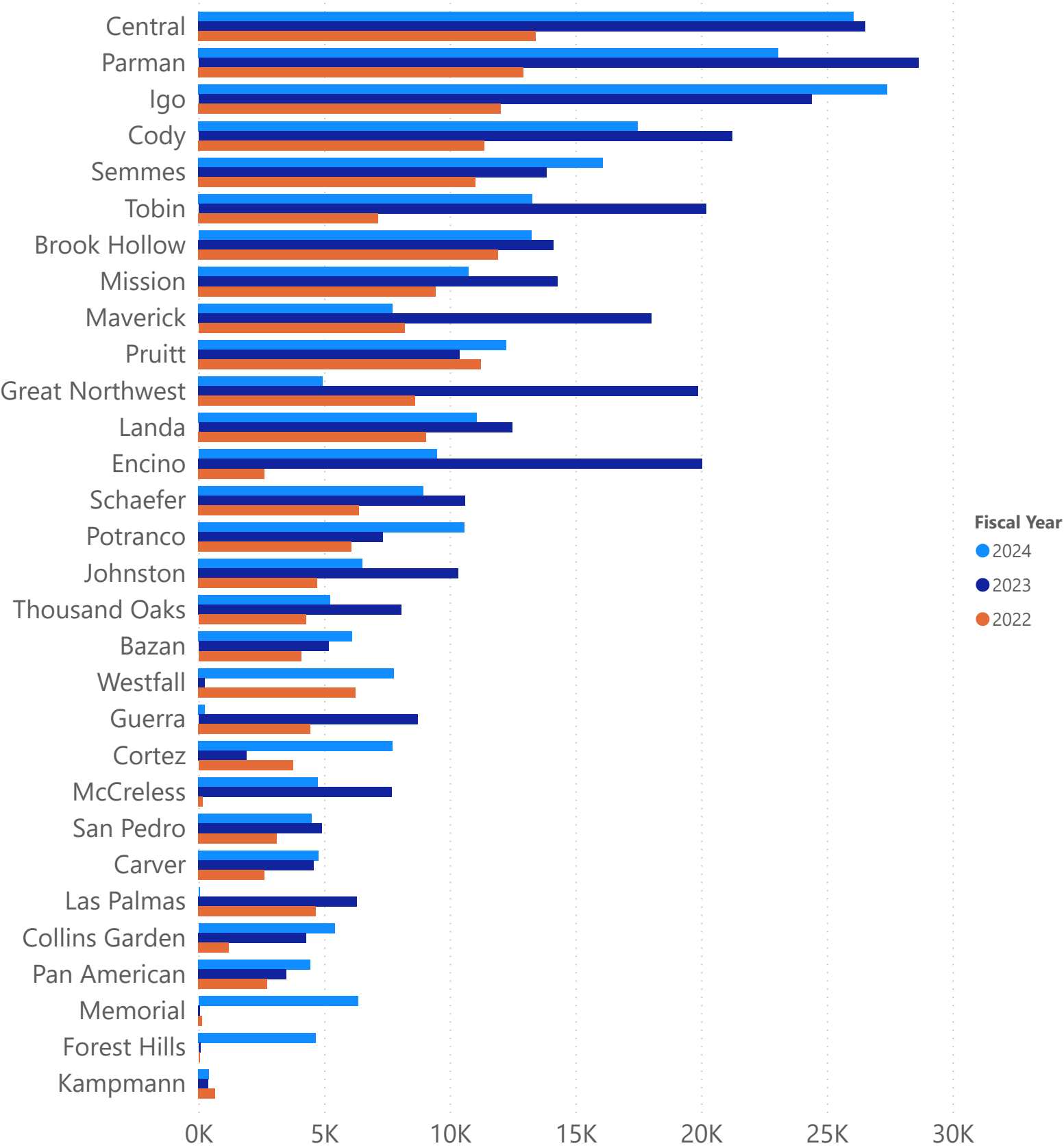


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San Antonio Public Library

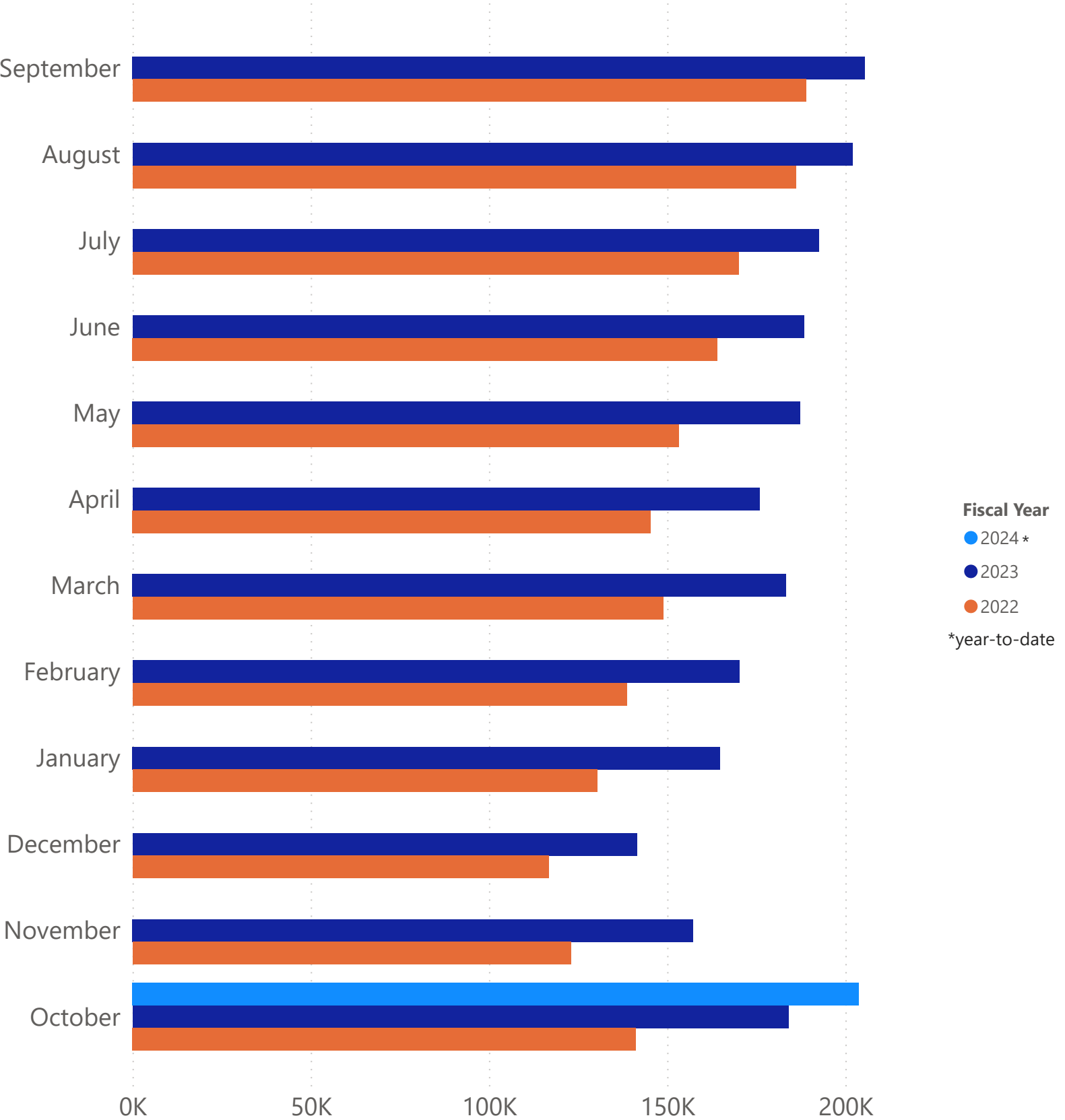
Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - October 2023



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San Antonio Public Library Hours of Computer & Wi-Fi Use



Location Closures:

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APPENDIX

BiblioCommons – Front end interactive catalog and web service developer for San Antonio Public Library.

Dial-a-Story – A free service which allows patrons to call San Antonio Public Library to have a children's book read to a child over the phone.

Esports – Video-gaming competitions over a variety of game titles

LibGuide – Individual pages or guides created through San Antonio Public Library's LibWizard system.

LibWizard – San Antonio Public Library's content management system used to curate knowledge and share information, organize programs and subject-specific resources.

MobilCirc – Mobile application provided through SirsiDynix for Android, and iOS. Allows users to check out items, register users, process holds, and perform inventory.

SirsiDynix Symphony – San Antonio Public Library's integrated library system.

STEAM - Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

Take-and-Make – Crafts prepared for patrons by San Antonio Public Library librarians and distributed at various branches.

Trumba – San Antonio Public Library's events calendar.

Webex – Videoconferencing application used by San Antonio Public Library.