



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
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**Agenda Item Number:** 2

**Agenda Date:** June 5, 2024

**In Control:** Community Health Committee

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**DEPARTMENT:** Library

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Kathy Donellan

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

San Antonio Public Library 2024 - 2029 Strategic Plan including status report on Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County for Library services.

**SUMMARY:**

A briefing on the San Antonio Public Library 2024 - 2029 Strategic Plan including status report on Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County for Library services.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The San Antonio Public Library's (SAPL) mission is to change lives through the transformative power of information, imagination, and ideas. SAPL delivers library services to approximately 1.9 million residents in San Antonio and Bexar County. The library system consists of the downtown Central Library, 27 library branches, a partnership library at Roosevelt High School,

and the Kampmann Portal at the Briscoe Western Art Museum. The Library team is 561 staff members who are dedicated to delivering the best service possible to the San Antonio community. The San Antonio Public Library offers an extensive collection of items for checkout. The collection includes approximately 2 million items, carefully selected to meet the needs of the community. The collection also features items in a variety of physical and digital formats. Over 30 languages are included in the collection including a large selection of Spanish-language materials. The collection includes items in formats designed to include all members of the community such as large print, Braille, and audiobooks. It is responsive to all ages and covers the widest possible variety of content, perspectives, and genres. The collection can be accessed at library locations, as well as online through the Library's website or apps.

The staff team delivers comprehensive library services to the community including reference, reader's advisory, and specialized assistance to adult learners through the Library's seven Learn at SAPL locations. The Library offers a variety of programs for children, teens, and adults. Programs are designed to be inclusive for everyone and to reflect the interests of our unique and diverse San Antonio community. At library locations, there is public computer access, free Wi-Fi, and ancillary services like printing.

In 2019, the San Antonio Public Library initiated a Community Needs Assessment as the first step in developing a Strategic Plan for the Library Department. Post-COVID, the Library updated the comprehensive assessment of need and library staff from all levels of the organization participated in the strategic planning work which was organized around eleven customer personas that guided the discussion of the best and most beneficial areas of focus for the library system for the next five years. As a result, the San Antonio Public Library 2024 – 2029 Strategic Plan was created and adopted by the Library Board of Trustees in February 2024. The Plan includes eight strategic goals that will guide the work of the San Antonio Public Library for the next five years.

**ISSUE:**

The San Antonio Public Library 2024 – 2029 Strategic Plan was created and adopted by the Library Board of Trustees in February 2024. The Plan includes eight strategic goals that will guide the work of the San Antonio Public Library for the next five years. This briefing is to share the Plan with the City Council's Community Health Committee.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**There is no fiscal impact.**

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Briefing item only, no action.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Briefing item only, no action.