

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JULY 2024

*prepared for the
Library Board of Trustees*



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

INTERIM LIBRARY DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

System-wide Highlights

The "Summer with SAPL" initiative continued across the Library system, offering people of all ages opportunities to read, explore, and connect through various events citywide. Programs and activities were held at multiple locations, engaging the community and promoting literacy.

The Guerra Library celebrated its 20th Anniversary on Saturday July 13, 2024. The celebration included remarks from Library Board of Trustee for District 6 Fernanda Cardenas, Assistant City Manager David McCary, and Interim Assistant Library Director Jessica Zurita. Interim Library Director Kathy Donellan attended.

Interim Library Director Activities

Interim Library Director Kathy Donellan:

- met with the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Executive Director, Amy Hone on July 1, 2024, and July 16, 2024
- participated in the Monte Vista Historical Association's Fourth of July celebration as an invited pie contest judge
- Met with Office of City Clerk and City Attorney's Office on July 5, 2024, to discuss staggering the Trustees terms to aligning the terms with the City Charter. All of the affected trustees have submitted their applications for reappointment
- attended the San Antonio Public Library Foundation and Whataburger donation event at the Bazan Branch Library on July 16, 2024
- participated in the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Board Builder Bus Tour on July 17, 2024
- met with the Leadership of the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library on July 18, 2024, and delivered a draft Book Cellar agreement and a draft overarching FOSAPL agreement
- attended the Bexar County and City of San Antonio Meeting to discuss the Interlocal Agreement for Library Services on July 19, 2024

Performance Highlights

Almost eight million library materials have been checked out this fiscal year, which exceeds the year-to-date target by 11% and is 1.1 M more compared to the same time period last year. Over 1.8 M hours of technology use have occurred, which exceeds the year-to-date target by 3% and is one hundred thousand more hours compared to the same time period last year. Starting in June 2024, several wireless access points were replaced and as a result the new devices are reporting less use. SAPL is actively working with the City's IT Department to validate data. The number of in-person library visits for the year to date is over two million, which is under target by 9% and down from the same time period last year. Overall, in person visits have not returned to pre-COVID levels.

Media Highlights

On July 10, SAPL hosted the production crew of KSAT News at Noon for a live broadcast of their hourlong, midday news program from the Landa Branch Library. The live segments of the show took place in various spots around the library and included interviews with Landa Branch Manager Kiyanna Stephens and Landa Gardens Conservancy Board President Catharine Vexler. The show also featured several segments produced ahead of the broadcast highlighting the history of San Pedro Branch Library, outdoor amenities at SAPL locations, and library services in far south San Antonio and Bexar County. The segments were re-broadcast several times on KSAT throughout July, generating extensive exposure for the library system.

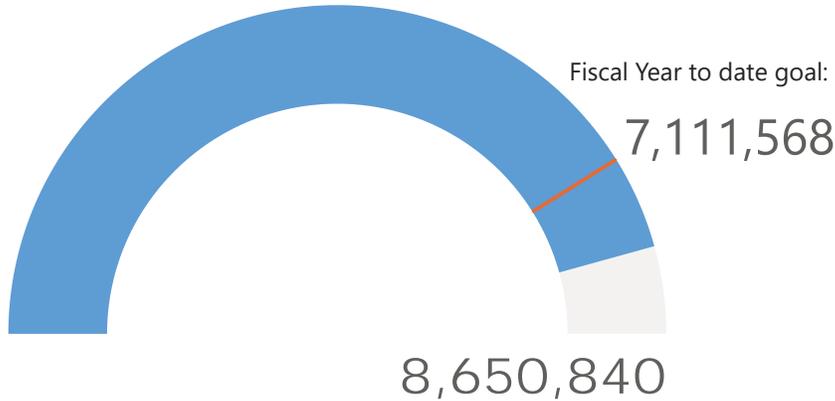


KSAT News anchors broadcast from the Landa lobby

I. Key Performance Indicators - Summary

Fiscal Year 2024, October 2023 to July 2024

Circulation: Goal



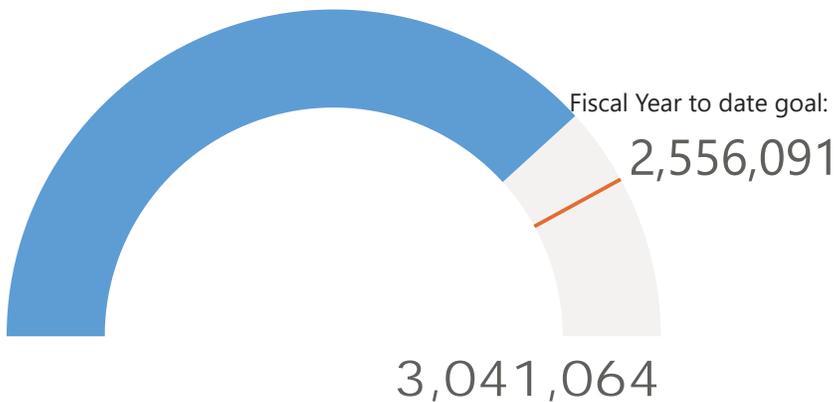
FY 2024 to date Items Borrowed



7,907,469

(+11.19%)
Circulation

Visits: Goal



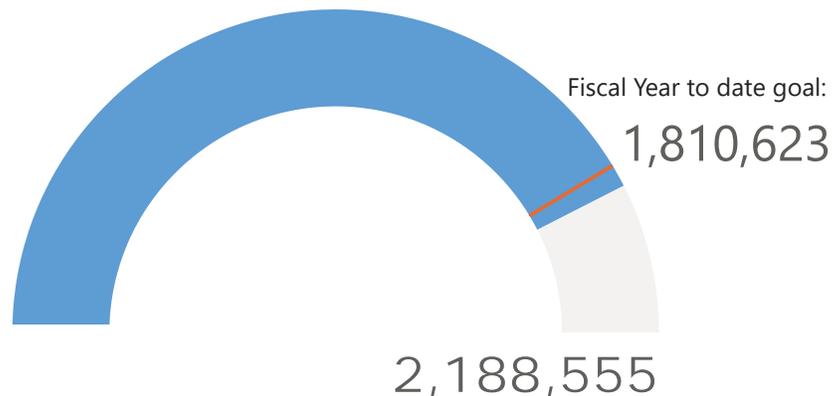
FY 2024 to date Library Visits



2,324,709

(-9.05%)
Visits

Digital Access: Goal



FY 2024 to date Digital Access



246,779

Hours of Computer Use



1,613,017

Hours of Wi-Fi Use

1,859,796

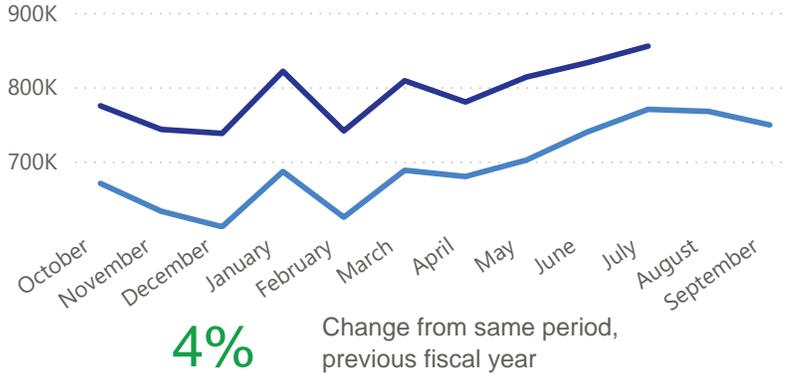
(+2.72%)
Hours of Technology Use

FY24 year to date Total Circulation

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

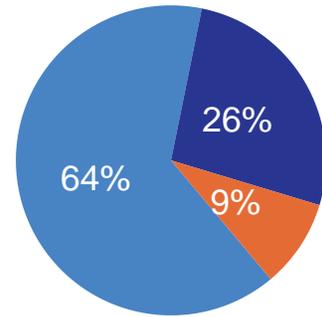
7,907,469

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



FY24 to date total circulation by service area

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

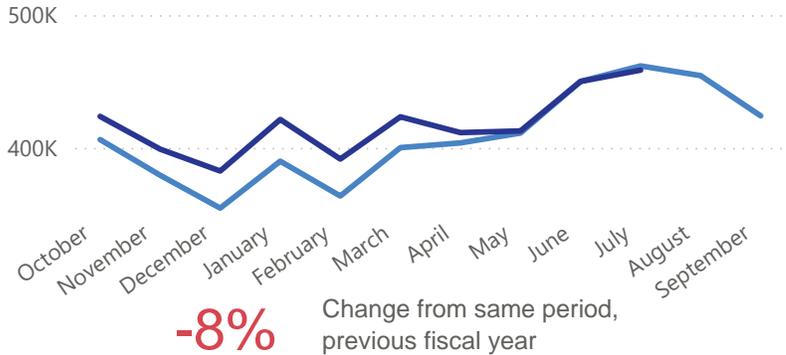


FY24 year to date Physical Circulation

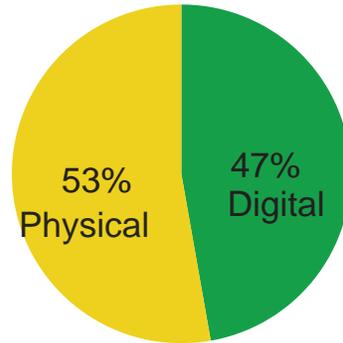
The number of checkouts and renewals of physical library materials.

4,173,417

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



FY24 to date total circulation by type

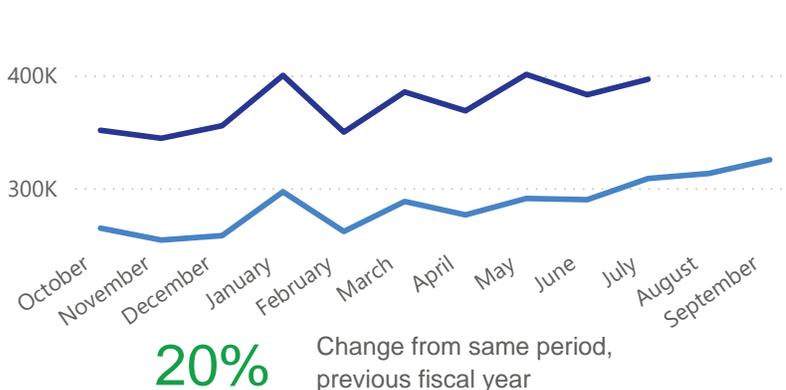


FY24 YTD Digital Circulation

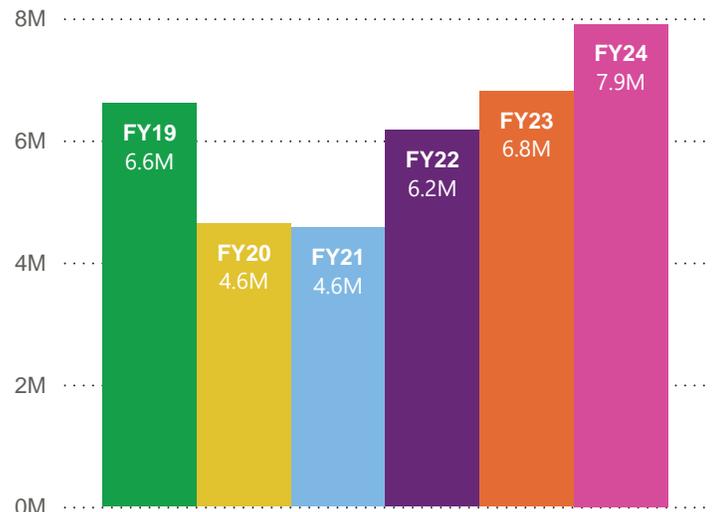
The number of checkouts, downloads, views and plays of electronic library materials.

3,734,052

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



Year to date total circulation comparison

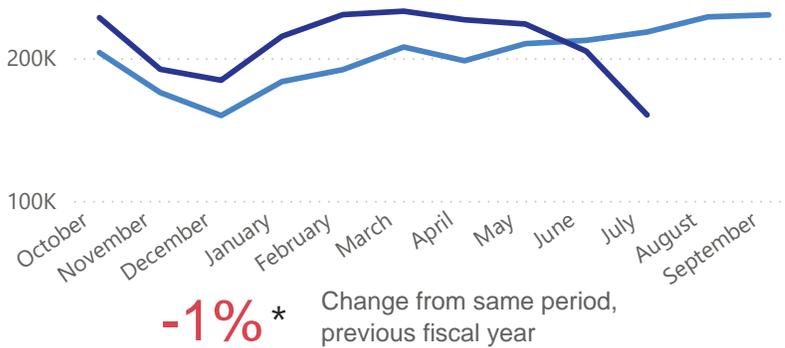


FY24 year to date Hours of Technology

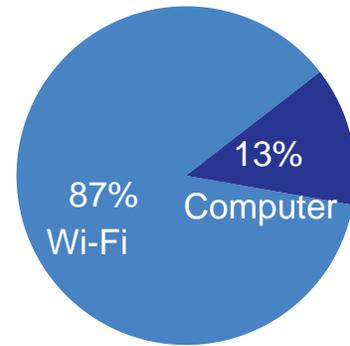
The total number of hours of technology used from both public computers and public Wi-Fi.

1,859,796

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



FY24 to date Technology Use by type

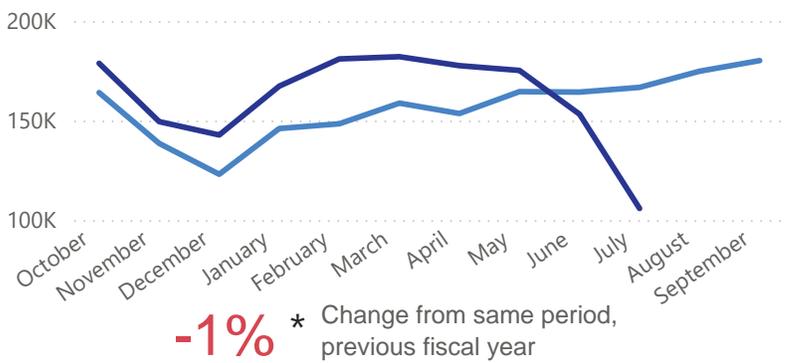


FY24 year to date Wi-Fi Hours

The number of hours public Wi-Fi was used.

1,613,017

FY ● FY23 ● FY24

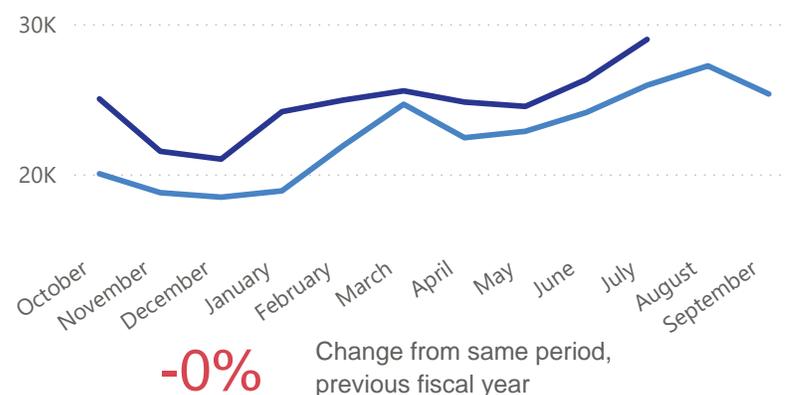


FY24 year to date Computer Hours

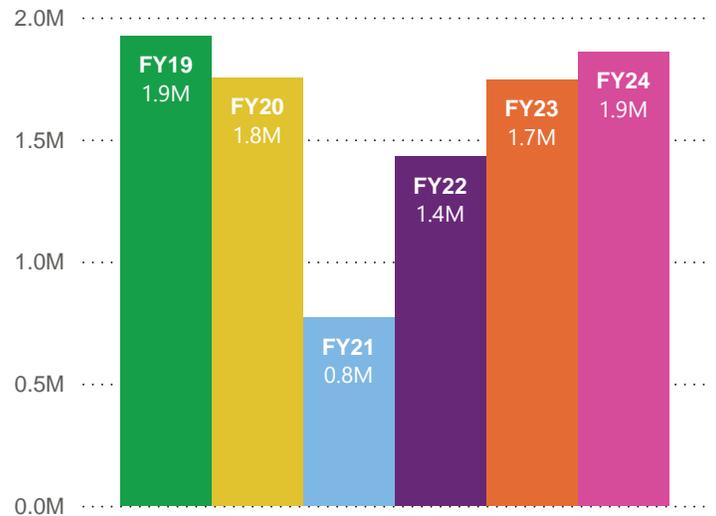
The number of hours public computers were used.

246,779

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



Year to date Technology Use comparison



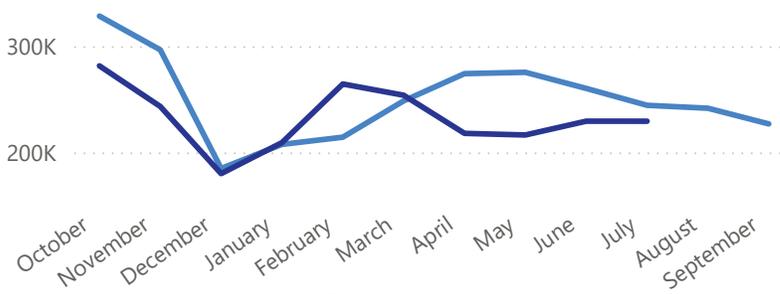
* Note, in June and July 2024, several wireless access points were replaced and SAPL is working with City's IT Department to validate the data.

FY24 year to date Visits

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

2,324,709

FY ● FY23 ● FY24

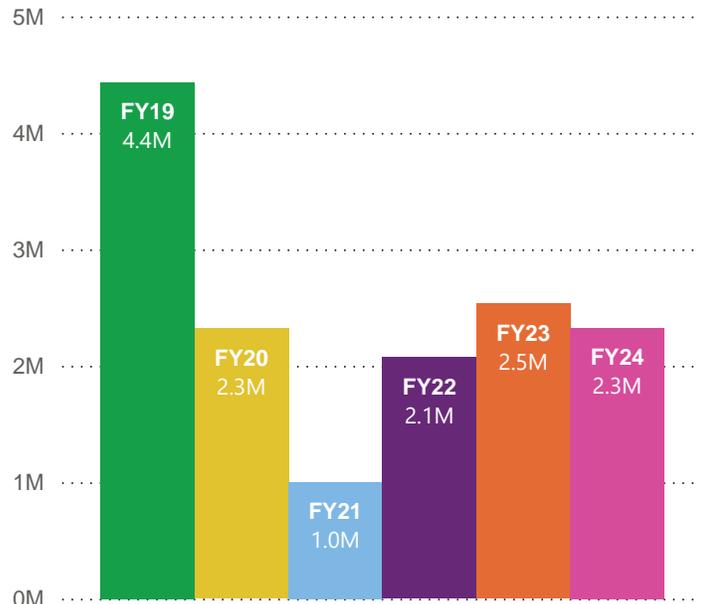


-17%

Change from same period, previous fiscal year



Year to date Visits comparison



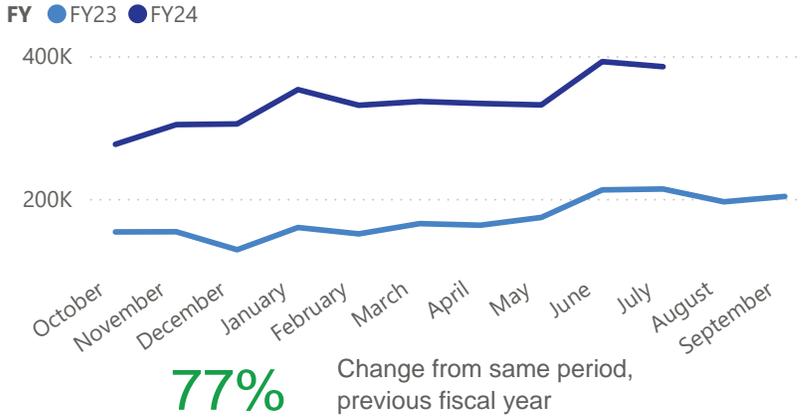
Fiscal Year 2024 location closures:

- Maverick October 1, 2023 - October 8, 2023
- Great Northwest October 1, 2023 - October 15, 2023
- Las Palmas October 1, 2023 - TBD
- Guerra October 1, 2023 - December 3, 2023
- Bazan April 29, 2024 - June 10, 2024
- Johnston May 20, 2024 - TBD

FY24 year to date engagements

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

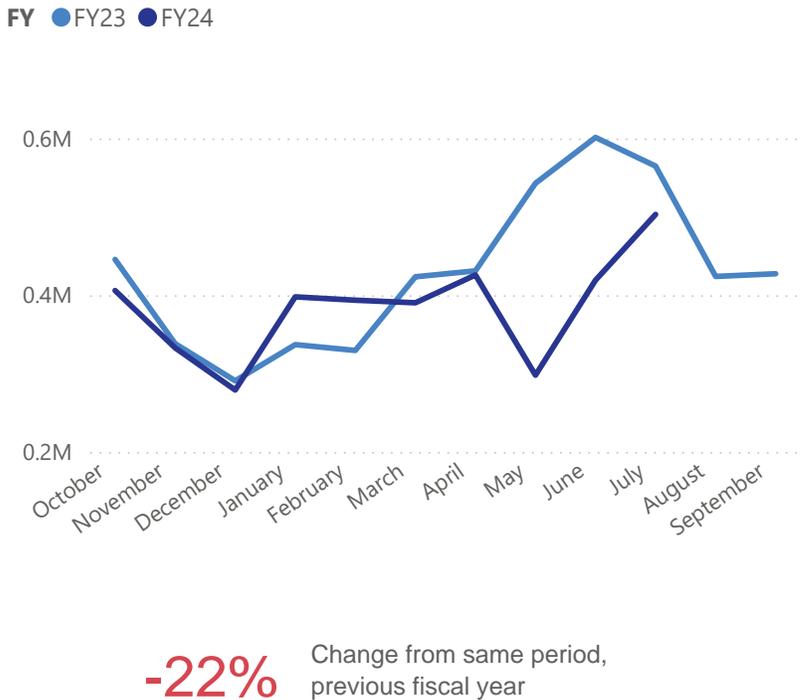
3,347,427



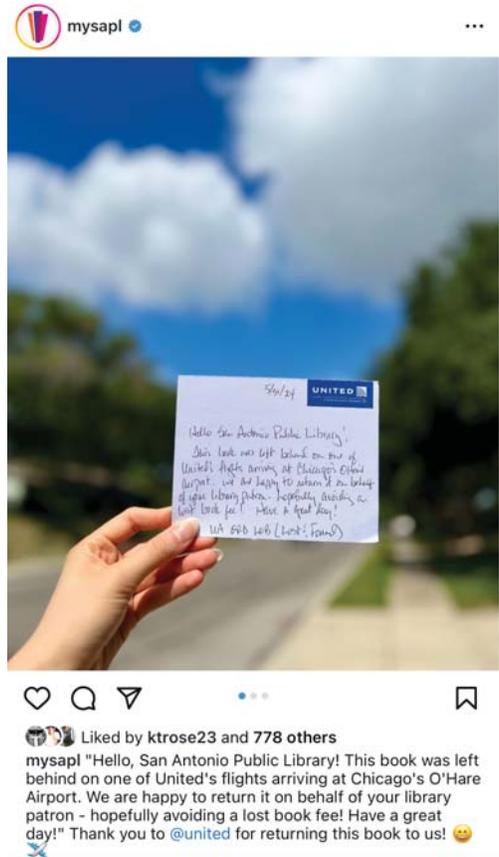
FY24 year to date impressions

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

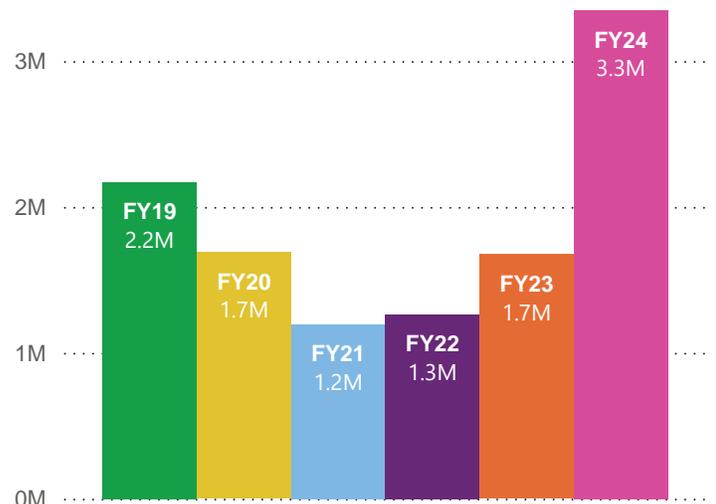
3,844,664



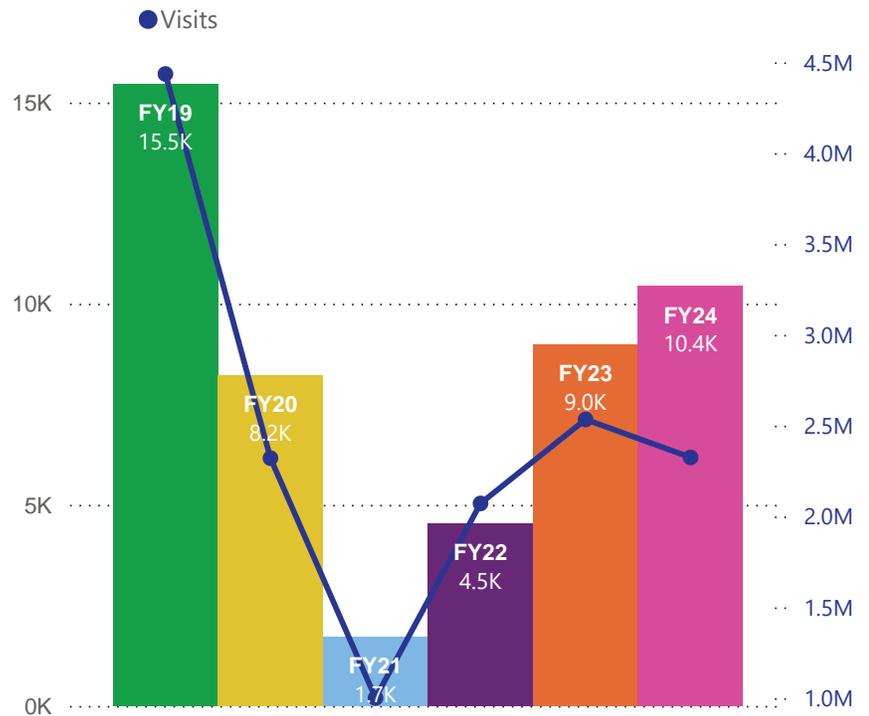
Most engaged post on SAPL social media profiles in July 2024



Year to date virtual engagement comparison



Fiscal year to date program comparison



Total Programs

10,372 Total Programs
192,855 Total Attendance

3% Change from same period, previous fiscal year

Early Literacy (0-5)

2,487 Programs
71,701 Attendance

School Age (6-12)

2,231 Programs
57,827 Attendance

Teens (13-18)

2,206 Programs
19,312 Attendance

Adults (19+)

2,281 Programs
19,406 Attendance

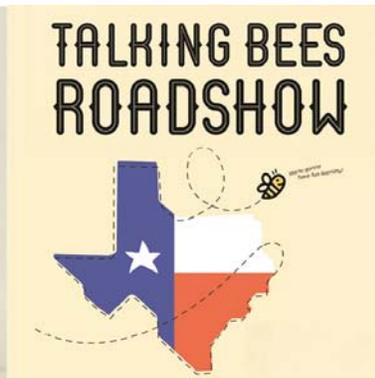
Older Adults (60+)

614 Programs
6,771 Attendance

General Interest*

553 Programs
17,838 Attendance

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



San Antonio Public Library

July 2024 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
Bazan	2,183	7,528	4,641	1,662	2,979
Brook Hollow	26,157	8,749	4,737	1,030	3,707
Carver	2,734	3,718	2,947	823	2,124
Central	34,362	22,762	30,981	7,977	23,004
Cody	26,575	10,916	5,036	471	4,565
Collins Garden	3,878	4,692	2,896	709	2,187
Cortez	5,840	7,665	2,171	705	1,466
Digital	396,487	0	0	0	0
Encino	22,758	8,528	3,554	251	3,303
Forest Hills	5,413	2,957	2,057	376	1,681
Great Northwest	30,474	11,097	4,111	705	3,406
Guerra	9,186	6,898	2,872	815	2,057
Igo	41,020	22,265	6,862	986	5,876
Interlibrary Loan	807	0	0	0	0
Johnston	2,196	276	0	0	0
Kampmann	0	683	110	0	110
Landa	19,483	11,943	3,093	415	2,678
Las Palmas	305	101	147	0	147
Maverick	26,736	8,901	3,718	1,054	2,664
McCreless	7,958	8,109	4,793	1,877	2,916
Memorial	4,713	4,515	3,614	1,147	2,467
Mission	10,409	9,243	4,348	924	3,424
Pan American	3,436	3,587	1,703	611	1,092
Parman	35,316	15,969	4,458	190	4,268
Potranco	20,608	10,678	11,046	738	10,308
Pruitt	3,810	2,854	1,058	127	931
San Pedro	2,761	3,959	2,792	371	2,421
Schaefer	10,803	6,473	3,971	562	3,409
Semmes	27,772	8,336	5,025	1,377	3,648
System	34,985	0	0	0	0
Thousand Oaks	7,016	3,407	3,325	835	2,490
Tobin	18,090	5,986	3,067	845	2,222
Westfall	10,692	6,508	5,670	1,388	4,282
Total	854,963	229,303	134,803	28,971	105,832

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

San Antonio Public Library Programs

July 2024

Location	Early Literacy Programs (0-5)	School Age Programs (6-12)	Teen Programs (13-18)	Adult Programs (19+)	Older Adults Programs (60+)	General Interest Programs*	Total
Bazan	0	15	5	8	2	1	31
Brook Hollow	3	21	8	4	1	0	37
Carver	4	11	0	6	1	1	23
Central	11	11	74	21	2	3	122
Cody	7	13	5	8	1	2	36
Collins Garden	8	10	5	9	2	25	59
Cortez	3	11	0	10	2	0	26
Encino	10	5	4	6	10	1	36
Forest Hills	11	16	5	2	3	5	42
Great Northwest	4	20	4	5	0	4	37
Guerra	7	11	5	12	1	3	39
Igo	8	12	2	6	0	1	29
Johnston	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Kampmann	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landa	27	13	9	6	1	0	56
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	8	0	0	0	0	0	8
Maverick	12	8	5	8	0	0	33
McCreless	1	7	5	11	4	1	29
Memorial	4	7	2	23	1	5	42
Mission	6	12	8	13	8	3	50
Pan American	7	11	6	4	0	5	33
Parman	31	14	5	15	4	5	74
Potranco	5	8	9	11	1	1	35
Pruitt	8	8	0	3	1	3	23
San Pedro	6	9	0	6	3	0	24
Schaefer	16	19	4	17	0	4	60
Semmes	13	19	9	7	0	2	50
System	0	0	26	7	1	1	35
Thousand Oaks	10	6	0	11	3	0	30
Tobin	7	7	5	14	5	11	49
Westfall	5	11	5	6	8	4	39
Total	242	315	215	262	65	91	1,190

*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

July 2024

Location	Early Literacy Attendance (0-5)	School Age Attendance (6-12)	Teen Attendance (13-18)	Adult Attendance (19+)	Older Adults Attendance (60+)	General Interest Attendance*	Total
Bazan	0	210	26	55	10	14	315
Brook Hollow	100	465	77	43	26	0	711
Carver	10	64	0	35	15	10	134
Central	317	361	495	398	9	21	1,601
Cody	189	642	46	73	16	76	1,042
Collins Garden	81	176	27	37	2	273	596
Cortez	73	337	0	67	8	0	485
Encino	414	318	22	23	90	27	894
Forest Hills	122	256	20	7	9	16	430
Great Northwest	167	894	44	43	0	56	1,204
Guerra	178	110	30	54	28	84	484
Igo	577	222	10	45	0	6	860
Johnston	0	0	0	173	0	0	173
Kampmann	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landa	1,270	380	56	71	6	0	1,783
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	258	0	0	0	0	0	258
Maverick	503	356	65	51	0	0	975
McCreless	7	94	54	59	22	35	271
Memorial	79	198	9	187	4	29	506
Mission	160	299	47	99	77	41	723
Pan American	41	78	24	49	0	346	538
Parman	1,336	1,041	63	327	81	176	3,024
Potranco	240	124	66	93	17	11	551
Pruitt	269	82	0	30	12	22	415
San Pedro	97	125	0	17	17	0	256
Schaefer	479	391	18	114	0	80	1,082
Semmes	478	516	54	67	0	37	1,152
System	0	0	163	63	5	132	363
Thousand Oaks	121	105	0	60	17	0	303
Tobin	96	140	21	65	61	185	568
Westfall	104	229	26	22	32	29	442
Total	7,766	8,213	1,463	2,427	564	1,706	22,139

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

II. SYSTEMWIDE SERVICES

LATINO COLLECTION AND RESOURCE CENTER

On July 6, the Latino Collection & Resource Center sponsored the program, 'Charms from Cans.' Local Latina artist Linda Monsiváis Hernández taught attendees how to create earrings from upcycled tin cans.



Upcycled supplies used for 'Charms from Cans' program.

On July 13, the LCRC hosted the 2nd session of the workshop, 'En Vivo desde San Anto!', titled, 'El Disco es Cultura.' Program creator Bonnie Cisneros explored the cultural power of DJ sets.



Group photo, 2nd session of 'En Vivo desde San Anto!' workshop attendees.

San Antonio entrepreneur Rebel Mariposa shared the history of her venue, 'La Botanica' and how healing takes place on the dance floor, followed by artist and educator Marisela Barrera's crash course on theater performance techniques. Sessions are helping prep program attendees for a performance night, scheduled for October 19.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
-  Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.

LEARN AT SAPL

Learn at SAPL recorded over 1,000 patron visits, and nearly 1,300 hours of public computer use in July. Learn staff hosted nearly 50 programs, most with a focus on technology. Several Learn sites also offered language courses in English as a Second Language, Spanish, and even the Duolingo app.

Shauna Mendoza, Training Officer for Learn at Johnston, took the Learn model to other San Antonio Public Library branches for the first ever "Learn Pop-up." Once a week she sets up shop at a new branch and offers Learn services in the afternoon. So far, she has traveled to Tobin and Guerra, and is receiving patrons in the double digits. Mendoza also created and began teaching "Dive Into Computers: Essential Computer Skills for Adults" a six-week learning series slated to travel to several locations, beginning with Encino Branch Library.



Training Officer Shauna Mendoza offers Learn Pop-up services at Tobin at Oakwell.



Adult Education Program Manager Michelle D. Rickman presents at Literacy Texas annual conference.

Adult Education Program Manager Michelle D. Rickman enjoyed sharing the Learn program statewide at the Literacy Texas conference in San Marcos, TX. She presented “Learn at the Library: 10 Years Growing a Digital Literacy Program in the Public Library,” a reflection on the evolution of the Learn program. Participants were asked to examine their own program pain points and start working toward solutions together, as well as examine shared resources to start their own digital literacy programs.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.
-  Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.
-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
-  Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.
-  Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.
-  Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.

LITTLE READ WAGON

The Little Read Wagon is a unique library team. The team doesn't have a permanent space of their own to offer programs. Instead, they travel around the city and offer programs out in the community. The team uses equity maps to choose sites of lower opportunity for children and families.

This month at the *Let's Play at Martin Luther King Park!* series children practiced early literacy skills in a variety of ways. The team introduced chalk paint to encourage children to make marks. Making marks is one of the early literacy practices that experts recommend. Using the chalk paint the team provided, children made marks on the sidewalk. One girl painted a tree. A grandmother helped her grandson spell out his name with chalk paint. They practiced the letter sounds as they painted it together. The grandson was able to practice letter sounds and to develop his fine motor skills. It also provided a moment of bonding between Samuel and his grandmother. Experts also agree that relationships between caring adults and children are so important.



These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.

TEXANA

Librarians Andrew Crews and Lucia Agado partnered with the Tobin Library to offer a three-part genealogy series at the branch this July. Ms. Agado presented a Beginning Genealogy program on July 2. On July 16, Mr. Crews presented a class comparing genealogical information found in the Ancestry Library Edition and HeritageQuest databases. Finally, on July 30, Mr. Crews presented a newly developed class, Researching Adoption Records, that provided clues for where historical adoption records may be found, and how to request records from state and local authorities.



TLA's LAUNCH Class of 2024.

Ms. Agado attended the Texas Library Association (TLA) LAUNCH program in Austin, TX the last weekend in July. LAUNCH is a leadership program that brings together librarians with less than 5 years of experience. The program is designed to expand leadership skills through group work, self-directed learning, and internal reflection. Sessions were led by librarians in academic, public and school libraries. Reflecting and exercising valuable interpersonal skills and networking opportunities were the parts she enjoyed most.



Two big winners at Potranco Loteria.

Members of the Services to Older Adults workgroup, Librarians Sylvia Reyna and Deborah Countess, led a well-attended game of Lotería at Potranco Library on July 17. The program was conducted for an enthusiastic group of seniors that participated in 10 rounds of this traditional Mexican bingo-like board game; fun prizes were presented to those lucky enough to have a winning card. Ms. Countess was also invited by the OASIS Everywhere older adult education organization to present a virtual beginning genealogy class on July 12. This online class was open to individuals from around the United States and saw attendees from as far away as California and New York.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.
- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.
- 📖 Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.

III. AGE-BASED SERVICES

CHILDREN’S

San Antonio Public Library had a children’s activity area at the Woodlawn Lake 4th of July celebration. Activities included Straws and Connectors, MagnaTiles, and giant Connect Four. Library staff introduced many people to SAPL services. They also spoke with people who are frequent Library users and many visitors to the area. The prize wheel was also very popular.

Summer with SAPL continued through July. Special guests brought nature connections, art, and music to Library events. San Antonio Parks and Recreation Natural Areas Educators David Jimenez and David Goree shared about local birds, trees, and wildlife. Rangers from San Antonio Missions National Historic Park demonstrated how to make dye from cochineal and taught the American Sign Language signs for animals found in the region. Children made tree leaf rubbings, drew butterflies, and had the opportunity to touch pelts and antlers.



Agarita chamber music ensemble performs at Forest Hills Library

San Antonio Museum of Art brought the very popular Museum in a Box program to several locations. Museum educators made a brief presentation about the Museum and things they think about when setting up an exhibit. Children created their own mini museum using a small cardboard box and fun materials like stickers, figurines, and paper.

Agarita, a chamber music ensemble, presented The Secret Science of Sound at the Forest Hills, Bazan, and Potranco libraries. The bilingual presentation explained musical scientific terms such as decibel and frequency. They also played several beautiful musical selections.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
-  Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.

TEENS

The monthly Teen Librarian / Liaison Meeting and Professional Development session took place at Great Northwest Branch Library in July. The month’s training consisted of a deep-dive into the recent COSA community satisfaction survey. The survey methodology was interrogated, and granular neighborhood results were examined.

The teen portion of Summer with SAPL continued throughout and concluded in July. The goal of Teen Summer is to offer high-school aged people agency over their experience at their neighborhood library. A high-degree of teen ownership manifested through teen development and implementation of library-based activities for themselves and their peers. Teen volunteers and teen interns created and facilitated activities both in physical library locations and via virtual platform. July closed with a teen selected "Baby Goat Party" in the Teen Library.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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



Teen Volunteer Erik and friend hold a baby goat during the summer wrap up party at the Teen Library.

ADULTS

Summer with SAPL for Adults concluded in July. One highlight from July was the second craft program offered this summer: creamsicle bath salt. This program was offered at ten library locations in July and a total of fourteen locations throughout the summer. This program offered adults the opportunity to make bath salts with orange and vanilla essential oils to remind them of a sweet summer scent.

The second highlight from Summer with SAPL for Adults was the online scavenger hunt, which offered community members who have barriers in visiting a library location the opportunity to participate in Summer with SAPL for Adults. This online offering challenged adults to navigate the Library's website and social media accounts to find the answers to ten questions. Those that successfully completed this challenge were rewarded with an image that they could proudly display on their social media pages and the option to be recognized on the Summer with SAPL for Adults Scavenger Hunt Wall of Fame, hosted on the online guide for Summer with SAPL for Adults.

In July, the Library launched a five week Talking Bees Roadshow series. This program series has been previously offered in May, June, and July, and by the end of the current five-week series, this program will have been offered at twenty-three of twenty-nine San Antonio Public Library locations. The series is funded through the Healthy Hive Foundation and H-E-B's Our Texas Our Future Program. At each session, Master Beekeeper Konrad Bouffard of Round Rock Honey shares his vast knowledge of the wonder of bees. Participants can learn all about these fascinating pollinators and how they make honey, learn to identify pollens and nectars in honey by taste and discover meaningful ways to save the bees.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

- 📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.
- 📖 Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.
- 📖 Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.

OLDER ADULTS

As part of her yearlong Digital Inclusion through Nonprofit Technology Enterprise Network (NTEN), Central Library Learn at SAPL Library Assistant Training Officer Brianna Glass has been offering nontraditional digital literacy classes at City of San Antonio Senior Centers. These classes are called Computers and Creative Learning and focus on overcoming older adult participants' fear in using technology. This is accomplished by focusing on technology tasks that each participant is specifically interested in learning how to accomplish.

Nontraditional printed materials (in both English and Spanish) are used that have minimal text and use images and other visuals so that these materials are more accessible and present the information in manageable sections. So far, Ms. Glass and other staff from Learn at SAPL have offered the Computers and Creative Learning class at Willie Cortez and District 2 Senior Centers, offering sessions at each location weekly for two months. Ms. Glass will wrap up her Fellowship by offering this same class for two months at the West End Senior Center.

Throughout June and July, the Alamo Area Woodcarvers group that has met regularly at Parman Branch Library for many years offered a Summer Camp for Adults. This Summer Camp was mutually beneficial for both the older adults from the Woodcarvers group that taught the sessions as well as individuals who participated in the opportunity to be introduced to the craft of woodcarving. Long time members of the Woodcarvers group appreciated the opportunity to share their talents and knowledge with individuals in their community, with the hopes of passing this craft on to the next generation.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library. experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.
- 📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.

IV. LOCATION-BASED SERVICES

CENTRAL LIBRARY

The Children’s Library at Central was full of activity in the final month of “Summer with SAPL.” The entire team worked together to facilitate engaging weekly programs for all ages of children, such as Tween Time, Family Story Time, and Let’s Play Toddlers! Special events included a visit from San Antonio Museum of Art outreach staff who led a “museum in a box” activity. Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin presented a Summer Olympics themed Let’s Move! yoga program for kids as well. Librarian Ashley Palacios facilitated a STEAM-focused session where children could experience robots of all types.



Teen Summer 2024 came to a close on July 31. Teens proudly wore their Teen Summer t-shirts— designed by teen Claire Meissler—in the Teen Library and enjoyed participating in weekly summer activities. Teen volunteers and interns planned several events – from the conception of the idea to creating the flyer in Canva to running the event on the scheduled day. Throughout the summer several teen bands used the music studio to practice and record music, with some playing in local venues in the community.

In Information Services, Melissa Gomez, Eliza Perez, and Raquel Reyes hosted their first Manifestation Mason Jar workshop. Participants decorated jars to hold their personal goals and aspirations. Each participant received a zine which included presentation information and suggestions for further reading from the SAPL collection. Patricia Perez facilitated a unique art talk with artist David Anthony Garcia on July 20th. Mr. Garcia discussed his Coming Together exhibit, which included a mask series created by Lackland Elementary School students.



Learn Library Assistant and 2023-2024 San Antonio Public Library’s Digital Inclusion Fellow Brianna Glass surpassed her Digital Inclusion goal of assisting 600 folks through her Senior Center digital literacy outreach program and assisting patrons at Learn at Central. One patron greeted staff at Learn at Central with “I can go anywhere and get all kinds of negativity, but not here.” The meeting pod on the fifth floor at Learn has proven to be a valuable resource to patrons. This month alone, the pod has been used for job interviews, meetings with case managers, and small work meetings. The pod has been in use almost every single day, and patrons comment on how much they enjoy having access to the space.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

DISTRICT 1

Landa Branch Library

This month the library hosted two fantastic programs for families to enjoy. The first was Let's Explore: Cardboard. The children and their grownups created amazing things during this event, including a giant Spider-Man comic book, an airplane for Landa Express Airlines, an ice cream stand, a robot costume, and a television. 40 children and 18 adults joined Landa staff for the event. Everyone loved cutting, taping, and decorating their cardboard creations. The second incredible program was supported by the Friends of Landa branch Library. Al's Funhouse set up a bubble party on the Landa grounds. Over 200 people attended this event!



Children hard at work and play crafting their Let's Explore: Cardboard creations.

Landa Library is a major destination for a wide variety of particularly beautiful book donations with fascinating stories from the Monte Vista community. The Landa Branch Library staff assists with accepting donations from people who are moving, cleaning out a collection after the passing of a loved one, or simply wanting to pass on a book they feel passionate about. There are strong emotions and memories attached to these donations. It's especially rewarding for the staff to connect with patrons and hear the stories they share about these items. Community members want to know their cherished donations are going to someone who respects and honors them. Landa Branch Library staff are privileged and grateful for the wonderful community that allows them to help rehome their books.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library
- 📖 Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.
- 📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.
- 📖 Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.
- 📖 Provide a diverse, inclusive, and responsive collection of library books and materials to reflect and meet the needs of the community.

San Pedro Branch Library

To better accommodate the public and provide a more inviting atmosphere, the San Pedro Branch recently purchased eight new tables for the adult public area. These square tables replaced the four large rectangle ones and allowed for better seating and space flexibility. Additionally, three of the new tables were outfitted with power strips that included five outlets, two USB ports and one micro USB port. With the addition of the new power features, the branch increased capacity from 10 outlets to 24 in total available to the public. This building enhancement will fulfill a need in great demand in the San Pedro service community. Additionally, patrons commented on how “beautiful” and “cozy” the new tables are.



Suenos of San Pedro Springs Park

In July, the San Pedro Branch Library was invited by City Council District 1 to attend the “Sueños of San Pedro Springs Park.” Ms. Karen Braeuler, Children’s Librarian, represented the library that day and held a story time for families as well as promoted various resources at the San Antonio Public Library. The program was an opportunity for the public to learn about the history of the park and to give city staff feedback on planned improvements to the property. Attendees also included the Friends of San Pedro Springs Park, Parkour SA, Coral Studio and Urban Tree Company, Blooming with Birdie, and the American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

Westfall Branch Library

This summer, Westfall Branch Manager Machaia McClenny visited the three military base libraries in the San Antonio area. She worked with Public Engagement Officer Erik Gomez to create relationships with the Keith Campbell Memorial Library at Fort Sam Houston, the Lackland Library at Lackland Air Force Base, and the Randolph Library at Randolph Air Force Base. Ms. McClenny and Mr. Gomez want to work with these libraries and share all that the San Antonio Public Library has to offer with military families.

When planning for summer, Westfall Branch Children’s Librarian Imelda Merino wanted to offer a new program that kids and their families would truly enjoy. Many branch locations have a Lego program, but not having a huge supply of Legos, she incorporated other building sets, like Contixo and Magna-Tiles. Furthermore, she wanted to have time for kids to play board games, so she combined the two programs into a single Let’s Build and Play: Legos and More program. She was delighted to find that not only were the kids enjoying the Legos, but they were having fun playing Candy Land, checkers, and chess with their families and friends. It was great, too, to see the cooperation between kids and grownups as they

helped each other find the pieces they needed for their creations. It was such a popular program that Ms. Merino is continuing it into the school year.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
-  Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.
-  Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.

DISTRICT 2

Carver Branch Library

For the month of July, the Learn Center at Carver saw an increase in resume building and job application assistance. Several patrons displayed an interest in exiting retirement to re-enter the workforce and needed to organize their professional files and re-learn the process of applying on a computer. Learn worked with those patrons to create a plan for them to attain the credentials that they might need to be hired and work those jobs they seek.

Laurabelle Alvarez, a library aide at the library, created a new bulletin board decoration in the Children's room with the words "We Are Ready For A Sweet Summer." She created cutouts from different colors of construction paper that were tracings of the paletas from the weekly bookmarks for the summer reading program. The children can write their names on the cutouts they choose, and then the cutouts are taped to the bulletin board.

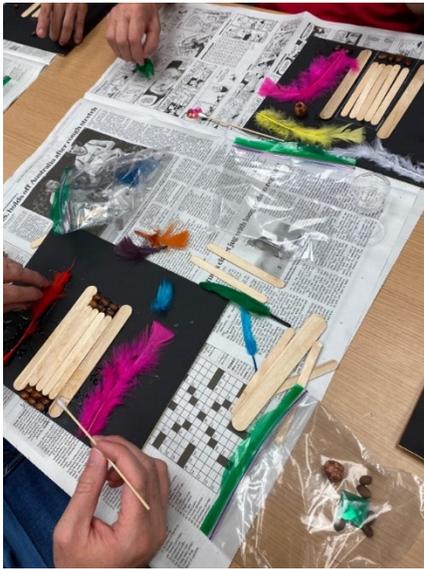
Carver Library was selected as one of four San Antonio Public Library locations to host the "Cool Birds of Bexar County" event, which took place at the library on July 17th. David Goree, the Friedrich Wilderness Park Education Coordinator, showed the people attending the event how to identify ten cool birds in our parks and neighborhoods and helped the people attending the event discover fun facts about the birds.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.
-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
-  Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.
-  Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.

Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School

The Special Needs Adults Program (SNAP) is a program that provides adults with a wide range of special needs with an opportunity to build community and enjoy entertainment in the form of reading along with a picture book, working on a craft, and relaxing with a snack.



SNAP participants create their doorways to adventure.

Staff at the Pruitt branch have been hosting this program for several years. When the branch’s hours changed in the spring, the Thousand Oaks branch partnered with Pruitt staff to continue the program. In July, participants and companions read Neil Gaiman’s “Instructions” and created doors to adventure (that opened!). The branch welcomed new staff member Sarah Phillips, who will serve as Pruitt’s Teen Services Librarian. She has previous library experience and is excited and prepared to facilitate varied teen-led and inspired programming.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library’s mission and achieve its vision.
- 📖 Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.
- 📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library’s reach in the community.

Schaefer Branch Library



Schaefer paleta wall

Schaefer Branch Library used donated funds from H-E-B to start the Flavorful Feasts series, which is a plant-based culinary adventure, where animal-based proteins are swapped for plant-based proteins. Patrons who attend are encouraged to be a part of the preparation, cooking, and taste testing, as Librarians Dacari Lambert and Dan Garcia walk them through tips and tricks of successfully incorporating plant-based recipes into their lives in easy, accessible and delicious ways! Some of the featured dishes include grilled peaches with coconut whip, curry, Jamaica tacos, and mushroom burgers.

The Schaefer team surpassed its book giveaway goal by handing out over 1100 books this summer. The branch offered 112 programs throughout summer across all age groups and lastly the branch created a Schaefer specific paleta, Schaefer Shelby!



Schaefer paletas

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

DISTRICT 3

McCreless Branch Library

A McCreless patron regularly participated in two Learn classes: Civics for Citizenship and English as a Second Language. When his new work schedule interfered with the Civics class, the patron asked for extra support. Learn Training Officers Lodie Mueller and Christina Flores offered both 1-on-1 coaching during Learn's afternoon walk-in hours and printed Citizenship Resources so the patron could study effectively at home. After months of dedicated work and several setbacks, the patron came by at the end of April to show Learn staff his newly minted Naturalization Certificate. Sadly, on July 31st, Learn staff was informed that the patron suddenly passed away in early July. The patron's wife went out of her way to stop by the Learn Center to express appreciation for the quality of instruction and the teacher-student relationships which catalyzed her husband's fulfilling his goal of becoming a U.S. citizen.

McCreless Library hosted a Loteria Family Night, a traditional Mexican board game of chance, similar to bingo. Family members, young and old throughout our community had an amazing time winning prizes while learning new Spanish words and phrases with their English translations. This cultural event resonated with the community so much so that McCreless Library will be hosting another event soon.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.
-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.



McCreless Library patrons enjoying Loteria Family Night

Mission Branch Library

Librarian Cindy Cruz received an EnCore staff recognition card for doing what she normally does at the reference desk. A patron came up and asked for assistance making copies of some documents he had. Her interaction was one like many others in that she was friendly, helpful, and knowledgeable. He made the copies he needed and left an EnCore thanking her and stating that she was very kind.

This month Librarian Kassandra Vela-Laosa hosted four instructional cooking programs which taught patrons to use an electric pressure cooker. Many people receive these appliances but are intimidated to use them. Two patrons who attended enjoyed the program and found it so helpful that the next two classes, they brought a friend. They shared that they had made the recipe demonstrated during the program at home and loved it.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

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

Pan American Branch Library

On Wednesday, July 31, 2024, Pan American had an all-day event titled *Wizards, & Witches, & Magic, Oh My!* Staff helped decorate the library and set up various activities before the library opened. During the event, everyone helped whether it was at the reference and circulation desks, making popcorn, potions, wands, assisting patrons with crafts, calling out Lotería, directing patrons where to go, and more. It could not have happened without everyone at Pan American giving there all. Pan American was excited to receive help from Las Palmas, Bazan, and Collins Garden. Every staff member utilized their skills and made this program a big success!



Pan American's magic-themed Lotería



Pan American's magic-themed Story Time

Part of the Summer Reading Program, the Phil Hardberger Park Natural Area visited the Pan American Branch Library and was incredibly popular! Children and adults learned about local wildlife by listening to experts, touching animal skins, and making their own art. This program provided enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the local wildlife community, human and non-human alike.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.
- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.
- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.
- 📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.

DISTRICT 4

Cortez Branch Library

July 10 was National Teddy Bear Day. To celebrate, Cortez held a "special regular" story time. Children were encouraged to bring their stuffed animals, be they bear or otherwise, to share in the story time

fun, and extra stuffed animals were brought in case someone forgot theirs at home. Everyone introduced their stuffed animals and how long they had known each other. (The longest was Librarian Childs and her venerable 15-year-old bear, Edmund. According to the kids, he was so old “he’s like a grandpa!”) Children taught the usual songs to their buddies, who helped them sing, then everyone settled in for a good book. After the stories were over, the children made matching bracelets or necklaces for themselves and their stuffed animals. Some also made extras to give to their friends at story time.

Puzzles were particularly popular in July! Since most people love finding a few puzzle pieces to put together, but not everyone has the patience to finish an entire puzzle by themselves, staff put out puzzles starting this month for everyone to work on together. It was more popular than expected! Friends, families, and solo patrons stopped to put together a piece or 15 before continuing their browsing. A new puzzle was put out every few days, with eleven being fully completed in July and the twelfth finished by noon on August 1st.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Provide a diverse, inclusive, and responsive collection of library books and materials to reflect and meet the needs of the community.



Two Cortez patrons working on the puzzle of the day

Johnston Branch Library

While providing limited library services at Miller’s Pond Community Center library staff had the opportunity to interact with community members who were unaware of the benefits the library has to offer. Many of those the staff met had no idea the library had the option to put books on hold, or that getting a library card had so many benefits to them as a Bexar County resident. Physically staffing a table at Miller’s Pond allowed Johnston Branch Library staff to reach residents who were not already library users.

Johnston's Training Officer, Ms. Mendoza, began offering pop-up Learn Centers at Tobin and Guerra and created a computer class titled "Dive Into Computers: Essential Skills for Adults." The program targets patrons with an interest in building their computer skills, covering computer basics such as internet browsing, email, and Microsoft Word. The multi-week series offers students an opportunity to build their skills over time. The pop-up Learn Centers and Dive Into Computers classes provided an introduction to Learn services at locations that do not normally offer specialized services.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.
- 📖 Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.
- 📖 Provide a diverse, inclusive, and responsive collection of library books and materials to reflect and meet the needs of the community.

DISTRICT 5

Bazan Branch Library

The summer programming at Bazan Branch Library wrapped up with the Let's Create! program, where children helped create a mural to be displayed in the library. Using unique painting tools like potato mashers, sponges, and toilet paper rolls, about 20 kids followed simple instructions to "create whatever comes to your mind." The result was an amazing 17-foot mural featuring imaginative underwater, outdoor, and abstract scenes. This artwork now hangs above the new and express book collection for everyone to enjoy. Children's librarian Hope Sonnen, who led the activity, plans to display the mural throughout the year and replace it with a new one next summer.



Mural painted by children attending the Let's Create! program.

The personalized support that Bazan Learn staff provided to a customer was key in helping him keep his temporary housing by proving he was actively applying for jobs. The customer had been searching for work using Bazan Learn resources for several months but was at risk of losing his housing. His Housing Counselor needed proof of his job applications to extend his housing.

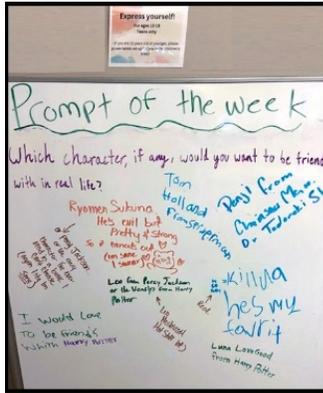
Learn Center Training Officer, Carlos Loera, met with the customer and the counselor, providing evidence of all the job applications the customer had submitted. Because of this support, the customer received a three-month housing extension, giving him more time to find a job and improve his situation.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.

Collins Garden Branch Library

Collins Garden Children’s Librarian Gina Brudi helped a patron who was visiting for faxing services (a service this location does not yet have) use the library’s free scanning service, teaching the patron how to scan the documents to their own e-mail for their own digital record and then to forward to the next recipient. The patron expressed appreciation for the service and this new skills.



Collins Garden teen-led engagement

Teen intern Nathan Ansualda and Teen Services Librarian Ami Sarabia worked together to welcome new teens into Teen Club, made weekly prompts on the Teen Space whiteboard, created a graphic novel collage for one of the tables in the Teen Area, and made teens feel like a valued part of the library. Teen Services Librarian Sarabia talked to two new teens about their interest in the band Stray Kids and let them know that the library partners with teens to allow them to create a club that reflects the interests of teens in real time. The teens were very impressed by this new possibility and saw the value the library places on teens.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

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

📖 Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.

Las Palmas Branch Library

This summer, a teen visited Las Palmas and was thrilled to learn that her favorite graphic novel could be delivered to the interim site. A few days later, when the teen returned to check out her requested books, she proudly wore her Summer with SAPL Teen T-shirt and had a conversation with staff. During the discussion, she enthusiastically expressed her interest in volunteering in the new teen space once Las Palmas reopens. The teen’s mother agreed that this would be a great opportunity for her daughter to gain valuable experience. More importantly she values the library as a safe space where her family can learn and grow.

San Antonio Public Library’s summer reading program concluded on July 31. Despite Las Palmas offering limited services, over 250 books were distributed to adults, teens, and children. Visitors enjoyed collecting the popular “Summer with SAPL” collectible bookmarks and tote bags. The number of books distributed speaks to the library’s commitment to staying engaged with the community, including the students and staff at Our Lady of the Lake University.



Future Las Palmas teen volunteer

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Provide a diverse, inclusive, and responsive collection of library books and materials to reflect and meet the needs of the community.
- 📖 Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.
- 📖 Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.
- 📖 Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.
- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.

Memorial Branch Library



Wallaby during Happy Tails

With the financial support and enthusiastic encouragement of the Memorial Branch Library's Friends of the Library group (the Amigos), the branch presented a Summer Reading visit from Happy Tails Entertainment. Patrons of all ages met five animals which most had probably never seen outside a zoo, if at all. The crowd of more than one hundred patrons overflowed the meeting room and were introduced to an alpaca, a bearded dragon, a blue and gold macaw, a hedgehog, and a wallaby. The animals are all native to continents other than North America, which increased their fascination for the attendees.

Circulation Attendant Adam Capelo has been working on his language skills by engaging with our Spanish-speaking patrons. "It has been good to be able to help them and make them feel comfortable being here," said Capelo. "There have been a lot of good interactions with them expressing their thanks for all

the help and it has been good to see that my Spanish is getting better to hold longer conversations with the Spanish speaking community." His determination is one reason (among many) why he is held in high regard by patrons and staff alike.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.

DISTRICT 6

Great Northwest Branch Library

The Great Northwest Library hosted programs for adults as part of the Summer with SAPL events in July. Our adult visitors to the library had a great time enjoying programs that focused on adults in the community. On July 15 visitors had the opportunity to learn how to make creamsicle bath salts using baking soda, Epsom salt, food coloring, and essential oils. Proud of the fragrant creations they made, participants shared ideas on how they planned to make bath salts to give to friends and family. On July 29 Adult Services Librarian Christina Montero planned a Seed Bundles activity where participants learned the culture behind seed bundles. Attendees made bundles out of soil, wildflower seeds, and recycled newspaper. An attendee stated how nice it was to have a gardening program for those who enjoy being outdoors and was excited to keep library staff updated on the seed bundle progress.



A patron displaying the seed bundles she made to take home.



Teen Pasta Class at Great Northwest Branch

The Teen volunteers at Great Northwest Library did an amazing job creating fun programs for teens this summer. They planned a cooking class and after much discussion and research, the teens at Great Northwest Library decided on a vegan friendly fresh pasta recipe. Teens shared their cooking talents and learned new skills from each other. Working with our Teen Services Librarian Lisa Puchot, teen volunteers have taken ownership of their experience at the library and shown teens who attend programs how they can impact their community.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

Guerra Branch Library

On July 13, The Guerra branch celebrated 20 years of Library Service to the community. In addition to cool summer crafts, photos with Smarty, button making, fun games and mariachi music, patrons participated in a community places scavenger hunt. Miniature replicas of buildings were created for this activity. Leading up to the event, Branch Manager Arlene Richardson and Librarian I Ana Pina visited the locations selected for the hunt, including the neighborhood park and pool and met with center directors and community members to let them know that they would be featured in the event. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and community



Guerra Celebrates 20 years!

members noted that they felt seen through our actions. They were also excited to be a part of the celebration as they were strong supporters of the library.



Guerra Team Work

The entire Guerra team successfully planned and hosted the branch's 20th Anniversary celebration. True teamwork was exhibited during the planning process, especially brainstorming of ideas and preparation work for all the fun activities. The team was well organized which contributed to a smooth and successful event.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

 Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.

Potranco Branch Library

On Wednesday, July 17th Dawn Zeig partnered with the YMCA's Older Adult Program, Silver Sneakers, to host Debbie Countess and Sylvia Reyna, of the Texana/Genealogy department, on-site to play the Mexican card game Loteria. Debbie and Sylvia brought their large super-sized playing boards and took turns calling out the cards. There were lots of laughs and fun was had by all. Token prizes were awarded to each game winner. The prizes were comprised of SAPL giveaways and items that the members chose to donate. Additionally, Debbie and Sylvia shared information about upcoming Texana and Genealogy programs as well as information on resources that the library provides.



Loteria at Potranco

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

DISTRICT 7

Forest Hills Branch Library

In July, the Children's Librarian helped facilitate several summer-specific activities for Forest Hills families, including the continued beginner book club for children learning to read so families had a space to practice and play together, as well as participating in several of the offered activities through the Children's Services department. The Teen Services Librarian continued Anime Afternoons, an activity

geared towards families who want to watch anime together and get out of the heat on summer afternoons, and based on teen interest created a space in Teen Time for playing tabletop roleplaying games. The branch manager started an activity called Open Chess on Mondays to create a space for chess enthusiasts of all levels and ages to gather and enjoy this game together.

Forest Hills staff continually monitor the materials and organization of the library, looking for ways to make it easier for patrons to find materials or discover new reads and make sure that we have enough of the different materials available for patrons. Recently, staff have started organizing book displays, displaying books on topics they're interested in to share with patrons, as well as setting up a rotation for the display in the library entrance. The Teen Librarian also shifted the teen collection, with the help of a teen volunteer, to ensure the space is attuned to teens' needs.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.
- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.
- 📖 Provide a diverse, inclusive, and responsive collection of library books and materials to reflect and meet the needs of the community.

Maverick Branch Library

In July, Maverick kicked off its very first Young Adult Program intended for adults from 18-24 years old. This program was planned and launched for young adults who are no longer eligible to participate in teen programs. As a result, this new program is an opportunity for those who wish to continue attending similar programs such as the teens, thus only geared for young adults. The program offers a variety of entertainment such as board games, crafts, snacks, and watching movies for a slightly older and more mature group. For Maverick's initial program, three loyal participants from the teen events transitioned

into the new program. This is a wonderful pastime since it offers young adults a dynamic place for them to engage and interact with peers in a safe and supportive environment.



Maverick Paper Quilt Block - Summer 2024

For the first time, Children's Librarian, Amy Roberts, decided to have kids do a collaborative art project this summer. During Ms. Robert's "Let's Create" program on July 3, 25 kids worked together to create a collaborative paper quilt. Each child received a quilt block with a design on it and a quilt block to create a scene of their choice—from activities they were doing this summer, to hobbies, and more. The finished product has

been mounted on the Maverick windows and Ms. Roberts deemed it a success!

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

DISTRICT 8

Cody Branch Library

The Cody Library started the summer off with many enthusiastic readers of all ages coming to the branch to get their free books, bookmarks, t-shirts, and tote bags. Children especially enjoyed the Magic Tree House events and the Elephant and Piggie Club. Staff joined in the fun of Color Club by wearing that week's featured color on Thursdays. Most programming came to a halt on July 15, when high temperatures and struggling HVAC caused a service model shift. Staff quickly transformed the meeting room, with its working AC, into a limited services area, providing small browsing collections, holds pick-ups, laptops for internet access and printing, daily newspapers, drawing supplies and crafts for children, and plenty of tables and chairs for patron use.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.

Igo Branch Library



Puppet workshop at Igo

A puppet workshop arranged by circulation attendant Jason Futrell at Igo branch library was a resounding success, delighting both children and parents alike. The program featured a diverse range of puppetry techniques, including basic object animation, shadow puppets, and “muppet-style” creations. Participants, aged 5-12, enjoyed hands-on experience with these puppets and had the opportunity to craft their own sock puppets to take home. The enthusiastic engagement and positive feedback from families underscored the workshop's appeal and effectiveness.

On July 23rd, Igo Branch organized the "Let's Build" program that showcased the remarkable ingenuity and creativity of our children and families. Armed with nothing but cardboard, participants transformed simple materials into extraordinary creations, including a towering monster truck and a majestic pirate ship, both crafted by the children using cardboard tools from the Little Read Wagon's rotating Summer Play Collection. The program not only highlighted the inventive spirit of our young builders but also demonstrated the endless possibilities of imaginative play. It was a joy to witness the excitement and skill that turned basic supplies into dynamic and engaging projects. The success of this event reaffirms the value of creative exploration and the joy of collaborative building experiences.



Let's Build at Igo

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

DISTRICT 9

Brook Hollow Branch Library

Brook Hollow Branch Library's (BHL) Big Time Bubbles event was held Saturday, July 27 at COSA's Blossom Park, just blocks from the library. The event was creatively orchestrated by BHL staff as a perfect example of one of COSA's Core Values of Teamwork. SAPL, COSA, and NEISD partnered to demonstrate quality teamwork to provide a foam party for the community. BHL planned months in advance to hire vendor Big Time Bubbles, rent the Bradley Middle School parking lot and to secure SAPL security for the event.

Many aspects of the requests for the event required assistance from various SAPL/COSA departments.



BHL patrons enjoy Big Time Bubble Program @ Blossom Park

The event became a team effort via library management, administrative staff bookings etc. Staff from SAPL Central Library Children's Department and Little Read Wagon assisted with the event. Ultimately, the event was enjoyed by 101 children and parents. Special Thanks to BHL Children's Librarian Catherine Robbins for her persistence and coordination; Public Services Administrator Jake Odland for his timeliness and SAPL Children's Services Coordinator Cresencia Huff for her support. The COSA Parks and Recreation Department as well.

Teens at Brook Hollow demonstrated their problem-solving skills at Teen Time on July 30. Big fans of Mario and of Italian food, teens arranged a movie showing of The Super Mario Bros. Movie alongside making pasta. When making pasta from scratch didn't go according to plan, the teens put their heads together to come up with different ways to cook the pasta with the stove burner out of commission. One teen tried the "ramen" method of cooking by using boiling water from a kettle and covering the bowl of noodles.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.
- 📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.

Encino Branch Library



Beginning Quilting at Encino

Encino hosted a new weekly Saturday program offering titled Beginning Quilting on July 27. The Beginning Quilting program already has a loyal following and members come from different areas of the city as well as from the Encino community to attend. Expert quilter Vickie Gillespie saw a need for the program as the Wednesday textiles program Hand Bee was full and did not have room for quilting instruction. Seeing an opportunity to give back to her community and support the Encino Branch, Ms. Gillespie collaborated with Adult Services Librarian Ann Laird to create the Beginning Quilting program and offer her skills to anyone who would benefit.

Encino Branch Library houses a unique Collaborate Space. This small room seats up to eight patrons and offers an interactive smart TV. The space is checked out like a library item, and use of the space requires a library card. Following this protocol allows for users to sign up for a library card which benefits them and the library system. The Collaborate Space saw one of its busiest months in 2024, with a wide variety of uses, from GED classes, federal government interviews, study groups, book clubs, video conferences, tutoring sessions, HOA board meetings and quiet study. As the community continues to grow, the use of the Collaborate Space also grows.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
-  Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.
-  Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.

Parman Branch Library at Stone Oak

The Parman Branch Library took a unique approach this summer by presenting a series of free summer camps, held once a week over two months. These innovative programs were designed to cater to specific age groups, with each session led by certified instructors, making the library a hub of learning and community engagement.

For school-aged children, Parman offered two specialized camps: the Anti-Bullying Self-Defense Camp and the Chess Camp. A total of 154 children participated in the weekly Anti-Bullying Self-Defense Camp, gaining valuable skills in self-confidence and discipline under the guidance of skilled instructors from well-established martial art studios. Parents were thrilled with how these programs filled their children's summer, sparking new



Summer Camps at Parman

interests and personal growth. In the Chess Camp, participants had the opportunity to learn the game and work on a small project under the supervision of qualified instructors - teens volunteers. Additionally, teens who presented the chess camp due to the positive response from participants and their parents are now looking to establish a regular chess club at the library, further extending the impact of these summer programs. The camp, held in a fun and relaxed environment, attracted 270 patrons, fostering a community of chess enthusiasts and creating new friendships. For adults, Parman introduced a Woodcarving Camp inspired by the beautiful carvings displayed at the library. This camp attracted 142 adults eager to learn the skills necessary to join the Alamo Woodcarvers on a regular basis.

Overall, children's attendance grew from 3,097 in summer 2023 to 4,684 in summer of 2024. The teen group attendance saw a remarkable 100% increase, rising from 65 participants in 2023 to 115 in 2024. The most impressive growth, however, was observed in the adult group, where attendance surged from 197 last summer to 808 this year.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Provide a diverse, inclusive, and responsive collection of library books and materials to reflect and meet the needs of the community.
- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.
- 📖 Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.
- 📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.

DISTRICT 10

Semmes Branch Library



City designed by "Let's Built" participants at Semmes

Semmes Branch Library's on-going Let's Build program engaged children throughout the summer, culminating in the creation of a craft city, with considerations given to what would be a good, useful, livable design, including different zoning districts and public transportation options to connect the city.

Semmes Branch Library, located next to Comanche Lookout Park, is in a unique position to serve as a base from which to explore nature. In July, that took the shape of the Texas Trees presentation from Friedrich Wilderness Park

Education Coordinator, David Goree. Young patrons learned about the trees of Texas, and how to create their own Tree Leaf poster.



Young patrons engaging with presenter David Goree

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
-  Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.
-  Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.
-  Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.
-  Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.

Thousand Oaks Branch Library

The Thousand Oaks Library began hosting Dive into Computers: Essential Skills for Adults this month. This program is a 6-week series designed to introduce adults to essential computer skills. The participants learn the basics of using a computer, navigating the internet, creating documents in Microsoft Word, and sending emails. This series of classes empower the participants with the tools to stay connected and informed in today's tech-savvy world.

The Family Story Time programs at the Thousand Oaks Library are impactful for both children and parents. These programs provide an excellent opportunity for the family to unplug and practice their social skills. Children gain listening skills, develop language skills, practice sitting still, experience the public performance of literature, become engaged in a story, and see other children become engaged as well, and learn about diverse cultures from the different book selections. The Family Story Time programs are also a great way for parents to meet other parents in the community.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

- 📖 Provide a diverse, inclusive, and responsive collection of library books and materials to reflect and meet the needs of the community.

Tobin Branch Library at Oakwell



Bilingual story time at Tobin

Tobin Circulation Attendant Lilliana Aguilar completed a months-long project to revitalize the branch's Spanish space in July. The refreshed area includes new shelf organization and signage that makes items easier to find, inviting furniture and decorations that are more eye-catching for patrons to find this tucked away space. On Thursday, July 18 the branch celebrated this area with a bilingual story time, refreshments, and music.

Children's Librarian Kara Bailey used innovative thinking and Artificial Intelligence technology to

host a wildly popular Imaginary Pet event at the Tobin branch on Monday, July 1. As part of Kara's Popcorn & a Movie program series, children and families were asked to fill out a quick survey with descriptive questions about their make-believe animal. Kara plugged these answers into an AI website to create beautiful images of these creatures. Children received a printout of their pet, a laminated bookmark, and a wearable pin.



Eye-catching decor in Tobin Library's Spanish space.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan

Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.
- 📖 Provide a diverse, inclusive, and responsive collection of library books and materials to reflect and meet the needs of the community.

V. MEDIA

July 3-4 – Multiple outlets reported on the closure of SAPL locations and other city facilities in observance of the July 4 holiday.

July 6 – KABB re-aired a feature story on Focus on South Texas highlighting Summer with SAPL. The segment featured an interview with Landa Children’s Librarian Jasmin Salinas.

July 10 – KSAT aired their News at Noon broadcast from the Landa Branch Library.

July 10 – KENS highlighted the Guerra Branch Library 20th Anniversary on their 6pm news.

July 11 – Texas Public Radio highlighted the Guerra Branch Library 20th Anniversary.

July 12 – KSAT highlighted the availability of seed collections at multiple library locations.

July 15 – Multiple outlets reported on a Renters’ Rights workshop hosted by the City of San Antonio at Mission Branch Library.

July 16 – Texas Public Radio posted an online article highlighting the Latino Collection and Resource Center’s En Vivo desde San Anto workshop series.