

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MARCH 2025

*prepared for the  
Library Board of Trustees*



# SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

## SYSTEM-WIDE HIGHLIGHTS

Pop Madness, the Library's annual free, all-ages pop culture convention, was held at Central Library on March 8, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This year's featured guest was actor Paul Scheer, best known for his roles in *The League* and *30 Rock*. The event was a tremendous success, drawing a crowd of 2,750 attendees—a 60% increase from 2024. The 2025 convention featured sixty-six exhibitors and presenters. New additions this year included a cosplay contest specifically for tweens. Additionally, the introduction of City of San Antonio Employee Volunteers proved highly effective, providing the extra support needed to help the event run smoothly.

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES

The new Director of the San Antonio Public Library officially began her tenure on March 3, 2025. Her first day included a warm welcome from Assistant City Manager David McCary and Library Board Chair Juspreet Kaur, followed by a meet-and-greet breakfast with the Library's Senior Management Team—a meaningful opportunity to begin building relationships with key leaders across the system.

On March 5, the Director attended the Book Appetite Literary Lunch Feast, featuring acclaimed author Salman Rushdie. During the event, she reconnected with former Library Director Ramiro Salazar, and the two later toured several work units at the Central Library, offering her a closer look at daily operations.

March 8 marked her first Pop Madness event at the Central Library. The event was lively and engaging, and she enjoyed meeting staff and exploring more of the facility during the day's festivities.

The SAPL Town Hall meetings took place on March 12 and 13, with Assistant City Manager McCary delivering opening remarks and Assistant Director Dale McNeill serving as moderator. The sessions were well-attended, drawing 117 participants on Wednesday and 122 on Thursday.

On March 17, the Director attended the 2024 Veteran of the Year ceremony in support of Arland Schnacker, a Librarian I with Texana and the honored recipient. It was a proud moment for the Library and a moving recognition of Arland's service.

Later that week, on March 19, he participated in the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's Board meeting, followed by the Las Palmas Branch Library Art Selection Panel on March 20. The panel, hosted in collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture, focused on selecting an artist for a new public art piece at the Las Palmas Branch Library.

On March 22, she attended two community-focused events: the Play and Learn program at the Central Library—a joint effort between SAPL and the Department of Human Services—and the Friends of the

San Antonio Public Library meeting at the Johnston Branch Library. Both events provided valuable opportunities to connect with families, partners, and supporters from across the city.

## PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Almost five million library materials have been checked out this fiscal year to date, which exceeds the FY25 target by three percent. Year to date circulation is 160,000 more than the same time period last year. Over 900,000 hours of technology use has occurred, which is below the year-to-date target by nineteen percent. Year to date hours of technology is 204,000 fewer hours than the same time period last year. Starting in June 2024, new equipment and software was deployed after FY25 target development and data is reported differently. The number of in-person library visits for the year to date is over one and a half million, which is above target by nine percent. Year to date visits is 122,000 more than the same time period last year due to several library locations serving as venue for the Presidential election.

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHT

On March 6, SAPL was a featured guests on KSAT's SA Live to promote Pop Madness. The segment featured several guest cosplayers, SAPL mascot Smarty, and an in-studio interview with Pop Madness program organizer and Tobin Branch Library at Oakwell Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse.



# I. Key Performance Indicators - Summary

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

Report contains data for the reporting period ended on March 31, 2025

## Circulation: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:  
4,654,367



## FY 2025 to date Items Borrowed

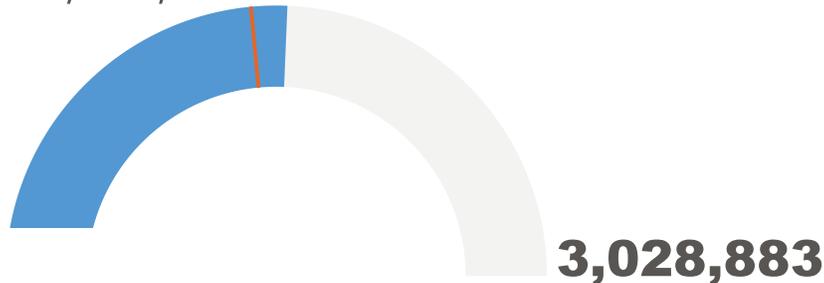


**4,786,956**

(+2.85%)  
Circulation

## Visits: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:  
1,423,943



## FY 2025 to date Library Visits



**1,554,299**

(+9.15%)  
Visits

## Digital Access: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:  
1,161,611



## FY 2025 to date Digital Access



**153,357**

Hours of Computer Use



**786,539**

Hours of Wi-Fi Use

**939,896**

(-19.09%) \*  
Hours of Technology Use

\*Targets for Hours of Technology for FY25 were developed before the change of equipment and software used to count public Wi-Fi use. Targets for FY26 will be adjusted accordingly.

# Key Performance Indicators - Circulation

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

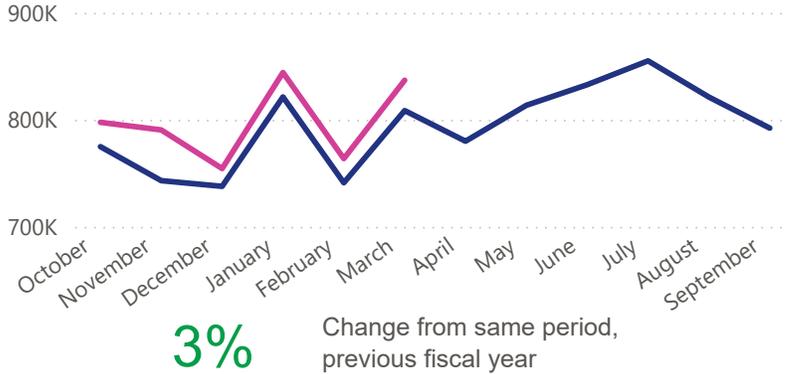
Report contains data for the reporting period ended on March 31, 2025

## FY25 year to date Total Circulation

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

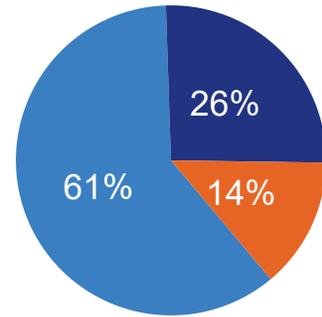
**4,786,956**

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



## FY25 to date total circulation by service area

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

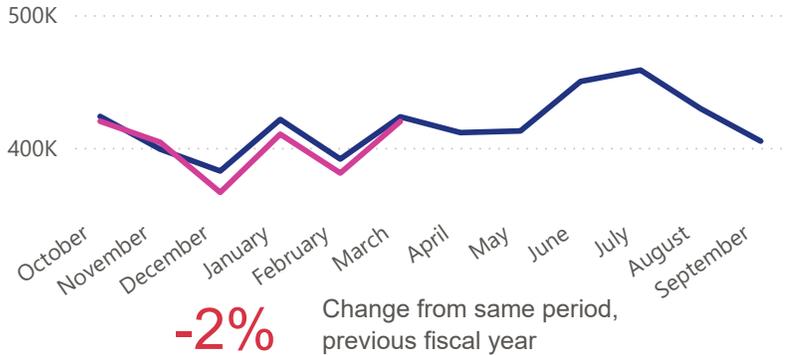


## FY25 year to date Physical Circulation

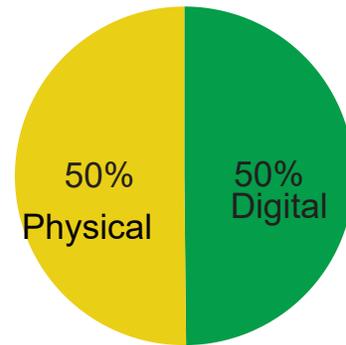
The number of checkouts and renewals of physical library materials.

**2,401,398**

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



## FY25 to date total circulation by type

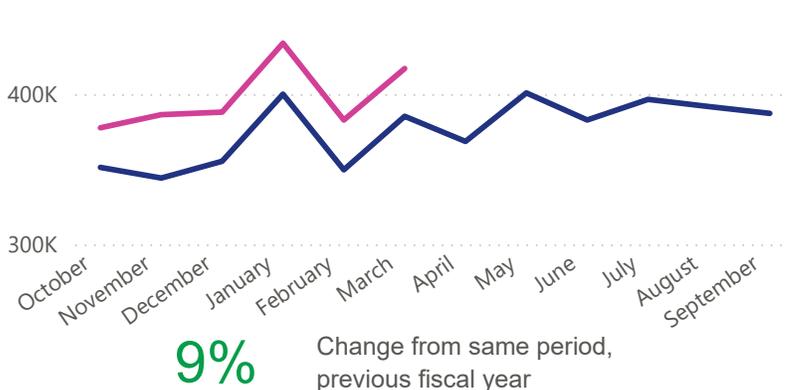


## FY25 year to date Digital Circulation

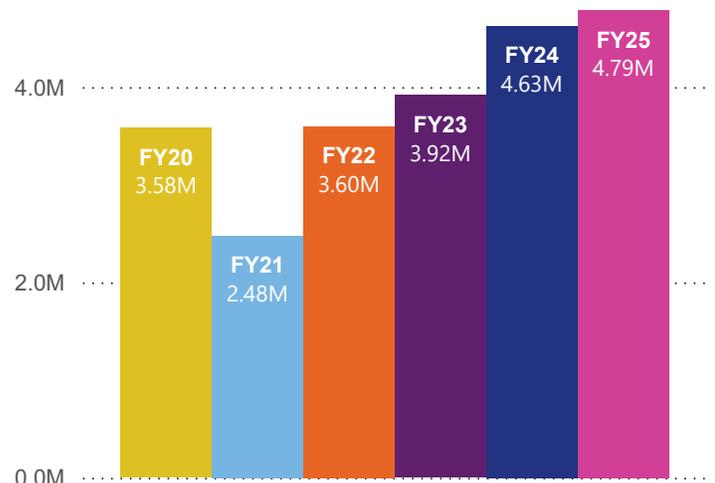
The number of checkouts, downloads, views and plays of electronic library materials.

**2,385,558**

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



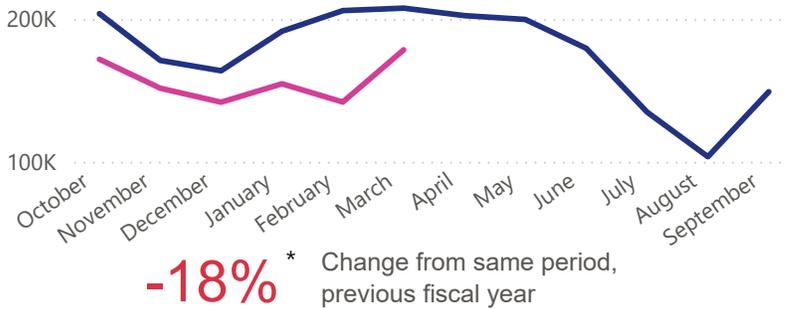
## Year to date total circulation comparison



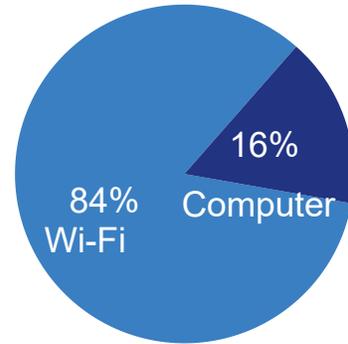
## FY25 year to date Hours of Technology

The total number of hours of technology used from both public computers and public Wi-Fi. **939,896**

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



## FY25 to date Technology Use by type

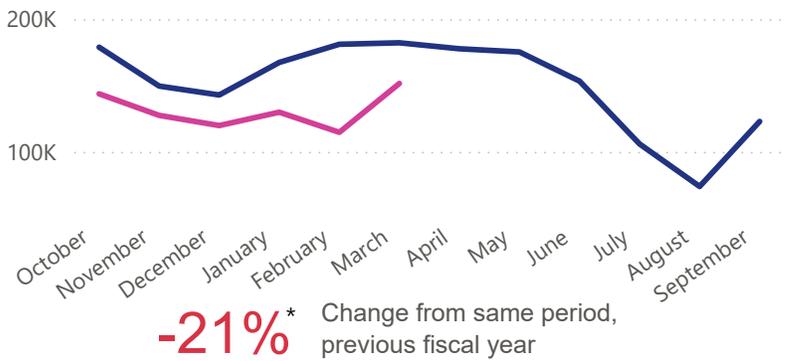


\*The equipment and software to deliver public Wi-Fi has been updated and the methodology to measure use has changed.

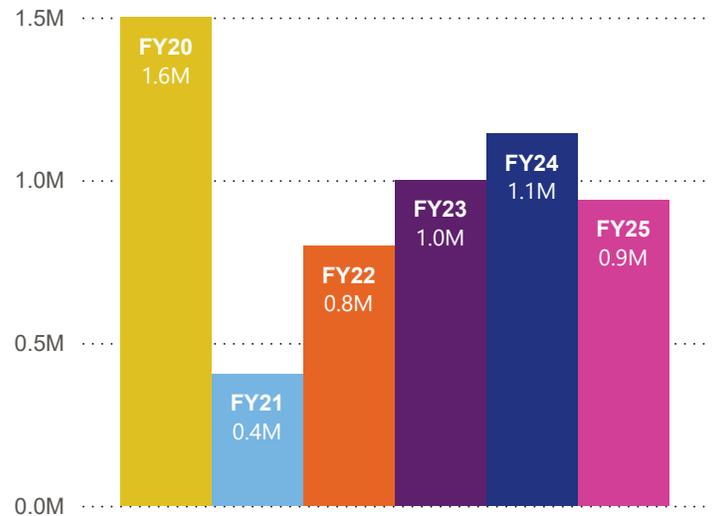
## FY25 year to date Wi-Fi Hours

The number of hours public Wi-Fi was used. **786,539**

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



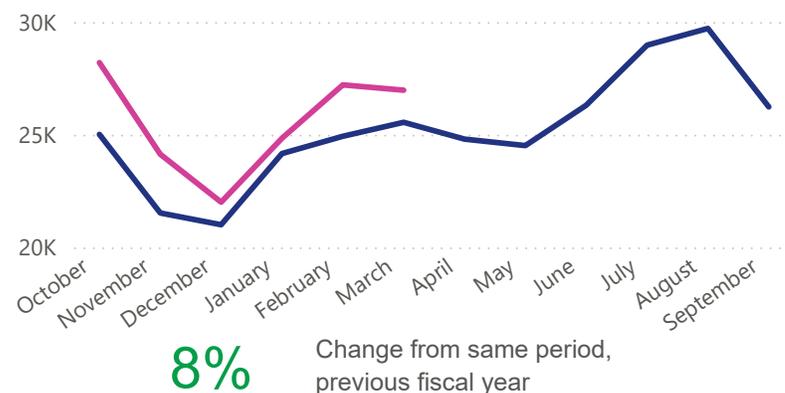
## Year to date Technology Use comparison



## FY25 year to date Computer Hours

The number of hours public computers were used. **153,357**

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



# Key Performance Indicators - Visits

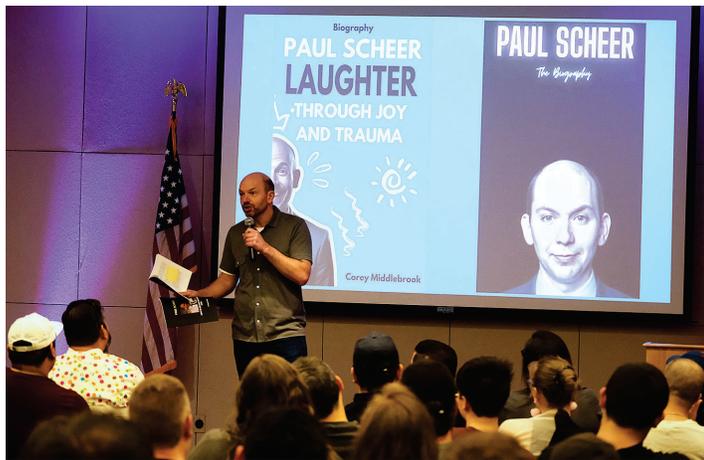
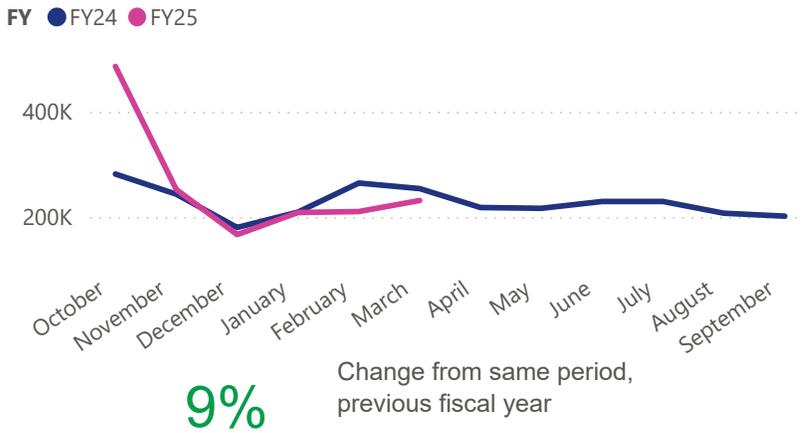
Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

Report contains data for the reporting period ended on March 31, 2025

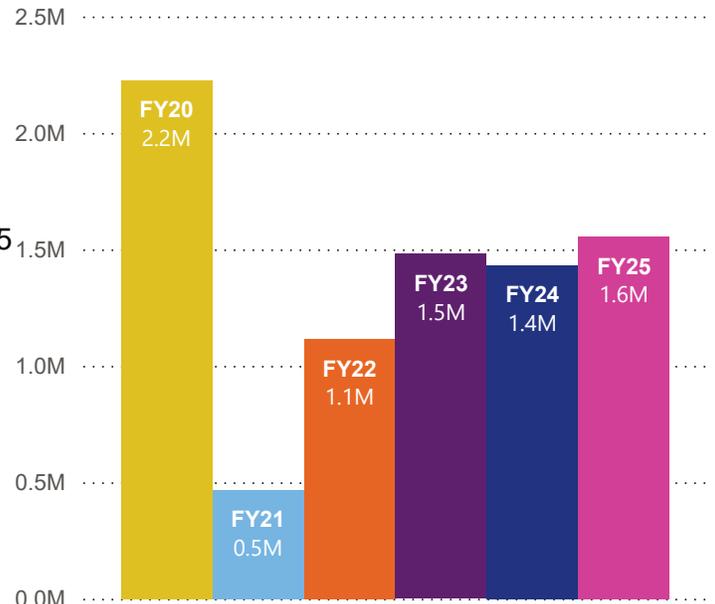
## FY25 year to date Visits

The number of physical visits to any library location.

1,554,299



## Year to date Visits comparison



### Fiscal Year 2025 location closures:

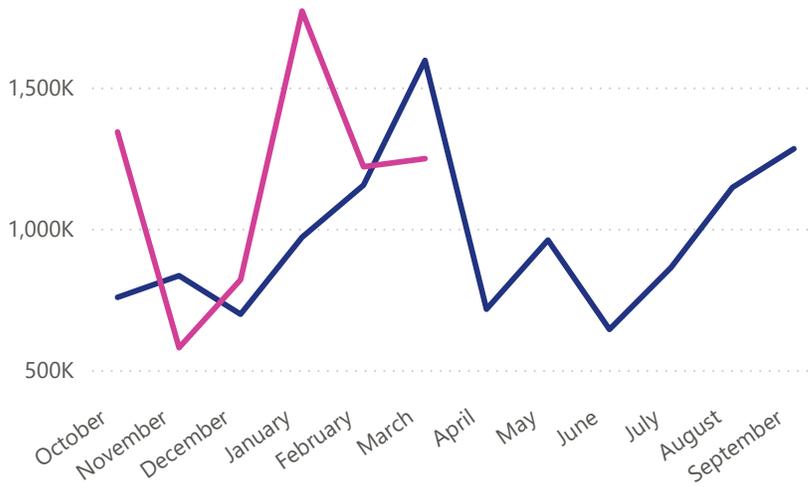
- Las Palmas October 1, 2024 - TBD
- Johnston October 1, 2024 - December 2, 2024
- Igo October 1, 2024 - October 28, 2024
- Pan American October 1, 2024 - October 28, 2024
- Semmes November 18, 2024 - January 12, 2025

## FY25 year to date Marketing Engagements

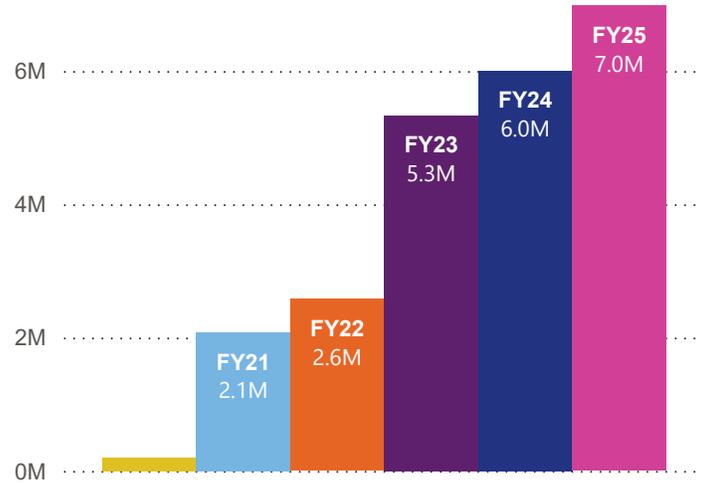
The number of times a subscriber opens a library marketing email plus engagements on SAPL social media.

**6,977,800**

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



## Year to date Marketing Engagements comparison



**16%**

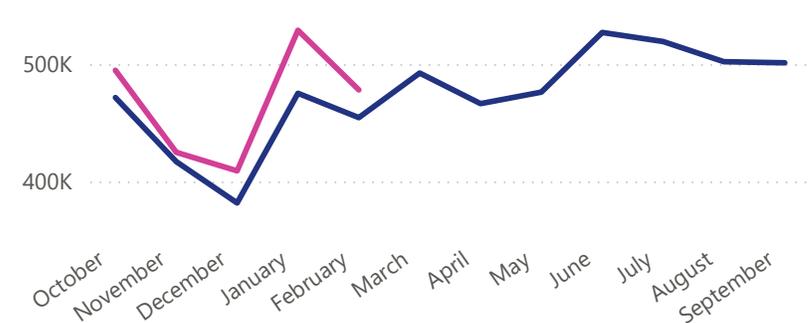
Change from same period, previous fiscal year

## FY25 year to date Website Visits

The number of web visits to MySAPL.org, BiblioCore, and LibGuides.

**2,822,662**

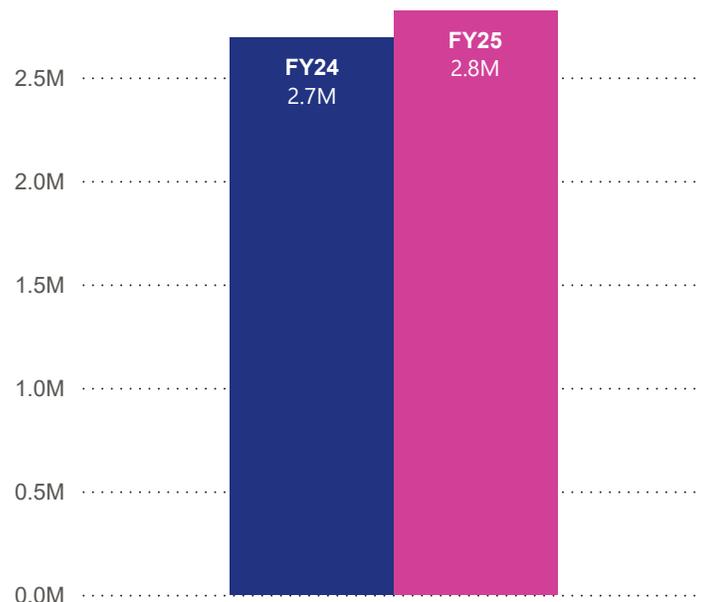
FY ● FY24 ● FY25



**5%**

Change from same period, previous fiscal year

## Year to date Website Visits comparison



Data only available after FY24

# Programs and Attendance

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 To September 2025

Report contains data for the reporting period ended on March 31, 2025

## Fiscal year to date program comparison

### Total Programs

**6,300**

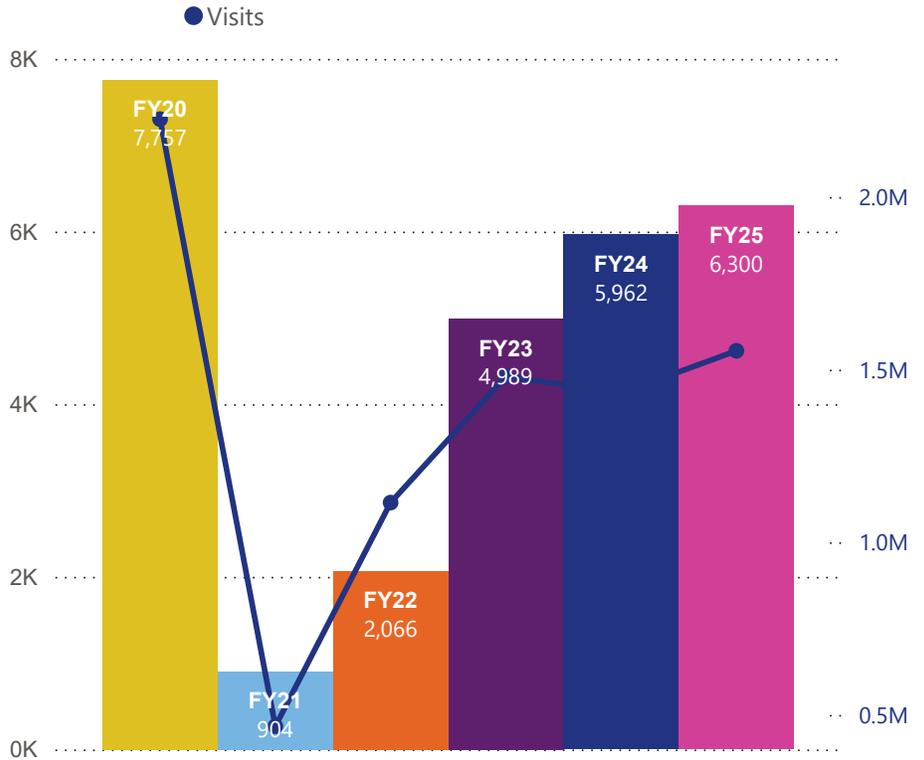
Total Programs

**109,005**

Total Attendance

**6%**

Change from same period, previous fiscal year



### Early Literacy (0-5)

**1,529**

Programs

**41,562**

Attendance

### School Age (6-12)

**1,147**

Programs

**19,761**

Attendance

### Teens (13-18)

**1,339**

Programs

**12,977**

Attendance

### Adults (19+)

**1,412**

Programs

**13,307**

Attendance

### Older Adults (60+)

**476**

Programs

**4,175**

Attendance

### General Interest\*

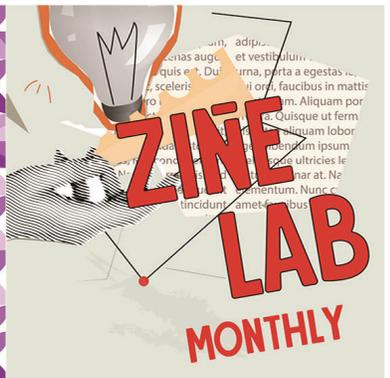
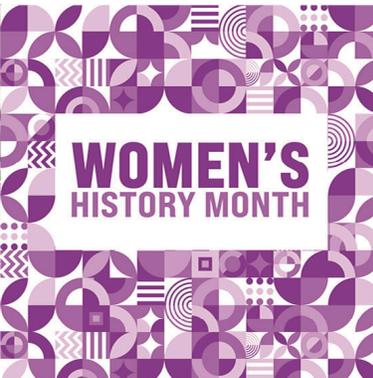
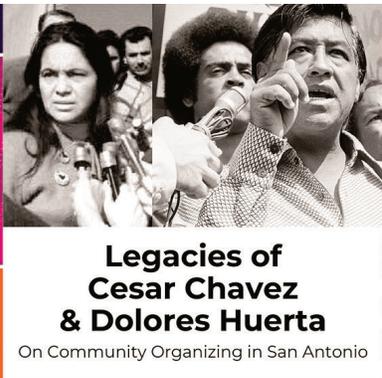
**397**

Programs

**17,223**

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

## March 2025 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
<b>Bazan</b>	2,346	8,107	5,648	1,695	3,953
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	24,215	7,060	5,396	728	4,668
<b>Carver</b>	2,109	3,692	3,629	683	2,946
<b>Central</b>	31,158	25,792	47,689	7,679	40,010
<b>Cody</b>	29,749	11,702	7,924	914	7,010
<b>Collins Garden</b>	3,386	3,820	2,242	474	1,768
<b>Cortez</b>	5,462	7,507	2,693	472	2,221
<b>Digital</b>	417,015	0	0	0	0
<b>Encino</b>	21,780	8,369	5,536	269	5,267
<b>Forest Hills</b>	4,667	2,582	1,993	361	1,632
<b>Great Northwest</b>	27,447	8,810	4,641	776	3,865
<b>Guerra</b>	7,497	7,450	4,961	596	4,365
<b>Igo</b>	34,343	22,562	8,029	657	7,372
<b>Interlibrary Loan</b>	864	0	0	0	0
<b>Johnston</b>	7,389	4,569	3,013	656	2,357
<b>Kampmann</b>	0	681	124	0	124
<b>Landa</b>	18,228	12,969	4,723	497	4,226
<b>Las Palmas</b>	221	112	23	0	23
<b>Maverick</b>	25,819	8,974	4,412	936	3,476
<b>McCreless</b>	6,572	7,222	5,242	1,397	3,845
<b>Memorial</b>	3,898	5,483	6,289	984	5,305
<b>Mission</b>	9,464	9,830	7,556	874	6,682
<b>Pan American</b>	2,422	2,532	1,743	318	1,425
<b>Parman</b>	31,302	12,564	5,516	291	5,225
<b>Potranco</b>	16,691	8,866	9,042	531	8,511
<b>Pruitt</b>	3,265	4,909	2,481	270	2,211
<b>San Pedro</b>	2,514	3,451	3,490	481	3,009
<b>Schaefer</b>	9,374	5,574	5,173	684	4,489
<b>Semmes</b>	21,571	7,703	4,951	1,067	3,884
<b>System</b>	33,158	0	0	0	0
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	6,772	5,806	6,111	747	5,364
<b>Tobin</b>	17,058	6,598	3,457	784	2,673
<b>Westfall</b>	9,134	5,883	4,692	1,152	3,540
<b>Total</b>	<b>836,890</b>	<b>231,179</b>	<b>178,419</b>	<b>26,973</b>	<b>151,446</b>

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

# San Antonio Public Library Programs

## March 2025

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	1	13	4	3	8	2	31
Brook Hollow	4	10	4	4	1	0	23
Carver	3	17	4	7	0	0	31
Central	14	11	73	17	3	6	124
Cody	5	10	14	16	3	0	48
Collins Garden	21	6	1	14	3	2	47
Cortez	4	13	18	17	4	0	56
Encino	15	9	4	20	12	3	63
Forest Hills	21	10	3	2	0	0	36
Great Northwest	8	3	5	6	2	5	29
Guerra	13	8	4	7	0	1	33
Igo	13	7	3	9	0	9	41
Johnston	4	9	4	9	3	0	29
Kampmann	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landa	26	12	15	2	1	0	56
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Little Read Wagon	21	0	7	10	0	1	39
Maverick	11	3	5	9	0	0	28
McCreless	1	3	4	14	5	0	27
Memorial	3	5	2	27	5	8	50
Mission	6	2	5	8	2	2	25
Pan American	11	11	7	2	2	4	37
Parman	20	9	4	19	16	7	75
Potranco	0	0	6	13	3	0	22
Pruitt	0	2	7	1	2	7	19
San Pedro	14	3	0	4	2	0	23
Schaefer	17	9	4	11	3	7	51
Semmes	12	9	4	13	0	1	39
System	1	4	20	7	2	2	36
Thousand Oaks	8	4	1	8	4	0	25
Tobin	10	8	7	10	4	4	43
Westfall	6	14	9	8	8	4	49
<b>Total</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1,236</b>

\*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

## March 2025

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
<b>Bazan</b>	10	68	24	19	39	12	172
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	87	108	22	33	32	0	282
<b>Carver</b>	23	108	6	57	0	0	194
<b>Central</b>	866	165	483	232	23	128	1,897
<b>Cody</b>	150	208	304	125	12	0	799
<b>Collins Garden</b>	336	24	2	74	10	17	463
<b>Cortez</b>	32	372	40	86	19	0	549
<b>Encino</b>	604	209	33	120	83	54	1,103
<b>Forest Hills</b>	191	224	19	20	0	0	454
<b>Great Northwest</b>	341	31	41	24	5	65	507
<b>Guerra</b>	300	150	21	124	0	56	651
<b>Igo</b>	889	99	7	55	0	73	1,123
<b>Johnston</b>	171	130	38	32	44	0	415
<b>Kampmann</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Landa</b>	1,098	264	116	12	5	0	1,495
<b>Las Palmas</b>	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
<b>Little Read Wagon</b>	837	0	63	109	0	110	1,119
<b>Maverick</b>	295	62	95	89	0	0	541
<b>McCreless</b>	8	28	24	107	21	0	188
<b>Memorial</b>	14	51	16	191	14	45	331
<b>Mission</b>	87	17	26	54	22	35	241
<b>Pan American</b>	107	95	99	12	11	9	333
<b>Parman</b>	923	487	70	277	428	68	2,253
<b>Potranco</b>	0	0	31	104	11	0	146
<b>Pruitt</b>	0	15	401	0	23	64	503
<b>San Pedro</b>	125	20	0	1	13	0	159
<b>Schaefer</b>	351	231	38	119	1	285	1,025
<b>Semmes</b>	384	110	35	100	0	11	640
<b>System</b>	600	384	230	74	13	3,000	4,301
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	66	42	2	48	29	0	187
<b>Tobin</b>	166	212	49	73	40	20	560
<b>Westfall</b>	60	132	192	50	34	20	488
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,121</b>	<b>4,046</b>	<b>2,527</b>	<b>2,421</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>4,172</b>	<b>23,219</b>

\*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



*Amalia Ortiz y las Hijas de la Madre performing at Floricantos y Tumbaos event on March 6*

On March 6, the Latino Collection & Resource Center (LCRC) partnered with Gemini Ink to present a special “after library hours” event in Central Library’s art gallery space. The event was titled Floricantos y Tumbaos: A Panel on Latinx Music in Poetry.

On March 13, the LCRC partnered with Cresencia Huff, Coordinator of Childrens Services to present and sponsor two presentations, highlighting author Steena Hernandez’s book, *Lupita’s Brown Ballet Slippers*. The first

presentation took place at Westfall Library, then later that day at Encino Library.



*Dancer Tanesha Payne and author Steena Hernandez presenting book program, Lupita’s Brown Ballet Slippers, to children in attendance at Westfall Library*

On March 18, in coordination with Trinity University and the Cesar E. Chavez Legacy and Educational Foundation (CECLEF), the LCRC presented two programs in honor of Cesar Chavez holiday. At noon, filmmaker, and Cesar’s grandson Eduardo Chavez, joined library community for a luncheon in the LCRC event space. Later that day, the LCRC hosted a round table discussion about Cesar Chavez’s legacy on community organizing, which included Trinity University Alumni, members of CECLEF and was moderated by local activist/musician, Joaquin Muerte.

On March 22, the LCRC hosted poet Violeta Garza, who guided attendees through a writing workshop titled, “Loving Los 13 Aires C3smicos”. The workshop was based on the wisdom of indigenous cultures in ancient M3xico, helping folks address the various emotions — cosmic airs — which can create imbalance in our bodies.

On March 26, Cresencia Huff and the LCRC presented a Cartonera Workshop — cardboard books — for library staff. The workshop was led by educator Jesse Gainer and was presented to staff for future programming initiatives.

#### ***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.
-  Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library’s reach in the community.

## LEARN AT SAPL

Learn at SAPL welcomed over 1,100 patron visits and oversaw more than 1,400 hours of public computer use this month. Learn at SAPL staff hosted 55 public programs, including instruction in English, Spanish, and American Sign Language as new languages.

Programs extended beyond the Library walls with outreach to several community partners. Learn at Memorial Adult Educators Daniel Gomez and Adult Education Program Manager Michelle Rickman presented “Beyond Books: Library Services for Adults” to older adults at Bethel Nutrition Center. Ms. Rickman also coordinated a site visit to the Divine Women community with Learn at McCreless Adult



*The Citizenship Corner at Central Library showcases resources for giveaway and checkout.*

Educators Lodie Mueller and Christina Flores and connected with leadership from adult literacy organization Each One Teach One. Learn at Central staff members Daniel Gonzalez and Francisco Rodriguez visited the San Antonio Clubhouse during their “Welcome Week” to encourage members and offer strategies for job retention.

A new “Citizenship Corner” at Central Library took shape this month, with the support of Central Information Services Manager Emerson Stanley, Library Assistant Eliza Perez, LCRC Program Manager Sarah De La Rosa, Access Services Manager Sarah Linley, and Learn at Johnston Adult Educator Shauna Mendoza. The display features free

informational materials, and SAPL books for borrowing around the topics of immigration, language learning, and American history.

Finally, Adult Education Program Manager Michelle Rickman began teaching “Family ESL” at Cody and Igo branch libraries. The weekly program caters to adult English as a Second Language learners who are caregivers, and their children. The class brings together students of all ages on the northwest side, with an active and encouraging approach to family literacy.



*Family ESL students at Cody Branch Library practice speaking in pairs.*

### ***These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals***

-  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.

## LITTLE READ WAGON

The Little Read Wagon is the San Antonio Public Library's (SAPL) early literacy outreach team. The team's work promotes early literacy and connects families with the library. The team held a Pequeño Pop-Up



*Playing with the Nature Play Kitchen*

Play program on March 11th at Elmendorf Lake Park. The Pequeño Pop-Up Play programs are designed to promote nearby libraries. While at the park, the team promoted the Bazan, Memorial, and Collins Garden Branch Libraries.

Children's Librarians. Hope Sonnen from the Bazan Branch and Melissa Fulmer from the Memorial Branch were able to attend the program and talk to families. The team distributed

flyers for programs and services at the nearby SAPL branches. Children and families who attended the program spent time playing together. They made giant bubbles. They used mortars and pestles to grind chalk. They used their imagination to create artwork at the makerspace. They played on the splash pad. It was a gorgeous day for a program. The team had 98 people attend the program.



*Chalk Play with Mortars and Pestles*

The team continues to offer a weekly Let's Play! program at the Mission Branch Library on Wednesdays. This month, a mom who attended the program for the first time with her children thanked the staff for offering the program. She said, "We live in a small apartment with no outdoor space, so coming here to play and explore is a dream!" The team sets up open-ended play materials in the courtyard and in the meeting room of the branch. Children build with giant magnetic building blocks. They make marks with chalk. They mix and measure sand in the nature play kitchen. During Spring Break 200 people attended the Let's Play at Mission! program. The team advocates for play because it is essential for healthy child development. When children play, they build healthy brains and bodies.

### ***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.

## TEXANA

Librarian Arland Schnacker II was honored this month as a recipient of the 2024 Veterans of the Year award. Schnacker is one of seven veterans selected from community nominations that received this honor from the City of San Antonio's Veteran Advisory Commission and Military and Veteran Affairs Department. Recognized for his exceptional service to fellow veterans and the community, Schnacker regularly organizes library programs focused on serving veterans and their families.



*Library Director Sukrit Goswami with 2024 Veteran of the Year honoree Librarian Arland Schnacker II and his wife Janelle Schnacker.*

As part of the Organizational Health Unit's offerings of staff development trainings, Librarian Andy Crews led an online presentation that focused on the HeritageQuest and Ancestry Library Edition databases. The March 14 presentation illustrated information that can be found using these genealogy resources and how they can aid staff in answering patrons' questions. Librarian Deborah Countess led the online class "Genealogy Databases: Using NewspaperArchive" on March 15. The presentation went over how to structure research queries and browse through the digitized newspapers available from all over the United States.

In celebration of Women's History Month, Librarian/Archivist Sylvia Reyna led the cemetery tour "Women and Their Significant Others Buried at San Antonio's Eastside Historic Cemeteries" in



*Women's History Month Cemetery Tour in San Antonio's Eastside Cemetery District.*

partnership with the City's Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Reyna led the enthusiastic group through Alamo Masonic and City Cemeteries #1 and #3. To close-out Women's History Month, Librarian Lucy Agado hosted the Bexar County Historical Commission's Dr. Erika Arredondo-Haskins presentation "Legacy of Influence: Honoring the Women of SAISD" at the Central Library on March 29. Accompanying her presentation was a six-panel traveling exhibition she developed and that highlighted her research on women who

had schools named for them within the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD). Many of these Texas women helped transform education and shape the earliest schools in our city.

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

# III. AGE-BASED SERVICES

## CHILDREN'S

Children's Services, with leadership from Children's Library at Central staff Ashley Palacios and Mary Elizabeth Hernandez contributed substantially to the success of the March 8 Pop Madness event hosted at Central Library. Activities specifically for children included a two-hour bubble party on the West Terrace, family escape rooms, an instrument petting zoo, and sticker-making. The event drew people from across the city, and a line for the bubble party started forming more than 30 minutes before the terrace opened.

Cresencia Huff, Coordinator of Children's Services, was interviewed for a news story on Library-hosted family activities during spring break. While most weekly activities continued, there were some special additions in consideration of the children who would be out of school for the week. Tobin Library at Oakwell hosted a STEAM Fest. The event organized by Tobin Branch Library at Oakwell Children's Librarian Lisa Ramirez was supported by staff from multiple locations and included multiple science demonstrations and a printing activity. The Westfall and Encino Branch Libraries hosted an author talk with movement activity highlighting a recently released story, *Lupita's Brown Ballet Slippers* by Steena Hernandez. Ms. Hernandez is a local author and, with coordination by Latino Collection and Resource Center Program Manager Sarah De La Rosa, teamed up with local dancer Tanesha Payne.

On March 22 Children's Services and Central Library hosted Family Learn & Play Day. This was the fourth year the Library partnered with the City of San Antonio's Department of Human Services Head Start Program to host a special event for families of young children. Attendees engaged in child-led play, art, drumming, and gathering information from community partners. This was the first year to host at a Library instead of a park. The event brought in over 600 people, including many who had not been to Central Library before or in recent years.

### ***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.

## TEENS

This month, Teen Services focused on planning, outreach, volunteer recognitions and young poets: Teen Volunteers Teen Librarians completed "Active Volunteer" forms to inventory the number of teens donating time throughout the system. The count of active volunteers will help the Teen Engagement workgroup with distribution of teen volunteer branded water bottles to be distributed for upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Week.

Teen Services has participated with San Japan, an annual event celebrating Japanese culture, anime, gaming, and cosplay, since its inception in 2008. This event has since become one of the largest anime conventions in Texas. Teen Services will be represented on the San Japan Committee by Molly Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School Teen Librarian Sarah Phillips and Encino Branch Library Teen Librarian Elissa Vura.

Young Pegasus Poetry Competition judges completed their selection of poems for this year's anthology. Just under 1000 poems were considered for publication with a strong showing from teens in this year's submissions. Selected poets will be contacted via email, and a public announcement will be made during National Poetry Month in April. Work on the print anthology is underway in coordination with Giselle Weyte of Communications. The Young Pegasus Celebration will take place on Sunday, May 5.

Forty designs were submitted by teens for consideration for the 2025 teen summer t-shirt design. The image will appear on t-shirts and other promotional material for the teen portion of Summer with SAPL. Teens in all library locations, including Discord, will vote on their preferred design. This represents the 5th year teens will design and select the image to be used for their summer program. Voting concluded at the end of March and the selected design will be announced in May.

Teen Services' monthly meeting took place on Wednesday, March 19 at the Teen Library at Central. This month's training was conducted by Nohemi Lopez-Rosdahl from Collection Development and consisted of hands-on training for weeding and dealing with duplicate titles in the respective YA collections. The April Teen Services meeting will take place at Johnston Branch.

***These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals***

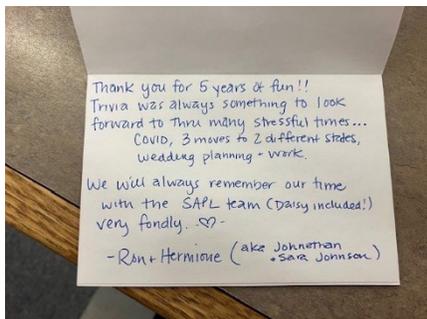
-  Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.
-  Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.
-  Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.
-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

## **ADULTS**

Pop Madness 2025 was held on Saturday, March 8, at Central Library and welcomed 2,750 attendees — a 60% increase from 2024 and a return to pre-pandemic attendance levels. The event featured 66 exhibitors and presenters, with consistent participation in all areas throughout the day. Highlights included a standing-room-only panel with actor and comedian Paul Scheer, whose meet-and-greet drew a line stretching across the second floor. The local film showcase at LaunchSA drew steady crowds. All three cosplay contests — tween, which was offered for the first time in 2025, teen, and adult — saw

enthusiastic participation and large audiences. Approximately 200 – 300 people lined up before the library opened, reflecting strong community anticipation. The Library’s Communications Office implemented an extensive promotional campaign, including local media appearances, social media outreach, and e-newsletters. The new addition of City of San Antonio Employee Volunteers helped provide added support throughout the day, contributing to the event’s energetic and well-received return.

SAPL Live Trivia concluded its nearly five-year run with a final online session on March 28, 2025.



*Thank you card a SAPL Live Trivia participant team that attended nearly every month throughout the almost 5 years that the program was offered.*

Launched in May 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the program was created by Brooke Mjolsness, Vicky Villalobos, Maria Adams, Dan Garcia, and Morgan Yoshimura as a virtual alternative to in-person events. Held monthly, it consistently drew both returning and new participants, offering a fun, engaging way for adults to connect. Even after in-person programming resumed, the event maintained strong attendance and community support. Over the years, the team created 249 themed trivia categories and celebrated annual anniversaries with loyal attendees. As staff capacity to support this program declined, the team made the tough decision to end the program. The final session featured 17 teams and a warm farewell, closing a well-loved chapter in SAPL’s virtual programming for adults.

### ***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.

## **OLDER ADULTS**

Molly Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School Adult Services Librarian Hannah Johnson led two offsite programs for older adults at the Walzem Family YMCA during March 2025. On March 12, she facilitated a book club discussion where attendees also voted on future reading selections. She returned on March 18 to lead a Spring Collage Cards arts and crafts session, providing supplies, creative examples, and themed books from the library’s collection. Library cards were also issued to participants interested in borrowing materials. These outreach efforts brought meaningful library engagement to older adults and addressed accessibility barriers caused by Pruitt’s limited weekday hours, which often make it difficult for this audience to attend onsite programs.

In March 2025, Parman Branch Library at Stone Oak continued hosting its popular weekly Qi Gong classes for older adults, held every Thursday at noon. Led by certified Qi Gong and Tai Chi instructor Catalina Gonzalez, these sessions promote stress relief, balance, and overall wellness through gentle, meditative movements. Open to all experience levels, the classes offer a welcoming space for older adults to stay active and engaged. This program reflects the library's ongoing commitment to offering diverse health and wellness opportunities that meet the needs of its community.

Karen Braeuler of the San Pedro Branch Library facilitated an offsite book club for older adults at Chandler Senior Living on Friday, March 7, 2025. The program allowed participants to engage in thoughtful literary discussion and receive distributed reading materials. Designed to support continued access to library services for individuals in residential communities, this initiative provided valuable enrichment for patrons who may face challenges in visiting a library location. The session demonstrated the library's dedication to connecting with older adults where they are and fostering community engagement through accessible, offsite programming.

***These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals***

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

Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernandez and Librarian Ashley Palacios organized all children’s activities for Pop Madness 2025. The highlights of the event were the bubble party on the West Terrace, the Tween Cosplay Contest and Heroes And Villains of Cosplay’s (HAVOC) Jedi Academy in the Story Room. They coordinated with Classical Music Institute, Goldfish Swim School, and Parks and Recreation to table the event and created the very popular Children’s Haunted Escape Room, as well as passive origami activities and photo ops. Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin’s popular weekly Family Story Time featured a pasta-themed program with an oversized bowl of “spaghetti and meatballs” for children to jump into!



*Family Story Time Pasta and Meatballs*



*Teen volunteers leading a Teen Tuesday cooking activity.*

The Teen Library continues to see an average of 60 teens after school on weekdays and teen regulars on Saturdays. As always, teens take ownership of the Teen Library by developing, leading, and engaging in activities that speak to their interests. During March, teens new to the Teen Library visited and participated in activities led by teen volunteers, such as making flower cakes and going on a scavenger hunt for 3D printed dice in the book stacks. In addition, an art class from Reagan High School visited the Central Library for a tour — particularly, to look at the Chihuly sculpture — after visiting Caliente Hot Glass studio. The students also received library cards.

Information Services Librarian Sheran Awe hosted a lively Spring Break Silent Disco program with fellow colleagues. Patrons enjoyed dancing, making glow-in-the-dark art, and playing Jenga. The program consisted of three different music genres: Throwback Hip-hop and R&B, Pop, and Disco. Eliza Perez and Valerie Saucedo from Information Services welcomed Ana Camacho Espiritu, co-founder and co-organizer of the San Anto Zine Fest, for a special Women's History Month takeover of Zine Lab Monthly. Espiritu's workshop explored uncommon practices in zine production, design, assemblage and distribution and showcased examples by different women. Patrons enjoyed making unique creations. Information Services staff Pannaga Prasad and Patricia Perez offered the program, “Explore Vegetarian Dishes: Make Yogurt, Yogurt Lassi & More”. The audience learned how to prepare cultural dishes through a live demonstration and savored yogurt lassi samples.



*Pop Madness Tween Cosplay Contest Winners*

Jordan Torres with Information Services and Sylvia Reyna with Texana/Genealogy hosted a recorded tour provided by Wowzitude for older adults. This month's journey took Central patrons across the pond to

Dublin, Ireland where Wowzitude's knowledgeable and humorous tour guide bestowed a wealth of facts about the city's history and people. Central Learn Adult Educator Daniel González and Library Assistant Francisco Rodriguez visited the San Antonio Clubhouse to provide a presentation on “How to Keep a Job” to the members of the Clubhouse. Adult Educator Denise Cadena continues weekly visits to Darner Senior Nutrition Center with two branch Adult Educators to provide technology help. The weekly Bilingual Computers y Creative Learning is an informal computer class taught by Daniel González and Learn Library Assistant Brianna Glass. The class is situated around the patron learner, highlighting their strengths, and using zines to capture what they learn during the class. One recurring patron has over twenty years of typewriting experience but was curious about how to use the mouse and navigate the internet. Over the course of four classes, she has shown progress in how expertly she navigates the internet.

***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.

## DISTRICT 1

### Landa Branch Library

One of the most popular areas of the Landa Branch Library is the quiet room, located on the second floor with several windows that overlook the Landa grounds. Over the past few months, Assistant Manager Robin Alcorta has listened to patron feedback regarding the furnishings inside the space. A common suggestion has been to provide softer “mood lighting” instead of the



*A child creates their original artwork at the art area in Landa's Children Room to be added to the art wall.*

overhead lighting currently in the room. Alcorta researched different options and moved a table lamp into the space, acquired a beautiful new standing chandelier lamp to match the aesthetics of the branch, and rearranged the seating and table arrangements to provide more versatile accommodations for patrons needing a peaceful space to read or work. The immediate positive feedback from patrons highlights the impact libraries can have when being attentive and responsive to patron suggestions, and reinforces the idea that libraries are here to serve the community.

During a patron’s first visit to the Landa Branch Library with her child, the patron was absolutely enthused to notice no computers in the Children’s Room. Having



*The new standing chandelier lamp in Landa's quiet room provides softer mood lighting for the space.*

visited other library locations, she expressed how much she loved all of the activities for children offered within the space that did not use technology – such as the art area, kitchen play table, and scavenger hunt.

***These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals***

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

### **San Pedro Branch Library**

To celebrate Women’s History Month at San Pedro Branch Library, staff featured a curated collection of titles focused on the accomplishments of women. The selections proved popular with the public as witnessed by the gradual shrinking of items on display. On March 8th, San Pedro Branch Library Assistant, Jared Thompson, organized a multi film viewing at the annual Pop Madness event. Thompson showcased local filmmakers across a variety of genres. Jared reported over 4,000 people attended, which was its biggest turn out since pre-COVID.

With the assistance of Access Services Manager, Sarah Linley, the San Pedro Branch Library installed new wayfinding signage throughout the building. The project incorporated new SAPL branding, increased consistency across locations, and improved the user experience. Re-designed signage at San Pedro included both adult and children’s areas. Additionally, staff revamped the community bulletin board to better showcase both library programs and community information. Staff also featured community resources for the public that included information on shelters, food, hygiene, and medical assistance.

***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.

### **Westfall Branch Library**

Westfall Branch Manager Machaia McClenny kicked off the first meeting of the San Antonio Public Library Silent Book Club chapter. This book club provides patrons the opportunity to be with other readers without the pressure of required reading or discussion. The book club will meet a different branch location every month, so that patrons can explore library locations around the city.

Teen Librarian Heather Swindell went to Jefferson High School to do outreach at their pre-historic themed art show. She coordinated with another Teen Services librarian to get button templates in dinosaur and fine art designs, took the button maker so that teens could make the button of their choosing, and offered teens the early opportunity to vote on this year's Teen Summer t-shirt design. Teens asked questions about the library, volunteering, and getting to select their button designs.



*San Antonio Public Library Silent Book Club*

***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.

## DISTRICT 2

### Carver Branch Library



*District 2 Trustee Jo Ann Harris stopping by Carver table at WEHR Women's Education wellness event.*

On Saturday, March 29, Carver Branch Library Children's Librarian Ralph Jarzombek, participated in free wellness event at St. Philip's College hosted by the Women's Educational & Healing Retreats (WEHR) in celebration of Women's History Month. The event offered free health services such as vision exams, mammograms, and fitness classes to give women — especially those in underserved communities — the access to care they deserve. Jarzombek provided event attendees with information about the library and services available through the City of San Antonio.

In March 2025, Carver was pleased to recognize the exceptional efforts of Teen Services Librarian Chris Castillo, who spearheaded the Teen Summer Workgroup's Teen T-Shirt Design Contest. This initiative attracted numerous submissions from talented teens, which were narrowed down to five outstanding finalists. Following a robust voting process that engaged several hundred teens across the library system, Teen Services was proud to announce that Lola Suffridge, age 18, was selected as the winner. Her artwork will be featured on exclusive t-shirts for teens, which will be available this summer at library branches while supplies last. This initiative not only

highlights a commitment to youth engagement but also showcases the vibrant creativity of San Antonio's young community artists.

***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.
- 📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.

**Molly Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School**

The Molly Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School partnered with the Roosevelt High School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and their school librarian to create a "de-stress" event for their students. The



*A group of older adults participating in a SAPL program at the YMCA.*

library provided giant chess and Connect Four for students to play during their lunch breaks. Alongside other booths and activities, we created a space for students to relax and de-stress before state testing began. This event was impactful for the students because we provided a safe and relaxed environment for them to reduce their stress surrounding testing.

In March, the Molly Pruitt Library launched a collaboration with the Walzem Family YMCA by offering two weekday morning programs specifically designed for older adults. Pruitt Library staff facilitated both a book club and a spring-themed collage card craft at the Walzem Family YMCA. This collaboration enables the Pruitt staff to adapt to our unique branch location hours by offering adult programs on weekday mornings while the library building is closed. Pruitt staff have additional programs planned at the Walzem Family YMCA in the months ahead and are very excited to see this relationship grow!

***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.

**Schaefer Branch Library**



*Service dog Molly poses with Schaefer birthday piñata.*

Schaefer Branch Library turned eight on March 25. The Schaefer Branch Library Friends of the Public Library group provided cookies and two piñatas to celebrate the occasion. Among the patrons that posed with the piñata, was Molly, a service dog that participates in Schaefer Branch Library's Read to a Dog program.

The library is continuing its weekly Teen Time on Tuesday nights, where teens are encouraged to gather and participate in different activities of their choosing, such as painting, jewelry making, and game nights. The welcoming and friendly environment the teens have cultivated has resulted in a steady growth of participation and attendance, with numbers regularly reaching double-digits.

***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.



*Schaefer birthday display*

## DISTRICT 3

### McCreless Branch Library

March held the inaugural meeting of the Monday Mayhem Book Club at McCreless Branch. Book club participants discussed the month's mystery selection, "This Is Why We Lied" by Karin Slaughter. While the group talked about themes in the book, they began a crafting project that will eventually carry into future meetings. The extended goal will be personalized miniature reading rooms with a bookcase to hold miniature copies of book club selections. The group is excited about the next meeting with one saying she, "Highly recommends this monthly book club to all readers of mystery books."

Adult Education Program Manager Michelle Rickman and Learn at McCreless Branch Library Training Officers Christina Flores and Lodie Mueller made a site visit to Divine Women, a non-profit located in a small house four minutes from McCreless Library which serves, empowers, and builds community with neighborhood women, as well as with women from anywhere in San Antonio. Divine Women Program Director Angelina Guajardo provided a delightful tour and orientation to the program, which falls under the umbrella of Form Communities, Inc. Divine Women's free services include a clothes closet, financial education, interview training, life skill training, mental healthcare, resume building, and a support network. With so much overlap between Divine Women's and Learn at SAPL's vision and goals, Angelina Guajardo, Lodie Mueller, and Christina Flores are excited to develop creative ways to partner together in collaborative service to the local community!



*The Monday Mayhem Book Club proudly shows their miniature 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.
- 📖 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.

**Mission Branch Library**

On March 29, the Friends of the Mission Library hosted a program, “Gardening for Texas Fireflies: Glowing, Glowing, Gone” presented by Firefly Conservation & Research. The program began outside in the Community Garden, then attendees went inside the library for the lecture portion, and lastly returned outside to the garden. Thankfully, the weather was beautiful that day and there were approximately 25 participants.



*Rocks painted by McCollum High School students.*

Teen Services Librarian, Cindy Cruz, paid a visit to McCollum High School during March. Cindy partnered with National Honor Society and hosted a program for the students from the high school. Teens worked together afterschool to paint rocks which will decorate Mission Library's rock garden, thereby creating a way for teens to contribute to the beauty of their community library.

***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.

**Pan American Branch Library**

Pan American Branch Library hosted the Metropolitan Health District’s Sexually Transmitted Infection Mobile Clinic. Clinic staff set up in the Pan American Branch Library parking lot under a tent and welcomed walk-in patrons, providing testing for 12 and information for several more. This interaction shows the cultivation of a portfolio of partnerships to extend the library’s reach in the community.

In March, Children’s Librarian Rachel Forbes and Teen Librarian Gladys Nuñez collaborated on introducing a new program, “Blast from the Past.” Blast from the Past is a movie program geared towards giving parents an opportunity to introduce their children to the nostalgic films from their own childhoods. Recent titles include, “The Parent Trap,” “Honey, I Shrunk the Kids,” and “Matilda”.

***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 4**

### **Cortez Branch Library**

It was a month of outreach for Cortez Branch Library Children's Librarian Linda Childs. South San ISD again invited Cortez and Pan American Branch Libraries to be part of their Careers on Wheels event. This year's event was outside while a blustery front blew in, but the librarians were undeterred and still talked to approximately 500 children about library life. A few days later, Childs attended the Spicewood Elementary Comicon. While present at the event, she talked to roughly 150 children and adults about the library. Finally, Childs attended the penultimate Read to the Final Four event at Harmony School of Science. She not only read "Chester Van Chime Who Forgot How to Rhyme," by Avery Monsen, she also got to announce one of the four finalists and speak to local media about the importance of early childhood literacy.

Cortez Branch Library continues to hold impactful teen programs which allow teens use their space and form community with their peers. The library's Young Adult (YA) collection encourages patrons to interact with the mysterious "blind date" book displays. This allows patrons to borrow books without knowing their titles, while giving them a chance to keep the specially designed book covers they are wrapped in. During spring break, Cortez Teen Services Librarian Ciana Flores invited teens to celebrate Pi Day on March 14, by sampling a variety of pies in honor of the mathematical constant. Cortez Branch Library also hosted a teen program to celebrate National Noodle month, where teens stopped by to customize their own ramen bowls.

***These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals***

- 📖 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.
- 📖 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.

## **Johnston Branch Library**

Johnston Branch Library has many familiar faces that regularly attend the branch’s programs, including the weekly Let’s Create: Craft Time program. In this program an art prompt is set on the tables for children and their caregivers to do. They can follow the prompt or work creatively with the supplies provided. Many of the children find joy in being able to create with the provided art supplies that they might have otherwise not had at their disposal. As an alternative to taking their projects home, children are allowed to hang their finished projects out in the main library for patrons to see. Some families enjoy creating something as a group and putting it out for the community to enjoy, allowing the library to showcase a wide range of community artwork.

Johnston Branch Library started a “Magic: The Gathering” program in March. Magic: The Gathering is a tabletop — and now digital — collectable card game that first began in 1993. The program was created and hosted in joint effort by Teen Librarian Ana Piña and Library Assistant Ella Mertz. The program aims to bring together players of all levels of experience from the ages of 13 and up. The wide range of experience and age will allow for people to gather learn, interact, and gain new experiences through a mutual love of Magic: The Gathering. The first event was held on March 14th with a “Bring Your Own Card” policy. In addition, the library provided a small selection of cards available for participants to use on a first-come first-served basis from the library’s own collection. Ms. Piña and Mr. Mertz intend to continue the program into the following months.

### ***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 5**

### **Bazan Branch Library**

Bazan Branch Library patron Mr. Francisco Becerril had been unemployed for several months when he visited the Learn at Bazan. Discouraged by unsuccessful job applications, he was looking for help. Adult Educator Carlos Loera met with him and together they sat down to map out a job search plan which included writing a resume, and mock interviews. Mr. Loera also encouraged him to apply for a job with the City of San Antonio. With the help of Learn at Bazan staff, Mr. Becerril persistence and hard work were rewarded when he was hired the Convention Center’s facilities department.

Library Assistant Enedina lent a hand at Pop Maness where she helped staff the Swifties table where super fans of Taylor Swift and Swiftie adjacent fans could enjoy bracelet-making, coloring, and a fun photo op. Dozens of families and fans stopped by to participate, connect, and learn about the exciting programs and community the library offers. Several attendees at Pop Madness later joined the March Swiftie Meet-Up, Swift and Paint, at the Bazan branch where they enjoyed a relaxing evening of creativity, music, and community, complete with snacks and all the painting supplies needed. The

highlight of the program was witnessing families singing along to every Taylor Swift song played, making it a truly memorable and fun experience.

***These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals***

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

### **Collins Garden Branch Library**

Award-winning educator, artist and storyteller Amy Bluemel was invited to Collins Garden Branch Library on March 8 to share her wonderful stories about the Chickasaw nation’s history, language, and culture and those of other Native American peoples. The storytelling was further enhanced by the interesting artifacts she shared while telling the stories. Everyone had a great time, with many attendees sharing positive feedback about the presentation.

In March, Collins Garden Branch Library Children’s Librarian Gina Brudi visited several neighborhood elementary schools including Collins Garden Elementary, Margil, and JT Brackenridge, reading to all their preschool classrooms. Back at the library, a memorable moment occurred when a little boy approached her and asked, “did you read to my school.” She asked him what school he attended, but he wasn’t sure. When asked if she had done the “Two Little Birds” hand rhyme, he answered enthusiastically, “Yes!” With some help from his mom, it was confirmed that it was an outreach visit she had done the previous year at his preschool, and he was now a kindergartner at Hillcrest Elementary School.

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

### **Las Palmas Branch Library**

This month, Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) invited Las Palmas staff to showcase a small but significant collection of books highlighting the life and legacy of prominent Civil Rights Leader and LULAC founder, Alonso S. Perales. The curated selection of books, borrowed from the Central Library’s Latino Collection and Resource Center (LCRC) was well received by participants and sparked thoughtful questions about LCRC. OLLU staff expressed their appreciation by tagging the San Antonio



*Alonso S. Perales Collection*

Public Library on social media platforms and extended their gratitude for the library’s participation. Las Palmas Library continues to strengthen its connection with OLLU community and looks forward to continued collaboration in the future.



*Westside Resource Fair*

This month, Las Palmas library staff participated in an outreach event, “Westside Resource Fair & Tree Giveaway,” hosted by the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department. During the event, they shared library resources, promoted upcoming library programs, and handed out library-themed buttons. Staff also encouraged community to visit the library’s interim site — just steps away from the outreach event — to sign up for library cards and browse the small but thoughtfully curated collection of books and DVDs. The event also provided a valuable

opportunity to engage with the community and hear their genuine interest and excitement about reconnecting with the library this year. The goal of building meaningful connections with the community was successfully achieved.

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

## **Memorial Branch Library**

Daniel Gomez is the Adult Educator for Memorial Branch Library’s Learn at SAPL. While he is busy teaching patrons how to use computers, build resumes, apply for jobs, and learn both English and Spanish, he has taken the initiative to help his Memorial colleagues improve their Spanish language skills. Each Wednesday morning, all interested staff members gather in the main area of the branch for a 30-minute session which focuses on basic Spanish grammar and vocabulary common to the library setting. Every session gives the team more tools to handle the needs of Spanish-speaking patrons. This will enable them to provide better service and develop deeper connections to all patrons.

***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.

## DISTRICT 6

### Great Northwest Branch Library

The Great Northwest Branch Library Teen Program included some fun and imaginative activities planned and implemented by the teens participating in Teen Time. Teens were inspired by Mardi Gras and created Mardi Gras themed programs for each week. The monthly Sew What club made New Orleans inspired voodoo dolls and cat toys out of fabric, felt, and even clay. Teen volunteers planned a Murder at Mardi Gras Mystery Dinner Theatre event, and it was a big hit.

On March 26, Teen Service Librarian Lisa Puchot was invited to attend the Return of Nerdvana Con at Brennan High School. This literacy event celebrates all fandoms, including comic books, manga, and pop culture. Lisa represented San Antonio Public Library and provided information on library resources for Teens and a button making craft table for attendees to make their own buttons.

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

### Guerra Branch Library

On March 22, Guerra Branch Library Children's Librarian attended Family Play and Learn event presented at the Central Library in partnership with the City of San Antonio's Department of Human Services Head Start. Ms. Lopez hosted a craft table for children and their caregivers. The children enjoyed creating robots using construction paper, stickers, markers, and glue sticks. On March 29, Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson along with Central Info Services Librarian Cynthia DeLeon offered a San Antonio Public Library information table for participants at the City of San Antonio City Manager's 5K Walk/Run event at Sea World, San Antonio. Here, he answered questions from city employees and their families about all the wonderful services offered at library locations.

Although almost all city employees are aware of libraries in their neighborhoods, many were not aware of the full range of services offered at the library. They were delighted to learn about Kanopy, Libby, tutoring and the range of available databases.



*Family Play and Learn*

On March 16, Guerra Branch Library hosted a new program, “Relax and Recharge at the Library”. The program was facilitated by Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson. At the one-hour event, Adults and Older Adults enjoyed trivia, adult coloring, tea and coffee, and conversation. Attendees enquired about a repeat of the program as they shared that it was very relaxing and enjoyable.

***These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals***



*Relax and Recharge at the Library*

- 📖 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.

## **Potranco Branch Library**

Teen participation at Potranco Branch Library continues to be vibrant, with weekly Teen Time an example of how library programming builds community. Attendees come from various educational backgrounds and include multiple homeschooled teens and students from at least six different high schools in three different school districts. Teen Time gives teens an opportunity to interact with peers outside their usual circle. Teens sometimes even seek further connection by sharing contact information and planning get togethers outside the library. This type of community building is especially impactful to individuals that are new to San Antonio. For example, one Teen Time volunteer recently moved to the United States of America and is an English language learner. One of her express purposes for volunteering at the library is to strengthen her language skills. She has become an integral part of Teen Time, gaining enough confidence in her communication skills to teach card games from her home country to the group.

In March, Potranco Branch Library began offering a program called Inner Peace for Teens. This program provides an alternative to the oftentimes boisterous Teen Time, providing a quieter, meditative atmosphere for teens to gather and decompress after school. Soft music, muted lighting, and scented diffused oil set the mood, and attendees can choose from activities like coloring books, watercolors, or guided meditations. A teen volunteer initiated the program after seeing a need among her peers for a time and place to just “be,” where teens can socialize or not, but still feel supported and included. The volunteer leading the program plans to attend college next fall in hopes of becoming a child psychologist. This new program provides her an opportunity to share her interests and skills while promoting mental health among young people. For the Potranco community, it provides a way for introverted or introspective teens to engage with the library and each other.

***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

On March 7, Children's Services Librarian Ana Menchaca attended the Esparza Elementary Career Day, where she talked about her work as a librarian and told stories to the students. Later that day, one of the students brought her parent to Forest Hills to get a library card because she was so excited to learn about checking out books.

Forest Hills Branch Library has recently become home to an adult sensory fiber group; they meet weekly to knit, crochet, or work on any other textile art together in the Collaborate Space. Previously the group had met at a few different branches, but the Collaborate Space here turned out to be exactly what they needed because it gave them some dampening of the sounds of the library and the ability to turn down the lighting. They also collaborate with branch manager Mary Naylor, who runs a biweekly program focused on fiber arts.

#### ***These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals***

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

### Maverick Branch Library

Children love visiting the library for the books, exciting programs, and using the computers. Young children enjoy returning library items in the circulation book drop. The excitement of depositing finished books in the return box and hearing the sound as the book falls brings a sense of accomplishment and the adventure of checking out more books. Recently, staff began to decorate the circulation book drop of various characters such as a friendly green frog and even a smiling shark with its pearly whites exposed — one the most popular book drop displays thus far. Circulation Attendant Juniper Wright, who led the recent display, along with the circulation team decorated the book drop with Pikachu. The welcoming image has received lots of positive feedback. Sometimes the book drop display will jump start a conversation as customers are entering into the library.



*Pikachu Book Drop Display*

The Maverick Branch Library Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Group hosted the Maverick Branch Library's Used Book Sale in March. The Maverick Branch Library's Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Group's support, generosity, and dynamic work led to a successful bi-annual used sale event, in which 60 boxes of used books were sold. Prior to the book sale, many customers kindly donated countless boxes of personal collections to support the upcoming book sale event. This is an impactful event for Maverick Library because of the tremendous support from the community and Maverick Friends. It is satisfying to know the library has the support from the community.

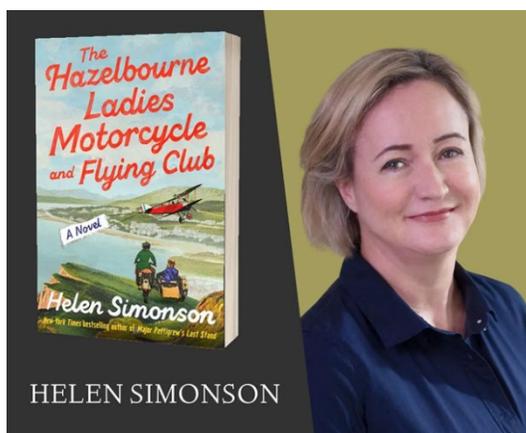
***These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals***

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

## DISTRICT 8

### Cody Branch Library

On March 14, the Cody Branch Library Friends with Fiction Book Club were delighted to have author Helen Simonson join them via Zoom to discuss her book, "The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club", the reading selection for March. Club member Diana Sanchez began the discussion by introducing the group and regaled how much the members enjoyed March's chosen title. All members had the opportunity to ask questions to Simonson regarding the book. Simonson explained how she grows her characters, how she develops ideas for her books, her editing process, themes, and the background research she does to accurately write historical fiction, among other things. One participant asked if she has a choice who reads for her audiobooks. Simonson stated that at one point, she thought she could narrate, but the editor kindly dissuaded her. She was sent samples of different voice overs for the narration and selected the best for her book. In the end, it was an enjoyable experience which kept members looking forward to the next gathering. The Friends with Fiction group is one of five book clubs available at Cody, where readers can meet new friends while exploring new titles. While the Friends with Fiction group reads a variety of genres, patrons who prefer mystery titles can join the Mystery Book Club. The Friday and Saturday book clubs also read a variety of fiction titles, both new and backlist titles, while the You Don't Say group reads nonfiction titles, covering biographies, true crime, and historical events.

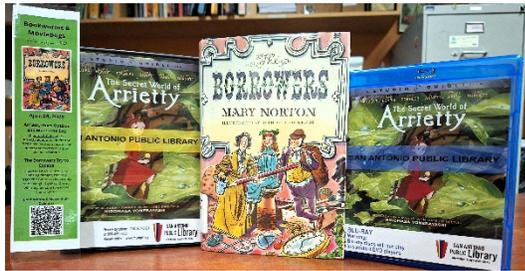


*Helen Simonson*

**These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals**

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

**Igo Branch Library**



*The selections for next month's Bookworms & Moviebugs Club*

Igo Branch Library kicked off a brand-new book club — with a twist! Each month, the Bookworms & Moviebugs Club meets to consider the age-old question: is the book always better than the movie? Specific scenes and passages are highlighted for review, but the conversation can go beyond these selections. This month, the club read Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*, and patrons had the option of watching Kenneth Branagh's 2017 adaptation, Sidney Lumet's 1974 film, or both. Club members discussed how filmmakers adapted the 1934 novel for modern audiences, the real-life crime that inspired Christie, and who they would cast in their own dream version of the film. In April, the club will read *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton and watch its anime adaptation, *The Secret World of Arrietty*. Altogether, the Igo Library now offers seven different book clubs for patrons to enjoy.

Preschool Story Time attendees were treated to a very special art project in March, themed around “The Yellow Bus” by Loren Long. This picture book portrays the life cycle of a school bus, showing the many ways that the vehicle can be reused and repurposed. Library Assistant Nicole Jacob read the book aloud to a group of 63 attendees — 36 children and 27 adults — and then the project was revealed. Igo Library Aide Antoinette Rosalez drew the outline of a school bus on white butcher paper. The preschoolers worked on a shared canvas, using crayons and dot markers to fill in the bus as a group. The end result was a colorful and unique piece of art that will be prominently displayed in the children's area of Igo.



*Young patrons at Preschool Story Time collectively color a large school bus.*

**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



Bradley Middle School Students at Outreach event

Brook Hollow Library Children's Librarian Catherine Robbins visited Bradley Middle School's library during a lunch time in March to facilitate a dragon craft and to tell students about the upcoming Summer with SAPL Program. Students in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th used chenille sticks; craft sticks; scissors; googly eyes and foam board to craft a mini dragon for their desks or backpacks.

#### ***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.
- 📖 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.
- 📖 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.

### Encino Branch Library

In March, Encino Branch Library families participated in a painting program in which they learned step by step instruction on how to paint a llama. This program was instructed by Adult Services Librarian Ann Laird.

Teen Librarian Elissa Vura promoted the Escape the Earth podcast at SAPL's Pop Madness pop cultural convention on March 8. She was able to connect with convention goers throughout the day, engaging them in discussion about their favorite science fiction and fantasy reads as well as introducing them to new reads in the library's collection. Visitors were also able to pick up a limited edition Escape the Earth poster. The Escape the Earth podcast is a sci-fi and fantasy podcast created and produced by a small team of library staff. The podcast's 45 episodes include discussions of titles and author interviews from a diverse range of voices in the science fiction and fantasy genres. Episodes, transcripts, upcoming reads, and more can be found on the Escape the Earth LibGuide.



Step by Step Painting at Encino-Paint a Llama!

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

**Parman Branch Library at Stone Oak**

In celebration of SAPL Women’s History Month, the Parman Branch hosted a powerful and inspiring panel event honoring accomplished women from our community. The panelists included university professors, medical professionals, artists, and writers who shared deeply personal stories of perseverance, resilience, and success. One standout speaker was a young woman with special needs who, recently opened the city’s first café of its kind — with a goal of creating employment opportunities specifically for individuals with disabilities. Her story was equally inspiring and emotionally powerful, leaving a lasting impression on the audience. The



*Parman Branch Library Women of Achievement Panel & Award Presentation.*

room was filled with engaged attendees, and the energy was both heartfelt and uplifting. Audience members had the opportunity to ask questions and connect with the panelists, who each received a custom 3D-printed award crated by Parman staff. The event received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with many guests requesting similar programs at Parman in the future.

***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.
- 📖 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

Many times, over the past few months, Semmes Branch Library patrons have expressed their interest for the branch through inquiries about on-going renovations. The status of the patio is of great interest; and many hope that it will reopen soon.

A wildly popular activity at Semmes is the monthly Plant Swap, where patrons can bring their cuttings, seeds, and unused pots to trade with others. When patrons who seem interested in plant swaps are told about this, their eyes light up and they immediately see if they can attend the next plant swap.

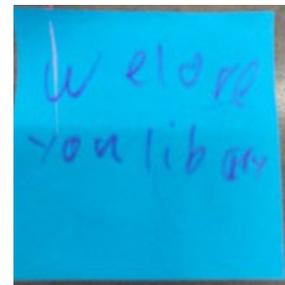
#### ***These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals***

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

### Thousand Oaks Branch Library

On March 27, a representative from the Bexar County Appraisal District (BCAD) gave a presentation titled “Understanding Your Property Appraisal.” The representative discussed the types of home exemptions, who qualifies and how to apply for them. Also discussed was how the BCAD calculates home property taxes, how to appeal them and what to expect during the appeal. This program was impactful to attendees. At the end of the program, multiple attendees expressed appreciation and new found comfort on the property tax process.

The Thousand Oaks Library held a Post-It Collaborative Art program this month. This collaborative art program encouraged teamwork and cooperation through taking turns, discussing ideas, and making decisions; social and emotional learning through empathy, patience, and respect for different ideas; and self-expression through creativity. Children feel connected to the library when they return and see their artwork on display. One young artist expressed affection for the library on a Post-it note that read, “We Love You, Library.”



*Post-it note created by young patron.*

#### ***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.

## Tobin Branch Library at Oakwell

Children's Librarian Lisa Ramirez coordinated an exciting event for children and families over spring break called STEAMfest. This event drew over 150 people to the library, and included a presentation from The Science Guys, skeleton exploration with Wildlife Rehabilitation Inc., hands-on art creation with the Girl Scouts, and a robotics demonstration from MacArthur High School students. Ramirez brought these groups together for one large event, came up with supplemental science and art activities for children to explore, and recruited additional help from other branches to support the program.



*Families enjoyed a hands-on robotics demonstration from MacArthur High School students at STEAMfest.*



*The Girl Scouts provided art-making opportunities for families at STEAMfest.*

### ***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.

## V. MEDIA

Mar. – Multiple outlets reported throughout March on Pop Madness.

Mar. – Multiple outlets reported on San Antonio Public Library branches as voting sites for the upcoming election.

Mar. – Multiple outlets reported on free events hosted at San Antonio Public Library locations during Spring Break.

Mar. – Multiple outlets reported on the San Antonio Book Festival author lineup festival.

Mar. – Multiple outlets reported on the San Antonio Public Library closure in observance of Cesar Chavez Day.

Mar. 1 – Multiple outlets reported on a free pop-up vaccine clinic at the Cortez Branch Library.

Mar. 3 – KSAT reported on the Brook Hollow Branch Library being selected for onsite solar.

Mar. 5 – Multiple outlets reported on the San Antonio Public Library’s various activities celebrating Women’s History Month.

Mar. 6 – Good Morning San Antonio reported on the free weekend events at libraries.

Mar. 10 – Multiple outlets reported on an event being held at Jonston Branch Library for veterans and veteran’s dependents.

Mar. 18 – The Paisano, the student newspaper at UTSA, published an article showcasing the Plantcestors exhibit that was on display at Central Library during the month of March.

Mar. 20 – KSAT 12 published an article regarding the executive order on the IMLS and the article included the official statement by the San Antonio Public Library.

Mar. 22 – Multiple outlets published articles regarding an incident of assault that took place outside the Central Library in the middle of the night.

Mar. 23 – KENS5 published an article about the first meeting of the SAPL Silent Book Club.

Mar. 24 – KSAT 12 published an article about a program and display at Central Library.

Mar. 25 – Texas Public Radio published an article and aired segments on San Antonio Public Library’s continued monitoring of proposed cuts to the IMLS. Retired Library Director Ramiro Salazar was interviewed for the segment.

Mar. 27 – San Antonio Report published an article about Launch SA and included that the Central Library is Launch SA’s new home.

Mar. 31 – San Antonio Express News published an article on the update of the police presence program at Central Library.

Mar. 31 – GO Magazine published an article mentioning the San Antonio Public Library’s work helping LGBTQ+ organizations keep LGBTQ+ books on the shelves.