

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## SEPTEMBER 2024

*prepared for the  
Library Board of Trustees*



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

# INTERIM LIBRARY DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

## System-wide Highlights

September marks National Library Card Sign-Up Month, and the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) celebrated by unveiling seven exclusive, limited-edition library card designs inspired by local culture and traditions. To boost the number of active SAPL cardholders, the library launched a comprehensive marketing campaign, running from September through October 2024. The campaign is strategically aimed at non-library users, utilizing advertising platforms like billboards and paid social media to reach a wider audience. SAPL's goal is to register at least 15,000 new cardholders during this period.

The San Antonio Public Library celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a variety of activities, including Lotería, dance classes, crafts, art exhibits, and author talks. Hispanic Heritage Month, observed from September 15 to October 15, is a time to honor the rich heritage, vibrant cultures, and significant contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

## Interim Library Director Activities

Interim Library Director Kathy Donellan

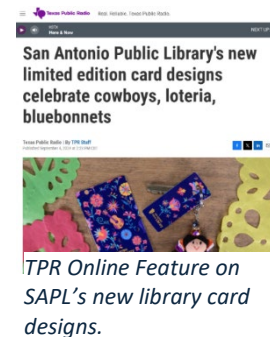
- presented the Library's FY 2025 Budget to the Mayor and City Council on September 3, 2024
- met with the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Executive Director, Amy Hone on September 10 and 24, 2024
- attended the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's Board meeting at the Westfall Branch Library on September 18, 2024
- met with the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library leadership on September 20, 2024
- met the Mexican General Consulate Rubén Minutti Zanatta and his staff on October 8, 2024

## Performance Highlights:

Over 9.5 million library materials have been checked out this fiscal year, which exceeds the FY24 target by 10% and is 1.2 million more compared to the same time period last year. Over 2.1 million hours of technology use have occurred, which is slightly below the year-to-date target by 3% and 42 thousand less hours compared to the same time period last year. Starting in June 2024, several wireless access points were replaced and as a result the new devices are reporting less use. SAPL is actively working with the City's IT Department to validate data. The number of in-person library visits for the year to date is over 2.7 million, which is under target by 10% and down from the same time period last year. Overall, in person visits have not returned to pre-COVID levels.

## Media Highlights:

Several outlets reported on San Antonio Public Library's new library card designs in September. The news was carried by every major broadcast station in San Antonio and numerous online news outlets. Marketing Manager Scott Williams participated in a segment on SA Live to promote the new cards on September 17.



# I. Key Performance Indicators - Summary

Fiscal Year 2024, October 2023 to September 2024

## Circulation: Goal



## FY 2024 to date Items Borrowed



9,520,761

(+10.06%)  
Circulation

## Visits: Goal



## FY 2024 to date Library Visits



2,733,134

(-10.13%)  
Visits

## Digital Access: Goal



## FY 2024 to date Digital Access



302,725

Hours of Computer Use



1,809,646

Hours of Wi-Fi Use

2,112,371

(-3.48%)  
Hours of Technology Use

# Key Performance Indicators - Circulation

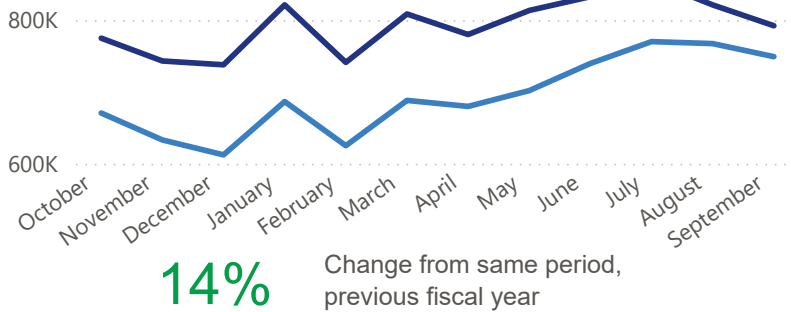
Fiscal Year 2024, October 2023 to September 2024

## FY24 year to date Total Circulation

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

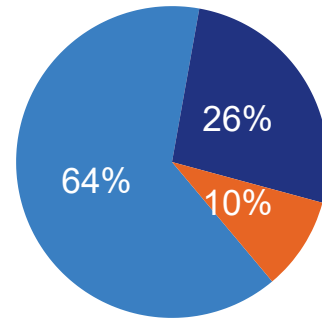
9,520,761

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



## FY24 to date total circulation by service area

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

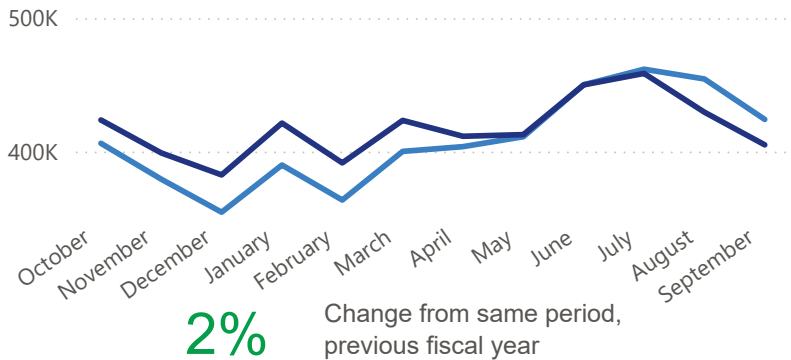


## FY24 year to date Physical Circulation

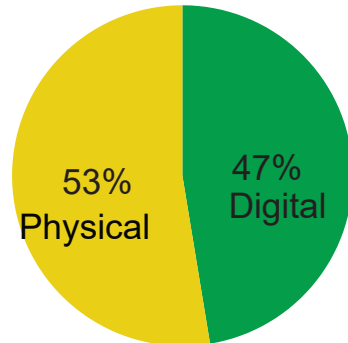
The number of checkouts and renewals of physical library materials.

5,007,827

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



## FY24 to date total circulation by type

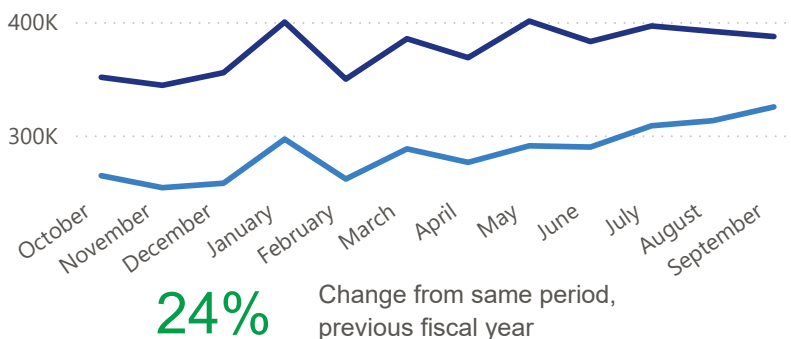


## FY24 year to date Digital Circulation

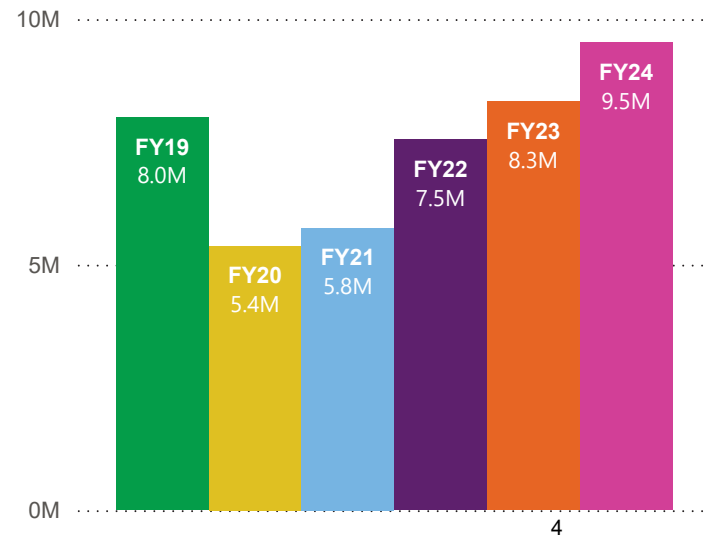
The number of checkouts, downloads, views and plays of electronic library materials.

4,512,934

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



## Year to date total circulation comparison

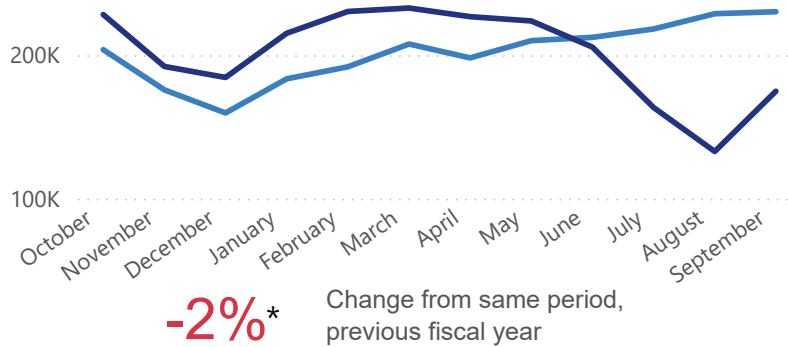


## FY24 year to date Hours of Technology

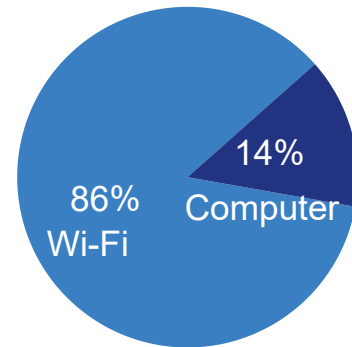
The total number of hours of technology used from both public computers and public Wi-Fi.

2,112,371

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



## FY24 to date Technology Use by type

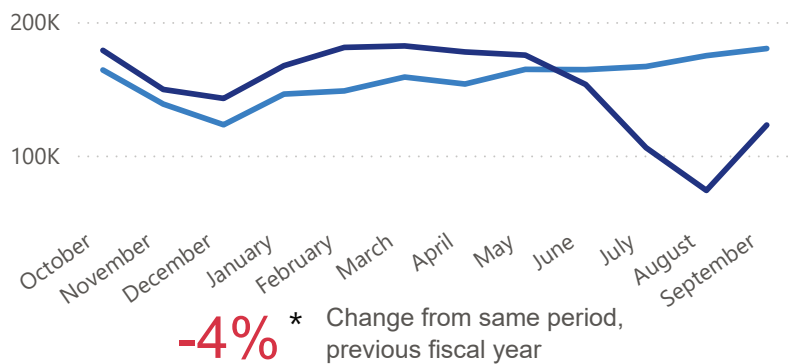


## FY24 year to date Wi-Fi Hours

The number of hours public Wi-Fi was used.

1,809,646

FY ● FY23 ● FY24

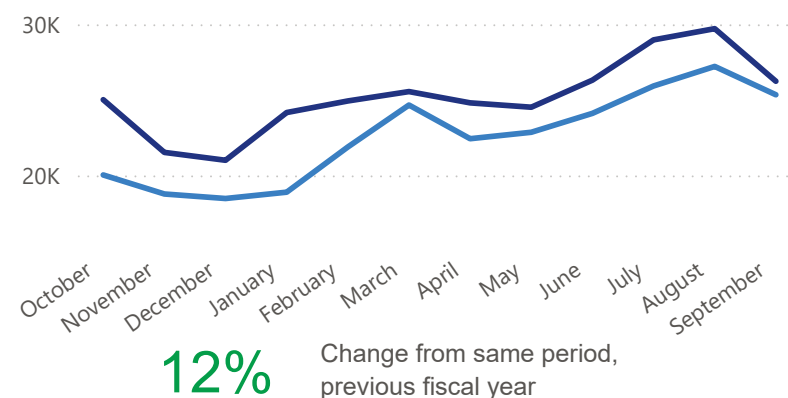


## FY24 year to date Computer Hours

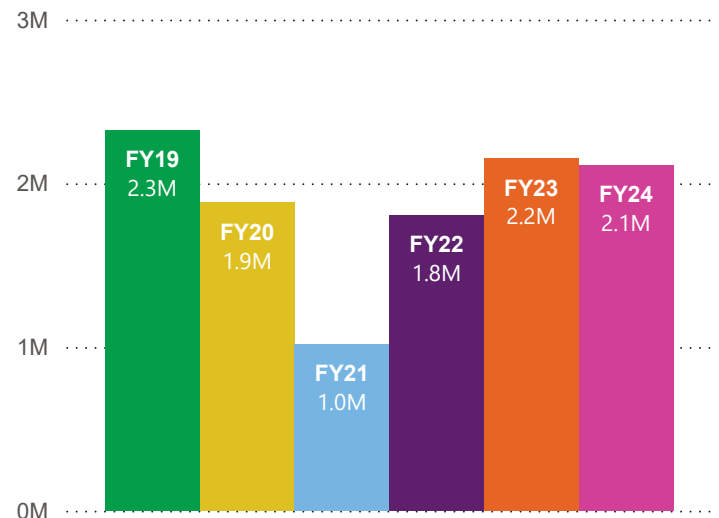
The number of hours public computers were used.

302,725

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



## Year to date Technology Use comparison



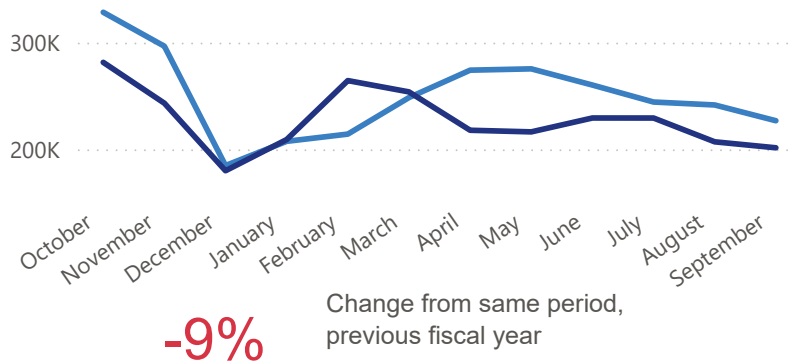
\* Note, beginning in June 2024 through rest of fiscal year 2024, several wireless access points were replaced and SAPL is working with City's IT Department to validate the data.

## FY24 year to date Visits

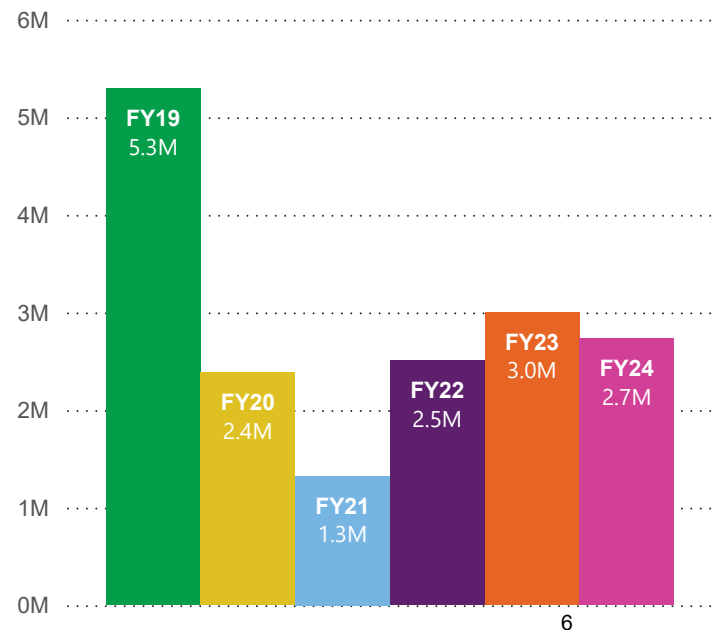
The number of visits (physically) at any library location reported annually to Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

2,733,134

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



## Year to date Visits comparison



## Fiscal Year 2024 location closures:

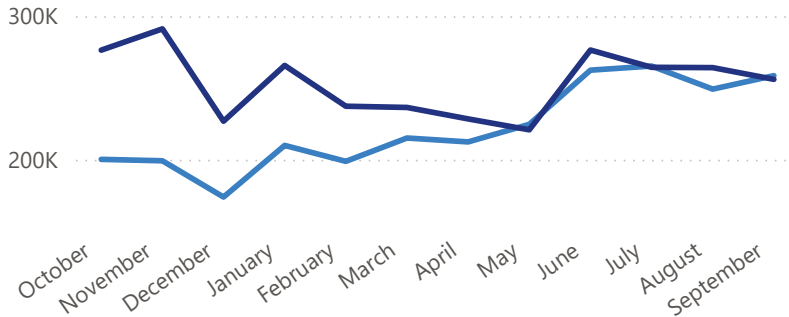
- Maverick October 1, 2023 - October 8, 2023
- Great Northwest October 1, 2023 - October 15, 2023
- Las Palmas October 1, 2023 - TBD
- Guerra October 1, 2023 - December 3, 2023
- Bazan April 29, 2024 - June 10, 2024
- Johnston May 20, 2024 - TBD
- Igo August 5, 2024 - TBD
- Pan American August 5, 2024 - 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.

3,043,382

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



14%

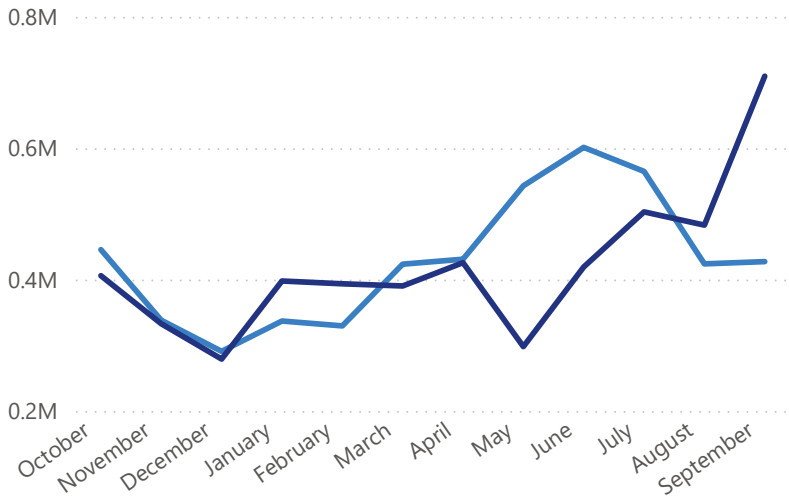
Change from same period, previous fiscal year

## FY24 year to date impressions

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

5,037,042

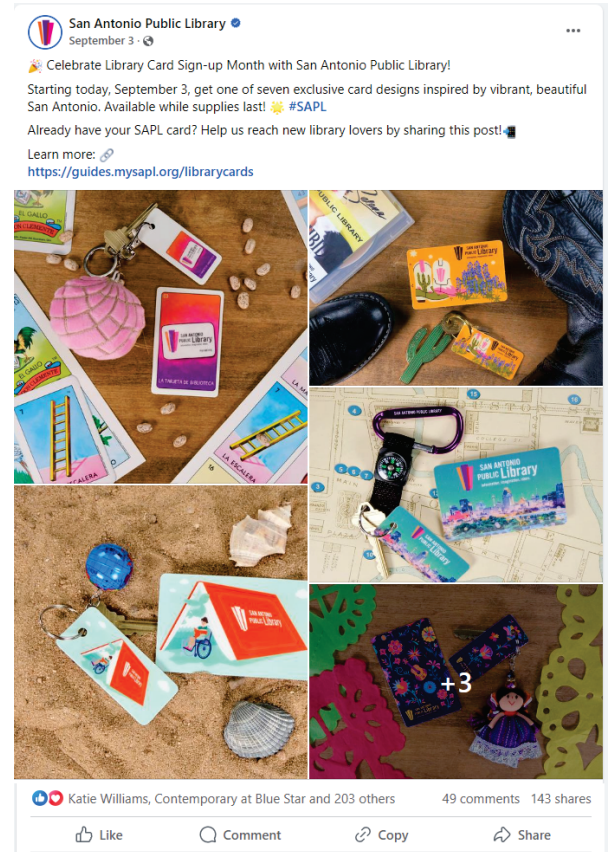
FY ● FY23 ● FY24



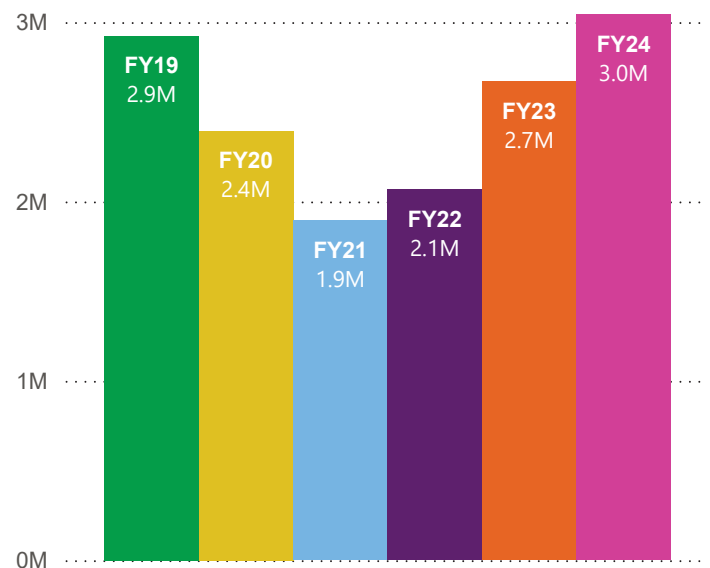
-2%

Change from same period, previous fiscal year

Most engaged post on SAPL social media profiles in September 2024



## Year to date virtual engagement comparison



## Fiscal year to date program comparison

### Total Programs

**12,256**

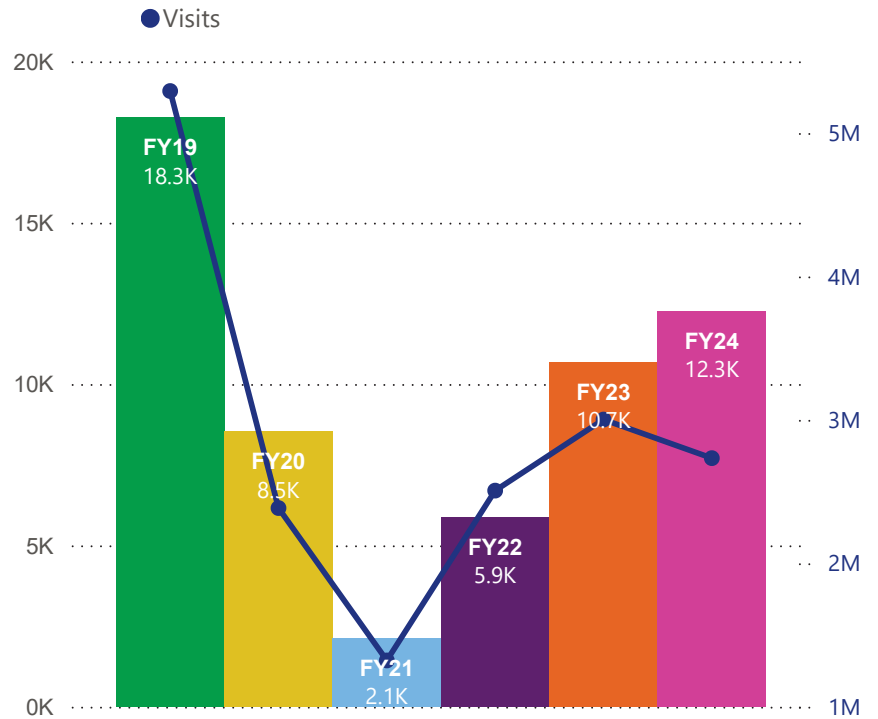
Total Programs

**225,596**

Total Attendance

**8%**

Change from same period,  
previous fiscal year



### Early Literacy (0-5)

**2,850**

Programs

**81,633**

Attendance

### School Age (6-12)

**2,504**

Programs

**63,872**

Attendance

### Teens (13-18)

**2,636**

Programs

**23,866**

Attendance

### Adults (19+)

**2,754**

Programs

**23,832**

Attendance

### Older Adults (60+)

**758**

Programs

**8,586**

Attendance

### General Interest\*

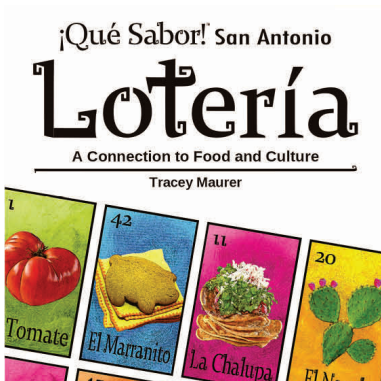
**754**

Programs

**23,807**

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

## September 2024 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
<b>Bazan</b>	2,356	6,186	4,974	1,580	3,394
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	24,476	7,336	5,056	925	4,131
<b>Carver</b>	2,262	4,165	3,148	954	2,194
<b>Central</b>	31,281	23,754	34,846	7,285	27,561
<b>Cody</b>	29,361	12,150	6,930	1,005	5,925
<b>Collins Garden</b>	3,773	4,889	3,254	666	2,588
<b>Cortez</b>	6,100	6,955	2,311	451	1,860
<b>Digital</b>	387,180	0	0	0	0
<b>Encino</b>	20,977	8,293	4,132	207	3,925
<b>Forest Hills</b>	5,422	2,805	2,312	318	1,994
<b>Great Northwest</b>	28,903	10,065	4,818	666	4,152
<b>Guerra</b>	8,875	6,484	3,096	712	2,384
<b>Igo</b>	13,391	836	790	0	790
<b>Interlibrary Loan</b>	1,045	0	0	0	0
<b>Johnston</b>	905	260	0	0	0
<b>Kampmann</b>	0	690	103	0	103
<b>Landa</b>	17,180	11,644	4,060	424	3,636
<b>Las Palmas</b>	262	144	247	0	247
<b>Maverick</b>	32,793	10,833	5,839	1,412	4,427
<b>McCreless</b>	7,304	6,938	4,291	1,398	2,893
<b>Memorial</b>	4,633	5,465	4,982	1,213	3,769
<b>Mission</b>	10,297	9,722	5,691	1,017	4,674
<b>Pan American</b>	885	64	339	0	339
<b>Parman</b>	30,025	14,336	5,161	296	4,865
<b>Potranco</b>	17,738	9,141	11,459	681	10,778
<b>Pruitt</b>	3,530	5,650	3,134	214	2,920
<b>San Pedro</b>	2,510	3,457	3,616	375	3,241
<b>Schaefer</b>	9,778	5,162	4,218	464	3,754
<b>Semmes</b>	24,627	7,864	7,104	1,224	5,880
<b>System</b>	31,786	0	0	0	0
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	6,096	3,547	3,792	766	3,026
<b>Tobin</b>	16,483	6,953	3,782	810	2,972
<b>Westfall</b>	9,912	5,626	5,557	1,170	4,387
<b>Total</b>	<b>792,146</b>	<b>201,414</b>	<b>149,042</b>	<b>26,233</b>	<b>122,809</b>

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

# San Antonio Public Library Programs

## September 2024

Location	Early Literacy Programs (0-5)	School Age Programs (6-12)	Teen Programs (13-18)	Adult Programs (19+)	Older Adults Programs (60+)	General Interest Programs*	Total
Bazan	2	9	1	7	2	0	21
Brook Hollow	4	10	9	0	1	0	24
Carver	5	11	0	9	2	0	27
Central	11	12	87	20	4	12	146
Cody	6	10	25	7	1	1	50
Collins Garden	19	7	6	8	3	1	44
Cortez	5	8	0	7	0	0	20
Encino	16	7	5	7	8	2	45
Forest Hills	14	4	4	3	0	2	27
Great Northwest	8	5	5	5	3	3	29
Guerra	11	11	3	11	1	0	37
Igo	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Johnston	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Kampmann	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landa	23	14	8	2	1	1	49
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	12	0	5	2	0	1	20
Maverick	9	4	4	5	0	0	22
McCreless	1	2	9	14	4	0	30
Memorial	3	4	0	21	3	8	39
Mission	16	2	6	9	12	1	46
Pan American	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Parman	18	9	4	13	8	5	57
Potranco	4	3	7	14	2	3	33
Pruitt	8	1	3	1	0	4	17
San Pedro	8	7	0	2	3	0	20
Schaefer	12	8	3	6	0	1	30
Semmes	12	7	4	10	0	3	36
System	0	0	20	7	1	2	30
Thousand Oaks	8	4	0	19	3	2	36
Tobin	6	9	8	12	4	3	42
Westfall	7	13	7	7	8	6	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1,030</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

## September 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
<b>Bazan</b>	16	15	1	51	13	0	96
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	115	138	41	0	60	0	354
<b>Carver</b>	22	60	0	44	27	0	153
<b>Central</b>	267	186	711	326	98	1,100	2,688
<b>Cody</b>	242	282	324	57	5	6	916
<b>Collins Garden</b>	291	82	179	43	11	0	606
<b>Cortez</b>	60	167	0	22	0	0	249
<b>Encino</b>	553	117	248	28	74	33	1,053
<b>Forest Hills</b>	200	24	25	14	0	8	271
<b>Great Northwest</b>	324	83	58	27	161	25	678
<b>Guerra</b>	201	129	11	42	19	0	402
<b>Igo</b>	0	0	0	11	0	0	11
<b>Johnston</b>	0	0	0	30	0	0	30
<b>Kampmann</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Landa</b>	1,055	318	73	13	7	8	1,474
<b>Las Palmas</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Little Read Wagon</b>	375	0	33	16	0	3	427
<b>Maverick</b>	310	80	58	37	0	0	485
<b>McCreless</b>	13	14	420	92	15	0	554
<b>Memorial</b>	11	70	0	137	33	110	361
<b>Mission</b>	369	17	28	77	97	16	604
<b>Pan American</b>	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
<b>Parman</b>	1,095	536	60	208	112	88	2,099
<b>Potranco</b>	137	12	275	122	191	101	838
<b>Pruitt</b>	144	4	72	5	0	13	238
<b>San Pedro</b>	87	44	0	22	22	0	175
<b>Schaefer</b>	252	201	15	49	0	20	537
<b>Semmes</b>	456	125	25	125	0	84	815
<b>System</b>	0	0	145	58	135	150	488
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	104	59	0	194	11	1	369
<b>Tobin</b>	59	109	58	185	41	37	489
<b>Westfall</b>	76	319	13	29	27	24	488
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,834</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>2,873</b>	<b>2,066</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>1,827</b>	<b>17,950</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

On September 14, the closing reception for the Latino Collection & Resource Center (LCRC) sponsored exhibit *Bajo la Sal*, took place in Central Library's gallery from 12-4 PM. From 1-2 PM, an artist discussion took place in the auditorium and was moderated by Texas Public Radio's Kayla Padilla. The closing reception also coincided with the release of the artists' (Mauro de la Tierra & Joshua Anthony Rodriguez) book titled *Bajo la Sal*. The book is an extension of the exhibit. Music for the event was provided by local musician/DJ, Joaquin Muerte.



*Bajo la Sal closing reception, artist talk with Mauro de la Tierra & Joshua Anthony Rodriguez, moderated by Texas Public Radio's Kayla Padilla.*



*San Antonio poet laureate Eddie Vega, reading from his book *Somos Nopales*, in the Latino Collection & Resource Center at Central Library.*



Culture, by food photographer

Tracey Maurer. Tracey presented a variation of *lotería* (aka, Mexican Bingo) that captures our “local flavor”, by showcasing dozens of traditional and iconic local food favorites. This version of the game also contains frolicsome versos or poems that are viewed as lighthearted “clues” to the cards drawn from the deck.

On September 20, the LCRC hosted the national book launch for “From Here To There And Back,” by Jesse Mancíaz/Xam'le Kuiz. The author talk/plática and book signing marked the newly established Yanaguana Press' inaugural publication. Mancíaz closed out the event by presenting a new poem with musical accompaniment by local author Juan Tejada.

On September 21, the LCRC hosted San Antonio's poet laureate, Eddie Vega for an author talk / plática and book signing titled “Talk-Ito de Nopalitos.” Vega read from his newest book release titled “Somos Nopales” and engaged in a Q & A with attendees. Vega's writings focus on food, cultura, social issues, and the intersections thereof.

### **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.

## **LEARN AT SAPL**

Learn at SAPL welcomed nearly 1,000 patron visits and guided over 1,100 hours of public computer use. Learn staff hosted over 50 programs, many highlighting digital skills. Programming expanded to Guerra, Thousand Oaks, Tobin at Oakwell and Darner Nutrition Center as Shauna Mendoza, Training Officer for Learn at Johnston, brought the “Dive into Computers: Essential Skills for Adults” series out into the community.

Learn at Carver hosted “Empower Yourself: Computer Basics,” a 4-week course for Empower House clients. Training Officer Marcel Martinez Alvarez created the course with a focus on personal computer operation and



*Training Officer Marcel Martinez Alvarez engages with community members at the YWCA Newcomers Resource Fair.*

online safety.






*Training Officer Shauna Mendoza teaches “Dive Into Computers” to older adults at Darner Nutrition Center.*

Additionally, Learn at Carver welcomed a new part-time Training Officer, Krystal Kurtz (former part-time Library Assistant at Westfall) to the team.

Outreach included the large-scale “Newcomers Resource Fair” at the San Antonio Food Bank, sponsored by the YWCA. Training Officers Louis Medellin from Learn at Westfall and Marcel Martinez Alvarez engaged with mostly Spanish-speaking residents, including many families with children, to share how San Antonio Public Library and Learn at SAPL can assist.

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

## **LITTLE READ WAGON**

The Little Read Wagon is the library's early literacy outreach team. The team's work is unique as it often happens outside of the library. The team's work builds connections between the library and the community.

This month the team began a series of Let's Play programs at Alderete Park after school. The park is next to an elementary school. The team got permission to tell families about the program at pickup time. As a result, the team has seen lots of families attend the program.







*Makerspace at Alderete Park*

Let's Play programs allow children to practice early literacy skills. At this series, the team set up a large makerspace with all kinds of open-ended art supplies. Children make artwork with CDs, playdough, paint, cardboard, yarn, and more. This allows children to make marks and develop fine motor skills. Children also exercise free expression and creativity. The team also set up water play. Children can practice measuring, pouring, and develop motor skills. One week the team provided baking soda and vinegar with the water. This allowed children to observe and experiment with the chemical reaction. Each child who attends the program can pick a book to keep. The team also provides healthy snacks for the families. One child commented at the program, "I wish I could do this every day!"

Julia Lazarin and Kristin Yourdon started a series of teacher trainings this month. The trainings will be at a different branch location each month it's offered. The first training happened at the Collins Garden branch library. Early Childhood teachers learned about early literacy and made a photo book. The photo book will help their students to recall experiences and talk about them. That's an important part of developing storytelling skills. The team gave the teachers practical tips on using library books in their classroom. They also encouraged the teachers to get a library card before they left the library.

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

## **TEXANA**

Through the latter half of the month Texana/Genealogy staff engaged with the community through a variety of Hispanic Heritage Month initiatives. On September 18 Librarian Sylvia Reyna presented a beginning genealogy class at the Harlandale Senior Center. With most attendees being predominately Spanish speakers, Ms. Reyna, who is fluent in Spanish, transitioned her presentation to Spanish language on the spur-of-the-moment.



*AARP members at the Guadalupe Bookstore.*

Librarian Deborah Countess coordinated two of the ever-popular Loteria for Older Adults programs at branch libraries in September. Ms. Reyna assisted with the game event at Great Northwest Branch September 20 and Library Assistant Clarissa Chavira assisted at Collins Garden Branch on September 28. Ms. Reyna was invited by AARP to lead a Hispanic genealogy presentation at the Guadalupe Bookstore on September 24. Members from Los Bexareños and Somos Culturas y Mas were in attendance.

Librarian Lucy Agado presented the department's first official Spanish language genealogy class with two branch offerings--Introducción a la Genealogía (Beginning Genealogy) at Westfall Branch September 25 and McCreless Branch September 27. In addition, Ms. Agado also hosted ¡Qué Sabor!™ San Antonio Lotería: The Game in the Central Library Gallery on September 24. Artist Tracey Maurer, whose ¡Qué Sabor San Antonio Lotería exhibition remains on view through November 1, assisted with the program.






*Librarian Lucy Agado with artist Tracey Maurer.*

On September 28, Library Assistant Kaylee Avila facilitated a book talk by Mario Salas (former council person), who authored *The Alamo: A Cradle of Lies, Slavery, and White Supremacy*. He was accompanied by filmmaker Aundar Ma'at who led with opening remarks. Salas presented a compelling and well-researched counter narrative about the defense of the Alamo.

Librarians Andy Crews and Arland Schnacker II presented the class Veterans Genealogy and Research Tips on September 26 at Central Library. They provided resources for locating service records, unit rosters, medical records, and maps.

### ***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.

### III. AGE-BASED SERVICES

#### CHILDREN'S



*Library booth in the Reading Village area of the Final Four Fan Jam*




Libraries are nature connectors, inviting children to learn more about the natural world through science, art, and literature. Last spring, Karen Braeuler and Melissa Fullmer attended a training on the Project Learning Tree, Project Wet, and Project Wild learning resources. At the September 11 Children's Services Team meeting, Karen and Melissa shared what they learned with the rest of the team. The group did an activity in which team members became different parts of a tree. They also looked at the new Nature Up Close kit assembled by the Nature Smart work group.

Gina Brudi and Esperanza Sonnen attended the Performer Showcase hosted by Partners Library Action Network at the Seguin Public Library. At the Showcase they spoke with potential new guests to invite to San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) locations for Summer with SAPL and other events. A robust mix of returning and new guest performers will help sustain and build community engagement with the Library.

Lisa Ramirez hosted the first of a series of Tools for School events. The series introduces older children and their caregivers to a variety of online resources. Lisa presented on Online Homework Help and Learn at SAPL. Several middle school students attended the session.

Linda Lopez, Gina Brudi, and Cresencia Huff shared Library information and offered new books to attendees of the Final Four Fan Jam kickoff at Legacy Park. The SAPL booth was next to the Read to the Final Four booth in the Reading Village. A quiet reading area was set up between the two organizations. The team spoke with many enthusiastic Library users, out of town guests, and families new to the area.

***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.



*Children's Librarians act out the different parts of a tree: heartwood, xylem, cambium, phloem, and bark.*

## TEENS

This month's Teen Librarian and Liaisons Meeting took place at Brook Hollow Branch on Wednesday, September 18th. As with all monthly Teen Services meeting, the agenda was divided between professional development training and "business" items.

This month's training was provided to the group by Troy Hoyles (Library Services Manager – Collection Strategist), Nohemi Lopez-Rosdahl (Collection Development Librarian). Troy and Nohemi provided an overview of collection development at SAPL including SAPL approach to purchasing YA (young adult) material, staff responsibilities related to weeding and Express Collection selection for individual locations.

The "business" portion of the Teen Services meeting was comprised of the announcement of the FY 2025 – 2027 Teen Services workgroups. Teen Service workgroups are led by Teen Services Librarian II / Assistant Managers and are comprised of Teen Services Librarian Is.

Daniella Toll of Collins Garden serves as facilitator for workgroup development and announced the following:





- Teen Pride – Shannan Prukop, Forest Hills (Lead)
- Professional Development – Cassie Garza Bazan (Lead)
- Teen Summer – Grace Holt, Brook Hollow(Lead)
- Teen Engagement – Daniella Toll, Collins Garden (Lead)

Following the announcement of the groups, staff discussed the mission and vision statements and goals for each group for the coming 2-year term.

The meeting concluded with Cassie Garza (Teen Librarian II, Bazan) offering tips for producing library cards for school outreach visits and finally, a tour of the Brook Hollow teen space was conducted by Grace Holt (Teen Librarian II, Brook Hollow).

Finally, this month, along with the Capitol Improvement staff, Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez conducted visits to several branch locations to explore possible improvements to the respective location's teen spaces. Visits took place to Guerra, Cody, Pan America, and collateral material is in development to support the fund-raising efforts of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation for teen spaces as these locations.

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

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-  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.

## ADULTS

September 15 marked the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month. In September, the Library celebrated this annual month-long observance with three exhibits: At Central Library, the exhibit “VIAJE ONÍRICO”



*Participants at Tobin Library's Bridgerton Tea enjoy a regency style dance.*

will be available for viewing in the LCRC through October 26 at three selected times per week and features the surreal, dreamlike art of Marcos Mares. At Parman Branch Library, the exhibit “Refranes Y Raíces” that features the art of Mary Carman Sessions will be available through November 3rd and showcases a profound connection to culture, family, and tradition. And finally, the Central Library Gallery exhibit “¡Qué Sabor! San Antonio™ Lotería: A Connection to Food & Culture” opened on September 17th and will be available for viewing through November 1st. This exhibit features the work of photography Tracey Maurer and highlights the artwork of Ms. Maurer’s version of the iconic game loteria that showcases

dozens of traditional and iconic local food favorites.


On September 21st, Tobin Branch Library hosted Bridgerton Tea. This program celebrated the regency romance series of novels by Julia Quinn and the Netflix TV series that the novel series inspired. Participants in this event had the opportunity to enjoy refreshments, croquet, an escape room, crafts, and games, and a performance by a cello player, and were encouraged to dress up in regency dress.

On September 14th, the Spanish language book club La Tertulia celebrated their 20th anniversary. This longstanding book club has met at Brook Hollow Library is attended by an average of a dozen community members who meet to discuss that month’s selected title. The 20th anniversary celebration on September 14th featured a performance by Mariachi Amador as well as delicious food and a chance for participants in this book club to celebrate the community that they have built over the last 20 years.



*Participants of Brook Hollow Library's La Tertulia Spanish language book club enjoy mariachi music provided by Mariachi Amador at their 20th anniversary celebration.*

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

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




## OLDER ADULTS

On September 8th, to celebrate both Grandparent’s Day and the start of Hispanic Heritage Month, Potranco Library hosted a program called Pan Dulce con Abuelitos or Sweet Bread with Grandparents. At this session, grandparents were invited to make papel picado and enjoy pan dulce with their grandparents.

On September 11th, Coordinator of Services to Adults Morgan Yoshimura attended the monthly meeting of the Joint City County Commission on Elderly Affairs, which is chaired by Library Board Trustee Fernanda Cardenas. At this meeting, Ms. Yoshimura spoke to the Commission briefly and shared with them services that the library provides to older adults. The library services that Ms. Yoshimura highlighted included Learn at SAPL adult education services of individualized computer training and job support, an online resource guide with information that is particularly relevant to older adults, and the programs for older adults that are offered at all San Antonio Public Library. Ms. Yoshimura also shared that beginning in October 2024, all San Antonio Public Library locations that are open will offer one program per month for older adults.

Library staff regularly offer programs for older adults offsite at other locations in the community to serve older adults have barriers in coming to the library. Programs offered at locations in the community for older adults in September included three presentations on genealogy topics offered at Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center (in partnership with AARP), Harlandale Senior Center, and Semmes Family YMCA, monthly book discussion groups offered at Chandler Estates and Village at Incarnate Word senior living communities, and Northeast and Walker Ranch Senior Center, monthly presentation about books and authors at Franklin Park assisted living community, a monthly trivia game offered at Willie Cortez Senior Center, and a knitting and crocheting program offered at Park View Apartments.

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

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-  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 new school year brought large afterschool crowds to the Children's Library in September. Librarian Ashley Palacios pioneered many new engagement methods, always driven by tween demand, such as acquiring a Nintendo Switch, providing a sea monkey tank when they asked for a pet, and facilitating a cross-ages event on the terrace for tweens and teens. The highlight of the afterschool offerings was the creation of the Tween Terrace Garden. Thanks to the generosity of HEB, tweens planted the rooftop garden in window boxes full of herbs and vegetables, which will be used for future children's programs. Programs for younger children were provided by Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin and Librarian Madeline Nezat, including new monthly Baby Time and Family Fun programs.





*Librarian Ashley Palacios leads the planting of a vegetable and herb garden with tweens.*

Every day after school an average of 60 teens visit the Teen Library to play music in the studio, use the 3D printer, create art, make crafts, and hang out with their peers. Teen Tuesdays in the Teen Library continue to be busy with teens cooking and experimenting with various recipes. During a partnership activity between Fiesta Youth and Teen Services, teens from Fiesta Youth and teen regulars from the Teen Library hung out together and watched a movie, made pizza rolls, played video games, jammed out in the recording studio, and more.

On September 16, Learn Library Assistant Francisco Rodriguez hosted a discussion of a book called *The Way of the SEAL: Think Like an Elite Warrior to Lead and Succeed* by Mark Divine. The Leadership Evening Book Club meets on the third Monday of the month at 6 pm. This month Learn at Central had several visits from a group of Spanish-speaking women. They are intimidated by technology but needed copies of their I94 to take to the Social Security office. Learn staff got them through the fear and helped them maneuver government sites that are hard for them to figure out. They all left with their tasks done and more technological skills.

On September 14, Cynthia de Leon hosted a group of architects from Belgium who were interested in exploring the Ricardo Legorreta's Central Library unique architecture. The architects drove all the way from Marfa to get to the library before closing. Cynthia showcased the mystery, sense of discovery and the Meso-American and modernist touches in Legorreta's architecture. She also featured the Art Walk and the Chihuly's Fiesta Tower on the tour. Valerie Saucedo graciously assembled Art at Central Zines just for the architects so they could have a memento of their visit.

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

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## DISTRICT 1

### Landa Branch Library

Jasmin Salinas, our children's librarian, puts so much effort and energy into creating programs that kids and parents love. For years now, I believe she has been the main reason that our patron attendance has bounced back after covid, and she continues to grow Landa's userbase ever day! Jasmin is wonderful to work under, and always makes sure to give us time off desk or breaks in our routine to learn and grow our experience. She is fair, kind, knowledgeable of library happenings, and clearly enjoys helping people and in that she commands respect from her coworkers and patrons, making her a wonderful example of what a leader and librarian should be.

Let's Read and Play is a new program at Landa Library. It focuses on child-led play opportunities for ages zero to three years that range from sensory to art to large motor development opportunities. The program begins with stories and rhymes geared towards babies and ends with stories and songs geared towards toddlers. Families attending the program have really enjoyed the play opportunities and have gained ideas to try at home with their little ones. After lots of time to play, children get excited that stories are coming at the end and start handing Ms. Jasmin books to read.

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

### San Pedro Branch Library

As the San Pedro Branch Library returned to children's programming after the August hiatus, a new program was added to the mix, specifically for older children who come with their families after school. "Let's Explore" features a different activity each week from nature, art, science, or play. Kids are invited to bring their imagination and wonder and are given an opportunity to meet new friends and discover more about their world and themselves. Younger kids are welcome to participate with help from parents. This month's offerings ranged from using pocket microscopes and prepared organism slides to old fashioned fun with homemade playdough to weaving with yarn and plastic forms.


San Pedro librarians make monthly outreach visits to nearby residential communities geared to older adults. Librarian Diana Starrett offers a knitting and crocheting program at Park View Apartments. It has been well received and attended by residents who may not be able to make it into the library. Librarian Karen Braeuler offers a monthly book discussion group at Chandler Estate Senior Living. Members are supplied with the book of the month checked out from



*Family enjoys the Nature Up Close program at San Pedro Branch Library*

the library. They receive questions to facilitate their reading, and then meet to discuss the questions. It has been in progress for two years and continues to be a popular and well attended program.

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



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

## **Westfall Branch Library**

On September 25th in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, Westfall Library was pleased to offer the program “Introduction to Genealogy/Introducción a la Genealogía,” which was presented by Lucia Agado of SAPL’s Texana Department. This program showed the attendees the basics of how to research their family history and how to use Genealogical databases for research. While Texana has offered this class many times in the past at various locations in SAPL, this was the first time Texana had ever done the class entirely in Spanish and, since some of our patrons are more comfortable speaking in Spanish, this program was appropriately tailored for them.

On Friday, September 13, all San Antonio Public Library locations took part in an in-service day from 9 AM – 2PM. As Machaia McClenny is currently the Branch Manager of the Westfall Library and the Interim Branch Manager of the Landa Library, staff from both locations came together for the in-service day. It was a wonderful opportunity for staff from different locations to get to know each other and share experiences. Jasmin Salinas, Children’s Librarian of Landa, and Imelda Merino, Children’s Librarian of Westfall spoke to staff about strategies for addressing overly exuberant behavior. Sarah Linley, Access Services Manager, also joined the in-service day to speak about her role at the library and to continue a series begun by Ms. McClenny in which staff from Central Library visit to create relationships with branch staff and share more about the work they do for the library.

***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 2**

### **Carver Branch Library**

D.L. Grant was a co-presenter at the 12th Annual Texas Oral History Association Conference (TOHA), held on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at Prairie View A&M University. His portion centered on how oral history preserves cultural heritage in underrepresented communities, bolsters pride in historic African American spaces and identifies gaps in accepted histories of ethnic groups. In a series of history harvest events in which residents visited the library to share stories and recollections of the community, Grant helped facilitate a cultural context statement to document intangible heritage features for a more complete story of the African American in San Antonio. In the process, he noted a distinct sense of pride and accomplishment in participants as they shared photographs and other archival materials they

had stored in their homes. His conference co-presenter was Rockie Gilford, founder of the San Antonio-based Good Dirt: Texas Black Farmer Oral History Project.

Laura Alvarez, a library aide at Carver Library, decorated the bulletin board in the Children's area of the library. It has a fall theme with a touch of Halloween, and the tree and scarecrow give it a 3-dimensional feel. You can get an idea what the bulletin board looks like by the included picture, but if you really want to get the full effect, you need to come to Carver Library and see it in person!



*Carver Branch celebrates arrival of fall.*

***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.

## **Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School**

This month, Pruitt's Children's Services hosted a Story Time at the Family Gatherings Day Care, a local childcare facility in our community. The branch has committed to offering Story Time programs once a month and is eager to connect with the children. During this session, the children's librarian led fall-themed songs, taught the American Sign Language sign for pumpkin, played the game Little Mouse, and concluded with bubbles and bubble-themed music. The children were thrilled to participate, and everyone involved is looking forward to next month's Story Time.



*A family works on an egg drop experiment during the Science Night at the Molly Pruitt Library.*

School students, which allowed them to practice important communication and planning skills that built up their confidence and personal development.

The Molly Pruitt Branch co-hosted a bi-weekly science night with the Science National Honor Society (SNHS). SNHS is an organization at Roosevelt High School that encourages students to create opportunities to work with their community with a scientific focus. By co-hosting with SNHS, the branch provided opportunities for families to come in and learn about different science topics while experimenting to see it happen in real-time. The science nights were planned and presented by Roosevelt High

***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

Schaefer Branch Library hosted another successful plant swap in September. Attendees brought in a variety of plants to swap with others. These swaps allow participants to build connections through a mutual love of plants.

Schaefer hosted a program called, Here We Sew, where participants learned to embroider 3D landscapes with beads. This is a self-learning communal space where attendees help each other learn new techniques and skills.

### ***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.




## DISTRICT 3

### McCreless Branch Library

This month, Teen Librarian Daniela Moreno and Library Assistant Joseph Gonzales tabled and presented at nine outreach engagements. Daniela visited Highlands High School and Joseph attended Monster Con and Big Texas Comicon with both meeting the community outside San Antonio Public Library spaces to share information about library services and resources. These outreach events exemplify how staff introduces SAPL as a library accessible beyond a set physical space while promoting access through library card sign-up. An insight worth sharing is these interactions go beyond the “New Cards Created” Key Performance Indicator; McCreless staff updated the accounts of patrons whose cards were created by their parents and signed up patrons outside McCreless’ service area who will frequent other locations. This demonstrates SAPL staff’s commitment and ability to not only bring people to the library but also bring them back into physical and digital spaces.

McCreless Branch received praise through a substantial amount of EnCORE cards written for staff for their patience, kindness, helpfulness, and outstanding customer service. Whether it was resume building from LEARN Training Officers, assistance with printing and faxing, or help learning software to do a class presentation, McCreless Branch continues to face the digital divide and share their knowledge with the public demonstrating the impact of the Library’s mission to change lives through the transformative power of information, imagination, and ideas. After staff helped her with her homework, one nontraditional student told Assistant Branch Manager Vicky Villalobos, “Ya’ll—the library, you change people’s lives. And the people you help, some of them go on to do great things.”

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

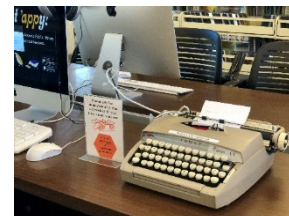
-  Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.
-  Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.
-  Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience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

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

## Mission Branch Library

St. PJ's Children's Home utilized Mission Library's computers and other resources this month when they brought the residents of their home to the library. Two groups of children, the boys and the girls were brought separately by workers so that the youth could use the computers, found books to read and interact with each other in a safe space outside of their home. Roughly 20 youth enjoyed library resources that day.

This month a teen girl saw the portable typewriter that Mission has available for the public to use. She was excited to see it and remarked how she had recently seen someone bring and use a typewriter at local restaurant. She asked if she could use it and take it to the Teen area. Staff gave her permission to do so and walked with her to the Teen area. The young girl then began doing her homework with the typewriter as her mother helped her and talked with her about the assignment.



*Typewriter for public use at Mission 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.
- 📖 Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.
- 📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.

## Pan American Branch Library

In partnership with Terrell Wells Middle School, the Pan American Children's Librarian Rachel Forbes attended a Community Resources Event. Caregivers were able to ask questions about the San Antonio Public Library and the resources SAPL offers. This program provided enhanced library services by meeting them at the middle school. The outreach fostered more meaningful connections with the school community by letting them know about all the services, materials, and electronic resources available through SAPL.

Teen Librarian Gladys Nunez joined Teen Librarian Daniella Toll for an outreach at Burbank High School's Meet the Teacher night. They signed interested students and parents up for library cards. Almost all of them had not had a card with the library before and were excited to get one. They also talked with the students about library services and resources including the 210teenlibrary Discord, Libby, Kanopy, mySAPL app, and the various free teen activities available throughout the branches.

### ***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 4

### Cortez Branch Library

This month, Cortez started “Read to a ‘Dog’”. The quotations in the title are intentional, as children at this program practice their reading skills with a stuffed animal, rather than a live dog. As the program description states, sometimes dogs lick your face while reading, which isn’t always appreciated. Most children have enjoyed reading to the stuffed animals, but some have decided to practice their creative skills instead and make up stories to tell the animals.

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


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

### Johnston Branch Library

This reporting period Johnston celebrated Library Card Sign Up Month. The San Antonio Public Library rolled out many new and fun designs to get new card members something neat when they signed up for their library card. Since Johnston Branch Library is currently closed for renovation, staff are providing interim service at Miller’s Pond Community Center. The different location has led staff to meet many people that normally would not have visited the library. The fun new card designs have led people to stop at Johnston’s table inside the Community Center and inquire on how to get a library card. New card holders loved that they could pick their design, and once they got their card, many were amazed at all the things they could do with their library card.

With the Johnston Branch Library currently closed, staff continued to provide interim service to the community at Miller’s Pond Community Center. One patron who regularly visits the Johnston Branch is an avid reader who would normally keep to herself and simply browse the books, never really knowing how to locate similar books to authors she liked. At the Community Center the more limited set-up and lack of self-checks led to additional interaction between the patron and staff. After a few conversations, staff learned her preferences, and offered to help her find more materials of interest. The patron was amazed that staff could do so and was provided a list of series and authors she could begin to read. Not only did she learn more about the hold process, but staff were able to show her something she would have otherwise never known.

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

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

## DISTRICT 5

### Bazan Branch Library

The sounds of Conjunto music filled the Bazan Library meeting room as instructors and students from the Conjunto Heritage Taller (CHT), a Westside community organization dedicated to preserving traditional Conjunto music, performed in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The event featured

performances that highlighted traditional Conjunto music styles and instruments, such as the accordion and the bajo sexto, a 12-string guitar. The CHT performers spanned various ages, from a teenager who had been learning the accordion for just over a month to a music teacher with over 60 years of experience. Instructors shared historical insights about each song and the instruments the students were learning, while also offering personal stories about their own journeys into Conjunto music.



*Students and instructors perform Conjunto music together at Bazan Branch Library's Hispanic Heritage Month program.*


The Bazan Branch, in partnership with Academia America, began offering free citizenship classes in September.



*Students in Academia America's citizenship class at the Bazan library.*

Academia America, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the social and civic integration of immigrants, had paused these classes during the COVID-19 pandemic but recently resumed in-person sessions. The 10-week course is designed to prepare students for the Naturalization Examination. Instructors cover U.S. history; the 100 civics questions required by USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) and provide an understanding of the N-400 application and the overall naturalization process.

***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**

Gina Brudi, Collins Garden's Children's Librarian, helped one of the branch's regular patrons find a diagram for an air conditioner online. He came in on a previous Saturday wanting a book on fixing appliances and returned for one on how to fix a refrigerator. After finding the book needed at another library, Gina asked him if the diagram had worked before because it was not the exact one for the model, and he said yes, it had helped, and he fixed it, sharing he is 91 years old! He expressed appreciation for the library and Gina's dedication to lifelong learning.

Rosa Villa, Adult Services Librarian, created partnerships and facilitated a variety of hugely popular adult programming for this month and ongoing into Fall, meeting the interests of Collins's hugely diverse community. Programs included Senior Chromebook classes, accessible art programs and Spanish language health and technology programs - all received appreciation for the library and Ms. Villa's dedication to the library's mission, and her enthusiasm and genuine connections with Collins Garden patrons and community organizations.

***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.

- 📖 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.

## Las Palmas Branch Library



*OLLU Student Proudly displaying her new library card.*

September was National Library Card Sign-Up Month, and the start of the new library card designs campaign. Las Palmas staff was busy creating new library cards for students, staff, professors, and the surrounding community at Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU). During this campaign, Las Palmas had the privilege of issuing new library cards for OLLU's President Abel Chavez, and his special guest that day, San Antonio Bishop Gary Janak, who was appointed by Pope Francis as an auxiliary bishop for San Antonio's Archdiocese, as well as the OLLU Library Director Maria Cabaniss and all her staff! Las Palmas also collaborated with OLLU during Welcome Week, and Club Rush.

At the start of the new library card design campaign, Assistant Manager Nicole San Martin had a special visitor to the Las Palmas

interim site — former San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros. Mr. Cisneros was visiting Our Lady of the Lake University with a group of high school students who were working on their college essays. He stopped by the library service desk and spoke briefly with Nicole, and he learned that she had graduated from the same school district and continued her education. Impressed, he enthusiastically asked if she would give an impromptu speech about a career in Library Science to the students and remind them of all the free resources that San Antonio Public Library offers. He proudly told the students that Nicole, a fellow graduate of their district, had now earned her master's degree, encouraging them that they, too, could achieve similar success.



*OLLU President Abel Chavez and Bishop Janak*

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

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## Memorial Branch Library





Children’s Librarian Melissa Fulmer has become involved in several initiatives this year. This is what she has to say about two of them: “In September, I learned that I received the NTEN [Digital Inclusion] Fellowship, and I spent a week in Portland, Oregon with the NTEN group to learn more about how we can help fill in the gaps with digital literacy and inclusion. I will be spending the next year working with NTEN and SAPL staff to create a digital literacy program that benefits our patrons in need. I, along with special needs workgroup members, attended a Vibrant Works Sensitivity Training to better engage and assist those who have low vision or have blindness. I will be attending two other outreaches this coming year to provide sensory activities and collaborate with Vibrant Works to better serve with low vision/ blind children and their families.”



*Girl holding completed mini piñata.*

Adult Services Librarian Freddy Hudson held several successful programs during September. Among them were a very well attended Scrabble time — he had to get an extra board out of the closet! — and Mindful Memorial. Best of all, more than thirty patrons came out to make Mini-Piñatas. Using cereal boxes, poster board, and other light-weight cardboards, patrons assembled piñatas covered with party streamers in many colors. The streamers and the candy with which the piñatas were filled were purchased using one of the gift cards donated to the branch by HEB. Adults on their own joined whole families in a joyful activity which prompted a scramble amongst branch staff to find enough scissors and glue sticks for everyone. What a delightful problem to have!

### ***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.
-  Provide a diverse, inclusive, and responsive collection of library books and materials to reflect and meet the needs of the community.
-  Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.

## DISTRICT 6




### Great Northwest Branch Library

The Great Northwest staff engaged adults in the community inside the library and out in the community. The library hosted several craft programs including Adult String Art and the Cut and Glue Collage program. These programs provided an opportunity for adults to get creative, enjoy some time making art, and socializing. Great Northwest hosted the program Lotería for Older Adults and participants had a great time playing Lotería with easy-to-read cards and socializing with one another. Great Northwest partnered with San Antonio Food Bank on the program Eating Healthy on a Budget. The program provided tips on how to eat healthy and save money and gave a cooking demonstration. The Adult Services Librarian visited the Alicia Treviño Senior Center and promoted library resources and registered

older adults for library cards. They were excited about the limited-edition library card designs and couldn't wait to visit their local library.

Children's Librarian Deborah Hinshelwood presented an array of children's programs at Great Northwest in September. The children's fall programs included a Let's Build program using LEGOS, straws, and Keva Blocks. This program was specifically for school age children to visit after school and use their creativity and imagination. The library also hosted Toddler Time each week on Wednesday. This program brought out big crowds that enjoyed singing, dancing, and listening to a story. On Thursday's children were eager to learn at Preschool Story Time. This story time program focuses on having fun with ABC learning. At the library Baby Time program family's bonded with their babies. Lastly, the library hosted a Create It program where school-age children enjoyed weaving and creating paper bag puppets.

***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.

## **Guerra Branch Library**

September at the Guerra branch library saw an addition to the children's programming lineup: Baby





*Baby Time at Guerra*

Time. This program is geared toward young children 0 – 18 months. During this program, Children's Librarian Linda Lopez introduced babies to the sounds and structure of language through rhythm, rhyme, and repetition. Caregivers welcomed the opportunity to socialize and build relationships with fellow attendees while practicing early literacy skills with their young ones. Age-appropriate toys were provided during the program for learning through play.

Librarian I Stephen Jackson attended an outreach event at Redbird Ranch with his colleague from the Potranco Branch. This is a new community in the nearby area with many families who recently moved in from out-of-

state. The superhero themed event was a great opportunity for Mr. Jackson and his colleagues to interact with families and share information about library services and resources. Many families shared that they were San Antonio Public Library card holders but were surprised and delighted by the range of free resources the library offered.

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

## Potranco Branch Library

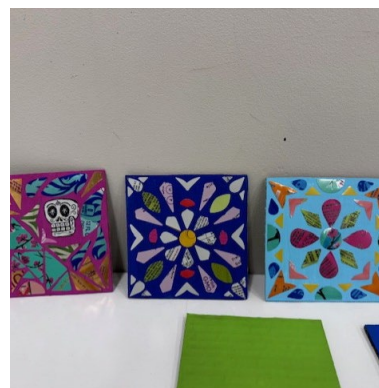


*Outreach at Redbird Ranch*

On Saturday September 28th, Potranco Librarian III Tim Johnson teamed up with other staff members from Guerra, Tobin, and Central Facilities to deliver outreach at Redbird Ranch. The event was titled the Market of Marvels and the library distributed free comic books to everyone who stopped by the SAPL booth. Staff also took every advantage to promote library



resources to the residents. In total more than 250 people came by and many shared stories of their love of the library.

Librarian II Dawn Zeig arranged a Talavera Mosaic workshop that took place on Sunday, September 29th. This was part of our lineup of programs for Hispanic Heritage Month. Participants got to repurpose aluminum cans into some amazing works of art. Everyone who attended had a great time.



*Finished mosaics.*

### ***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.



## DISTRICT 7

### Forest Hills Branch Library

A patron approached Children's Librarian Ana Menchaca, to let her know that she joined Baby Time every week during lockdown and really appreciated how Ana and the team made it work. She said that she was a speech pathologist and started using some of the songs from the SAPL Baby Time for her work and was so appreciative of all the children's librarians do.

For Banned Books Week, Circulation Attendant Ashleigh Montgomery built a display with a variety of books that have been banned over the years. In each book was a bookmark with information on why the book was banned, highlighting why book banning is a bad practice and why SAPL commemorates Banned Books Week each year in libraries.

### ***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.

## **Maverick Branch Library**

Every fall, Maverick Branch Library hosts its Used Book Sale. Throughout the summer months, eager customers inquired when Maverick was going to have its next Used Book Sale. With the election season in October, Maverick decided to have the Used Book Sale in September. As always, the community responded with tremendous support for the bi-annual event. On the first morning, dozens of people lined up at the entrance and quickly filled the meeting room. The Maverick Friends did an outstanding job organizing and keeping up with the momentum and pace of the large crowd. This activity is given acknowledgement on this month's Director's Report because of the enormous support from the community. With the generosity of the community donating hundreds of books and media items, Maverick's dedicated Friends Group and the community support, the Used Book Sale has always been a success and a major contributor to the library.

While Igo Branch remained closed in September, Maverick had a tremendous increase in circulation and daily door count. Maverick staff saw many new faces and families visiting, especially during story time. With the children's area filled with parents and children, staff can see the excitement in the room. In fact, some staff recalled Maverick's similar high usage as in the early years of when the branch first opened its doors to the public. As Maverick staff engaged and welcomed the new visitors, the newcomers have shared compliments over the branch's floor layout, unique ceiling design and the colorful quilts displayed in the children's area. As Igo continues replacing its HVAC system, Maverick staff will continue serving and striving to make the greater community's visit a pleasant and friendly experience.

### ***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.

## **DISTRICT 8**


### **Cody Branch Library**

Cody Branch hosts five weekly children's programs. A standout moment was a first-time visitor who attended the toddler program and returned the next week with her extended family, all of whom signed up for library cards and discovered valuable resources after their first library visit ever. Another customer, inspired by a vibrant Instagram post about the colorful cards, brought his children to get their own cards and check out books about science and flight after the afterschool science program. They took home their newly made flying objects to recreate the program with their family at home. These stories highlight the library's positive impact and its ability to draw in new families eager to explore what Cody Library has to offer.

The Cody Branch has an after-school program for teens, every school day. This gives the teens a safe place to be after school where they can be themselves openly and without fear of ridicule. This comfort and safety were especially noted when teens came to the library after an hours-long lockdown at school. Some teens even had parents drop them off at the library after being retrieved from school because the library has become such an important part of their routine where they can socialize, do crafts alone or in

groups, and share their days to an attentive adult which might not be available when they return home after the programs. Despite the teens not being able to spend the full program time at the library, many teens still chose to make the effort to come, even for a few minutes, after a very stressful day.


***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**

Igo Branch Library was closed during September 2024 to begin repair on the branch's HVAC systems. Interim curbside service was provided throughout the month, conducted by staff working out of the unaffected meeting room.

***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**

In September 2024, Brook Hollow Library's (BHL) "Let's Create" program offered children and tweens the opportunity to build creations with a variety of building materials, including Legos. The program was enacted during Summer with SAPL 2024 for children ages 5 – 9 years old and has now shifted into a program for ages 5 – 12. Children use higher level tasks such as cutting, to encourage fine motor skills, shape recognition for small children, and greater creativity for older children. In addition, BHL encourages parents to help their smaller children with the activities, creating quality time for parents to spend with their little ones. Children's Librarian Catherine Robbins and Library Assistant Lauren Revel coordinate the program.

Teens use their imagination at BHL during weekly Teen Time on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. BHL Teen Librarian Grace Holt engages with teens who enjoy the library's new mobile white board. Teens create art together on the board, write poetry and leave message for other teens. After rolling out the new whiteboard, teens took to it like a moth to flame, spending the next 40 minutes filling every inch of space with their art. After completely covering the board, they stepped back to admire their work, one teen commenting that, "this is proof that collaborative art is the best art."

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

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

## Encino Branch Library



Encino District 9 Playground Anniversary Plant Bubble Party



Encino Branch Library hosted District 9 Councilperson John Courage and his staff to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the Encino Playground and Food Forest. With the collaboration of the District 9 staff liaison, Encino scheduled a special program to accompany the event and advertised accordingly. Special guest speaker Stephen Lucke also made an appearance to commemorate the Food Forest. Community members enjoyed the free book giveaway, the plant and tree giveaway by Parks and Recreation Department, and the San Antonio Public Library-sponsored Bubble Party on the playground. Councilperson Courage also spent time chatting with various community members and Encino staff.

Encino Teen Librarian I Elissa Vura partnered with Brook Hollow's Teen Librarian II Grace Holt to perform an outreach event at Johnson High School. Elissa and Grace were able to connect with over 200 students to promote National Library Week and San Antonio Public Library's new card designs initiative. The school librarian commented that they were able to reach teens she did not expect to engage with the library. One of Elissa's favorite moments was when one of the teens called out loudly, "This is fire!" while making his button.



Encino District 9 Playground Anniversary Plant & Tree Giveaway

### ***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.

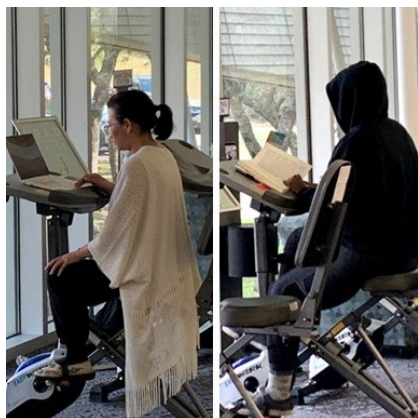
## Parman Branch Library at Stone Oak

This month the Parman Branch Library hosted an event unusual to the branch, a classical piano concert performed by special guest Dr. Michał Korzistka. A classical pianist from Europe, Dr. Korzistka is a renowned musician, having performed at many competitions and festivals, and has sold four solo albums. His performance for the branch, titled "The Music of My Soul," showcased a selection of pieces by composers Chopin, Szymanowski, and Glenc. Dr. Korzistka's performance was incredibly moving, with some of the audience visiting the Parman Branch for the first time to hear him. The reception that followed the performance allowed the audience to connect with each other and the musician, enjoying refreshments as they shared how much they'd enjoyed the experience. Many



Piano concert






patrons remarked on how unique it was to hear classical music on this level at the library and expressed interest in seeing similar programs in the future.



*Patrons using exercise bikes.*

One unique offering at the Parman Branch Library are the stationary exercise bikes equipped with small tables where patrons can read books, newspapers, and use their laptops. These provide an opportunity for patrons to be active while reading or working at the library, even during the hottest months of the Texas summer. A lot of Parman patrons are avid walkers due to the closeness of the beautiful trails behind the branch, so on many occasions they've shared with staff their appreciation for the stationary bikes being available for use on hot or rainy days. One patron told staff how they often came to Parman just to read the newspaper. They love the library, but gyms, not so much. Encouraged by seeing other readers using the bikes, they tried as well, and now they enjoy coming to the branch to pedal away while reading away the news.

***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.

## **DISTRICT 10**

### **Semmes Branch Library**

After the August hiatus, Semmes Library reopened its many Children's programs in September, to resounding success. Patrons often commented how happy they were to see the return of those programs, and, at times, there would be more than sixty attendees of the three morning programs: Preschool story time on Wednesday, and Baby and Toddler Time programs on Thursdays. Also widely heralded were the resumption of Read to a Dog and LEGO time; Semmes patrons were vocal about their appreciation for the efforts of the Children's librarians and library assistants in September.

With the rapid approach of the October 7th deadline to register to vote, Semmes library fielded many questions regarding the process of voting; how to register, when deadlines were, and when patrons would be able to vote at Semmes Library. Patrons know Semmes Library is the place they vote and were grateful for the knowledge and patience of staff with dealing with the questions. As the election approaches, October will no doubt be full of more questions, to say nothing of late nights and early mornings to support elections in Bexar County.

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

## Thousand Oaks Branch Library

The Thousand Oaks Library began hosting Arnis Eskrima self-defense classes for adults this month. Arnis Eskrima, a Filipino martial art, is renowned for its effectiveness and ease of learning. It offers a practical and actionable approach to handling various defense scenarios, making it an ideal starting point for those new to self-defense or martial arts. Some of the benefits of practicing martial arts include



*Mini piñatas*

increased confidence, better coordination, improved social skills and self-discipline. Participants will succeed at learning new skills, becoming more spatially aware, and working alongside other people with similar goals. Participants will engage in close contact and striking exercises to better prepare for real-world situations. All exercises are conducted in a safe, supportive, and respectful environment.

Members of the Thousand Oaks Library staff collaborated to host a Mini Burro Piñata program for Hispanic Heritage Month. As part of Hispanic culture, piñatas are used in celebrations and filled with candies, fruits, and gifts.

Participants learned about the origins of the piñata while socializing with other community members and enjoying this fun craft.

### ***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.

## Tobin Branch Library at Oakwell

Tobin Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse coordinated a relevant and engaging "Bridgerton Tea" program on Saturday, September 21 that was attended by 100+ library patrons. Participants were encouraged to dress in costume and enjoyed many photo opportunities around the building. Woolhouse planned a croquet course outside, live classical music, an English country dance exhibition, and refreshments with support from Teen Librarian Connie Hejl and Library Assistant Terry Verner. Potranco



*A live cellist provided ambient music for the Bridgerton Tea*

Children's Librarian Lisa Leandro assisted with a themed Escape Room to round out the event. Patrons were thrilled with the program, and two individuals reported unique feedback: "I'd never been to this branch before, and I'm so glad I came today!" and "I've never visited a library in San Antonio before today, but I came for the event. Now I have a library card and I will be coming back!"

Learn Training Officer Shauna Mendoza began a new series of "Dive Into Computers" classes that began on Monday, September 16. This program was very popular and much needed for Tobin patrons over the summer, and participants were thrilled to learn more with




Mendoza. The branch has been so fortunate to host these classes, and Shauna has gained a loyal following of patrons who seek her for technology guidance.



*Bridgerton Tea participants enjoyed an English country dance lesson.*

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

#### ***Goals***

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

## V. MEDIA

September – Multiple outlets reported on SAPL’s new library card designs throughout the month.

September – Multiple outlets reported on SAPL’s participation in Banned Books Week.

September 3 – WOAI re-aired a segment featuring Cresencia Huff on back-to-school resources.

September 4 – Texas Public Radio reported on the Library’s proposed FY 2025 budget.

September 7 – Texas Public Radio reported on an event related to the Gallery exhibition “Bajo La Sal” at Central Library.

September 9 – San Antonio Report published an online article about Hispanic Heritage Month programing, including programs at Library locations.

September 10 – KENS featured an interview with Foundation Executive Director Amy Hone about the Over the Edge fundraiser.

September 13 – KSAT published an online article about Hispanic Heritage Month programing, including programs at Library locations.

September 17 – Marketing Manager Scott Williams was featured in a segment on the new Library Cards on KSAT’s lifestyle show, SA Live.

September 18 – Alamo City Moms published an online article about Hispanic Heritage Month programing, including programs at Library locations.

September 27 – San Antonio Report published an article about the re-opening of Launch SA, the small business incubator at Central Library.

September 30 – San Antonio Things to Do published a blog post about the best places to study in San Antonio, including many library locations.