

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JANUARY 2025

*prepared for the  
Library Board of Trustees*



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

# INTERIM LIBRARY DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

## System-wide Highlights

The San Antonio Public Library and the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio proudly presented the 13th Annual *Holocaust Learn and Remember* program series in January 2025.

This year's theme, **LIBERATION**, highlighted the powerful stories of concentration camp survivors and the U.S. soldiers who played a vital role in their rescue. Their firsthand accounts of resilience and courage remind us of the enduring strength of the human spirit and the importance of confronting hatred in all its forms. By remembering their experiences, we reaffirm our commitment to upholding human dignity and ensuring that history's lessons continue to inspire future generations.

## Interim Library Director Activities

Interim Library Director Kathy Donellan

- met with Amy Hone Executive Director of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation on January 6, 2025
- attended new Trustee Orientation with new Trustee Michele Dalbis-Robledo on January 7, 2025
- attended ULC Director/CEO Call on January 9, 2025
- gave remarks at the Holocaust Learn and Remember ceremony on January 9, 2025
- attended SAPLF Executive Committee Board meeting at Guerra Branch Library on January 15, 2025
- attended ULC Director's call on January 16, 2025
- presented Years of Service award at Cortez Branch Library on January 16, 2025
- attended TSLAC Discussion on January 17, 2025
- attended UTSA-SAPL Leadership Check-in on January 17, 2025
- attended UTSA-SAPL Leadership Check-in on January 21, 2025
- attended Monthly SAPLF – SAPL meeting on January 22, 2025
- visited the Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School on January 23, 2025
- met with Executive Director of SAPL Foundation Amy Hone on January 24, 2025
- met with Consul General of Germany, Kai Henning on January 27, 2025
- gave remarks at the Holocaust Learn and Remember ceremony on January 27, 2025
- attended the memorial service for Trustee Harris's sister on January 28, 2025
- attended the Bi-Weekly UTSA-SAPL meeting on January 28, 2025
- attended ULC Director's Call on January 30, 2025

## Performance Highlights:

Over three million library materials have been checked out this fiscal year to date, which exceeds the FY25 target by three percent and is 109,000 more compared to the same time period last year. Over six hundred thousand hours of technology use has occurred, which is below the year-to-date target by nineteen percent and 110,000 less hours compared to the same time period last year. Starting in June 2024, new equipment and software was deployed after FY25 target development and data is reporting

differently. This change is a -15% from same time period last year. The number of in-person library visits for the year to date is over a million, which is above target by sixteen percent and two hundred thousand compared to the same time period last year due to several library locations serving as venue for the Presidential election.

**Media Highlight:**

On January 16, the San Antonio Express-News published an online article announcing the Library Board of Trustees had selected Sukrit Goswami as the next Library Director for SAPL. The article focused on Goswami’s background and his experience protecting the freedom to read through his work with the Freedom to Read Foundation. The article ran the following weekend in print.

**NEWS**  
**New library director from small Pennsylvania town brings experience in First Amendment protection**  
By Megan Rodriguez Staff Writer  
Jan. 16, 2024



*Screenshot of the Express-News online article*

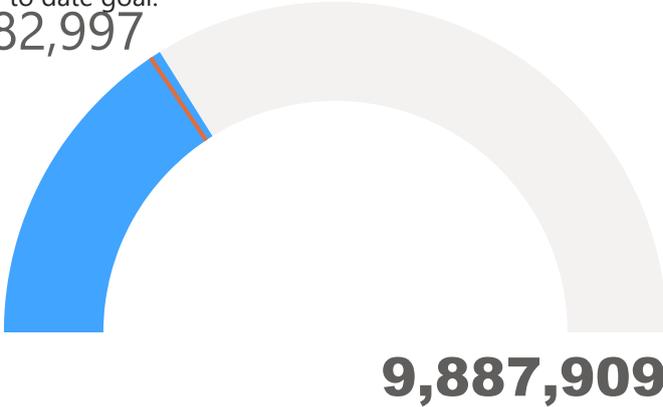
# I. Key Performance Indicators - Summary

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

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

## Circulation: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:  
3,082,997



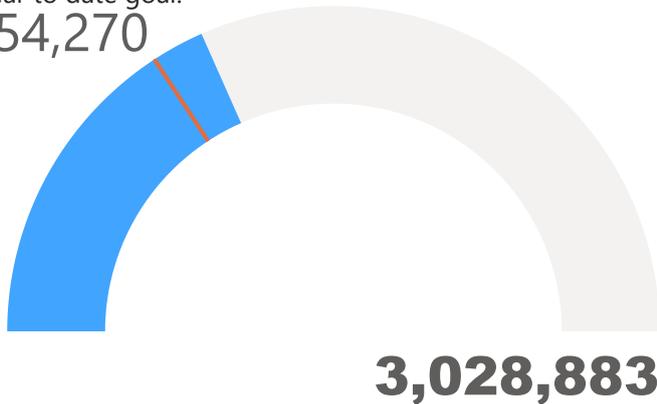
## FY 2025 to date Items Borrowed



**3,186,418**  
(+3.35%)  
Circulation

## Visits: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:  
954,270



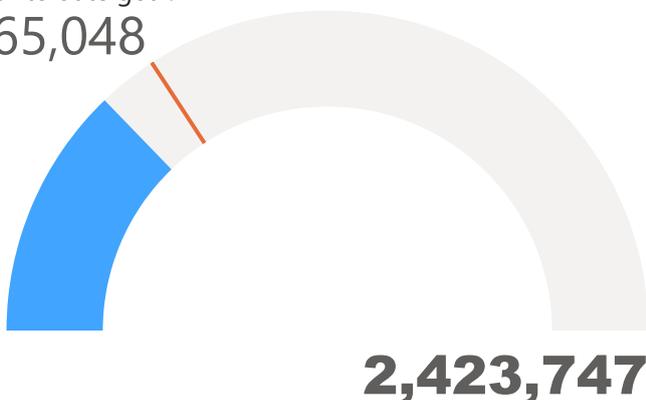
## FY 2025 to date Library Visits



**1,112,933**  
(+16.63%)  
Visits

## Digital Access: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:  
765,048



## FY 2025 to date Digital Access



**99,175**  
Hours of Computer Use



**520,483**  
Hours of Wi-Fi Use

**619,658**  
(-19%)  
Hours of Technology Use

# Key Performance Indicators - Circulation

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

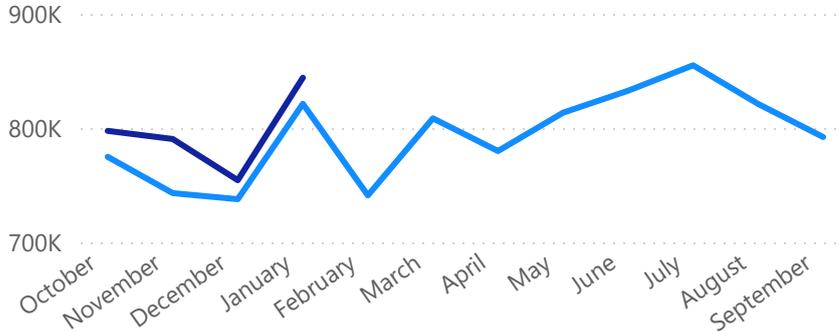
Report contains data for the reporting period ended on January 31, 2025

## FY25 year to date Total Circulation

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

**3,186,418**

FY ● FY24 ● FY25

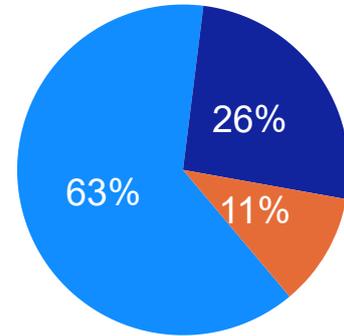


**4%**

Change from same period, previous fiscal year

## FY25 to date total circulation by service area

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

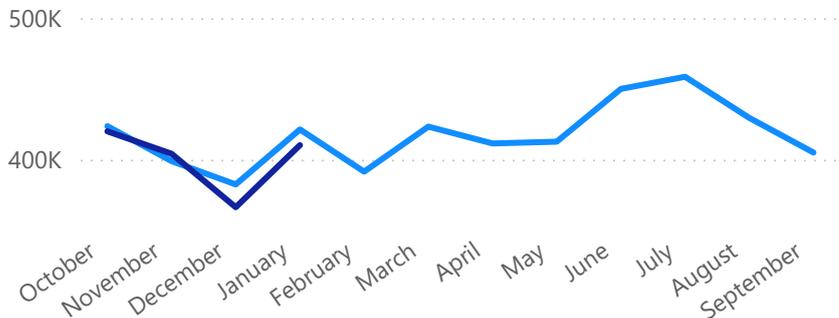


## FY25 year to date Physical Circulation

The number of checkouts and renewals of physical library materials.

**1,600,629**

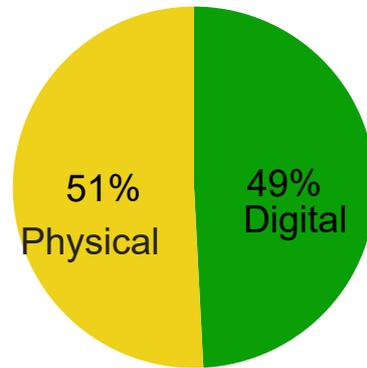
FY ● FY24 ● FY25



**-2%**

Change from same period, previous fiscal year

## FY25 to date total circulation by type

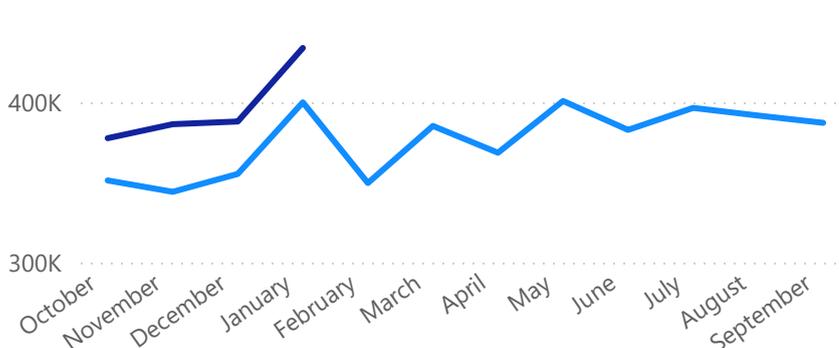


## FY25 year to date Digital Circulation

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

**1,585,789**

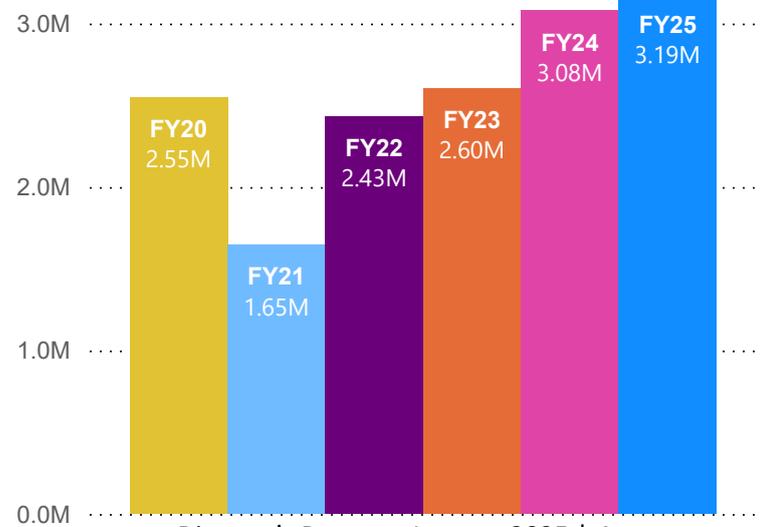
FY ● FY24 ● FY25



**23%**

Change from same period, previous fiscal year

## Year to date total circulation comparison



# Key Performance Indicators - Technology

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

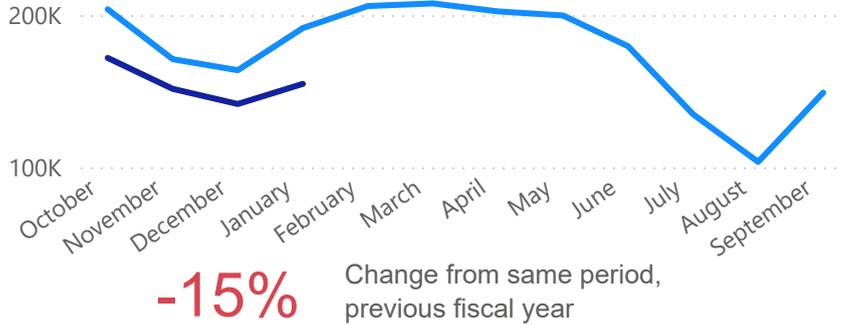
Report contains data for the reporting period ended on January 31, 2025

## FY25 year to date Hours of Technology

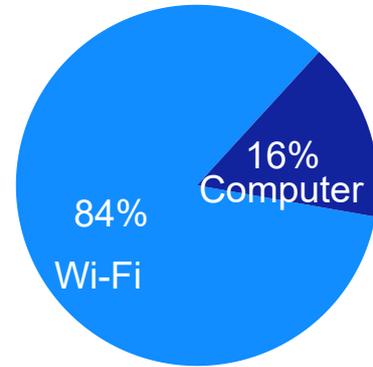
The total number of hours of technology used from both public computers and public Wi-Fi.

**619,658**

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



## FY25 to date Technology Use by type

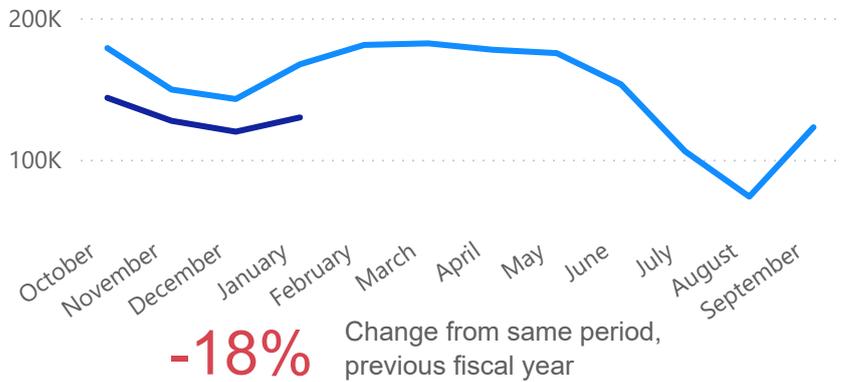


## FY25 year to date Wi-Fi Hours

The number of hours public Wi-Fi was used.

**520,483**

FY ● FY24 ● FY25

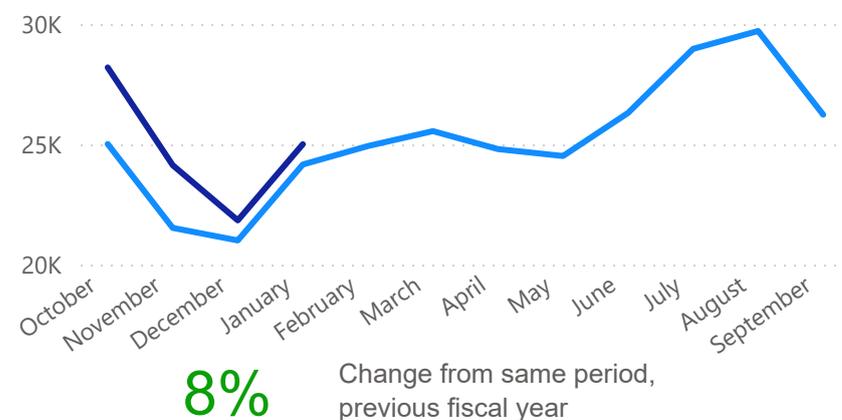


## FY25 year to date Computer Hours

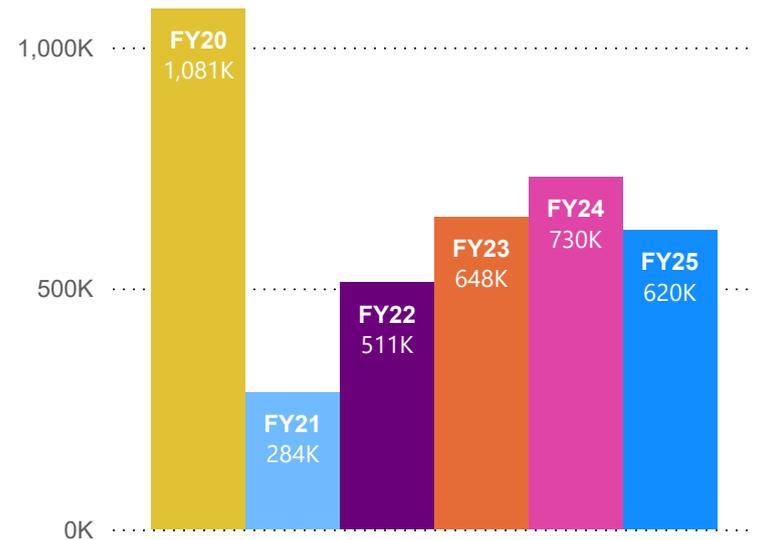
The number of hours public computers were used.

**99,175**

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



## Year to date Technology Use comparison



# Key Performance Indicators - Visits

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

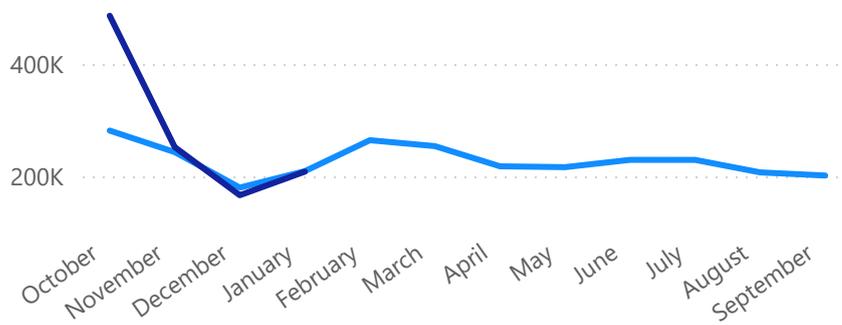
Report contains data for the reporting period ended on January 31, 2025

## FY25 year to date Visits

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

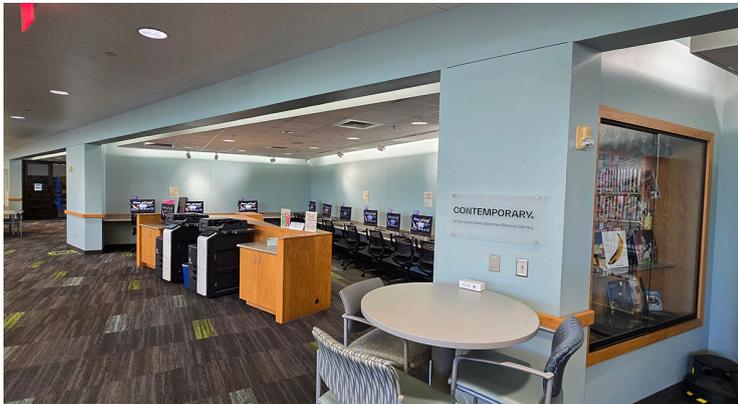
1,112,933

FY ● FY24 ● FY25

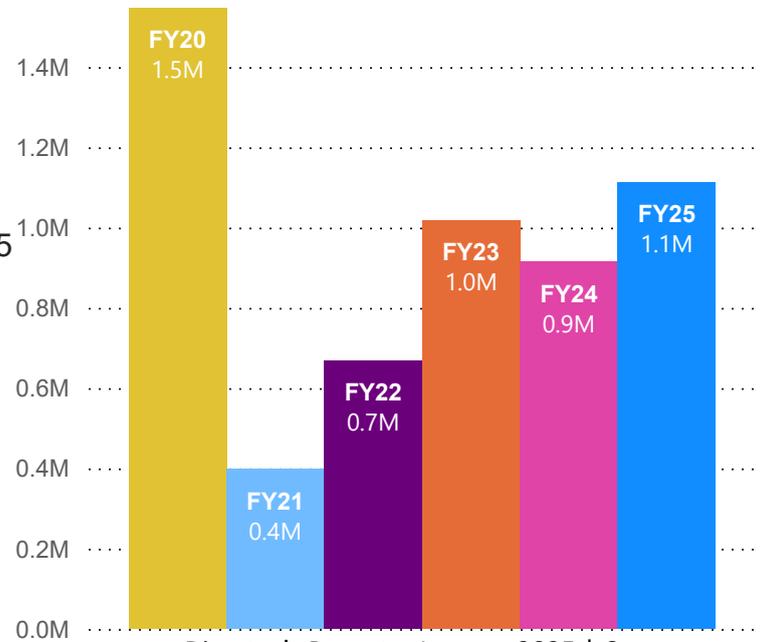


22%

Change from same period, previous fiscal year



## Year to date Visits comparison



### Fiscal Year 2025 location closures:

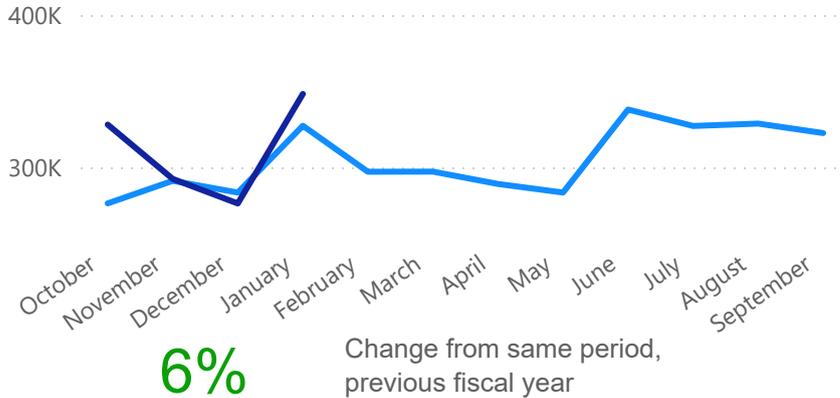
- Las Palmas      October 1, 2024 - TBD
- Johnston      October 1, 2024 - December 2, 2024
- Igo              October 1, 2024 - October 28, 2024
- Pan American    October 1, 2024 - October 28, 2024
- Semmes        November 18, 2024 - January 12, 2025

## FY25 year to date 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.

1,244,822

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



Most engaged post on SAPL social media profiles in January 2025

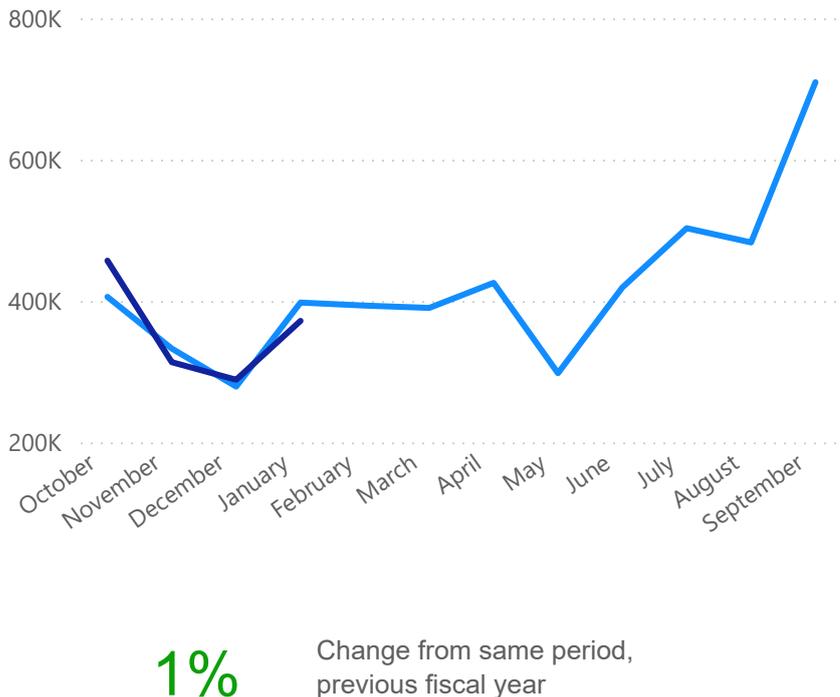


## FY25 year to date impressions

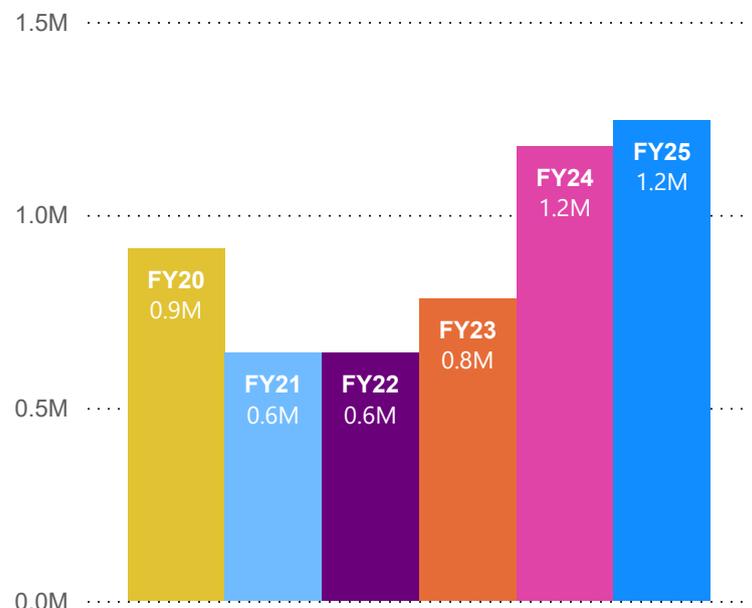
The total number of impressions on the library's social media profiles and the MySAPL website.

1,431,046

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



## Year to date virtual engagement comparison



# Programs and Attendance

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 To September 2025

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

Fiscal year to date program comparison

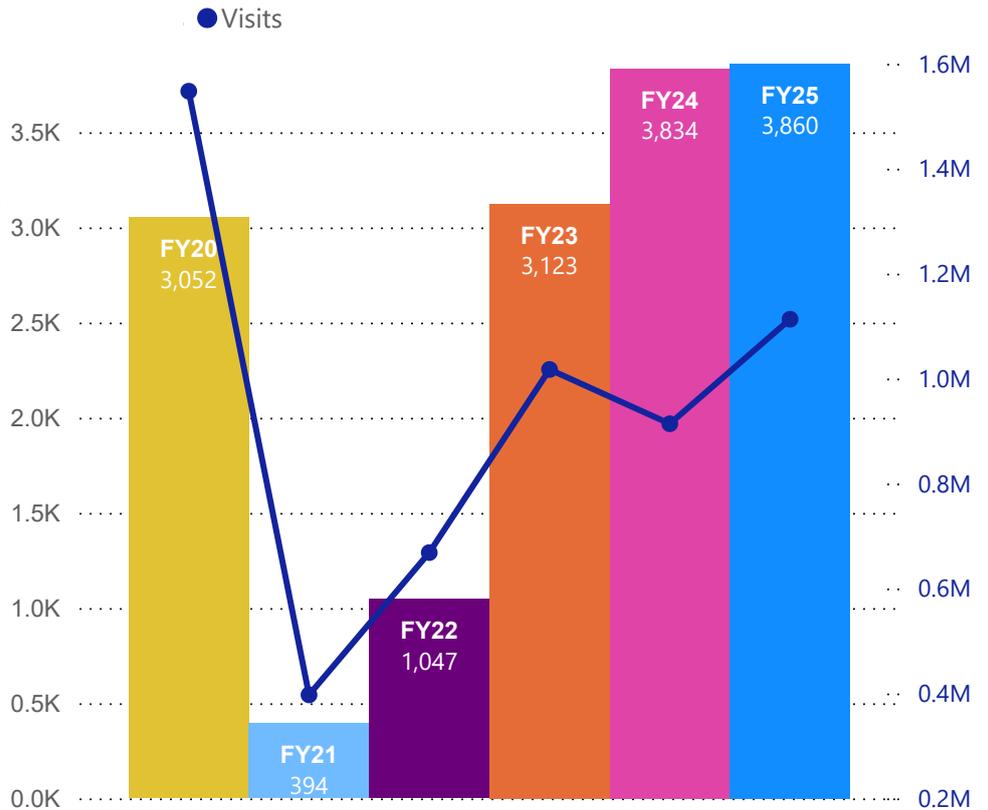
## Total Programs

**3,860**  
Total Programs

**61,954**  
Total Attendance

**1%**

Change from same period, previous fiscal year



## Early Literacy (0-5)

**932**  
Programs

**24,595**  
Attendance

## School Age (6-12)

**711**  
Programs

**12,502**  
Attendance

## Teens (13-18)

**843**  
Programs

**8,006**  
Attendance

## Adults (19+)

**846**  
Programs

**8,004**  
Attendance

## Older Adults (60+)

**271**  
Programs

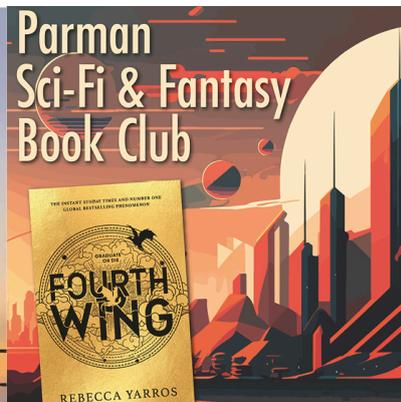
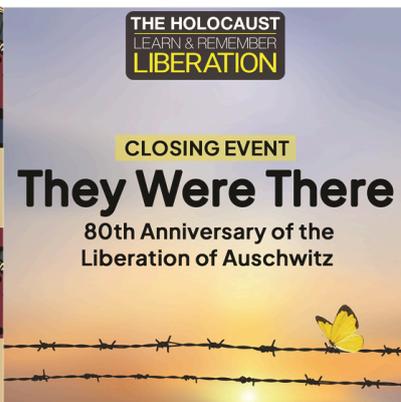
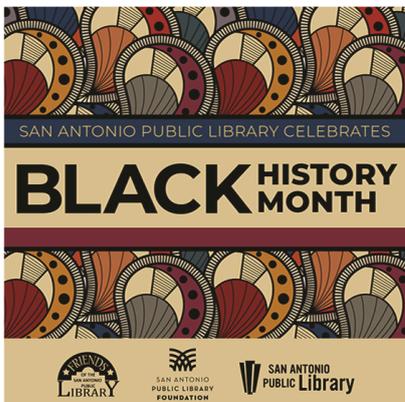
**2,400**  
Attendance

## General Interest\*

**257**  
Programs

**6,447**  
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

## January 2025 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
<b>Bazan</b>	2,466	7,028	4,830	1,226	3,604
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	25,079	7,519	5,232	686	4,546
<b>Carver</b>	2,208	3,051	3,103	759	2,344
<b>Central</b>	31,826	21,769	43,125	7,662	35,463
<b>Cody</b>	30,499	11,002	6,831	749	6,082
<b>Collins Garden</b>	3,948	3,881	2,337	609	1,728
<b>Cortez</b>	5,184	6,736	2,973	542	2,431
<b>Digital</b>	433,884	0	0	0	0
<b>Encino</b>	22,194	7,943	3,814	245	3,569
<b>Forest Hills</b>	4,880	2,505	1,621	344	1,277
<b>Great Northwest</b>	28,213	8,819	4,004	683	3,321
<b>Guerra</b>	7,259	5,336	3,627	550	3,077
<b>Igo</b>	30,989	18,149	6,264	696	5,568
<b>Interlibrary Loan</b>	910	0	0	0	0
<b>Johnston</b>	6,190	3,998	2,741	451	2,290
<b>Kampmann</b>	0	526	104	0	104
<b>Landa</b>	17,279	10,633	3,455	450	3,005
<b>Las Palmas</b>	239	85	34	0	34
<b>Maverick</b>	25,975	8,162	4,086	1,012	3,074
<b>McCreless</b>	7,618	7,106	5,713	1,340	4,373
<b>Memorial</b>	4,289	5,060	5,432	896	4,536
<b>Mission</b>	9,887	8,953	6,256	925	5,331
<b>Pan American</b>	2,622	2,680	1,508	293	1,215
<b>Parman</b>	30,450	12,239	3,933	230	3,703
<b>Potranco</b>	16,477	8,702	7,104	507	6,597
<b>Pruitt</b>	3,536	5,511	2,666	244	2,422
<b>San Pedro</b>	2,163	3,038	2,454	343	2,111
<b>Schaefer</b>	8,450	8,737	4,962	409	4,553
<b>Semmes</b>	14,012	3,526	2,995	590	2,405
<b>System</b>	30,329	0	0	0	0
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	9,441	4,198	5,993	733	5,260
<b>Tobin</b>	16,206	6,672	2,955	743	2,212
<b>Westfall</b>	9,390	4,779	4,630	1,090	3,540
<b>Total</b>	<b>844,092</b>	<b>208,343</b>	<b>154,782</b>	<b>25,007</b>	<b>129,775</b>

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

# San Antonio Public Library Programs

## January 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
<b>Bazan</b>	2	16	8	5	6	2	39
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	7	20	5	0	2	0	34
<b>Carver</b>	6	11	5	11	0	1	34
<b>Central</b>	22	16	148	43	4	10	243
<b>Cody</b>	10	28	42	10	2	1	93
<b>Collins Garden</b>	9	11	6	11	5	5	47
<b>Cortez</b>	5	10	21	17	1	2	56
<b>Encino</b>	17	5	5	21	22	4	74
<b>Forest Hills</b>	21	9	5	3	0	0	38
<b>Great Northwest</b>	12	5	4	9	5	10	45
<b>Guerra</b>	20	14	5	13	1	0	53
<b>Igo</b>	20	10	7	11	1	10	59
<b>Johnston</b>	8	14	11	13	4	2	52
<b>Kampmann</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Landa</b>	51	17	12	7	3	0	90
<b>Las Palmas</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Little Read Wagon</b>	24	0	6	7	0	0	37
<b>Maverick</b>	12	0	6	11	0	0	29
<b>McCreless</b>	0	9	4	23	5	2	43
<b>Memorial</b>	5	17	7	23	4	18	74
<b>Mission</b>	17	6	11	23	22	5	84
<b>Pan American</b>	10	23	8	4	1	1	47
<b>Parman</b>	30	14	6	33	12	4	99
<b>Potranco</b>	7	9	10	22	2	1	51
<b>Pruitt</b>	11	0	7	0	0	6	24
<b>San Pedro</b>	20	9	0	5	3	0	37
<b>Schaefer</b>	24	17	6	4	1	4	56
<b>Semmes</b>	9	3	2	3	0	1	18
<b>System</b>	0	2	41	9	1	1	54
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	23	8	0	24	7	3	65
<b>Tobin</b>	17	17	12	18	7	5	76
<b>Westfall</b>	7	21	10	10	15	7	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>1,821</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

## January 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*
<b>Bazan</b>	10	36	8	30	7	0
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	74	272	25	0	213	0
<b>Carver</b>	8	29	2	49	0	40
<b>Central</b>	281	42	492	271	5	42
<b>Cody</b>	435	363	381	65	6	0
<b>Collins Garden</b>	110	33	17	31	0	113
<b>Cortez</b>	34	269	21	46	0	26
<b>Encino</b>	330	90	21	53	108	36
<b>Forest Hills</b>	17	131	21	4	0	0
<b>Great Northwest</b>	253	16	0	42	33	49
<b>Guerra</b>	217	80	2	37	0	0
<b>Igo</b>	756	30	5	53	1	63
<b>Johnston</b>	179	103	25	17	28	0
<b>Kampmann</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Landa</b>	1,061	151	61	38	11	0
<b>Las Palmas</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Little Read Wagon</b>	515	0	21	113	0	0
<b>Maverick</b>	306	0	35	45	0	0
<b>McCreless</b>	0	26	3	61	14	13
<b>Memorial</b>	11	108	144	97	3	36
<b>Mission</b>	108	6	31	58	120	11
<b>Pan American</b>	76	194	8	40	0	0
<b>Parman</b>	1,059	493	34	264	114	20
<b>Potranco</b>	121	12	25	101	29	0
<b>Pruitt</b>	75	0	133	0	0	73
<b>San Pedro</b>	106	20	0	4	1	0
<b>Schaefer</b>	260	267	6	1	2	11
<b>Semmes</b>	383	30	18	12	0	6
<b>System</b>	0	56	167	90	10	0
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	140	48	0	36	26	4
<b>Tobin</b>	131	96	56	74	44	19
<b>Westfall</b>	67	98	13	29	29	9

## II. SYSTEMWIDE SERVICES

### LATINO COLLECTION AND RESOURCE CENTER



*Two participants at the Mixed Media Memory Collage Art Workshop display their creations.*

On January 11, in collaboration with Mexican American Civil Rights Institute (MACRI) & Monte Video, the Latino Collection & Resource Center (LCRC) presented a public film screening featuring two films that explored the history of racial violence along the Texas/Mexico border. The two films featured were titled *Porvenir, TX* and *They Call Us Seditiosos*. After the screenings, *Porvenir, TX* producer Christina Fernandez engaged in a discussion with Texas Public Radio's, Marian Navarro, followed by a Q & A session with audience members.

On January 14, the LCRC hosted a Mixed Media Memory Collage Art Workshop, presented by Raíz Infinita (Elizabeth Rodriguez).

Attendees created mixed media collage art in honor of a loved one. For three consecutive weekends (January 18, 25 & February 1), the LCRC hosted, *Voices of San Anto: A Series of Bilingual Storytelling Workshops*, in collaboration with Gemini Ink and hosted by Marisela Barrera. During the first two sessions, Marisela helped attendees craft their stories and fine tune performance techniques. The final session celebrated a public performance of the attendees' stories which was recorded and archived by frequent LCRC collaborators at Empower House.



*Voices of San Anto 2025 storytellers posing with Marisela Barrera after their performances.*

#### ***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.

### LEARN AT SAPL

Learn at SAPL served over 800 patron visits and facilitated over 1,000 hours of public computer use in January. Learn staff taught nearly 50 programs, including many technology classes for computer and mobile devices, and Learn volunteers led several cultural programs like an English / Spanish Language Exchange at Memorial Branch Library, and English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring at McCreless Branch Library.

Adult Education Program Manager Michelle D. Rickman teamed up with San Pedro Adult Services Librarian Diana Starrett to present "Beyond Books: Library Services for Adults" to lifelong learners

through San Antonio Oasis at Chandler House. Presenters were able to share many of the Library’s newer services like the digital collection and services inside the Libby app, as well as learn about the older adult experience of San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) offerings.

January also marked the wrap-up of a 12-week pilot program, formed in partnership with Haven for Hope and Learn at Central. Training Officers Denise Cadena, Daniel Gonzalez and Gerardo Arizpe brought Learn services to the Haven for Hope campus on Tuesday mornings, utilizing an on-site computer lab. Learn staff worked with Haven for Hope’s Income and Skills Development team for a successful project, ultimately receiving over 150 visits from residents to build their digital skills.

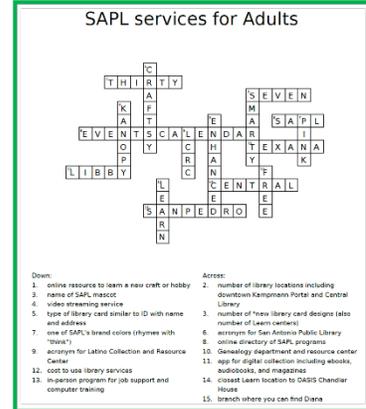
**These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals**

-  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. In January the team began two new series of programs. The new Pequeño Pop-up Play is a child-led play program that will happen once per month at a new park in a different area of San Antonio each time. This will make the program more accessible to families throughout the city. It will connect families with library programs and services at nearby branch locations. Many of the parks the team chose were requested by customers. All the parks are within a few miles of a library branch. The first Pequeño Pop-up Play program was at O.P. Schnabel Park on Tuesday, January 28th. During this program the team displayed program flyers and pictures of the Maverick Branch Library and the Igo Branch Library. Families took pictures of the flyers. They asked staff questions about the programs and the libraries.

The team also began a new series of Let’s Play! programs at the Mission Branch Library. The name of the program is the same, but it is now an all-day play program for children and their families. The program happens every Wednesday from 10 am – 4:30 pm. Children and families can attend the program when it works best for them. This allows the program to be more accessible to families. The team sets up play materials inside and outside of the library. Since the team offers play inside, the program will be comfortable for families no matter the weather. When children play, they build their brains and their bodies. Play in early childhood promotes lifelong learning and wellness. When libraries offer play, families see that the library is a welcoming space for them.



*Learning reinforcement for older adult participants at San Antonio Oasis. Template courtesy of Education.com.*



*Making giant bubbles at the Pequeño Pop-Up Play program at O.P. Schnabel Park*



*Building and Experimenting at Let's Play at the Mission Branch 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.
- 📖 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**

Librarians Andrew Crews and Arland Schnacker II presented "Veteran's Genealogy and Research Tips: Part I" at the Northeast Senior Center on January 6. Mr. Schnacker prepared the classroom set-up, managed technology, and distributed handouts while Mr. Crews led the instruction. On January 7, Librarian Lucy Agado held a beginning genealogy program in Spanish. This was the first time "Introducción a la Genealogía" had been offered online. The class provided a Spanish language approach to getting started on genealogy research. Working with SAPL's Organizational Health Unit (OHU), Ms. Agado also presented a beginning genealogy class for library staff on January 17.

Librarian/Archivist Sylvia Reyna was invited to participate in an Ancestry Workshop at the McNay Art Museum on January 11. Ms. Reyna presented Tools and Techniques for Exploring Your Genealogy. The presentation complimented the McNay's "Whitfield Lovell: Passages" exhibit which documents and pays tribute to the history and cultural memory of ancestors. Mr. Schnacker assisted with the "Game Changers: Meet the Artists" event on Jan 18 at the Central Library Gallery. This event offered attendees an opportunity to hear the stories of people, places, and events behind the quilts created by the African American Quilt Circle of San Antonio Texas (AAQCSA). He also presented a January 22 beginning genealogy class at the Central Library which gave attendees an overview of resources available for researching their family history. On January 28, he led a "Winter Preparation Program" at the Central Library and instructed patrons in how to do a Do-It-Yourself (DIY) space heater using terracotta pots and bricks.



*Winter Preparation Program participants create DIY space heaters.*

***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

In January, Children’s Services team members had multiple opportunities to increase public awareness of San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) resources. Jacquelyn Gonzales (Johnston), Linda Lopez (Guerra), and Cresencia Huff (Central Administration) visited with Northside Independent School District elementary school librarians on January 13. Ms. Lopez presented on NovelList+, a reader’s advisory resource available to any SAPL cardholder. On January 25, Melissa Fulmer (Memorial), Linda Childs (Cortez), and Ms. Huff hosted a children’s activity area and SAPL information table at the annual Housing in San Antonio event hosted by Neighborhood and Housing Services. Kristin Yourdon (Little Read Wagon) and Kate Simpson (Children’s Library at Central) joined Ms. Huff at the quarterly meeting of Ready Kid SA, a gathering of community organizations serving young children and their families. The group received updates on projects such as Crisis Childcare and broke into smaller groups for focused discussions of child health, school readiness, and development. Jasmin Salinas (Landa) hosted several online sessions to select summer incentive books. Ms. Salinas walked team members through the steps to login to their account, browse selection lists, and add titles to their carts. The team also discussed the likely popularity of specific titles relative to their cost.



*Children and a volunteer build together while adults gather information about the San Antonio Public 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.
-  Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library’s mission and achieve its vision.

#### TEENS

Each month, Teen Services holds a meeting of the Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons. This month's meeting took place on January 15, 2025 in the Teen Library at Central. The Teen Services professional development component entailed a structured discussion about maintaining personal space and boundaries while working with the public - and particularly with teens. Strategies were provided and teen staff conducted break-out sessions to share additional strategy suggestions which were then shared with the group. Also at the meeting, a new Teen Services staff workgroup was discussed organized. As background, each Teen Librarian II leads a staff workgroup comprised of Teen Librarian 1s for the purpose of enacting a system-wide teen service or program.

With the addition of Brandy Walthall Teen Services Librarian II (Guerra), the opportunity to develop a new teen services workgroup presented itself. The new workgroup, called the teen data workgroup, will develop community profiles for each SAPL location, examine community demographics and appraise SAPL teen usage patterns and levels of participation. It is exciting to have a group of teen librarians using

data and employing critical thinking to help determine service opportunities and gaps as they strive to provide exceptional service to the teens (13 to 18) of San Antonio. The teen data workgroup joins the existing teen services staff workgroups which are: teen engagement, teen summer, teen pride, teen services professional development, teen virtual services. Additionally, the leadership of the teen summer workgroup has transitioned to Teen Services Librarian II Chris Castillo (Carver).

***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.

## **ADULTS**

In January, the Library hosted the 13th annual Holocaust Learn and Remember event in partnership with the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio (HMMSA). The 2025 theme, focusing on liberation, honored concentration camp survivors and the U.S. soldiers who helped liberate them, marking the 80th anniversary the liberation of Auschwitz. The event began on January 9th at Central Library with remarks from San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg, Bexar County Judge Peter Sakai, State Senator José Menéndez, Interim Library Director Kathy Donellan, and HMMSA Director Leslie Davis Met. Texas A&M Professor Dr. Edward Westermann and Fort Sam Houston Museum Director Jacqueline Davis presented on the U.S. Army 90th Infantry Division’s role in liberating the Flossenbürg concentration camp. Despite cold and rainy weather, 70 attendees participated. Throughout January, six adult programs took place at three libraries, and three online presentations were offered. For the first time, a program for families explored genealogy through preserving stories, and recording family trees. An exhibit shared additional voices of liberation. On January 27th, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the closing event was moved to Norris Conference Centers due to high demand, with 500 community members attending. Attendees heard the testimonials of Auschwitz survivors and learned about the legacy left to their descendants.

On January 19, Carver Branch Library had the honor of hosting Ms. Arndrea Waters King in partnership with San Antonio African American Community Archive and Museum (SAAACAM). Ms. Waters King is the daughter in law of late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and spouse of Martin Luther King III. Mr. Waters King spoke to attendees about her book *What Is My Legacy?* Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in a meet and greet with Ms. Waters King.

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

## **OLDER ADULTS**

In January, eight branch library locations began offering Wowzitude Livestreamed Worldwide Travel. Wowzitude is an exciting series of livestreamed travel experiences designed for culturally curious older

adults. Through this series, participants can explore 200+ destinations worldwide through interactive walking tours led by passionate local guides, offering an authentic and unscripted glimpse into diverse cultures, landmarks, and hidden gems. Whether you're a travel dreamer or a lifelong learner, these awe-inspiring tours will spark your curiosity and inspire your next adventure, all while being connected to a vibrant community of fellow explorers in San Antonio and around the world. Destinations explored in January included Arequipa, Peru; Olich Creek, British Columbia, Canada; Cusco, Peru; Bath, England; Mexico City, Mexico and London, England. Wowzitude will be an ongoing program for older adults at a variety of Library locations and this opportunity is funded by Wellmed Charitable Foundation. Once per month, Memorial Branch Library offers an opportunity for older adults to play the classic game Scrabble. This game allows older adults an enjoyable opportunity for social connection while improving mental skills through vocabulary and spelling. All these benefits are offered in a casual, intellectually safe environment. Two San Antonio Public Library Locations offer a monthly offsite book club for older adults. Robin Alcorta, Adult Services Librarian at Landa Branch Library, offers a monthly book club for residents of the Village at Incarnate Word. Kimberly King, Adult Services Librarian at Thousand Oaks Branch Library offers a monthly book club at Northeast Senior Center, one of the Senior Centers operated by City of San Antonio Senior Services. In January, the Northeast Senior Center Book Club discussed "Saint X" by Alexis Schaitkin. This thriller follows a woman's obsessive search for the truth behind her sister's death, exploring grief, identity, and a haunting connection with a suspect.

***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.

## V. LOCATION-BASED SERVICES

### Central Library



*Childrens Wall of Warmth*

This winter, the Children’s Library at Central offered a new resource for families: the Children’s Wall of Warmth, featuring child-sized warm clothing available for anyone who needed it. This initiative was developed by Manager Kate Simpson and supported by Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin. Shannon coordinated with The Temple Beth-El Sisterhood to lead a clothing drive. Ms. Seglin also pioneered the first children’s program for The Holocaust Learn & Remember program series: “Dig Into Your Roots,” which she conducted at the Igo Branch Library and focused on sharing and preserving family stories.

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 – some highlights this month include teens making dumplings and bookmarks to celebrate Chinese New Year, teen volunteer Liss showing teens how to make banana milk, and teen volunteer Anthony assisting teens and staff with 3D printing. In addition, Teen Library staff provided Mexican American Studies students from Marshall High School a tour of the Central Library to view the art and architecture of the building, a group of students from Shavano BASIS High School visited the Teen Library to do research for class projects, and the Library Club students at Academy High School in Kingsville, TX received a tour of the library and participated in engaging activities in the Teen Library. Central Library served as a place to stay warm for over 150 people during the cold weather in January. Patrons enjoyed games, coloring sheets and magazines provided by staff. Patrons chatted and sheltered from the cold.

The Creative Collective Open Mic, cohosted by JD Elizondo and LC Keefe, met twice with regulars and new participants taking the stage. The event continues to foster a sense of community by providing a space for people to connect, express themselves, and be inspired by one another. Patricia Perez and Leti Guerra presented the Envision Success vision board program on January 25. Attendees enjoyed creating vision boards with inspirational words, goal-setting images, and vibrant colors. A curated collection of books was available for patrons to checkout.

Learn at Central had three patrons throughout the month that needed help accessing their probation classes online which they were able to complete with staff’s help. The patrons were very thankful to staff for introducing computer skills to them while they completed the classes. Two patrons were impressed by the computer accessibility setting, Narrator, that read the probation course material to them, so they were able to listen and read simultaneously.



*Envision Success Vision Boards*

***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.

## **DISTRICT 1**

### **Landa Branch Library**

On Friday, January 17, Assistant Manager/Adult Services Librarian Robin Alcorta hosted a group of older adults from The Haven & The Laurels in Stone Oak senior living community at the Landa Branch Library. The group participated in a self-guided tour of the branch to kick off their visit, taking time to explore the intricate architecture of the building and learn about the history of the Landas. Afterwards, Alcorta answered questions from the group and shared additional details about the Landas, the branch, and the grounds. To culminate their time at the branch, Alcorta showed the group how to use mason jars, tissue paper, and Mod Podge to create beautiful lanterns that served as a great keepsake to remember their visit to the Landa Branch Library. Upon leaving, the group expressed their gratitude towards Alcorta and the Landa Branch Library team for creating such a positive, welcoming, and inclusive morning of events.

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

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

### **San Pedro Branch Library**

Starting in January every Thursday morning, Children’s Librarian, Karen Braeuler, launched a new program, “Play and Read.” Children and their grown-ups share interactive play time and reading at various stations to build curiosity and early literacy skills. The new activity was designed for preschoolers aged 2-5 and featured a variety of free play stations, where children express themselves without bounds. Their caregivers were also encouraged to join in the fun.

On January 28th, Diana Starrett and Michelle Rickman visited the Chandler Assisted Living center to promote San Antonio Public Library. Their presentation included information about the LEARN@SAPL program as well as various services that includes both print and digital materials. The residents were encouraged to visit their local library to either get a library card or renew their existing one. By coincidence, the following day at San Pedro, Branch Manager, Nathan Laubner, happened to strike up a conversation with a couple at the public service desk. Sure enough, they were visiting San Pedro to renew their library cards because they had attended the previous day’s library outreach event at the Chandler. This interaction proves that outreach helps connect San Antonio residents with the 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.
-  Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.

**Westfall Branch Library**

Louis Medellin and Shauna Mendoza, Training Officers at Westfall and Johnston Branch Libraries, have joined forces to lead introductory computer classes at the Darner Senior Center. The classes began in September and October of 2024, picked up once again in January of 2025, and will continue through March 2025 and beyond. The classes focus on basic computer skills such as typing and using the mouse. The seniors are eager to learn and excited to return each week. This program has been both rewarding and impactful, allowing the Training Officers to share their knowledge beyond the library’s walls. These classes not only support the Learn mission to improve computer literacy but also brings the Learn program’s benefits directly to the community.

For the past thirty years, at least, the first graders of Discovery School and their teachers have walked down to the Westfall Library for a brief story time with Children’s Librarian Imelda Merino and an opportunity to select and check out books of their own choosing. This is done throughout the school year, about once or twice a month. It is always a joy to see the interest and enthusiasm of these students, especially as they share their favorite books with their friends. Their eyes light up as they talk with exuberance about their interests, whether it be LEGOS, animals, unicorns, or Minecraft. The Discovery School teachers have a special gift for engaging these children in a way that fires their eagerness to learn. One cannot help but catch some of their spirit when they come!

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

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

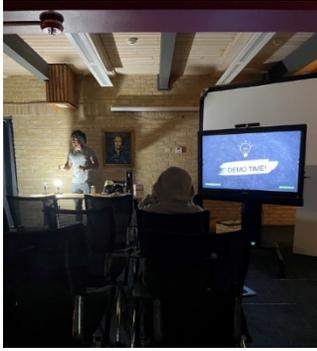
**DISTRICT 2**

**Carver Branch Library**

Laura Alvarez, a library aide at Carver, created a beautiful display for Black History Month in the children's section of the library. It consists of three panels on the ends of the juvenile fiction bookshelves. The middle panel includes the phrase “Black history



*Black History Month display*



*Hands On Physics*

is American history,” with two panels on the sides that highlight well-known Black Americans and feature quotes from them.

Finis L. Stribling IV, a graduate research assistant from the Physics and Astronomy Department at the University of Texas at San Antonio, started a Hands-On Physics program for 9–12-year-old children which will run through May. The children will be exploring physics through demonstrations and hands-on activities - topics include the solar system, light, electricity, gravity, collisions, and other STEM concepts.

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

- 📖 Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.
- 📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library’s reach in the community.

**Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School**

The Molly Pruitt Branch offers weekly Teen Time on Fridays. This program aims to allow teens to feel like they belong in a library space without the pressure that school or home might make them feel. At a recent Teen Time, it was confirmed that the library was meeting this goal when a teen confided in the teen librarian about how comfortable they felt and enjoyed being there. Seeing the impact of the program’s goal reinforced that Molly Pruitt's services and programs impact the patrons it serves.

Pruitt Library hosts a unique weekly Sensory Play Time program designed for early childhood. This engaging program provides babies, toddlers, and preschoolers with a variety of thoughtfully curated sensory experiences. Participants can improve their fine motor skills, foster language development, promote creativity, and enhance sensory awareness. Additionally, children can collaborate with their peers, which helps develop their social skills. This program also allows parents to connect while actively engaging with their children in these essential developmental activities.



*Toddlers playing "Frozen Ocean Rescue."*

***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.

**Schaefer Branch Library**

Children's Librarian, Leslie Elsasser, presented a tutorial on the library's catalog for elementary aged children and their family. Leslie provided instruction on how locate free books, music, movies, and other items available through SAPL using the online catalog.

In January, Schaefer started several new series of programs: Wowzitude, a monthly live streamed interactive walking tour of selected destinations for older adults; Family Games, a monthly program

featuring family friendly games; and Adult Jewelry making, a weekly program for the 1st quarter of this year offering adult patrons the opportunity to make chainmail jewelry, earrings and rings using SAPL's Craftsy database and YouTube videos.

***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.

## **DISTRICT 3**

### **McCreless Branch Library**

A McCreless Learn student had attended the Yoga Tuesdays at McCreless class once several months ago. She stopped by for the second time in January, shortly before the class started. She was 5 months pregnant, expressed a need for some good stretching, and spontaneously borrowed a Learn yoga mat so she could participate in that night's session. Since the class follows Austin-based yoga instructor Adriene Mishler's YouTube channel, Learn Training Officer Lodie Mueller found a pre-natal yoga video safe for all three trimesters of pregnancy and another with an emphasis on deep breathing and relaxation. The mom was delighted that she could meet her own wellness needs while her 8-year-old daughter stayed nearby, entertaining herself with a tablet during the class. The mom declared how wonderful she felt at the end of the class and made plans to come again the next week.

***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.

### **Mission Branch Library**

A contractor working with the library happily shared with staff that he had found his current position by using the public computers here at Mission library. He was thankful for the computer access and appreciative of the staff that had helped him through the process.

This month, Little Red Wagon started hosting a weekly 6.5-hour children's program on Wednesdays called 'Let's Play at Mission Library.' The program is simultaneously held in two spaces: the program room and the courtyard. The target audience are children 0-8 years old. A variety of sensory items, open-ended items and art supplies are offered to stimulate young minds.

***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.

## **Pan American Branch Library**

The Pan American branch hosted a Special Needs Adults Programming session. The session featured a digital read-along story, 100 Mighty Dragons All Named Broccoli by David LaRoche, a 3-D dragon craft made from a paper plate, and snack. Twenty-two special-needs adults and companions kept track of the story dragons' antics and designed their own dragons using an array of colors.

Pan American Branch Library's Children's Librarian, Rachel Forbes, visited a local preschool and did a frog-themed story time for three different classrooms. Children listened to stories, sang songs, and listened to music on the ukulele. Jennifer Gutierrez, assisted by the Children's Librarian, also provided Come & Go Crafts which included creating a paper plate owl at the Pan American Branch 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.
-  Provide a diverse, inclusive, and responsive collection of library books and materials to reflect and meet the needs of the community.
-  Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.

## **DISTRICT 4**

### **Cortez Branch Library**

Three Getting Crafty classes were held for the month of January. On January 8 the craft was emailed to the crafters due to inclement weather as a "Craft From Home" project. The class received different recipes to make in an air fryer. On the 15th the class sewed Fleece Mittens. The 22nd was a "bring your own craft" day. On the 29th the class made heart shaped wreaths. Crafty Tea-time happens once a month. This program is more of a social gathering for community members to come in meet new people and enjoy nice hot flavored teas. While they are here, they can craft, read, or just enjoy each other's company. These programs are impactful because they give older adults in the Cortez community to create meaningful and lasting connections with their fellow community members.

The Cortez Young Adult (YA) collection has introduced an innovative Manga display featuring "mystery" titles. Patrons can take a chance and check out a Manga book without knowing its title, thanks to specially designed book covers. As an added bonus, patrons get to keep the unique book cover. This engaging display has led to an increase in circulation within the YA collection. This display continues to help create connections with the teen community and engages their senses of discovery and enjoyment.

### ***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

Johnston library began offering a scavenger hunt for children in January. Each visit to the library, children are invited to partake in a small hunt to find 10 images hidden throughout the children's area. In January images were Winter-themed including a mug of cocoa and mittens. When the children successfully locate all 10 images, they can choose a small prize out of Johnston's treasure chest. Prizes include stickers, fun pencils, and themed erasers. Thus far the response to this has been exceptional. Not only do children enjoy this fun game, but the parents helping them with this game have expressed enjoyment in the hunt. The game is simple yet also spotlights many areas within the children's section that might otherwise have been unnoticed by families. Staff have observed children and parents return to areas where the images were located and examine the area more closely.

In January Johnston started a new program series: Adulting 101. This series is a collaboration between Teen Librarian Ana Pina, Adult Services Librarian Cris Yamada, and Learn Training Officer Shauna Mendoza and focuses on helping young adults (18-25) learn life skills as they move into adulthood. The program has two tracks: Adulting 101, and Adulting 101 with Learn. Adulting 101 focuses on life skills such as basic sewing, cooking, and financial literacy. The first meeting on January 14th was a presentation by Cafe College about financial aid and scholarships. Adulting 101 with Learn by Ms. Mendoza focuses on helping young adults transition into the workforce. The first session, "Discover Your Path", on January 11th focused on an aptitude and career assessment to discover potential career paths. The response to the Adulting 101 concept has been positive, if surprising. In addition to the target age range of young adults, older patrons have also demonstrated strong interest.

### ***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.

## DISTRICT 5

### Bazan Branch Library



*Bazan's "Wall of Warmth" stocked with donations from staff and customers.*

The Bazan Branch was one of several locations to extend its hours on Sunday, January 19 and to open its doors to the community as a place to stay warm on the January 20 Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Additionally, staff and customers came together to support those in need by donating winter clothing to Bazan's "Wall of Warmth". The donated clothing items, displayed on a designated stand-alone shelf, included hats, scarves, jackets, and other cold-weather essentials. One generous customer contributed three bags full of clothing. Both the Wall of Warmth and the library itself proved invaluable as temperatures dropped below freezing, offering visitors not only free extra layers of clothing but also a safe place to escape the cold.

Bazan branch Training Officer, Carlos Loera, launched a new series of computer literacy classes for adults in January. This six-week course focused on essential

computer skills and internet safety. Participants first learned about the importance of creating strong passwords, with step-by-step guidance on how to make one. The class then reviewed how to recognize online fraud such as phishing, job scams, and shopping scams. Additionally, students learned how to set up an email account and how to use productivity tools such as Google Suite and Microsoft Office Suite for both personal and professional use. The next series of classes will focus on using smartphones and exploring the free library apps available.



*Patron attends a computer literacy class at the Bazan Learn Center*

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

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

### **Collins Garden Branch Library**

Mrs. Yaping Zhang hosted a dragon dance at the library in honor of the Chinese New Year. She shared the history of the dragon and how the Chinese celebrate the Lunar New Year. At the end of the presentation, patrons were thrilled to take part in the dragon parade throughout the building. The event received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with many expressing their enjoyment of being part of the team that held the dragon's poles, creating an atmosphere of excitement and joy.



*Dragon dance*

On January 14, Collins Garden Branch had ramen and bubble tea DIY for teens to celebrate Chinese New Year as part of their regular weekly teen club for ages 13-18. Among the teens who were at the event were two teens who stop by the library for water on their way home, but don't usually stay for events. It was impactful that these young people who are not normally engaged in library events felt welcomed and valued by their community.

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

-  Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.
-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

### **Las Palmas Branch Library**

While construction progresses on the transformative renovation at Las Palmas Branch, staff continued to offer interim services at the Sueltenfuss Library at Our Lady of the Lake University. Las Palmas staff offered holds pickup and account and reference services.

In January, recruitment moved forward on two staff positions for Las Palmas. A new Training Officer to staff the Learn at SAPL Las Palmas location was funded as part of the Fiscal Year 2025 Library budget. That position is being advertised in February 2025.

Recruitment began in December 2024 to fill a vacant Children’s Librarian position at Las Palmas. The new Las Palmas Children’s Librarian was selected in January and that staff member will start in March 2025.

Phase 2 of construction at Las Palmas is on-going and the project is estimated to be 65% complete as of January 2025.

### **Memorial Branch Library**

Memorial staff has worked hard to make the branch inviting; their demeanor and service have played a significant part in the success of the branch. Collectively, the team has received 19 enCORE cards from patrons during the beginning of FY2025. Common themes are the kindness and patience of the staff, their helpfulness and good cheer, and the welcome patrons feel. Staff dedication has driven statistical improvements, as well. Memorial's total circulation for the first four months of Fiscal Year 2025 (FY2025) has seen an increase of 2% over the same period in FY2024. Technology use has likewise increased by 4.6%.

Adult Services Librarian Freddy Hudson conceived of a Walking Club last year and kicked it off in September of 2024. Since then, a small group of walkers has toured the local community every Thursday morning. They explore different parts of the community each week, including the campus of St. Mary’s University. As they walk, they are not just getting a little bit of casual exercise; they are connecting with their community, connecting as individuals, and building friendships. First-time walkers receive a re-useable water bottle inscribed with the words, “Sometimes you forget you are awesome, so this is your reminder.”

#### ***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.

## **DISTRICT 6**

### **Great Northwest Branch Library**

This month staff from the Great Northwest Branch and Potranco Branch visited the Alicia Treviño Senior Center for an outreach event for older adults. Staff engaged the community and provided information on library resources and programs. They also provided library card registration to those in attendance.



*San Antonio Public Library staff outreach at Alicia Treviño Senior Center*



*Vision Board program*

On Sunday, January 19, Great Northwest hosted a Vision Board program for adults to kick off the 2025 New Year. Twenty participants joined in on the fun to create an individual vision board of their goals. The program attendees used their creativity make their own collage vision board and shared their intentions for the year ahead.

***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.

## **Guerra Branch Library**

This month, the Guerra Branch served as a Place to Stay Warm on two occasions. Librarians and Circulation staff willingly and graciously made themselves available to accommodate this need to ensure that this location was available to vulnerable members of the community who needed a place to stay warm in the frigid temperatures. This speaks to staff's teamwork and dedication to ensuring the wellbeing of the community. Later in the month, the branch began hosting the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program for qualified individuals. This valuable program provides free income tax return preparation and filing by trained volunteers to eligible taxpayers. By hosting this free tax assistance program, Guerra provides a welcoming and accessible environment for individuals who might otherwise not have access to the service. This partnership also highlights the value of collaboration by coming together to provide a vital service that eases the burden of tax season for many in the community.

On January 11, the Guerra Branch hosted Agarita, a chamber ensemble rooted in San Antonio, dedicated to producing collaborative, free musical events and devoted to reaching new audiences. Patrons enjoyed the opportunity to sit back, relax and enjoy the beautiful sounds of this mobile concert experience. This was the group's second visit to the branch and their performances were well received. The branch plans to continue hosting this group so members of the community can continue to enjoy new ways to experience classical and contemporary music.

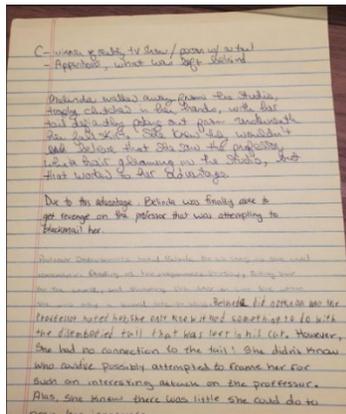


*Agarita chamber music performance*

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

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

## Potranco Branch Library



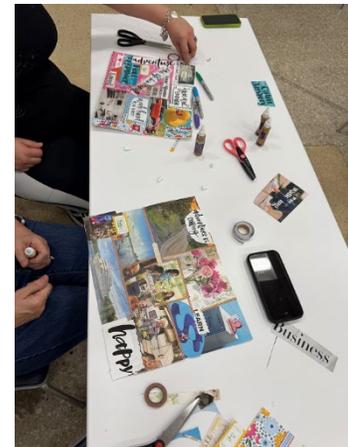
*Collaborative story created by Inkognito teen participants as an icebreaker activity.*

In January, Potranco Branch Library revived its teen literary club, Inkognito. The club started as a book club, but teens found it difficult to read a novel-length work with the demands of school. Last fall, the program was reimagined as a discussion group for short fiction. The concept was further refined by the teen librarian and teen volunteers. Working together, they identified changes to better engage participants, including selecting teen-authored works, adding icebreaker games and take-home writing prompts, and reading a longer work periodically to maintain a “book club” feel. The planning process provided the teen volunteers’ an active role in developing teen programming. With a recent analysis showing San Antonio students reading below grade level, Potranco’s Inkognito group’s “right-sized” selections and social atmosphere invites teens to enjoy reading again.

On Sunday, January 5, the Potranco Library hosted its annual vision board program. Several attendees from last year shared their 2024 outcomes and were excited to return to make boards for 2025. The library supplied discarded magazines, mini-poster boards, and scrapbooking materials while patrons brought their creativity. All left feeling focused on fulfilling their 2025 goals. The program is impactful precisely because participants leave looking forward to the new year.

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

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



*Vision Boards for Adults*

## DISTRICT 7

### Forest Hills Branch Library

The first Teen Time of the year, the teens had planned to start the year off by making sushi. The teens provided a list of supplies for staff to pick up and handled doing the prep aside from cooking rice. Teens did all the cutting of veggies, crab sticks, and cream cheese. Once everything was ready everyone made their own rolls, sharing tips and tricks with those newer to rolling sushi. It was fantastic to see the teens working together to organize an activity, taking control, and making sure no one got left behind due to lack of experience.

Thanks to a donation from another library branch, Forest Hills set up a community puzzle table. Patrons of all ages will spend some time putting pieces together, sometimes completing a puzzle in as little as a few days. Other patrons have seen the table and offered to donate more puzzles to keep it going. It's been a great addition to the space.

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

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

## **Maverick Branch Library**

A customer approached the reference desk and asked the librarian for assistance on making copies. The librarian escorted the customer to the circulation desk so staff can help add credit onto her library card. Afterwards the librarian led her to the copy machine and guided her on entering her credentials and help place the papers in the feeder. Impressed with the quick customer service, the customer states in a cheerful tone, “Well that was fun! It’s always really good to find new ways the library makes life easier!” Although the customer’s visit was brief, it is great knowing her experience and engagement was pleasant, joyful, and satisfying! This opportunity and feedback were important to note since regardless of the task, whether brief or extensive, the San Antonio Public Library is making an impact by providing customers professional and courteous customer service.

Maverick’s dynamic staff excels at providing customer service! Christian Gutierrez, Part-Time Circulation Attendant, provides outstanding customer service all the time. With his friendly and approachable demeanor, Mr. Gutierrez always assists customers with respect and with a cordial manner. He is knowledgeable with technology and often fully assists customers within his ability before directing the customer to the reference desk. Christian is one of the few staff who is bilingual. As a fluent Spanish speaker, Christian is a tremendous asset in communicating and serving Maverick’s Spanish speaking community. Christian has also earned the respect from fellow staff and the public. Not only does he assist the public with enthusiasm, but he is always ready to help staff with computer issues and/or always seeking a solution to challenges that occur. Therefore, acknowledgement and credit are presented for the hard work and dedication of Mr. Christian Gutierrez.

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

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

## **DISTRICT 8**

### **Cody Branch Library**

The Cody Branch Library served as a warming center over the Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday weekend, including the holiday itself. Several patrons spent time at the branch and were grateful to have a place to get out of the cold. The branch was prepared for visitors, including their fur friends, thanks to a partnership with the City of San Antonio Animal Care Services, who provided kennels, blankets, food for both dogs and cats, and even cat litter.

The Cody Library offers many programs for the community, for all ages. Children’s programming keeps the branch busy on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, with Storybook Club and Explorer’s Club. The noise levels in the building start to go up by three in the afternoon, when students from nearby Howsman Elementary start to come in, followed around 4pm by Hobby Middle School students. Teens, aged 13-18, enjoy the Teen Hangout every school day, with crafts, snacks, and lots of new friends. Programming for Adults includes five different book clubs, a film club, Fiber Club, French Conversation

Club, Art for Seniors, and the new monthly Plant Swap. With such a wide range of programming available, there is something for everyone at Cody!

**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

This month, the new solar panels at the Igo Library went live. Local business Big Sun Solar, in partnership with CPS Energy, officially routed power from the solar panels to Igo on Monday, January 13th. Igo is the first San Antonio Public Library branch to receive solar panels, as part of a city-wide initiative that will eventually reach other SAPL branches. In addition to installing solar panels on the roof, Big Sun Solar also added a canopy to the Igo parking lot. The 336 panels will offset up to 70% of Igo's energy costs. Any gathered electricity that is not needed by the library will be added to the power grid to benefit others in the community.



*The solar panel canopy outside of Igo provides shade and energy.*

Tween patrons at the Igo Library were treated to a special experience this month. Using marshmallows, corn starch, and coconut oil, they were able to create their own edible playdough. The addition of food coloring to the mix allowed the tweens to create a rainbow of different-colored concoctions. After mixing and kneading the dough by hand, they were able to use their creations however they liked. This hands-on activity proved to be incredibly engaging for the young patrons, and they immensely enjoyed the experience that the Igo Children's Librarian, Mandy Johnson, facilitated for them.



*Tween patrons create edible play dough.*

**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.

## DISTRICT 9

### Brook Hollow Branch Library

A program of great impact this month at Brook Hollow Library's (BHL) was the Read to a Dog program. The program continues to attract new patrons including, families who have come to the library for other reasons but can't resist saying hello to BHL's K9 furry therapy dogs. Read to a Dog continues to have a positive impact on the BHL Team as well, who work together to set up, prepare and welcomingly greet the dogs, handlers, and event



*Charles with his dog Biscuit, an excellent listener, and several readers who dropped by BHL to look for books, activities, and discovered the chance to read and make a*

attendees. A spirit of community surrounds the dogs and humans during the program as children read their favorite K9 in a comfortable environment.



Winter Wonderland Tent

A magical winter wonderland was created in the children's section of the Brook Hollow Library (BHL) for patrons to explore and enjoy during the coldest months in Texas. The BHL Team worked together to create a white and blue landscape shredded paper snowflakes, fluffy cotton ball snowbanks and much more wintery eye candy for little ones to explore. Children were thrilled to sit under BHL's SAPL Winter Wonderland Tent during Thursday story times.

**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.

### Encino Branch Library

Encino took great pride in the fact that the branch surpassed its circulation goal by 4,000 items in the month of January! The staff worked diligently on creating maintaining books displays as well as staying on top of their collection development practices. January also brought in more visitors to Encino's children's programming. Children's Librarian Caitlin Leonard offers a variety of different programs for school age children during the week which focus on STEM.

The Encino Teens' Creations Board began as a passive program for all teens visiting the room to share their artistic vision and post them on the creations board. In the month of January, the creations board began to overflow its borders, allowing for teens who might not visit for Teen Time to experience the accepting vibe of the Teen room.

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

-  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.

### Parman Branch Library at Stone Oak

Parman Branch Library at Stone Oak celebrated a record-breaking month in January, surpassing its circulation goal by 5,000 items. The library staff dedicated significant effort to curating engaging book displays and maintaining a diverse collection. A new initiative, the 'Teen Creations Board,' was launched, providing a platform for teens to share their artistic work. This program quickly gained popularity, with the board overflowing with creative submissions, offering visitors a unique glimpse into the artistic talents of the community.

Parman Branch Library at Stone Oak achieved a significant milestone in January, exceeding its circulation goal by 5,000 items. The library staff focused on creating compelling book displays and ensuring a diverse collection. A new program, the 'Teen Creations Board,' was introduced, allowing teens to showcase their artistic creations. This initiative was highly successful, with the board overflowing with creative works, providing a wonderful experience for all visitors.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

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

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

## DISTRICT 10

### Semmes Branch Library

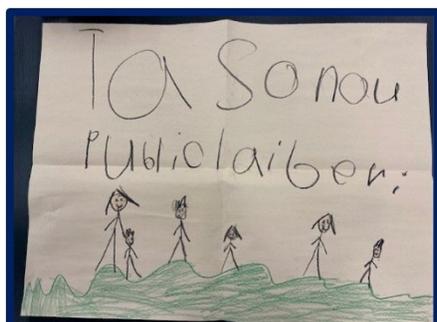
Semmes Library was closed for renovation from mid-November until January 13th. Patron return upon re-opening was ecstatic, with many patrons being happy to return to their home library. "We're so glad you're back" was a daily message, along with many calling to ask if Semmes library was "really open."

The patron response to the reopening of Semmes Library to the public was heartily seen in the return of the beloved Read to a Dog program. Young patrons develop relationships with specific dogs, coming only to read to "their" dog. The resumption of the program lead to many happy faces, on both two feet and four.

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

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

### Thousand Oaks Branch Library



Artwork from the children's art table

Thousand Oaks Library has a children's art table to encourage children to engage in creative activities such as drawing, coloring, crafts, and writing. Writing is one of the five early literacy practices. Singing, talking, reading, and playing make up the other early literacy practices. Art tables are impactful for child by promoting creativity and communication through self-expression. A young patron recently used the art table at Thousand Oaks and left a picture for the Children's Librarian. The picture is an example of developing cognitive skills through decision making and emergent writing skills using strings of letters and invented spelling to write, "Thousand Oaks Public Library."

In January 2025, Thousand Oaks Library began hosting the new program series Wowzitude Livestreamed Worldwide Travel. The Library partnered with Wowzitude to offer an exciting series of livestreamed travel experiences designed for culturally curious older adults. Through Wowzitude’s virtual platform, program attendees explore over 200 destinations worldwide through interactive walking tours led by passionate local guides, offering an authentic glimpse into diverse cultures, landmarks, and hidden gems. The program series features a new destination each month fostering community and cultural connection among fellow explorers in San Antonio and around the world. January’s virtual destination was London.

***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.
-  Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library’s reach in the community.
-  Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.

### **Tobin Branch Library at Oakwell**

Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse hosted the first Chapter & Chill silent book group on January 24 at the Tobin at Oakwell branch library. Participants spent half an hour meeting and socializing with new bibliophile friends and enjoying treats from Flat Rock Texas Artisan food truck, before spending a silent hour reading any book they chose. Woolhouse provided coloring sheets and played classical music to promote a soothing atmosphere for optimal reading time. Afterward, participants could stay and chat about what they read if they wanted to. This program will continue Friday, February 28 and March 28 at 11AM.

Library Assistant Terry Verner noticed an increase in adult day care groups visiting the Tobin at Oakwell branch library, and she wanted to develop a stronger relationship with these individuals and provide them with a unique library experience. After speaking with their caregivers, Verner scheduled an Adult Read Along for January 15. Eight participants engaged in story time, which Verner wore dazzling white shoes for an immersive "Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes" 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.
-  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.

## VI. MEDIA

**Jan:** All major media outlets throughout January reported on the Library as a place to stay warm.

**Jan:** Multiple outlets reported on the Holocaust Learn and Remember series.

**Jan 10:** KSAT published an online article about the availability of free eBooks and eAudiobooks at the library.

**Jan 14:** Marketing Manager Scott Williams appeared on Great Day SA to highlight the Central Library's Zine Lab and free zines.

**Jan 14:** Community Impact News reported on the reopening of the Semmes Brach Library.

**Jan 14:** TPR and its affiliate stations reported on the reopening of the Semmes Branch Library.

**Jan 16:** The San Antonio Express-News published an online article about the appointment of Sukrit Goswami as the next Director of SAPL.

**Jan 16:** TPR and its affiliate stations reported on the appointment of Goswami as the next SAPL Director.

**Jan 16:** News4 and KABB reported on the appointment of Goswami as the next SAP Director.

**Jan 16:** Alamo City Moms Blog published an online article about MLK children's books and their availability at SAPL.

**Jan 17:** Multiple outlets reported on the city's holiday schedule for the MLK holiday.

**Jan 19:** The San Antonio Express-News republished their article on Goswami's appointment in print.

**Jan 20-21:** All major media outlets reported on the availability of certain library locations and other city facilities as warming centers over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday closure.

**Jan 27:** All major media outlets reported on the Holocaust Learn & Remember closing program.

**Jan 28:** KENS5 highlighted free teen programming at Central Library on Great Day SA.