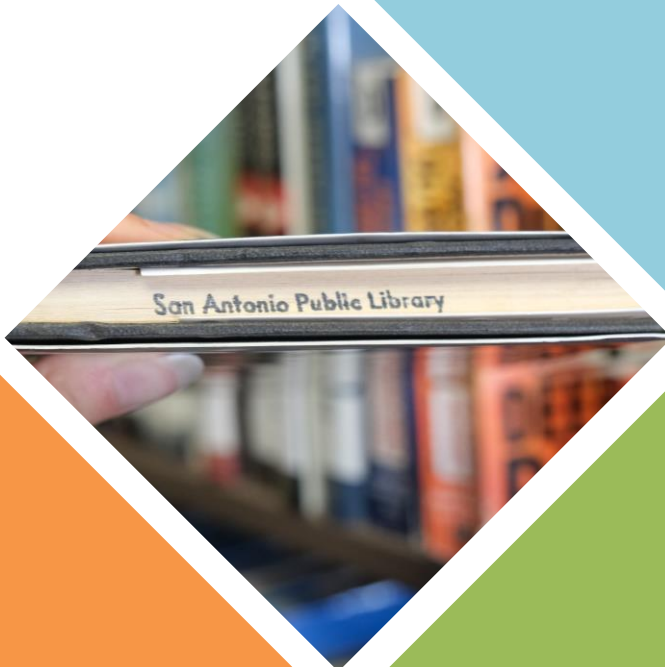


DIRECTOR'S REPORT

AUGUST 2024

*prepared for the
Library Board of Trustees*



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

INTERIM LIBRARY DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

System-wide Highlights

The "Summer with SAPL" initiative wrapped up on July 31, 2024. the San Antonio Public Library highlighted its "Back to School" programs and activities. KABB and KENS aired live demonstrations of the Library's online Homework Help tutoring service, sharing valuable information about the resources available to support students in the community.

Interim Library Director Activities

Interim Library Director Kathy Donellan

- met with Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez, Assistant City Manager David W. McCary, Director of Management and Budget Justina Tate for a briefing on the Library's FY 2025 Budget on August 12, 2024
- met with the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Executive Director, Amy Hone on August 12, 2024
- attended the City of San Antonio Budget Town Hall in District 2 at the Wheatley Heights Sports Complex on August 19, 2024
- attended the City of San Antonio Budget Town Hall in District 9 at the Walker Ranch Senior Center on August 20, 2024
- attended the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's Executive Committee meeting at the SAPLF Office on August 21, 2024
- attended the City of San Antonio Bond Program Work Group meeting on August 23, 2024
- attended the City of San Antonio Budget Town Hall in District 8 at the Urban Ecology Center on August 29, 2024
- facilitated the update of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library (FOSAPL), revising the agreement between FOSAPL and SAPL, which was last amended in 2018, as well as the Book Cellar MOU, last updated in 2011
- attended the City of San Antonio Youth Budget Town Hall at the Central Library on August 31, 2024

Performance Highlights:

Over eight million seven hundred thousand library materials have been checked out this fiscal year, which exceeds the FY24 target by 11% and is 1.1 M more compared to the same time period last year. Over 1.9 M hours of technology use have occurred, which is slightly below the year-to-date target by 2% and sixteen thousand more hours compared to the same time period last year. Starting in June 2024, several wireless access points were replaced and as a result the new devices are reporting less use. SAPL is actively working with the City's IT Department to validate data. The number of in-person library visits for the year to date is over two and a half million, which is under target by 9% and down from the same time period last year. Overall, in person visits have not returned to pre-COVID levels.

Media Highlights:

On August 18, KABB Fox 29 San Antonio aired a segment featuring Back to School resources offered by San Antonio Public Library. Coordinator of Services for Children, Cresencia Huff, was interviewed for the segment. The feature story also included a live demo of the Library's online Homework Help tutoring service, which is provided through a contract with BrainFuse. The story aired multiple times on KABB and partner station WOAI.

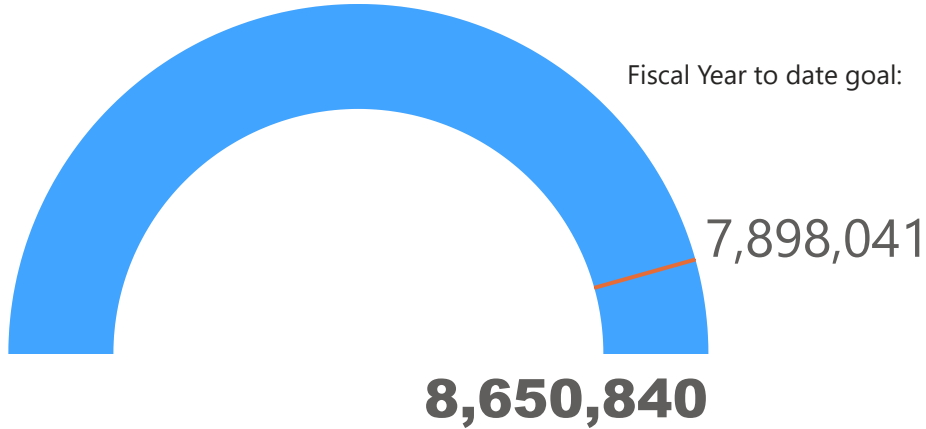


KABB aired a feature story on the availability of Back-to-School resources at SAPL, including a live Homework Help demo.

I. Key Performance Indicators - Summary

Fiscal Year 2024, October 2023 to August 2024

Circulation: Goal

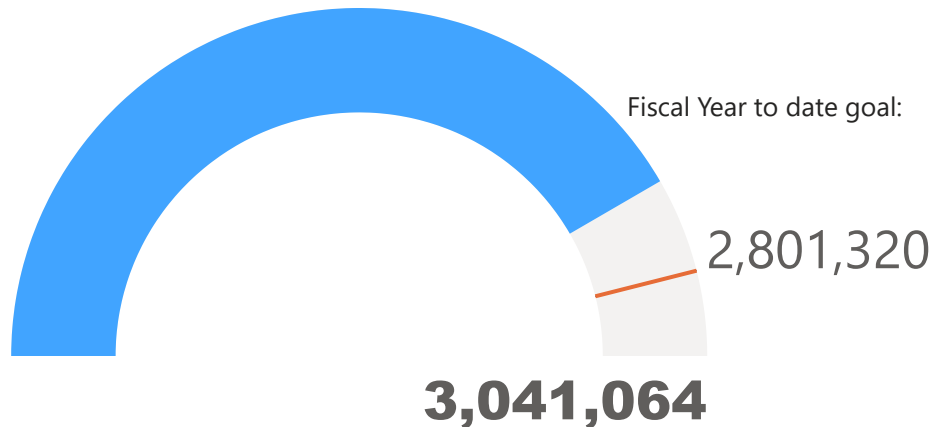


FY 2024 to date Items Borrowed



8,728,615
(+10.52%)
Circulation

Visits: Goal

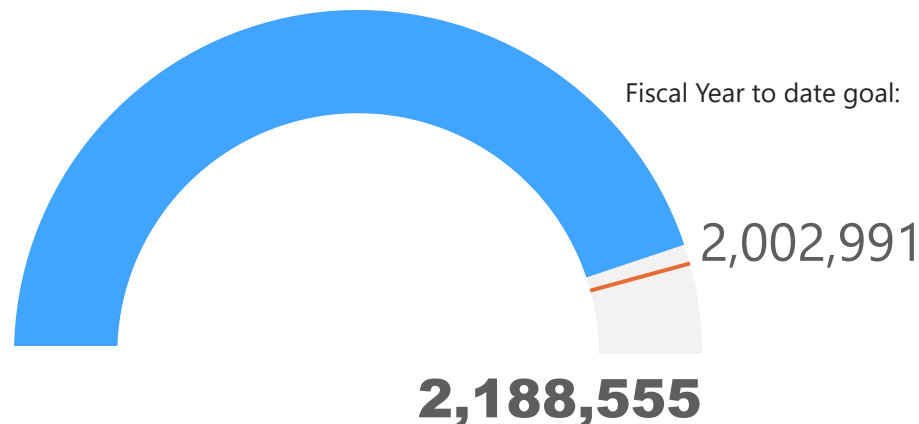


FY 2024 to date Library Visits



2,531,720
(-9.62%)
Visits

Digital Access: Goal



FY 2024 to date Digital Access



276,492
Hours of Computer Use



1,686,836
Hours of Wi-Fi Use

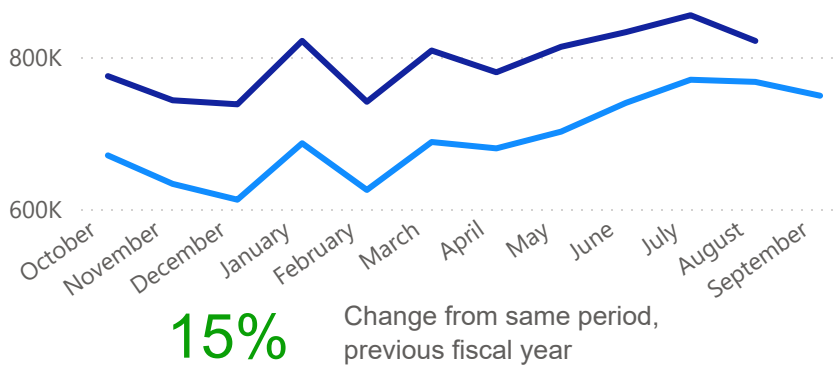
1,963,328
(-1.98%)
Hours of Technology Use

FY24 year to date Total Circulation

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

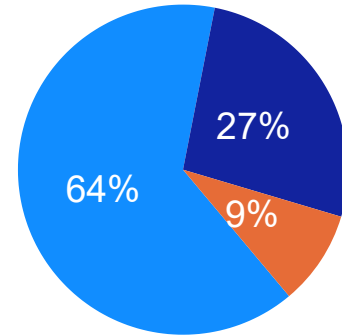
8,728,615

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



FY24 to date total circulation by service area

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

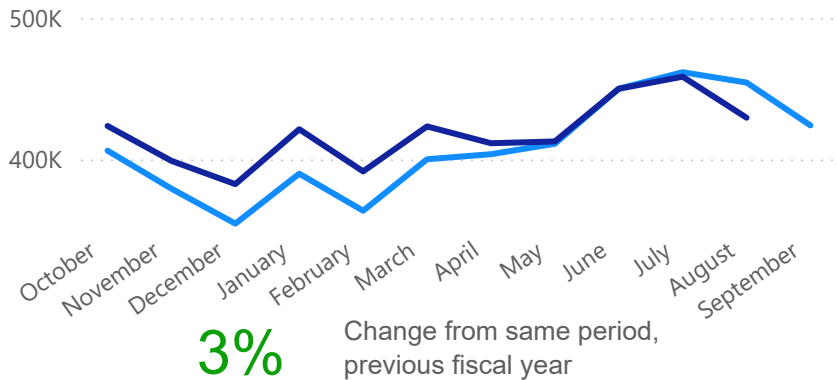


FY24 year to date Physical Circulation

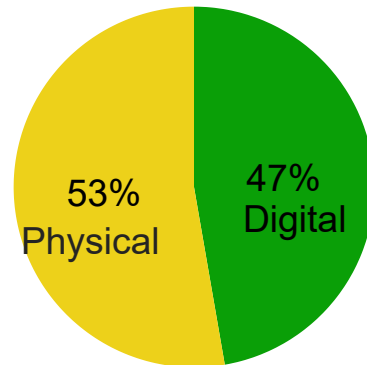
The number of checkouts and renewals of physical library materials.

4,602,861

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



FY24 to date total circulation by type

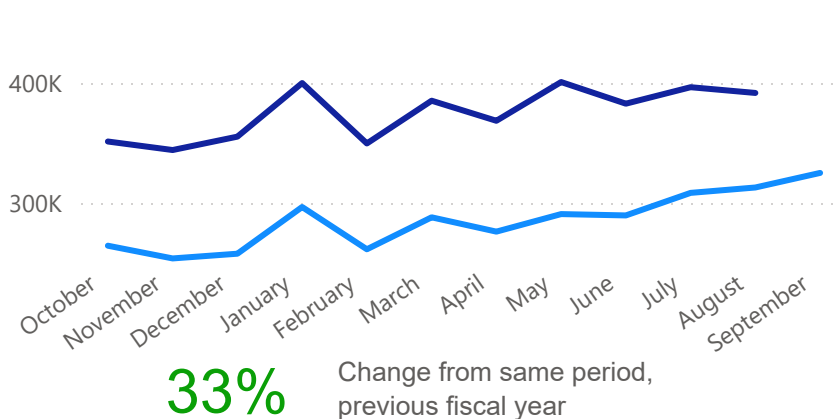


FY24 year to date Digital Circulation

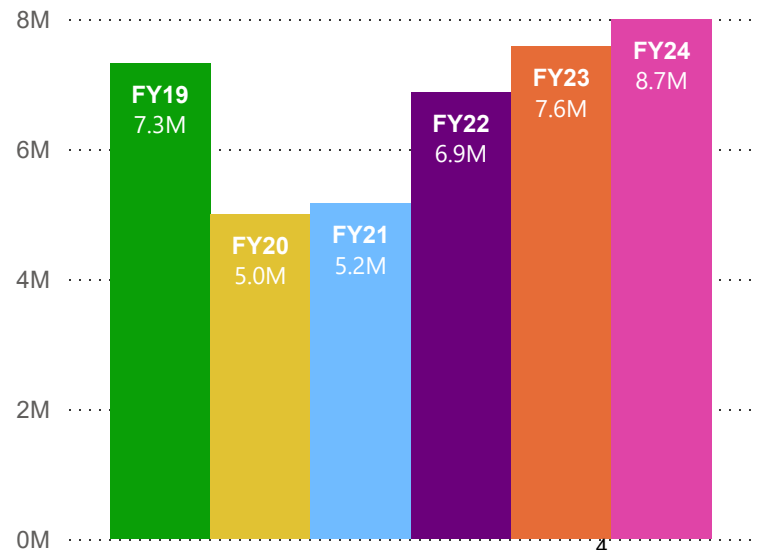
The number of checkouts, downloads, views and plays of electronic library materials.

4,125,754

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



Year to date total circulation comparison

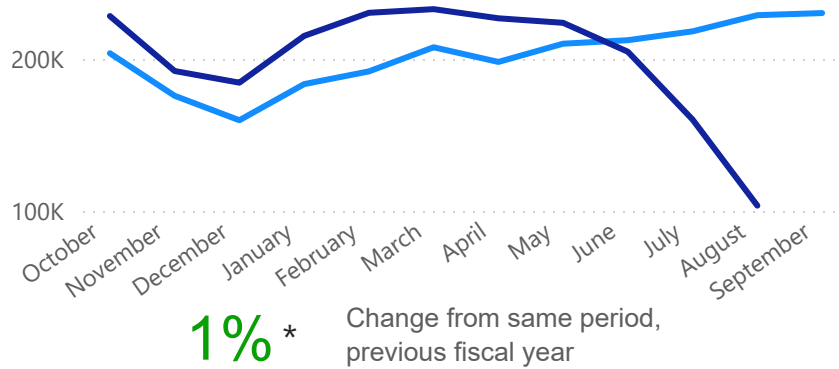


FY24 year to date Hours of Technology

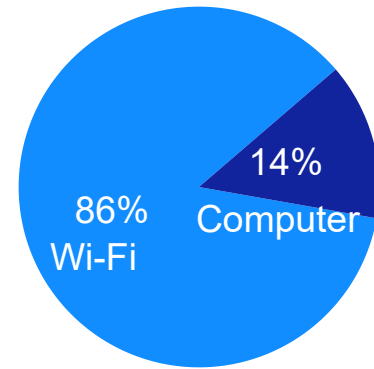
The total number of hours of technology used from both public computers and public Wi-Fi.

1,963,328

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



FY24 to date Technology Use by type

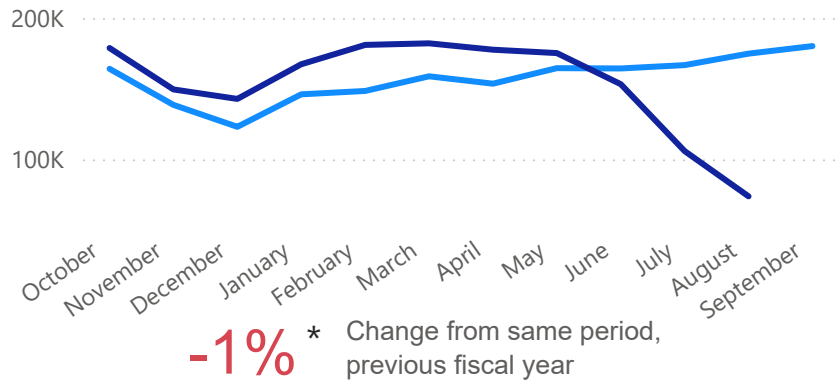


FY24 year to date Wi-Fi Hours

The number of hours public Wi-Fi was used.

1,686,836

FY ● FY23 ● FY24

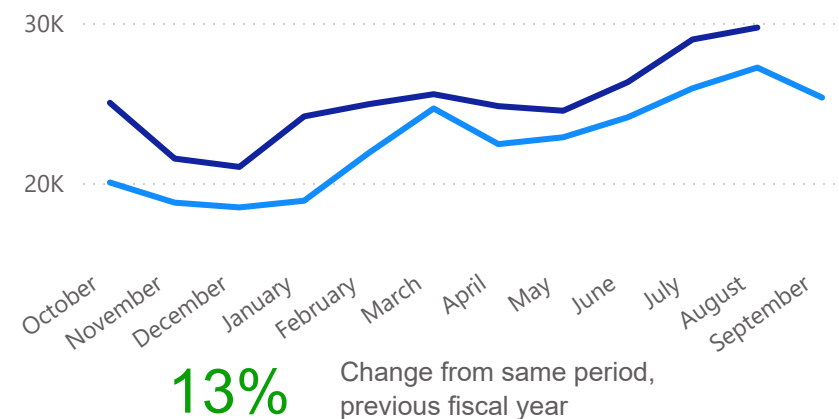


FY24 year to date Computer Hours

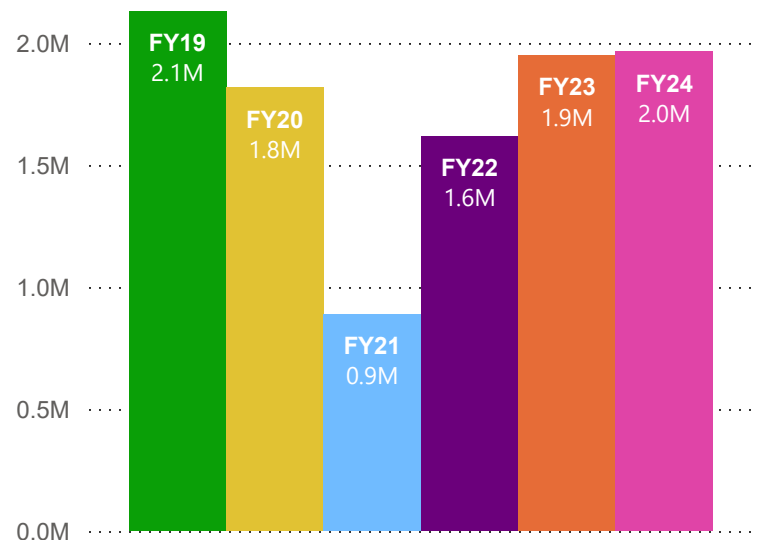
The number of hours public computers were used.

276,492

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



Year to date Technology Use comparison



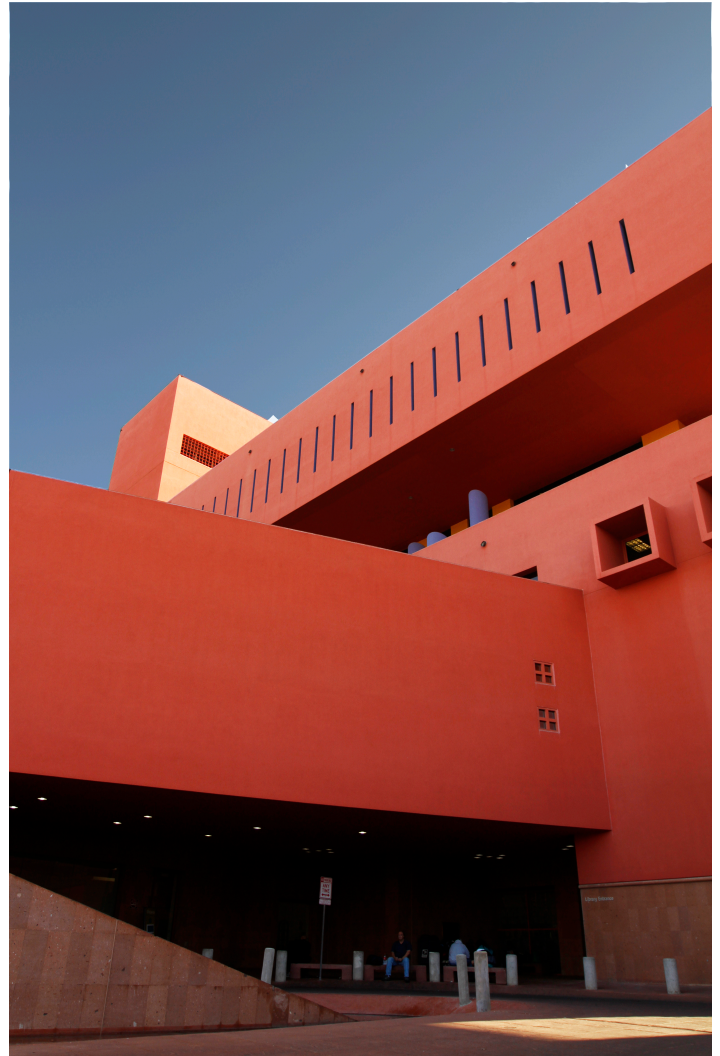
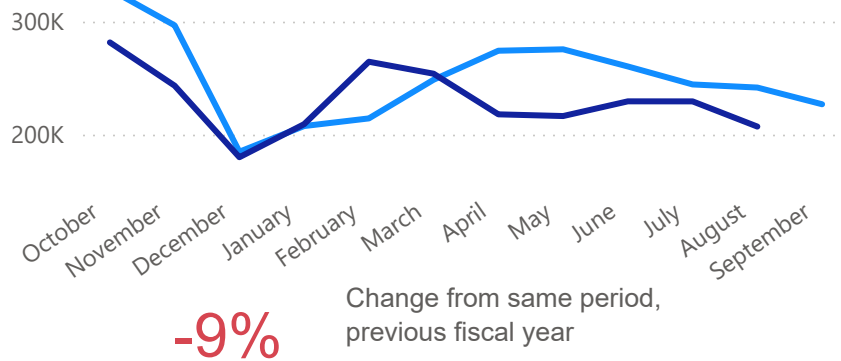
* Note, in June and July 2024, several wireless access points were replaced and SAPL is working with City's IT Department to validate the data.

FY24 year to date Visits

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

2,531,720

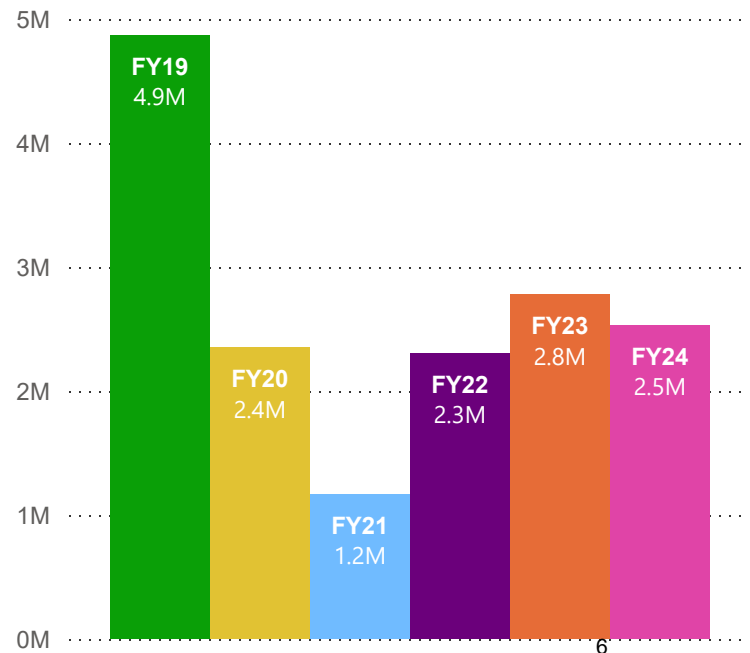
FY ● FY23 ● FY24



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

Year to date Visits comparison

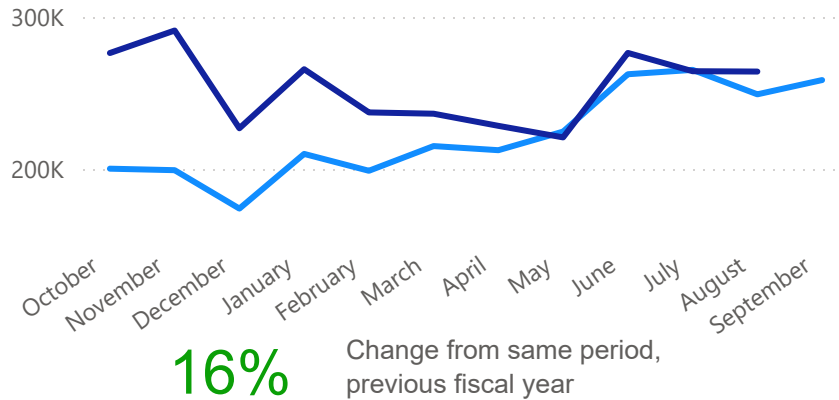


FY24 year to date engagements

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.

2,787,421

FY ● FY23 ● FY24

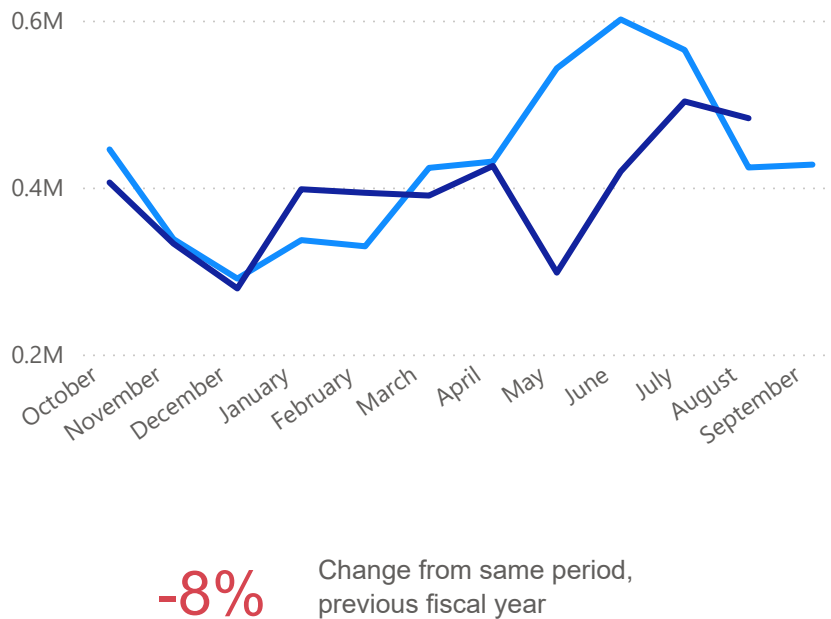


FY24 year to date impressions

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

4,327,518

FY ● FY23 ● FY24



Most engaged post on SAPL social media profiles in August 2024

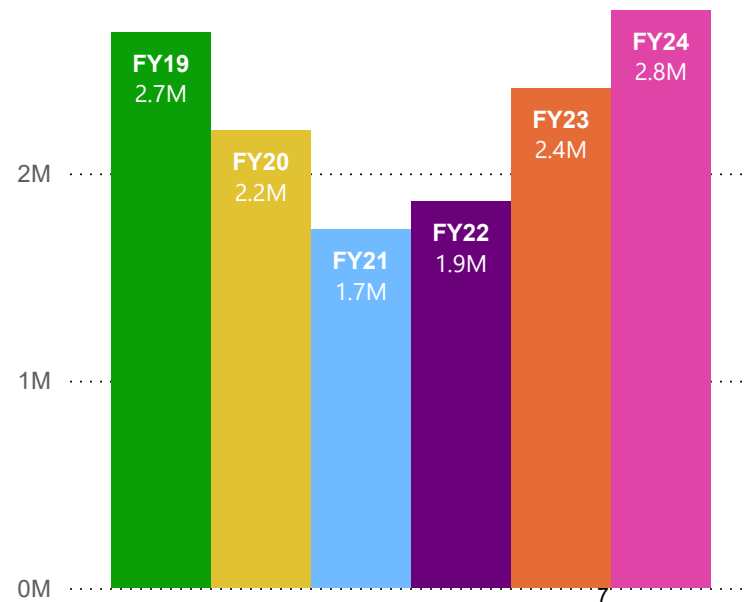


The "Bajo La Sal" opening reception on Saturday was truly unforgettable. "Bajo La Sal," meaning "under the salt," beautifully captures the beauty, pain, and triumphs of San Antonio, preserving our community's voices for future generations. Visit Central Library to experience the powerful multimedia portraits by [Mauro de la Tierra](#) and the captivating photography by Joshua Anthony Rodriguez. 🌟

Thank you to everyone who came out, and a special shoutout to Latino Collection & Resource Center Program Manager Sarah De La Rosa. The exhibition runs through September 14. 🙌 #BajoLaSal



Year to date virtual engagement comparison



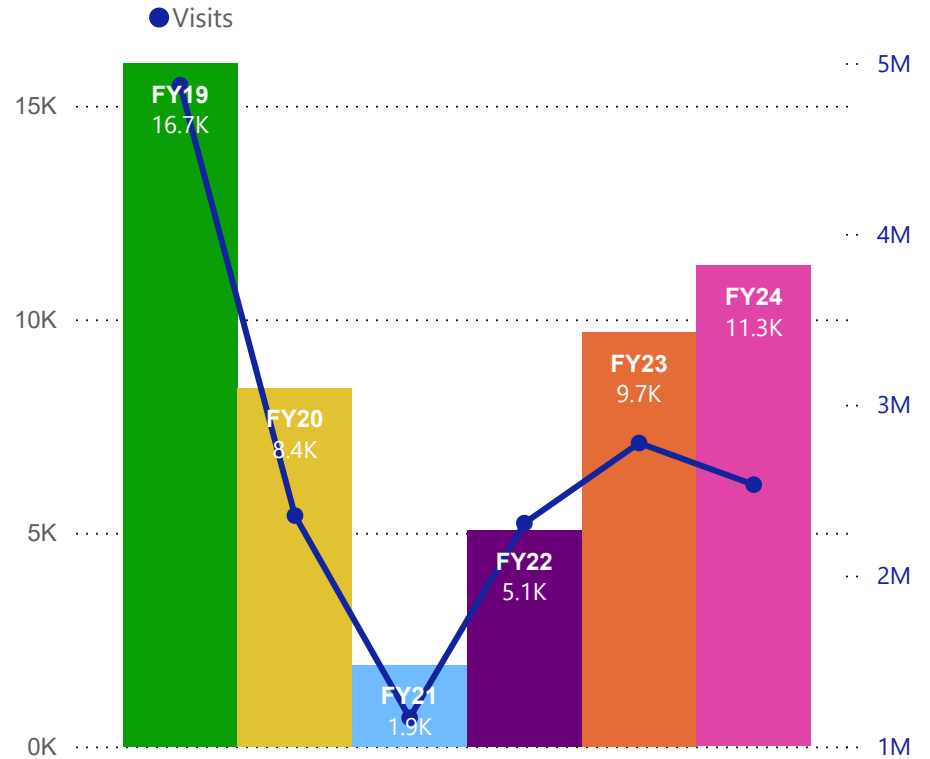
Fiscal year to date program comparison

Total Programs

11,255 **207,617**
Total Programs Total Attendance

16%

Change from same period,
previous fiscal year



Early Literacy (0-5)

2,602 **74,799**
Programs Attendance

School Age (6-12)

2,337 **60,667**
Programs Attendance

Teens (13-18)

2,416 **20,980**
Programs Attendance

Adults (19+)

2,523 **21,764**
Programs Attendance

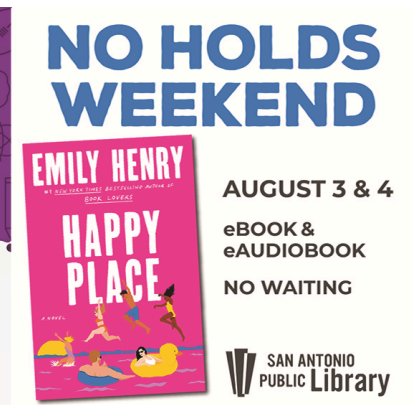
Older Adults (60+)

684 **7,427**
Programs Attendance

General Interest*

693 **21,980**
Programs 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

August 2024 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
Bazan	2,331	6,969	3,765	1,838	1,927
Brook Hollow	26,323	7,878	3,417	936	2,481
Carver	2,496	3,365	2,676	1,068	1,608
Central	34,454	26,482	27,150	8,659	18,491
Cody	25,775	10,702	3,423	492	2,931
Collins Garden	3,740	4,662	2,298	600	1,698
Cortez	5,608	7,820	1,556	715	841
Digital	391,702	0	0	0	0
Encino	21,582	8,122	2,375	314	2,061
Forest Hills	5,371	2,877	1,655	407	1,248
Great Northwest	30,099	10,778	3,291	842	2,449
Guerra	9,105	5,924	2,090	779	1,311
Igo	24,004	3,504	1,005	122	883
Interlibrary Loan	840	0	0	0	0
Johnston	1,545	290	0	0	0
Kampmann	0	759	58	0	58
Landa	18,471	10,699	2,619	471	2,148
Las Palmas	272	119	95	0	95
Maverick	31,329	10,265	3,496	1,328	2,168
McCreless	7,422	7,601	3,473	1,635	1,838
Memorial	4,469	5,616	3,382	1,347	2,035
Mission	10,334	10,167	4,335	1,063	3,272
Pan American	1,655	852	420	151	269
Parman	32,806	15,481	2,987	386	2,601
Potranco	19,305	9,222	7,736	865	6,871
Pruitt	4,116	4,592	1,414	187	1,227
San Pedro	2,407	3,340	2,168	406	1,762
Schaefer	10,228	4,950	2,677	524	2,153
Semmes	25,850	7,152	4,381	1,383	2,998
System	32,855	0	0	0	0
Thousand Oaks	7,025	3,734	2,668	916	1,752
Tobin	17,276	6,826	2,502	908	1,594
Westfall	10,351	6,263	4,421	1,372	3,049
Total	821,146	207,011	103,533	29,714	73,819

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

San Antonio Public Library Programs

August 2024

Location	Early Literacy Programs (0-5)	School Age Programs (6-12)	Teen Programs (13-18)	Adult Programs (19+)	Older Adults Programs (60+)	General Interest Programs*	Total
Bazan	0	3	3	3	4	1	14
Brook Hollow	5	15	9	4	1	0	34
Carver	1	11	0	6	0	0	18
Central	2	0	84	17	2	4	109
Cody	0	3	11	7	0	1	22
Collins Garden	1	0	3	4	2	10	20
Cortez	5	6	0	15	4	0	30
Encino	9	3	4	9	8	1	34
Forest Hills	15	3	5	0	1	4	28
Great Northwest	2	1	5	14	0	5	27
Guerra	2	1	17	13	1	1	35
Igo	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Johnston	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
Kampmann	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landa	12	4	4	3	0	0	23
Las Palmas	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Little Read Wagon	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
Maverick	3	1	4	6	0	1	15
McCreless	0	3	4	15	5	2	29
Memorial	3	9	2	18	2	4	38
Mission	10	3	7	11	10	3	44
Pan American	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
Parman	13	5	4	11	12	3	48
Potranco	0	0	3	10	0	3	16
Pruitt	0	3	3	2	0	0	8
San Pedro	0	0	0	5	4	0	9
Schaefer	0	0	0	10	0	2	12
Semmes	2	4	3	7	0	6	22
System	0	0	20	11	1	4	36
Thousand Oaks	13	6	0	13	3	4	39
Tobin	10	7	7	12	1	3	40
Westfall	7	13	6	7	9	5	47
Total	115	106	210	240	70	68	809

*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

August 2024

Location	Early Literacy Attendance (0-5)	School Age Attendance (6-12)	Teen Attendance (13-18)	Adult Attendance (19+)	Older Adults Attendance (60+)	General Interest Attendance*	Total
Bazan	0	5	9	28	21	12	75
Brook Hollow	195	34	58	36	18	0	341
Carver	2	65	0	33	0	0	100
Central	46	0	594	319	42	754	1,755
Cody	0	196	124	56	0	0	376
Collins Garden	12	0	3	13	0	78	106
Cortez	88	204	0	76	14	0	382
Encino	346	55	25	47	64	32	569
Forest Hills	197	42	29	0	2	16	286
Great Northwest	120	14	36	79	0	61	310
Guerra	41	323	8	131	24	200	727
Igo	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
Johnston	0	600	0	25	0	0	625
Kampmann	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landa	405	113	44	42	0	0	604
Las Palmas	0	0	0	230	0	0	230
Little Read Wagon	0	0	17	7	0	0	24
Maverick	138	26	51	43	0	160	418
McCreless	0	27	27	117	23	0	194
Memorial	28	234	24	82	14	77	459
Mission	186	44	30	109	103	62	534
Pan American	0	0	0	11	0	150	161
Parman	742	463	65	143	224	478	2,115
Potranco	0	0	16	78	0	19	113
Pruitt	0	17	289	13	0	0	319
San Pedro	0	0	0	22	18	0	40
Schaefer	0	0	0	64	0	6	70
Semmes	67	79	22	75	0	98	341
System	0	0	140	86	20	1,958	2,204
Thousand Oaks	234	73	0	148	10	28	493
Tobin	148	125	42	199	12	43	569
Westfall	103	101	15	33	47	110	409
Total	3,098	2,840	1,668	2,350	656	4,342	14,954

*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 August 3rd, the Latino Collection & Resource Center (LCRC) hosted a multimedia portrait series in Central Library's gallery, titled *Bajo la Sal*. Artist Mauro de la Tierra and photographer Joshua Anthony Rodriguez documented San Antonio's rich history and depth of folks, in hopes of preserving the voices of our community. The exhibit was on display through September 14. Closing reception featured an artist discussion moderated by Texas Public Radio and coincided with the release of the accompanying book.



Joshua Anthony Rodriguez, Dr. Tomás Ybarra-Frausto and Mauro de la Tierra at opening reception for Bajo la Sal.

On August 17th, the LCRC hosted the cultural music memory workshop, *¡En Vivo desde San Anto!* third session titled, *El*

Arte de la Memoria. This session explored preserving music memories through art. Artist Juan Miguel Ramos led a hands-on watercolor tutorial, while Mauro de la Tierra guided attendees through a mask





Attendees with masks they created during session three of ¡En Vivo desde San Anto! workshop.

painting session. Work created during these three sessions will be featured in a special zine created to commemorate the workshop and document San Antonio music venues and experiences. The three workshops culminate into a performance night event, set to take place on Central Library's third-floor terrace, closing out Hispanic Heritage Month. Attendees will have the chance to share their musical memories with the community through performance technique of choice.

On August 31, the LCRC hosted the opening reception in the Ramiro S. Salazar gallery for Marcos Mares' art exhibit titled, *Viaje Onírico (Dream Journey)*. Mares displayed 15 original pieces that combined mediums such as collage and painting, to create the dreamlike and surreal experience. The exhibit will be on display through October 26.

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 welcomed nearly 1,100 patron visits and guided nearly 1,400 hours of public computer use. Learn staff hosted 60 programs, including everything from Crochet Club to Spanish II. Learn at Central welcomed BRAVE U, an initiative of BEAT AIDS for a series of workforce development workshops, and Launch SA continued their “Meet Launch SA” tour at Mission Branch Library.

The incredible women of Carver Breast Cancer Support Group, or “Warrior Sisters” celebrated their first anniversary. Founded by Training Officer Shauna Mendoza, they have grown from two members into an active and expanding sisterhood. Gathering on the first Monday evening of each month, members connect with fellow survivors in their neighborhood to uplift each other and share their journeys. The group is grateful to share health resources, create care boxes, and find connection within the breast cancer community.



The Warrior Sisters of the Carver Breast Cancer Support Group celebrate their one-year

UT Health and South Central Area Health Education Center (AHEC) invited Learn at SAPL to present to an

CHAT AT THE QUIOSCO PRESENTS





BEYOND BOOKS: LIBRARY SERVICES FOR ADULTS



Learn at SAPL staff present library services for adults to community members at The Neighborhood Place.

active group of older adults at The Neighborhood Place. Training Officer Daniel Gomez of Memorial Branch Library and Adult Education Program Manager Michelle D. Rickman showcased library services for adults and enjoyed the high level of engagement from community members. They highlighted options for library cards, off-site digital services and on-site library programming.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
-  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 does programs out in the community. In August the team led a couple training for early childhood teachers. Megan Cruz and Melisa Hill visited the Northwoods Presbyterian Day School. They led a training called Building Resilience through Play. This training encourages teachers to include play in their daily classroom routine. When children play, they build problem solving, critical thinking, social, and cognitive skills. These are important skills that help children handle stress and challenges.

Julia Lazarin and Eva Banda presented for the Navarro Learning Center staff. They presented a training on Early Literacy Basics. This training teaches the five practices of early literacy. These practices are talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing. Teachers learned simple ways to do all the practices in their classroom.

All Little Read Wagon trainings encourage teachers to use the library. Teachers can borrow lots of books that they can read with their students. As the team shared in the trainings, a library card is a teacher's best tool!

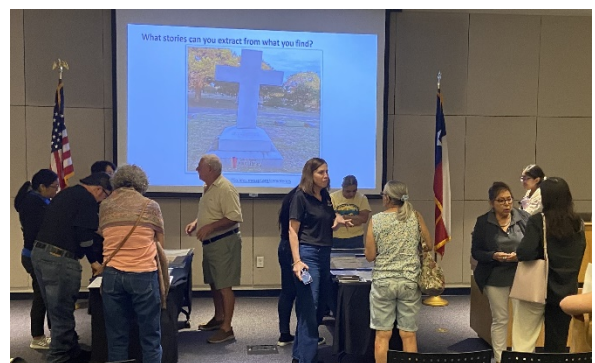
These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  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.

TEXANA

Librarian/Archivist Sylvia Reyna invited professional organizer Angelica Longoria to conduct a presentation on Decluttering for Seniors at Central Library on August 6. Ms. Longoria focused on organizing and downsizing as one ages and transitions through life.

On August 10, Ms. Reyna was invited to speak to the City's Cemetery Steward Program. The program, which trains volunteers on cemetery conservation and preservation, is a partnership between the San Antonio Parks & Recreation Department and Office of Historic Preservation. Ms. Reyna highlighted the best practices for conducting cemetery research utilizing resources available in the library's Texana/Genealogy Collections.



Cemetery Stewards visit Central Library.






Family Search database class at the NE Senior Center.

Texana/Genealogy staff led four programs to promote research databases and online genealogical websites. Librarian Andy Crews presented a Using Ancestry Library Edition and HeritageQuest class at the Pruitt Branch Library on August 10 where he demonstrated both databases, highlighting the differences and similarities when searching for genealogy information. On August 19, Ms. Reyna conducted a Family Search database class in the computer lab at the Northeast Senior Center. She noted what can be found within this database and how to get started. Librarian Arland Schnacker assisted Ms. Reyna with the hands-on experience as it was a first-time computer use for some of the participants. Mr. Crews

also presented a class at the Westfall Branch Library on August 21, entitled Using NewspaperArchive. Mr. Crews demonstrated how to search for information via keyword searches and highlighted the newly redesigned functionality that allows users to download digital clippings or send pages via email. Librarian Deborah Countess led the online class, Introduction to Family History Research, on August 24. The presentation went over the first steps to take when beginning genealogy research and discussed how to use census records to assist in finding answers about family members.

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

III. AGE-BASED SERVICES

CHILDREN’S



Children's Services Librarians practice using the Nintendo Switch



The Childrens’ area including the juvenile non-fiction and fiction sections, officially re-opened to patrons and staff on September 20, 2024. This large area had been closed since early July due to falling ceiling tiles, but this week the Library received the engineer's approval to safely reopen the space.

Many San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) locations paused children’s programming in August. The pause allowed staff to prepare for the fall and take vacations. Children’s Services team members also used the time to work on developing skills to enhance existing or offer new programs.

Children’s Services Librarians participated in several informal conversations. Topics included: welcoming exuberant children in Library spaces, Nintendo Switch gaming for tweens, and Baby Time programming.

SAPL hosted a gathering of youth services librarians from public libraries throughout the region. The gathering has a different topic and location each quarter. At the August 16 meeting, the group shared about their summer programs and enjoyed a tour of the Children’s Library and Teen Library spaces. Several Children's Library at Central team members participated in the meeting. It was an excellent opportunity to learn more about how other libraries operate and share ideas.

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.

TEENS

The monthly Teen Librarian / Liaison meeting took place in the Teen Library on August 21. This month's professional development training was presented by the Teen Pride workgroup and offered "Safe Zone Training Part 2" which offered strategies to support queer teens at SAPL.

Also at this month's meeting, staff was informed that their 2-year terms serving on Teen Services workgroups is expiring at the end of the fiscal year and they will make new selections for workgroup participation in September to become effective October 1. Teen Librarian II's serve as workgroup leads for system wide services or initiatives and Teen Librarian I's comprise the members of the workgroups. Current Teen Services workgroups are: Teen Pride; Professional Development; Teen Summer; Teen Engagement (volunteering) and Virtual Teen Activities / Services.

Virtual system-wide activities for teens continued in August with teen librarians supporting 20 activities attended by 140 teens.

Based on the outstanding reputation of SAPL's Teen Services, librarians from the San Marcos Public Library visited with SAPL's Teen Public Service Manager seeking advice about the development of teen space and services. The librarians from San Marcos made their visit based on the recommendation of Austin Public Library (APL) teen staff. APL staff benefitted from a similar visit to SAPL Teen Services as they planned the Austin Central Library's current teen space and services.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.
- 📖 Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.
- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.



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

ADULTS



Manga Reading Room at San Japan Convention

The Library again this year participated in San Japan – a fan convention dedicated to anime and gaming that occurred Labor Day weekend. The library again offered a manga reading room – which consisted of manga reading material -as well as two separate crafts, a relaxing space for visitors and a Library Information table. The library’s efforts this year were lead by Mary Elizabeth Fernandez and Ashley Palacios from the Children’s Library at Central Library, with over a dozen staff working the event throughout the weekend. Nearly 2,000 convention attendees participated in the Library’s offerings during the three-day convention.

In August, Pan American and Westfall Branch Libraries as well as Central Library hosted City of San Antonio’s Metro Health Mobile Immunization Clinic.





350 community members had the opportunity to receive one or more of the ten vaccines offered such as COVID, Pneumococcal and HPV.

August also saw the conclusion of the Talking Bees Roadshow. This program series was presented by Konrad Bouffard, master beekeeper and owner of Round Rock Honey and sponsored by HEB’s Our Texas Our Future Initiative and the Healthy Hive Foundation. From April to August 2024, twenty-three (23) Library locations hosted this series which provided nearly 370 attendees the opportunity to learn about how bees make honey, learn to identify pollens and nectars in honey by taste and discover meaningful ways to save the bee.



Talking Bees Roadshow session at Thousand Oaks

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.
-  Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.
-  Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library’s reach in the community.




OLDER ADULTS

On August 15, Library Adult Services staff had the opportunity to meet, brainstorm and collaborate for nearly two hours with the managers of City of San Antonio Department of Human Services Senior Centers. This session focused on the unmet needs of older adults in Bexar county as a springboard into the new fiscal year and additional strategic efforts to serve this population at the Library. The session began with a panel discussion featuring representatives from organizations that serve older adults, including Alamo Area Council of Governments, Adult Protective Services, Senior Planet / OATS, WellMed Charitable Foundation, and City of San Antonio Senior Services. Following this panel discussion, Library staff and Senior Center managers met in small groups that were based on geography of their primary library or senior center work location to discuss current offerings of both City departments, current

collaborations and additional ideas to collaborate. Those in attendance had very positive feedback and expressed a desire to continue to meet to strengthen collaborations.

The Library hosted two sessions in August— one at Central Library and one at Parman Branch Library – of a presentation called Decluttering for Older Adults. This program was presented by professional home organizer Angelica Longoria and provided attendees with expert tips and advice on decluttering, purging, and organizing, with a focus on personalized solutions tailored for older adults. All of this information was presented with the intent to help participants create a functional and organized home, making the transition into their golden stage of life smooth and stress-free.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library’s mission and achieve its vision.
-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
-  Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library’s reach in the community.

IV. LOCATION-BASED SERVICES




CENTRAL LIBRARY

Children's Library staff took on a leadership role coordinating the San Antonio Public Library's (SAPL's) presence at the San Japan anime convention. Librarian Ashley Palacios and Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernandez led a committee of SAPL staff and oversaw setup of the Manga Library at San Japan. The Manga Library served as a place where attendees could relax and dive into a massive array of manga from the SAPL collection. They also provided crafting opportunities and information about SAPL's resources. Almost 2,000 people visited the Manga Library over the course of the three-day convention! 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. Ciana Flores (Library Assistant PT) served as a member of the San Japan workgroup and her assistance with San Japan was essential to its success. She also went above and beyond to assist in ensuring everything made its way back safely to Central after her shift on the last day of the event.

On August 9, Information services hosted a Metro Health Immunization Clinic. A large Metro Health Immunization team organized a staging area and a vaccine area in order to accommodate the public demand. Metro Health Staff gave a total of 118 vaccines during the impactful event. Families came from all over San Antonio to participate.

On August 3, 17, and 31 JD Elizondo and LC Keefe hosted the Creative Collective with dozens of attendees in each session. Musicians, poets, comedians met to share their artistry during the community driven event. The program was featured in the San Antonio Current in the August 21st issue.

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's experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.
-  Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.

DISTRICT 1

Landa Branch Library

Landa Library held a DIY Pressed Flower Candle program for adults. Patrons were able to create their own decorative candles with pressed autumn flowers. Patrons listened to music from the hit show Bridgerton while sharing favorite scenes from the show. All supplies were provided by the Friends of Landa Library.



A patron came into Landa with her child and a toy that could play music clips. She asked for assistance with finding music on CDs in hopes of loading more music onto the toy. After showing her the CD collection at Landa, Ms. Champion informed her that any CDs that are checked out can be copied onto a computer



Patrons enjoying DIY Pressed Flower Candle program

for personal use. She was very excited about the possibilities of utilizing this information to spark her child's imagination through music.

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

San Pedro Branch Library

With the Central Library being closed on Sundays, the San Pedro Branch Library consistency sees high foot traffic on that day. Usually all computers are in use, with at least one to two people waiting. Additionally, all tables and chairs are occupied by customers which leads to many people leaving due to the space limitations. While it's great to see San Pedro so busy, it does present challenges due to the building size and limited staff on Sundays. Staff do encourage customers to visit nearby locations, but many people are on foot or use public transportation, which makes it's difficult for people to travel to other branch libraries.

San Pedro's June Film Virtuosity: A Reflection Of Art featured 'The Extra Talent' by Eric Mock and 'Lava Platos' and 'Rite of Passage' both directed by Gabriel Carmona. Both filmmakers were in attendance to speak about their films and experiences of venturing into the fray of cinema. Film Virtuosity is a program that was created by library assistant Jared Thompson to showcase the works of talented artists in the local film communities of Texas. Each month features a different film (or films) written, directed, or produced by a Texas based filmmaker, many of whom live in San Antonio.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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






Westfall Branch Library

On August 20th, Westfall Library was pleased to offer the program "Immunization Opportunity" provided by Metro Health. This program offered free vaccines to individuals 6 or older. This included COVID-19, Hep A, Hep B, IPV, HPV, and a variety of other standard vaccines. We expected a decent turnout for the event, but both the Westfall Library staff and the Metro Health staff were amazed and how many people showed up, as the line stretched from one end of the library to the other. This situation proved that this service was needed and appreciated by the community.

One of Westfall's teen volunteers has recently implemented a peer tutoring program at the branch. She chose the day and time, subjects that she could help with, and designed the program information flyer. She helps teens and younger children with reading and math, and we are trying to recruit other teen

volunteers. She was recently able to assist a 4th grade student who had come with a family member to seek tutoring information from the library. They hadn't known about the program, but just happened to walk in during the time she was there. Thanks to this teen volunteer, the library was able to meet their needs on the spot, in addition to providing information about online tutoring through the BrainFuse database and print resources.

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.
-  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 2

Carver Branch Library

Community advocate William Johnson was the speaker at the back-to-school celebration and backpack giveaway at Carver Branch on Saturday, August 24. Johnson, a member of the Friends is a former SAPL employee. In fact, he served on the original staff that opened the branch at its new commerce Street location on March 4, 1973. Johnson signed copies of his book, *Against all Odds: The William B. Johnson Story*, written with retired professor Frederick Williams. The event was a partnership between the branch and the Carver Friends. Johnson wanted to offer young people encouragement. A former business owner and leader in the San Antonio Chapter of National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), his message was one of never giving up.

Second Baptist Church held a Backpack Giveaway on August 9th, and a person from the church came to the library to personally invite Mr. Jarzombek to participate in the event. He set up a table with information about the services offered by San Antonio Public Library and answered questions from people who came to his table. The event was held in the gym, and Mr. Jarzombek was surprised when he was asked to talk about the library over the microphone. While he was nervous about talking in front of everyone (the sound of his voice over the microphone caused people to stop what they were doing to hear his message), he appreciated the fact they heard what he had to say about SAPL, and people came to the table to ask him follow-up questions.

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.




Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School



A young Pruitt patron proudly reads to a new canine friend, Teddy, as part of the new Read to a Dog program

Pruitt Branch's Teen Services helped facilitate an activity with a teen representative in the Science National Honor Society (SNHS) at Roosevelt High School to put on a "Science Night in the Library." SNHS brought the supplies and Pruitt provided the space for the experiment. The teen from the organization created, organized, and implemented this activity for an audience of all ages. The series event gives the teen experience in communication, time management, and will empower them in the future with presentations and planning large activities. This new event will continue about every two weeks with a new experiment. In August 2024, Pruitt Branch's Children's Services collaborated with PAWS for Service to launch a new Read to a Dog program. This initiative allows children to enhance their literacy skills by reading one-on-one with a trained therapy dog named Teddy. Participants chose a book and settled into a cozy corner to share their reading experience with Teddy. Both parents and children found it to be a delightful way to improve their fluency while enjoying the company of a friendly dog. PAWS for Service has committed to hosting this program at Pruitt on the second Sunday of each month.

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.

Schaefer Branch Library




Shrek Teen Celebration

The teens at Schaefer Branch Library kicked off fall programming with a Shrek themed party, including themed snacks and décor, balloons to draw Shrek faces on, and movie watching!

On August 28th, 2024, a patron stopped by Schaefer to use a public computer. Before she left, she stopped by the service desk and shared with staff that she has been coming to Schaefer for a long time. She mentioned that she is moving to North Carolina and will miss visiting Schaefer and the friendly staff.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

DISTRICT 3

McCreless Branch Library

Two celebratory events happened with Learn patrons during August. A young political asylee from Nicaragua who has participated in the McCreless ESL class had waited more than a year for his work authorization. After receiving it, he became discouraged in his job hunt. In August, he was thrilled to be hired for two part-time jobs: a kitchen staff position at the San Antonio Zoo, and a substitute teaching job.




Another older patron without a home computer and no technology experience had worked with Learn staff for months and months to send necessary documentation to USCIS to renew his expired permanent resident card. He came by at the end of August to show Learn staff not only his green card, but also two little green indoor plants which he brought in gratitude for our help.



Newly employed McCreless Patron

An amazing thing that happened at McCreless this reporting period was not only the jump in attendance to Queer Crafternoon but that the group took agency in their program by requesting a deviation from audiobooks to chill music so they could focus on conversation and crafting. Since its inception in 2020, Queer Crafternoon offers the 2SLGBTQ+ community space to craft and socialize and has been held in-person and virtually.

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.

Mission Branch Library

Mission branch library participates twice a month in the Mission Marquee Plaza Artisans and Farmers Market. Every first and third Saturday of the month. This event brings together local vendors, families and neighbors to celebrate craftsmanship, fresh produce and shared culture. Mission Library provides information about library services, the branch's community garden and staff interact with patrons, mentioning activities for kids and sharing library resources and databases that are very useful for school age children.





Mission branch had a 10-year Table Tennis Anniversary Tournament on August 31st, there was a spirit of friendly competition from people that have been going to this program for years.

There was a short introduction from the organizer thanking everyone for participating in this milestone event, and for staying active in the later years of life. Seniors and adults of all skill levels took part in the event. Throughout the day there was a palpable sense of encouragement.



Tournament winners

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

Pan American Branch Library

Staff exhibited great teamwork getting Pan American ready to close for the branch's HVAC replacement. There were several moving parts and last-minute tweaks. All staff members took this in stride and helped out when needed. Also, the staff working at the branch while construction is going on have helped many regular patrons with curbside service and have been great sports while the temperature in the library has risen.

In partnership with Metro Health, the Pan American Branch Library hosted an incredibly popular back-to-school event! Children and adults were able to get free vaccinations. This program provided enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the medical community.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.
-  Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.

DISTRICT 4

Cortez Branch Library

Impromptu "Last Story Time Before School" Party: Several of Children's Librarian Childs' story time regulars started kindergarten this year. As a farewell to the friends they had made and a celebration of the year to come, one family brought delicious homemade cupcakes to share with the entire Cortez



story time family. The cupcakes were extremely well received and did not last long. In addition to cupcakes, promises of everlasting friendship were exchanged and pinky promises to come back to visit during school holidays.



Last Saturday Book Club

During August, the Cortez Branch Library hosted the final Saturday Book Club. The club reads a diverse selection of genres, from horror to mysteries to romance or thought-provoking literary fiction. The club is a relaxed space where book lovers can connect, share insights, and discover new perspectives. The club is open to all readers and interests. Library staff make available copies of the current selection for check out at the front service desk.

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.

Johnston Branch Library

At Johnston's interim site, library staff has found that many families who utilize the Miller's Pond Community Center were unaware of the limited library services still available to them at that site. They have enjoyed the small collection available, and the ease of returning library materials when coming to attend the community center programs. As the children became curious about the library presence, they asked about books and movies, with some learning for the first time how easy it was to check out library materials. Library staff were fortunate with their placement, as it gifted them with the opportunity to connect on a more conversational level to many of the youth and staff, an opportunity that would otherwise not have been there.

On August 10, Johnston's Branch Manager Cristine Mitchamore hosted a library table at Miller Pond Community Center's Back to School event. More than 1300 residents attended the event, receiving school supplies, haircuts and more. Along with other local organizations Mx. Mitchamore introduced residents to potential resources. She spoke with parents and children—greeting regular library visitors and introducing the library's resources to potential new users. The online Homework assistance was the biggest hit, but the news that even younger children could receive their own library card also generated excitement. One child jumped in excitement at learning of ongoing Lego Club events at multiple branches and promptly extracted a promise of a ride.

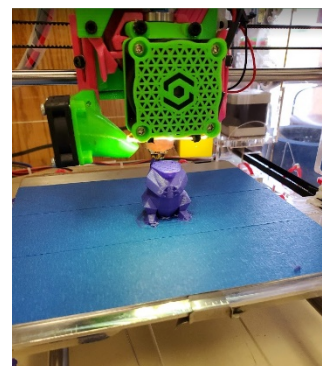
These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  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



Throughout August, patrons visiting Bazan Library could request free 3D prints from a list of models and colors including keychains and Pokémon figures. The service was popular with visitors of all ages, fulfilling over 70 requests since the prototype service started in July 2024. The 3D printer, originally purchased years ago with Adult Services funds, has seen steady use since Assistant Manager Cassie Garza, who was familiar with the technology, joined the staff. Teen summer interns and volunteers helped maintain the printer and assisted with fulfilling requests. While patrons of all ages participated, adults surprisingly made up the largest group of requesters.



3D printing a patron request

At the suggestion of an adult patron who noticed the library offered a LEGO program for children but not adults, Bazan launched LEGO for Grown-Ups in August. The first meeting was a success, attracting both beginners and long-time LEGO enthusiasts. Despite their varying experience levels at LEGO building, participants shared something in common: a love for an activity they fondly remembered from childhood. The program was initiated and facilitated by Library Assistant Enedina Prater.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

Collins Garden Branch Library




Ms. Gina and Natalia S. at H-E-B

At Collins Garden's neighboring and partnering HEB, Children's Librarian Gina Brudi was approached by a young adult, asking "Do you remember me, Ms. Gina?" Thinking he looked and sounded familiar, she recognized him when she saw his name tag - he attended her craft programs when he was younger! He is now a teenager working at HEB. That same day Ms. Brudi saw and spoke to another family that frequents Collins Garden Library too.

Collins Garden Library was buzzing with creativity through a partnership with Ernestina Galvan from Alamo Tailoring who began hosting weekly sewing classes. The classes, led by the talented Ms. Galvan, were a hit, inspiring patrons with new skills and ideas.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

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

Las Palmas Branch Library

While Las Palmas Branch Library is closed for renovations, Branch Manager Lily Treviño, has been busy collaborating with the Director for the Center for Student Involvement at Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) to provide free resources to incoming students for the Fall 2024. This unique opportunity to team up with OLLU, while providing limited services to the community in the Sueltenfuss Library, allowed library staff to attend three university outreach events in the month of August. OLLU's Camp Blue Nation, Welcome Week, and Club Rush which yielded over 60 new library accounts to incoming freshman students, staff, and professors. Las Palmas is connecting with more students every day.

Las Palmas Branch Library was invited by library staff at Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) to participate in a social media posting on the university's social media page (Instagram). The start of the Fall 2024 semester was highlighted by acknowledging the women's softball team who won the 2024 NAIA National Championship. Las Palmas Assistant Manager Nicole San Martin provided several books to reference the softball theme. OLLU library staff selected the following titles found in the San Antonio Public Library's (SAPL) collection to post, "Fastpitch: The Untold History of Softball and the Women Who Made the Game by Erica Westly, and Lady Tigers In the Concrete Jungle: How Softball and Sisterhood Saved Lives in the South Bronx, by Dibs Baer." SAPL was tagged and OLLU has already provided information to prepare for next month's theme, voting!

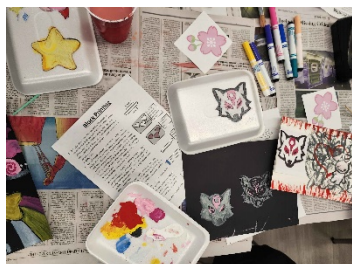
These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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



Fall 2024 at OLLU

Memorial Branch Library







Anime Club block printing activity

Library Aide Pristina Pinales facilitates an Anime Club on the first and third Monday of each month. She shows an anime film, serves Asian-themed snacks, and directs participants in a related activity. In the film Barakamon, Seishu Handa is a famous calligrapher, banished to a small island as a punishment. In Pristina's words, "It's about him learning to adapt to a new environment while he searches for his own style. Despite block printing being more known for images rather than words, I thought it best fit the anime since it was very versatile. ... the participants took what was given and used it to create their own styles. Whether it was a

more minimalistic approach or using the stamp as just a small piece of their artwork, the participants gave their own personality to their work. Some even went so far as to create something new from the stamp itself."

Part-Time Circulation Attendant Darlene Lopez from the Las Palmas Branch has been an invaluable part of Memorial Branch Library staff during the renovation of her home location. She has had numerous interactions with our patrons which demonstrate her warmth, generosity, and kindness. She recently related this story. "I assisted a Spanish speaking patron with inquiries on food assistance programs and citizenship classes near their home. I created and provided the patron with a document that included a list of locations, hours, and phone numbers. The patron also asked for a set citizenship test questions flash cards and I was able to provide her with a set. She left very happy and thanked me for my time and help."

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

DISTRICT 6

Great Northwest Branch Library

During the month of August, the Great Northwest Library hosted Art for Adults. A weekly program series that provided adults in the community an opportunity to create art. Each week participants focused on a different art medium to experiment with and create an art piece they could take home. This program was very well received by our adult patrons and many of them shared their hope that it will continue. One of our regular customers shared with me how very excited he was to see this program



Art for Adults collage program

being provided for adults and complimented the staff member that planned and implemented the program.

On August 20 the Great Northwest Library held the Talking Bees Roadshow where Master Beekeeper Konrad Bouffard of Round Rock Honey shared his knowledge of bees, including how bees make honey, the roles of different bees in the hive, and how to identify pollens and nectars in honey by taste which patrons were able to take part in.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

Guerra Branch Library

On August 3, Teen Librarian Ana Piña and Library Assistant Roxanne Menchaca attended the NISD Back-to-School event at the nearby John Jay High School. Here they shared information with attendees about library resources and programs available at the branch and systemwide. Teens were informed of programming especially designed for them at the Guerra branch location. All were encouraged to get a free library card and access all of the wonderful free resources available at the San Antonio Public Library.

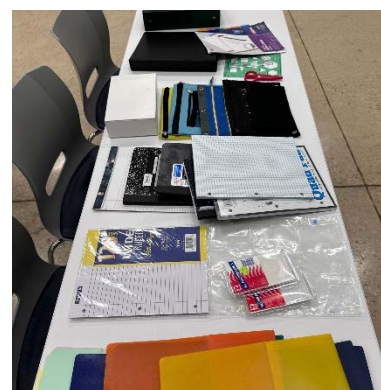
August 20 marked the beginning of a 6- week “Dive into Computers: Essential Computer skills for Adults” series at the Guerra branch. In collaboration with Training Officer Shauna Mendoza, adults were empowered with tools to stay connected, informed and increase accessibility to resources. They were provided with the opportunity to learn the basics of using a computer, navigating the internet, creating documents and sending emails. This offering was very well received and attended.

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

Potranco Branch Library

The Potranco Library hosted its second annual school supply swap on Sunday, August 4th. Members of the community had the opportunity to donate new and gently used school supplies, and in exchange, pick up items that they needed. Families did not need to donate anything to benefit from the program, all were welcome to stop by and browse. Several folks expressed their gratitude to be able to donate gently-used items that would benefit others such as partially opened pencil packs and binder paper. Potranco is considering hosting another swap mid-way through the year as a school supply refresh.



Potranco School Supply Swap

In August, Potranco Branch Library introduced a cabinet in the Teen Area, giving teens access to games and art supplies specifically for their use. The Teen Area at Potranco has become a popular place for teens to hang out, socialize, browse books, and work on homework. Its location in a corner of the branch provides teens an intimate space of their own. The new cabinet reinforces this feeling. The



Potranco teen cabinet

cabinet locks, preventing non-teen visitors from using and depleting the supplies. Teens can ask for the cabinet to be unlocked while they are in the Teen Area. The games and supplies included in the cabinet allow for both solitary and small group use of the space, encouraging quiet contemplation or social connection, depending on the teen's desire. Teen volunteers will keep the cabinet stocked with supplies and activities, strengthening their engagement in their library environment.

The Teen Space cabinet was purchased using H.E.B. funds gifted to each branch earlier in the 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.
- 📖 Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.

DISTRICT 7

Forest Hills Branch Library

Children's Librarian Ana Menchaca introduced a new program to Forest Hills starting in August: Toddler Time. It has been a big hit since its first day, with around 15 toddlers and their adults attending regularly since its start mid-month.

Teen Librarian Shannan Prukop attended the back to school event at Holmes High School, representing Forest Hills and San Antonio Public Library with flyers and other giveaway items, as well as information about the branch's activities. Over 150 families stopped by, grabbing a bookmark or asking questions about library services.

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.

Maverick Branch Library

After receiving his new library card, a senior from another state inquired if San Antonio Public Library offered Hoopla ... his preferred reading method. The librarian explained Hoopla being available through BiblioTech, another library system available in Bexar County. As an alternative, the librarian introduced Libby and demonstrated how to use the search features. The gentleman was so pleased with Libby and its filtering features that he then asked if the librarian could show him how to filter through his searches on his Hoopla account. Once again, the librarian provided a demonstration. Ultimately, the customer was very satisfied learning about the Libby app, learning how to narrow down searches in his Hoopla account and discovering about the other library system available. The friendly gentleman was so excited; he displayed a brief joyful prance. The librarian appreciated the harmonious jester ... knowing the customer gained new valuable information during his visit.

A customer was inquiring about the ongoing Mah Jongg Group at Maverick. The young lady mentioned she and a friend were interested in attending one of the upcoming dates hoping to learn about the game. She also wanted to know if Mah Jongg was offered at any other branches. The librarian was almost certain Maverick Library was the only branch, but after searching the events online calendar to confirm; it turned out Maverick Library is currently the only branch offering Maj Jongg. The Mah Jongg group slowly began in the Fall of 2021 and now has a consistent and supportive group of players who provides a friendly and welcoming environment to play this fun and challenging game. It is a delight knowing Maverick Library provides this rare game opportunity for Mah Jongg enthusiasts and novice to gather and play a game that is becoming more widely popular.

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 8

Cody Branch Library

Patrons and staff alike rejoiced at the full reopening of the Cody Branch Library, on August 15. Patrons appreciated having access to the full collection, study areas, and public computers. While many patrons learned how to use the online print portal from laptops and personal devices, they were very happy to have access to desktop computers again. Regular library programming in the meeting room resumed, including book clubs, the French Conversation Club, Fiber Club, and the Cody Film Club. Staff have welcomed many Igo patrons who are visiting the branch while their location is closed.

Several patrons expressed concern about the monthly Art for Seniors program at Cody, urging staff to continue to offer the program. While the branch did pause many programs during the limited service period, the Senior Art program continues as scheduled, with a change in staff facilitating the program. Seniors appreciate the opportunity to socialize with others, learn about different art techniques and artists, and experiment with making their own artwork. Branch staff provide all supplies, including watercolor paints and paper, brushes, acrylic paints, and small canvasses.


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.

Igo Branch Library

Igo Branch Library was closed during most of August 2024 to begin repair on the facility'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

Staff from Brook Hollow Library (BHL) conduct monthly outreach @ Walker Ranch Senior Center (WRSC) during the senior center's monthly birthday celebrations on the third Friday of every month. WRSC serves more than 200 seniors, 60 years of age or older, lunch Monday through Friday. In August, BHL Manager Jeannette Davies provided a food demonstration of how to make Pumpkin Fluff and informed the seniors SAPL would have new library card designs to choose from in September during National Library Card Sign Up Month. Davies also answers questions about the BHL and SAPL services while embedded in the community of seniors.







Manager Jeannette Davies conducts outreach at Walker Ranch

As a follow through BHL Assistant Manager Grace Holt and Erik Gomez with the SAPL Communications Department are planning an outreach @ WRSC in September, to sign seniors up for library cards. These experiences speak volumes of how the BHL Staff engages with the community by bringing the library outside the bricks and mortar location.

Teens used their imagination at Brook Hollow Library's August 29th Teen Time as they covered the library's new white board in art together. 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.
-  Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.
-  Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.
-  Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.

Encino Branch Library



Elephant and Piggie story pages

Encino hosted the first of a new series of Let's Read! programs for beginner readers and their family. The theme of the first program was Mo Willems' Elephant & Piggie books. We set up reading tents and blankets borrowed from Little Read Wagon. Upon entry, families were able to select books from the table of Elephant and Piggie titles to take and read in the tents together. Families kept going back to read more books and there was lots of laughter at the characters' antics. Next, they moved to a table with blank elephant and piggie comic pages to color and create a story to go along with the pictures.




The library also hosted a fun all ages program for patrons to create fidget bracelets. This was just in time for students going back to school and provided a beneficial tool for all patrons needing stimulation to

focus throughout their day. This was very impactful for a lot of patrons with sensory needs. We received multiple requests from different libraries (even outside of San Antonio) looking to extend this program to their own communities, stretching the impact even further.



Reading tents

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

Parman Branch Library at Stone Oak

This month, the Parman Branch Library successfully hosted its annual end-of-summer tradition, the Wizard Festival, a true testament to the power of teamwork and community spirit. The entire Parman team collaborated extensively in the days leading up to the event, transforming meeting rooms and quiet spaces into enchanting, magical environments and preparing a diverse array of crafts and activities.



Décor at Wizard Fest



Wizard Fest

The festival's popularity was evident with over 400 participants of all ages, drawn by the opportunity to choose from 15 different activities. The event also saw substantial involvement from the community, with members contributing skillfully crafted balloon decorations, face painting, themed model train displays, Lego bricks/models and more.

During the festival, Parman staff and volunteers worked diligently to ensure that every attendee had a memorable experience. The positive impact of the event was reflected in the high feedback received, with many participants returning in the days following the festival to express their enjoyment and appreciation. This year's Wizard Festival was a clear demonstration of the community's demand for such events and the collaborative spirit of the Parman

Branch team.

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

DISTRICT 10

Semmes Branch Library



Manager Jorge Chavez chatting with patrons at the Plant Swap

On August 4th, Semmes Library hosted a Plant Swap, where the public brings in plants and cuttings of their own to exchange with others, as well as donated giveaways and free items offered up by patrons. A popular program, it happens several times through the spring and summer, with people coming from across the city and county to take part. At the same time, it brings attention to the library's physical and digital collections, especially of materials related to gardening.

Semmes Library is proud to offer one-on-one tutoring by appointment for basic computer skills; patrons in need of help with their computers or device can, of course, stop by to ask for help, but those needing more in-depth instruction in the use of their devices can set up an appointment for direction instruction and question and answer sessions. Leveraging staff expertise, it helps the community to more fully engage with a digital environment, and become more aware of library resources.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.
- 📖 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.



Plant Swap craft activity for youth participants

Thousand Oaks Branch Library

The Thousand Oaks Library began hosting Tai Chi classes on Sundays this month. This program is a 12-week series designed to benefit the mental and physical health of participants through gentle, low-impact exercise. The practice of Tai Chi aims to concentrate and balance the body's vital energy with deliberate flowing motions while focusing on deep, slow breaths.

The Thousand Oaks Library hosted the traveling education program "Talking Bees Roadshow." This program was taught by Certified Master Beekeeper Konrad Bouffard of Round Rock Honey who shared his vast knowledge of the wonder of bees. The community attendees learned how bees make honey, learned to identify pollens and nectars in honey by taste, and discovered meaningful ways to save the bee. This impactful program increased community awareness of the critical role of honeybees as a source of renewal for ecosystems all over the planet.

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

Tobin Branch Library at Oakwell








Garner Middle School students enjoying After School Zone at Tobin

A defining characteristic of the Tobin branch library is the close proximity to Garner Middle School. Tobin staff met many times over the summer to brainstorm ways to build positive relationships with the school, students, and families - and put these ideas into practice this August. On August 8 Branch Manager Amanda Watson and Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse served breakfast to 120 Garner staff members and presented library resources that they might find helpful this school year. Later that day Librarians Lisa Ramirez and Kara Bailey met with students and families at the school's orientation night. Since the school year began on August 12, students have enjoyed a variety of after school

programming at the library, including Movie Mondays hosted by Librarian Connie Hejl and weekly After School Zones with Ramirez. On August 27, students and their families were invited to a Back to School Family Night at the library and 50 were in attendance. In total, the Tobin branch library saw about 1,000 student visits during the after school hours between August 12 and 30, and staff provided each of these students with a safe and welcoming environment.

Tobin Branch Manager Amanda Watson presented a webinar for the Texas Library Association on August 13 with Guerra branch Children's Librarian, Linda Lopez. Watson and Lopez were invited to create this virtual version of their TLA conference session from April, titled "Meeting Them Where They Are: Leaning Into Community-Driven Programming." TLA reported that this webinar had the second highest attendance of all the webinars they have hosted. Participants were invited to look at programming with a fresh perspective on specific community needs. This included Census data, case studies of unique library services across the country, and a SOAR analysis. The Texas Library Journal's fall 2024 edition will also include an article about the session.

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.
-  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. MEDIA

August – Multiple outlets reported on Back to School resources offered by SAPL throughout the month.

August 5 – SATX Today published an online article about the history of Central Library.

August 5 – Texas Public Radio reported on the Talking Bees Roadshow at multiple SAPL locations.

August 5 – Multiple outlets reported on the closure of the Igo and Pan American Branch Libraries for HVAC repairs.

August 8 – San Antonio Report included the Bajo la Sal exhibition at Central Library in their weekly “Go Do That!” segment.

August 18 – KABB produced a feature story on SAPL’s online tutoring and other back to school services featuring Coordinator of Services for Children, Cresencia Huff.

August 19-22 – Numerous outlets reported on Budget Town Hall meetings, mentioning libraries as both venues for the Town Hall meetings and as a component of the City’s FY 2025 budget.

August 24 – KENS featured a back-to-school bookmark craft in a segment about school resources at the Library live during Great Day SA. The segment featured Guerra Branch Children’s Librarian Linda Lopez.

August 25 – The SA Current published a story on a Sci-Fi book club at Parman Branch Library.

August 29 – 31 – Multiple outlets reported on Library and other City facility closures in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.