

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## FEBRUARY 2025

*prepared for the  
Library Board of Trustees*



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

# SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

## System-wide Highlights

In February, the San Antonio Public Library celebrated Black History Month with a special focus on Creative Expression in its featured programs for adults. The Central Gallery showcased the work of the African American Quilt Circle of San Antonio (AAQCSA), which also hosted a "Quilt in a Jar" workshop. Additionally, local artist Kaldric Dow, whose work was displayed in the Central Gallery in 2024, led a collage-making workshop. Throughout the month, SAPL offered a diverse range of programs to honor and commemorate Black History Month.

## Director's Office Activities

Interim Library Director Kathy Donellan

- attended the opening of the World Heritage Center at 3106 Roosevelt Ave, 78214 on February 7, 2025
- met with Amy Hone Executive Director of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation on February 19, 2025
- attended the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's Executive Committee meeting at the SAPLF Office on February 19, 2025
- met with the San Antonio Public Library and UTSA work group on February 25, 2025
- met with the UTSA project leads on February 27, 2025

Library Administrative staff prepared for the arrival of new Library Director Sukrit Goswami on March 3, 2025.

## Performance Highlights

Almost four million library materials have been checked out this fiscal year to date, which exceeds the FY25 target by three percent. Year to date circulation is 132,000 more than the same time period last year. Over 700,000 hours of technology use has occurred, which is below the year-to-date target by twenty percent. Year to date hours of technology is 174,000 fewer hours than the same time period last year. Starting in June 2024, new equipment and software was deployed after FY25 target development. The number of in-person library visits for the year to date is over a million, which is above target by twelve percent. Year to date visits is 145,000 more than the same time period last year due to several library locations serving as venue for the Presidential election.

## Media Highlight

On February 24, KSAT aired a segment on the Library's Read to a Dog program and highlighted events for that day at both the Semmes and Encino Branch Libraries. The brief highlight aired multiple times throughout the day in various news broadcasts.



# I. Key Performance Indicators - Summary

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

Report contains data for the reporting period ended on February 28, 2025

## Circulation: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:



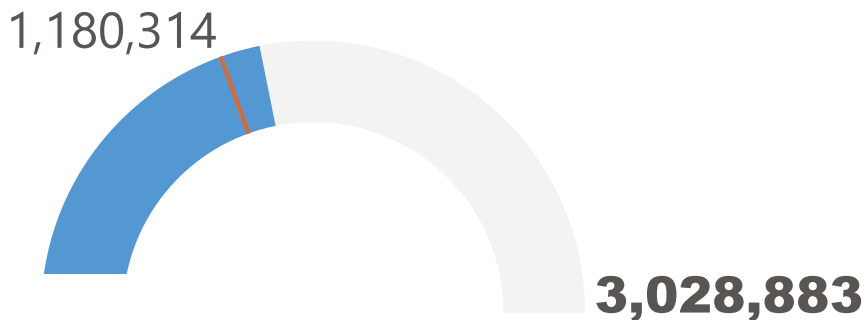
## FY 2025 to date Items Borrowed



3,950,066  
(+3.13%)  
Circulation

## Visits: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:



## FY 2025 to date Library Visits



1,323,120  
(+12.1%)  
Visits

## Digital Access: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:



## FY 2025 to date Digital Access



126,383  
Hours of Computer Use



635,093  
Hours of Wi-Fi Use

761,476  
(-20.42%)\*  
Hours of Technology Use

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

# Key Performance Indicators - Circulation

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

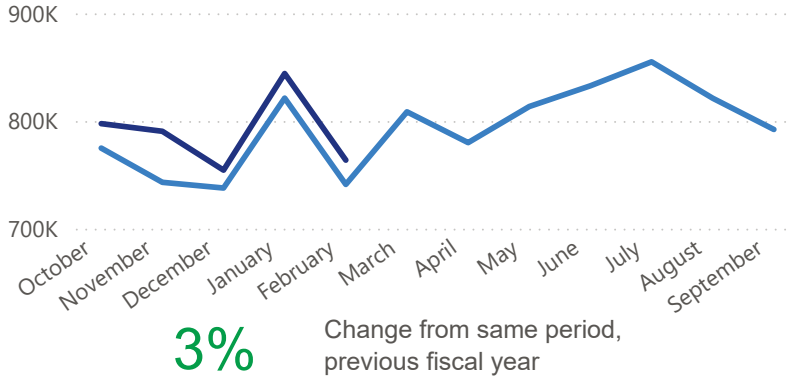
Report contains data for the reporting period ended on February 28, 2025

## FY25 year to date Total Circulation

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

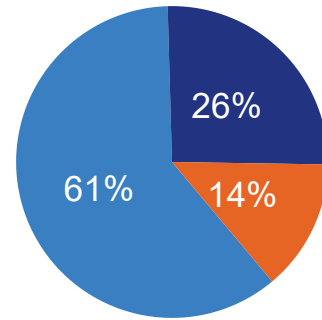
3,950,066

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



## FY25 to date total circulation by service area

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

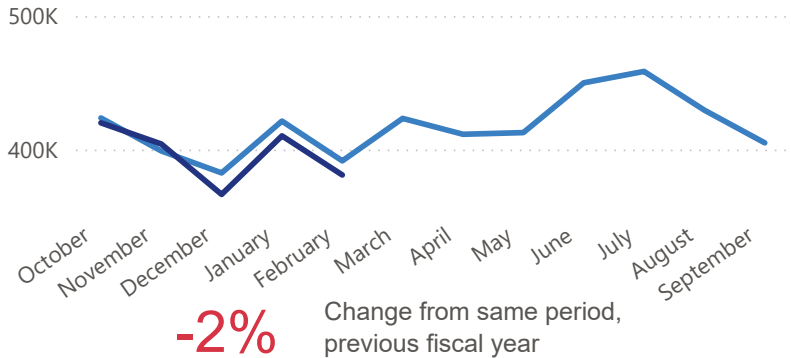


## FY25 year to date Physical Circulation

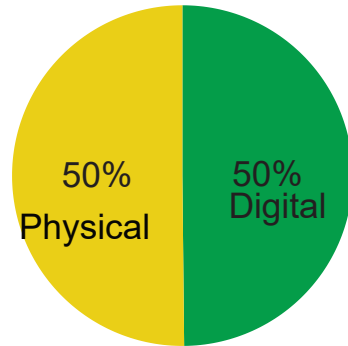
The number of checkouts and renewals of physical library materials.

1,981,523

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



## FY25 to date total circulation by type

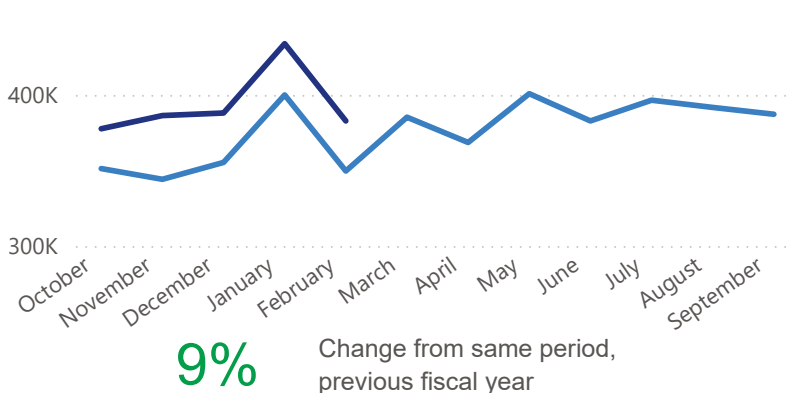


## FY25 year to date Digital Circulation

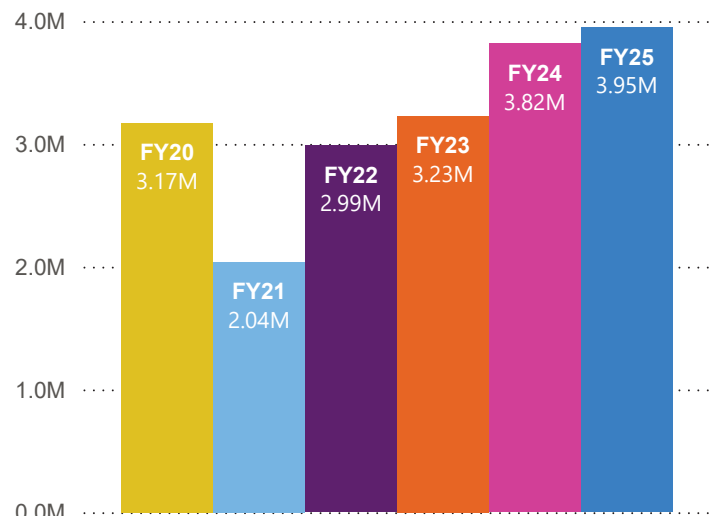
The number of checkouts, downloads, views and plays of electronic library materials.

1,968,543

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



## Year to date total circulation comparison



# Key Performance Indicators - Technology

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

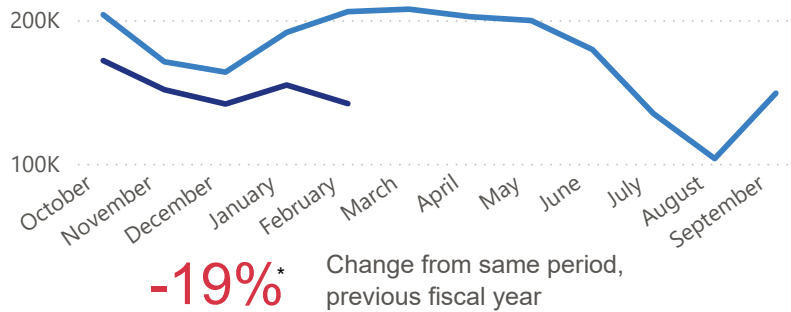
Report contains data for the reporting period ended on February 28, 2025

## FY25 year to date Hours of Technology

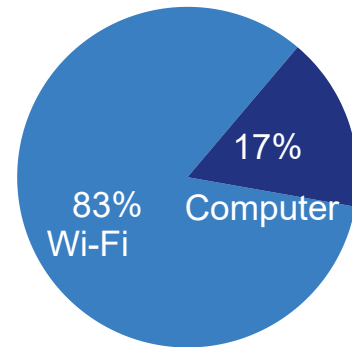
The total number of hours of technology used from both public computers and public Wi-Fi.

761,476

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



## FY25 to date Technology Use by type

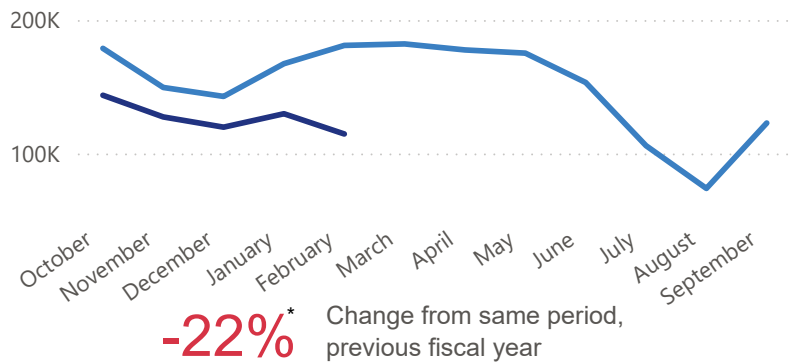


## FY25 year to date Wi-Fi Hours

The number of hours public Wi-Fi was used.

635,093

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



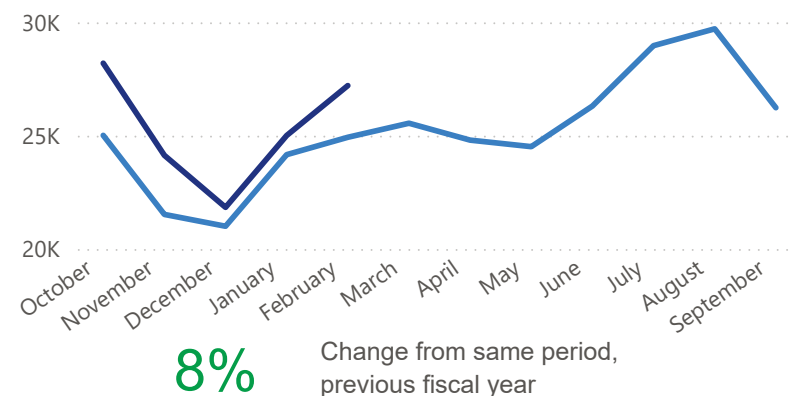
\*The equipment and software to deliver public Wi-Fi has been updated and the methodology to measure use has changed.

## FY25 year to date Computer Hours

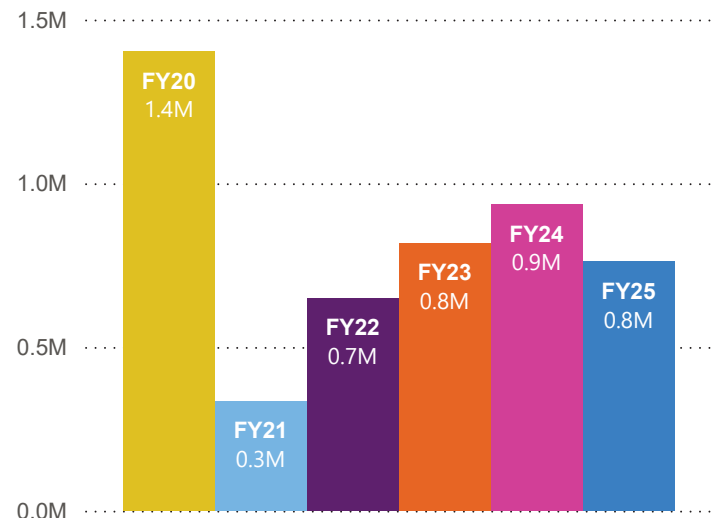
The number of hours public computers were used.

126,383

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



## Year to date Technology Use comparison





# Key Performance Indicators - Visits

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

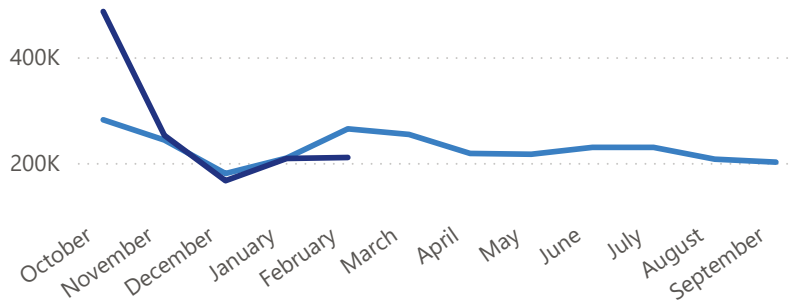
Report contains data for the reporting period ended on February 28, 2025

## FY25 year to date Visits

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

1,323,120

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



12%

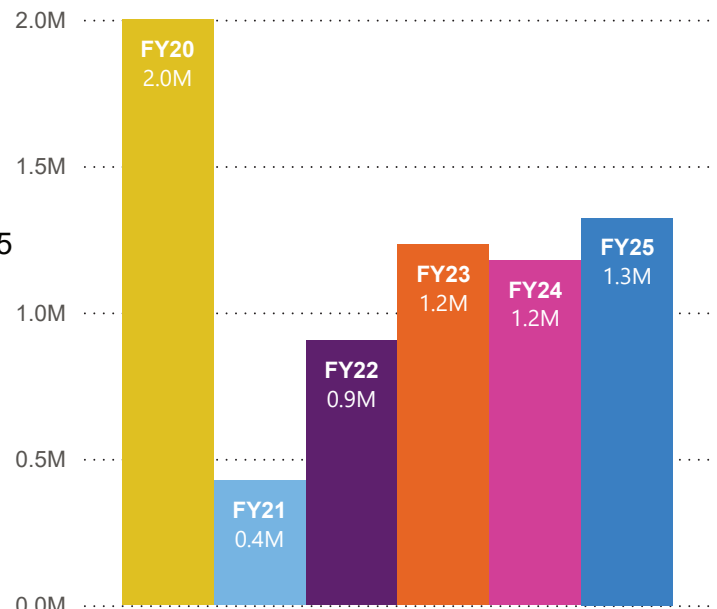
Change from same period,  
previous fiscal year



### 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

### Year to date Visits comparison

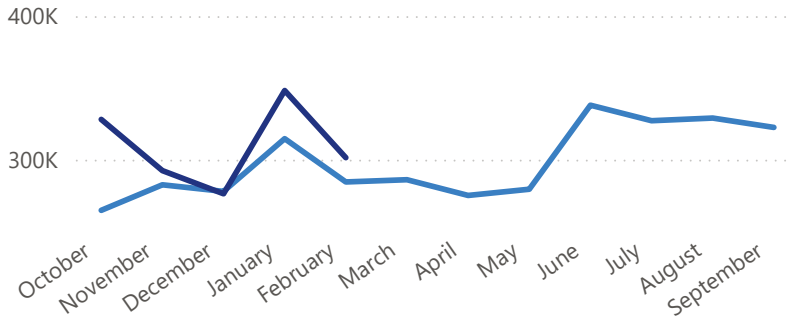


## FY25 year to date engagements

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.

1,546,210

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



9%

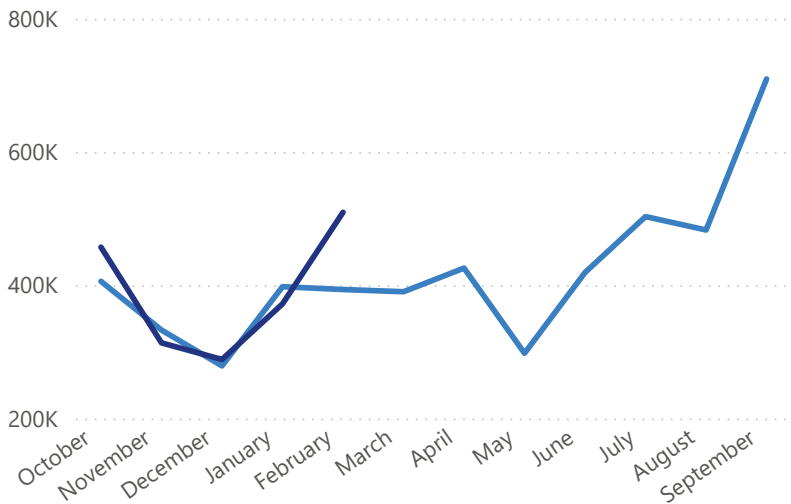
Change from same period, previous fiscal year

## FY25 year to date impressions

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

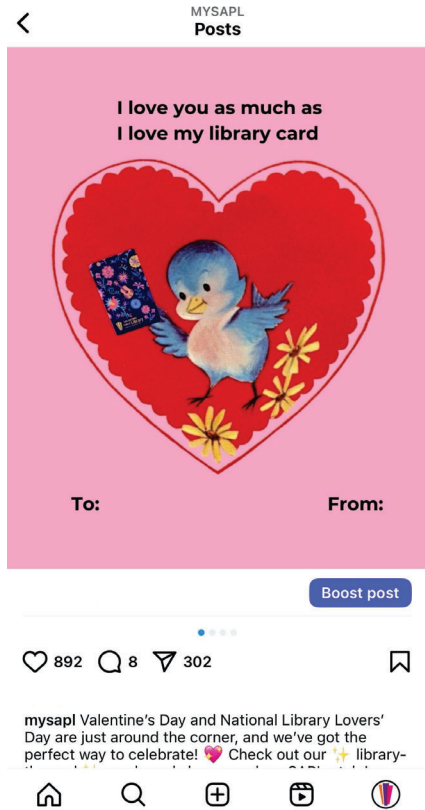
1,940,450

FY ● FY24 ● FY25

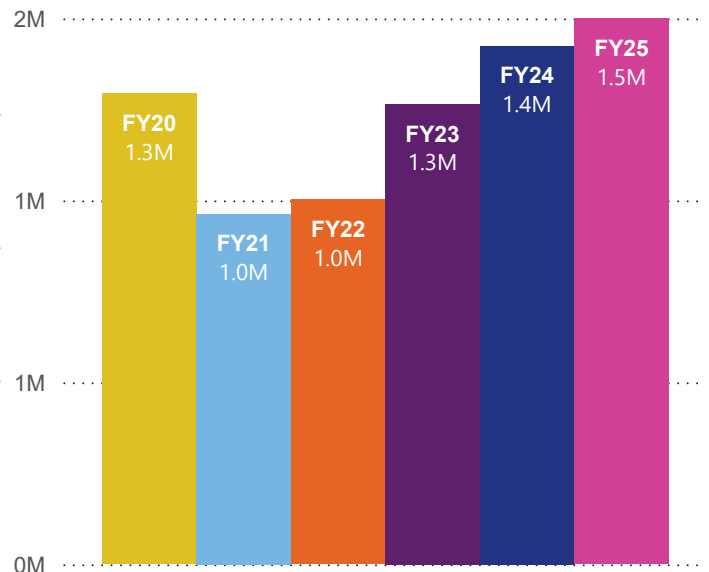


7%

Change from same period, previous fiscal year



## 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 February 28, 2025

## Fiscal year to date program comparison

### Total Programs

**5,051**

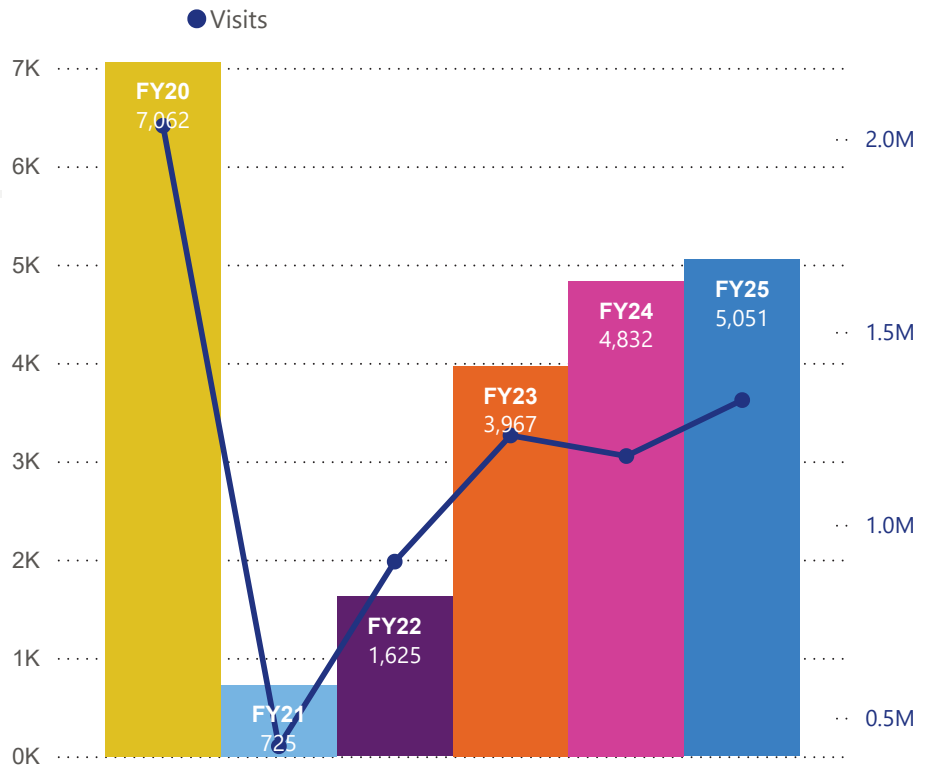
Total Programs

**85,604**

Total Attendance

**5%**

Change from same period,  
previous fiscal year



### Early Literacy (0-5)

**1,233**

Programs

**32,353**

Attendance

### School Age (6-12)

**917**

Programs

**15,670**

Attendance

### Teens (13-18)

**1,091**

Programs

**10,450**

Attendance

### Adults (19+)

**1,114**

Programs

**10,878**

Attendance

### Older Adults (60+)

**377**

Programs

**3,241**

Attendance

### General Interest\*

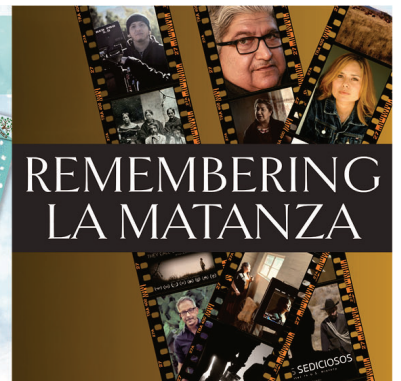
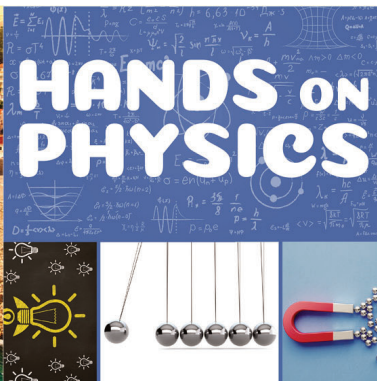
**319**

Programs

**13,012**

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

## February 2025 Key Indicators

| Location                 | Total Circulation | Visits         | Hours of Technology Actuals | Computer Hours | Wi-Fi Hours of Use |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Bazan</b>             | 2,356             | 7,412          | 4,778                       | 1,521          | 3,257              |
| <b>Brook Hollow</b>      | 21,944            | 6,849          | 4,746                       | 769            | 3,977              |
| <b>Carver</b>            | 2,099             | 3,056          | 3,063                       | 753            | 2,310              |
| <b>Central</b>           | 28,774            | 22,062         | 37,639                      | 7,738          | 29,901             |
| <b>Cody</b>              | 26,696            | 10,746         | 6,193                       | 841            | 5,352              |
| <b>Collins Garden</b>    | 3,498             | 3,858          | 2,231                       | 662            | 1,569              |
| <b>Cortez</b>            | 4,912             | 7,082          | 2,171                       | 439            | 1,732              |
| <b>Digital</b>           | 382,754           | 0              | 0                           | 0              | 0                  |
| <b>Encino</b>            | 19,261            | 7,417          | 3,650                       | 222            | 3,428              |
| <b>Forest Hills</b>      | 4,724             | 2,508          | 1,703                       | 381            | 1,322              |
| <b>Great Northwest</b>   | 24,808            | 8,034          | 3,627                       | 760            | 2,867              |
| <b>Guerra</b>            | 6,564             | 7,081          | 4,757                       | 651            | 4,106              |
| <b>Igo</b>               | 30,214            | 22,445         | 6,135                       | 652            | 5,483              |
| <b>Interlibrary Loan</b> | 988               | 0              | 0                           | 0              | 0                  |
| <b>Johnston</b>          | 6,249             | 3,823          | 2,420                       | 590            | 1,830              |
| <b>Kampmann</b>          | 0                 | 405            | 67                          | 0              | 67                 |
| <b>Landa</b>             | 16,131            | 11,063         | 3,233                       | 501            | 2,732              |
| <b>Las Palmas</b>        | 180               | 112            | 22                          | 0              | 22                 |
| <b>Maverick</b>          | 23,549            | 7,706          | 3,574                       | 879            | 2,695              |
| <b>McCreless</b>         | 6,817             | 8,940          | 4,438                       | 1,243          | 3,195              |
| <b>Memorial</b>          | 3,850             | 5,450          | 4,817                       | 962            | 3,855              |
| <b>Mission</b>           | 9,509             | 10,029         | 5,940                       | 910            | 5,030              |
| <b>Pan American</b>      | 2,413             | 2,368          | 1,426                       | 381            | 1,045              |
| <b>Parman</b>            | 27,397            | 5,482          | 3,838                       | 231            | 3,607              |
| <b>Potranco</b>          | 15,647            | 8,384          | 6,093                       | 442            | 5,651              |
| <b>Pruitt</b>            | 3,295             | 6,409          | 2,384                       | 260            | 2,124              |
| <b>San Pedro</b>         | 2,254             | 3,314          | 2,335                       | 384            | 1,951              |
| <b>Schaefer</b>          | 8,193             | 4,755          | 4,196                       | 575            | 3,621              |
| <b>Semmes</b>            | 18,832            | 6,729          | 4,244                       | 1,335          | 2,909              |
| <b>System</b>            | 28,654            | 0              | 0                           | 0              | 0                  |
| <b>Thousand Oaks</b>     | 7,240             | 5,356          | 4,543                       | 725            | 3,818              |
| <b>Tobin</b>             | 15,337            | 5,830          | 2,975                       | 786            | 2,189              |
| <b>Westfall</b>          | 8,509             | 5,482          | 4,581                       | 1,616          | 2,965              |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>763,648</b>    | <b>210,187</b> | <b>141,819</b>              | <b>27,209</b>  | <b>114,610</b>     |

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

# San Antonio Public Library Programs

## February 2025

| Location          | Early Literacy Programs (0-5) | School Age Programs (6-12) | Teen Programs (13-18) | Adult Programs (19+) | Older Adults Programs (60+) | General Interest Programs* | Total        |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Bazan             | 2                             | 12                         | 3                     | 2                    | 9                           | 0                          | 28           |
| Brook Hollow      | 4                             | 11                         | 3                     | 0                    | 0                           | 0                          | 18           |
| Carver            | 3                             | 9                          | 4                     | 9                    | 1                           | 2                          | 28           |
| Central           | 13                            | 8                          | 70                    | 27                   | 5                           | 4                          | 127          |
| Cody              | 8                             | 20                         | 24                    | 8                    | 2                           | 2                          | 64           |
| Collins Garden    | 22                            | 7                          | 4                     | 11                   | 2                           | 0                          | 46           |
| Cortez            | 4                             | 11                         | 15                    | 13                   | 4                           | 2                          | 49           |
| Encino            | 12                            | 4                          | 4                     | 14                   | 14                          | 1                          | 49           |
| Forest Hills      | 19                            | 5                          | 3                     | 3                    | 0                           | 0                          | 30           |
| Great Northwest   | 7                             | 4                          | 3                     | 6                    | 6                           | 4                          | 30           |
| Guerra            | 12                            | 6                          | 5                     | 7                    | 0                           | 0                          | 30           |
| Igo               | 12                            | 6                          | 4                     | 12                   | 0                           | 8                          | 42           |
| Johnston          | 4                             | 9                          | 5                     | 12                   | 3                           | 1                          | 34           |
| Kampmann          | 0                             | 0                          | 0                     | 0                    | 0                           | 0                          | 0            |
| Landa             | 41                            | 11                         | 8                     | 3                    | 1                           | 0                          | 64           |
| Las Palmas        | 0                             | 0                          | 0                     | 0                    | 0                           | 0                          | 0            |
| Little Read Wagon | 14                            | 0                          | 5                     | 5                    | 0                           | 0                          | 24           |
| Maverick          | 12                            | 2                          | 4                     | 6                    | 0                           | 0                          | 24           |
| McCreless         | 1                             | 7                          | 3                     | 11                   | 6                           | 1                          | 29           |
| Memorial          | 4                             | 4                          | 3                     | 24                   | 3                           | 9                          | 47           |
| Mission           | 8                             | 4                          | 7                     | 9                    | 10                          | 1                          | 39           |
| Pan American      | 4                             | 11                         | 4                     | 2                    | 1                           | 0                          | 22           |
| Parman            | 20                            | 9                          | 4                     | 16                   | 14                          | 5                          | 68           |
| Potranco          | 3                             | 2                          | 6                     | 10                   | 4                           | 0                          | 25           |
| Pruitt            | 8                             | 2                          | 10                    | 2                    | 0                           | 5                          | 27           |
| San Pedro         | 16                            | 4                          | 0                     | 4                    | 2                           | 0                          | 26           |
| Schaefer          | 18                            | 8                          | 4                     | 11                   | 2                           | 4                          | 47           |
| Semmes            | 12                            | 7                          | 4                     | 8                    | 1                           | 3                          | 35           |
| System            | 0                             | 2                          | 22                    | 9                    | 2                           | 0                          | 35           |
| Thousand Oaks     | 6                             | 4                          | 0                     | 6                    | 3                           | 0                          | 19           |
| Tobin             | 8                             | 9                          | 7                     | 10                   | 4                           | 4                          | 42           |
| Westfall          | 4                             | 8                          | 7                     | 7                    | 6                           | 6                          | 38           |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>301</b>                    | <b>206</b>                 | <b>245</b>            | <b>267</b>           | <b>105</b>                  | <b>62</b>                  | <b>1,186</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

## February 2025

| Location                 | Early Literacy Attendance (0-5) | School Age Attendance (6-12) | Teen Attendance (13-18) | Adult Attendance (19+) | Older Adults Attendance (60+) | General Interest Attendance* | Total         |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Bazan</b>             | 20                              | 20                           | 10                      | 11                     | 34                            | 0                            | 95            |
| <b>Brook Hollow</b>      | 116                             | 162                          | 25                      | 0                      | 0                             | 0                            | 303           |
| <b>Carver</b>            | 4                               | 22                           | 48                      | 136                    | 75                            | 31                           | 316           |
| <b>Central</b>           | 248                             | 77                           | 425                     | 343                    | 17                            | 96                           | 1,206         |
| <b>Cody</b>              | 337                             | 358                          | 518                     | 76                     | 12                            | 39                           | 1,340         |
| <b>Collins Garden</b>    | 370                             | 26                           | 13                      | 39                     | 6                             | 0                            | 454           |
| <b>Cortez</b>            | 31                              | 279                          | 44                      | 68                     | 15                            | 50                           | 487           |
| <b>Encino</b>            | 477                             | 68                           | 40                      | 98                     | 105                           | 5                            | 793           |
| <b>Forest Hills</b>      | 161                             | 76                           | 24                      | 20                     | 0                             | 0                            | 281           |
| <b>Great Northwest</b>   | 294                             | 45                           | 12                      | 29                     | 49                            | 29                           | 458           |
| <b>Guerra</b>            | 298                             | 65                           | 30                      | 33                     | 0                             | 0                            | 426           |
| <b>Igo</b>               | 753                             | 61                           | 8                       | 90                     | 0                             | 59                           | 971           |
| <b>Johnston</b>          | 163                             | 347                          | 32                      | 39                     | 27                            | 11                           | 619           |
| <b>Kampmann</b>          | 0                               | 0                            | 0                       | 0                      | 0                             | 0                            | 0             |
| <b>Landa</b>             | 1,324                           | 151                          | 112                     | 35                     | 7                             | 0                            | 1,629         |
| <b>Las Palmas</b>        | 0                               | 0                            | 0                       | 0                      | 0                             | 0                            | 0             |
| <b>Little Read Wagon</b> | 407                             | 0                            | 39                      | 132                    | 0                             | 0                            | 578           |
| <b>Maverick</b>          | 235                             | 44                           | 48                      | 67                     | 0                             | 0                            | 394           |
| <b>McCreless</b>         | 2                               | 65                           | 14                      | 59                     | 22                            | 954                          | 1,116         |
| <b>Memorial</b>          | 20                              | 70                           | 45                      | 143                    | 16                            | 41                           | 335           |
| <b>Mission</b>           | 121                             | 69                           | 66                      | 66                     | 88                            | 19                           | 429           |
| <b>Pan American</b>      | 34                              | 24                           | 12                      | 52                     | 1                             | 0                            | 123           |
| <b>Parman</b>            | 953                             | 525                          | 64                      | 399                    | 231                           | 60                           | 2,232         |
| <b>Potranco</b>          | 111                             | 9                            | 45                      | 71                     | 12                            | 0                            | 248           |
| <b>Pruitt</b>            | 184                             | 13                           | 349                     | 0                      | 0                             | 52                           | 598           |
| <b>San Pedro</b>         | 132                             | 7                            | 0                       | 3                      | 12                            | 0                            | 154           |
| <b>Schaefer</b>          | 354                             | 176                          | 34                      | 103                    | 12                            | 29                           | 708           |
| <b>Semmes</b>            | 405                             | 140                          | 49                      | 41                     | 1                             | 47                           | 683           |
| <b>System</b>            | 0                               | 13                           | 146                     | 79                     | 11                            | 0                            | 249           |
| <b>Thousand Oaks</b>     | 62                              | 59                           | 0                       | 29                     | 18                            | 0                            | 168           |
| <b>Tobin</b>             | 94                              | 127                          | 66                      | 73                     | 45                            | 30                           | 435           |
| <b>Westfall</b>          | 48                              | 70                           | 23                      | 40                     | 20                            | 31                           | 232           |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>7,758</b>                    | <b>3,168</b>                 | <b>2,341</b>            | <b>2,374</b>           | <b>836</b>                    | <b>1,583</b>                 | <b>18,060</b> |

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

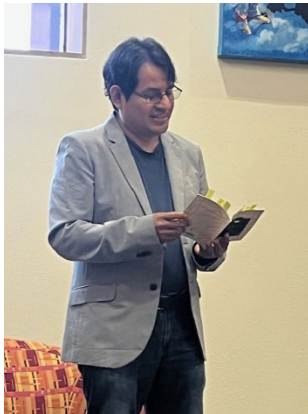
## II. SYSTEMWIDE SERVICES

### LATINO COLLECTION AND RESOURCE CENTER

On February 5, Professor Elena Foulis of A&M University-San Antonio brought students from the department of Language, Literature and Arts to take a tour of the Latino Collection & Resource Center (LCRC). LCRC program manager Sarah De La Rosa and Information Services librarian Patricia Perez presented an overview of the LCRC's resources, programs and mission with the students. One of the goals of the LCRC is to strengthen relationships with regional universities, so that students may utilize the abundance of academic and contemporary resources found within the collection.





*Students from A&M University-San Antonio's Department of Language, Literature & Arts*



*Poet Jonathan Fletcher reading from his chapbook at Latine Literati program*

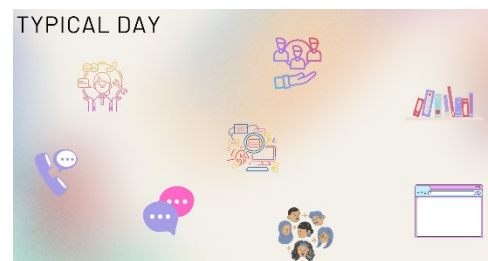
On February 8, the LCRC presented a program titled Latine Literati, featuring local author Jonathan Fletcher who debuted his award-winning chapbook titled, "This Is My Body," with our library community. Jonathan was joined by San Antonio's Poet Laureate, Eddie Vega, who engaged in discussion with Jonathan regarding the creative process of writing poetry. Both Eddie and Jonathan answered questions from the audience after their presentation. On February 22, during a week that honors the founding of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Dr. Cynthia E. Orozco delivered a presentation that focused on Alonso S. Perales. Perales was a principal founder of LULAC, a US diplomat, author, and civil rights leader. Perales is credited as one of the most influential Mexican Americans of the twentieth century.

#### ***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 fielded over 1,050 patron visits and guided 1,700 hours of public computer use this month. Learn staff hosted over 50 programs, with new additions of "Adulthood 101 with Learn" at Johnston Branch Library, and "Practical Spanish" at Memorial Branch Library. The Learn team was active in

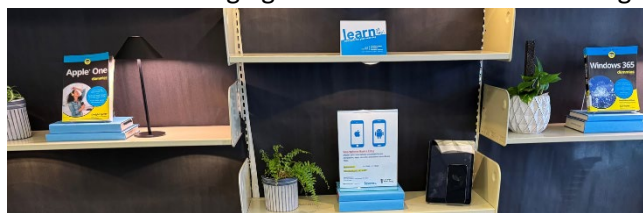


*Visual representation of a "typical day" in the life of a public service librarian.*



continuing partnerships with Launch SA for small business development, LEAD Enterprise for American Sign Language teaching, and Credit Human for financial literacy. The Learn at Central team built on previous work with Haven for Hope, bringing computer classes to residents in partnership with Community Tech Network.






Learn at Central Manager Cate Prazak, together with Communications Manager Scott Williams, presented to over 300 Metro Health Department City employees. Online participants learned the many joys of library card ownership, including the individualized assistance available through Learn at SAPL. Cate also presented to 60 students as part of Straus Middle School's "Career Day," sharing about the educational requirements to become a librarian, and all the interactions that might pop up in a "typical day." Learn at Westfall Training Officer Louis Medellin showcased the transformation of his service area, thanks to knowledge gained at Visual Merchandising training with Sarah Linley, Access Services Manager.



*Learn at Westfall display area, revamped through Visual Merchandising training.*

Louis presented the new aesthetic during an online staff training together with Westfall Branch Manager Machaia McClenny. Their accompanying "before" and "after" pictures inspired staff systemwide to think about engaging patrons through visual displays.

### ***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.

## **LITTLE READ WAGON**

The Little Read Wagon (LRW) is the San Antonio Public Library's (SAPL) early literacy outreach team. In February Library Services Specialist Julia Lazarin and Librarian III Kristin Yourdon presented to SAPL's Children's Librarians. Lazarin and Yourdon shared research from the Harvard Center on the Developing Child. This research gives three principles that children and families need to thrive. Children and families need strong relationships. They need to build cognitive and social-emotional skills. They also need to have their stress reduced. The team discussed what children's librarians can do to help. According to the research, play is an excellent way to support all three principles. The team gave tips for how to incorporate more play into children's programs and services. The team also discussed other ways they have used the research to reflect on their own programs.

In February, Library Services Specialists Julia Lazarin and Melisa Hill presented at an AVANCE Health and Mental Health Advisory meeting. The meeting was for parents, health and community experts, and program staff. There were 72 people who attended this presentation. The topic of the presentation was Strengthening Family Connections through Shared Reading. Lazarin presented in English, and Hill presented in Spanish. The team shared that reading together helps children recognize and name their feelings. It helps children empathize with others. It boosts the mental health of the reader and the child. The team encouraged everyone to visit their local SAPL branch and check out lots of books. When families read with their children as part of their daily routine, it helps children feel comforted and secure.

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

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

## TEXANA

On February 1 Librarian Lucy Agado hosted the online class “Ancestry Library Edition: Introduction” that provided basic search techniques using the Ancestry database. She then hosted a second program on February 8 that demonstrated Ancestry’s advanced searching features. Librarian Andy Crews presented “Using Newspaper Archive” at Collins Garden Library on February 4 and the online class “Genealogy Without Subscribing: Alternatives to Ancestry” on February 22.




Librarians Sylvia Reyna and Deborah Countess facilitated a new older adults' program on February 13, “Coloring, Crosswords and Coffee,” designed to stir creativity and foster new friendships in a relaxing atmosphere. On February 14, Librarians Arland Schnacker and Mr. Crews conducted “Veteran Genealogy for Seniors: part 2” at the Northeast Senior Center. Participants were provided hands-on experience navigating the Fold3 database. On February 19, Ms. Reyna, Ms. Countess and Information Services Librarian Jordan Torres hosted a Wowzitude pre-recorded walking tour of downtown Mexico City, “Vibrant Heart: Exploring the Soul of Mexico City.” These tours are designed to bring the world to older adults curious about other cultures. To celebrate Black History Month, Ms. Reyna was invited by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) on February 20 to present on African American genealogy at Schaefer Library. Additionally, Ms. Agado presented the class “Finding Your Roots: Genealogy for Beginners” at San Antonio College on February 27. These programs focused on African American genealogy research and beginning genealogy methods.



*Veteran Genealogy for Seniors at the Northeast Senior Center*

Ms. Reyna was invited by Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America) to lead a cemetery research class for scouts on February 22. Her presentation demonstrated library databases that can help unearth biographical information on cemetery residents. Mr. Schnacker presented a February 22 beginning genealogy class at Central Library where patrons were introduced to library databases and received helpful tips for genealogy research.

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

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

# III. AGE-BASED SERVICES



## CHILDREN’S

Dr. Catherine O’Brien of Texas A&M University, San Antonio, began a series of child development webinars on February 4. This first session provided an overview of child development topics. Notable themes included recognizing and honoring children’s competence and need to develop autonomy. Seven members of the Children’s Services team attended Future of San Antonio, a panel discussion on social determinants of health and outcomes for children in San Antonio. The discussion included vaccinations, food insecurity, walkability and safe routes to school.

Shannon Seglin, Kate Simpson, and Cresencia Huff met with Dr. Deepti Kharod of University of Incarnate Word. Dr. Kharod shared her project of exploring belief in play, how children experience things like awe and wonder, faith, and joy while engaged in play. While at the Children’s Library at Central, she was shown some of the collection related to faith traditions. Dr. Kharod invited the team to participate in a community event in March.

At the February Children’s Services Team meeting, the Summer with SAPL children’s programming work group presented an overview of special activities to offer school age children in June and July. Options include opportunities to explore and imagine through art, science, puppetry, and cardboard construction. Supplies will be provided through purchase for each location or sharing of material kits.

### ***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 February, the Library celebrated Black History Month. This year, the Library’s featured programs for adults during Black History Month all focused on various forms of Creative Expression. On February 1st, the Library hosted a two- hour, hands on, Quilt in a Jar workshop two-hour workshop presented by the African American Quilt Circle of San Antonio (AAQCSA). This workshop was presented in conjunction with the Central Gallery exhibit Game Changers, which showcased the work of AAQCSA. Later in February on February 21st, the Library hosted a hands-on workshop presented by local jewelry artist Glenda Fikes. The workshop, called Culture Inspired Jewelry, provided participants with the opportunity to learn Ms. Fiks’ process for making jewelry with fabrics and techniques native to her culture. Finally, on February 22nd, the Library hosted a third hands on workshop presented by Kaldric Dow, whose work was featured in the Central Gallery back in 2024. In this workshop, Dow shared his artistic knowledge with



participants and helped them create collage art inspired by his own vibrant work. Participants left with their own creative work and new craft skills.

On February 8th, the Library hosted PokeFest for the 3rd year. This event, which has been hosted each year at McCreless Branch Library, provides Pokemon enthusiasts of all ages the opportunity to celebrate the many forms of this fandom. This event includes the opportunity for individuals to trade Pokemon cards with other collectors (with staff on hand to look up values of various cards, to participate in a Pokemon Go Go Battle League Tournament, play Pokemon Loteria, and take a picture with Pikachu. Roughly 950 individuals attended this event.

***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.



## **OLDER ADULTS**

On February 20th, the Library hosted a genealogy program at Schaefer Branch Library in conjunction with AARP. Sylvia Reyna, Librarian II in Texana, presented on African American Genealogy. Ms. Reyna discussed databases, books, and resources that are available to help discover your family history. This presentation helped community members who are wondering where to begin and how to start their journey. AARP partnered with the library on this program by promoting it to their members as well as by providing attendees with helpful information on topics such as fraud, caregiving and healthy living.

In February, the Library hosted one session each at Great Northwest Branch Library and Encino Branch Library of a four-hour workshop called Dealing with Dementia. This workshop is presented by WellMed Charitable Foundation's Caregiver SOS program. These workshops covered topics such as understanding what dementia is, managing difficult behaviors in loved ones with dementia, and helping caregivers of individuals with dementia to handle stress and find time for themselves.

In February, the Library hosted two sessions of a presentation called Plan Your Retirement Course at Great Northwest Branch Library. These sessions, presented by National Retirement Academy, provided participants with information about planning their retirement and taxes. Mission Branch Library continues to offer Mission Table Tennis Club (MTTC) twice per week, however the session offered on Thursday afternoons is attended by many older adults. At MTTC, participants practice single and double play. Participants of all table tennis skill level are also offered the opportunity to improve their game in a friendly environment.

***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.

## IV. LOCATION-BASED SERVICES

### Central Library

Programs at the Children's Library in February were colorful and messy! Children enjoyed multi-sensory experiences with colored ice cubes, contact paper collages, and baking soda and vinegar eruptions. The Tween Time crowd made candy sushi and paper stuffed animals with cotton batting and watched another Harry Potter movie.



*Family story time colorful sensory play*

Manager Kate Simpson attended the United Way of San Antonio ReadyKidSA quarterly meeting where she met with representatives from other organizations that serve children and families. She and Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin also attended Future of San Antonio: Shaping the Social Determinants of Health for San Antonio's Future Generations at Texas A&M University at San Antonio. These conferences inspired them to develop several proposals for new services for families at the Children's Library.

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 – a

highlight this month included a teen-led Valentine's Day party in which teens made valentines, chocolate strawberries, and heart-shaped tortillas. In addition, teen volunteers made a book display for Black History Month and prepared book recommendations for the 210teenlibrary Instagram for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.



*Teen Valentine's Day party*

Patrons attending Habla Conmigo led by Information Services staff Patricia Perez and J.D. Elizondo engaged in lively conversation about professions, countries and pastimes in order to practice their Spanish and English language skills. Patrons thanked facilitators for providing this community program. Patrons were provided with print resources for use and were directed to books for support and self-directed learning.

Library Assistants Kristin Gutierrez and Melissa Gomez hosted the Spellbound Book Club where members gathered to discuss the latest paranormal selection *Bride* by Ali Hazelwood: the group dived into spirited conversations and shared their insights. Attendees enjoyed light refreshments in a cozy, welcoming setting that perfectly complemented the book's atmosphere.

San Antonio Public Library Zine Committee members Jordan Torres and Brianna Glass provided the



*Monthly Zine Lab workshop*




Trinity Diversity Connection at Trinity University with a zine workshop at the Central Library. During this lively outreach, 53 attendees were present and artfully willed wonderful zines into existence.

Library Assistant Eliza Perez hosted a unique collage workshop with local artist Kaldric Dow. Dow shared his artistic insights and engaged participants throughout the program. Over half of the participants left comment cards about their positive experience and how much they enjoyed Kaldric's advice and engagement. They requested more

weekend arts & crafts programs and more programs highlighting local artists of color.

Learn at Central staff in collaboration with Community Tech Network (CTN) are providing digital literacy classes to 25 participants at Haven for Hope. Participants learn digital skills such as how to create an email account and how to safely navigate the internet. At the end of the program, participants will receive a smartphone with one year of data service.

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

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

## **DISTRICT 1**

### **Landa Branch Library**



The Landa Branch Library team is comprised of individuals who enjoy using their talents to provide exceptional library services to the surrounding community, even outside of their regular duties. In late January, tweens at the weekly Tween Time program expressed an interest in learning how to improve their drawing skills to Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas. Knowing he is an exceptional artist, Jasmin asked Circulation Attendant Walden Booker if he would be interested in serving a guest host during a drawing-focused Tween Time. Walden worked with Jasmin to plan accordingly, identifying the types of supplies needed as well as preparing how to be responsive to the tweens' drawing interests and abilities. During the program on February 17, Walden's expertise in art and drawing as well as his friendly demeanor allowed him to offer a great and welcoming environment for tweens to explore art.

Teen volunteers are essential for the success of teen programs at the Landa Branch Library; as the leaders for teen programs, they plan, develop, and implement library activities for themselves and their peers. In these decision-making roles, teen volunteers are responsible for responding to the interests



and needs of the surrounding teen population. After months of offering a Homework Help program, teen volunteers Inaayat, Taj, and Reyna recognized there was not a strong community demand for the program. Working with other teens and teen volunteers, they identified two teen communities of interest at Landa—manga (comics or graphic novels originating from Japan) and chess. Teen volunteer Inaayat took the initiative to lead the “Manga Drawing Book Club,” focusing on learning how to write and draw manga—while teen volunteers Taj and Anthony oversaw the “Teen Chess Club,” providing a welcoming environment for teens to play chess and learn new strategies.

***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.

## **San Pedro Branch Library**

In February, the San Pedro Branch held twice monthly “Knights of San Pedro”, where patrons had the opportunity to learn more about chess and have friendly game play. The matches were 30-minute time control for each side with an entire game of 1 hour. Additionally, the branch continued to host “Yarn Over to San Pedro” where the public could knit and crochet different projects. Needle crafters of all kinds were welcomed and invited to bring their own project to work on. Beginners were welcomed as well. Once you get started, we’ll have you hooked! In addition to programs for adults, the San Pedro Branch also curated a “Shelf of Sharing” during February. The shelf provides those in need with items such as socks, knit hats, gloves and scarves. Member of the community also donated items for giveaway.

In February San Pedro Branch Assistant Manager, Karen Braeuler facilitated a monthly book discussion group at Chandler Estate Senior Living Center. Members are supplied with the book checked out from the library, received questions to assist their reading, and then met to discuss the questions. This month’s book selection was “Covenant of Water” by Abraham Verghese. The group has been gathering for nearly two years and continued to be a popular and well attended program. The group at the Chandler Center helped promote life-long learning as well as social engagement with residents.

***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

For the third year in a row, Westfall Branch Library was one of the branch locations that hosted the Wall of Warmth program. This initiative runs from November through February and is designed to provide warm clothing and accessories to those in need during the winter months. Machaia McClenny, Westfall Branch Manager, also hosts a



*Lion Dance at Westfall*



Sit and Stitch program on Mondays during this time frame, and many of the attendees donate items to support the Wall of Warmth. Over four hundred items were donated by community members and received by patrons in need.



*Wall of Warmth at Westfall*

As part of the Chinese/Lunar New Year celebrations, Monty Holcomb, Adult Services Librarian at Westfall, planned, arranged, and coordinated with a Lion Dance performance group to host a program on February 9. The group performed an elaborate lion dance with a drummer, along with an informative presentation.

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

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

## DISTRICT 2

### Carver Branch Library



*Girl with her MagnaTile creation at the KLRN Career Day event*

On February 22nd, Ralph Jarzombek, the children's librarian at Carver, participated in the KLRN Career Day event at St. Philip's College. He set up a table split into two sections: one side displayed information about the library's services, while the other featured two STEM toys - MagnaTiles and Bristle Building Blocks - for the children to enjoy. Ralph took numerous photos of the children and their creations, which made it a challenge to choose which ones to include in the Director's Report!

DL Grant was the subject of a 3-minute employee spotlight featured during February. Mr. Grant was able to discuss his role at Carver Branch library where he has served since 2007. Mr. Grant was recognized by City Manager Erik Walk and

Assistant City Manager David McCary at City Hall later that month. The video is available at TVSA. He enjoyed discussing how the library provides information services and resources for the people of San Antonio and Bexar County and putting some of his favorite CORE values to work.

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

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



*Two boys with their Bristle Building Block creations at the KLRN Career Day event*

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



*Chess Master Alex Weinberg explains the rules of a Chess Simultaneous Play Exhibition.*

At the end of February, the Molly Pruitt Library hosted a Chess Simul Play event open to all ages. Alex Weinberg, a Chess Master with the U.S. Chess Federation, spent the afternoon at the library playing twenty simultaneous chess games against community members. Outreach to chess clubs at nearby middle schools helped fill all twenty of the player spots and the library staff were appreciative of the chess club coaches who helped spread the word about this event. It was an exciting event for participants and observers alike! This event was made possible through generous support from the Rackspace Foundation.

During the three lunch periods, the Pruitt Branch held an outreach program at the Roosevelt High School Courtyard. The library brought its giant chess set for teens to play during lunches. There was also a table with library information for teens who had questions about the library. It was the first of three Giant Courtyard Chess programs of the semester. This program is an excellent way for Pruitt Branch to interact with teens, allow them to ask questions, learn about the library, and promote the branch's Chess Night.



*Teens participating in a game of Giant Chess.*

***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.

## Schaefer Branch Library

Schaefer featured an interactive book display highlighting the Corazon collection during National Library Lover's Month. The display asked patrons to share why they love the library.

On February 27th, Schaefer hosted a Paint Your Partner program. Inspired by the trendy challenge seen on social media, patrons brought their significant other, friend, or family member and had fun painting each other on small canvases. Soft jazz music was played in the background as the painters tried their best and shared a laugh.



*Library Lover's Month display*

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

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

## DISTRICT 3

### Mission Branch Library

This month, VITA, the free tax preparation program, began using one of Mission Branch Library's meeting rooms on designated days of the week to assist individuals and families in the area in preparing their taxes this season. Since this service began, Mission Branch Library fields anywhere from an estimated 15-60 calls each day about the program. Each morning VITA is at Mission Branch Library, there is already a line of community members waiting for 10 a.m. when the library opens, and VITA begins helping people. It is a very popular service for the community.

The parking lot of Mission Branch Library facilitated the large number of attendees for the World Heritage Office's grand opening of the World Heritage Center's grand opening on February 7th. Attendees included Mayor Ron Nirenburg, District 3 Council member Phyllis Viagran, Mission Branch Library staff, members of library administration and many excited members of the public.



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

## **Pan American Branch Library**

A patron came in who hovered close to the information desk. He explained that he needed assistance but was embarrassed because he didn’t know what he was doing and “felt like a dinosaur” when trying to use a computer. It turned out that while he had difficulty seeing text on a computer and entering characters, he grasped how to locate what he needed quickly and with only a little assistance was able to print his document. He was very pleased and was laughing about not needing as much help from his daughter next time.

Pan American Branch Library’s Children’s Librarian, Rachel Forbes, collaborated with Adult Services Librarian Paula Opiela to host a story time with a craft and snacks for adults with special needs. Over 50 patrons participated, nearly doubling the attendance of the last session.

***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 4**

### **Cortez Branch Library**

The Cortez branch library hosted the successful and creative community family program, Rock Painting, which was open to all ages and was led by the Friends of the Cortez Library. Families gathered to paint and decorate rocks in a fun, artistic environment. The activity allowed families, friends, and neighbors to engage with one another. The resulting rock art was placed in the community rock garden under the oak tree in the front of the library, so that the rocks can be admired by all library visitors.



*Rock Painting at Cortez branch library*

Crafty Tea-Time, which happens once a month, was held on February 9. This program is a social gathering for community members to meet new people and enjoy nice hot flavored teas and conversation. Library patrons who attend can craft, read, or just enjoy each other's company. One of the patrons who attended the program had much knowledge about herbs. He brought in some of his own herbs for teas and explained to the group what sort of health benefits the herbs possess. There was also a young lady who was doing college schoolwork who joined, and she was very impressed with the program and how welcomed she felt.

***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.

## **Johnston Branch Library**

For the last teen time of the month, the teens planned a cooking session together. The teens planned what they wanted to make, and teen librarian Ana Pina assisted in gathering the ingredients and supplies for the teens to make the food. The teens gathered their opinions with the teen volunteers and decided that they wanted to make pasta salad from scratch. This specific session of teen time was impactful as it gave the teens in the community an opportunity to learn several new skills. Firstly, the teens were able to learn about nutrition by looking for healthy and easy recipes that they could learn at the library and implement in their own homes after the session. This session also allowed some of the teens to learn some essential cooking skills that for the first time, such as cutting ingredients and boiling food. This activity gave the teens the opportunity to own their space and expand their possibilities by learning new skills that they can further use in their future.



*Teen Time pasta salad*

During February, Gateway Christian Academy visited Johnston Branch library on a school trip. The children's librarian coordinated their visit, providing a story time and presentation about the library. This presentation highlighted all the major aspects of the library's services for children and how they could benefit from coming to the library. A simple craft was provided at the end, and the children and their teachers enjoyed making art and being able to ask additional questions about the library. Focal areas that many enjoyed were the benefit of there being computers for children and an area within the library specifically for children.

***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

Circulation Attendant Kijana Maldonado assisted the Library's Communications department at the COSACares Resource Fair held at the City Towers on February 13 where City employees were invited to learn more about the City's COSACares EAP, employee benefits and wellness programs and training opportunities. Ms. Maldonado, along with Marketing Manager Scott Williams, staffed a table to share information about library resources and to issue library cards. Ms. Maldonado used her prior experience with creating library card accounts offsite to issue dozens of cards to City employees, some updating an existing account and others receiving a new limited-edition library card.



Children's Librarian Hope Sonnen visited the Immaculate Conception Kindergarten and Nursery, which is located a few blocks away from the Bazan branch, twice in February where she read stories to a lively group of four-year-olds. The preschoolers expressed their excitement to see Ms. Sonnen at each visit, offering hugs and telling her everything they have done in school since she last visited. The students made regular visits to the branch during the summer to check out items and to enjoy a number of Summer at SAPL events and programs.

#### ***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.




### Collins Garden Branch Library

Texana Department Adult Special Collections librarian Andrew Crews was invited to the Collins Garden Branch to present a class on using the Newspaper Archive Database. The online archive which is one of the largest in the world, allows user to explore family histories and search key history events from the 1600s to the present. Attendees were excited to learn how to conduct their own research by using the database to find articles and records published in local newspapers as well as ones from all over the world.

Teens visiting the Collins Branch on February 5 enjoyed making pin back buttons in the Teen Space. In addition to making buttons, two pairs of teens, who hadn't met previously, spent time chatting and getting to know each other. Teen Librarian Daniella Toll also chatted with the group, sharing information

about Teen Time and learning about what things they enjoyed doing. The teens said they looked forward to visiting the library again in the future and left with the pin back buttons they made themselves.

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

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

## **Las Palmas Branch Library**

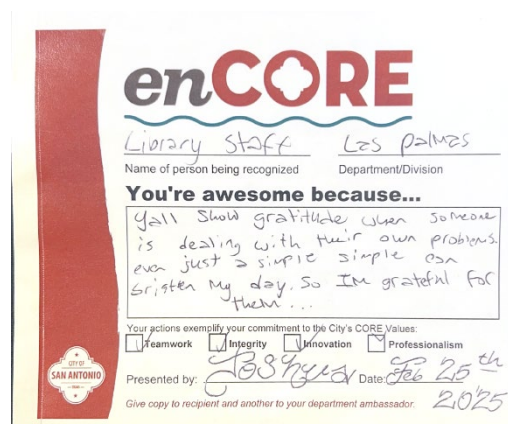


*Alonso S. Perales Display*

This month, staff at Our Lady of the Lake University (OLLU) had a conversation with Las Palmas staff about a traveling exhibit they are hosting based on the work of Dr. Cynthia E. Orozco, who wrote a book about Alonso S. Perales, Civil Rights Trailblazer. Coincidentally, Dr. Orozco was also scheduled to present an overview of her book at Central Library's Latino Collection and Resource Center (LCRC) two weeks prior to the exhibit. This timing created an opportunity for Las Palmas to showcase a small but valuable collection of items written by Alonso S. Perales, available exclusively in LCRC's special collection. LCRC

Program Manager Sarah De La Rosa shared bookmarks about OLLU's upcoming exhibit during her program, and now OLLU is sharing LCRC resources with its visitors. Las Palmas Library continues to strengthen its connection with the community at OLLU and looks forward to working together in the future.

On February 25, a new patron visited Las Palmas Branch Library interim site expressing his frustration that day. He wanted to research job opportunities but did not have a computer at home. Staff was more than happy to share all the wonderful resources San Antonio Public Library offers and invited him to obtain a library card. Staff provided information about the various programs, including access to technology, Learn at SAPL, upcoming events, and resources in digital and print formats. This was an eye-opening experience for him, but he was concerned about the cost but was immediately relieved and delighted to learn that it was all free! His experience definitely speaks to the library's mission about changing lives through the transformative power of information.



*Las Palmas Staff enCORE*

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

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

## **Memorial Branch Library**

Teens at Memorial Library did a variety of activities throughout February. They started off the month by creating slime. Teen Services Librarian Ami Sarabia and Teen Liaison Rene Leija prepared all the materials needed for the activity, and the teens led the program by making the slime and helping each other create the perfect consistency for the slime.

One of Memorial's patrons has been coming in almost daily for assistance with coursework and a search for employment. They submitted the following on an enCORE card: "I am 71 years old and have trouble with the computer. Melissa, Auriel, and Darlene help me with a smile no matter how many times I go to them. They are the kindest. Now Jay [Memorial's primary custodian] keeps the building clean and never complains when informed about the bathroom. Jaime [Memorial's contract security guard] keeps me feeling very safe. He looks after my things and I have a lot. Thank you for this staff."



*Two teens show off the perfectly stretchy consistency of the slime they made at Memorial's Teen Time.*

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



## DISTRICT 6

### Great Northwest Branch Library




The National Retirement Academy partnered with Great Northwest to provide information sessions for adults and older adults. The collaboration included two courses in February on Planning Your Retirement. During the sessions participants learned about retirement and taxes.

February Children's programs at Great Northwest included weekly Preschool Story Time. Preschool aged children enjoyed stories, songs, and rhymes. During this story time children engage in activities that enhance their social, emotional, and language development while learning their ABC's.



*Great Northwest Preschool Story Time*

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

### Guerra Branch Library

Teen engagement at the Guerra branch, facilitated by Teen Librarian Brandy Walthall, has seen an increase this reporting period. Teen Time attendance grew by three attendees in February. Ms. Walthall successfully engaged with and recruited four new teen volunteers who are eager to learn about the library and assist with increasing Teen Time engagement. Ms. Walthall believes that teen engagement with the library is important as teens are a growing part of the community – not only growing, but aging. These young adults will eventually become adult patrons, and it is vital that the library engages them with meaningful services while they are in a developmental stage so later, they can advocate for these same services when they become adults with families of their own. She hopes that they grow to love library services/places/people to feel a connection worthy of their advocacy. Engaging with teens early shows them that they are viewed as an important part of the community.



*Teen Time*





*Baby Time*

Children’s Librarian Linda Lopez has received many compliments about her new Baby Time Program. Moms who regularly attend, shared that Ms. Lopez is amazing with the babies and remembers all their names. One mom shared that it was a little bit of a drive for them, but they love the program so much, that they do not mind the extra time it takes to get to Guerra Library. This speaks of the positive impact of the program. Parents of young children value and continue to reap the benefits of this literacy – rich environment for babies.

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



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

## **Potranco Branch Library**

The Potranco Library is hosting a Caregiver Stress-Busting Chronic Illness Program Series on Wednesday afternoons. The Stress-Busting Program for Family Caregivers is an evidence-based program that provides support to family caregivers of persons with dementia or a chronic illness. The program meets for nine weeks. Each week, the class focuses on a different topic to improve the quality of life for family caregivers who are providing care to an older loved one. The focus is on helping caregivers manage their stress and cope better with their lives. Each session ends with a focus on self-care. Self-care methods have ranged from using different breathing techniques to the use of essential oils. The group is grateful to have the opportunity to meet at the library to share their stories and develop problem solving skills to help them best provide care for their loved one.

The Potranco Library has been offering Wowzitude live-streamed travel every Thursday at 10 a.m. Wowzitude’s mission is to deliver unforgettable live-streamed travel experiences that connect culturally curious older adults to the world. The program was initially introduced as a bi-monthly event, but due to its growing popularity, it is now offered it weekly. February’s trips included: Paris, France; Soho, New York City; Bath, England and Prague, Czech Republic. Participants have really enjoyed the tours that they have taken and are pleased that they can interact with the guides in real-time.

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



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



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




## DISTRICT 7

### Forest Hills Branch Library

Throughout January, Children's Librarian Ana Menchaca was thanked by patrons for her focus on Black History Month in both displays throughout the children's area and in activities for children, reading books by black authors and teaching about the art of Alma Woodsey Thomas by having children emulate her style of art.

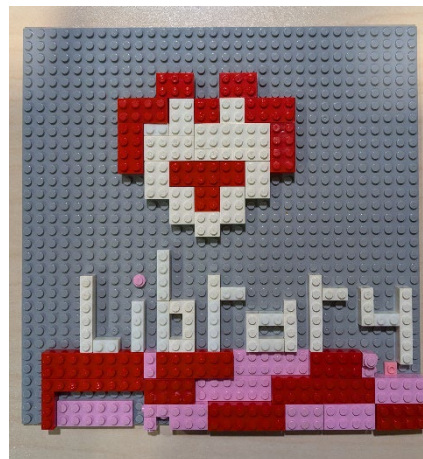
A local heritage rose group met and shared information about what heritage roses were as well as doing some hands-on work on how to take a cutting from an existing rose bush. Attendees were excited to learn and share, as many brought plants with them to work with.

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

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

### Maverick Branch Library

During Lego Time, a young girl created a colorful heart and with the word “library” with a set of Legos. Of course, being in the middle of February, the heart design fit appropriately with the valentine theme. The warm design captured attention of library staff and it was pleasing to know that a young library participant and a future library user was able to express her interest of the library in a very creative way by using Legos. Every week the children’s Lego work is displayed in a glass case up until the next upcoming Lego event. Since this Lego creation was unique and expressed the love towards the library the design was surely on display! This is being noted since Maverick’s Lego Time has made a big impression towards a young member of the community hoping to make a positive impact on a lifelong library user.





*Maverick Lego Club Feb 2025*

A regular customer stopped over by the reference desk to greet and chat with reference staff. During the friendly visit, the gentleman informed staff of a new superhero movie being released soon at the theater—a movie he has been eagerly waiting to see for some time. While discussing about various movies, the gracious customer complimented Maverick’s ample movie collection and is always satisfied when visiting the branch since he often finds an array of movies for the week. In fact, he emphasized although having another library closer to his home, he prefers going a little further to make the visit to Maverick. This

engaging opportunity and feedback were important to note since the customer is willing to visit Maverick Library. This demonstrates Maverick staff and collection is making an impact by providing professional and courteous customer service.

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

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


## **DISTRICT 9**

### **Brook Hollow Branch Library**

Brook Hollow Library (BHL) features four community book clubs with Librarian I Marco De Leon facilitating. In February, Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly was read by the Walker Ranch Book Club with 27 readers in attendance. Lilac Girls highlights the lives of an American actress, German doctor and a Polish teenager during and after World War 11. The Tuesday Evening Book Club met at BHL in mid- February to discuss Prophet Song by Paul Lynch. Lynch's award-winning novel outlines a dystopian Ireland and the "resilience of the human spirit." BHL's Mystery Book Club met in early February to discuss Missing You by Harlan Coben. Coben's thriller captivates with twists and turns around each corner. BHL's 20-year-old La Tertulia Book Club read Los Recuerdos del Porvenir by Elena Garro, with 14 people in attendance. BHL Book Clubs offer community engagement with San Antonio residents and staff a chance to listen.

In February BHL Library Assistant Lilliana Aguilar and SAPL/BHL Intern Hoa Luu, a University of North Texas (UNT) Library School student, facilitated BHL Teen Time on Tuesday evenings. Teens decorated the teen space for St. Valentine's Day, made yarn letters and played video games. They enjoy cooking new foods and eating flavored popcorn as well. A steady group of teens, many from Churchill High School, attend BHL's Tuesday Teen after school and take a city bus to arrive at the library. A BHL Teen volunteer helps prep for Teen Time each week and create new book displays each 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.

## Encino Branch Library

Encino Children's Librarian Caitlin Leonard, along with the Children's LGBTQIA+ committee, hosted a celebration of Trans stories program in honor of National Day of Reading. The group read from four different library titles featuring experiences of Trans people, followed by a playtime and an opportunity to color and make stickers. Four different families joined the celebration, and many others thanked the group for hosting the program and supporting the Trans community.





*Encino Children's Librarian Outreach at NDOR*



*Conversaciones en Espanol @ Encino*

Encino offers a Spanish language program, “Conversaciones en Espanol/Conversations in Spanish” on Saturdays, which has proven to be very successful. The program was created by and is currently facilitated by part time circulation attendant Elizabeth Jimenez for those community members who are native Spanish speakers and those who are learning Spanish and want to practice their language skills. Patrons from around the city have found this new community and visit weekly to engage with others who share their love of the Spanish language.

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

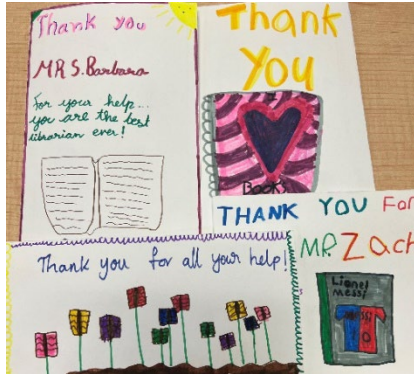
-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
-  Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.

## Parman Branch Library at Stone Oak

This month, Parman Library hosted a powerful exhibit commemorating the Holodomor, a tragic man-made famine in Soviet Ukraine (1932 – 1933) that claimed millions of lives. The exhibit featured works by Ukrainian-born artists Iana Nikutina and Iryna Lishchynska, whose art reflects Ukrainian culture, resilience, and heritage. The exhibit stemmed from Parman’s successful Ukrainian Culture and Language Club, which drew strong attendance and inspired the manager to invite the artists after seeing their work at the Texas Capitol. The “Meet the Artists” reception welcomed 150 guests, and the exhibit continues to attract visitors daily, fostering deeper cultural awareness and community engagement.



*Parman Library Reception Artists*



*Cards for Parman Library Staff*

This month brought a particularly special and memorable moment for the Parman team. While the team frequently receives kind words from patrons expressing their gratitude, this month stood out. Each staff member received a heartfelt, handmade card from children whose parents are able to attend weekly adult programs while, with their babysitter, they engaged "without rush" in all the library passive activities. These personal notes were deeply touching, reminding staff of the meaningful impact the library has on families in the community. Moments like this always inspire staff to continue striving for excellence.

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

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

## **DISTRICT 10**

### **Semmes Branch Library**

Semmes Library's Lego Time, which meets twice monthly on Monday afternoons, is a wonderful opportunity for children to join together in creative play. While each builds their own creation, the ability to play and share together helps build bonds between them.

As older people find themselves re-entering the workforce, they are frequently confronted with skill deficiencies they may have. At Semmes Library, they turn to Librarian Mark Hall, who arranges on-on-one tutoring sessions in specific skills, from "This is a mouse" to "Let's debug your Excel worksheets," depending on patron needs. Mark had three sessions in February, with more to come in March.

***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.

## Thousand Oaks Branch Library

In February 2025, Thousand Oaks Library hosted the monthly Wowzitude Livestreamed Worldwide Travel program. This program allows older adults who are physically or financially unable to travel to explore the world through live virtual tours provided by professional local guides. February’s virtual destination was Prague. This month’s program was particularly impactful for one patron who has been unable to travel due to health concerns or limited financial resources. The patron has rarely left San Antonio and has never traveled outside Texas. To be able to experience worldwide destinations from the comfort of the library has offered this patron and others an opportunity they would never have experienced otherwise.

The community surrounding the Thousand Oaks Library has many Spanish speakers. The Thousand Oaks Library hosts “Let’s Move: Music & Movement” programs that are less English-language dependent than regular Story Time programs. The Let’s Move programs include one song in Spanish and counting rhymes in English and Spanish. The counting rhymes are interactive and encourage children and parents to count in any other language.

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

- 📖 Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.
- 📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library’s reach in the community.
- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.

## Tobin Branch Library at Oakwell








*Children's Librarian Lisa Ramirez (right) at Northwoods Elementary School.*

Tobin at Oakwell saw two new hires during the month of February: Reb Sibley, student intern; and Jacy Mace, circulation attendant. Both have teaching backgrounds and are in the same graduate program at the University of North Texas. Sibley is focusing her practicum experience on youth literature and programming and has already assisted with a great deal of collection management work. Mace is filling an important role at the circulation desk and providing excellent customer service.



Children's Librarian Lisa Ramirez was invited to represent that library at an outreach event at Northwoods Elementary School on February 13. During the event, Ramirez met with school families and staff about services that the library offers. She also had a table set up with informational handouts and digital library card registration.

***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

Feb – Multiple outlets reported on SAPL locations acting as “places to stay warm” in preparation for extreme cold weather.

Feb – Multiple outlets reported the upcoming Pop Madness event at Central Library.

Feb – Multiple outlets reported on the African American quilt collection on display at Central Library as part of Black History Month.

Feb – Multiple outlets featured San Antonio Central Library in articles talking about the career and life of architect Ricardo Legorreta.

Feb 3 – KENS published an article listing multiple opportunities to celebrate Black History Month at various San Antonio Public Library branch locations.

Feb 7 – Texas Public Radio aired two radio announcements about the poetry night and book singing event at the SAPL Central Library.

Feb 17 – Multiple outlets reported that all San Antonio Public Library locations would be open for President’s Day.

Feb 18 – Texas Public Radio aired a radio announcement on the SAPL genealogy department holding a presentation on African American Genealogy.

Feb 19 – KSAT released an article about the San Antonio Book Festival and SAPL’s involvement.

Feb 24 – KSAT aired a segment reporting on the opportunity for children to read to a therapy dog at one of the SAPL branches.

Feb 26 – KSAT released an article on the SAPL branches set to have solar panels installed as part of the city’s goal on carbon neutrality.

Feb 28 – Star-Telegram published an article about the free pop-up vaccine clinic taking place at SAPL branches.