

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MAY 2025

*prepared for the
Library Board of Trustees*



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

SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

SYSTEM-WIDE HIGHLIGHTS

In May 2025, the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) celebrated Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Seven library locations hosted captivating Bharatanatyam dance performances that blended music, storytelling, and interactive discussions. The San Pedro Branch Library offered a hands-on DIY program focused on crafting traditional Japanese-style lanterns. These events reflect SAPL's dedication to fostering inclusion, promoting cultural awareness, and recognizing the valuable contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

On May 31, the Central Library proudly celebrated its 30th anniversary, marking three decades of service to the San Antonio community. The milestone event began with a special ceremony featuring remarks from Mayor Ron Nirenberg, City Manager Erik Walsh, Library Board Chair Juspreet Kaur, former U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros, Ph.D., and Library Director Sukrit Goswami. Together, they reflected on the legacy and impact of the iconic "Big Red Enchilada," a beloved cultural landmark in the heart of downtown.

The celebration also marked the official launch of Summer with SAPL, the Library's annual citywide summer initiative. Designed to engage and inspire residents of all ages, Summer with SAPL offers a variety of free programs, performances, and activities throughout June and July. The anniversary event included a full day of family-friendly festivities, showcasing the Library's commitment to learning, creativity, and community connection.

The San Antonio Public Library played an important role in supporting civic engagement by providing access to voting throughout the election season. For the May 3, 2025, Joint General, Special, and Bond Election, sixteen (16) Library locations served as early voting centers, making it convenient for residents to cast their ballots ahead of Election Day. Additionally, nineteen (19) Library locations were designated as official voting sites for both the May 3 election and the subsequent City of San Antonio Runoff Election held on June 7, 2025. This effort highlights the Library's continued commitment to serving the community as an accessible and trusted public resource.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES

The Young Pegasus Poetry Competition ceremony took place on May 4, 2025 at the Jack Guenther Pavilion at the Briscoe Western Art Museum. For more than 90 years, the San Antonio Public Library has celebrated the creativity and talent of the city's young writers through this annual competition. Each year, selected poems are published in the *Young Pegasus Poetry Anthology*, and the honored poets are invited to share their work during the ceremony.

Library Director Sukrit Goswami participated in the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's (SAPLF) Board Builder Bus Tour on May 21, 2025. The tour offered SAPLF Board members an opportunity to visit and learn more about four Library locations: Carver, Forest Hills, Mission, and Schaefer Branch Libraries. At each stop, branch staff welcomed the group and provided guided tours, highlighting the unique services, programs, and community impact of their locations.

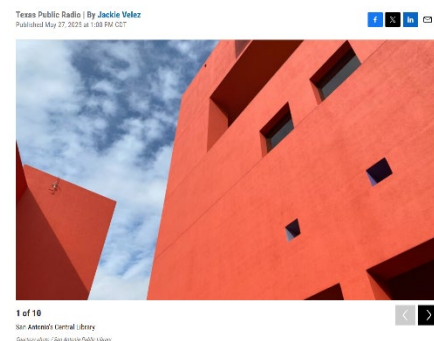
PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Over six 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 236,000 more than the same time period last year. Over 1.2 million hours of technology use has occurred, which is below the year-to-date target by seventeen percent. Year to date hours of technology is 262,000 fewer hours than the same time period last year. Starting in June 2024, new equipment and software was deployed after FY25 target development and data is reported differently. Monthly hours of Wi-Fi use from October 2024 to May 2025 averaged 160,411 hours per month with a low of 114,610 hours in February and a high of 153,643 hours in April. The number of in-person library visits for the year to date is over two million, which is above target by seven percent. Year to date visits is 221,000 more than the same time period last year due to several library locations serving as venue for the Presidential election. Marketing engagement for this reporting period includes results from 27 marketing email campaigns and 134 posts to SAPL social media accounts. Primary brand campaigns during the reporting period were Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Summer with SAPL, and Central Library's 30th Anniversary.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHT

Multiple San Antonio media outlets featured Central Library's 30th Anniversary with deep explorations of the Library's history and information about the celebratory event. A few highlights of this coverage included KSAT 12's segment featuring Library patrons singing "Happy Birthday" to the Library and Texas Public Radio online (pictured, right) and broadcast coverage.

San Antonio's Central Library celebrates its 30th birthday this week

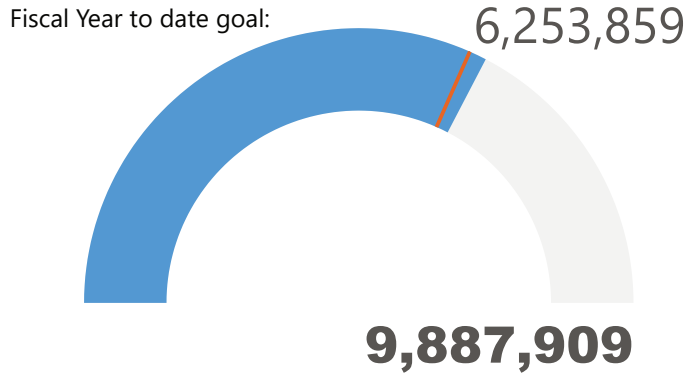


I. Key Performance Indicators - Summary

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

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

Circulation: Goal

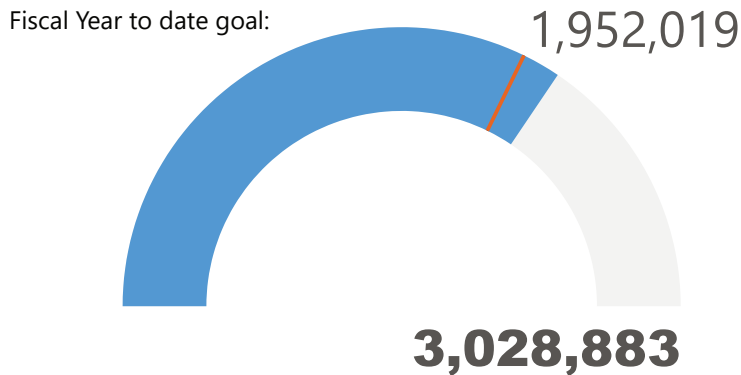


FY 2025 to date Items Borrowed



6,456,105
(+3.23%)
Circulation

Visits: Goal

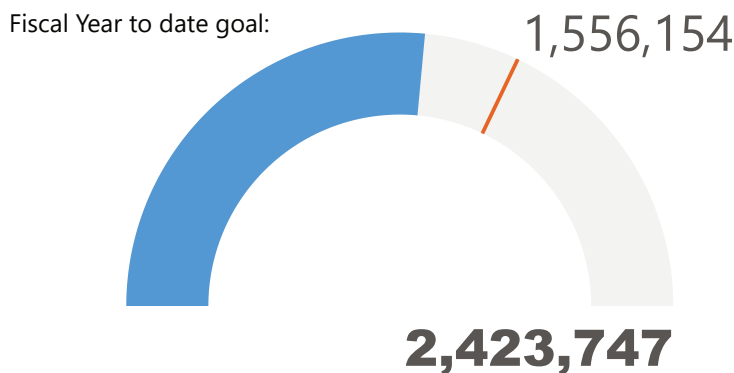


FY 2025 to date Library Visits



2,086,855
(+6.91%)
Visits

Digital Access: Goal



FY 2025 to date Digital Access



208,425
Hours of Computer Use



1,074,867
Hours of Wi-Fi Use

1,283,292
(-17.53%) *
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 can not be adjusted during the year. Targets for FY26 will be adjusted accordingly.

Key Performance Indicators - Circulation

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

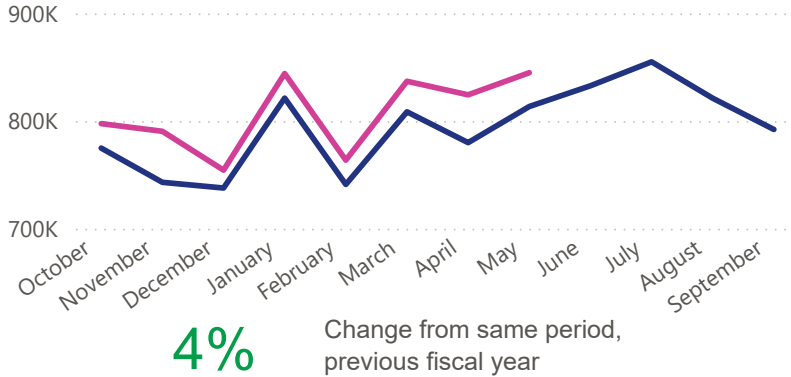
Report contains data for the reporting period ended on May 31, 2025

FY25 year to date Total Circulation

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

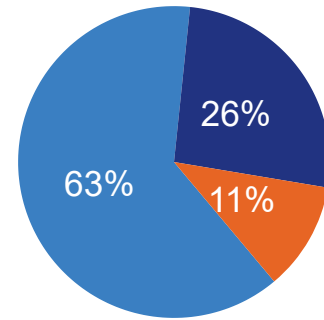
6,456,105

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



FY25 to date total circulation by service area

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

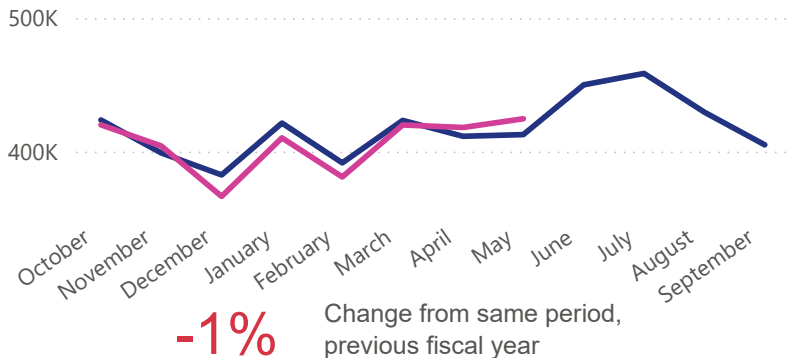


FY25 year to date Physical Circulation

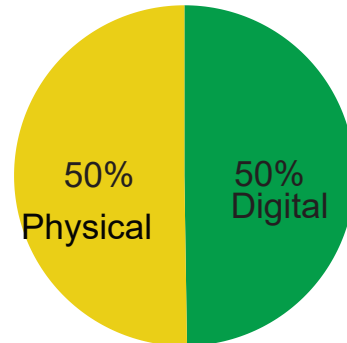
The number of checkouts and renewals of physical library materials.

3,243,883

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



FY25 to date total circulation by type

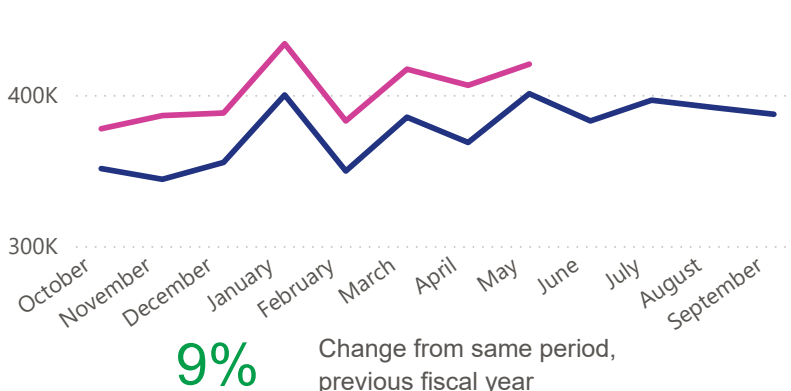


FY25 year to date Digital Circulation

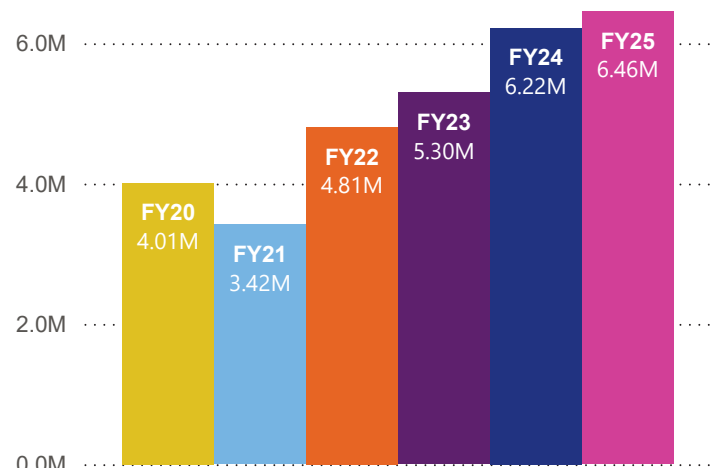
The number of checkouts, downloads, views and plays of electronic library materials.

3,212,222

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



Year to date total circulation comparison

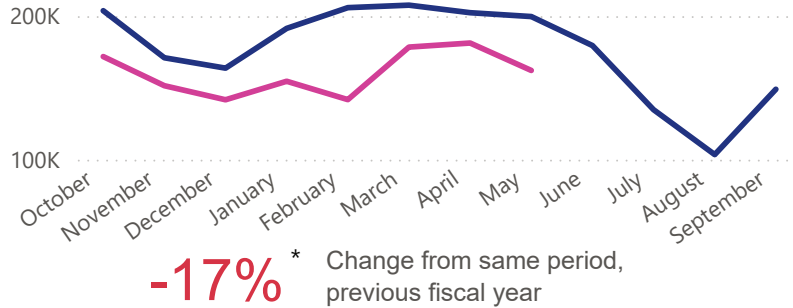


FY25 year to date Hours of Technology

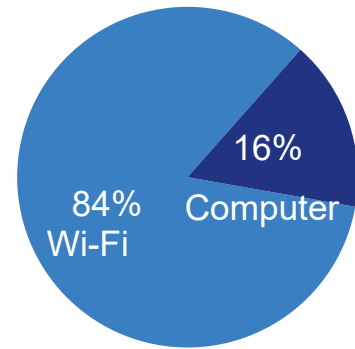
The total number of hours of technology used from both public computers and public Wi-Fi.

1,283,292

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



FY25 to date Technology Use by type

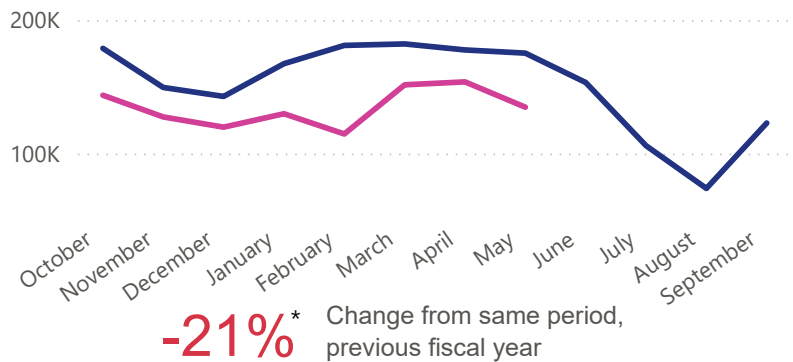


FY25 year to date Wi-Fi Hours

The number of hours public Wi-Fi was used.

1,074,867

FY ● FY24 ● FY25

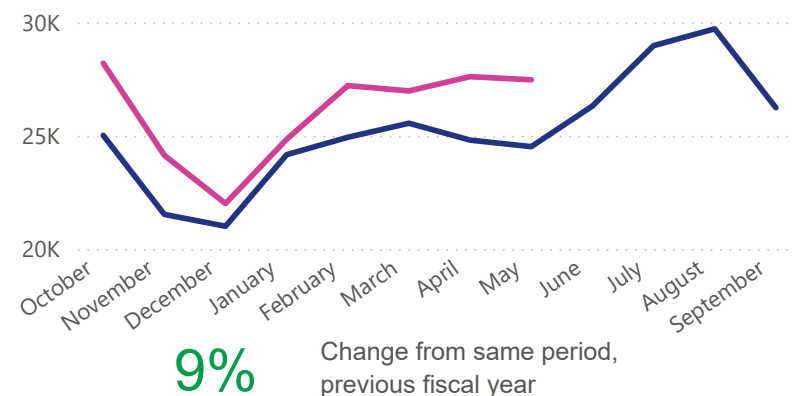


FY25 year to date Computer Hours

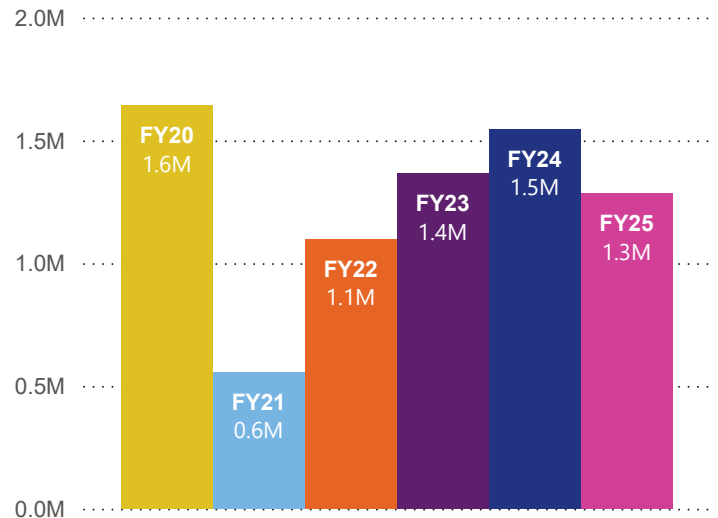
The number of hours public computers were used.

208,425

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



Year to date Technology Use comparison



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

Key Performance Indicators - Visits

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

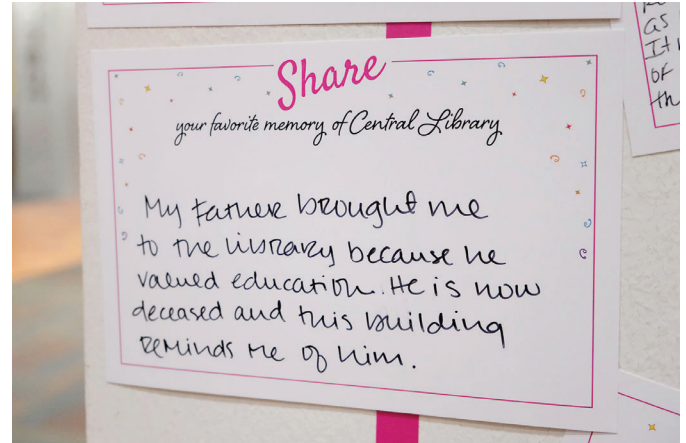
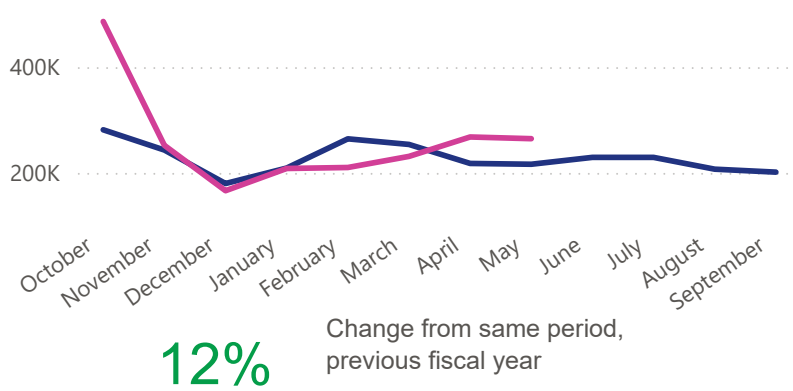
Report contains data for the reporting period ended on May 31, 2025

FY25 year to date Visits

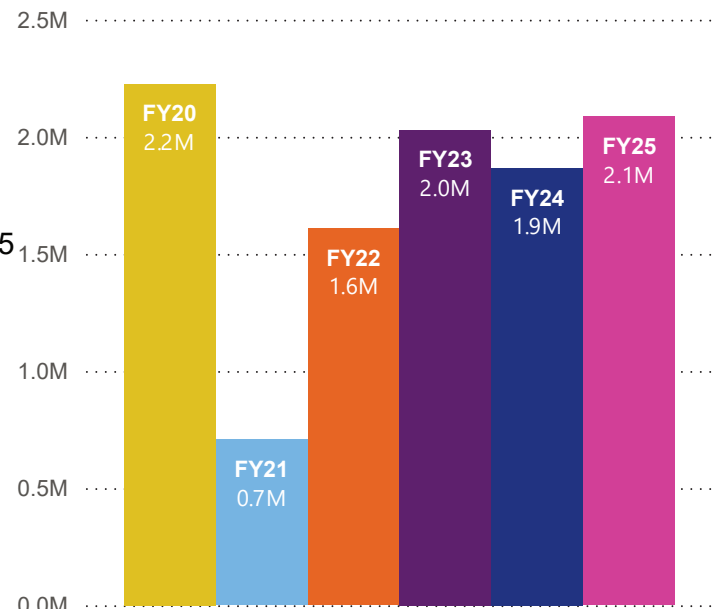
The number of physical visits to any library location.

2,086,855

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



Year to date Visits comparison



Fiscal Year 2025 location closures:

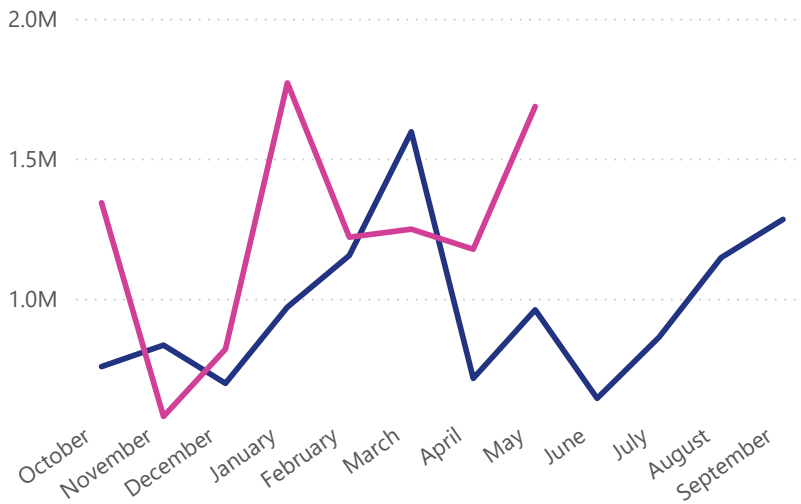
- Las Palmas October 1, 2024 - TBD
- Johnston October 1, 2024 - December 2, 2024
- Igo October 1, 2024 - October 28, 2024
- Pan American October 1, 2024 - October 28, 2024
- Semmes November 18, 2024 - January 12, 2025
- Maverick June 9, 2025 - TBD

FY25 year to date Marketing Engagements

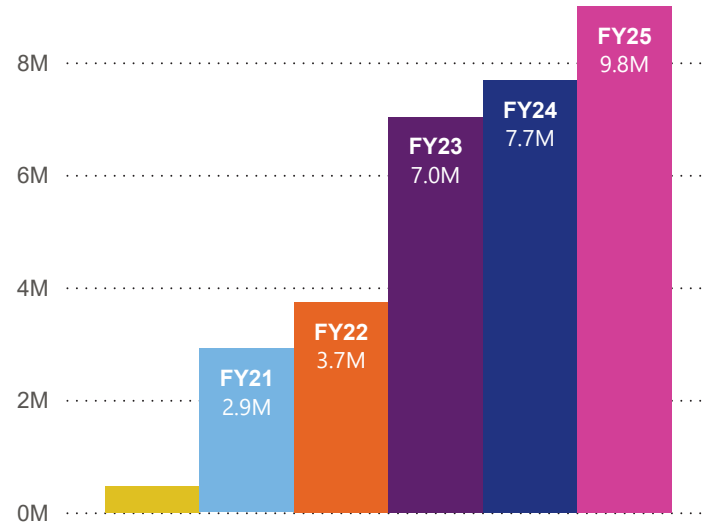
The number of times a subscriber opens a library marketing email plus engagements on SAPL social media.

9,839,783

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



Year to date Marketing Engagements comparison



28%

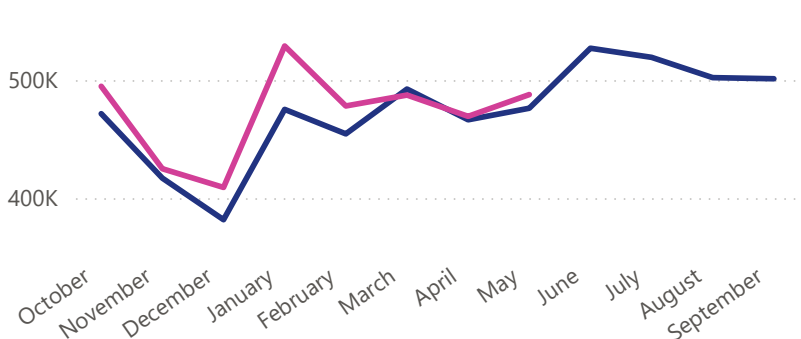
Change from same period,
previous fiscal year

FY25 year to date Website Visits

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

3,779,563

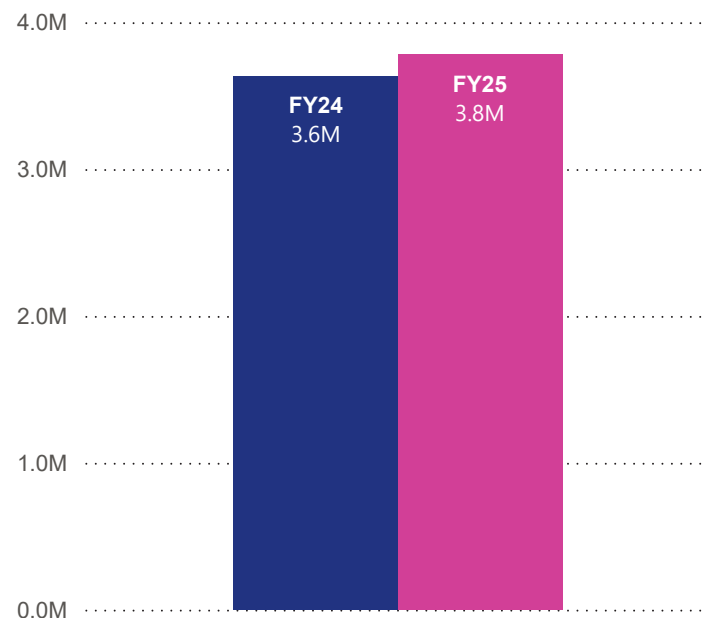
FY ● FY24 ● FY25



3%

Change from same period,
previous fiscal year

Year to date Website Visits comparison



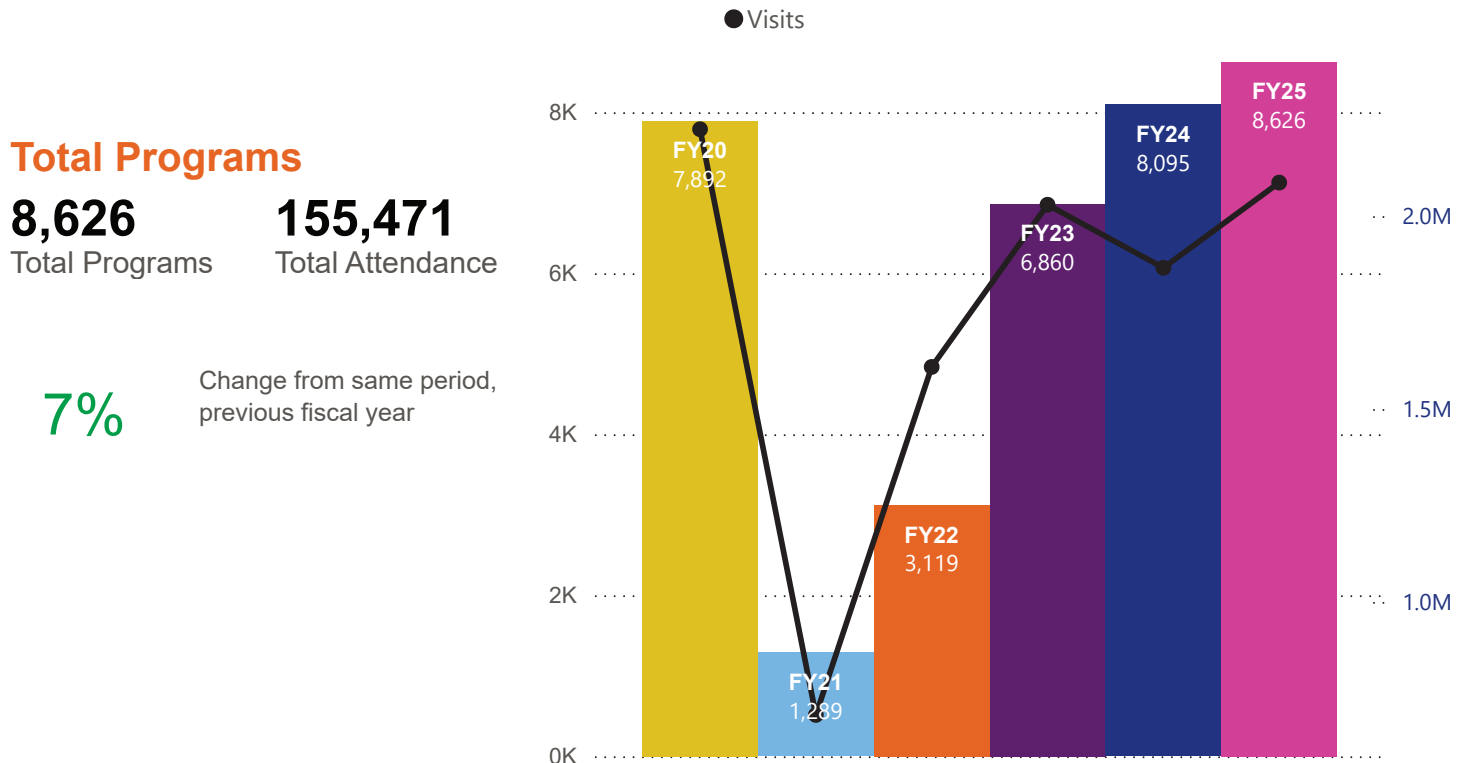
Data only available after FY24

Programs and Attendance

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 To September 2025

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

Fiscal year to date program comparison



Early Literacy (0-5)

2,049
Programs

55,759
Attendance

School Age (6-12)

1,537
Programs

30,738
Attendance

Teens (13-18)

1,840
Programs

20,395
Attendance

Adults (19+)

1,955
Programs

18,783
Attendance

Older Adults (60+)

708
Programs

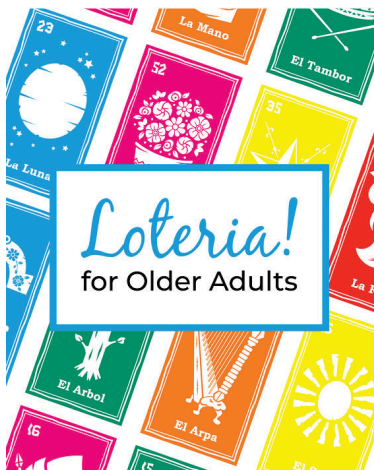
7,590
Attendance

General Interest*

537
Programs

22,206
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

May 2025 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
Bazan	2,708	7,422	4,805	1,623	3,182
Brook Hollow	24,997	7,486	5,519	813	4,706
Carver	2,101	3,369	3,192	755	2,437
Central	33,592	25,236	45,184	8,143	37,041
Cody	29,567	20,290	6,540	902	5,638
Collins Garden	3,082	4,102	2,826	430	2,396
Cortez	5,194	8,599	2,020	393	1,627
Digital	420,331	0 *	0 *	0 *	0 *
Encino	21,858	10,219	4,132	197	3,935
Forest Hills	4,956	2,652	2,517	438	2,079
Great Northwest	27,147	13,844	5,129	769	4,360
Guerra	6,781	6,426	2,598	570	2,028
Igo	35,877	23,019	6,397	629	5,768
Interlibrary Loan	894	0 *	0 *	0 *	0 *
Johnston	7,472	4,918	3,280	688	2,592
Kampmann	0	548	449	0	449
Landa	17,658	12,320	3,358	468	2,890
Las Palmas	259	106	155	0 **	155
Maverick	24,933	13,210	4,126	1,051	3,075
McCreless	6,798	9,606	4,754	1,214	3,540
Memorial	4,152	7,171	5,632	1,088	4,544
Mission	10,256	10,546	6,941	886	6,055
Pan American	2,359	2,455	1,810	341	1,469
Parman	30,244	17,536	4,355	203	4,152
Potranco	16,979	8,845	8,765	478	8,287
Pruitt	3,426	4,971	2,847	293	2,554
San Pedro	2,387	3,300	3,069	430	2,639
Schaefer	8,895	5,857	5,644	513	5,131
Semmes	23,967	11,145	5,375	1,448	3,927
System	32,131	0 *	0 *	0 *	0 *
Thousand Oaks	6,861	3,882	3,998	735	3,263
Tobin	17,612	10,311	2,540	810	1,730
Westfall	9,363	5,275	4,193	1,157	3,036
Total	844,837	264,666	162,150	27,465	134,685

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

*not applicable

** no computer use due to closure

San Antonio Public Library Programs

May 2025

Location	Early Literacy Programs (0-5)	School Age Programs (6-12)	Teen Programs (13-18)	Adult Programs (19+)	Older Adults Programs (60+)	General Interest Programs*	Total
Bazan	1	6	3	1	8	1	20
Brook Hollow	5	1	4	4	3	0	17
Carver	3	20	3	6	7	2	41
Central	13	10	70	28	7	11	139
Cody	0	5	18	15	2	0	40
Collins Garden	20	6	9	12	2	1	50
Cortez	5	9	6	10	0	0	30
Encino	7	3	5	9	7	1	32
Forest Hills	18	8	4	0	1	0	31
Great Northwest	4	3	5	10	4	7	33
Guerra	7	2	6	3	1	0	19
Igo	8	4	6	12	2	5	37
Johnston	2	7	3	7	2	0	21
Kampmann	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landa	36	6	13	7	3	0	65
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	11	0	4	1	0	1	17
Maverick	8	2	4	10	0	0	24
McCreless	0	4	3	15	5	2	29
Memorial	3	6	3	21	9	6	48
Mission	4	3	7	11	12	2	39
Pan American	5	8	2	1	2	5	23
Parman	12	6	8	15	18	3	62
Potranco	2	0	11	9	5	0	27
Pruitt	0	2	7	2	2	2	15
San Pedro	6	1	0	5	2	0	14
Schaefer	6	5	4	14	5	4	38
Semmes	14	10	4	6	0	2	36
System	0	2	21	5	0	0	28
Thousand Oaks	12	4	1	9	3	1	30
Tobin	8	12	8	8	4	4	44
Westfall	8	12	3	4	6	5	38
Total	228	167	245	260	122	65	1,087

*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

May 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
Bazan	8	19	11	2	28	60	128
Brook Hollow	59	36	38	55	432	0	620
Carver	5	70	6	34	76	475	666
Central	356	214	642	531	116	2,115	3,974
Cody	0	1,369	444	111	11	0	1,935
Collins Garden	377	133	102	89	11	20	732
Cortez	61	214	17	100	0	0	392
Encino	317	805	24	61	74	11	1,292
Forest Hills	233	230	28	0	4	0	495
Great Northwest	225	9	142	69	9	144	598
Guerra	143	99	102	19	9	0	372
Igo	609	540	144	63	17	42	1,415
Johnston	97	444	22	36	22	0	621
Kampmann	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landa	1,073	100	138	59	20	0	1,390
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	241	0	34	125	0	65	465
Maverick	224	42	40	89	0	0	395
McCreless	0	55	16	114	18	220	423
Memorial	42	272	47	110	95	16	582
Mission	40	26	70	79	117	25	357
Pan American	134	262	2	6	13	17	434
Parman	601	428	475	331	534	38	2,407
Potranco	82	0	190	61	18	0	351
Pruitt	0	12	106	15	6	60	199
San Pedro	53	0	0	14	2	0	69
Schaefer	149	148	32	108	57	59	553
Semmes	669	121	36	56	0	34	916
System	0	212	111	17	0	0	340
Thousand Oaks	188	61	2	59	15	28	353
Tobin	100	685	87	54	44	22	992
Westfall	108	148	11	28	85	25	405
Total	6,194	6,754	3,119	2,495	1,833	3,476	23,871

*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

The Latino Collection & Resource Center's (LCRC) program manager Sarah De La Rosa attended Indian Creek Elementary Biliiteracy Night. Sarah was able to share both San Antonio Public Library & LCRC's numerous resources with the elementary students, parents and teachers present.



Voices of San Anto storytelling workshop at Cortez Library. Storytellers with workshop presenter Marisela

The first three weekends of May saw the LCRC offer a quarterly writing workshop, sponsored by Gemini Ink at Cortez Branch Library. Marisela Barrera guided the workshop titled, *Voices of San Anto: A Series of Bilingual Storytelling Workshops*. The storytellers' performances were recorded by Empower House, who will feature the stories on their radio station as well as provide a digital archived copy of performances for attendees.

The last two workshop sessions of *Recetas y Recuerdos: Kitchen*





Memories & Heirloom Recipes of San Antonio-Workshop Series & Zine Project, presented by Bonnie Cisneros, took place in the LCRC event space. Special presenters for these sessions included Mario Moreno, Director of Training at La Familia Cortez and Robert Anthony Borrego of Adelita Tamales & Tortilla Factory. The workshop will finalize in July with the release of a zine that showcases attendees' contributions.



Recetas y Recuerdos session 2, presenters and participants.

The LCRC participated in community outreach by attending and tabling at the annual Paseo Por El Westside event, established by the Esperanza Peace & Justice Center. The LCRC was represented by Information Services Librarian Patricia Perez.

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.



LEARN AT SAPL

Learn at SAPL welcomed over 900 patron visits and guided over 1,050 hours of public computer use this month. Learn at SAPL staff hosted more than 55 public programs, including bilingual (English / Spanish) offerings in language development and digital literacy.

Family ESL (English as a Second Language) wrapped up after a successful 12 weeks of programming at Cody and Igo Branch Libraries. Adult Education Program Analyst Michelle Rickman invited caregivers and their children, resulting in an inclusive experience closer to family literacy. Students ranged from retirees, all the way down to preschoolers. Families included parents and children, couples, and friends. With the support of Little Read Wagon, Ms. Rickman was able to bring different tools and manipulatives each week to entertain the smallest class members. And with the support of Cody and Igo Branch Libraries, the program always found a welcoming space in which to meet. Another incredible result of Family ESL was the addition of a new volunteer, leading to the creation of a summer program focused on conversation for ESL learners.



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.

LITTLE READ WAGON

The Little Read Wagon is the San Antonio Public Library's (SAPL) early literacy outreach team.






Bubble Play at Miller's Pond Park

The team's work promotes early literacy and connects families with the library. The team offered a Pequeño Pop-Up Play program at Miller's Pond Park on Tuesday, May 13th. The team brought a variety of open-ended play materials to the park. Children made giant bubbles and drew with sidewalk chalk. They used the makerspace to create artwork. Play is vital to healthy child development. The team also brought flyers and information about the Johnston Branch Library to share with families. The Johnston Branch Library is only a few miles away from the park. The team invited the Children's Librarian from the branch, Jaqueline Gonzales, to attend the program. She spoke with families about upcoming programs at the Johnston Branch Library. Library Services Specialist Melisa Hill presented at a virtual early literacy workshop that evening. She presented in English and Spanish for

families whose children attend AVANCE schools. About 125 people attended this workshop. Ms. Hill spoke about practices every parent can do with their children to help them grow up to be readers. Ms. Hill encouraged families to get a library card and visit their closest location. She also shared many of SAPL's resources. Afterward, the team put together a packet for each

family. The packet included a map of the library system, a page with QR codes that link to library resources, and a free book. The team delivered the packets to AVANCE to hand out to the families that attended.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

TEXANA

For Older Adults Month, Adult Special Collections Librarian Deborah Countess facilitated Loteria events at Bazan, Collins Garden, Igo, Landa, Memorial, Schaefer, and Thousand Oaks Branch Libraries. Over-sized playing boards and chips were used to make the game easier. Adult Special Collections Librarian Sylvia Reyna conducted a tour of historic City Cemetery #1 for residents of Morningside at the Chandler Estate on May 1. On May 6, Adult Special Collections Librarian Lucy Agado presented “Beginning Genealogy” to seniors at Chandler House. Ms. Reyna invited Dr. Tracey Ungar to present “Decluttering as We Age” on May 13. Adult Special Collections Librarian Andy Crews presented two genealogy classes on May 22 at the Blue Skies East and West retirement communities.



Tour of historic City Cemetery #1 with Sylvia Reyna and residents of Morningside at the Chandler Estates.

For Mental Health Awareness Month, Mr. Crews hosted two presenters: on May 17, Alexis Brock led a “Guided Sound Bath” meditative class and on May 21, Dr. Jessica Sandoval gave an online presentation entitled “What Is Mental Health?”







Loteria for Older Adults at Collins Garden Library

On May 6, Special Collections Manager Heather Ferguson invited author Robert Craig Bunch to present a book talk on his recent publication “The Art of Dreams, Visions, Other Worlds: Interviews with Texas Artists.” Texana staff conducted outreach on May 10 at “Family History and Genealogy Day” at Mission San Jose where Ms. Agado and Library Assistant Clarissa Chavira engaged with the community. On May 9, Ms. Ferguson

led a staff training on digital preservation. She introduced the Library’s Memory Lab equipment which patrons can use for digitizing personal archives in multiple formats. Ms. Reyna presented at the annual “Paseo por el Westside” on May 24. She led training on the Newspaper Archive

database, and, along with Learn Training Officer Shauna Mendoza and Librarian Patricia Perez, staffed a library information table. Ms. Reyna invited Bruce Martin to present “What Was There Before? San Antonio Yesterday and Today” on May 31. He gave a chronology of structures, then and now, which delighted attendees.

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

III. AGE-BASED SERVICES

CHILDREN'S



The Children's Services team attended the final session in the child development series with Catherine O'Brien. Dr. O'Brien spoke on physical development and the importance of play. Through the child development series presented by Catherine O'Brien, the Children's Services team grew capacity to better serve children and community members. As a result of these trainings on topics like play and physical development, Library staff members are able to expand and better explain developmentally appropriate activities for children. For example, open-ended play like the Cardboard Fun and Fort Building activities provide children with opportunities to strengthen their social, emotional, motor, and creative skills. Children are challenged to work together, share materials, and make decisions about what they are building.

Enhanced services were provided through four highlighted events. Poets celebrated their selections for the Young Pegasus Poetry anthology. They read their work to the friends and family gathered at the Briscoe Western Art Museum on May 4. On May 10, avid readers from around the city competed in the Citywide Battle of the Books. Children's Librarians supported the competition by selecting questions for each round. May 17 was the first Tween Prom. The dance was planned at the request, with the input of, and strictly for children 9-12 years of age. Nearly 100 tweens danced, ate, and made new friends. Their parents were able to further build community in the Central Library foyer by playing games and chatting as they waited for the children. Special thanks to Coordinator of Library Services for Adults, Morgan Yoshimura, for providing games. Children's Library at Central Librarian, Ashley Palacios, led the planning committee.



Parents engage in an intense game of UNO while their children enjoy Tween Prom

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 month of May found teens experiencing typical end-of-school-year excitement and many opportunities for teens to craft their upcoming Teen Summer with SAPL experience. The teen members of the @210TeenLibrary Discord server began planning an in-person Pride event that will take place at the Central Library in June. Staff from the Teen Pride workgroup are helping to facilitate this activity.

Each year, the Teen Engagement staff workgroup celebrates teens that are graduating from high school. This year, graduating teens received “congratulations” gift bags containing SAPL mementos — and a gift book.

In addition to other contributions, SAPL Teen volunteers spent time rolling (sushi-style) the incentive t-shirts that will be given out to teens as part of Teen Summer @ SAPL. These volunteers also crafts buttons displaying the runner-up designs submitted to this year’s teen t-shirt design contest. Each branch location will distribute these t-shirts and buttons to teens this summer.

The announcement of the selected teen created design for this year’s Teen Summer at SAPL t-shirt (artist Lola Suffridge, age 18 of Maverick Branch Library) created even more excitement and anticipation for the upcoming season of fun and free activities for teens throughout the library system.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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



Teen artist Lola Suffridge (age 18) receives her t-shirt at Maverick Branch

ADULTS



DIY Spring Flower Lanterns offered at Collins Garden Branch Library in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) celebrated Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May with programs honoring the rich cultural traditions of Asian and Pacific Islander communities. Notable offerings included Bharatanatyam dance performances at seven locations, combining music, storytelling, and interactive discussions. Collins Garden and San Pedro Branch Libraries hosted hands-on craft sessions where participants created DIY flower lanterns and lotus flower cards using traditional techniques and natural materials.

Memorial Branch Library, organized by Adult Services Librarian II Freddy Hudson, hosted “Court on the Go” on May 22. A judge from the Municipal Court was at the library to help patrons with their citations (traffic violations, etc.). It was an opportunity for patrons to discuss their citation with the judge, explore their options, and hopefully resolve it. Court on the Go provides a safe space for patrons to resolve their legal issue and another option for people who cannot visit the Municipal Court. The





Court on the Go at Memorial Branch Library

Municipal Court plans to extend this unique and innovative program to other SAPL branch libraries. The Library appreciates the Municipal Court's efforts to partner with SAPL to reach the community.

In recognition of National Mental Health Awareness Month, branches offered programs promoting emotional well-being. Schaefer Branch Library featured the creative workshops Zhuzhed Up Containers and Picky Pads, blending art with self-care. Sound bath meditation sessions were held at Collins Garden Branch Library, Guerra Branch Library, and Central Library, introducing participants to sound healing for stress relief and resilience.

During National Pet Week, SAPL celebrated patrons' furry companions. Cortez Branch Library offered a dog training demonstration with Animal Care Services. Potranco, McCreless, and Mission Branch Libraries hosted sessions on homemade pet food, showing attendees how to prepare nutritious meals for cats and dogs.

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

In honor of Older Americans Month, San Antonio Public Library hosted a wide variety of programs that celebrated lifelong learning, connection, and cultural enrichment. Traditional Lotería was offered at seven branch libraries, featuring large-format cards and small prizes to encourage community engagement through this classic game. The Parman Branch Library Senior Club provided weekly gatherings that included ping-pong, card games, coloring, and access to the virtual travel program Wowzitude. This program also ran at ten additional library locations and allowed older adults to explore destinations across the globe via interactive livestreamed walking tours led by local guides. At Central Library, psychologist Dr. Tracey Ungar presented Downsizing and Decluttering as We Age, offering insights into the emotional side of clutter and strategies for creating organized, supportive environments. Landa Branch Library hosted an estate planning presentation by a senior attorney from the San Antonio Legal Services Association, covering essential topics like wills, powers of attorney, and medical directives. Additional activities included a Scrabble event at Memorial Branch Library, fostering social interaction and cognitive engagement.

Chair Yoga continued as a weekly offering at Carver Branch Library. This free class catered to beginners and those returning to exercise, focusing on gentle movement and wellness every Wednesday morning from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. On May 14, Schaefer Branch Library Adult Services Librarian Dacari Lambert at brought Golden-Agers: Lego Time to the District 2 Senior Center. Participants engaged with regular and Duplo LEGO bricks, building creatively while developing motor skills in a relaxed, playful environment. Texana Adult Special Collections Librarian Lucy Agado presented Beginning Genealogy at Chandler House, introducing attendees to key library databases and websites that support the first steps in tracing family history and building genealogical research skills.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
-  Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.
-  Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.

IV. LOCATION-BASED SERVICES

CENTRAL LIBRARY



Tween Prom

The Tween Workgroup, led by Children's Librarian Ashley Palacios, coordinated SAPL's first ever Tween Prom at the Central Library, in response to feedback from tween users. The tweens choose the prom theme and songs played by a tween DJ with the AM Project. The response was overwhelming! Nearly 100 tweens came, many in formal attire, enjoyed refreshments and a photo booth, and danced the afternoon away while their parents waited in the nearby parent lounge. This was a particularly unique opportunity for homeschooled young people to get a taste of the prom experience. Another highlight was a special Family Story Time on the terrace, led by Children's Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin. Afterwards, children played with toy vegetables and bugs in a sensory bin filled with soil next to the tween-planted terrace garden.

The Teen Library continues to see an average of 60 teens after school on weekdays and teen regulars on Saturdays. During May, the Teen Library celebrated its 10-year anniversary with an afterschool birthday party. Teens received an @210teenlibrary-branded stainless steel water bottle with an accompanying button (assembled by numerous teen volunteer crews), decorated cupcakes, balloon animals, engaged in craft activities, and enjoyed hanging out with their friends. In addition, several school groups visited the Teen Library for tours and to conduct research for classes, including Brackenridge High School, IDEA South Flores High School, and Neff Middle School.



Teen Library 10th Anniversary Party





Corazon's Mobile Medical Unit visited Central Library and provided essential health services to community members. Their team offered valuable resources including needle exchange, STD testing and wound care. In total, they served approximately 45 patrons, making a significant impact and demonstrating their strong commitment to community health and well-being. In celebration of Asian American Pacific Heritage Month, Adult Services Librarian Pannaga Prasad coordinated Bharatanatyam Classical Dance performances. The dance performances were presented by the Kaveri Natya Yoga Organization Dance Group at many library locations. The system-wide program was very well received, and patrons expressed their gratitude during the event.

Information Services staff members Sheran Awe, Kristin Gutierrez, Bettina Henandez, and McCreless Training Officer Christina Flores hosted a library booth at the San Antonio Asian Festival outreach at Hemisfair Park. They welcomed 368 attendees to the booth, where they shared library information, facilitated library card sign-ups, and engaged visitors with an interactive game. Library Assistant Brianna Glass and Librarian Jordan Torres hosted a table at the American GI Forum's monthly hiring event. Staff introduced patrons to the Learn at SAPL

and library resources to aid in their career and job endeavors and welcomed them to visit Central Library, conveniently across the street from the GI Forum. Staff interacted with 69 people and look forward to future collaborations.

This month, a patron came to Learn at Central needing a resume. He had never written a resume and staff shared several templates with him. He came back two weeks later to let staff know that he had just been hired and to thank the staff for helping him. One of Learn's regular Tech Time patrons asked to learn how to use the design app, Canva. She has been practicing making greeting cards to email her friends and family.

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'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

Although well-visited throughout the entire year, the grounds at the Landa Branch Library are even more popular during the month of May. Throughout the month, over 60 patrons registered for a film permit for photoshoots on the grounds to celebrate prom season, graduations, engagements, and more. The Landa Gardens Conservancy also hosted their annual "May Month" series of events at the Landa Branch Library, which invites the surrounding community to visit the beautiful grounds and participate in a variety of activities for all ages. This year, attendees interacted with balloon artists, played mahjong, created art for Mother's Day, enjoyed fun with bubbles, explored a scavenger hunt, and experienced the magic of several jazz artists in the gardens.

Aside from regular monthly programs for adults at the Landa Branch Library, Assistant Manager Robin Alcorta worked with outside presenters as well as Landa Branch Library team members Library Aide Rose Two Feathers Hernandez and Library Assistant Julie Grant to coordinate four new programs for adults. During the month of May, adult patrons were invited to participate in "Traditional Lotería" on Friday, May 9; "American Mahjong" on Tuesday, May 20; "Medicine Wheel Astrology" on Saturday, May 10; and "Estate Planning" on Saturday, May 31. Adults played traditional games of lotería with super-sized cards and token prizes, tested out their skills and made new friends during American mahjong, dove into the magic of their moon signs and spirit animals, and learned valuable information about planning for the future through estate planning.

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

San Pedro Branch Library

To commemorate Asian Pacific Heritage Month, the San Pedro Branch Library held a Japanese style lantern making program. Participants were provided all the materials to create their very own lantern to take home. The lanterns consisted of wax paper, coffee stir sticks, and pressed flowers. The Friends of the San Pedro Library provided funding for the project. Additionally, branch staff curated a selection of books for display that highlighted the contribution of Asian Pacific people in art, literature, and history.

On May 12, Adult Services Librarian Diana Starrett attended the Beacon Hill Neighborhood Association meeting to promote library services and program happening during the summer. Ms. Starrett highlighted her knitting and chess programs as well as the Summer with SAPL program for children and adults. She also informed the attendees about upcoming programs during the coming months and the many resources available at all SAPL locations.

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

On May 1, Westfall Branch Library Training Officer Louis Medellin represented Learn at SAPL at the Senior Fiesta event held at Wonderland Mall. The event was hosted by Catholic Charities and Mr. Medellin presented resources to attendees. The free fair welcomed a large, energetic crowd of seniors and community members. Mr. Medellin engaged attendees by sharing information about the Learn at SAPL program, such as computer training, job support, and educational resources. Mr. Medellin encouraged participants to visit the nearby Westfall Branch Library to explore both Learn at SAPL and general library services.

Francesca, a teen volunteer at Westfall Branch Library, collaborated with Teen Librarian Heather Swindell to create a tutoring program in reading and math for teens and children her age and younger throughout the past school year. This tutoring program provided help to many students over the course of the school year and had an elementary-aged child as a regular attendee. The attendees experienced distinct improvement in their reading and math skills over the year and were engaged in reading books, wayfinding in the library, and connecting reading with activities in everyday life.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.
- 📖 Pursue innovative approaches to extend the Library experience beyond its walls to engage with more people.
- 📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.

DISTRICT 2

Carver Branch Library

On May 3rd, the Carver Branch Library hosted the 10th Annual Pan African Cultural Festival which attracted a crowd of about 450 people. The day-long event began with the Pan African Conversation, a 90-minute panel discussion. The outdoor stage show kicked off at noon with an array of outstanding performances. Highlights included African drumming, a riveting Capoeira demonstration and the always-popular fashion show, which featured garments made with African-themed fabrics. Vendors offered foods, clothing, jewelry, and other goods along a sprawling pavilion that lined the east side of the library and continued around back. Plans are already underway for the 11th Annual Pan African Cultural Festival.



Women from Panama perform a traditional folk dance, illustrating the extensive reach and influence of the African Diaspora

May was Preservation Month. In honor of the occasion, the Carver Branch Library hosted its 2nd Annual Preservation Day celebration on May 31. Branch Manager D.L. Grant Jr. and Dr. Charles Gentry of the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) teamed up to present a discussion on the legacy of African American Labor in San Antonio. Their topic was inspired by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). The presentation will be featured at the annual ASALH national conference in Atlanta in September. Preservation Day also included Racquel Gilford, founder of the Good Dirt Oral History Project, who shared her topic *Maroons, Memory and Movement: Honoring the Maroon Legacy and History*. Maroons were formerly enslaved Africans who escaped bondage and established independent communities and settlements in remote regions of the American South. Preservation Month reminds all Americans to save, document and pass down precious culture and history.

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.

Molly Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School



To close out the chess program for the spring semester, Molly Pruitt Library hosted a Community Chess Tournament on May 4th. The chess tournament had participants in all age divisions, with a total of 23 players, as well as an additional 21 people who attended as observers. The proceedings were led by Alex Weinberg, a U.S. Chess Federation chess master, and the Rackspace Foundation generously sponsored the event. Lunch was provided for all tournament players, and medals were awarded at the end. The tournament was promoted to area school chess clubs to reach potential youth attendees, as well as on the Meetup app and Texas Public Radio Community Calendar to reach potential adult participants. The Molly Pruitt Library staff is looking forward to hosting the subsequent chess events this summer with Chess Camps for both kids and adults scheduled to take place in July.



Community Chess Tournament participants.

The Molly Pruitt Library collaborated with Roosevelt's Science National Honor Society (SNHS) to conclude the school year's sessions of our Science Night programs with a lively science party. Families joined in on fun, engaging, hands-on activities that included creating bubble wands, pom-pom launchers, and mini parachutes, as well as participating in a static race. SNHS generously offered small prizes for the winners of the race. The Molly Pruitt Library looks forward to further collaboration with SNHS.

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.



Circulation Attendant Gilberto Martinez poses with a patron at Star Wars Movie Party.

Schaefer Branch Library

May was a busy month for programming, on location and off site. Librarians Daniela Moreno and Dacari Lambert facilitated two programs at the District 2 Senior Center: Lego Time and a Booked and Busy Book Club. These programs are the start of ongoing efforts to establish and maintain a strong relationship between D2 Senior Center and Schaefer Branch Library. At the branch, Circulation Attendant Gilberto Martinez hosted a Star Wars Movie Party in observance of May the 4th. At the event, there were ongoing crafts and themed snacking while the movie played in the background. The attendees were encouraged to bring blankets and pillows as well as dressing up for the occasion. This program was enjoyed and well-received by the 32 attendees as they celebrated the beloved




franchise.

A pollinator garden, which was a long dreamed about project, was implemented. Branch Manager Maria Adams and Assistant Manager Dacari Lambert worked closely with the Friends of Schaefer Library to bring the two, flower packed garden beds, to life! The pollinator garden is an opportunity to adorn the landscape and support the local pollinators.



New flower beds installed at Schaefer to both enhance to the outdoor life and give patrons a beautiful view.

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

DISTRICT 3

McCreless Branch Library



McCreless Branch Library Training Officers Lodie Mueller and Christina Flores gave a bilingual morning presentation at the Commander's House Adult and Senior Citizens Center, sharing information about Learn at SAPL as well as SAPL services. Participants were engaged in the presentation and asked multiple good questions. Later that afternoon Ms. Mueller was delighted to recognize two women at the McCreless Branch Library reference desk who had attended the presentation. They come to get Enhanced Library Cards and to see the Learn at SAPL area, a direct result of that morning's outreach event which demonstrated its impact.

Adult Services Librarian Vicky Villalobos and Teen Services Librarian Mari Castellano were invited to represent the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) at District 3's All Things District 3 Extravaganza on May 22nd. The event was held at Hangar 9 at Brooks City Base with the goal of connecting Southside residents with community resources, information, and their representatives. Librarians Villalobos and Castellano were delighted to engage with Southside patrons and connect with other city departments and community organizations with hopes of future collaborations.



Librarians Vicky Villalobos and Mari Castellano at District 3's All Things District 3 Extravaganza

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.

Mission Branch Library

Assistant Branch Manager Kassandra Velo-Laosa hosted the "Homemade Pet Food Made Easy" program in celebration of National Pet Week, where she demonstrated how to prepare nutritious, homemade meals for both cats and dogs.

Teen Services Librarian Cindy Cruz facilitated an information table at Leal Middle School for students, parents, and school staff. Ms. Cruz met with many teens and parents and discussed with them the resources available through the library. She introduced library programs to many families who had not visited a library in years. The information she shared impacted the school community because the library is an important community asset. Teens can use the public library for their information needs in lieu of a school campus during summer break.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 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.

Pan American Branch Library

A patron came in seeking an updated passport because hers contained incorrect information. She was unsure of what paperwork she needed, how to access the right forms, and how to print those forms. She was curious and eager to learn but just needed some assistance to work her way through the requirements. Once staff got her situated and clarified what she needed, she was able to complete her paperwork, print it, and make her appointment to get her paperwork reviewed. She was happy and grateful and very complimentary about her experience at our branch. This instance is an example of enhancing the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.

During the month of May, Adult Services Librarian Paula Opiela held an art program in celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month in which participants used watercolor and salt to create beautiful koi paintings. Participants had an enjoyable time learning a new art skill and sharing community.

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 program formerly known as, Crafty Tea-time has evolved to “Community Tea-Time”, and now it will be called, “CommuniTea Time”. This monthly Sunday program serves as a social gathering where community members can meet new people and enjoy a variety of hot, flavored teas. While they are here, participants are encouraged to craft, read, or just enjoy each other’s company providing an opportunity to create bonds and connections with other community members.



Cook the Book Cookbook Club

Cortez Branch Library launched a new book club, organized by the Adult Services Librarian Melissa Carroll, featuring cookbooks from the library’s expansive collection. Called “Cook the Book,” patrons discuss a different cookbook each month and bring a recipe to share with the group. This month, the group explored *Go-To Dinners* by Ina Garten. Participants enjoyed stepping out of their comfort zones by trying new recipes, sampling dishes they had never eaten before, learning helpful hints, and connecting with fellow community members. Several patrons have already reported recreating their recipes at home—one even brought her dish back to share with the Cortez Branch Library staff.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

Johnston Branch Library

Johnston Branch Library weekly Teen Time program was impactful in May. The teens wanted to focus on cooking, baking and nutritional activities, Teen Librarian Ana Pina facilitated a series of programs that allowed teens to experience different aspects of food. During a Teen Time session, Chef Bailey Cernosek from the San Antonio Food Bank visited to lead a cooking demonstration, teaching teens how to make a healthy garden salad. For another Teen Time the teens learned how to make cupcakes from a box and icing from scratch, including learning baking terms and how to follow a recipe. For many of the teens this was the first time they had ever baked. The programs gave the teens a chance to learn about nutrition in a practical way and gain new skills they can bring into their daily life and into their future.



Teen Time baking at Johnston

On May 9 the Children's Librarian Jackie Gonzales visited Silos Elementary to speak to children about the library. Ms. Gonzales met with several classes and provided a short presentation with stories and songs. Children were told of the special guests they could see at the library during Summer with SAPL, as well as regular events and other services. Many of the children, who generally live outside San Antonio, were unaware that as Bexar County residents they were eligible for a San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) card. They learned that library events are free and that they could use their card at all SAPL locations. Children left learning that they could come to the library for not only books but, a place to enjoy during their summer break.

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



Bazan staff at an outreach event

Las Palmas Branch Library Assistant Elvia Ramos and Bazan Branch Library Circulation Attendant Jessica Salas attended a handful of outreach events in May to promote Summer at SAPL events and resources for all ages. Dedicated library employees' hard work and commitment helped to ensure that the San Antonio Public Library continues to foster community engagement, builds local connections, and strengthens community trust to make customers feel welcomed and supported.

The May 7 Let's Create: Art Time children's program at the Bazan Branch Library was dedicated to celebrating Mother's Day. Children used their imagination and artistic creativity to make one of a kind Mother's Day cards that expressed their love and affection. It was impactful to see how happy and excited the children were to complete their beautiful cards. The weekly Let' Create: Art Time gives children the supplies and space to make art in fun new ways.



Children create cards for Mother's Day

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

Collins Garden Branch Library



Teen makes pancake art at Teen Club

A highlight at Collins Garden Branch Library in May was the active involvement of teens ages 13–18, who took the lead in planning and hosting nearly all teen programs throughout the month. A sixteen-year-old stopped by the library to use the sewing machine during Teen Club and talked about his entrepreneurial ideas for the future and wanting to learn to sew to have skills to start a used clothing upsell business. Teens also had a great time teaching other teens to make better slime formulas and activators, pancake art and tile art.

On May 17, the branch hosted the San Antonio Lion Dance Association which performed the cultural lion dance ceremony to chase away evil spirits and to bring good luck and good fortune. The dance was performed using the southern style lion accompanied by traditional drums. In celebration of Asian/Pacific American Month, Adult Services Librarian Rosa Villa hosted a DIY Spring Flower Lantern craft on May 20, a hands-on experience where patrons created Japanese-style lanterns with pressed flowers and wax paper.



Dragon dance performance in celebration of Asian/Pacific American 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.
- 📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.

Las Palmas Branch Library

Las Palmas Branch Library welcomed new Children's Librarian Marcella Ovalle. Since her arrival, Ms. Ovalle has actively engaged with community members and local organizations to share information about Summer with SAPL initiatives. Ms. Ovalle is pleased to announce that she will begin hosting a weekly Family and Baby Story Time this summer, a program the community has greatly missed.

The Las Palmas Branch Library staff continued to engage with members of the community visiting the interim site location to pick-up materials placed on hold. Additionally, Las Palmas Branch Library partnered with the Director of Center for Student Involvement at Our Lady of the Lake University to attend five upcoming freshman orientation sessions. During these orientation

sessions, library cards will be issued to all incoming freshman students in an effort to share library resources and promote awareness of available 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.
- 📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.

Memorial Branch Library

Memorial Branch Library Adult Services Librarian, Freddy Hudson, participated in a series of outreaches at Municipal Court between September and December 2024. During that time, he made connections with court staff. One of them emailed him, "The judge and I were kicking around an idea ... " and Mr. Hudson enthusiastically concurred. On May 22, that idea was realized with a pilot session of "Court on the Go", with a judge from Municipal Court. Mr. Hudson says, "It was an opportunity for patrons to discuss their (traffic) citation with the judge, explore their options, and hopefully resolve it. Court on the Go provides a safe space for patrons to resolve their legal issue and another option for people who can't get to the Municipal Court. The Municipal Court plans to extend this unique and innovative program to other SAPL branches."

On May 18, Memorial Branch Library hosted a meeting of the board of the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library. Branch Manager Christine Deffendall presented a five-minute overview of the branch's history, complete with photos and newspaper clippings, some of which were provided by Texana Special Collections.



how Memorial Branch Library was named.

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.

DISTRICT 6

Great Northwest Branch Library

The Great Northwest Branch Library Children's Librarian Deborah Hinshelwood hosted Preschool Story Time on Thursdays. Over the past few months Ms. Hinshelwood has been



providing Preschool Programs that focused on learning the ABC's. In May the children attending Preschool Story Time completed the alphabet and had an ABC party to celebrate their achievement. They made ABC inspired crafts and sang to library staff at the circulation desk.

Great Northwest Branch Library celebrated Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with a performance on May 10 from Kaveri Natya Yoga Dance Group. The dance group performed a Bharatanatyam dance, featuring classical Indian dance and storytelling.

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.

Guerra Branch Library



Hawthorne Elementary

During the month of May, Children's Librarian, Linda Lopez, visited two schools: Hawthorne Elementary School & Meadow Village Elementary School. Ms. Lopez also participated in the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program. At the school visits, Ms. Lopez shared with the children about librarianship during their career days. The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is a program for families that have recently returned from deployment. Ms. Lopez engaged with 6–9-year-olds to create paper crafts, color, and process art. At this program, she shared with the children about Summer with SAPL, obtaining a library card, and all the wonderful services and programs SAPL has to offer.

Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson continued his weekly Spanish/English Conversation hour program. One of his regular attendees informed the group that she would no longer be able to attend the program because she was just hired as a nurse at a clinic in Temple, Texas. She expressed her appreciation for the program facilitated by Mr. Jackson. She thanked him for the opportunity to improve her Spanish speaking skills, especially her listening comprehension. She communicated that she would miss attending the program and that it will help her assist Spanish speakers she anticipates assisting as a nurse. She also noted how friendly and welcoming everyone was.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

Potranco Branch Library

On Sunday, May 18th, Bexar County Master Gardener Candy Roach gave a presentation on how to cultivate a garden using the benefits of pollinators, specifically bees. Participants explored the essential role bees play in the ecosystem and learned how to create a garden that attracts bees. Ms. Roach gave many examples of plants to grow year-round to create a bee friendly garden. Participants were given a packet of wildflower seeds to take home and spread in their own gardens.





Bexar County Master Gardener Candy Roach.



Packets with library cards and literature prepped to be delivered to students at Stevens High School.

On May 7, Teen Services Librarian Sherry Ross, accompanied by Guerra Branch Library Teen Services Librarian Brandy Walthall, visited the Stevens High School library to promote the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL). The librarians set up in the school library during student lunch periods, offering teens the opportunity to make buttons from popular images while sharing information about teen activities at the branches and opening library cards. There were an estimated 70 teens that stopped by to chat with 35 of those opening library cards. Holding outreach events at high schools provides an excellent way to connect with teens that may not be familiar with SAPL, which is especially important right before summer when many teens lose access to their school libraries and are looking for access to books and opportunities to stay socially engaged.

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.

DISTRICT 7




Forest Hills Branch Library

Children's Services Librarian Ana Menchaca informed one of the children who regularly attends children's activities that she would be making a visit to her school soon. The child was excited and when the day came, helped the other children in her class know about the kids' computers and other features of Forest Hills Branch Library that she's enjoyed. Her enthusiasm encouraged the rest of the class to ask questions of Ms. Menchaca.

The San Antonio Public Library Foundation, Library Director Sukrit Goswami along with members of the Library's Senior Management Team, and the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library, visited Forest Hills Branch Library as part of their bus tour. Teen Services Librarian

Shannan Prukop and Ms. Menchaca were happy to lead them on a tour of the facility and answer questions about the branch's activities, patrons, and current needs. It was great to meet or catch up with members of these groups and be able to directly talk with them about life at Forest Hills Branch Library.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals




-  Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.
-  Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.
-  Build aspirational Library spaces to increase accessibility, safety, and inclusion.

Maverick Branch Library

Maverick Branch Library brings excitement and joy to children through engaging and dynamic programs. The Thursday afternoon LEGO Time program is especially popular, drawing enthusiastic participation week after week. During these programs, the energy and laughter of children could be felt throughout the library.

San Antonio Public Library kicks off Summer with SAPL 2025 on June 1st. With Summer approaching and as the school year begins to wind down, more and more customers are asking when will the library's annual summer reading program begins. For example, one customer was thrilled to learn that the library would be offering the summer program again. She not only expressed excitement about the program but also shared her appreciation for Maverick Branch Library's extensive collection of children's books available for her kids. She was so grateful of the children's services and the book collection available for her family. It was rewarding for reference staff to receive this valuable feedback.

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.
-  Provide a diverse, inclusive, and responsive collection of library books and materials to reflect and meet the needs of the community.

DISTRICT 8

Cody Branch Library

The Cody Branch Library is located between an elementary school and a middle school. Many students visit the branch after school, and we were able to celebrate the end of the year with our regulars. The last day of school event in the Teen section hosted 39 teens! They enjoyed snacks, crafts, signing t-shirts, and having a last goodbye with their classmates before the start of summer.

The Cody Branch Library received a large donation of puzzles but had no space to store them. To make use of the donation, the library invited the community to take or leave puzzles at their

convenience. Cody Branch Library has maintained a puzzle swap. No puzzle with you? No problem! You can still take a puzzle home and bring one back on your next visit — a new one or the same puzzle. Over 50 different puzzles have circulated throughout the community. The effort is entirely community driven. The Cody Branch Library has since received such an overwhelming number of puzzle donations that they have shared the surplus with other library locations to offer to their patrons as well.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Provide enhanced Library services and programs to foster more meaningful connections with the community.
- 📖 Provide a diverse, inclusive, and responsive collection of library books and materials to reflect and meet the needs of the community.

Igo Branch Library

Inspired by a series of patron requests, Igo Branch Library kicked off their official Teen Dungeons & Dragons program in early May. Led by teen volunteers, early meetings were spent brainstorming ideas for future epic adventures. Igo Branch Library librarians and club volunteers also guided several new players through the exciting process of creating their own characters for the fantasy roleplaying game (RPG). Additional support will be provided by Let's Quest, a non-profit organization that provides schools and libraries with free tabletop RPG materials and resources.

In recognition of Mental Health Month, the Igo Branch Library hosted a creative and wellness-focused program titled Bedazzle a Pill Box. This unique event encouraged patrons to personalize and decorate their weekly pill organizers, blending art and self-care in a supportive and lighthearted environment. The program aimed to promote mental health awareness while providing a fun.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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



BHL Teen Crafting

DISTRICT 9

Brook Hollow Branch Library

Brook Hollow Branch Library's Tuesday Teen Time provides an opportunity for young people to express themselves creatively, connect with shared interests, and just enjoy being in a fun, supportive environment. Whether they're crafting wind chimes; decorating their own bag; showing off their gaming skills; playing chess; board games or trading their latest cooking experiments the program fosters a sense of community among teens. Brook Hollow Branch Library's Teens shared books and bites in May

anticipating school ending and summer on the horizon. Teens enjoyed light snacks, shared favorite books, and kicked back with friends. Brook Hollow Branch Library offers this space for teens to be themselves and explore new hobbies and skills. Teen Tuesdays at Brook Hollow Branch Library is impactful to this group since many of them are home-schooled and appreciate the interaction with other teens.

Brook Hollow Library hosts four monthly community book clubs lead by Adult Services Librarian Marco De Leon. The Walker Ranch Senior Center (WRSC) Book Club takes place at COSA's WRSC and is very popular among seniors with an attendance of 30 – 40 people each month. Mr. De Leon facilitates this group with University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA) History Professor Jennifer Dilley. The Brook Hollow Library Tuesday Evening Book Club was generated by patrons who wanted to have a book club in the evening for readers who were not able to attend any other book clubs during the day. This is an example of how the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) accommodates the needs of the community. La Tertulia Book Club is twenty years old, and The Brook Hollow Branch Library is proud of its longevity and focus on Spanish Literature.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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



Colorful banners decorating the Children's Room at Encino, painted by children at a collaborative art program.

Encino Branch Library

Encino Branch Library children had a blast this month when they were given the freedom to paint on large sheets of butcher paper, happily flitting from each sheet to add their own mark of artwork. The painted banners were used to decorate the children's room. The children's artwork has brightened up the space just in time for summer fun to start up.

On May 12, Encino

Branch Library opened their seed library and plant propagation station! This program encourages the community to try gardening, while having a low-risk threshold since they are getting the seeds for free. So far over 100 packets of seeds have been distributed as well as plant cuttings of Pothos, Tradescantia, and Peperomia. We hope this program will be sustained by patrons donating back seeds from the plants that they are growing.



The Encino seed library and plant propagation station have been very successful since being introduced.

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.

Parman Branch Library at Stone Oak

Parman Branch Library proudly hosts a popular Spanish-language story time, attracting 35 – 50 children per session. Led by Library Aide Veronica Yau, the program promotes early literacy, language development, and creativity. Starting this month Ms. Yau has gone a step further by launching a “Spanish for Parman Branch Library Staff,” posting practical, everyday phrases and directional vocabulary on the workroom whiteboard. Though most of the Parman community is bilingual, learning a few basic phrases act as gestures of inclusiveness and show cultural respect.

May at Parman Branch Library is a month of full preparation for summer, and a key time for outreach. Parman Teen Librarian Rebecca Hillman visited Pieper and Reagan High Schools, meeting with groups of 50 – 60 students throughout the day. These teen programs highlighted volunteer opportunities and the impact of teen-led clubs at Parman, encouraging leadership and community engagement. Children’s Librarian Teague Shosh also visited local schools and daycares, delivering age-appropriate programs that sparked excitement and strengthen the ties with local communities. These outreach efforts are not only meaningful, but strategic — building anticipation for summer offerings, and each ended with the hopeful message: “See you in your library soon!”

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.
- 📖 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.

DISTRICT 10

Semmes Branch Library

Semmes Branch Library's dedication to its community shows every day, notably in the Reading Chain. Together, the branch and its patrons build a chain of read books that stretches across the library, each link representing a book read by young, old, and in between.

Another part of Semmes Branch Library that reaches out to the community is the Plant Swap, held monthly through the spring and summer. Patrons will call from across the city to know when the next one is, so they can come in and share their love of plants and gardening with others of like mind.

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.

Thousand Oaks Branch Library

On Tuesday, May 27, the Thousand Oaks Branch Library hosted a session of the Silent Book Club. Patrons bring their own books to read and afterwards discuss what they are reading with others. The program encourages the enjoyment of reading and socialization with others in the community without the pressure of reading or discussing a required book. The Silent Book Club is a system-wide program being hosted at a different branch library location each month through December 2025.



Beginning Genealogy Program

On Thursday, May 29, Adult Special Collections Librarian Lucy Agado hosted a Beginning Genealogy program at the Thousand Oaks Branch Library. The attendees were very excited to learn how to start building their family tree and were thankful to learn about all the free resources the San Antonio Public Library has to offer. Three of the ten attendees came with the goal of starting their family tree so they could share their results at their upcoming family reunion. It prompted two of those three attendees to get their first library card.

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

Tobin Branch Library at Oakwell

Tobin Library at Oakwell staff completed the 2024/25 school year with a last day celebration for neighboring Garner Middle School students with after school activities and treats. The branch has become embedded into the school community this year through the hard work and dedication of library staff who built strong connections with school administration, made

outreach visits to the school, sought training in behavior management, and made it a goal to build positive relationships with students. This resulted in drastically fewer incident reports, police reports, and customer concerns during the school year as compared to previous years. The library was even featured in the school yearbook for the first time this year, and students took a field trip to the branch to interview staff members. Due to these changes, patrons have reported positive feedback concerning the ability to access library resources for all ages during after school hours.

Tobin Library at Oakwell librarians performed many outreach visits during the month of May to encourage the community to participate in Summer Reading and to share library resources. On May 7, Children's Librarian Lisa Ramirez met with families at Fort Sam Houston Elementary School. On May 13, Ms. Ramirez and Children's Librarian LC Keefe visited the library at Woodridge Elementary to tell students about the free books they can get from the library. On May 15, Branch Manager Amanda Watson represented the library with a table at MacArthur High School for a community resource fair. On May 20, Ms. Ramirez and Teen Librarian Connie Hejl met with neighboring students at Garner Middle School to continue our valuable partnership with them and welcome the students to continue their visits to our library during the summer months.



Children's Librarians Lisa Ramirez and LC Keefe visited Woodbridge Elementary.

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

Throughout May, multiple outlets reported on the following topics:

- National Pet Week events held at San Antonio Public Library in partnership with ACS
- Library locations as early voting sites for the 2025 mayoral runoff election
- Library locations as cooling centers
- Central Library's 30th anniversary celebration, which took place on May 31, 2025
- Library location closures in observance of the San Jacinto Holiday
- Library location closures in observance of Memorial Day
- Upcoming summer programming at Library locations

May 1 – Multiple outlets aired a segment with San Antonio content creator Gabby Gonzalez (@Siempre_SanAntonio) about fun Mother's Day activities in the city, including stopping by Landa.

May 1 – Texas Country Reporter covered the collection of falconry books at the San Antonio Public Library.

May 2 – Go Magazine reported on how LGBTQ+ organizations are pushing back against attacks on their rights. The article highlighted key resources and featured Fiesta Youth's partnership with the San Antonio Public Library to help ensure LGBTQ+ books remain on the shelves.

May 3 – Archynewsy reported on SAPL's partnership with Musical Bridges Around the World (MBAW), which brings Indian music and culture to various library locations as part of SAPL's summer programming.

May 5 – Texas Public Radio aired several short segments promoting a beginner-friendly herb growing presentation at Collins Garden Branch Library.

May 6 – Texas Public Radio aired several short segments promoting an event at Central Library featuring the San Antonio Recorder Society's program, Music from the Early Middle Ages to the Early Baroque.

May 6 – Community Impact Newspaper reported on dance lessons hosted by English Dance S.A. held at Memorial Branch Library.

May 9 – KSTAT 12 reported on library locations that will provide free meals during the summer for children under 18 years old and for enrolled students with disabilities up to 21 years old.

May 13 – KENS 5 reported on the "Court on the Go" program, held at Memorial Branch Library, which helps San Antonians resolve citations.

May 20 – Texas Public Radio aired a short segment calling for submissions for the San Antonio Public Library's Big Pride Zine 2025.

May 25 & 26 – CSPAN2 aired various segments of author discussions from the 2025 San Antonio Book Festival held at the Central Library on April 12, 2025.