

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

APRIL 2025

*prepared for the
Library Board of Trustees*



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

SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

SYSTEM-WIDE HIGHLIGHTS

In April 2025, the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) proudly celebrated National Poetry Month with a range of events across the city. On April 1, the Great Northwest Branch Library hosted *San Antonio: Living, Loving, Writing* featuring San Antonio Poet Laureate Eddie Vega. Vega shared his personal journey into poetry and the role of the poet laureate. He also led a writing exercise that encouraged participants to express their connection to San Antonio through original poetry.

On April 15, the Central Library welcomed poets of all ages for an Open Mic Poetry event, providing a platform for attendees to share original pieces or recite favorite published works. Later in the month, on April 19, the Wyrdd Writers event was held at the Latino Collection and Resource Center at Central Library. This gathering featured a diverse group of poets who explored the theme of navigating life's journeys through the lens of poetic truth. SAPL is honored to support and celebrate the vibrant literary voices within our community.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES

In April 2025, Library Director Sukrit Goswami completed visits to all San Antonio Public Library locations. During the location visits, Goswami was able to meet with library staff and get a feel for the location's services to the community.

All library locations had a delayed opening on April 11, 2025 to allow Library Staff an opportunity to participate in a staff engagement and development exercise. This is the one of four staff in-service hours dedicated to staff enrichment designed equip our teams to continue to provide vital library services in our community.

The San Antonio Public Library partnered with local PBS affiliate KLRN to host a screening preview of the Independent Lens documentary, "Free for All: The Public Library". The event attracted over forty attendees and the documentary received enthusiastic reviews by attendees.

Assistant City Manager David W. McCary and Library Director Sukrit Goswami met with Bexar County Deputy County Manager Thomas Guvera on April 22 to discuss the interlocal agreement with Bexar County for library services.

The San Antonio Public Library is proud of the limited-edition Library Card Team's recognition by the City Manager in receiving the City Manager's Excellence Award. The Team was instrumental in designing new, limited-edition library cards and developing a plan to introduce

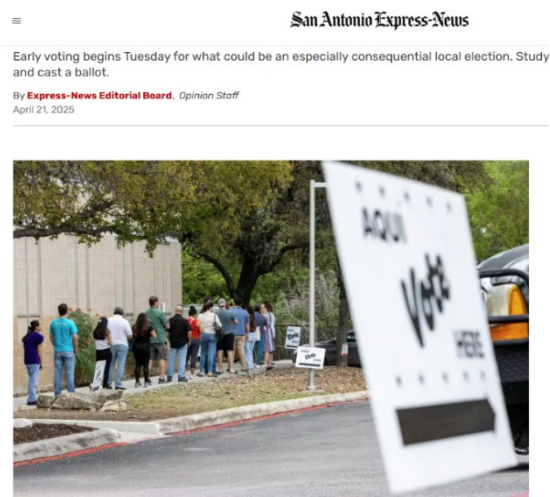
and issue the library cards to our community. The library cards were designed with different themes and were well received in the community.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Over five 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 205,000 more than the same time period last year. Over one 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 225,000 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. Targets are established as part of the budget development processes and are set for the year. Monthly hours of Wi-Fi use from October 2024 to April 2025 averaged 134,312 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 almost two million, which is above target by eight percent. Year to date visits is 172,000 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 22 marketing email campaigns and 151 posts to SAPL social media accounts. Engagement was driven by strong reaction to several Instagram videos and positive reception of SAPL's golden egg Fiesta medal challenge.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHT

Election seasons typically bring additional awareness to the use of Libraries as places to cast a ballot. The staff in SAPL's Communications Unit work closely with local media to make Library locations available as places for live shots or interviews. The image to the right is one such example of this coverage in the San Antonio Express-News. In this case, the outlet used a file photo of the Brook Hollow Branch Library from an election in 2022. This coverage serves to underscore the Library's role as a center for civic engagement in San Antonio.



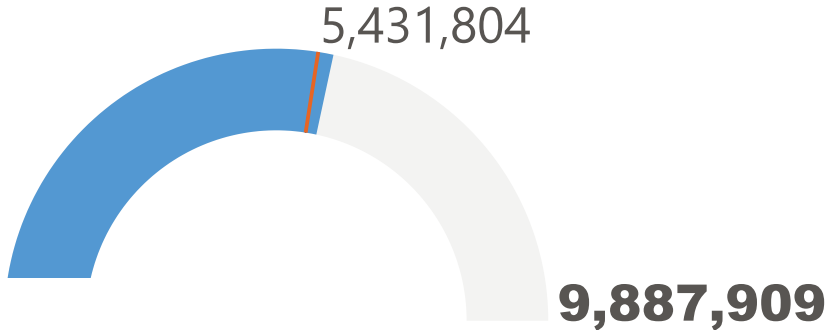
I. Key Performance Indicators - Summary

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

Report contains data for the reporting period ended on April 30, 2025

Circulation: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:



FY 2025 to date Items Borrowed

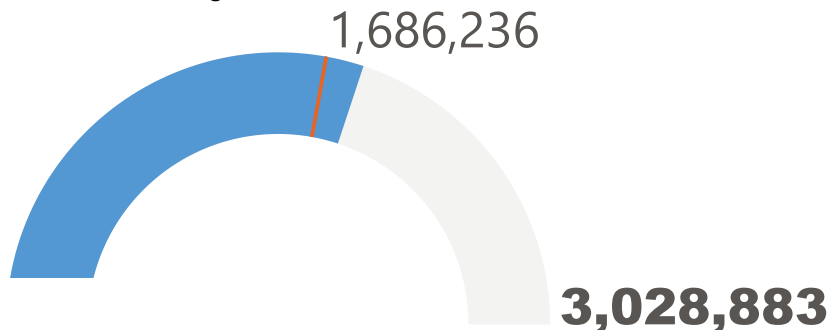


5,611,268

(+3.3%)
Circulation

Visits: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:



FY 2025 to date Library Visits

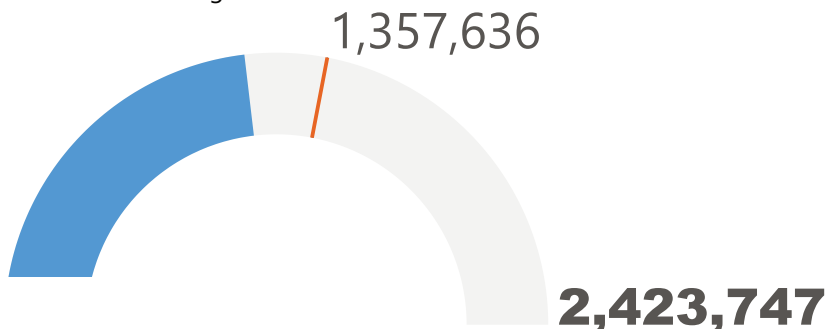


1,822,189

(+8.06%)
Visits

Digital Access: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:



FY 2025 to date Digital Access



180,960

Hours of Computer Use



940,182

Hours of Wi-Fi Use

1,121,142

(-17.42%) *
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 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

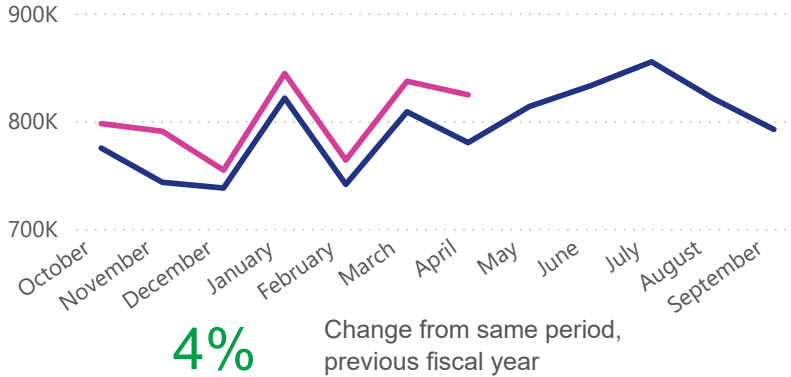
Report contains data for the reporting period ended on April 30, 2025

FY25 year to date Total Circulation

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

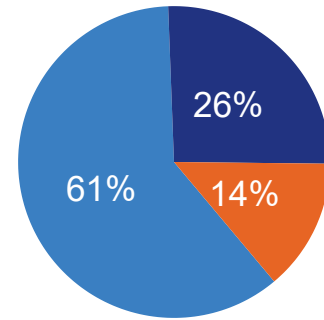
5,611,268

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



FY25 to date total circulation by service area

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

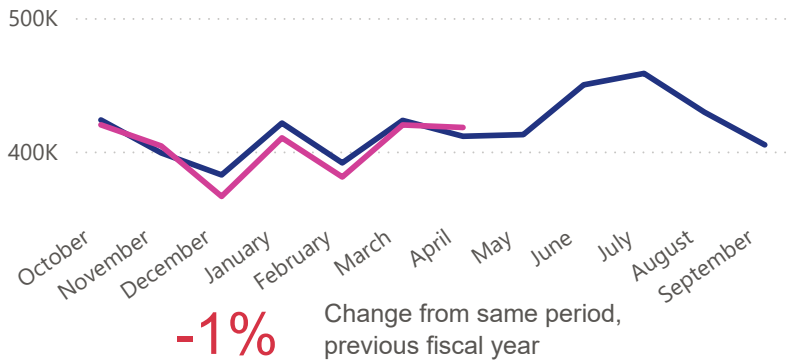


FY25 year to date Physical Circulation

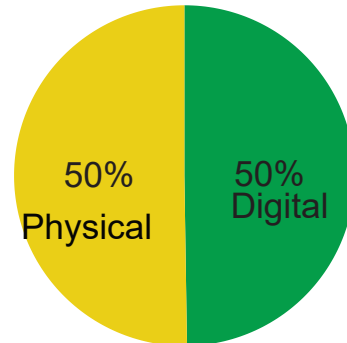
The number of checkouts and renewals of physical library materials.

2,819,377

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



FY25 to date total circulation by type

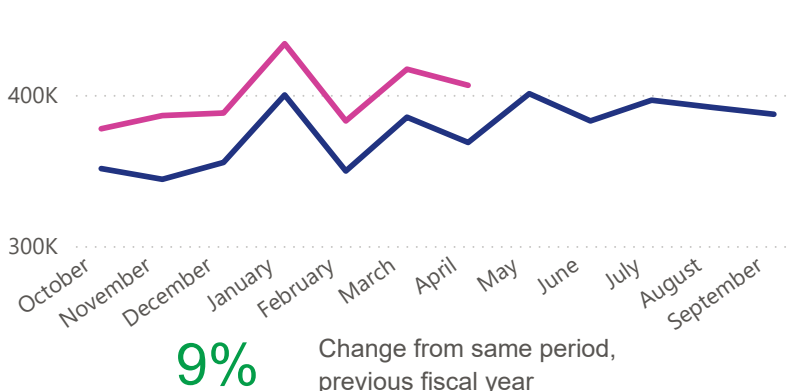


FY25 year to date Digital Circulation

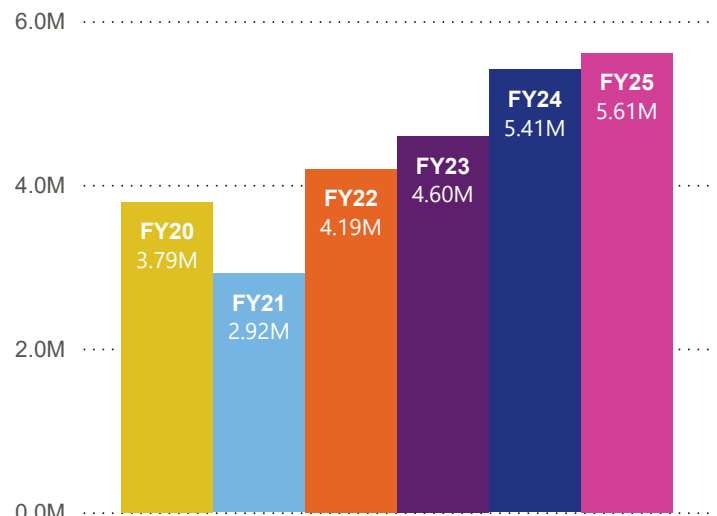
The number of checkouts, downloads, views and plays of electronic library materials.

2,791,891

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



Year to date total circulation comparison



Key Performance Indicators - Technology

Fiscal Year 2025, October 2024 to September 2025

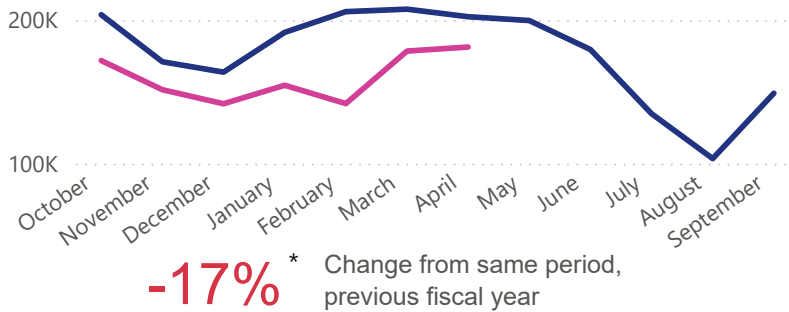
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FY25 year to date Hours of Technology

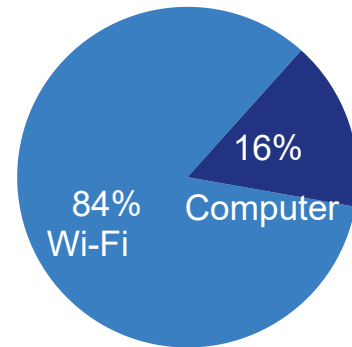
The total number of hours of technology used from both public computers and public Wi-Fi.

1,121,142

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



FY25 to date Technology Use by type

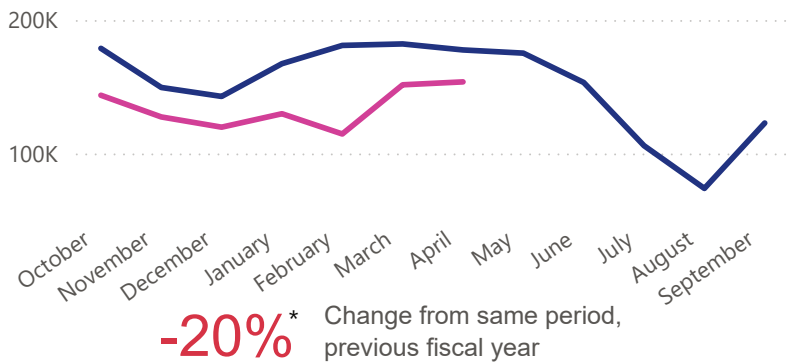


FY25 year to date Wi-Fi Hours

The number of hours public Wi-Fi was used.

940,182

FY ● FY24 ● FY25

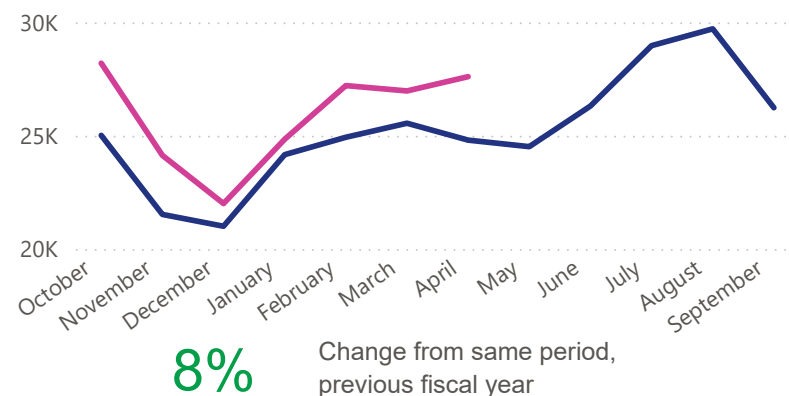


FY25 year to date Computer Hours

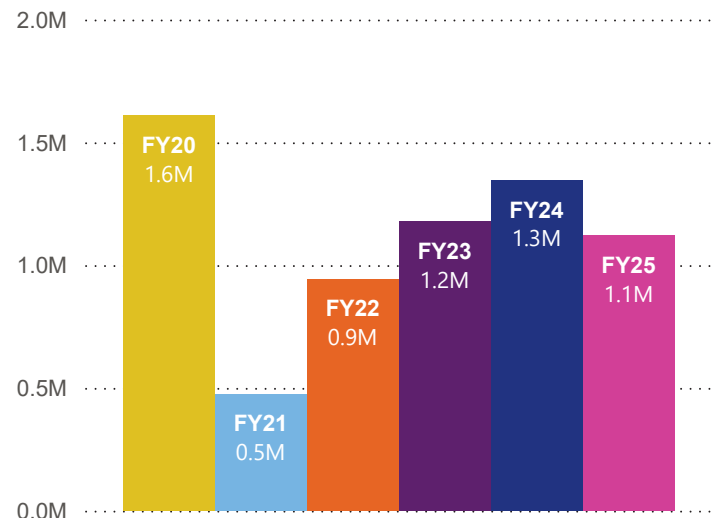
The number of hours public computers were used.

180,960

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

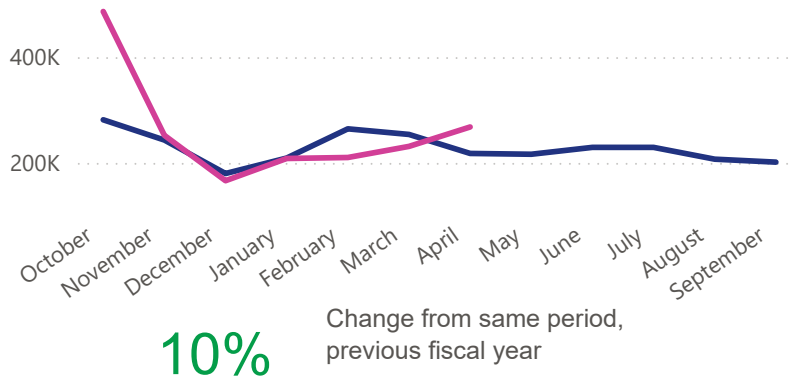
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FY25 year to date Visits

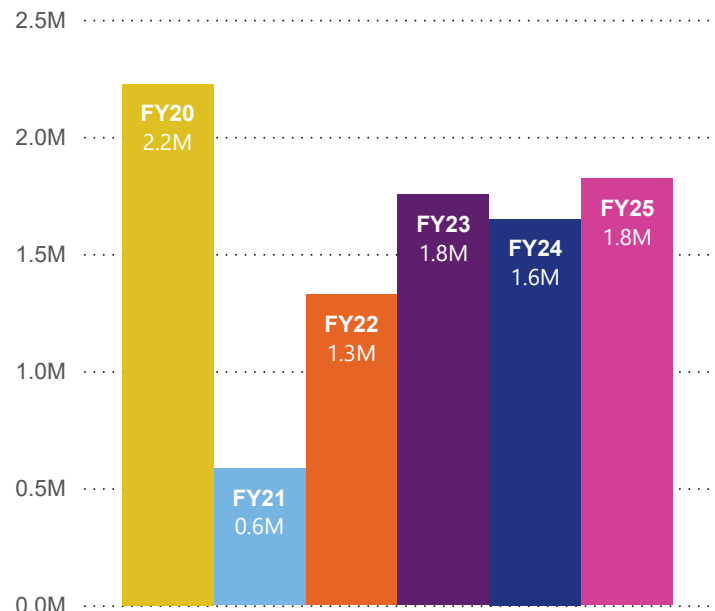
The number of physical visits to any library location.

1,822,189

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

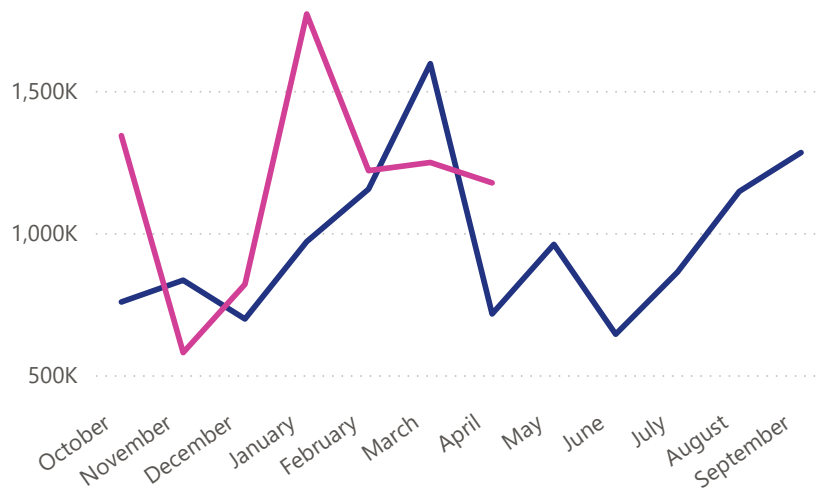


FY25 year to date Marketing Engagements

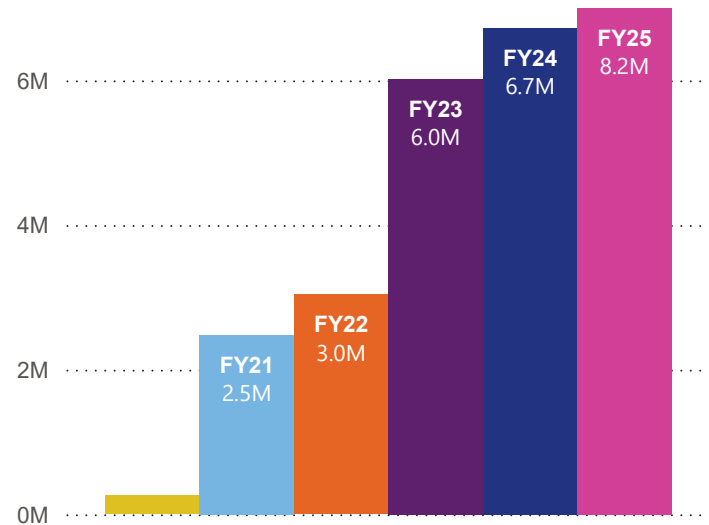
The number of times a subscriber opens a library marketing email plus engagements on SAPL social media.

8,153,961

FY ● FY24 ● FY25



Year to date Marketing Engagements comparison



21%

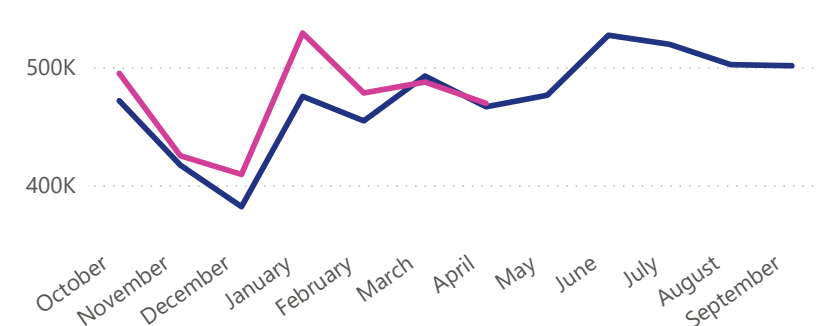
Change from same period,
previous fiscal year

FY25 year to date Website Visits

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

3,291,892

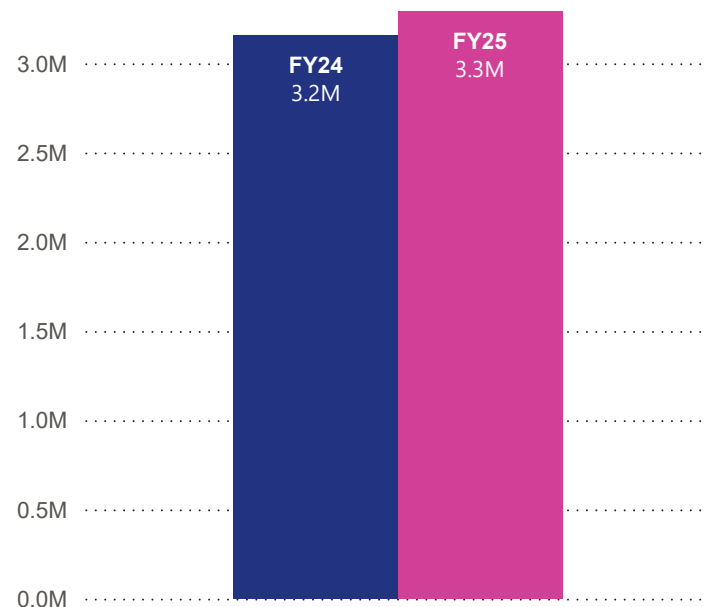
FY ● FY24 ● FY25



4%

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 April 30, 2025

Fiscal year to date program comparison

Total Programs

7,528

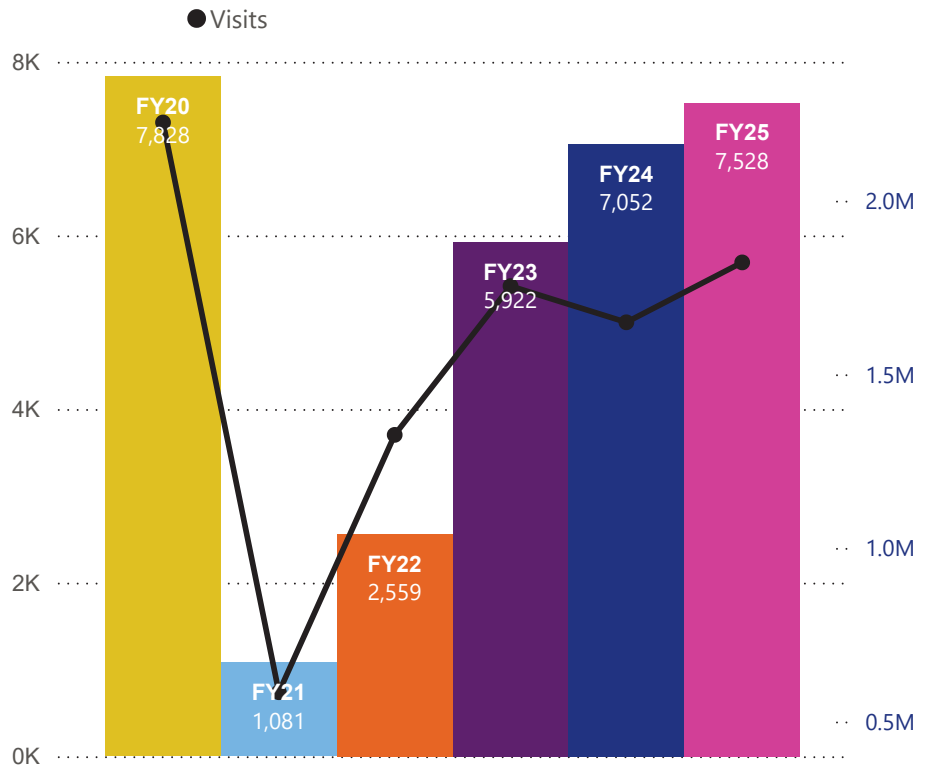
Total Programs

131,083

Total Attendance

7%

Change from same period,
previous fiscal year



Early Literacy (0-5)

1,821

Programs

49,565

Attendance

School Age (6-12)

1,370

Programs

23,984

Attendance

Teens (13-18)

1,595

Programs

17,276

Attendance

Adults (19+)

1,690

Programs

16,230

Attendance

Older Adults (60+)

584

Programs

5,357

Attendance

General Interest*

468

Programs

18,671

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

April 2025 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
Bazan	2,614	7,761	5,624	1,536	4,088
Brook Hollow	24,060	6,817	6,571	863	5,708
Carver	2,339	3,528	3,618	774	2,844
Central	32,087	28,246	46,865	7,999	38,866
Cody	28,657	16,993	7,799	846	6,953
Collins Garden	3,194	4,062	3,161	504	2,657
Cortez	5,059	8,322	2,633	459	2,174
Digital	406,333	0 *	0 *	0 *	0 *
Encino	21,737	10,765	4,673	235	4,438
Forest Hills	5,063	2,612	2,783	391	2,392
Great Northwest	26,944	12,604	4,578	669	3,909
Guerra	7,157	8,808	3,722	596	3,126
Igo	34,485	26,240	8,238	727	7,511
Interlibrary Loan	936	0 *	0 *	0 *	0 *
Johnston	7,689	5,251	3,401	643	2,758
Kampmann	0	848	118	0	118
Landa	17,859	12,016	4,881	471	4,410
Las Palmas	194	78	88	0 **	88
Maverick	25,848	12,483	5,512	1,280	4,232
McCreless	7,110	9,698	5,779	1,250	4,529
Memorial	4,030	6,794	5,796	1,104	4,692
Mission	9,757	10,967	7,552	765	6,787
Pan American	2,378	2,475	1,893	357	1,536
Parman	29,824	17,563	5,081	276	4,805
Potranco	16,250	8,396	9,845	589	9,256
Pruitt	3,587	5,711	3,081	302	2,779
San Pedro	2,551	3,191	3,617	467	3,150
Schaefer	9,012	5,388	5,328	513	4,815
Semmes	22,700	10,095	5,629	1,338	4,291
System	31,742	0 *	0 *	0 *	0 *
Thousand Oaks	6,940	5,344	5,155	737	4,418
Tobin	16,822	9,333	3,340	822	2,518
Westfall	9,354	5,501	4,885	1,090	3,795
Total	824,312	267,890	181,246	27,603	153,643

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

April 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	14	4	1	8	1	30
Brook Hollow	4	12	5	0	1	0	22
Carver	3	23	4	1	12	1	44
Central	14	11	77	26	3	6	137
Cody	9	9	20	14	3	0	55
Collins Garden	17	6	5	10	1	2	41
Cortez	4	12	10	18	3	1	48
Encino	9	3	8	4	7	1	32
Forest Hills	21	7	4	3	1	0	36
Great Northwest	7	1	5	10	0	6	29
Guerra	13	9	6	5	1	0	34
Igo	13	5	1	12	0	5	36
Johnston	4	13	4	7	2	0	30
Kampmann	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landa	33	10	14	5	2	0	64
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	16	0	6	10	0	0	32
Maverick	10	4	5	10	0	0	29
McCreless	0	4	6	17	6	1	34
Memorial	2	3	3	22	6	8	44
Mission	8	1	7	8	11	3	38
Pan American	8	11	2	2	2	6	31
Parman	20	10	6	16	13	2	67
Potranco	0	1	8	14	5	1	29
Pruitt	0	2	5	1	2	9	19
San Pedro	13	4	0	4	3	1	25
Schaefer	18	9	5	13	3	4	52
Semmes	14	11	5	12	0	3	45
System	0	2	21	5	1	1	30
Thousand Oaks	11	4	0	10	2	0	27
Tobin	8	9	9	10	4	4	44
Westfall	8	12	1	7	6	5	39
Total	289	222	256	277	108	71	1,223

*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

April 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	20	68	12	7	32	25	164
Brook Hollow	60	137	28	0	200	0	425
Carver	0	70	7	12	119	25	233
Central	254	276	759	485	35	385	2,194
Cody	336	201	1,849	123	33	0	2,542
Collins Garden	284	40	10	60	2	7	403
Cortez	36	177	21	115	64	5	418
Encino	394	88	53	41	72	27	675
Forest Hills	218	135	27	22	3	0	405
Great Northwest	264	10	41	103	0	71	489
Guerra	346	222	102	20	25	0	715
Igo	990	41	13	65	0	371	1,480
Johnston	156	786	27	27	29	0	1,025
Kampmann	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landa	1,150	155	107	44	15	0	1,471
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	628	0	37	127	0	0	792
Maverick	235	99	49	104	0	0	487
McCreless	0	37	32	218	17	19	323
Memorial	2	37	33	149	35	37	293
Mission	151	9	28	78	107	78	451
Pan American	80	47	2	33	6	35	203
Parman	987	463	516	259	227	24	2,476
Potranco	0	19	46	99	39	14	217
Pruitt	0	12	183	1	17	56	269
San Pedro	107	51	0	2	26	26	212
Schaefer	369	112	40	423	2	23	969
Semmes	465	161	46	100	0	85	857
System	0	28	136	34	0	91	289
Thousand Oaks	112	57	0	59	10	0	238
Tobin	127	88	94	72	44	22	447
Westfall	101	99	1	41	23	22	287
Total	7,872	3,725	4,299	2,923	1,182	1,448	21,449

*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 (LCRC) commenced National Poetry Month by sponsoring a program at Great Northwest Branch Library titled, *San Antonio: Living, Loving, Writing*, featuring San Antonio poet laureate Eddie Vega. Vega led participants through a writing exercise, helping them explore and convey their experiences and relationship with San Antonio through poetry. Collins Garden Branch Library kicked off Fiesta celebrations with an LCRC sponsored afternoon of musical and dance performances, provided by Grupo Folklorico de Bendiciones.



San Antonio poet laureate Eddie Vega presenting at Great Northwest Branch Library for National Poetry Month.

The LCRC hosted the first session of *Recetas y Recuerdos: Kitchen Memories & Heirloom*



Attendees of the Recetas y Recuerdos first session pose for a group photo, holding up their gingerbread marranitos (pigs).

Recipes of San Antonio – Workshop Series & Zine Project, presented by Bonnie Cisneros. Program creator Bonnie Cisneros led attendees through a generative writing exercise that helped recall a favorite kitchen memory. Guest presenter Eliza Perez shared the importance of zines and how the writing from this workshop will cumulate into the production of a recipe zine, preserving San Antonio's food culture. Second guest presenter Kayla Matta of Sunshine Bakery provided a baking demonstration of 'marranitos' (Mexican gingerbread pigs) while sharing her favorite food and baking memories.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

LEARN AT SAPL

Learn at SAPL welcomed over 1,050 patron visits and guided 1,300 hours of public computer use this month. Learn at SAPL staff hosted over 50 public programs, including Tech Time, Yoga, and Adulting 101. Adult education programs supporting small businesses continued with "Connect with Launch SA" at Potranco Branch Library, and American Sign Language learners picked up another practice session at Carver Branch Library. At Memorial Branch Library, Credit Human wrapped up their five-week "Financial Slack Series" on fundamental banking, credit and

fraud. Another exciting development involved the enrollment of a Learn at SAPL patron into the City of San Antonio (COSA) New Employee Orientation, led by Johnston Branch Library Training Officer Shauna Mendoza. This patron had been assisted by multiple Learn at SAPL






A selection of Learn branded items acquired through a Dollar General grant.

locations, resulting in the creation of a resume, numerous job applications, and ultimately attained a job with COSA Building & Equipment Services.

Lastly, this month the Learn at SAPL team received training, outreach supports, and patron tools through a Dollar General grant. Homeless Training from Ryan Dowd encourages staff on practical de-escalation, useful outreach items include staff t-shirts, canopies, tables, and heavy-duty rolling carts, and patron tools range from eyeglasses and low vision keyboards, to mousepads, charging stations, cords and desk dividers. With these added resources, the Learn team is equipped to serve patrons both in and out of the Library.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.
-  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



Ms. Banda and Ms. Santibanez at Babies, Backpacks y Mi Familia Conference.

The Little Read Wagon is the San Antonio Public Library's early literacy outreach team. The team's work promotes early literacy and connects families with the library. Library Services Specialists Eva Banda and Judith Santibanez attended a conference this month. The conference was Northside ISD's Babies, Backpacks y Mi Familia Conference. It was for school-age parents from San Antonio schools. Parents from several school districts attended. Ms. Banda and Ms. Santibanez represented the San Antonio Public Library. They brought board books and picture books for the children and shared information about the library.






The team held a Pequeño Pop-Up Play program at Tealer Park on April 8th. The park is about a mile from the Schaefer Branch Library. The goal of the program was to promote children's programs and services at the nearby library. The team spoke with families at the park, displayed flyers for upcoming programs at the library, and team shared photos of the library's children's

spaces and playground. They promoted upcoming programs and services at the Schaefer Branch Library. The team also planned the program to promote child-led free play. Child-led free play is an important part of healthy child development. At the program children played with ramps and cars, drew with sidewalk chalk, blew bubbles and chased them, and played with playdough. Children build healthy brains and bodies when they play.



Toddler Chasing Bubbles

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.
-  Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.

TEXANA



Remembering the Queen of Tejano, (L to R) Delia Rosado of the Selena tribute band, Las Chicas en 512, and Dr. Sonya Aleman of UTSA with Librarian Lucy Agado

Librarian/Archivist Sylvia Reyna conducted a tour of City Cemetery #1 on April 4 for residents from The Towers on Park Lane, an older adult retirement community. Continuing her outreach to older adults, Ms. Reyna conducted a beginning genealogy class on April 9 at Brookdale Medical Center Kingsley, an assisted living and memory care community. Librarian Lucy Agado held two genealogy classes at the Semmes Branch Library: “Beginning Genealogy” on April 5 and “Ancestry Library Edition: Introduction” on April 12. Additionally, Ms. Agado hosted Dr. Sonya Aleman of the University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA) and Delia Rosado of the Selena tribute band, Las Chicas en 512, on April 19. The

program, Remembering the Queen of Tejano, was to honor and mark the legacy of Selena on the 30th anniversary of her death.

On April 6, Librarians Arland Schnacker and Andy Crews staffed an information table at the San Antonio Highland Games Festival where they engaged with attendees and promoted library services. Mr. Crews presented a beginning genealogy class for festival attendees. On April 15, Mr. Schnacker led a beginning genealogy class for staff professional development. Additionally, Mr. Crews presented an online class entitled “Genealogy Websites: Alternatives to Ancestry” on

April 22. Ms. Reyna hosted members of Scouting America in the Connect Training Room on April 19 to continue their database research on individuals interred in the Eastside Historic Cemetery District. Librarian Deborah Countess led an online class on researching a house's history on April 26. Using city directories, deed records, and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, a case study was presented that went through the process, illustrating various online resources available to researchers. To celebrate Poetry Month, Mr. Schnacker assisted with an open mic poetry event and engaged with seniors during the Ekphrastic Poetry program on April 25.



Historic City Cemetery tour with Librarian Sylvia Reyna and residents from The Towers on Park Lane.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

- 📖 Grow staff capacity and skills to carry out the Library's mission and achieve its vision.
- 📖 Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.
- 📖 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.
- 📖 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

The annual conference of the Texas Library Association was held April 1-4, 2025. Coordinator of Children's Services Cresencia Huff co-presented a session on Nature Smart Libraries with Laura Tadena, Community Engagement Librarian at Austin Public Library.

The City of San Antonio celebrated Earth Day on April 26, 2025 at Woodlawn Lake. The official Fiesta event, organized by the Department of Parks and Recreation, included organizations and vendors promoting sustainability and environmental awareness. San Antonio Public Library had a booth with information about seed libraries, plant swaps, and gardening classes available at several Library locations. Children were also invited to take a sunflower seed packet to take home.

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

TEENS



Teen Summer 2025 t-shirt

Teen Services is proud to announce the 2025 Teen Summer t-shirt design competition winner is a teen from Maverick Branch Library — Lola, age 18. Her eye-catching design, translated beautifully onto a black t-shirt, which will be very popular this summer.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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



Detail of Lola's design on teen summer shirt

ADULTS



In April 2025, the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) celebrated National Poetry Month with a variety of events for adult community members. On April 1, the Great Northwest Branch Library hosted *San Antonio: Living, Loving, Writing* with San Antonio Poet Laureate Eddie Vega, who spoke about his journey into poetry and the role of a poet laureate. Attendees also created original works inspired by their experiences in San Antonio.

The Poetry Circle met at Westfall Branch Library on April 8 and at Cody Branch Library on April 22, offering poets a space to share and receive feedback. Typewriter Type-In events held April 13 at Igo Branch Library, April 19 at Mission and Semmes Branch Libraries, and April 26 at Landa Branch Library, gave attendees a chance to write using vintage typewriters provided by Austin Typewriter, Ink. On April 15, Central Library hosted Open Mic Poetry, welcoming participants of all ages to share original poems or favorite published works. The Wyrdd Writers event on April 19 at Central Library's Latino Collection and Resource Center brought together a diverse group of poets who shared work reflecting the theme of navigating life's journeys through poetic truth.

The SAPL Silent Book Club, held in April at Encino Branch Library, continued offering adults a welcoming space for self-guided reading. Participants brought their own books and enjoyed an hour of silent reading alongside others. Light refreshments were provided to enhance the relaxed environment. The club meets monthly and rotates locations, allowing readers across the city to engage and connect at various SAPL locations.

On April 19, Nature Fest returned to Igo Branch Library. The community-focused event promoted environmental awareness and featured organizations from across Texas. Attendees enjoyed interactive activities and crafts related to gardening, field science, and conservation in a family-friendly setting.

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

Tobin Branch Library's "Tai Chi and Tea" program continued weekly throughout April 2025, offering older adults a low-impact fitness experience paired with social engagement. Held every Wednesday morning, the program features beginner-friendly Tai Chi sessions designed to improve balance, flexibility, and relaxation. Following each movement session, attendees are invited to enjoy a variety of teas while conversing with fellow participants. The weekly schedule encourages regular attendance and helps foster a welcoming and health-focused community for older adults. The program remains a popular option among those seeking both gentle exercise and meaningful connection.

On Tuesday, April 29, 2025, the Library Trivia Game was hosted at the Willie Cortez Senior Center, one of twelve Comprehensive Senior Centers operated by the City of San Antonio's Department of Human Services. This monthly program, coordinated by Guerra Branch Library Librarian Stephen Jackson, drew 25 enthusiastic participants. Designed to stimulate memory and promote social interaction, the trivia game fosters friendly competition among attendees. This program is one of four recurring monthly partnerships between SAPL locations and the City's senior centers, reinforcing the library's commitment to extending its services beyond library walls and into community-based senior environments.

Technology training sessions took place on two occasions at the Darner Senior Center in April 2025, both led by Johnston Branch Library Training Officer Shauna Mendoza. On April 8, a session focused on smartphone usage helped 15 older adult participants better understand key features such as texting, photo sharing, and managing settings. On April 22, 14 participants attended a training on Microsoft Word. Both events were part of the Learn at SAPL adult education program, which provides individualized job support and computer training.

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

The Children's Library celebrated spring in April. The Tween Garden was replanted with new blackberry, blueberry and tomato plants during a special Tween Time facilitated by Central Library Children's Librarian Ashley Palacios. Tween programs were offered at Central Library and at Landa Branch Library for National Poetry Month where children were tasked with telling lines of poetry and Taylor Swift lyrics! Ms. Palacios and Librarian Kara Bailey visited the Advanced Learning Academy at Fox Tech to promote tween programs. Children's Services Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin presented a webinar on behalf of the Library hosted by the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) in which she shared books, ideas, and resources to incorporate Jewish American Heritage month into the classroom or school library.



Tween Garden Spring Replanting

The Teen Library continues to see an average of 60 teens after school on weekdays and teen regulars on Saturdays. During April, high school students of the Black Student Union (BSU) from CAST Schools Network kicked off their Career Day at Central Library with a tour of the Teen Library where they had the opportunity to learn about services and resources for teens and explore the space during their visit. In addition, Teen Services Assistant Manager Rosalie Barrera represented the San Antonio Public Library by participating in the Project Worth Teen Ambassador Youth Art Event at Girls, Inc., where she facilitated a watercolor painting and bracelet-making activities with teen attendees.



Teen Tuesday Cooking Activity led by Teen Volunteers






Information Services celebrated community and creativity during April. Information Services Library Assistant Kristin Gutierrez hosted a Sensory Arts & Crafts program for adults with Autism and Neurodivergence. Patrons left outstanding feedback about the program and emphasized the importance of this type of program to their community. Information Services Library Assistant Eliza Perez, Librarian Valerie Saucedo and Librarian Jordan Torres represented SAPL at the Overwhelm to Action outreach at Blue Star Arts Complex. They hosted zine-making as a self-care activity and promoted upcoming library events, staff-made zines, and other library resources. The event was lively and included yoga, breathing/meditation activities, drum circles, and live music.

Central Information Services featured several National Poetry Month events. Information Services Librarian Michael Dunbar-Rodney and Texana Librarian Arland Schnacker hosted Touch Grass: Open Mic Poetry. Patrons participated by reading their own work or choosing a work to read. Michael Dunbar-Rodney and Arland Schnacker also gave a program on writing Ekphrastic poetry for older adults. Ekphrastic poetry is verse written about a work of visual art. Attendees wrote poems based on works of art in the Central Library.

The Learn at Central team participated in two critical job fairs this month: Bexar County's Second Chance Job Fair and Catholic Charities Job Fair. Around 200 people visited the Learn table at each event. Staff provided information on the resources available at Learn such as resume help, mock interviews, and more. At the Second Chance job fair, job resource zines were very popular. The over 200 zines people reached for the most included: How to Keep a Job, Emergency and Community Resources, and How to write a Resume.

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.

DISTRICT 1

Landa Branch Library

On Tuesday, April 15, Assistant Manager Robin Alcorta coordinated a writing workshop for adults that left attendees feeling inspired and energized — so much so that they did not want to leave! The 90-minute session provided a warm and welcoming space where writers of all levels explored what it means to write with authenticity. Patrons dove deep into the process of finding and honing their true voices, learning how writing in an authentic way not only makes the craft more enjoyable but also strengthens the connection with their audience. As the event ended, the magic did not stop. Participants lingered in the gardens at the Landa Branch Library as they exchanged thoughts, shared stories, and continued to support one another's creative journeys. It was a wonderful reminder of the power of community and the joy of connecting through writing.



Tween Time at the Landa Branch Library has excitedly seen an influx of new teens attending on a weekly basis. Over the past few weeks, tweens have engaged in artistic activities, sewing projects, collaging, gaming, and more. On April 21, tweens enjoyed a special edition of Tween Time called "Swifties Poetry Slam," co-hosted by Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas and Central Library Children's Librarian Ashley Palacios. Tweens participated in a variety of Taylor Swift-themed activities — such as singalongs, coloring, button



Tweens enjoy collaging and sewing during a weekly Tween Time activity.

and bracelet making, and writing their own poetry. Tweens also played a guessing game that compared Taylor Swift lyrics to those written by poets, leaving many tweens stumped — even the biggest of fans. 9 tweens attended this special Tween Time activity, making this the most attended Tween Time of the year so far.

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

To celebrate National Poetry Month at San Pedro Branch Library, staff curated a display featuring many works by famous poets in the United States. Additionally, the Library continued to host “Yarn Over to San Pedro” where the public could knit and crochet different projects. Needle crafters of all kinds and skilled levels are welcomed and invited to bring their own project to work on.

On April 15th, the San Pedro Branch Library held its annual History Stroll of San Pedro Springs Park. The San Pedro Springs Park is the oldest park in Texas, founded in 1729 by the King of Spain. The tour was led by the community leader Hector Cardenas, who is a local historian and tour guide. The Park has a rich and surprising history of people, activities, structures and of course, the Springs.

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.

Westfall Branch Library

Twice a month, Westfall Branch Library Children's Librarian Imelda Merino, Landa Branch Library Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas, and Memorial Branch Library Children's Librarian Melissa Fulmer, present a virtual program called Art Club Online. This program was started during the pandemic shutdowns, and it has proven to be so popular that children and their families have asked for the program to continue for over five years. Children or their parents register to take part in these fun and very laid-back events. After a welcome and introduction, children are invited to participate in some silly and, sometimes, challenging drawing games. After this, one or two art projects are introduced that explore a particular type of media or style. Participants are free to try these out or work on their own art projects. Throughout this time, children are encouraged to share their creations and talk about them. It is a wonderful time of learning, delight, and imaginative fun.

To help the community address the recent measles outbreak in Texas, Adult Services Librarian Monty Holcomb helped arrange and coordinate with Metro Health to bring a vaccination clinic to Westfall Branch Library on April 1st. Over 50 individuals came to the clinic to make use of its services, as the Metro Health and Westfall Branch Library teams worked together to assist the visitors. Many of the people who came to the library for a vaccine also acquired library cards and made use of library services while they were at Westfall Branch Library.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

Children's Librarian Ralph Jarzombek participated in an Autism Parade event at Hirsch Elementary on World Autism Awareness Day, April 2nd. Students from various classrooms walked around the courtyard as families captured photos of the celebration. Mr. Jarzombek hosted a table featuring information and resources from the San Antonio Public Library and brought books about autism to share with attendees.

"Fit for a Princess" event was held at Carver Branch Library on April 12th. The program was open to young girls ages 4–9 and focused on developing self-confidence and building character through a series of engaging workshops. The participants came dressed to play and learn as they took part in activities designed to help them grow in a variety of important life skills. Each workshop introduced a new theme centered on what it means to be "Fit for a Princess." The topics included self-esteem and character building, personal safety, how to respond to bullies, manners and etiquette, and dance and public speaking.

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.

Molly Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School

At the Molly Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School, two of the branch's teen volunteers led three Teen Times in April, with about 50 attendees throughout the hour-and-fifteen-minute program. They planned activities such as bracelet and keychain making, watercolor painting, canvas painting, and coloring. On average, twelve to fifteen teens would attend for the full program time. Because the Molly Pruitt Library is connected to Roosevelt High School, it is even

more critical that we create an inclusive space, by teens and for teens, since the branch's teen patrons often spend time in the library waiting for guardians, the bus, or to spend time with friends after school.

Lisette Cantu of Healthy Neighborhoods led the Molly Pruitt Library's Family Yoga program, focusing on participants' emotions while practicing yoga asanas and breathing techniques for emotional regulation. Each participant crafted an "emotional monster," enjoying the process of decorating and articulating the feelings they symbolize.

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.



Family Yoga participants holding up their emotional monster creations.

Schaefer Branch Library

In our ongoing effort to create a welcoming and engaging environment, we recently added a bird feeder to the east side area of the library. This addition has quickly become a favorite among patrons, with many sharing how much they enjoy birdwatching while seated at the nearby tables. Encouraged by this positive feedback, we're excited to announce plans to add more bird feeders and birdhouses to further enhance this cozy, nature-inspired space of the library.

On April 11, the Schaefer Branch Library hosted a DIY Flower Crown for Fiesta. Using tissue paper, hot glue, and plain headbands, patrons were able to assemble their own flower crowns to take home. The participants enjoyed creating their very-own Fiesta Flower Crown — each uniquely crafted.

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.

DISTRICT 3

McCreless Branch Library

In April, Training Officer Lodie Mueller streamed "Hailing César," an independent documentary about the legacy and struggles of civil rights activist César Chávez for her English and Civics classes to follow up on San Antonio's observance of César Chávez Day. The film prompted




amazing conversations and questions among the students, especially because many of them identified with the field work and discrimination which the farmworkers experienced. They connected César's insistence on nonviolence with Martin Luther King, Jr.'s leadership during the Civil Rights Movement, and they linked the United Farm Workers' grape and lettuce boycotts with the Montgomery bus boycott. They asked to learn more about Gandhi, since his successful use of nonviolent resistance in India inspired both Chávez and King. Students expressed enthusiastic appreciation for the opportunity to learn about the cultural history and context for their U.S. Citizenship and English language studies.

In April 2025, Librarian Mari Carmen Castellano hosted the first in a series of Plant Swaps. During this all-ages event, patrons are invited to bring potted plants, propagations, seeds, and/or gardening supplies to trade or give away. Ms. Castellano set up an information table which included branch calendars, flyers for the next Plant Swap, and promotional materials for the Learn at SAPL, the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library, and the Libby app. Several members of the McCreless Friends of the San Antonio Public Library participated by bringing plants and by promoting their organization. The event received positive feedback from its participants, and they are excited to bring new plants to trade at the next swap. The goals for the Plant Swaps are to promote community engagement between the library and gardening/plant hobbyists, to position the library as a space for people to share knowledge about gardening in our region.



Plants offered at McCreless' Plant Swap

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.



Mission Branch Library

On April 14, Mission Branch Library offered a K-Pop Craft Night program hosted by Circulation Attendant Megan Feeley. Twenty-two people attended this event. Attendees created collages and made meaningful connections with each other based on their passion for the K-Pop culture.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) which is a free tax preparation organization, concluded service in April. VITA provided service to the community of Mission Branch Library throughout tax season, and 999 tax forms were submitted to the IRS with community members receiving a total of \$1,459,771 in refunds. The service VITA provides not only helps community members, but also brings in patrons that may not have known about the library or have not been to the library in a long time. Many people utilized the public computers, printers and copy machines as they gathered necessary documents. Staff assisted people each

day on using the library technology as well as answering questions about the service VITA provides.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

-  Enhance the digital experience to increase accessibility, usability, engagement, and overall customer satisfaction.
-  Increase the public's awareness of the Library's bountiful resources and services to increase the use of the Library.

Pan American Branch Library

Teen Librarian Gladys Nunez and Library Aide Jessica Gutierrez host Diamond Painting Club every Thursday. The club has significantly grown this month to include six new members. Many new patrons are discovering the program through the Trumba



Children's activity at Earth Day.




events calendar. Patrons are grateful that the program provides diamond painting kits for free. One patron remarked that she attended the program to avoid being home alone — this was her first-time doing diamond painting and she loved it! She was able to socialize and befriend other patrons in the club.



Patron working on diamond painting project.

Children's Librarian Rachel Forbes attended Fiesta's Earth Day at Woodlawn Park. She shared information about the library's nature-based programs like seed libraries and upcoming summer program "Dig It!" with hundreds of attendees.

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.

DISTRICT 4




Cortez Branch Library

In April, Cortez Branch Library's Teen Services hosted five Teen Time Hangouts which continues to provide an engaging space for teens. A highlight was the special Sunday program celebrating National Brunch Month called "Brunch or Brupper," where teens made air-fried waffle cheese sandwiches, customizing their creations with a variety of brunch ingredients. The Library also continued to receive a steady number of 3D print requests and saw consistent interest in

gaming and other teen activities outside of the scheduled programming times, reflecting the ongoing engagement of our teen community.

Children's programming at Cortez Branch Library continues to make an impact on participants in terms of promoting literacy, socialization, and community participation. This month, Cortez Branch Library tweens have made bread, cookies, and clay figures, and taught the Children's Librarian Linda Childs some hip, new slang. The story time kids made Fiesta medals and sashes, then greeted library patrons as the "Cort-ez of Ducklings". The fiesta celebrations continued with the Cortez Branch Library Children's Librarian joining the Coordinator of Children's Services Cresencia Huff and Pan Am Children's Librarian Rachel Forbes, at the Woodlawn Lake Earth Day Fiesta event. Visitors to the booth got to learn about gardening-related activities and resources at the library and got to plant their own sunflowers to take home.

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.
-  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.

Johnston Branch Library

On April 4 Johnston Branch Library's Children's Librarian Jackie Gonzales, attended Hidden Cove STEAM Academy's Reading Together / Leyendo Juntos – Kindergarten event. The event for bilingual parents and their children was two-part. The first half was a presentation by Ms. Gonzales to parents about the library and the services available to them. The second half was specifically for the children — providing them with a fun Story Time. Ms. Gonzales noted many parents had not visited the library. This event was the first time they were able to see what a Story Time consisted of, and what children could do if they attended at their local branch library. Many of the parents loved the songs and rhymes, and some clapped along. The event created connections with members of the community who would have otherwise never been exposed to what the library had to offer them and their children.



SALSA volunteer lawyers, speaking with veterans about how they can assist them with their legal situations.

Learn at Johnston Branch Library Training Officer Shauna Mendoza partnered with the San Antonio Legal Services Association (SALSA) to offer free legal advice to military veterans. SALSA's Vision is "a community where everyone has equal access to justice, regardless of the ability to pay." The first clinic at the library on April 25th marked the beginning of an ongoing quarterly program providing veterans an opportunity to consult a lawyer about legal concerns or questions. The service was warmly received by the community, with multiple residents expressing heartfelt appreciation for having access to such a valuable resource at their neighborhood

library. The clinic and the partnership provide access to legal advice for military veterans in a hyper-local way.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

DISTRICT 5

Bazan Branch Library



Voces Cósmicas poets celebrate National Poetry Month at the Bazan Branch Library.

In celebration of National Poetry Month, the Bazan Branch Library hosted the Voces Cósmicas poetry group with readings by community members and Voces Cósmicas poets. Musical guests, the Mario Arias Project along with Library Aide Gary Davenport accompanied the poets and provided music between readings. Voces Cósmicas is group of seasoned and emerging poets from San Antonio who create venues to produce and bring written works of literature to the citizens of San Antonio. The event was emceed and organized by Training Officer Carlos Loera.

Staff from Bazan Branch Library, with support from Memorial and Thousand Oaks Branch Libraries, participated in Metro Health's Public Health Fest at Rosedale Park on April 10. Teen Librarian Cassie Garza, Circulation Attendant Kijana Maldonado-Perez, Memorial Branch Library Manager Chrissy Deffendall and McCreless Branch Library Teen Library Mari Castellanos, shared information with attendees about all the great services the library had to offer and also gave away library swag. Persons of all ages also enjoyed making their own magnetic buttons at the library table and asked about the rock painting program at Bazan Branch Library, examples of which were displayed. Free health screenings were available to all who attended.



Attendees of Metro Health's Public Health Fest visit the SAPL table.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

Collins Garden Branch Library

In the spirit of Fiesta, the Collins Garden Branch Library welcomed Grupo Folklorico de Bendiciones for a performance on April 19. The group performed traditional Folklorico dances with the women wearing beautiful brightly colored Mexican dresses and the men in tailored charro suits. The lively dancing was accompanied by Mexican music and helped everyone get in the Fiesta mood. Patrons had a great time and afterwards took pictures with the performers.



Folklorico dancers perform at Collins Garden Branch Library.

On April 9, Children's Librarian Gina Brudi and Library Aide Brianna Herrera offered an outside craft event in conjunction with HEB's annual easter eggs hunt happening at the store next door. Families decorated egg crafts to take home and received information about library programs and 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.

Las Palmas Branch Library

The Las Palmas Branch Library continued offering interim services at Our Lady of the Lake University's Sueltenfuss Library, located at 411 SW 24th St., San Antonio, TX 78207. 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.



Memorial Branch Library

From late April to early May, Memorial Branch Library was a stop on the tour of a roving exhibit celebrating the Black and African American communities of San Antonio. Six free-standing banners use images of paintings, hand-drawn maps, photos, and documents as they trace groups and individuals who called San Antonio home. From enslaved people who were among the earliest exploratory expeditions in the seventeenth century to former slaves who launched businesses in the late nineteenth century to military veterans of the mid-twentieth century who lobbied for fair housing practices, the exhibit highlights how Black and African American residents of San Antonio have been breaking barriers and claiming a life of dignity for 400 years.



First banner in the exhibit about Black and African Americans in San Antonio.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

DISTRICT 6

Great Northwest Branch Library



Poetry Month self-directed poetry station

Great Northwest Branch Library celebrated Poetry Month with a self-directed poetry station for the month of April where patrons could create their own poem using words cut from magazines. On April 1, teens and adults participated in the program *San Antonio: Living, Loving, Writing* with Poet Laureate Eddie Vega. Participants learned more about what being a poet laureate entails and took part in creating poetry.




The Creative Art for Adults series continued at Great Northwest Branch Library. Adults took part in celebrating Fiesta by making their own fiesta crowns and cascarones on April 1 and 15.

The program participants were so proud of the fiesta crowns they created and insisted on photographing their beautiful creations. The patrons who attend this program are so appreciative to have a creative space and take so much pride in their artistry. Their appreciation shows how impactful this program is for our community.



Fabulous Fiesta Crowns

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.

Guerra Branch Library

Teen Time attendance at Guerra Branch Library continues to grow with teens engaging in a range of activities from video games on Nintendo Switch or Wii consoles, board games, or simply enjoying each other's company. The teens enjoy activities that require a lot of movement, are inclusive, and allow them to learn and explore. Guerra Branch Library currently has six active teen volunteers and this month, they collectively completed a total of 28.5 volunteer hours. Teen Services Librarian Brandy Walthall conducted an outreach visit to John Jay High School on April 15. The students and faculty are always welcoming and excited to learn about



Teen Time at Guerra

new services, activities, and resources offered by the San Antonio Public Library. During this visit, Ms. Walthall shared information about Teen Time at Guerra Branch Library, volunteer opportunities, and made buttons. The visit garnered request for new templates for the button maker and potential recruits for Teen Time Assistants.




On April 27, Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson hosted a Fiesta

Shoebbox Float program: a beloved Fiesta tradition for the entire family. Fifty-six patrons of all ages gathered at the Guerra Branch Library for some Sunday afternoon fun and brought their creativity in making their own Fiesta Floats. Families were provided with a range of decorating supplies as they shared ideas and collaborated on their creations. A fun and creative time was had by all as young patrons, not so young patrons and older adults interacted while they shared Fiesta experiences stories with each other.



Fiesta Program at Guerra

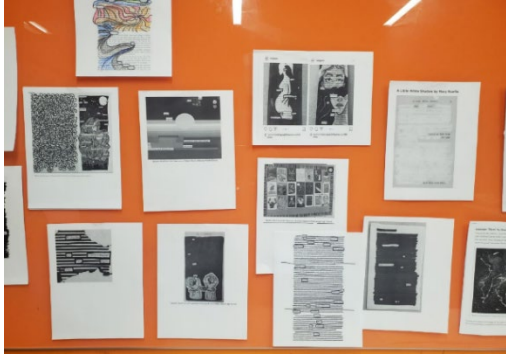
These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

Potranco Branch Library

The Potranco Branch Library is partnering with Metro Health's Diabetes Prevention Unit to host a seven-week series titled *Healthy Living*, focused on building healthy habits and preventing diabetes. The sessions are on Wednesday afternoons beginning at 1:30pm. There were four sessions held in April and the remaining three sessions will be held in May, ending on May 21. There are 10 engaged patrons attending the weekly class that focuses on creating healthy habits to stave off preventable diseases. Each week participants discuss a different topic and develop an action plan to bring them one step closer to establishing healthy habits.

Potranco Branch Library's teen literary club, Inkognito, celebrated National Poetry Month by trying their hands at black out poetry. In black out poetry, the poet takes an existing page of text, circles select words or phrases, and crosses out or obscures the remainder of the page. What's left is a new "found poem" reflecting the poet's creativity which sometimes bears no resemblance to the original piece. Some poets even turn their poems into works of art by illustrating or coloring the pages. As their base text, Potranco Branch Library's teens used pages from damaged books that were withdrawn. To get the creative juices flowing, they perused a gallery of samples found online or created previously. To cap off the event, the teens enjoyed reading their poems aloud to the group. Inkognito meets twice a month and is led by



Black Out Poetry Gallery temporarily displayed in Potranco Branch Library's Create Room to provide inspiration to Inkognito group as they created their own poems using the technique.

two teen volunteers who lead book-related games/activities and discussions on selected literary works.

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.

DISTRICT 7

Forest Hills Branch Library

Forest Hills Branch Library is hosting the City of San Antonio's Immigrant Inclusion Action Plan advisory group, which will be meeting monthly to give the City's immigrant and refugee communities a space to talk about their needs and help shape upcoming programs and services. The advisory group's first meeting was held in April, and Forest Hills Branch Library staff look forward to continuing this collaboration.

In April, Children's Services Librarian Ana Menchaca not only attended the Esparza Elementary literacy night, where she shared information about the library and its resources with families, but also moderated a panel at The San Antonio Book Festival called Magic, Monstrous, & Middle Grade featuring authors Xavier Garza and Diana Lopez.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

Maverick Branch Library

In April, Maverick Branch Library hosted the Bexar County Election Department for the Joint General, Special and Bond Early Election. With the collaboration of the election officials and library staff early voting proceeded smoothly. Going into May, Maverick Branch Library will also become a voting site on Election Day as it completes this voting cycle.

In April, Maverick Branch Library celebrated National Poetry Month by creating a poetry book display by the circulation desk. The display offered a variety of poetry works for children and adults. Some of the Reference Team had noticed a slight demand for poetry materials during



National Poetry Month 2025
Display

the reporting period. It is important to note Maverick Branch Library's promotion to this classic form of literature which has been highly valued in many cultures throughout the ages.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

DISTRICT 8

Cody Branch Library

In April, the Cody Branch Library hosted programming for homeschooled children, tweens, and teens resulting in attendance from all across San Antonio. One teen told the librarian that they come in from a neighboring town, driving 40 minutes to attend programs with their peers. Originally a children's and teen program, staff recognized a need in the community and now provide the teen services our patrons requested.

A regular attendee of Cody Branch Library's preschool and toddler programs shared how the library has positively impacted her caregiving experience. As the full-time caretaker for her grandson, due to financial constraints, she found our programs invaluable in offering creative, cost-effective ways to support his development. By using everyday materials introduced during our sessions, they've been able to craft reusable, interactive learning tools at home. She expressed deep gratitude for how the library has supported both imaginative play and cognitive growth, reinforcing our mission to empower the community through accessible learning resources.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

Igo Branch Library

Igo Branch Library reaffirmed its commitment to nature with a special environmentally focused event. The 2nd annual Nature Fest took place on Saturday, April 19th, with over 250 visitors in attendance. The event featured over 20 local organizations, including the San Antonio Botanical Gardens, Texas Master Naturalists, Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas, Central Texas Mycological Society, and many more. Attendees saw a joey kangaroo and other animals up close, courtesy of The Creature Teacher. From gardening and conservation to field science and learning, the event featured a variety of activities and crafts for visitors of all ages to enjoy.

The 3rd annual Igo Branch Library Jellybean Art Show, organized by Library assistant Cara Sifuentes, was a huge success. Library staff were tasked with creating a colorful mosaic out of



Winners of the Igo Jellybean Art Contest

jellybeans. There was a total of 14 entries, which included bunnies, flowers, landscapes, butterflies, and several other intricate designs. Over 150 votes were cast by members of the Igo Branch Library community.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

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

DISTRICT 9

Brook Hollow Branch Library



Brook Hollow Branch Library team outreach at Walker Ranch Senior Center

Brook Hollow Branch Library staff coordinated an outreach at the City of San Antonio (COSA)'s Walker Ranch Senior Center (WRSC), Brook Hollow Branch Library's community partner under the Human Services Department. Seniors enjoyed the library bling, and a golden egg hunt was the highlight of the day! Brook Hollow Branch Library used the WRSC as a satellite location when the branch was closed for HVAC work and continues to visit on a regular basis.

Librarian Marco De Leon facilitates the WRSC Book Club and Branch Manager Jeannette Davies participates in the center's monthly

birthday celebrations with library talk and food demonstrations. Brook Hollow Branch Library values working with community partners and loves to take the library on the road!

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals

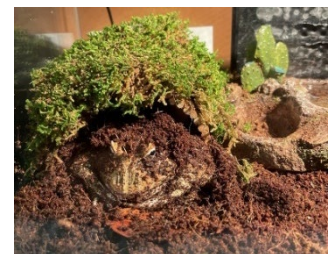
- 📖 Cultivate a portfolio of partnerships to extend the Library's reach in the community.



Brook Hollow circulation team and intern enjoyed the day.

Encino Branch Library

This month Encino Branch Library staff had the opportunity to rescue two pacman frogs! Encino Branch Library's custodian noticed a terrarium sitting out in the parking lot, and when staff went to investigate, they found there were two adult pacman frogs living inside. Staff quickly worked on researching the proper care of these exotic amphibians. Encino Branch Library staff brainstormed possible names, and Fitz and Zelda are now living happily in their upgraded terrariums at Encino Branch Library. The frogs have had a lot of



Fitz, one of the pacman frogs adopted by Encino staff

interest from the patrons, with adults and children alike enjoying spotting the frogs in their homes at the reference and circulation desks.



Members of Girl Scout Troop 855 posing with the puzzle exchange they established in Encino's foyer.




Encino Branch Library partnered with Girl Scout Troop 855 in April to bring a Puzzle Exchange to the library in order to attain their Bronze Awards. The troop members collected the puzzles and created the signage for the exchange and collaborated with library staff to locate an area in the library with high visibility. It was placed next to the magazine exchange in the foyer of the library.

These activities align with the following SAPL Strategic Plan Goals



Provide enhanced Library services and programs to

foster more meaningful connections with the community.

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

Parman Branch Library at Stone Oak




The Parman Branch Library hosts a daily in-library scavenger hunt with a new theme each month, which serves as a wonderful complement to the six regular weekly children's programs designed and led by Children's Librarian Teague Shosh. In April, Ms. Shosh created a minifigure-themed scavenger hunt that sparked the imagination of 227 children! Children were challenged to find several minifigure building characters hidden throughout the library, and afterward, they got to design their own unique minifigure — some based on themselves, others entirely from their imaginations. The finished drawings were proudly displayed for everyone to enjoy. Parents love how the activity encourages creativity and keeps their children engaged in a safe environment; children love the chance to explore the library in a playful way and express themselves through their imaginative drawings. Programs like these also help foster more meaningful connections with the community.



As part of the Parman Branch Library's ongoing efforts to strengthen community engagement, Teen Librarian Becky Hillmann, with the help of Library Aide Avery Frye, conducted an outreach visit to Ronald Reagan High School. During the visit, library staff spoke with hundreds of students about the many services and opportunities available through the library, with a focus on teen engagement. They promoted volunteer opportunities, emphasizing the benefits of personal development and the positive impact of community service. Staff also provided information about Teen Services, including activities and resources designed to enrich learning

and promote personal growth. This outreach event increased awareness of library offerings among youth and helped build meaningful connections within the school community. The initiative directly supports the San Antonio Public Library's strategic goal of cultivating a portfolio of partnerships that extend the library's reach, demonstrating how branch locations continue to strengthen relationships and expand their impact.

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.




DISTRICT 10

Semmes Branch Library

For National Poetry Month, Semmes Branch Library sponsored a Type-In, hosted by Austin Typewriter Ink. The hosts brought a variety of manual typewriters, and invited patrons to come in and type out the poetry they felt, interacting with the older technology, feeling the thump of the keys on ribbon and paper. Turnout was nearly 50 people, of all ages.

Semmes Branch Library continues to draw patron approval and interest for the "Let's Build: LEGOs and More" program on Monday afternoons. The program brings together children for collaborative play with LEGOs, and the results are displayed for others to admire. It brings many inquiries into when Semmes Branch Library will next be playing with LEGOs!

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

Thousand Oaks Branch Library

From January to April 2025, the Thousand Oaks Branch Library was one of four library locations, and one of twelve locations city-wide, to host Volunteer Income Tax Services (VITA). This free service to the community allows patrons to have their 2024 taxes filed electronically by professionally trained volunteers. The volunteers are on-site four days a week for six hours each day. During the entire tax season, they helped thousands of people. For example, this year all four Library locations hosting VITA helped patrons file over 7,200 tax returns totaling more than \$8.6 million refunded back to taxpayers. Thousand Oaks Branch Library has proudly hosted VITA each tax season for several years.

On April 25, the Thousand Oaks Branch Library hosted the Benefit Application Assistance with San Antonio Food Bank program. For this program, a representative from the San Antonio Food Bank was on-site to help patrons screen, apply or renew their federal benefits applications. The representative assisted patrons with applications for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and Medicaid. This program was impactful, because it allowed patrons to apply for these services without the hardship of having to travel downtown. Thousand Oaks Branch Library is one of two library locations to have partnered with the San Antonio Food Bank to offer this program to help people who need federal benefits and have limited travel options.

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.

Tobin Library at Oakwell

Adult and all-ages programming flourished during the month of April at the Tobin Library at Oakwell. Library Assistant Terry Verner continued offering Artful Moments, a coloring and relaxation group for adults that is welcoming to people of all abilities. Verner has been working with this group for the past few months and it has continually grown. Patrons enjoy a variety of coloring pages and immersive, relaxing music. Verner has built relationships with the regular participants, and they often come to the branch and ask for her by name now! This effort has been part of an ongoing goal that Verner has set to create programming that is accessible for patrons of all abilities, including the regular adult day care groups that frequent the Tobin Library at Oakwell.

New and innovative programming options for patrons were also made available in April. Student intern Reb Sibley completed her practicum at the Tobin Library at Oakwell with a scavenger hunt she created for all ages that highlighted the collection, history, and resources available at the library. Participants could choose from three different scavenger hunts that varied in difficulty to earn a prize while simultaneously learning about the library. Children's Librarian Lisa Ramirez also coordinated an exciting Plant Swap event that drew several participants who were enthusiastic about sharing their gardening knowledge.

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.

V. MEDIA

April – Multiple outlets reported throughout the month on the San Antonio Book Festival held at Central Library.

April – Multiple outlets reported on library locations as early voting site for the 2025 mayoral election.

April – Texas Public Radio and the San Antonio Express-News reported on incident of damage that occurred to the Jessie Trevino “Mi Vida” mural at Central Library.

April – Several outlets reported on a SAPL’s participation with the reading challenge associated with the Final Four tournament.

April – Several outlets reported on SAPL hosting a free event for Selena Quintanilla Day.

April – Texas Public Radio and KLRN reported on Central Library hosting the free advance screening of the PBS documentary “Free for All: The Public Library.”

April – Multiple outlets reported on the Pre-K 4 SA art exhibition on display at Central Library.

April – Several outlets reported on the Pan African Festival held at the Carver Branch Library.

April – Multiple outlets reported on El Paso Public Libraries going fine free and mentioned SAPL’s status as fine free.

April – Multiple outlets reported on Library location closures in observance of the San Jacinto Holiday.

April 1 – AframNews reported on SAPL hosting a session titled “The Case for Reparations” as part of a series of Black history programs.

April 1 – Paisano, the student newspaper at UTSA, reported on SAPL monitoring potential cuts following the decision regarding the IMLS.

April 7 – Public Libraries Online published an article about libraires leading the way in environmental sustainability and mentioned solar projects at SAPL locations.

April 7 – TPR reported on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA), offered at several Library locations.

April 13 – KSAT published an article on artist Jesse Trevino, including his work on display at Central Library.

April 14 – PBS published a documentary on the life and work of Jessie Trevino in which SAPL was mentioned numerous times.

April 15 – SAPL was featured in an article in Information Today on dystopian literature.

April 17 – KSTX aired a short segment informing the public that the Collins Garden Branch Library would be holding a sewing class the next morning.

April 26 – ART library deco published an article in which the author explored San Antonio and visited Central Library and talked about their experience at Central.