



San Antonio Public Library Director's Report

San Antonio Public Library hosted the 11th Annual The Holocaust Learn and Remember series. The month-long programming began with a formal speaking program at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio.

January 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Administration.....	3
II. Central Library.....	9
III. Branch Libraries (Alphabetical).....	15
IV. Performance Measures	46
V. APPENDIX.....	56

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The following is a summary of notable activities related to the Library Director's professional involvement and his engagement with San Antonio Public Library stakeholders.

Professional Activities

Library Director Ramiro Salazar participated in the Holocaust: Learn and Remember Opening Ceremony at Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio, 12500 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, Texas 78231 on January 9, 2023. Ron Nirenberg, Mayor; Jose Menendez, State Senator; Leslie Davis Met, Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio Director; Ramiro S. Salazar, Library Director and Howie Nestel participated in the speaking program.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar and Leslie Davis Met, Director of the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio have been invited to Texas Public Radio's *The Source* to discuss the Holocaust: Learn and Remember series on Thursday, January 12, 2023.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the American Library Association Midwinter Conference (LibLearn X) in New Orleans, LA on January 26 to 28 2023.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar, worked with Assistant City Manager Alex Lopez, along with a representative from the City of Austin to establish a Central Texas Regional Chapter of the Local Government Hispanic Network in January 2023. As a founding member, he attended the inaugural Central Regional Chapter Board meeting on January 31, 2023.

Stakeholder Engagement

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar met with San Antonio Public Library Foundation Executive Director Amy Hone on January 9 and 23, 2023.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's Board Meeting at the John Igo Branch Library on January 18, 2023.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar held a Future of SAPL/ Friends of SAPL Kick Off Meeting with Consultant Martin Gomez on January 24, 2023.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Annual Meeting on January 29, 2023, at the Central Library.

attention from the news media which led to well-attended programs all month long. The Communications Team also began developing campaigns for location re-openings at Cortez, Memorial, Forest Hills, and Central Library.

Media Highlights

- January 3 - KENS 5 highlighted SAPL's Holocaust Learn and Remember series.
- January 3 - Community Impact online newspaper included a highlight of Holocaust Learn and Remember.
- January 10 - KSAT 12's Jessie Degollado covered the Learn and Remember series and the opening event in a feature story addressing the recent rise in antisemitism. This was also published online with a written component that contained an interview with Library Director, Ramiro S. Salazar.
- January 12 - TPR aired an episode of "The Source" which included an interview with Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar and Adult Services Coordinator Morgan Yoshimura as they discuss the history of The Holocaust Learn and Remember series. They also shared the full interview with a short description on their website.
- January 26 - The Express News' Scott Huddleston published a feature story on the closing ceremony of the Holocaust Learn and Remember 2023 series. The piece was published online and on page A3 of the print edition.
- January 24 - The online news outlet, Axios, published an article about the heavy demand for Prince Harry's memoir "Spare." The piece includes information about the item in SAPL's collection.
- January 23 - Salem Media Group, KLUP AM aired a feature interview with SAPL Assistant Director Dale McNeill on Holocaust Learn and Remember and other SAPL services on their "In the Loop" morning radio show over the weekend.
- January 27 - KVUE television station in Austin briefly mentioned SAPL's The Holocaust Learn and Remember series in a segment on Holocaust Remembrance Day.
- January 31 - TPR highlighted a San Antonio Storytellers program happening at Igo Branch Library in their community calendar.

Social Media metrics overview for January 2023:

- SAPL's social media generated **192,497** impressions
- SAPL's social media following base grew by **214** new fans
- Content shared across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram contributed to users engaging with our posts **6,985** times.

Social Media growth for January 2023:

- Twitter: **23** followers
- Facebook: **69** followers
- Instagram: **122** followers

YouTube statistics for January 2023:

- Subscribers: **25**
- Impressions: **40,425**
- Total Views: **3,191**
- Videos published: **5**

Graphics

The Graphics Team created publicity materials for a variety of programs and events during this reporting period, including materials for the Memorial Branch Library grand reopening, the Cortez Branch Library opening, donor plaques, the Blind Date with a Book displays for Library Lovers Month, and Black History Month, as well as social media and other promotion for branch events.

DIGITAL SERVICES

On January 20, all Library email accounts were migrated from an on-premises server to one in the Microsoft Office 365 cloud. This event marked the completion of a complex, long-term effort preceded by Office 365 license and Office desktop software updates for all staff and staff devices. This now fully integrated environment allows the Library to make complete use of cloud-enabled apps and join other COSA departments already in the cloud. The effort's success was due largely to a closely coordinated partnership between the Library and ITSD.

During the month of January, Digital Library Services Assistant Christina Hess, with some assistance from the Digital Services and Adult Services Team, completed work on the iPads to be used for the next phase of the Older Adult iPad lending program. The 200+ iPads were updated, prepped for use, and tested, before being passed on to the Coordinator of Adult Services, Morgan Yoshimura.

LITTLE READ WAGON

Little Read Wagon (LRW) staff welcomed the new year with play on Saturday, January 7. The once monthly Saturday Let's Play events at Mission Library Branch have shifted to the first Saturday of each month. These monthly Saturday events continue to draw a mix of new and returning families with an average of about 45 children plus their grownups. Children can experiment with tools, touch a variety of sensory material, roll objects down ramps, build elaborate structures, or set up stores depending on where their interests take them. This type of play not only builds brains but reduces stress in both children and adults. Anything is possible when there is not one correct way to accomplish a task. When children can direct their own play there are no limits to what they can do. The benefits of experiential learning are clear. What is less understood is the role that time and choice have in learning. When children have uninterrupted time to explore, experiment, and choose what and how to play, they can design learning that is perfectly suited to their needs. It is comparable to designing a curriculum that is individualized in

the most impactful way possible. This allows an adult to step back to observe, document, and reflect on a child's play. Adults then gain a better understanding of that child's world and educational needs.

Two other Let's Play events are offered monthly as well. Afterschool Let's Play continues at Carver Branch Library once monthly on the 2nd Wednesday from 3:45 pm – 5:45 pm. Families are enjoying time together after school when their children, no matter their age, can relax and explore in an environment that is designed for them. Weekday morning play has moved from Hardberger Park to Dellview Park and will continue through April at Dellview Park. The January event drew a large crowd who were delighted to discover the fun to be had at this beloved neighborhood hub. Many area residents happened across the event and immediately posted to online neighborhood groups. LRW staff are hoping to see new faces in February.

Despite the interruption of the two-day icy weather event that closed schools and forced staff to reschedule some events, LRW staff presented a variety of programs at locations throughout the community. Julia Lazarin presented Bedtime is Better with Books workshops, and/or reading tent events at DePaul Wesley Head Start, Live Oak Head Start, Behlau Elementary, Storm Elementary, Colonial Hills Elementary, and Kelly Elementary. Ms. Lazarin was assisted by LRW staffers Melisa Hill or Jen Crier at several of the locations. Megan Cruz provided early literacy workshops to school age parents at Sam Houston, Stevens and LEE High Schools. Eva Banda presented bilingual, English-Spanish, Story Times to children at the Navarro Learning Center and a workshop to their parents at Cooper Academy at Navarro.

Early childhood professional training was in-person in English at the Central Library Auditorium and virtually in Spanish on Saturday, January 21. The topics of both presentations were building resiliency through play and through San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) services. Content was presented by Ms. Cruz and Clair Larkin in English, and Ms. Banda and Ms. Hill in Spanish. Art Therapist Gaby Gamez was a guest speaker at the English workshop and led teachers through an open-ended, loose parts art activity (see image).



Ms. Larkin received an overview of a new initiative called “Community of Welcome” from Culturingua, a local nonprofit organization that serves newly arrived families and individuals of Middle Eastern, North African or Afghan origin and is in discussion about how SAPL can provide services to these families. Ms. Larkin is also part of the SAPL guide team for the roll out of Trauma Informed Care to all SAPL staff in pursuit of a Level I Trauma Informed Care Certification.

Ms. Larkin, Ms. Cruz and Ms. Banda participated in the children's services meeting that took the group to Hopscotch, an immersive art installation downtown. The similarities of Hopscotch to the February 2020 Baby Day at Central Library were striking and staff were once again reminded that play is essential at any age. LRW staff hope to present something similar in scope to Baby Day 2020 in 2024 at Central Library.

CHILDREN'S (SYSTEM-WIDE)

The San Antonio Philharmonic launched a series of ten visits to different San Antonio Public Library locations featuring a professional musician to speak about and play their instrument. The first two locations to host were Maverick and Tobin. The series will continue through May with two different locations and musicians each month.

Planning and preparations for the two major solar eclipse events (October 14, 2023 and April 8, 2024) is underway. Cresencia Huff and Morgan Yoshimura, Coordinators of Children's, and Adult Services, are working with multiple community partners, the Space Science Institute, American Astronomical Society, and several SAPL team mates to put together events leading up to each eclipse. Library colleagues from Hondo and Comfort joined the San Antonio team and science educators from the Space Science Institute for a brainstorming meeting at the Igo Branch Library on January 25.



On January 28 Ms. Huff participated in a Housing Affordability in San Antonio event as part of the Strategic Housing Implementation Plan. A building activity with Straws and Connectors drew many children and adults. The SAPL area also had cozy rugs with baskets of books, a simple art activity, and library information.

TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Virtual Teen Programs and Activities – The 210teenlibrary Discord workgroup, led by Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) and consisting of Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons from around the system, worked with virtual teen volunteers ("Teen Mods") to host weekly virtual teen programs ("clubs") on Discord ("the server") along with additional activities and events. Throughout the reporting period, teens discussed video games, streamed animation and art sessions, shared their latest music discoveries, and continued to host their own Dungeons & Dragons campaigns while also being excited that the server's main campaign returned after a brief holiday break. Teens also participated in the server's first Art Contest; teens submitted 16 entries into the contest and voted on their favorite artwork. After the contest, the winning entries were printed and placed on display at each winning teen's preferred library location, which provided a great connection from the virtual nature of the teen space on server to physical teen spaces at library locations throughout the city.

Virtual Teen Content and Resources – The 210teenlibrary Instagram workgroup, led by Matthew Loaiza and consisting of Amisahari Sarabia (Teen Services Outreach Specialist, Teen Library @ Central), Ciana Flores (Teen Services Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central), and Regina Almanza (Teen Services Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central), shared information, resources, activities, and other content for teens on Instagram, created by teen volunteers and Teen Services staff. During the reporting period, teen volunteers and Teen Services staff highlighted book reviews and book displays, celebrated the Lunar New Year, showcased artwork, demoed easy DIY crafts, shared daily informational and celebratory Stories, and promoted the call for artwork to be featured on the Teen Summer 2023 t-shirt.

Systemwide Support and Professional Development – On January 3, Matthew Loaiza assisted with an interview panel for a Catalog Assistant position. On January 11, Loaiza—along with Shannan Prukop (Teen Services Librarian II / Assistant Manager, Forest Hills) and Daniella Toll (Teen Services Librarian II

/ Assistant Manager, Collins Garden—met with Michael Harle (Teen Program Specialist, Austin Public Library) and Michael Hernandez (IT Support Analyst, Austin Public Library) at their request to discuss how Teen Services staff at the San Antonio Public Library navigate through a variety of information technology challenges. On January 20, Loaiza and Dacari Lambert (Teen Services Librarian I, Schaefer) met with Keelie Wray (Senior Public Services Librarian: Outreach + Community Partnership, Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries) and several other teen-serving library staff from Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries at their request. Wray and her colleagues used the SAPL Teen Services Discord LibGuide as a blueprint for their own Discord server for teens and consulted with Loaiza and Lambert to identify best practices for providing virtual library services for teens via Discord.

ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

The 11th annual Holocaust Learn and Remember occurred throughout the month of January. This year's theme, Censorship, focused on the ways that the Nazi regime controlled the information that Jews and other persecuted groups had access to as an additional method of suppression. The month kicked off with a press event on January 9th at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio, that included Mayor Ron Nirenberg and Senator Jose Menendez. Five virtual programs and four in person programs occurred throughout the month. Additionally, the exhibit War of Ideas: Nazi Censorship and Book Burning was available for viewing throughout the month at two branch locations. The month concluded with a presentation by second generation Holocaust survivor Anna Salton Eisen, who shared her father's story of surviving the Holocaust at Mission Branch Library as well as via a YouTube Livestream on January 23rd.

San Antonio Public Library recognized DreamWeek with two programs between January 10-29. The Library hosted DreamWeek founder Shokare Nakpodia for two presentations discussing how DreamWeek has evolved and grown since the first DreamWeek was hosted in San Antonio in 2013. DreamWeek aims to bring people, their unique ideas, and their myriad of voices to the forefront of a city-wide summit.

On January 21st, the San Antonio Public Library celebrated the Lunar New Year by hosting a Chinese New Year celebration with Yaping Zhang at Potranco Library. Ms. Zhang spoke to the audience about the creation of the Chinese Zodiac and each of the animals that are a part of it. Audience members participated in several dragon dances and learned how to make traditional Chinese pork dumplings.

On January 20th, Learn at Central began offering interim services on the 5th floor adults needing basic computer training and job support. Patrons in need of support in these areas are escorted to the 5th floor to receive assistance from the Learn at Central staff, who helped 33 patrons one-on-one. Learn at Central staff also facilitated the following small group classes: *GMAIL Basics*, *Get Organized and Inspired with Pinterest*, *Career Exploration Toolkit*, *Citizenship Preparation Class*. In addition, Learn at Central provided computer literacy support to 18 Edgewood ISD students who visited the library by bus to work on resume writing skills.

OLDER ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

In January, a group of San Antonio Public Library staff began meeting to brainstorm ideas for ways to offer services and programs for older adults in a more strategic and intentional ways. This group

discussed what the Library has offered for this demographic in the past, what is currently being offered, what organizations the Library could partner with, and much more. The group will meet monthly to continue to discuss ways to reach this demographic more effectively.

The Library continues to offer a weekly opportunity for older adults to participate in coloring for adults. Each Friday from 2-3 pm, individuals can join San Antonio Public Library staff online to color from the comfort of their own home. This simple opportunity allows participants to connect with others in a casual environment while participating in an activity that helps with relieving stress.

CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN @ CENTRAL



Librarian Melissa Fulmer created a collaborative, passive program inspired by Dream Week that grew in popularity throughout the entire month in the Central Library interim service area. The interactive display encouraged children to create self-portraits to express their unique qualities and share their dreams.

Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin collaborated with the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio to lead a presentation on Righteous Gentiles and Upstanders for 75 5th grade students at Krueger Elementary School. She created a program that included a discussion and examples of antisemitism and featured righteous gentiles and upstanders. She paired her presentation with books from the San Antonio Public Library collection, and included a booklist for teachers, as well as another suggested activity. At the end of the presentation the students came up with words that described qualities and traits upstanders have, and gave examples of people in their lives that are upstanders and even shared some stories.

Ms. Seglin assisted colleagues at branch libraries this month as well. She partnered with Landa Branch Library Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas to present three outdoor programs. She also assisted Igo Branch Library Children's Librarian Carrie Vance in presenting a Toddler Time program there.

Ms. Seglin and Ms. Fulmer each contributed significantly to virtual programming for children. Ms. Seglin presented two Family Story Time Online programs and was very involved in the creation of this new early childhood virtual program. Ms. Fulmer participated in Baby Time Online twice and presented one Art Club Online program as well.

Central Children's staff continued to develop outreach connections with area childcare centers. Ms. Seglin presented two Story Time programs and delivered books in support of the curriculum at Madison Square Child Development Center. Ms. Fulmer delivered books to Central Christian Day School and shared stories and songs to three different classrooms. Manager Kate Simpson delivered books to two classrooms at the Discovery School as well.

TEEN LIBRARY

Kathleen Fordyce (Manager, Teen Library @ Central) and Connie Hejl (Teen Services Librarian I, Las Palmas) host the "Random Fandom" club Thursdays on Discord, in which teens engage in discussions about fandoms that interest them and stream their favorite anime or pop culture shows.

Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager) continues to lead the 210teenlibrary Discord and Instagram workgroups. He also joins Daniella Toll (Assistant Manager / Teen Services Librarian II, Collins Garden) for "Teen Time" every Friday on the Discord server.

Rosalie Barrera (Librarian I) joins Cassie Garza (Teen Services Librarian I, Johnston) on Tuesdays to help to facilitate the weekly "Gaming Club" on Discord, in which teens enthusiastically stream, play, and discuss video games. Rosalie continues to support and engage with teens as they explore and activate the Teen Library as their own space to serve their needs, such as studying, crafting, gaming, or gathering with friends.

During the reporting period, Rosalie coordinated a class visit to the Teen Library with teenage students from Northside ISD Holmgreen Center. These teens included a visit to the Teen Library at Central to practice and enhance life skills such as riding public transportation and how to access the many resources and services provided by San Antonio Public Library. The visiting teens were provided with the opportunities to register for new library cards, learn how to search the library catalog, and explore the Teen Library.

Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): After school on Tuesdays, teens know to expect there will be something to do. Typically, teens participate in events they suggested, based on social media videos seen or something new to try. Walking in, setting down backpacks, washing their hands, and getting started with some light cooking activities allows them the chance to pick up a new skill, taste a new food, or show their peers tips and tricks. Activities done have highlighted celebratory events and general teen interest. For Lunar New Year, teens made boiled or steamed pork dumplings. Using melted chocolate and additional toppings, they made molded lollipops. For a quick and easy recipe, they attempted mug cakes. Needing to adjust this recipe, teens showed great camaraderie as they shared their tips and methods. The mug cake recipe only called for egg yolks, so it was a stroke of genius when one teen

suggested making cloud bread as it uses up the egg whites. To fulfill the San Antonio Food Bank nutritional lessons, teens suggested a recipe that a teen volunteer made in a past Instagram video: vegan avocado pasta. With all the ingredients available, teen volunteer Angelina attempted a TikTok recipe and though it didn't start out that way, the filmed footage can be pieced together for an Instagram demo. Pictures and videos from program times and demos can be found on the @210teenlibrary Instagram page.

Pictures below: Teen volunteers with a display they created; teens prepping for Lunar New Year dumplings; teen volunteers Angelina and Erick serving the TikTok pasta.



Ciana Flores (Library Assistant PT) continues to engage with teens both in the Teen Library and via the 210teenlibrary Instagram page. Ciana hosts "Gaming Club" Saturdays on Discord. She is also responsible for the 3D printing requests from teens on the Discord server. She prints and sends the requested item out to the teens' preferred library branch for pick up.

Amisarahi Sarabia (SAPL's Teen Outreach Specialist / Library Assistant) assists in the Teen Library, in addition to the off-site delivery of library services she conducts in the community. Amisarahi hosts Music Mondays on the 210teenlibrary Discord server in which teens stream their favorite songs and artists while chatting with friends on the server.

Teens have access to the Studio, VR, and gaming equipment during and after weekly program times, as well as all day on Saturdays. Pictures and videos from program times and demos can be found on the Teen Services Instagram page: @210teenlibrary.

REFERENCE

On Jan 7, J.D. Elizondo and Valarie Saucedo hosted Creative Collective, an artist collective open mic event. During the mixer, patrons could play music on a variety of instruments or bring their own.

On January 10, Pannaga Prasad and Freddy Hudson from Memorial Library offered a virtual session entitled "Antisemitic Propaganda : Then and Now." It was presented by Dr. Roger Barnes as a part of the

series The Holocaust: Learn and Remembrance. The presenter provided an overview of the various form of Nazi propaganda during Hitler's regime and what neo-Nazi propaganda in the U.S. is like today. The Holocaust Learn and Remembrance session was followed by Q & A.

Bettina Hernandez and Leti Guerra hosted the outdoor movie "Spider-Man No Way Home" on January 17. Patrons were offered refreshments as part of the event.

On January 17, Arland Schnacker conducted Patent Trademark Resource Center (PTRC) training for patrons using the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) website. This training was on patent search tips, USPTO pro-bono programs, and law school clinics which offer assistance for patent filing. Schnacker was able to help the patron get registered for free USPTO virtual programs during the session.

On January 21, J.D. Elizondo assisted Brianna Glass in hosting a Basic Improv program. Basic Improv helps guests gain experience in basic improve exercises, games, and short scenes.

Christina invited a representative from CPS Energy's Casa Verde program to do an information table to promote the Casa Verde weatherization program on January 23rd in the Connect Area.

On January 25, Stephanie Perez co-hosted a video game program called "Animal Crossing Party" with Mari Castellano for the Esports committee. Patrons were able to join the program virtually and win in game prizes for playing mini games.

On January 28, Pannaga Prasad and Diana Starrett offered a virtual session entitled "How to Maintain Healthy Skin Through Application Of Skin Care Products And Achieve Better Skin Result: Women and Men." It was offered by independent skin care consultant from Mary Kay and Rodan + Fields. The presenters demonstrated on how to take care of skin using skin care products and followed by Q&A.

Bettina Hernandez and Raquel Reyes hosted an outdoor movie on January 31: "The Menu." Patrons were offered refreshments as part of the event.

For Reference In-service Day, staff participated in the Trauma Informed Care Webex session, then formed groups in a lively Scavenger hunt to test their knowledge of Central collections and resources. The groups then gathered back together for a Yoga for Staff wellness session by instructor Sarah De La Rosa (and co-host Raquel Reyes) or collaborated in a quiet puzzle session with Manager Emerson Stanley.



LATINO COLLECTION & RESOURCE CENTER

Author Sergio Troncoso spoke to SAPL patrons in dialogue with Program Manager Emily Flores about his latest book, "Nobody's Pilgrims." The book was a Gold Medalist for "Best Novel: Adventure or Drama in English" at the International Latino Book Awards. Troncoso, immediate past President of the Texas Institute of Letters, is the author of eight books and often writes about the United States-Mexico border. He has also served as a judge for the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction and the New Letters Literary Awards.

In partnership with the San Antonio Museum of Art's (SAMA) exhibit "Traitor, Survivor, Icon: The Legacy of La Malinche," which ran through January 8, 226 museum goers accessed digital and physical SAPL resources curated by Program Manager Emily Flores via a QR code. Due to the success of the partnership and the interest it garnered, SAMA reached out to Adult Services Coordinator Morgan Yoshimura and Texana Manager Heather Ferguson to continue to partner on upcoming exhibits.

TEXANA/ GENEALOGY



In celebration of DreamWeek 2023, Librarian Matt De Waelsche invited DreamWeek founder Shokare Nakpodia to speak about the history and goals of the organization. During presentations at the Carver Library on January 10 and the Pruitt Library on January 21, Mr. Nakpodia explained the idea behind the two-week event is to promote tolerance and diversity in our communities.

Librarian Andy Crews was a member of the team presenting the annual month-long series “The Holocaust: Learn and Remember.” Mr. Crews moderated the January 11 presentation “Writing Home about the Holocaust: The Military Mail of German Soldiers in WWII” with Dr. Edward Westermann in the Latino Collection and Resource Center (LCRC). On January 22 he moderated the virtual presentation entitled “We Will Not Be Silenced: Our Words, Our Stories” with Reyna Stovall. Both programs dealt with censorship and the Nazis use of information to suppress Jewish people in addition to other persecuted groups.

Librarian Deborah Countess went over the first steps to take when beginning the hunt for ancestors in an online class held on January 17. Ms. Countess stressed the importance of gathering basic family information such as names, places, and dates from family sources, and then using the Federal Census records available online to gather additional clues about other family members.

Librarian Sylvia Reyna was invited to present a genealogy class at Walker Ranch Senior Center on January 25. The room of enthusiastic participants attending “The ABCs of Genealogy” were instructed on best practices for gathering crucial family information and the resources available that can help them on their family history journey. Additional classes for seniors are being planned for later this year. On January 28, Ms. Reyna presented her beginning genealogy class again for patrons at Johnston Library. Those in attendance there were also interested in Hispanic genealogy tactics and how to locate and research in military records.

For the Staff In-Service day on Friday, January 27 the Texana/Genealogy team participated in an icebreaker trivia game before viewing a Genealogy webinar together. The pre-recorded webinar titled *The Diversity of Hispanic DNA*, was hosted by the Texas State Genealogical Society as part of their 2022 Family History Conference. The training focused on how to identify Hispanic or Latin ancestral origins, and how to use autosomal, mitochondrial, and Y-DNA testing to fill in blanks on your family tree. Following the webinar, the team discussed packing procedures to prepare for relocating collections and had lunch together delivered from Potbelly Sandwich Shop.



BRANCH LOCATIONS

BAZAN

Children's Librarian Hope Sonnen reported good attendance for programs in January. Children enjoyed being creative and using their imagination with the new magnetic blocks and tiles used in the *Let's Build: Blocks and More* program. Children expressed their artistic talents with *Let's Create: Come and Go Fun* self-directed program and had fun building and creating during *Let's Build: LEGO CLUB*.



The Learn center at Bazan was busy assisting customers with one-on-one help sessions that covered computer skills, resume building, job search, completing job applications and learning to use personal devices. Training Officer Carlos Loera presented *English as a Second Language* classes every Tuesday and additionally presented *Painting Classes for Seniors* twice a month, an *Adult Coloring* class and hosted *Coffee and a Movie* for senior adults.

Bazan's *Wall of Warmth* provided individuals with over 150 items of warm winter clothing in January. Staff and the public donated gently used and new garments to the cause. Circulation Attendant, Summer Casarez, member of SAPL's Libraries and Homelessness committee led the effort by providing the clothes rack, keeping it organized and well stocked.

The San Antonio Health Collaborative Pathway to Coverage team visited the Bazan branch in January. The team's CMS certified government funded Navigators provided free marketplace health plan enrollment and education assistance.

The Metro Health Department's HIV/STD mobile unit visited Bazan on January 3 and 5 to provide the community with free HIV/STD testing as well as well as referrals to related services.

BROOK HOLLOW

Friday, January 27, 2023, the BHL Staff participated in the first of three SAPL In-Service Days approved by the SAPL Board of Trustees for library staff to engage and participate in teamwork and other training activities. BHL Children's Librarian Amanda Neace, along with Library Assistants Elissa Vura and Lauren Revel, coordinated the day's activities with calming arts and crafts, lava lamps, mini structure building and

charades. Adult Services Librarian Marco De Leon was the chef for the day and treated the staff to a Taco Bar with food contributions from the entire staff. The day was an overwhelming success providing an opportunity for staff to spend time together and enhance team bonding. The next scheduled SAPL In-Service Days are May 5 & August 4, 2023, and will be staff-driven by different BHL team members so everyone has the chance to be in the planning driver's seat.

Adult Services Librarian Marco De Leon hosted the La Tertulia, Brook Hollow Library Mystery and Tuesday Evening Book Clubs during January @ BHL.

BHL Children's Librarian Amanda Neace offers weekly Story Times at Blossom Park on Heimer Road just behind Bradley Middle School, a few blocks from the library. In January, Neace offered family Story Times; Read to Dog; Lego Time; after school art; Toddler Time and family-fun on Saturdays. Neace continues to become familiar with BHL patrons and is receptive to programming requests from parents and children in the BHL Community.

BHL Assistant Elissa Vura along with Librarian Tim Johnson (Igo) and Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernandez (Central - Children's) hosted the Escape the Earth podcast—a monthly sci-fi and fantasy book discussion. The January episode, discussing the book *The Color of Magic* by Terry Pratchett, has received 104 plays to date. The Escape the Earth podcast is available on Soundcloud under the San Antonio Public Library Podcast TunedIn Channel.

BHL Branch Manager Jeannette Davies took a hiatus from hosting Noon Time Helping of Cooking in SAPL's Virtual Kitchen in January when she had the opportunity to vacation/travel in Portugal and Spain. Davies resumes the program once a month, hosting with Oscar Gonzales, manager of the Mission Library, offering easy recipes for St. Valentine's Day; St. Patrick's Day; a Portuguese -themed program in April and a Mother's Day Bash in May. These cooking programs feature cookbook talks including, bibliographies of library resources and tested recipes.

CARVER

On January 10, DreamWeek Founder Shokare Nakpodia visited the branch to discuss the evolution of the celebration which has grown from approximately one week to nearly three, honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The observance is driven by a set of specific goals: 1) working to create a roadmap to realize collective dream; 2) create an environment for civil and civic engagement; 3) promote dialogue and exchange; 4) provide networking opportunities; 5) increase community involvement; and 6) create shared experiences. The overall focus is unity.

According to the organization, "Ideas become most powerful when they are advanced through the interaction of individuals and communities and propelled towards a greater awareness of the issues that touch us all."

San Antonio poet Gerard Robledo visited the branch on Saturday, January 14 to read selections from his work. Robledo, who teaches at San Antonio College, is a graduate of Texas State University. He earned a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Texas at El Paso. He was reared on the city's South Side, which was the inspiration for much of his work, some of which has appeared in *Voices de la Luna: A Quarterly Poetry and Arts Magazine*, *The Thing Itself Journal*, and *Outrage: A Protest Anthology for Injustice in a 9/11 World* (Slough Press 2015).

On January 21 and 22, the branch partnered with the San Antonio African American Community Archive and Museum (SAAACAM) to present an interactive writing workshop whose aim was to connect heritage with writing and oral history. The workshop was led by San Antonio's Poet Laureate Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson. Participants were invited to draw from the city's rich diverseness to tell their own story while learning to write confidently.



Caption: Workshop leader Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson (left) listens as writers discuss their ideas at Carver Branch Library.



During the month of January, Children's Librarian Lisa Ramirez continued to host weekly school age and early childhood programs, while also attending community events for children. Ms. Ramirez continued to host weekly early childhood Story Time weekly, Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and an afterschool, school age program, Let's Build Lego Time at 4:00 p.m. every Wednesday. On January 19th, Ms. Ramirez visited Tynan Elementary School for an early childhood Story Time where we read two stories, sang songs, and recited rhyming songs with puppets. On January 24th, Ms. Ramirez attended Literacy Night at Young Men's Leadership Academy with materials regarding upcoming events and activities taking place at San Antonio Public Library. On January 26th, Ms. Ramirez also added another after school, school age activity for children titled Let's Create: Come and Go for children who want to be creative and make paper craft puppets. Ms. Ramirez also began planning for Women's History month activities with Children's Librarian Melissa Fulmer.

Ms. Ramirez also prepared Black History Month displays in preparation for February using end cap displays, and two book displays featuring biographies of notable African Americans as well as a display featuring a theme of celebrating black culture.

CODY

A new year came with a new lineup of children's programs at the Cody Library. The Story Times offered at the branch include *Family Story Time* on Thursday mornings, and *Baby Story Time* and *Toddler Dance Party* on Friday mornings. During each Story Time this month, Children's Librarian Kristin Yourdon put up a large sheet of paper for parents to write down topics their children enjoy and suggestions for the Story Times. Thanks to parents' suggestions, Yourdon presented Story Times about red pandas, numbers and

patterns, and dinosaurs. Children and families explored these topics through books, songs, and rhymes. This has enriched Story Times at Cody, as it allowed parents to collaborate with Yourdon to help shape and design the programs to suit their children.

Yourdon also started a new lineup of children's afterschool programs in January. The branch offers a *Let's Create: Come & Go Crafts* program every Wednesday afternoon. During these programs children created a variety of crafts. During one craft time in particular children and families learned a bit about the Lunar New Year holiday and made hanging Lunar New Year's dragons. The *Let's Build: Lego Club* program occurs every Thursday afternoon at Cody. This is a free-building program that allows children to make whatever they like out of the provided Legos. After children finish their creations, the Legos are put on display in the library. Finally, the branch offers a *Kid's Afterschool Hangout* program most Friday afternoons. This program allows children to choose what they would like to do at the library. Yourdon sets out art supplies and games and makes a set of iPads available for kids to use.

Yourdon visited the *Kid's Campus ChildCare* center for a special multicultural event on January 20th. Yourdon brought a diverse selection of books to read to children and families who attended the event. As children and families filtered in and out of the reading room during the event, Yourdon was able to offer children a chance to select the book they would like Yourdon to read to them, which made it extra special.

With Cody being within walking distance of Hobby Middle School, we have a large population of young teens who hang out after school. To accommodate these teens, we have moved our teen supply cabinet to the floor for the teens to see and use. To help them feel ownership over the library, we have most of our teen supplies available to them almost every day after school, and have more structured, planned activities once a week. We also have two additional shelves of board and card games available for the teens to use at any time, whether there is a scheduled Teen Hangout or not!

This month the teens have been very invested in Perler Beads making very intricate designs that can take several days to build. As such, we have emptied one shelf in their cabinet to be used as a "works in progress" place to leave incomplete projects to come back to the next time the teen is in the library. This has allowed teens to have more freedom in the extent of their projects, as things do not need to be completed within one 1.5-hour teen hangout time.



Finally, this month we were able to start providing small, healthy snacks for our teens, funded by the Cody Friends. Many of our teens come straight from school and stay until closing, which can mean many hours between meals or snacks. Having these snacks have helped our teens engage more and feel better at the library. The teens have expressed great excitement for this new feature in teen hangout.

Library Assistant Luanne Bloom continues providing support for the five book groups at Cody, plus a film club and the book club at nearby Adante Senior Living Center. Fiber Club on Monday evenings with library assistant Haly LeFlore continues drawing crafters as well.

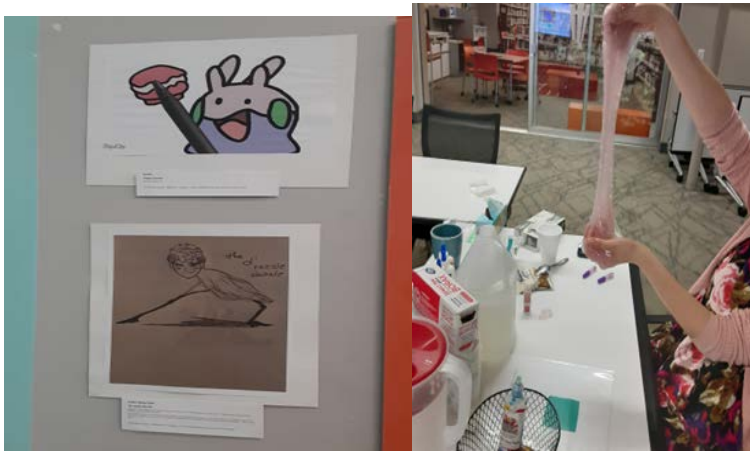
COLLINS GARDEN

Librarian I Rosa Villa joined the Collins Garden Team on January 15. On January 18, the Book Club met at the branch and the group discussed the novel *We Begin at The End* by Chris Whitaker. The Club was facilitated by Gina Brudi. On January 30, the branch hosted Metro Health's STD/HIV clinic.

After the Winter holiday break, in house children's programming resumed on January 4 at the Collins Garden branch. Children's Librarian, Gina Brudi filmed the rhyme "Bubble, Bubble, Pop" and it is the latest addition to the SAPL YouTube Channel. She continues as an active contributor to Family Story Time and Baby Time online. On January 8th she visited Knox Early Literacy Center where she engaged every classroom at the center with stories and songs. She hosted weekly in-house programs for school aged children: Lego Club, Construction and More and Preschool Story Time with a small but consistent group of children and their caregivers. In celebration of *National Draw a Dinosaur Day*, children were encouraged to draw their own dinosaur pictures for display on the white board in the children's area. Ms. Brudi mounted a popular Best Books for Children published in 2022 book display.



Teen Services Librarian Daniella Toll hosted weekly Teen Vibe programs at the branch. During their time at the library, teens brainstormed ideas for potential skateboard repair events. While making slime and playing Mario Kart, they discussed afterschool jobs and financial goals. Teens participated in button making featuring their very own artwork and discussed music. Ms. Toll continued to assist with the 210teenlibrary Discord server's weekly Teen Time Club, onboarded a new Teen Mod volunteer on the server, and assisted the teens in implementing their idea of having an art contest on the server. Many of the teens have amazing artistic talent and frequently post their art online to share with each other and encourage each other. The winner's art was posted at the teens' home library. Ms. Toll mounted two displays: *Not Your Average High School* and *Young Pegasus*.



Throughout the month on January, adults and seniors participated in passive programs that included brain booster activities, adult coloring, and jigsaw puzzles. The Collection Development curated display *New Year, New You* was mounted and was very popular with patrons. Adults interacted with a *Martin Luther King Jr.* display and a *New York Times Best Books of 2022* display.

CORTEZ

Cortez Library was closed for the month of January for HVAC renovations.

ENCINO

Children's

The children's department has had a fun, busy month as we started back full swing with programming. Encino has seen an increase in participation for children's events and there has been a nice comradery among parents at events, especially those in Baby Time or Story Time that see each other every week.

We kept programming very similar to our fall schedule, with a few tweaks to make programming more efficient and accessible. We have had several requests for more programming for children under 6. In response, we've swapped our board game program for a playdough program and made sure people are aware that LEGOs includes bigger blocks for younger patrons. We've had great success so far and hope the trend continues.

Our monthly programming includes the following activities:

1. Weekly Baby Time
2. Elementary Wednesdays: Rotating between STEM, Process Art, LEGOs and Playdough
3. Weekly Story Time
4. Weekly Tween Makerspace

With the addition of Encino branch's new part-time Librarian, the branch has been able to add some additional children's programs. A children's "Read to a Dog" program began January 10 which currently occurs every second and fourth Tuesday. Due to its popularity, the branch is striving to make "Read to a Dog" a weekly program as soon as possible.

On January 29, Encino library also began an exciting new children's program called "Swing in for a Story". Catered to working parents, it is a weekly Story Time and activity held every Sunday morning at 11:00. Children are read a story, participate in a song with a dance, and then go outside to the playground to play together. While outside, the librarian also provides outdoor-friendly toys and a craft to make if desired.

We are looking forward to continuing these programs as well as adding in some special programs throughout the spring.

Teen Services:

Teen librarians at Encino, facilitated passive and in person programming opportunities and showcased displays for teens aged 13 to 18 in the teen space.

Teens planned and implemented some exciting activities such as a decorating the Teen Room and creating an inviting atmosphere.

Teens participated in the promotion of literacy through book displays such as, a LatinX that showcased Latinx writers and MLK display.

Teens are actively involved in budgeting the funds to have snacks and drinks available for teens. The Teen volunteer program is going strong, and its popularity is increasing. The Teen volunteers are active in library duties and in promoting Teen services to the community.

Teens participated in the weekly program, Teen Club @ Encino on Tuesday nights 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Teens were involved in an array of activities, from playing card games, gaming, decorating wall plates, building puzzles to socializing and planning future Teen times.

Teens established a “suggestion box” to get feedback from teens. Teens developed an interest of getting feedback from teens in the community to gather ideas for projects, suggestions, possible programming to make teen services relevant to our community.

Teens’ involvement in the planning and implementation of these programs fostered leadership, creative expression, meaningful participation and ownership of their teen space and library.

Adults

Adults at Encino got to enjoy a variety of programming this month! On January 9, Encino hosted an alcohol ink washer necklace program. Attendees enjoyed working with a new medium (alcohol ink) and made some beautiful necklaces to take and wear home!

We celebrated Lunar New Year at Encino with a paper fortune cookie Take-and Make activity that was appropriate for all ages. Thirty kits were given away on January 18.

On January 22 Encino patrons got to create Lavender Field paintings at one of our popular Paint @ Encino programs. Led by Librarian Ann Laird, attendees used several different techniques including painting with cotton swabs!

On January 23, Librarian Krystal Owen kicked off Encino Branch’s monthly Gothic Literature Book Club. The first title explored was “The Fall of the House of Usher” by Edgar Allen Poe. Participants enjoyed an active discussion about general themes of gothic literature and then applied those themes to the literature read.

Encino was also pleased to host Dr. Benjamin Gibson on January 29 for a Zoom presentation on “Intermittent Fasting for Weight Loss.” Dr. Gibson presented some interesting research on why intermittent fasting could be more successful for weight loss than just cutting carbs or participating in a low-fat diet.

FOREST HILLS

The Forest Hills branch received their opening day collection, a set of roughly 500 boxes, which the team worked together to get unpacked in about two weeks. Progress towards opening continues, and staff are excited to be back in the building. Also joining the team is Abigail Billingsley, a library aide; Forest Hills is excited to have her join and look forward to seeing her flourish.

Teen Librarian Shannan Prukop continued their work with the Teen Pride committee, building a framework to continue the work and going to an outreach for about 60 teens at the Communication Arts High School at Taft, where the Teen Pride members shared library goods and information about

resources for teens. Otherwise, Mx. Prukop continued their work on the 210teenlibrary Discord server, running a weekly Dungeons & Dragons session that encourage teens to find creative solutions to problems and work collaboratively to tell the story. Teens have begun to take control of the narrative more freely, as well as helping each other understand what they missed or how aspects of the game worked, showing their growth in leadership and improvisation skills.

Children's Librarian Ana Menchaca continued to help facilitate the cutest program of SAPL, Baby Time, every week; parents and caregivers are given early literacy tips to babies get on the right track to reading when they're ready. Ms. Menchaca recently started helping with Family Story Time, which is a combination of Toddler Time and Story Time where librarians share books, songs, rhymes, and early literacy tips with children and their caregivers. To be as inclusive as possible, Ms. Menchaca, Ms. Huff, Ms. Marinio, and Ms. Leonard have formed a Faiths Traditions Group to discuss and develop a LibGuide/reading list about major world religions. Ms. Shannon Seglin invited Ms. Menchaca to help with a presentation regarding Holocaust Remembrance where they spoke about Righteous Gentiles and Upstanders at Krueger Elementary. They both had a wonderful discussion with fifth graders. Ms. Menchaca went to Maverick Library to help lead Baby Time, Toddler Time, and Story Time, where she enjoyed interacting with families and sharing stories, rhymes, and songs. Johnston Children's Librarian Ms. Durham asked Ms. Menchaca to meet with Library Assistant Ana Pina regarding the children's Spanish collection. Ms. Menchaca was happy to give suggestions and tips on how to make the Spanish Children's collection more vibrant. And for this month on the Children's blog, Ms. Menchaca reviewed "Aru Shah and the End of Time".

GREAT NORTHWEST

Participants in Great Northwest Branch Library's *ABC Club* (ages 2-4) learned how to create the letters of the week with Children's Librarian Cari Raley in Story Time and in the learning lab stations. Kids practiced shaping their letters using everyday objects like trucks, Legos, rulers and more. Several participants' guardians recalled they enjoyed exploring the alphabet in the kinetic learning environment and intended to recreate one at home with their extended family.

Story Time Club highlighted one book each week. The attendees get to practice their reading comprehension as a group as they identified the setting, main characters, problem, and solution for each book. One male participant discovered how much he loved the storytelling jewelry of each book and created a display for it all in his room. The family shared that when he was asked about why a boy is wearing jewelry on the playground, he replied, "Jewelry is for anyone to wear! We can all wear what we like, but this jewelry is to celebrate what I read!"

ABC 3-D Science club (ages 4-6) met together each Tuesday to read either a non-fiction book or a book based on a true story highlighting awesome people from history. The participants celebrated the five senses in January.

Tweens in *World Matters* learned about the value of a dollar. The goal of the group is to identify how ideologies may differ between people, but respect for all is still possible. Much like the library, all ideas are welcome when respectfully shared.

Maker Space club designed a miniature putt-putt course utilizing recycled materials found in their homes or via donations. The group meets on the first and third Saturday of the month.

The Great Northwest teens planned and implemented all teen programs and events for January 2023, including a Duct Tape competition, Movie night, and Teen Time Craft projects (friendship bracelets are popular at GNW). Lisa the Teen Librarian also had two outreach programs where she hosted a Super Smash Bros. tournament, a button maker activity, and attended a Teen Pride meeting at Communication Art Careers High School where they discussed Pride events at San Antonio Public Library and on Discord.

On January 9 the Great Northwest Library hosted the Holocaust Learn and Remember program *We Will Not Be Silenced: Our Words, Our Stories*. The presenter, Reyna Stovall, discussed the wartime correspondence sent from people in Nazi-occupied Europe and how their censored letters fit into the broader stories of their lives and experiences.

On January 21 Great Northwest Library hosted the Library Bee quilting group where older adults and adults can meet once a month to work on quilting projects and learn new quilting skills.

After taking a branch survey last fall, Library Assistant LC Keefe hosted the newly formed *Potpourri Book Club* on January 14. The book club is designed to rotate through three genres: mystery/thriller, historical fiction, and contemporary fiction. The four attendees discussed the novel *The Summer Seekers* by Sarah Morgan. The group decided on the next book, a mystery/thriller: *Lady in the Lake* by Laura Lippman.

Library assistant Jennifer Tristan hosted a Vision Board program on January 29. Six participants created personalized vision boards to represent their goals and intentions for the year. Folks who attended expressed appreciation for the space and materials to create such a meaningful project.



GUERRA

Guerra began hosting the annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program this month, assisting over 200 community members to date with their tax returns. The branch continued its partnership with Metro Health's Viva Health Diabetes Workshop series.

Teen Services Librarian, Bek Corley, facilitated Guerra's weekly Teen Club in collaboration with teen volunteers. The teens led film screening and art making nights, created pet bandanas, and held a board gaming night.

Children's Librarian, Linda Lopez, switched from Family Story Time to Toddler Time on Wednesday mornings. The change in title seems to have attracted more patrons to join in on the songs, rhymes, play and stories. Lego club is still in full swing and continues to be a popular program at Guerra. Linda added a Tween Time on Thursday afternoons. It is attended by a couple of regulars, and she hopes that as the word gets out, there will be more attendees. She also helped Tiffany Durham, at Johnston Library, with her Thursday morning Story Time on January 19th. Linda is participating in the Solar Eclipse Group and helping with the planning and preparations for the upcoming Solar Eclipses in October 2023 and April 2024.

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson recorded ¡ *Quiero espaguetis! (I want spaghetti!)* by Stephanie Blake on January 6 for Dial-a-Story in Spanish. He moderated the Spanish book club, Club de Lectura on January 26. They discussed *The prophet (El profeta)* by Jalil Gibran. Through this book the writer uses the prophet to poetically pass on his insights in how to improve human relationships and espouse his world view which became the basis for the book club participants to debate.

IGO

Adult Services Librarian Gamini Haluwana coordinated with the University of Texas's Mobile Health Unit to provide the Igo community with free vision and hearing screenings.

Children's Librarian Carrie Vance continues to support system-wide programming by co-facilitating at Baby Story Time Online, Family Story Time Online and Proud to Be Me: Rainbow Families.

The branch has been hosting both an afternoon and a morning Baby Story Time program, both of which have strong attendance. Babies are happy and caregivers are thrilled to have a place to sing and play. Toddler Story Time is the most popular program at Igo. Ms. Vance keeps the toddlers engaged with plenty of energetic songs, interactive fingerplays, and plenty of activities to engage in play afterwards, while Library Services Specialist Mikala Thomas keeps count. On January 5, Children's Librarian Shannon Seglin visited from Central Library and shared the extremely fun song, "The Walrus Washes His Winter Coat". A favorite activity in Preschool Story Time is the opportunity to share news. There was news of holiday happenings, pet rats, and upcoming moves. Another favorite is the process art activity for both Ms. Vance and Ms. Thomas in planning the activities, and the families who love exploring the supplies and techniques. This month, children enjoyed creating art using paper shreds, oil pastels and dark paper; painting on crumpled paper; and using streamers, ribbons, yarn, and craft sticks to make streamer wands, which of course led to lots of dancing and creative movement. The children's favorite book this month was *The Pet Potato* by Josh Lacey, and everyone claimed they also wanted a pet potato at the end. Also of note: families came to Igo programs from across the city, across the nation, and the world this month: there were visitors from Schertz and Kirby, Missouri, and North Carolina, and even one Baby Story Time visitor from Slovenia.

The branch is also hosting a Play and Learn Event with partner KLRN, which is very popular with the families. Families who participate love the activities. The series started on January 13 and will run through March 3.

Children's Librarian Carrie Vance and Teen Services Librarian Annie Calonico continue to cohost the Igo Stitchery with steady attendance. Attendees enjoy working on their own projects while getting to know others and find inspiration and motivation when others show off their projects. Attendees have also

enjoyed rehoming gently used craft supplies with others who may appreciate them more. This month, a cross stitch frame and two project bags found new homes.

The regulars of Teen Time at the Igo Library have become more confident in collaborating with one another and the teen librarian, Annie Calonico, to plan activities for future Teen Times. They are welcoming to new teens as well as their fellow regulars and frequently invite newcomers to join them in video and board games as well as arts and crafts activities. Our regular teen volunteer during Teen Times has been instrumental in encouraging their peers to take the lead in planning activities and making requests for supplies, which has helped strengthen the teens' feelings of ownership and control in what they do during Teen Time.

Annie Calonico, the teen librarian, recently reformatted the teen space with the input of community teens and staff to create a more welcoming space for teens that better reflects their preferences and needs. Our regular lunch and after school teens have commented on how much they like the new layout and we have seen more teens using the new seating arrangements while interacting with one another, studying, playing games, and making art in the space. Asking for their input and feedback helps reinforce their sense of ownership over and belonging in the space, as does posting their donated art, and making sure they have the games and supplies they want available for their use.

Teen librarian, Annie Calonico, started a new book club this month called Better Read Than Dead for our community members who are interested in horror and true crime. They had their first meeting this month, where participants discussed what had drawn them to the genres as well as our first month's selection, *Mexican Gothic*, by Silvia Moreno Garcia. Though a smaller group, we had a great time discussing the possibilities for why the characters behaved as they did and whether the horror was truly over. There has been high interest in the club, and we look forward to continuing to grow our membership!

Igo Manager, Tim Johnson, continues to cohost the Escape the Earth podcast with Elissa Vura (Brookhollow) and Mary Elizabeth Fernandez (Central Childrens). Mr. Johnson also hosts the Igo Mystery Book Group which met on January 3rd and discussed *The Satapur Moonstone* by Sujata Massey. Additionally, Mr. Johnson has been hosting a monthly chess club where participants can come and enjoy a friendly game.

Igo Circulation Attendant Aleida Ireta oversees Igo's popular Club de Lectura, a Spanish language book club. In January participants discussed *Marianela* by Benito Perez Galdos. Mrs. Ireta does an extraordinary job coordinating with Collection Development to bring in unique Spanish. Most of the titles are not translations of English language titles but instead are titles written for a Spanish-speaking audience.

Igo Library Assistant Russelyn Henson-Meyer hosts the Romance Readers Book Club. Participants in the January meeting discussed *Verity* by Colleen Hoover.

JOHNSTON

Assistant Manager Cris Yamada served as a moderator of the online event "Writing Home about the Holocaust: The Military Mail of German Soldiers in WWII" on January 15. The presenter, Dr. Westerman, spoke about the correspondence between German soldiers and their families during the WWII and how those letters showed the perception of the war by the Germans at that time. Ms. Yamada hosted Sylvia

Reyna, librarian, and archivist from the Texana Genealogy Department, on January 28. Mx Reyna offered the class "Genealogy for Beginners: Climbing the Branches of Your Family Tree" to Johnston patrons, an introduction to starting genealogy research.

Children's Librarian Miss Tiffany delivered an in-person weekly early literacy program, Family Fun Story Time; an in-person weekly school program, Let's Create: Maker's Club and an in-person bi-weekly school program, Let's Build: Lego Club. The new sensory materials received from Children's Services department included two light boards, prisms, colored pegs, and a peg board that were used during Story Time and Lego Club. The Maker's Club continued to grow in attendance. Some of the favorite projects were robot building with cardboard boxes and other recycled materials and sponge cakes made of dish sponges with puffy paint for icing. Miss Tiffany and Teen Librarian Cassie Garza visited Hidden Cove STEAM Academy to work with 6th graders on a library weeding and sustainability project for their library. The students wanted to collaborate with their local public library and were also working to create an event to give weeded books back to the community. Miss Tiffany worked as a co-lead for Tiny Tots and coordinated the online program Family Story Time Online.

Teen librarian Cassie Garza facilitated several in-person teen times at Johnston library. Teens helped select and plan weekly activities throughout the month which included creating vision boards and do-it-yourself stress balls. Suggested as an activity by a Teen Volunteer, teens used old magazines donated by other library branches to cut out images and phrases to use for their vision boards. Some teens donated their vision boards so that they can be displayed in the Johnston teen space. Ms. Garza hosted the BTS crafts and book club group on January 8. The group worked on designing resin coasters with ceramic tiles and BTS-themed vision boards. A handful of participants were new, and Teen Volunteers showed them how to design their own BTS-themed pinback buttons.

Library Assistant Ana Pina hosted the Adult Craft Time program on Saturday, January 14. Five adults created vision boards displaying their goals for the upcoming year. Ms. Pina hosted the first meeting of the Johnston No-pressure Book Club on Sunday, January 15. Participants gathered to talk about the books they were reading in January including *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann and *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque.

LEARN's Training Officer, Marcella McGowan provided the following programs. On January 11th and 18th, Ms. McGowan presented Prep for the Naturalization Test. Ms. McGowan went to Central Public Library on January 25th and conducted Career Tool Kit. The Learn area had 37 patrons accessing the Center this month.

LANDA

Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas began January by presenting and assisting with online Zoom programs including Family Story Time Online, Proud to Be Me: Rainbow Families Online, and Baby Time Online. Each program offered interactive readings of books, songs, and activities. Librarian Salinas along with a team of Children's Librarians helped coordinate Art Club Online for older children.

At Landa Library Ms. Salinas continued to offer weekly Baby Time and Outdoor Family Story Time for children aged zero to five years. She also continued Let's Create Process Art and Let's Build with Legos for older children to enjoy on Fridays.

In January, Librarian Salinas began a Tween Time program for children aged nine to twelve years. She also continued to serve the schools in the community with monthly visits to read to multiple classrooms at University Presbyterian Childcare Center and Rafael Gonzales Early Childhood Education Center.

Librarian Salinas assisted with keeping the Children's Services blog, Tiny Tots and Tween LibGuides updated with book recommendations and activities for children.

This month, The Village chose *The Personal Librarian* and had a lively discussion about the history of JP Morgan.

Readers Ink read *This Time Tomorrow* and were intrigued by the question: if a person could time travel back to any time, would they? What would they change? Many readers played with the idea, but, ultimately, the majority chose not to time travel.

This month's Mystery Book Club did not involve a book. Instead, Circulation Attendant Amy Peppersack put together a 1920's themed murder mystery theater. The group had a blast! They were so tickled! January was the 10th anniversary of the Landa Mystery Book Club and a perfect way to celebrate such a milestone.

LAS PALMAS

During the month of January, Las Palmas Adult Services Librarian Nicole San Martin hosted several programs for the community including "We Will Not Be Silenced: Our Voices, Our Stories" a hybrid program in collaboration with the Holocaust Museum of San Antonio to a crowd of thirty patrons that ended in a spirited Q&A and community discussion. Ms. San Martin also restarted a past program series: Tech Tuesday in which patrons receive one on one technology assistance with computers, smart phones, and other electronic devices. Open slots for January appointments were quickly filled by patrons.

With the help of Library Assistant Elvia Ramos, Ms. San Martin added Spanish-language movies to the branch's recurring Monday Movie Night program which screened *Nope*, *La Ley del Monte*, and *Thor: Love and Thunder* during January. Other offerings at the branch included a *Once Upon a Crime* book display featuring mysteries and crime fiction, as well as an adult Take-and Make in which patrons created mirrored trinket boxes using repurposed CDs.

Children's programming resumed at Las Palmas with staff members sharing stories, rhymes, and songs during weekly Story Time on Thursday's at 11:00am. Every other Thursday afternoon at 4:30pm, staff hosted Lego Time! A free-building program that encouraged children to build and create a design from scratch using their imagination. Every other Monday at 6:00pm, Las Palmas hosted Family Fun, where staff created a space for children and their grownups to enjoy activities such as board games, coloring, and crafting.

MAVERICK

As Maverick kicked off into the new year, attendance and circulation began to pick after the winter holidays. The Mah Jong group met twice in January. The Lady Mav's Book Club and The Ladies Choice Book Club also met for their monthly meeting. The Poetry Group also gathered during the reporting period. Andrew Riley, Ph.D. presented a well-received historic presentation about King Tut and the impact it has had culturally since the discovery of the pharaoh's tomb.

Children's Librarian II, Amy Roberts, spent quite a bit of the reporting period weeding the grubby items out of the children's collection. These included Board Books, Juvenile Graphic Novels, Juvenile Award books and some Juvenile Easy Books. In addition, Ms. Roberts sent duplicate Juvenile Easy books to Collection Development to redistribute to other library branches.

Ms. Roberts also did work for children's services and her children's librarian committees. She read "Annie's Cat is Sad" by Heather Smith on January 9 for Dial-A-Story. On January 14, Basham Nawati, a violinist from the San Antonio Philharmonic, played and talked about his violin and career to an enthusiastic audience of 15 kids and 8 adults. Ms. Roberts planned the Story Times for the last week of January and first week of February, as she was going on vacation. Thank you to Ana Menchaca, children's librarian at Forest Hills, for substituting for Ms. Roberts! Also, thank you to Library Assistant, Mary Lou Bleichwehl for subbing for Lego Time.

The children's librarian attended trainings and meetings during the reporting period. Ms. Roberts did Security Awareness Training on January 9. On January 11, she attended an in-person meeting at Central Library, which also included visiting Hopscotch, an interactive, sensory museum within walking distance of the Central Library. Along with the other children's librarians, Ms. Roberts thought it was a great team experience.

January Teen Time @ Maverick had a bittersweet moment for Library Assistant Bleichwehl. The group celebrated the work and dedication of one Teen who aged out of Teen Time. She had attended Teen Time since she was 13, became a volunteer at 14, and only missed Teen Time twice since she began volunteering. LA Bleichwehl presented her with a balloon bouquet and a thank you card, signed by Circulation Attendants Sarina Hackworth and Taylur Loera, with whom she also shared a unique bond. Prior to turning 18, this Teen took five college classes and had 2 internships during the fall semester of 2022, in addition to volunteering at Maverick and Great Northwest Branches.

Other activities at Teen Time in January included playing Beat Saber on the PlayStation VR, and Hedbanz, the board game. It is like a game of charades except that each player wears a headband into which they tuck a mystery card that they will need to guess. Initially, only one other Teen was willing to play Hedbanz, so the Teen who chose it asked LA Bleichwehl and Circ Attendant Loera to play. After observing the ridiculous antics of those who were attempting to give clues and hearing the outlandish

answers of those who were guessing, several more Teens joined in, and the group quit keeping track of the score. The laughter and camaraderie were infectious and two weeks later they played it again.

McCRELESS

Adult Services Librarian Vicky Villalobos continued her work on the Queer Committee. On January 23, she hosted Tabletop Gaymer Night at McCreless. She and committee colleagues are working to shift online queer programming to in-person programming in February with Queer Crafternoon. On January 9, Vicky served as program host and moderator for a Zoom presentation by Dr. Roger Barnes, "Antisemitic Propaganda: Then and Now" as part of this year's Holocaust Learn and Remember series. She was joined by Adult Services Librarian Nicole San Martin as moderator with the series coordinated by Adult Services Librarian Brooke Mjolsness. Vicky Villalobos also contributed to SAPL Live Trivia with a category on Anniversaries in Pop Culture, and partners with Librarians Brook Mjolsness and Dan Garcia and Adult Services Coordinator Morgan Yoshimura for this monthly program for patrons.

Library Assistant Joseph Gonzales hosted a Movie Night at McCreless called Thor Love and Thunder with 18 attendees. Mr. Gonzales also helped prepare the green screen for a photo session at the Staff Inservice Day. Joseph prepared and delivered a PowerPoint presentation to seniors on adult programs provided by San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) at the Northeast Senior Center. This program was so successful patrons returned to Semmes Library asking their staff make a similar presentation at their library.

January 2023 got off to a peaceful and serene start in the Learn Center with our new evening class, "Yoga Tuesdays at McCreless". During the last week of January, Learn Training Officer Lodie Mueller had the exciting opportunity to promote the Learn at SAPL program in a recorded interview with a KENS 5 TV reporter. Four patrons were gracious enough to participate in the interview as well, to share how they had benefited from Learn support. To top off the month, McC Learn is preparing to welcome a new part-time Training Officer, Christina Flores, who will join us in February. McCreless will be her headquarters, and she will spend half of her hours floating to the other five Learn Centers which are currently open. We are delighted that she is joining the dynamic Learn Team!

MEMORIAL

A quite a bit of changes occurred during the month of January. Physical serials and databases will still be utilizing EBSCO as vendor. Several new positions were filled across the San Antonio Public Library spectrum. These positions were from retiring staff and promotions within the City of San Antonio.

Memorial branch continued interim public services from the Marianist Archives located inside the St. Mary's University campus. Patrons were grateful to pick up and drop off items on a location very close to the Memorial branch.

The branch is diligently preparing for the grand opening during the month of February. Administrators, architects, and contractors continue to meet weekly onsite to review blueprints and ongoing construction details.

Besides his duties as Circulation attendant, Michelangelo Sosa has been working with the Find It! Page committee. He completed styling the LibGuide with Bootstrap CSS and jQuery and has begun implementing a more accurate search function for LibGuides that staff can easily use and find appropriate policy guidance for their specific situation.

Children's librarian Christine Deffendall continued assisting with children's programming at the McCreless Branch Library. Mrs. Deffendall has been hosting LEGO Clubs and Family Story Times also at McCreless branch library. She was invited to Jubilee Academy - Highland Park to speak to several families on January 26th about what the library has to offer to all community members. She continued her weekly outreach at the Westside YMCA, bringing stories and activities to children in the childcare area.

Mrs. Deffendall contributed to the Children's Services Blog on January 31. She reviewed *Roll for Initiative*, by Jaime Formato.

MISSION

January marked the beginning of the construction of the World Heritage Center on the site adjacent to the Mission Branch Library and the Mission Marquee Plaza. The perimeter construction fencing around the project site was installed. The new World Heritage Center will serve as a gateway to the San Antonio Missions. The estimated completion date is July 2024.

In observance of San Antonio Public Library's Holocaust Learn & Remember Series, a traveling exhibit, War of Ideas: Nazi Censorship and Book Burning, was on display from the 17th - 31st at Mission Library. Mission also hosted the closing program of the system-wide series of presenters. Anna Salton Eisen, an author and second-generation Holocaust Survivor, recounted her accidental discovery, as a youth, of two watercolor paintings by her father that depict the horrors of the Holocaust. This special event was also live streamed on the library's YouTube channel for those who could not attend in person.

In observance of Chinese New Year, Mission Library offered Year of the Rabbit origami Take-and Make kits with an informational zine on the tradition. A display featuring books on the subject was created as well.

In partnership with Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) from AARP, a lecture, Job Searching in Digital Age, was held at Mission on January 26th. It gave an overview of how to use social media in your job search, demonstrated digital job-searching tools like LinkedIn, and offered tips and advice to job seekers.

January began with Mission teens creating their own journals for the new year. Blank journals and markers were provided. Teens sat together and created different types of journals including sleep trackers and mood trackers. The purpose of the journals is to encourage healthy habits and to create a space to communicate and vent. Also, this month, teens also made "emoji cookies" and organized a movie night. Teens also learned the art of Indian cooking when the San Antonio Food Bank taught teens how to make Indian Curry.

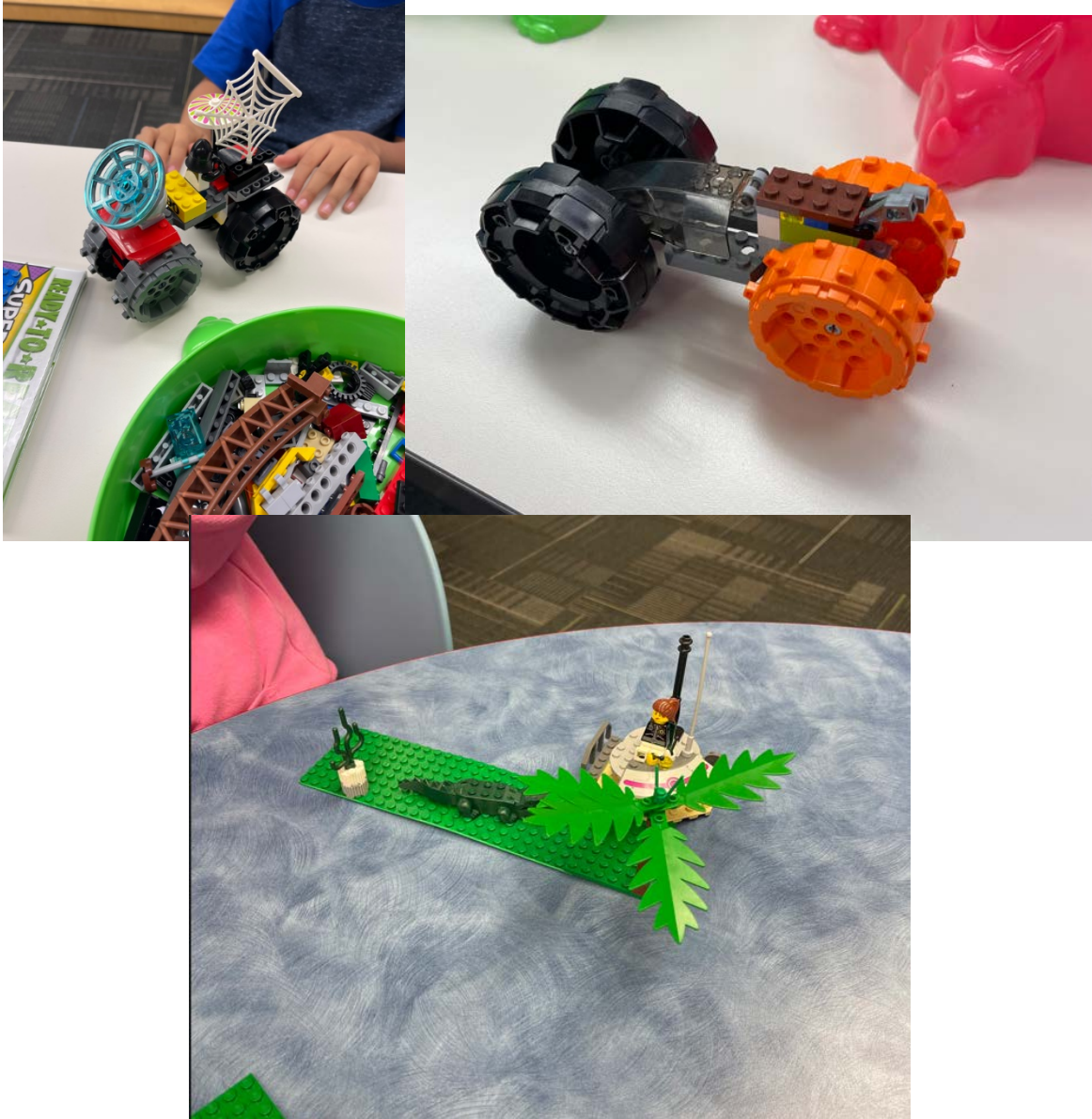
Children's programming, Baby Time and Story Time resumed at Mission after the winter break. The programs were offered regularly on Wednesdays.

PAN AMERICAN

January saw the welcome return of Meditation Classes to the Pan American Branch Library. The classes had taken a break for the holidays. Participants continue to enjoy meditation classes. Classes are held every Saturday from 10:15am to 11:15am in the Pan American Branch Library Meeting Room. Classes are free and open to the public and geared towards adults.

On January 14th, The Cancer Is One Cancer (C.I.O.C.) Support Group held their monthly meeting at the Branch. These meeting are open to the public and provide support to individuals needing the talk about how Cancer has impacted or is impacting their life. All are welcome to join in this support group.

The Pan American children's librarian held Let's Build: Lego Time every Wednesday at 4pm for school age children. Throughout the month of January, children were given challenges and created unique and amazing creations with their peers. Challenges tackled included things from building your own car to building your own spaceship.



In addition, the children's librarian held Family Story Time on Mondays at 1pm where she sang songs, did fun rhymes, and told stories to children and families. Stories read included: *How Many Baby Animals?* by Guido Van Genechten, *Princess Puffybottom...and Darryl*, by Susin Nielsen and Olivia Chin Mueller, *Misunderstood Shark*, by Ame Dyckman, and *One-osaurus, two-osaurus*, by Kim Norman. Included within the program was a craft that children could do with their families and peers. Crafts included things like torn paper hearts and both learning and creating a mandala.

Along with other children's librarians in the system, the children's librarian participated in both Art Club ONLINE and Family Story Time ONLINE. For Family Story Time Online she did opening songs at one program and then read and did songs for another. The story she read was *Fluffy McWhiskers Cuteness*

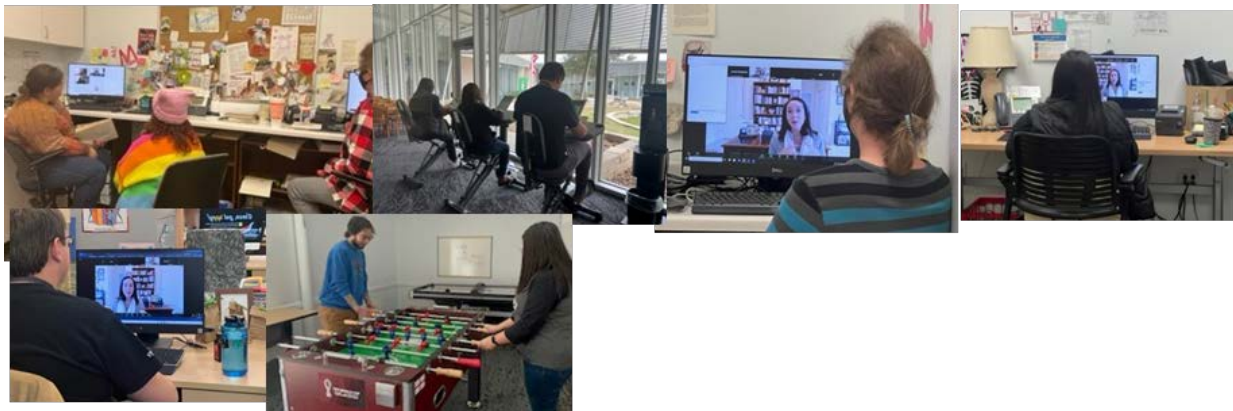
Explosion by, Stephen W. Martin, and some of the songs she did were If Your Happy and You Know it..., Head Shoulders Knees and Toes, and a Hello Song that incorporated American Sign Language.

Finally, the children's librarian did her monthly outreach at La Petite Academy on Wurzbach where she sang and told stories to children at the daycare. She taught songs, along with read two books for those in attendance.

Gladys Nunez, Teen Services Librarian, facilitated opportunities for teens at the Branch to share their creativity. Teen volunteers continue to provide ideas for book displays and for decorating the teen area. One of the teen volunteers came up with a book display titled "Branch Out and Try a New YA Genre This Year" which proved to be popular at the branch with numerous titles getting checked out. This month, teens enjoyed listening to music while working on various crafts and activities. They made figurines out of clay and had an idea to make a new poster advertising Teen Time in the teen area. They worked together to figure out the theme and colors and were excited to see the final product up in the teen area. Ms. Nunez also participated in an outreach with the Teen Pride committee she is a part of. Several members of the committee met up at Communication Arts High School to talk to the Pride Club at their meeting. We talked to the students about library services and how the library can be a resource to them. We gave out outreach materials including highlighters, bookmarks, post it notes, and advanced reader copies.

PARMAN

The first staff in-service day at Parman took place in January and staff used the 4 hours to attend the mandatory training via Webex and catch up on all their monthly required trainings. Some worked on their projects as well. After that was done, branch manager Barbara Kwiatkowski arranged for staff to have a 30 min. guided meditation class. The class focused on why meditation is important for stress-relief and gave simple practices to help staff meditate throughout their workday. Staff then ended the last hour of in-service with fun team building activities that reinforced collaboration, teamwork and gave everyone a chance to know their colleagues a little better.



This January the San Antonio Jaguar Club partnered with the Parman library to invite the public to their annual meetings and showcase of vintage Jaguar Motor Vehicles once every other month. Anyone interested in Jaguars will be able to drop in to see the clubs' presentations, ask questions, and learn all about these classic icons of the road. The Jaguar Club is excited to be partnering with the library so they

can get in touch with their local community. This is sure to be a riveting addition to the library's programming and get everyone interested in the vast history of vintage Jags.

Crocheting, knitting, embroidery, cross stitch! The Yarnies have it all. Parman's fiber arts club, "The Yarnies", gained five new members in just the first month of the year. This burgeoning club has been always community favorite and has members of all generations. Its youngest member is just 14 years old. It has brought staff so much joy to know there is still so much interest in the group all the different projects brought in are a true wonder.

Parman's art gallery featured a new collection this past January by local artist, Robert Garza, and was brought to the branch by adult librarian, Monty Holcomb. Mr. Garza's themes tend to be landscape and seascapes, with Texas, New Mexico, and other areas of the Southwest often serving as his background. The pieces included at the library are calming and mystic landscapes that are a delight to behold for patrons as they peruse the halls on their way to weekly programs.

In January, teen services librarian Zachary Woolston met with Parman Teens who suggested retro gaming for a future teen time. Retro games were delivered, and Parman teens enjoyed many classic games such as Pac Man World and Sonic the Hedgehog during two of the month's Teen Time programs. A new teen volunteer was trained and brought onboard, while other volunteers were encouraged to help design the branch's new Teen Book Display, a New Year themed "New Year, New Age Romance" display.

Parman's Spanish Story Time, Cuentos y Canciones, presented by talented library aide Veronica Yau has been growing. Participants are enjoying the fun songs and their favorite is "Mi Cuerpo Hace Música." At the last Spanish Story Time, Ms. Veronica noticed that the Spanish speakers were helping the new-to-Spanish speakers learn the words for the craft items they were using. This is what building community is about.

In a Baby Story Time presented by children's librarian Lisa Taylor it is a treat to see the infants that started attending in September are now walking and participating in the fingerplays and songs. Several bounces, like "Toast in the Toaster," are repeated each week, and the babies have a look of anticipation on their face as they ready themselves for "up we pop!"

The children attending the Family Story Time hosted also by Lisa Taylor love using the scarves and maracas. Laurie Berkner's "I Know a Chicken" is popular song for maracas. Each Story Time is followed by play time. Gross motor and fine motor skills are addressed as well as sensory items and process art. Popular activities are watercolor painting, dress up and Legos.



The Creator Club presented by children's librarian Teague Shosh started back up again with an opportunity to create splatter paint monsters with watercolors and straws. Kids had a blast making monsters of every shape, size, and color! When they were finished, participants worked on a collaborative art piece together. Another favorite activity this month included building cardboard structures to make a village that was displayed on the shelves in the children's area for all to see!

Tween Time is back at Parman, and it was a small but lively group lead by Ms. Teague. They all were enjoying the fun and with lots of talking and laughing, they made creations out of Perler beads, decouped mason jars and created bookmarks using the laminator.

POTRANCO

To kick off the new year, Librarian Zeig invited Melissa Gonzales of Metro Health to host a seven-week diabetes prevention program series centered on creating healthy habits. So far, the group has met four times and all meetings have been well-attended.

Librarian Zeig assisted with Holocaust Remembrance Week by moderating two well-attended Zoom programs. The first presentation on January 15th, "Writing Home About the Holocaust", was presented by Dr. Edward Westermann of Texas A&M University-San Antonio and the second one on January 17th, "We Will Not Be Silenced", was presented by Reyna Stovall a graduate student at Fordham University.

On January 21st, the Potranco Library celebrated the Lunar New Year by hosting a Chinese New Year celebration with Yaping Zhang. Ms. Zhang spoke to the audience about the creation of the Chinese Zodiac and each of the animals that are a part of it. Audience members participated in several dragon

dances and learned how to make traditional Chinese pork dumplings.



On January 31st, Librarian Zeig hosted acclaimed cookbook author Yvette Jemison for an author talk and dessert tasting. Mrs. Jemison spoke about everything that went into making her cookbook, the publishing industry, and her San Antonio roots. Mrs. Jemison brought empanada dough for guests to replicate her beautiful crimping technique and lots of baked goodies. We had a fabulous turnout despite the cold, wet weather and patrons really enjoyed the program.



Librarian Zeig started her two new book clubs this month; unfortunately, attendance was lower than expected for a variety of reasons. She has increased promotion of both and has heard from patrons that are planning to attend next month. Librarian Zeig has continued to support and assist circulation attendant Miranda Reyes with her Dreaded Threads program.

The Potranco branch participated in Collection Development's New Year, New Ideas book display initiative for January as well as promoting books by authors from countries that celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Children's programming is back at full force at Potranco.

Children's Librarian Lisa Leandro hosted Story Time. With over 30 kids in attendance for the month, the Potranco community was happy to see the return of programming.

Ms. Leandro also hosted the first Bilingual Story Time and continues to host the very popular Lego Time.



PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS

Pruitt's Children's Services continued its *Let's Build*, *Children's Yoga*, and *Tween Yoga* weekly programs, adding a new *Toddler Story Time* in January of 2023. Children and their parents enjoyed the Winter and Lunar New Year-themed stories, songs, and movement rhymes. Toddlers made new friends, sang, danced, and shook the parachute to music. Toddlers also spent a rainy Sunday reading about rainy days, the water cycle, popping bubbles, and dancing to rainy-day music. *Let's Build* participants completed a rainy-day challenge to build a structure that would keep the rain off. *Children's Yoga* and *Tween Yoga* participants learned new poses and meditations to guide them into the new year with a focus on maintaining positive energy and mindset.



Pruitt's Teen Services offered unique crafting opportunities in January along with regular branch programming. Teen Anime Hour paid homage to the Lunar New Year and teens combined Zodiac animal rock painting while viewing *Fruits Basket*, a Zodiac-themed anime and fan favorite. Teens interested in STEM activities had the opportunity to create an LED Light bookmark Take-and-Make craft. With the use

of simple copper tape conductors, a battery, and LED lights, teens created and customized light-up bookmarks.

Two Dungeons and Dragons campaigns ran smoothly with adventure (and lots of laughs) at every turn! This program will be expanding further with an upcoming campaign that will be completely teen developed, organized, and led. The branch can't wait to see how teens utilize branch resources and their imaginations. Teen Chess participants may be seeing some interesting additions soon as plans for "Chess Battles" between resident Chess Master Alex Weinberg and teen chess enthusiasts are in the works.

Pruitt Teen Services and Adult Services joined forces to host *Loom a Beanie*, where patrons used circle looms to create one-of-a-kind hats.



Participants in the adult *Historical Fiction Book Club* discussed *Last Dance on the Starlight Pier* by Sarah Bird ("I really didn't know much about dance marathons, certainly not them being such a huge thing in Galveston," noted a patron). *Adult Virtual Coloring* continued Friday afternoons. The *Special Needs Adult Program* group met to read *Arnold the Donut* and made donut suncatchers.

Rackspace-sponsored *Family Chess* in person and *Chess Lesson Livestream* online met Tuesday evenings with chess master Alex Weinberg in a discussion of chess games and strategy.

Pruitt staff and Roosevelt High School Family Specialist Melissa Mendiola paired up to host an informational session with Lourn Marquez-Carrasquillo from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

An attentive and engaged audience greeted Shokare Nakpodia, who provided *A Journey Through His Eyes*, a conversation about his personal journey and the genesis and evolution of DreamWeek in San Antonio.

SAN PEDRO

The San Pedro Branch continued to be bustling with computer usage, WI-FI access, and patrons from closed branches visiting to pick up holds or browse the collection.

In January, the San Pedro Branch continued its Shelves of Sharing to share small, warm articles of clothing to those in need. Donations came from the staff and the public. The branch also partnered with Council District 1 Office to collect donations for jackets for residents in need. Both efforts were successful this year.

The new year brought in new Saturday programs for Children's Services at San Pedro. The first and third Saturdays featured a 4-hour long opportunity to create crafts – Let's Create: Come and Go Crafts. One week was a 3D art rendering and the other was a Lunar New Year dragon puppet. The second Saturday is a Story Time for babies and their grownups. The fourth Saturday is a preschool Story Time. Branch staff are hoping to build a following for these regular events. Let's Build: Legos and More continued on Tuesdays after school.

In January, the San Pedro Branch continued to provide the community an opportunity to play chess together. The matches were 30-minute time control for each side with entire game of 1 hour. Additionally, the branch continued to host "Yarn Over to San Pedro" where the public could knit and crochet different projects. Needle crafters of all kinds were welcomed and invited to bring their own project to work on. Beginners were welcomed as well. Once you get started, we'll have you hooked!

Starting in January, Adult Services Librarian, Diana Starrett, began visiting the Wheatley Senior Center. During her once monthly visits, Ms. Starrett teaches residents how to knit and crochet. Their first project to work on will be simple potholders. Diana reports the residents are very interested in learning and always have an enjoyable time working together.

SCHAEFER

Schaefer's children's librarian Leslie Elsasser started off 2023 by offering a variety of programs for children. She started a new program called Let's Build: Blocks & More on Mondays. Kids had the opportunity to build with Magne-tiles, different types of blocks and Straws and Connectors. She also continued Story Time, LEGO Time, Come & Go Art and Read to A Dog. Also continuing through the end of January was the winter scavenger hunt. Children could search the library for winter animals hiding. Each day staff moved the animals around so kids could participate during each visit. Kids could also decorate a snowman at the coloring table to hang on the winter display in the children's area.

Library Assistant Blanca Silvia Hernandez hosted Schaefer's Craft program where patrons enjoyed coloring flowers and then embroidered the outline of the flowers. The final piece displayed their work with the center featuring the quote "Live, Love, Laugh." Blanca also co-hosted the Holocaust Learn and Remember: We Will Not Be Silenced: Our Words, Our Stories zoom program with Librarian Andrew Crews. She assisted Librarian Leslie Elsasser with weekly Children's programs. Blanca published a catalog list of popular titles for Schaefer's I ♥ Vinyl (Digital Edition) monthly program and created books displays with Winter themed book covers, National Plan for a Vacation Day, Netflix's Read A-Likes for popular series and around the theme "New Year, New Ideas."

On Wednesday, January 25, Schaefer hosted the first in-person Library Board meeting in 2023. Branch Manager Maria Adams presented a report to the board detailing programs and outreach efforts from staff to support the community.

In January, Dacari Lambert, Teen Services Librarian at Schaefer Branch Library facilitated weekly Teen Time alongside 2 teen volunteers. Dacari actively participated in the following teen services workgroups: Professional Development, Teen Pride, and Discord. Systemwide, Dacari participated in the Leadership Training workgroup, alongside the Organizational Health Unit, the San Antonio Public Library's Pride Committee, SAPL's Trauma Informed Care Committee, and was a guest on Tune In, SAPL's premiere podcast. Additionally, Dacari partnered with Matthew Loaiza to provide guidance to Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries about starting a teen services Discord Server.

At Schaefer branch, Dacari hosted a variety of branch wide programs including Mercado por tu Corazon and a Board Game Social. Dacari continues to work with East Central High School to display rotating teen art on the gallery walls in the teen space.

Assistant Manager, Daniel Garcia, returned from serving as interim branch manager at the Pan American Branch after a four-month assignment.

SEMMEs

The month of January started off on the 2nd with a Read to a Dog session in which 14 children, accompanied by 13 grownups, read stories to Quincy from 4-5 PM. Ms. Randi and Ms. Valerie presented Preschool Story Times on Wednesdays to a total of 145 children, accompanied by 107 grownups. Ms. Randi started a Toddler Story Time on Thursdays at 10 AM. She presented that program to a total of 62 children and 42 grownups in this month. She also continued her Baby Story Time on Thursdays at 11 AM and presented that to 46 children and 50 grownups. Semmes also had two Let's Build program sessions on Monday, January 9, and January 23 in which 22 children (accompanied by 11 adults) built structures and sculptures with a variety of materials (LEGOs, DUPLOs, Straws and Connectors, Brain Flakes, and wooden blocks). Ms. Randi presented the closing songs for Family Story Time Online on January 11th and did the introduction and spotlighting for that program on January 25th. She also recorded the story for the Dial-a-Story line on January 3, 13, 24 and 27. Her curated Toddler Story Time for the book, Maggie, and Michael Get Dressed by Denise Fleming, premiered on SAPL's webpage on January 23.

Teen Time continued Tuesdays in January. The teens spent a lot of time playing board games and card games with each other this month. Some even brought games from home to teach the rest of the group how to play.

Tween Time on Wednesdays is also ongoing. Tweens have enjoyed playing ping pong and experimenting with different art mediums, though Uno remains their favorite game.

Ms. Valerie also continued hosting Story Time every other week, hosting on January 11th with a penguin themed Story Time and on January 25th with a weather themed Story Time. Children sang, talked, moved, played, and enjoyed stories each week.

On January 18th, Ms. Valerie went to Harris Middle School for an outreach with a parent group. The NEISD Student & Family Liaison for the school hosted a meetup with their Family Engagement Leadership Academy. Valerie was able to share with the parents how to get a library card; how to use the online catalog to find and put on hold items; all the programs for children, adults, teens, and tweens at Semmes; volunteer opportunities for their students; and databases available to them through their library

account. The 11 parents who attended asked wonderful questions about the library and were able to sign up for online cards if they didn't already have one.

The art teacher at Harris Middle School also stopped by this month to exchange art pieces on display at Semmes. Patrons have commented that they enjoy seeing what the students create.

Semmes Adult services continued its popular on-going Chess Club and restarted the Table Tennis program on Thursday afternoons due to patron request. Together, they drew more than 60 patrons. Additionally, Mr. Mark had three scheduled computer tutoring sessions, helping adults to learn to use e-mail, locate contact information on-line, and even shop for tours of the San Antonio Riverwalk. Semmes Crochet time on Monday evenings have continued to draw groups of crafters, both experienced and novice.

THOUSAND OAKS

Assistant Branch Manager Brooke Mjolsness hosted in-person Yoga Class programs led by instructors from the Parks and Recreation Department on January 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. She served as co-host and chat moderator for the virtual Film Noir Movie Club program on January 10. She hosted a program for the Holocaust: Learn & Remember initiative on January 18. Dr. Roger Barnes led the presentation titled "Antisemitic Propaganda: Then & Now." On January 24, Ms. Mjolsness held an in-person movie program. Attendees watched *In a Lonely Place*. Light refreshments were provided courtesy of the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library. On January 27, she served as Master of Ceremonies for the virtual SAPL Live Trivia program.

Children's Librarian Cheryl Penick served as co-host for the virtual Baby Time programs on January 6, 13, 20 and 27. She held the in-person Arts & Crafts Friday programs on January 6, 20 and 27. Ms. Penick held the Music & Movement programs on January 7 and 14. She served as co-host for the virtual Toddler Time programs on January 18 and 25. She decorated a bulletin board in celebration of the Chinese New Year, and assembled themed book bundles for families to check-out.

Librarian Kimberly King held in-person Teen Time programs on January 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. She held an in-person Thursday Book Club program on January 17. Participants discussed *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. She facilitated an outreach book group at the Northeast Senior Center on January 25. Attendees discussed *An Unexpected Guest* by Shari Lapena. She created an interactive activity which encouraged teens to share responses to question - "What will you try or do new this year?"

Library Assistant Mari Carmen Castellano held an Adult Craft Time program on January 18. Attendees made DIY Bullet Journals. She held an Animal Crossing Party program on January 25. Attendees played mini games and visited each other's islands. She assisted Librarian Brooke Mjolsness with preparations for a virtual SAPL Live Trivia program, and with creating a list of craft ideas for upcoming programs with community partner WellMed.

TOBIN LIBRARY AT OAKWELL

San Antonio Philharmonic musician, Rachel Ferris, came to play her harp as part of the "M is for Musicians" partnership with San Antonio Public Library. Ms. Ferris played and shared information about

this instrument to a large crowd of 130 folks on January 28. Kids especially enjoyed being able to pluck a few strings after the program.



Children's programs started up in January with Children's Librarian, Barbaraella Frazier, offering a new Toddler Story Time on Tuesday's at 1:00pm. Librarian, Kara Baily, now hosts a Pre-K Story Time on Thursday's mornings. Both events are seeing growing attendance.

Teen programming at Tobin continues to grow and flourish. Teen Librarian, Melissa Carroll, and Ms. Bailey initiated a weekly Anime Club based on teen feedback. Averaging 15-20 teens each week, teens watch shows like *My Hero Academia* and films from Studio Ghibli along with other clever activities from this art form. Library Assistant, David Hazlett, and Circulation Attendant, Sabrina Longoria, a recent Library Science Master's graduate, began a Dungeon and Dragon program held twice this month. A small group of teens are enthusiastically enjoying this role playing and strategic game.

With an early release day on January 17, many Garner Middle School teens and pre-teens got creative making jewelry and beaded bracelets for the afternoon at Tobin as pictured below.



Tobin welcomed Student Intern, Sherry Ross, on January 24 as Ms. Ross is completing her practicum for her Masters in Library and Information Science from The University of North Texas. Ms. Ross is assisting with programs for all age groups and learning to help library computer users navigate systems and print documents.

WESTFALL

Machaia, the Adult Services Librarian at Westfall, joined the Wall of Warmth initiative and held bi-weekly fiber-arts meetups to create items for the Wall of Warmth. She also joined the Women's History Month and Poetry Month initiatives and began the planning process with those teams. Machaia ordered and organized a display offering tax forms and resources for tax season including tax form instructions, Vita locations, and a QR code to the forms online. Machaia also organized a celebration for Children's Librarian Imelda Merino's 40th anniversary with SAPL.



On January 24th, Westfall Children's Librarian, Imelda Merino, participated in an Art Club Online, contributing a few ideas for making Valentines. She also planned and led four Preschool Story Times. Family Story Times were held on two Saturdays of the month, and The Discovery School first graders came to the library twice in January to hear a story on a specific topic and then check out books. Imelda continued her ongoing work of gathering and reading books in preparation for the creation of lists for Summer Reading and the Faith Traditions LibGuide.

Heather, the Teen Services Librarian at Westfall, has observed teens beginning to come to the weekly Teen Time program at the branch. A new teen volunteer has taken over leading the Teen Time program. She selects the first activity of the night and encourages other teens who are in the library to join in. The teen volunteer has a friendly and outgoing personality and strives to include others, whether she knows them or not, which makes everyone feel welcome. She also leaves room for other activities to occur spontaneously in the Teen Space and for those who don't wish to join the group to do activities of their

choice. Having a teen volunteer take the lead in Teen Time is improving the quality of their library experience for all the teens who attend.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

KEY INDICATORS

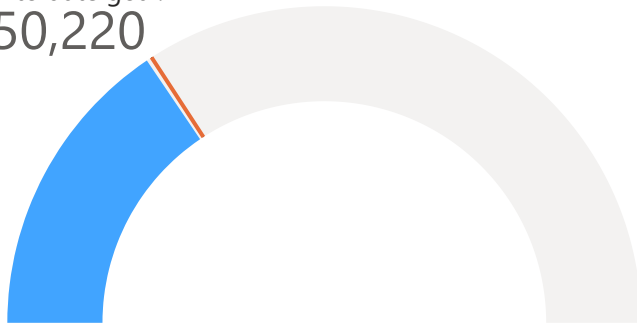
COVID-19 has greatly affected overall Library service usage in FY 2020 and FY 2021. Performance goals for FY 2022 and FY 2023 were adjusted accordingly.

January 2023

FY 2023

Circulation: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:
2,650,220



8,372,907

FY 2023 to date Items Borrowed

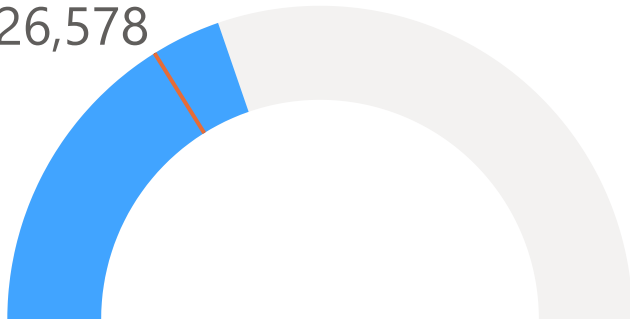


2,602,318

(-1.81%)
Circulation

Visits: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:
826,578



2,562,592

FY 2023 to date Library Visits

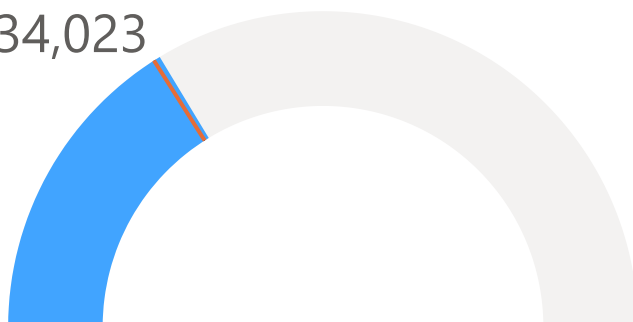


1,010,286

(+22.23%)
Visits

Digital Access: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:
634,023



1,983,921

FY 2023 to date Digital Access



76,171

Hours of Computer Use



571,497

Hours of Wi-Fi Use

647,667

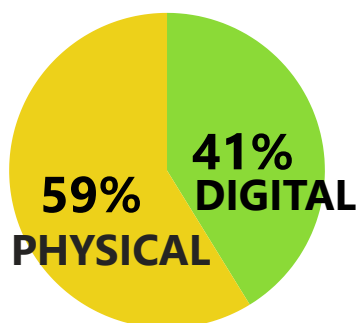
(+2.15%)
Wi-Fi Hours
and Computer Use

SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS

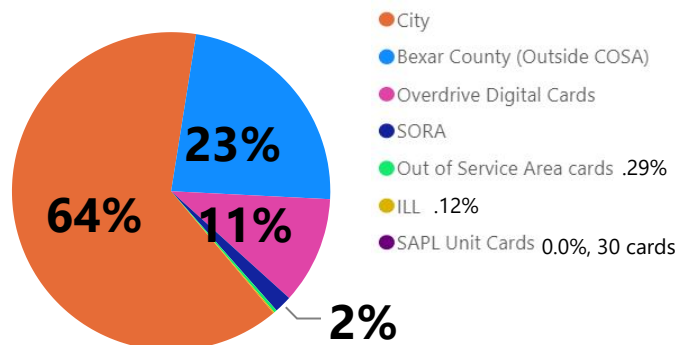
January 2023 (CONTINUED)

USE OF COLLECTION: FISCAL YEAR 2023

CIRCULATION BY TYPE



CIRCULATION BY SERVICE AREA



VIRTUAL: FISCAL YEAR 2023



512,525
MYSAPL.ORG
VISITS

7,466
MYSAPL
APP DOWNLOADS

255,153
OVERDRIVE
SITE VISITS

898,588
SOCIAL MEDIA
IMPRESSIONS

PROGRAMS & ATTENDANCE: FISCAL YEAR 2023

Total	Early Literacy (0-5)	School Age (6-12)	Teens (13-18)	Adults (19+)	Older Adults (60+)	General Interest*
3,116 programs	875 programs	543 programs	882 programs	699 programs	66 programs	51 programs
51,710 attendance	19,943 attendance	14,718 attendance	7,981 attendance	7,576 attendance	432 attendance	1,060 attendance

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

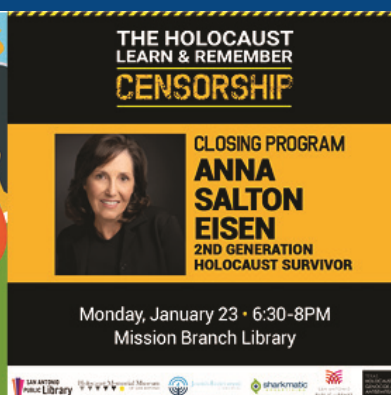
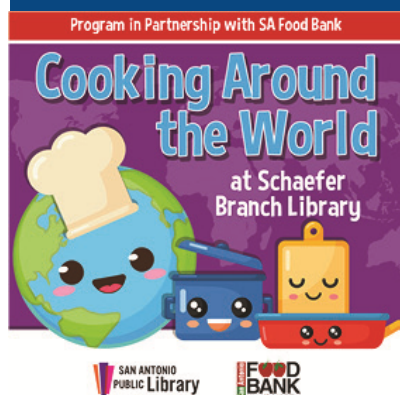
23

PROGRAM VIDEOS UPLOADED

8,971

PROGRAM VIDEO VIEWS

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS



San Antonio Public Library

January 2023 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
▲					
Bazan	2,704	4,990	5,563	1,031	4,532
Brook Hollow	25,552	10,137	5,138	838	4,301
Carver	2,609	5,067	3,838	892	2,947
Central	9,785	18,922	20,994	2,669	18,325
Cody	31,702	12,773	9,910	1,090	8,820
Collins Garden	3,482	3,548	2,650	383	2,267
Cortez	212	112	0	0	0
Digital	296,653	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Encino	19,457	8,126	6,003	249	5,754
Forest Hills	237	53	809	0	809
Great Northwest	24,910	10,660	6,461	678	5,783
Guerra	5,800	4,929	3,739	522	3,217
Igo	35,480	16,348	10,516	575	9,941
Interlibrary Loan	1,254	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Johnston	8,750	5,473	3,317	437	2,881
Kampmann	n/a	479	108	0	108
Landa	11,617	11,165	3,953	339	3,614
Las Palmas	4,279	2,124	4,426	883	3,543
Maverick	23,886	7,467	6,607	776	5,831
McCreless	6,429	2,705	4,705	905	3,799
Memorial	635	82	355	0	355
Mission	10,285	9,391	4,941	782	4,159
Pan American	5,315	3,454	2,771	419	2,352
Parman	31,287	16,332	7,035	250	6,785
Potranco	16,544	7,670	14,022	612	13,410
Pruitt	4,152	4,416	4,645	183	4,462
San Pedro	3,409	4,138	5,167	557	4,610
Schaefer	7,935	6,894	4,944	498	4,446
Semmes	29,295	8,958	7,502	1,138	6,364
System	32,264	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Thousand Oaks	5,953	5,331	4,877	696	4,181
Tobin	16,406	10,183	5,065	725	4,340
Westfall	8,228	5,572	4,806	766	4,041
Total	686,506	207,491	164,869	18,893	145,977

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

San Antonio Public Library Programs

January 2023

Location	Early Literacy Programs (0-5)	School Age Programs (6-12)	Teen Programs (13-18)	Adult Programs (19+)	Older Adults Programs (60+)	General Interest Programs*	Total
Bazan	0	13	0	4	4	0	21
Brook Hollow	7	4	0	0	0	0	11
Carver	5	5	0	10	1	0	21
Central	5	0	60	4	1	1	71
Cody	11	10	18	11	0	1	51
Collins Garden	5	7	5	1	0	0	18
Cortez	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Encino	11	9	6	5	8	1	40
Forest Hills	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Great Northwest	5	10	7	2	1	0	25
Guerra	3	3	4	1	0	3	14
Igo	16	5	4	7	0	1	33
Johnston	4	6	4	6	0	0	20
Landa	15	5	4	0	0	0	24
Las Palmas	3	3	6	5	3	1	21
Little Read Wagon	11	0	4	7	0	0	22
Maverick	9	4	5	4	2	0	24
McCreless	3	0	4	6	0	0	13
Memorial	0	5	0	4	0	0	9
Mission	8	1	5	14	1	4	33
Pan American	5	3	3	5	0	0	16
Parman	11	8	5	0	16	0	40
Potranco	2	2	0	12	0	1	17
Pruitt	4	8	12	4	0	4	32
San Pedro	2	7	0	3	1	0	13
Schaefer	4	11	6	0	0	4	25
Semmes	12	6	6	1	1	1	27
System	7	4	24	13	1	2	51
Thousand Oaks	1	3	5	9	1	0	19
Tobin	7	16	10	6	0	0	39
Westfall	6	4	4	2	1	0	17
Total	182	162	212	147	42	24	769

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

San Antonio Public Library Program Attendance

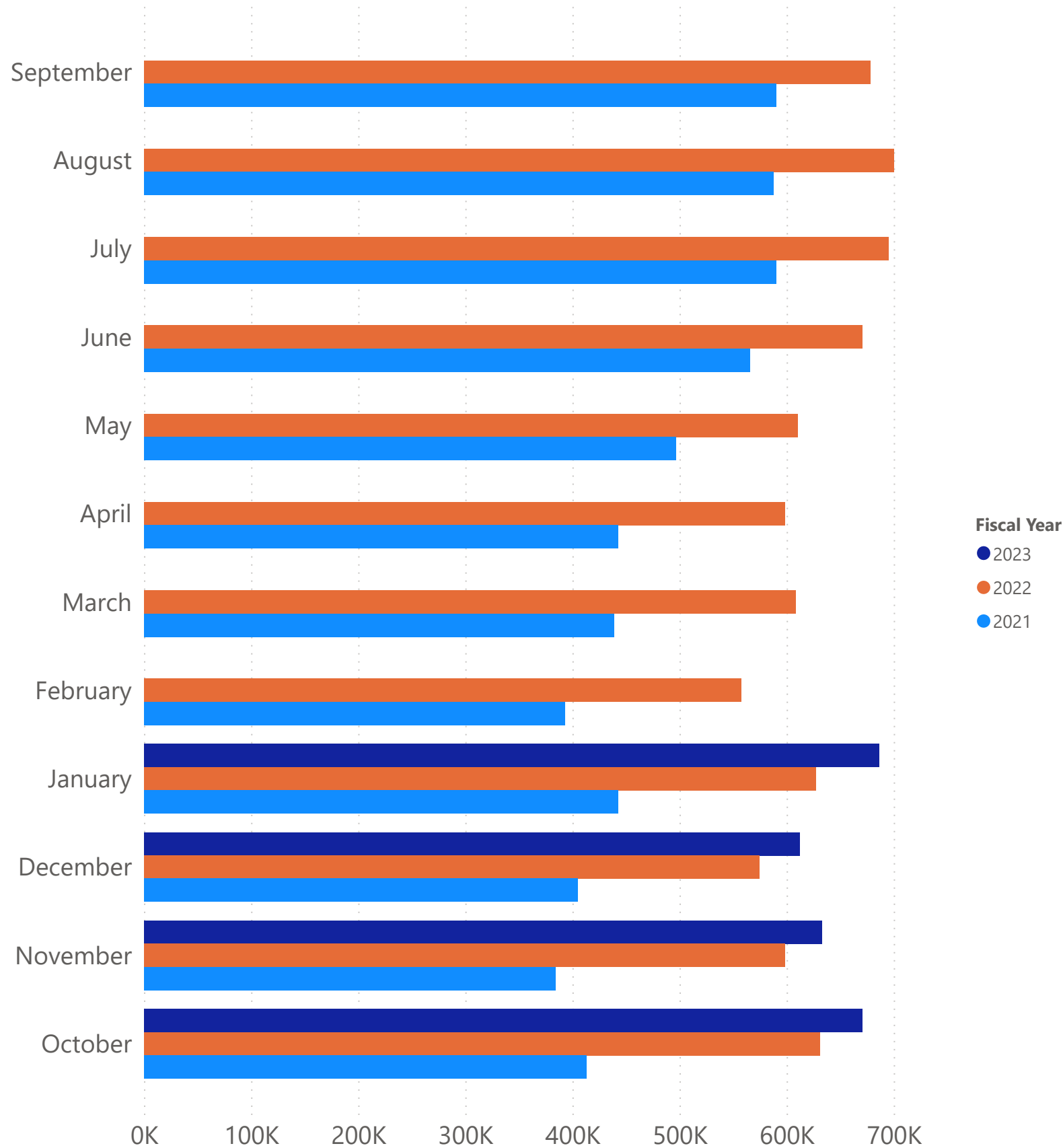
January 2023

Location	Early Literacy Attendance (0-5)	School Age Attendance (6-12)	Teen Attendance (13-18)	Adult Attendance (19+)	Older Adults Attendance (60+)	General Interest Attendance*	Total
Bazan	0	45	0	17	18	0	80
Brook Hollow	211	125	0	0	0	0	336
Carver	69	34	0	47	10	0	160
Central	69	0	393	26	15	20	523
Cody	320	186	242	90	0	14	852
Collins Garden	214	17	10	3	0	0	244
Cortez	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Encino	536	174	97	58	44	18	927
Forest Hills	0	0	60	0	0	0	60
Great Northwest	407	266	129	9	10	0	821
Guerra	27	5	12	6	0	21	71
Igo	799	41	22	62	0	4	928
Johnston	179	118	58	26	0	0	381
Landa	449	72	6	0	0	0	527
Las Palmas	4	6	6	57	2	0	75
Little Read Wagon	274	0	17	58	0	0	349
Maverick	324	103	59	37	2	0	525
McCreless	14	0	12	46	0	0	72
Memorial	0	53	0	12	0	0	65
Mission	50	7	29	120	5	34	245
Pan American	37	16	5	25	0	0	83
Parman	342	416	18	0	131	0	907
Potranco	27	48	0	62	0	87	224
Pruitt	51	81	133	41	0	32	338
San Pedro	4	37	0	8	9	0	58
Schaefer	55	213	34	0	0	49	351
Semmes	457	89	23	11	2	15	597
System	100	153	126	261	17	2	659
Thousand Oaks	7	19	2	71	11	0	110
Tobin	94	370	147	50	0	0	661
Westfall	45	34	14	0	0	0	93
Total	5,165	2,728	1,654	1,203	276	296	11,322

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

San Antonio Public Library

Circulation

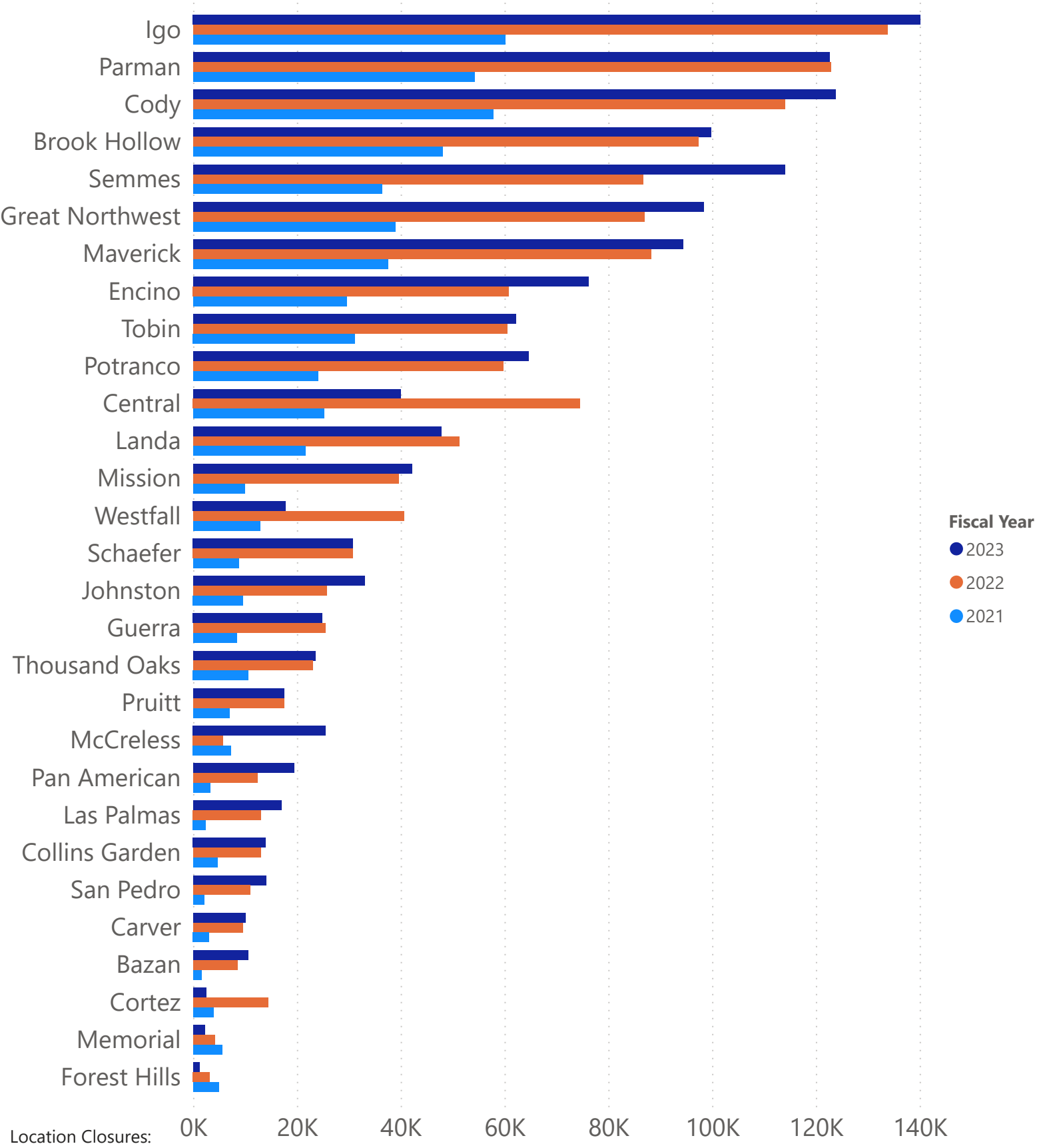


Location Closures:

FY 23: Forest Hills Oct 1-TBD, Memorial Oct 1 - TBD, Westfall Oct 1 - Nov 29, Cortez Oct 1 - TBD
FY 22: Forest Hills Oct 1-Sep 30, McCreless Oct 1-Apr 15, Memorial Oct 1 - Sep 30, Westfall Mar 28 - Sep 30, Bazan April 11-June 4, Cortez Sept 6 - Sep 30
FY 21: Forest Hills Oct 1-Jan 12, McCreless Nov 2-Sep 30, San Pedro Dec 2-May 4, Forest Hills Feb 15-Sep 30, Memorial Mar 2-Sep 30

San Antonio Public Library

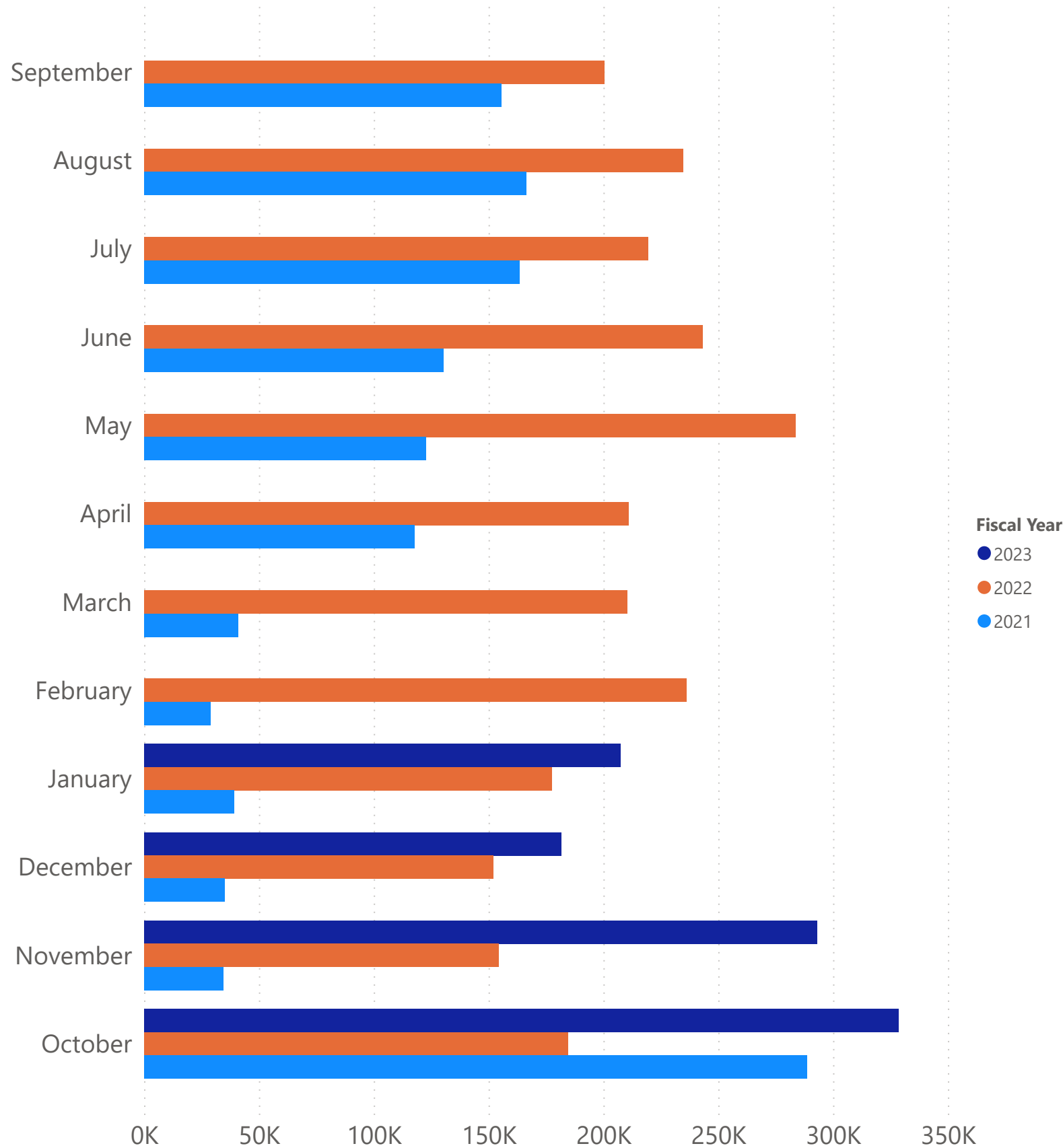
Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - January 2023



FY 23: Forest Hills Oct 1-TBD, Memorial Oct 1 - TBD, Westfall Oct 1 - Nov 29, Cortez Oct 1 - TBD
FY 22: Forest Hills Oct 1-Sep 30, McCreless Oct 1-Apr 15, Memorial Oct 1 - Sep 30, Westfall Mar 28 - Sep 30, Bazan April 11-June 4, Cortez Sept 6 - Sep 30
FY 21: Forest Hills Oct 1-Jan 12, McCreless Nov 2-Sep 30, San Pedro Dec 2-May 4, Forest Hills Feb 15-Sep 30, Memorial Mar 2-Sep 30

San Antonio Public Library

Visits

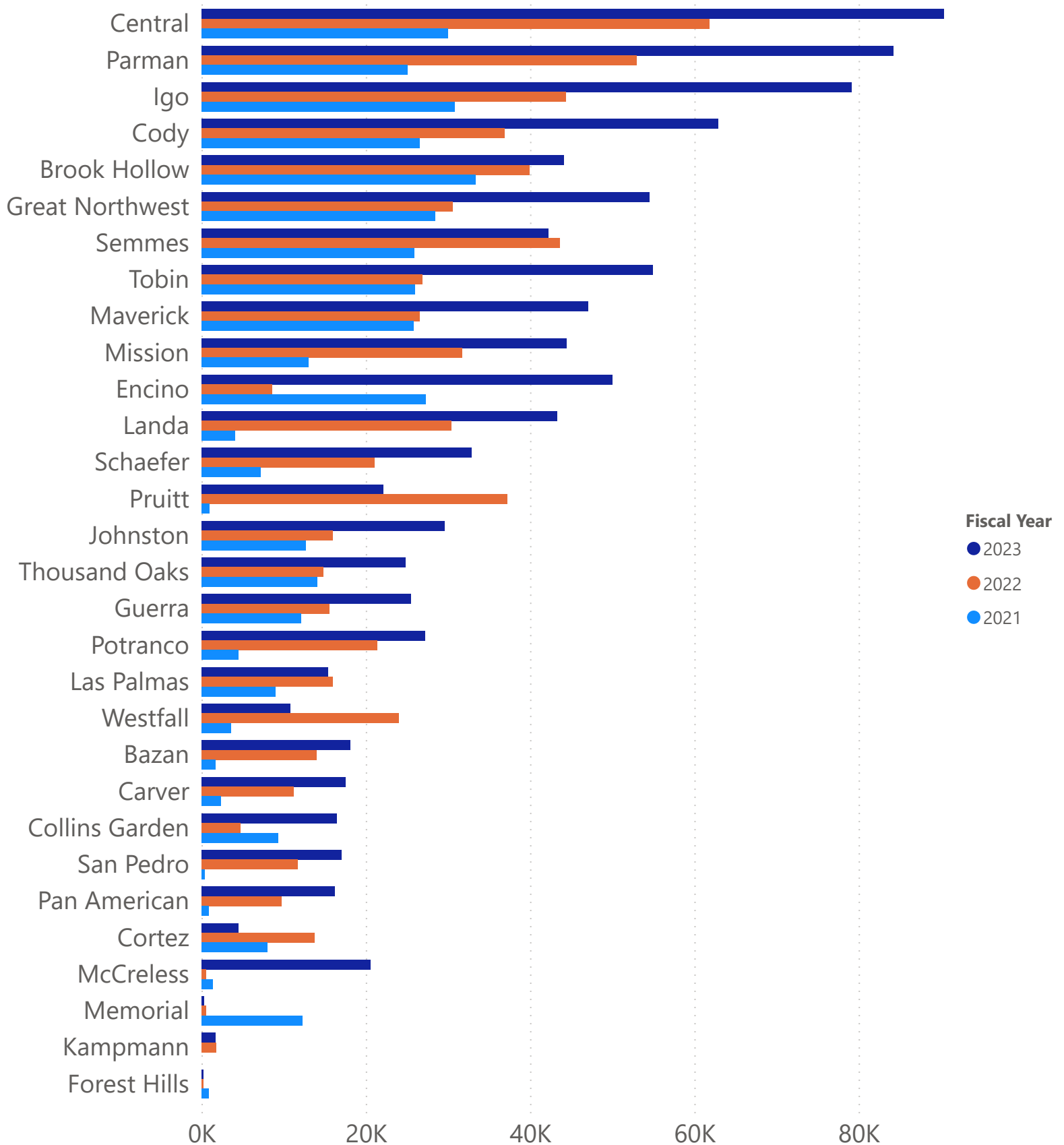


Location Closures:

FY 23: Forest Hills Oct 1-TBD, Memorial Oct 1 - TBD, Westfall Oct 1 - Nov 29, Cortez Oct 1 - TBD
FY 22: Forest Hills Oct 1-Sep 30, McCreless Oct 1-Apr 15, Memorial Oct 1 - Sep 30, Westfall Mar 28 - Sep 30, Bazan April 11-June 4, Cortez Sept 6 - Sep 30
FY 21: Forest Hills Oct 1-Jan 12, McCreless Nov 2-Sep 30, San Pedro Dec 2-May 4, Forest Hills Feb 15-Sep 30, Memorial Mar 2-Sep 30

San Antonio Public Library

Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - January 2023



Location Closures:

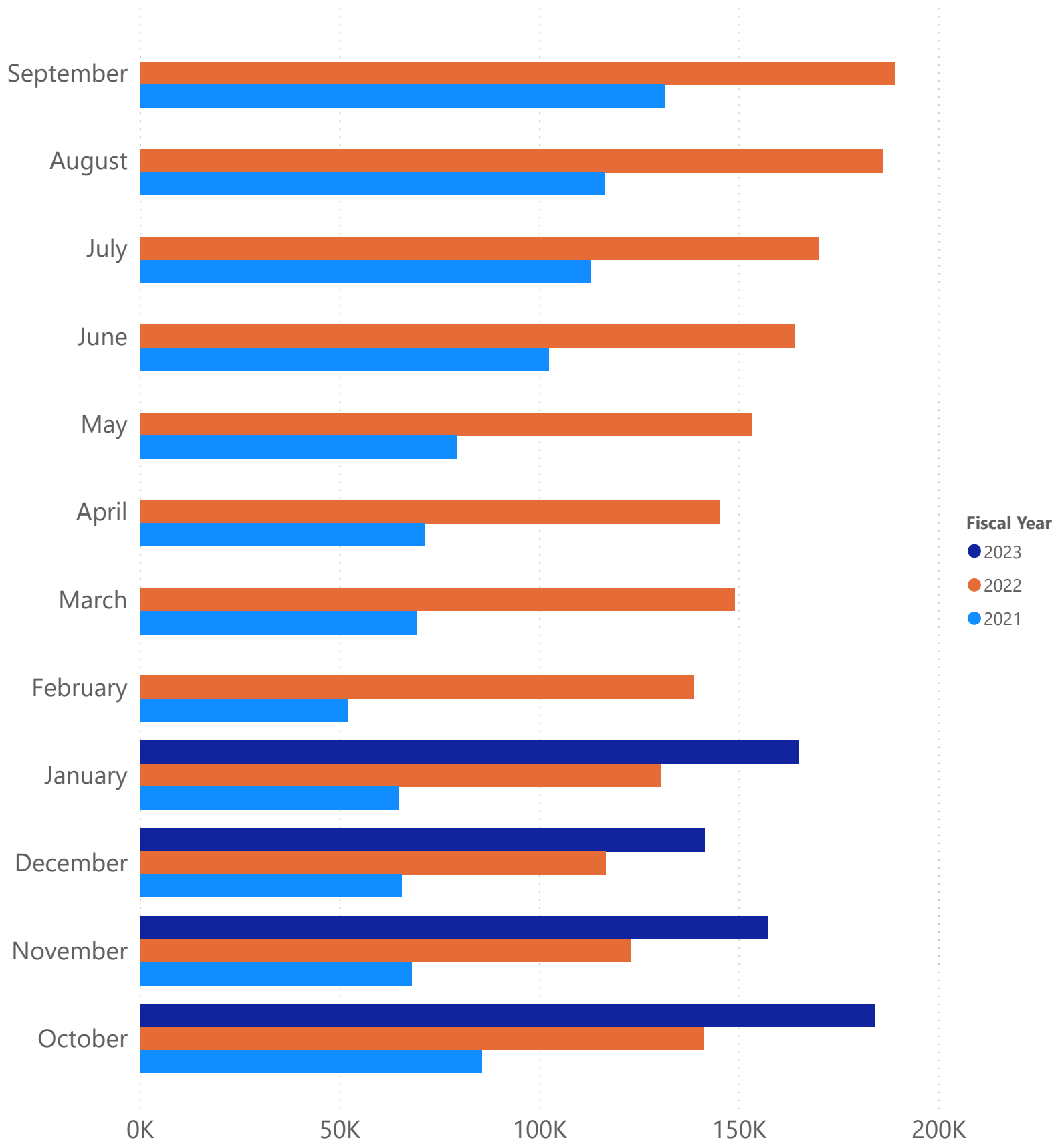
FY 23: Forest Hills Oct 1-TBD, Memorial Oct 1 - TBD, Westfall Oct 1 - Nov 29, Cortez Oct 1 - TBD

FY 22: Forest Hills Oct 1-Sep 30, McCreless Oct 1-Apr 15, Memorial Oct 1 - Sep 30, Westfall Mar 28 - Sep 30, Bazan April 11-June 4, Cortez Sept 6 - Sep 30

FY 21: Forest Hills Oct 1-Jan 12, McCreless Nov 2-Sep 30, San Pedro Dec 2-May 4, Forest Hills Feb 15-Sep 30, Memorial Mar 2-Sep 30

San Antonio Public Library

Hours of Computer & Wi-Fi Use



Location Closures:

FY 23: Forest Hills Oct 1-TBD, Memorial Oct 1 - TBD, Westfall Oct 1 - Nov 29, Cortez Oct 1 - TBD

FY 22: Forest Hills Oct 1-Sep 30, McCreless Oct 1-Apr 15, Memorial Oct 1 - Sep 30, Westfall Mar 28 - Sep 30, Bazan April 11-June 4, Cortez Sept 6 - Sep 30

FY 21: Forest Hills Oct 1-Jan 12, McCreless Nov 2-Sep 30, San Pedro Dec 2-May 4, Forest Hills Feb 15-Sep 30, Memorial Mar 2-Sep 30

APPENDIX

BiblioCommons – Front end interactive catalog and web service developer for San Antonio Public Library.

Dial-a-Story – A free service which allows patrons to call San Antonio Public Library to have a children's book read to a child over the phone.

Esports – Video-gaming competitions over a variety of game titles

LibGuide – Individual pages or guides created through San Antonio Public Library's LibWizard system.

LibWizard – San Antonio Public Library's content management system used to curate knowledge and share information, organize programs and subject-specific resources.

MobilCirc – Mobile application provided through SirsiDynix for Android, and iOS. Allows users to check out items, register users, process holds, and perform inventory.

SirsiDynix Symphony – San Antonio Public Library's integrated library system.

STEAM - Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

Take-and Make – Crafts prepared for patrons by San Antonio Public Library librarians and distributed at various branches.

Trumba – San Antonio Public Library's events calendar.

Webex – Videoconferencing application used by San Antonio Public Library.