



*Teen Library representative Regina Almanza promoting back to school resources on KSAT 12's SA Live afternoon program.*

## San Antonio Public Library Director's Report

### August 2023

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# DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar virtually attended the Local Government Hispanic Network Central Texas Chapter Meeting on August 1, 2023. Mr. Salazar is a founding board member for the Chapter.

Assistant City Manager David W. McCary and Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar briefed District 7 Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito on the Interlocal Agreement with Bexar County for Library Services on August 1, 2023.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar virtually attended the Local Government Hispanic Network Board of Directors Monthly Meeting on August 4, 2023.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar met with San Antonio Public Library Foundation Executive Director Amy Hone on August 7, 2023 to discuss library matters.

On August 10, Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar met with Liz Jackson, newly appointed President and CEO, and Gracie Burciaga, Director of Human Resources and Museum Operations at the Briscoe National Western Art Museum as a meet and greet and discussed efforts to advance our partnership and identify mutual goals.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar represented the Library Department at a City of San Antonio Budget Town Hall regarding the City Manager's Proposed FY2024 Budget on August 17, 2023 at the Doris Griffin Senior Center, 6157 Northwest Loop 410 78238.

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) General Conference and Assembly was held on August 21-25, 2023 in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar is an elected Board Member of IFLA representing the Public Library Sector.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Back to School, budget news, and the closure of Great Northwest and Maverick Branches were the main subjects of media coverage and marketing initiatives for San Antonio Public Library in August. These stories garnered significant media attention. The Communications Team also began developing campaigns to inform the public on National Library Card Sign-Up Month, Get Eclipse Ready programming, and Hispanic Heritage Month.

### Media Highlights

- August 1 - TPR aired a segment with information on the Great Northwest and Maverick Branch renovations.
- August 3 - KENS 5 reported on the all staff inservice at the Library on August 4.
- August 10 - KSAT 12's SA Live featured a segment on services for teens at San Antonio Public Library. Teen Library's Regina Almanza represented SAPL during the segment.

- August 10 - TPR aired a segment with information on resources available to students returning to school.
- August 10 - KENS 5 published an online article about the City of San Antonio's proposed budget. They mentioned what is outlined for libraries in the plan.
- August 21 - KENS 5 reported on the Guerra Branch Library closure.
- August 23 - TPR promoted the Supernatural Celebration happening at Tobin Library in October.
- August 19 - KSAT 12 published an article about the Film Virtuosity program happening on Saturday, August 26.
- August 24 - TPR promoted SAPL Live Trivia in their community calendar.
- August 24 - Community Impact News shared information about "A Journey Within," an art display by local artist Marcus Cerda at Parman Branch Library at Stone Oak.

#### **Social Media metrics overview for August 2023:**

- SAPL's social media generated **263,225** impressions
- SAPL's social media following base grew by **333** new fans
- Content shared across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram contributed to users engaging with our posts **8,956** times.

#### **Social Media growth for August 2023:**

- X, formerly known as Twitter: **(10)** followers
- Facebook: **182** followers
- Instagram: **161** followers

#### **YouTube statistics for August 2023:**

- Subscribers: **3**
- Impressions: **35,422**
- Total Views: **3,492**
- Videos published: **0**

## **DIGITAL SERVICES**

On August 1, Digital Services Coordinator Adam Spana, Digital Library Services Analyst Tricia Masterson and Library Services Administrator Adam Zaby visited the Potranco Branch Library to review the Lib Box, holds locker and laptop dispenser equipment.

On August 7, Mr. Spana made a site visit to Brook Hollow Branch Library to diagnose an issue with the digital signage system.

On August 9 and August 10 Ms. Masterson assisted the Library Learn Location Managers with the setup of their Enhanced Library Card iPads.

On August 10, Mr. Spana met with ITSD Business Relationship Manager Cynthia Ramirez and ITSD Service Desk Manager Bobby Humphery to discuss how to improve the reporting of department-wide technology issues to the IT Help Desk.

On August 14, Mr. Spana joined Marketing Manager Scott Williams in a meeting with ITSD staff to learn about the City's use of the AppSpace digital signage system as a potential replacement for the Library's current Scala digital signage system.

Beginning on August 14, Digital Library Supervisor Rolf Laun began meeting with Access Services Manager Sarah Linley, Special Projects Manager Randal Polasek, and Circulation Services Supervisor Carla Conrad to review Library Administrative Directive 10.2 (Borrowing of Library Materials by Staff) and started the process of designing report to monitor compliance.

On August 16, Mr. Spana met with Teen Library Manager Kathleen Fordyce, Teen Librarian Matthew Loaiza and Coordinator of Services to Teens Jennifer Velasquez to discuss requirements and steps needed related to the purchase of a new gaming PC for the Teen Library.

Mr. Spana, Ms. Masterson, and Digital Library Services Assistant Christina Hess joined Library Services Administrator Adam Zaby (and other Library and ITSD staff) in kicking off the RFID Gate site inspections on August 17th at Central, Mission, and Schaefer. These inspections are the first step in the roll out of new RFID infrastructure at all Library locations.

Ms. Masterson visited the Forest Hills Branch Library on August 21, along with staff from ITSD and Fiscal to check for payment kiosk credit card reader compatibility with the new credit card readers.

On August 22, Mr. Spana, Ms. Masterson and Ms. Hess met with the ITSD Mobile Team to learn of how a new mobile device management system may impact the Library's fleet of iPads and iPhones.

On August 22, Mr. Spana, Mr. Zaby and Library Collection Strategist Troy Hoyles met to discuss the possible acquisition of BiblioCommons' BiblioSuggest module as a replacement for the current Suggest a Purchase web app.

On August 29, Mr. Spana and Ms. Masterson attended a meeting of the merchant bank user acceptance team to better understand the impact of the City's change in merchant banks on the Library's payment systems.

Digital Library Services Specialist Brian Douglass and Digital Library Services Assistant Elise Garcia worked with Facilities, Communications, and Fiscal during the month of August to prepare them to shift to a new work ticketing platform.

During the month of August, the Digital Services Team closed out 235 tickets submitted by staff and answered 290 chats.

## **LATINO COLLECTION & RESOURCE CENTER**

On August 19, the LCRC hosted a bilingual, beginner-friendly, watercolor class presented by artist Marcos Mares. The LCRC provided art supplies and instruction for the fully booked class (15 students). Artist Marcos Mares guided the students through their own creations, encouraging their ideas and abilities, while offering advice on how best to work with watercolor.



August 19 and August 26, the LCRC partnered with Gemini Ink to host the first two sessions of a series of bilingual story telling workshops, presented by local poet and storyteller Marisela Barrera. Attendees crafted their stories of choice during these first two sessions, where they refined their ideas and performance strategies. Attendees will showcase their stories amongst community, family, and friends in September.



# LITTLE READ WAGON

Little Read Wagon (LRW) staff had a chance to catch up with cleaning, organizing, and planning for the new 2023-2024 school year. After hosting outdoor events during a summer of record-breaking heat, staff also appreciated working mostly in an air-conditioned building. Requests for LRW services are already being made by schools and community groups, which means the fall calendar is quickly filling up.

The final Let's Play Family Night! took place at Palm Heights Community Center on August 1. This was part of a seven-week pilot run in collaboration with Parks & Recreation. Big Blue Blocks, tires, fabric, tents, balls, play dough and a makerspace area were set up in the air-conditioned gym. Families were invited to play between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Snacks were provided due to the event timeframe. The collaboration was a success and plans are being made to provide a weekly evening play series at another community center during the continued high temperatures of early fall.

Megan Cruz and Melisa Hill visited with families at an August 4 Latched event. Latched provides services for families with children ages 3 and under. Library information and event flyers were shared with participants.

Julia Lazarin and Eva Banda created a three-hour workshop on responsive relationships for the San Antonio Independent School District's (SAISD) Navarro Learning Center staff. The Navarro Learning Center is located at the Cooper Academy at Navarro High School campus and provides full-time childcare to children of school age parents and SAISD staff up to the age of three.

Ms. Cruz presented an updated workshop on representation in children's books to staff from the St. Phillips College Childhood Development Center. Staff from St. Phillips had a tour of the new 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Children's area, engaged in discussion on the workshop topic, and then visited the Book Cellar.

Jenifer Crier and Ms. Hill hosted a resource table during the annual Northside Independent School District's (NISD) Early Childhood Conference. Attendees shared how much they valued and appreciated public library services for themselves, their own children, and the families they serve at NISD. Teachers are excited to bring San Antonio Public Library services to their students.

Also at the NISD Early Childhood Conference, Clair Larkin provided a workshop titled "Building Community, Welcoming Families" detailing how the library creates an environment of belonging for families throughout San Antonio. Participants stated that it was the best presentation of their entire day. They were excited to share the library resources with the families of students in their classrooms.

The 2023-2024 school year had a staggered start across San Antonio. Ms. Banda visited SAISD school age parents and young children SAISD's Navarro Learning Center during the last week of August. Returning school age parents and children at the childcare center were excited to see her again. Ms. Banda provided developmentally appropriate bilingual Story Times and delivered a collection of books for children and teachers to use for the month.

# CHILDREN'S (SYSTEM-WIDE)

August was a month of solar eclipse preparations, music history, and back to school. Library staff from most San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) locations plus some neighboring communities gathered on August 1 at Central Library for Solar Eclipse 101, a 3-hour workshop presented by Claire Ratcliffe, Education Associate with the Space Science Institute (SSI) and Christine Shupla, Science Engagement Manager with the Lunar and Planetary Institute. Workshop participants learned the basics of solar eclipses, key safety information, and related activities to share with their local communities. On August 3 a small group of community members met with Ms. Ratcliffe and Anne Holland, Senior Education



Associate with SSI, at the Memorial Library. The SSI representatives engaged in a community dialogue to explore culturally responsive eclipse-related activities and gathered some exciting ideas to further develop as part of the NASA at My Library project. SAPL participation in the NASA at My Library project is managed by Morgan Yoshimura, Coordinator of Services to Adults, and Cresencia Huff, Coordinator of Children's Services.

Musical Bridges Around the World partnered with SAPL to present *The Quilt*, a documentary of African American music history. At the Forest Hills, Carver, and Tobin libraries Tanesha Payne facilitated a movement activity, screenwriter Cynthia Gibbs spoke on *The Quilt* project, a 10-minute segment of the film was shown, and Deborah Harris of the African American Quilt Circle shared the tradition of quilting in the African American community and its use in storytelling. At Central Library the full documentary was shown with the addition of a scatting activity led by Veronica Williams, and rhyming activity by Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson. All four events concluded with each attendee decorating a square of muslin which was then pinned together to form a conceptual quilt. The pieces were displayed at each location.



Children's Librarians system-wide made visits to schools and community events celebrating the back to school season. Ms. Huff made a brief presentation to the SAPL Board at their August 23 meeting, sharing highlights of SAPL resources to support students of all ages.

The Children's Services team welcomed two new colleagues: Rachel Forbes at the Pan American Library and Ralph Jarzombek at the Carver Library. The team met at Central Library in the newly renovated Story Room on August 23. It was the first in-person meeting for the team in several months. Librarians had lively conversations about happenings at their locations, reviewed and discussed recent book releases, and celebrated the successful completion of another Summer with SAPL.

## TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

**Virtual Teen Programs and Activities** – The 210teenlibrary Discord workgroup, led by Matthew Loaiza (Teen Services Librarian II / Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) and consisting of Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons from around the system collaborated with virtual teen volunteers ("Teen Mods") to host weekly virtual teen activities ("clubs") on Discord ("the server") and provide meaningful peer-to-peer connections. With the school year approaching, teens voted on their preferences for club days/times for the coming months as well as suggested ideas for other activities throughout the year. Teens also provided their feedback on the server's guidelines, allowing the guidelines to reflect and respect the needs and values of the server's current teen population; afterwards, members of the workgroup and teen



volunteers worked together to update the guidelines. During clubs, teens continued to bond and relate over shared interests such as Dungeons & Dragons; feelings about the upcoming school year; new video game, movie, music releases; current creative projects, and more.

**Virtual Teen Content and Resources** – The 210teenlibrary Instagram workgroup, led by Matthew Loaiza and consisting of Amisahari Sarabia (Teen Services Librarian I, Las Palmas Branch), 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, teens and teen volunteers demoed how to make a variety of snacks and treats including ramen, strawberry lemonade, cloud drinks, and mini quiches; teen volunteers also created and shared displays featuring dystopian and fantasy books. Additional informational and interactive content, as well as daily celebrations, were shared through Stories.

**System-wide Support:** Regina Almanza (Teen Services Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central) promoted back to school resources on KSAT 12's SA Live program. She also displayed several teen crafts during the segment.

**Pictures below:** teen volunteers gathered taking a popsicle break for an Instagram Story; teen intern-created dystopian books display



## ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

On August 12, a K Pop Silent Disco was held at McCrless. This event was organized by Librarian II Vicky Villalobos, with the assistance of Pruitt Library Assistant Sheran Awe Jr., McCreless Circulation Attendant Madison Hinojosa, and Adult Services Coordinator Morgan Yoshimura. Patrons of all ages could choose

between three different playlists of K-Pop songs in this celebration of music and culture. Funds provided by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation and allocated to Adult Services were used to purchase Silent Disco equipment that is available for all Library locations to use.

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, Potranco Library kicked off back to school readiness kicked off with a school supply swap! Librarian II Dawn Zeig invited patrons to donate their new or gently used school/office supplies to those in need. Approximately 150 adults and children participated. Patrons expressed their gratitude to be able to rehome unneeded supplies and recipients were grateful to have them. The program was a great success, and Potranco Library is planning to host another one next school year.

The Dig It Garden Series, organized in collaboration with the Bexar County Master Gardeners concluded with sessions on three summer gardening topics at seven locations occurring throughout the month. This two month long series was a great success with significant positive feedback shared by both community members and staff. Coordinator of Services to Adults Morgan Yoshimura met with Bexar County Master Gardener president Liana Benavides in late August to begin the planning process for a Fall/Winter series, which is tentatively planned to occur from October 15-December 15, 2023

In August, the call for submission for the 2023 Big Read Community Collaboration Zine was launched. The theme for this year's Zine is Future Visions. Community members were invited to submit written or visual works that shared their visions for the future. The deadline for submissions is September 15<sup>th</sup>, at which point the Zine Committee, lead by Texana manager Heather Ferguson, will review the submissions and begin the process of preparing the zine for printing and distribution.

## **OLDER ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)**

In August, Westfall Branch Library launched a new weekly program for older adults. Community members are invited every Tuesday night from 6-7:45 to play dominoes. Librarian II Monty Holcomb provides the opportunity for older adults to play the classic game of dominoes in a relaxed setting and socialize with their neighbors as they play the game

Librarian IIs Brooke Mjolsness from Thousand Oaks and Dawn Zeig from Potranco provided information about San Antonio Public Library at a resource fair at Northeast Senior Center on August 24. Hundreds of older adults attending the event received information about library services, upcoming programs for older adults and a San Antonio Public Library branded credit card sized magnifier.

In August, Librarian I Sylvia Reyna from Texana received an e-mail from a participant from a program Speed Friending for Older Adults that Ms. Reyna organized collaboratively with Librarian II Debbie Countess, also from Texana. The event was held at Great Northwest and was an adaptation of "speed dating" – the goal of the program was to offer an opportunity for older adults an opportunity to meet others who also consider themselves an older adult, and that the interactions at the session could lead to forming new friendships. One of the participants of this event provided the following update via e-mail to Ms. Reyna:

"As a group five of us have met three times now, twice for brunch and once for a movie - Mission Impossible. We have a plan to get together once a month for different activities in San Antonio. In September we are going to visit the McNay Museum. The pic I'm attaching is from brunch at Box St. All Day in the Hemisfair Park area. We call ourselves Lovely Ladies of the Library (LLL), Lovely Ladies (LL) for short. We are all very happy that we met and are enjoying getting to know each other. I'd say that makes your Speed Friending event a success! Thank you for your part in bringing us together."



## CENTRAL LIBRARY CHILDREN'S LIBRARY



The highlight of the month was the interactive program for families centered around the award-winning movie, *The Quilt: A Living History of African American Music*. Coordinator of Children's Services, Cresencia Huff, developed the event with the assistance of Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin. They were on hand as families engaged in activities with dancer Tanesha Payne, poet-musician Andrea Vocab Sanderson, mezzo-soprano Veronica Williams, and lead actress Cynthia Freeman Gibbs. All of this was in addition to the movie screening, which was very well received. Finally, parents and children were able to decorate their own quilt squares with the African American Quilt Circle of San Antonio. The quilt was pieced together and was on display in the Children's Library for the month.

The Children's Library continued weekly Sensory Friendly Calm Hours on Thursdays from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. It was open to children of all ages and abilities who benefit from a quieter, more relaxed library environment. Staff made thoughtful adjustments to the play area space to ensure a sensory-friendly atmosphere.

Manager Kate Simpson gave tours of the Children's Library to several groups of educators in August: teachers from St. Phillips Child Development Center, members of the Kappa Kappa Iota organization and SAPL Children's Librarians as part of their August meeting.

During the programming break in August, Librarian Ashley Stubbs developed several engaging passive activities for children to do while visiting the Children's Library. She created a station where children could write down books or activities they did this summer and share them on the wall in the play area. She also set up three different scavenger hunt games that children delighted in playing. Ms. Stubbs also contributed to virtual programming this month by reading the book *Are Your Stars Like My Stars?* for the Dial-A-Story service.

Children's Library staff continued to develop outreach connections with area childcare centers and schools. Ms. Stubbs visited Central Christian Day School where she presented Story Times to children and brought books for the teachers to use in class. Ms. Seglin shared stories and songs with two classes at Madison Square Child Development Center and delivered library books in support of their curriculum.

## TEEN LIBRARY

Kathleen Fordyce (Manager, Teen Library @ Central) and Connie Hejl (Teen Services Librarian I, Tobin Branch) 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. Kathleen also coordinated the start of the 15th annual after-school snack program in the Teen Library, sponsored by the San Antonio Food Bank. Teens receive snacks Monday through Thursday from 4:30-5:30pm throughout the school year in the Teen Library at Central.

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 Branch) for "Teen Time" every Friday on the Discord server.

Rosalie Barrera (Librarian I) joins Cassie Garza (Teen Librarian II / Assistant Manager, Bazan Branch) 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 summer, the Teen Library at Central welcomed three teen interns from the Family Service Association (FSA) Summer Internship Program, who each completed their internship at the beginning of the reporting period. The FSA summer internship program provides paid, part-time internships for local middle and high school students to build career opportunities and goals. Rosalie was the direct supervisor to the FSA teen interns who worked their internships at the Teen Library from June 19-August 4. The FSA interns gained real-world work experience at the Teen Library by completing job tasks such as shelving, creating book displays and signage, curating book lists, sharing their art in the Teen Library, and contributing to create a safe and welcoming environment for other teens to experience the Teen Library.

During the reporting period, Rosalie coordinated class visits to Central Library and the Teen Library with English I and II students from CAST Tech High School. The visiting students were provided with opportunities to register for library cards, tour Central Library, and explore the Teen Library. Many teens who participated in these tours have returned to the Teen Library on their own time to participate in activities, gaming, and crafting.

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

Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): August saw the end of Teen Summer Tuesday activities that highlighted general teen interest and celebrations, such as celebrating Japanese foods, back to school, and new cooking techniques. Suggesting, participating, and leading, these activities allow them the chance to pick up a new skill, or show their peers tips and tricks. Teens made fancy ramen, enhancing plain packs with fresh veggies. Some challenged themselves by not using the included salty seasoning packet. Teens made steamed dumplings, a food many had not attempted before. Many were pleased with the results, and in a so cute moment, one teen commented "so cute" whilst serving hers. For their first Teen Tuesday afterschool, teens celebrated being back in school and made pudding parfaits. With what seemed like random ingredients left over from past programs, one teen suggested making quiche. On the day of the program, many teens questioned what quiche was. Answers ranged from "a little egg pie" to "egg cupcake." Teen volunteer Angelina spearheaded a Taco Tuesday night, where teens made crispy tacos and a favorite from last year's Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, making a Costa Rican *copo* (snow cones) called a Churchill. Perler beads have become a popular afterschool craft activity.

Teen volunteers and interns also produced picture layouts and Story ideas for Instagram, like Yesenia's "This or That: Back to School Edition". Pictures and videos from program times can be found on the @210teenlibrary Instagram page.

**Pictures below** – Teen intern on her last day, making ramen; teens cooking steamed dumplings; teen taking photo of quiche; teen creating with perler beads



## INFORMATION SERVICES

The library hosted a StandUp For Kids information table on August 12th, 19th, and 26th. StandUp For Kids provides outreach, mentoring, and housing services, and connects youth & young adults to the services they need. The "Standup" Staff helped a total of 14 youth and Young adults.

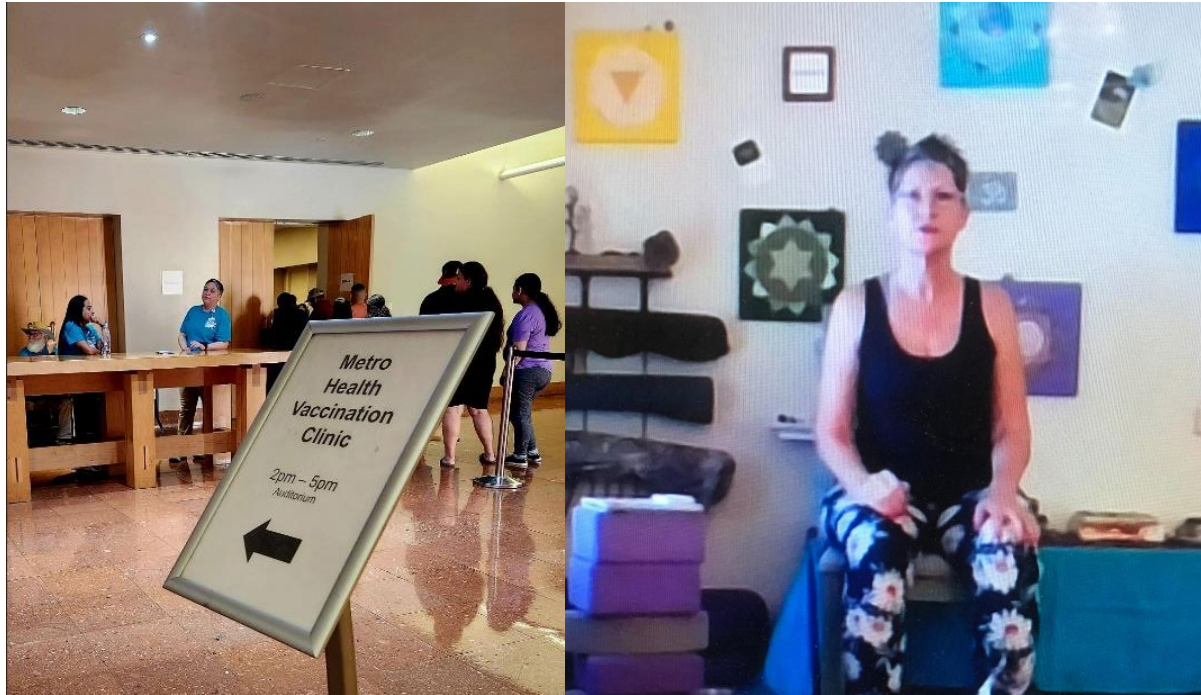
Arland Schnacker and Raquel Reyes (SAPL) setup a shipwreck display on 1st floor connect that sparked interest from patrons.

Arland Schnacker helped ILL staff by overseeing over 100 ILL patron requests through worldshare or navigator.

On August 12, 2023 Cynthia DeLeon (SAPL) and Christina Montero coordinated Metro Health's vaccination clinic. The popular and vital program had 84 attendees.

On August 25, 2023, a virtual Chair Yoga Class was offered by Patricia Perez and Pannaga Prasad on the Library Zoom platform. It was presented by Ashley Ludwick, a professional Yoga Instructor from the Idoyogasa organization. The instructor taught yoga in a fun-filled way, with strategies for connecting within and finding inner peace. Ashley demonstrated various exercises using chair support.





## LEARN AT CENTRAL

In August, Learn at Central helped 422 individuals with one-on-one support. One patron obtained a job through Learn's guidance and support, and another patron was able to successfully complete a physical therapy certification due to Learn services.

On August 12th, the Learn team attended the District 1 Back to School Fair and on August 13th, Training Officer, Denise Cadena, attended the SAISD Job Fair outreach. Learn continues its Monday through Friday operation and is still currently closed on Saturdays, however, the Learn space is now a dedicated 'Quiet Zone' the whole time Central Library is open to the public.

## TEXANA/ GENEALOGY



Librarian Andy Crews gave Beginning Genealogy presentations at Thousand Oaks Library on August 9 and at Westfall Library on August 16. These two presentations highlighted tips on beginning research into one's family using the library's databases and other resources.

On Monday, August 14, Librarian Sylvia Reyna conducted a FamilySearch database class at the Northeast Senior Center. She started by discussing the types of results that one can expect when utilizing this online resource, which was followed by a hands-on practice session using the center's computer station lab.

Ms. Reyna was invited by City Parks and Recreation Program Engagement Manager, Nicole McLeod, to participate at the Cemetery Stewardship Seminar on Saturday, August 26 at the Hardberger Park Urban Ecology Center. Cemetery awareness, history, and preservation were discussed. In addition to tabling the event, she gave an impromptu talk on cemetery resources in the Texana department. Other exhibitors included the San Antonio Conservation Society, and COSA's Parks and Recreation department.

Librarian Deborah Countess conducted an online family history class on August 21 designed to introduce two of the genealogy databases offered by the library. *Ancestry Library Edition & HeritageQuest Online – Getting Started* went over the types of historical records available from each of these databases, in addition to their similarities and differences regarding accessibility and breadth of content.

For the Staff In-Service day on Friday, August 4, Texana/Genealogy staff focused on teambuilding and wellness activities. Highlights from the day's agenda included creating vision board collages to illustrate our professional goals and personal aspirations.



## BRANCH LOCATIONS

### BAZAN

Following a successful Summer with SAPL at Bazan, Children's programming took a pause in August to prepare for Fall programming which will include *Let's Build: Lego Club: Let's Build: Blocks and More*; and *Kid's Time*. Children's Librarian Hope Sonnen was also busy in August reaching out to area schools and Head Start programs to share information about library programming and resources for the start of the new school year.

The *Ink Slayers Writers Group*, led by Library Assistant Enedina Prater, met in August to share their work and receive feedback from one another. The group of writers also used prompts, breathing exercises, and writing sprints to enhance and stimulate creativity. The meeting was productive and saw attendance double.

Library Assistant Enedina hosted a *Taylor Swift Sing Along* program in partnership with the 210 Swiftie fan group. The Bazan meeting room was adorned in TS themed décor that celebrated her 1989 album. DJ lights helped set the ambiance for the event as patrons colored, danced and sang the day away to an amazing playlist. Swifties also brought their own bracelet making supplies and shared, in addition to trading bracelets with one another. Many attendees complimented the program and the great decorations.

The *Bad Girls Romance Book Club* welcomed several new members in August, doubling the usual attendance. The group discussed *Savvy Sheldon Feels Good as Hell* by Taj McCoy, a debut novel by the author, and the first of a series. Author Taj McCoy also helped support the book club by giving a shout out on social media and then by reposting their flyer. The group loved the book and look forward to reading the rest of the series.

Assistant Manager and Teen librarian Cassie Garza hosted the BTS craft club at Bazan. The group made their favorite BTS inspired dish of cold buckwheat noodles with a secret Jungkook sauce. The group made sure we were following BTS member Jungkook's recipe by watching a video of him making the dish during the group meeting.

Ms. Garza also had her first in-person *Teen Time* at Bazan. A teen who attended heard about the program while visiting the branch and wanted to watch an anime they really enjoyed. Ms. Garza was familiar with the show and was able to share with the teen some other manga and anime suggestions.

Ms. Garza and Bazan staff bid farewell to teen summer intern Syriah Sanchez. Ms. Sanchez helped rearrange collections, created an escape room for the teen space and assisted the children's librarian with programming. Her contributions were very much appreciated, and she will be missed.

Bazan staff in-service was a productive and fun event. Staff gathered to watch all the Strategic Plan workgroup videos and provided insightful feedback. Library Assistant Enedina Prater hosted a staff team-building activity which included a paper plane contest, and Training Officer Carlos Loera led staff in art activity. The in-service ended with a hamburger potluck and everyone appreciated the opportunity to learn from one another as well as enjoy each other's company.

The Learn Center at Bazan had over a hundred individual sessions during the month of August. The sessions covered computer skills, resume building, job search, job applications and personal devices. ESL (English as a Second Language) classes were offered on Tuesday evenings by the Bazan Learn Center. Training Officer Carlos Loera also led painting classes for senior adults twice a month and hosted *Coffee and a Movie for Senior* adults on the first Friday of the month and *Coloring for Adults* was offered every third Friday.

## BROOK HOLLOW





Brook Hollow Library's (BHL) SAPL Staff In-Service Day, Friday, August 4, 2023, kicked off with the team taking a walk together to the Sante Fe Trails neighborhood park. BHL Wellness Liaison/BHL Circulation Attendant Teresa Smith led the charge by encouraging staff to take time for exercise. Once at the park, approximately one mile away from BHL, staff and guest speaker COSA HR Engagement Coordinator Yen Le, who spoke upon return to the library, discussed the park's Free Little Library and how BHL can support neighborhood Free Little Libraries. The Friends of Brook Hollow Library (FOBHL) generously donated lunch for staff for the in-service. With a focus on relaxation during break time at work, puzzling in the BHL staff lounge has become a favorite break stress reliever for staff since the library reopened with completed HVAC work in July. Circulation Attendant Julie McNeil kindly donates puzzles for the cause.

Adult Services Librarian Marco De Leon conducted four of BHL's Book Club meetings in August. The Mystery Book Club met August 3, 2023, with 10 members who read and discussed *The Shape of Water* by Andrea Ammilleri. *Win* by Harlan Coben was the book of discussion by the 13 members of the Tuesday Evening Book Club August 8, 2023. Eleven members of the La Tertulia Book Club read *Lo Que No He Dicho* by Beatrice Rivas on August 12, 2023. The Walker Ranch Senior Center/BHL Book Club met August 17, 2023, to discuss *The Magnolia Palace* by Fiona Davis with 26 people in attendance.



BHL Children's Librarian Amanda Neace hosted 10 Story Times for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and families during the month of August along with six after school events for elementary-aged students and tweens. In total, 510 people attended these programs to learn, play, build with LEGOs, and create art. Neace and circulation attendant Stephanie Trevino also attended the Coker Elementary School parent orientation on August 22 and spoke with 35 people while tabling to promote library services. The BHL Team wishes heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to Neace on her promotion to SAPL Branch Manager of the Tobin Library @ Oakwell. Special thanks to Thousand Oaks Children's Librarian Cheryl Penick for tackling BHL Thursday morning Story Times.

BHL Teen Librarian Grace Holt facilitated Teen Time on Tuesday evenings where teens engaged in activities, they chose like sculpting clay and playing Super Smash on the Switch throughout August. Holt contributed to the Write Club and Create Club on the 210teenlibrary Discord server for the last two summer sessions where teens discussed and shared their writing and latest creations. Holt also met with local Girl Scout Troop 66 on August 27 to discuss teen volunteer opportunities at the library and gave teens a tour of BHL. The teen area @ BHL continues to make space available for teens to express themselves.



BHL Manager Jeannette Davies attended Walker Ranch Senior Center's (WRSC) One Year Anniversary August 1, 2023 to celebrate with manager Lupita and her team. Davies, host of Noon Time Helping of Cooking in SAPL's Virtual Kitchen, demonstrated how to make cold Peach Soup @ WRSC's August birthday celebration. Once a month Davies participates in WRSC's senior birthday event and serves up a recipe, along with library information. WRSC serves more than 200 seniors lunch Monday-Friday. BHL's presence @ WRSC during the library's HVAC project, satellite location April – July 2023, spread the work in books and members are seen reading (library) books while exercising.

Davies serves as the Chairperson of the Texas Library Association's (TLA) PR Committee and is preparing a podcast for ALA's October Banned Book Week, October 1-7, 2023. The podcast features library patrons/plaintiffs from the Llano Texas Public Library who spearheaded the pending case, lawsuit, against the county, protecting Llano Public Library patrons' freedom to read. Davies also assists judging TLA's Branding Iron Awards for Library Excellence.

The BHL Team is gearing up for the annular solar eclipse Saturday, October 14, 2023, and will host a program Wednesday, October 4, 2023, (see events via the library website) to prepare the library public. There will be glasses provided on a first-come, first-served basis. BHL Circulation Crew, spearheaded by Attendant Stephanie Trevino, plans a dynamic book display to highlight the event. (A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the earth and the sun, obscuring the view of the sun for humans on earth.)

## CARVER

### Adults

On Friday, August 11, the branch partnered with COSA's Neighborhood & Housing Services Department (NHSD) to facilitate easier access for those San Antonians wishing to participate in the departments Under 1 Roof initiative. Residents who qualify can make their homes more energy efficient with the installation of roofing materials, such as lighter colored shingles, that will keep their homes cooler, thus reducing energy costs.



Some 150 residents turned out on Saturday, August 20 for the Back-to-School Immunization Fair. The event was a venture by the branch and Metro Health Department.

Delegates of the San Antonio Alumae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority returned from their annual conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, with good news that involved the branch. Footage from their Shining Legacy celebration here during Black History Month-- featuring decades of rarely seen archives materials -- was captured in a short film which took first place honors at the gathering held in July. On August 23, sorority representatives Historian Doris White Soares and Chapter President Janet Dotson Ray visited the branch to share the details of the award and thank the branch for its support.



Caption: Heather Ferguson (above) of Texana listens at Delta Sigma Theta member Doris White Soares (right) discusses the legacy of the organization.

Poet Naomi Shihab Nye and Columnist Cary Clack visited the branch on Saturday, August 26 to headline the inaugural Prudence L. Curry Writers' Series.



Caption: Cary Clack and Naomi Shihab Nye (above) listen to an introduction before heading to the podium to address the audience.





Caption: Naomi Shihab Nye reads from one of her famous works

Training Officer Shauna Mendoza continues to conduct her weekly classes with great enthusiasm, offering a diverse range of opportunities for community engagement:

1. Computer Training: Held Monday through Friday, from 1 pm to 6 pm.
2. Crochet & Knitting Club: Takes place every Tuesday from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.
3. Smart Phone and Personal Device Training: Offered on Wednesdays, running from 10 am to 11:30 am.
4. Introduction to Computers: Available on Fridays, starting at 10 am and concluding at 11:30 am.



A new addition to Learn's programs is the Breast Cancer Support Group, which commenced on August 21<sup>st</sup>. The group meets every other Monday from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The motivation behind establishing this group stems from Learn at Carver Training Officer's recognition of a significant number of Breast Cancer survivors, fighters, and supporters in the surrounding community. She believes that organizing in-person gatherings will be beneficial to the community on their Breast Cancer journey.



Shauna remained actively engaged in the community by participating in various events and locations, including the Claude Black Community Center, Youth Center of Texas, and Corazon Resource Day Center for the unhoused. The standout event of the month was the Claude Black Community Center Back to School Jamboree. During this event, Shauna had the opportunity to interact with more than 200 community members. She provided them with valuable information about SAPL and Learn resources, along with insights about several other resource organizations. Moreover, all the children who took part in this event were generously provided with backpacks filled with essential school supplies.

#### Children

Ralph Jarzombek was hired as the new Children's Librarian at Carver Library and started working at the library during the last two weeks of the month.

He has a music background and plans to incorporate a lot of playing guitar and singing along with movement in his programs. He will continue to host the two weekly children's programs (Lego program for school-age children and a Story Time program for preschool children) that had been previously established at the library. He also intends to host an additional program weekly that incorporates music.

He has been updating contacts of the various schools, early childhood education centers, childcare centers, and child development centers in the area to try to establish new outreach opportunities.

Since the children's librarian position was vacant for several weeks before Mr. Jarzombek arrived, he has been busy cleaning out his desk and wrapping up the summer reading program at the library (decorations, books, bookmarks, etc.) As soon as the library receives its new Cricut machine, he will be working with Laura Alvarez, a library aide at Carver Library, to redecorate the children's area of the library. He will also be changing the current display of books to include books from the library's collection with a fall/winter holidays theme.

Randi Jones sent out a call to help with Dial-a-Story, and so Mr. Jarzombek volunteered to read a story on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Carver Library is the first library to host the Get Eclipse Ready event, and so Mr. Jarzombek met with Cresencia Huff to prepare for the event which will be held on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were many details that needed to be worked out, and so hopefully the event at Carver Library will pave the way for many successful Get Eclipse Ready events at all the remaining libraries in the next two months leading up to the eclipse on

October 14<sup>th</sup>. He is ready to help any librarians who will be hosting the event in the next two months with any questions they may have about planning the event at their libraries.

## CODY

In August, teen volunteers took charge of display creation in the teen area and crafts during Teen Hangout at Cody. The teens also assisted in the creation of the new seed library which became open to the public at the end of August. This initiative allows community members to take seeds home with care instructions to begin their own garden. Patrons are then encouraged to bring seeds in from their harvest so more people can begin their growing journey. We have also been giving away rooted clippings from our donated ivy in donated bottles. These have been a big hit and we hope to continue this program moving forward.

At the end of the month our after-school teens returned for more exciting programming! Many members of the Cody staff also assisted with the San Japan program, promoting the library and upcoming events to the community.

On August 1, Circulation Attendant Maria Trevino facilitated the Art for Wellness event. The program promotes art as a therapeutic tool for mental wellness and provides a safe space for community engagement. Maria discusses the new mediums and techniques for the month, with this month being charcoal pencils and vine. The participants in the program decided on the type of activities they will explore in next month's session.

Adult Services Librarian II Michael Dunbar-Rodney recorded two podcast episodes with the InQUEERIES team, and met with another prospective podcast guest, local slam poet, Chibbi Orduña. Dunbar-Rodney worked with the San Japan team to plan the reading room, which included the library's pop-up zine kit. Do You Wanna Play A Game?, the monthly adult board game program, continues to have a core group of attendees. Tabletop Gaymer Night continues to have a small, but steady group with some new attendees this month who heard about the program through word of mouth and said they would like to come again.

Displays for the month included an ocean theme, created by Library Aide Juniper Wright. Library Aides Delina Yirgaalem and Sylvia Stone arranged a popular cat display, featuring fiction titles with cat characters. A third display for HIV/AIDS awareness was created by Dunbar-Rodney.

The last two Sundays in August saw a sewing program, led by fashion designer Lorena Auguste. Attendees learned basics such as how to thread a sewing machine, specific tools to have on hand for sewing; those who brought personal sewing projects also received advice from Lorena.

## COLLINS GARDEN

In preparation for fall programming and everything Solar Eclipse, staff at the Collins Garden branch spent some time planning and preparing for fall library events. On August 1, Adult Services Librarian Rosa Villa participated in the Solar Eclipse 101 training at the Central library. She and others met with presenters C. Shupla and C. Ratcliffe. Ms. Villa then shared all information gathered with the team.

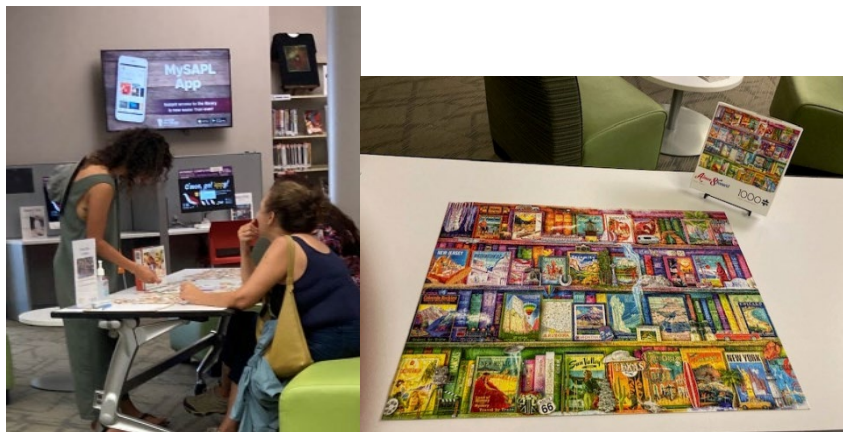
### Adults

Adult Services Librarian Rosa Villa hosted the Collins Garden Book Club on August 16 and the group discussed Julie Clark's novel *The Lies I Tell*.

Also on August 16, the branch participated in the *Dig It* series with the Bexar County Master Gardeners. Presenter Anna Vogler facilitated “*It’s a Whole ‘Nuther Country*” discussion and shared tips on gardening in South Texas.

Summer programming for Adults ended on August 17 with a Paper Quilling craft event. Ms. Villa hosted a class where patrons were taught to create basic paper quilling pieces. The Summer Classic Family Film ended on August 26.

Adults and seniors continued contributions to the community puzzle and enjoyed daily passive brain booster activities at the branch.



## Teens

The Collins Garden branch weekly Teen Tuesday programs continued with Ami Sarabia. Teens enjoyed a dedicated space and time that allowed them to be creative and share thoughts with others. They made rock art with inspiring messages and painted figurines in spooky designs.

## Children

After a short break, Children’s Librarian, Gina Brudi resumed children’s programming on August 28. She hosted one Lego Club, one Let’s Create: Art Time and one Preschool Story Time. She also resumed her online Family Story Time collaboration. During the month, children created their own Library Lizard artwork which is displayed on the whiteboard in the Children’s area. Ms. Brudi mounted a World Elephant Day book and Vox and Wonderbooks display.



All staff contributed to the Collins Garden August Staff Picks display.

## CORTEZ

The Cortez Library offered many fun and exciting programs in the month of August.

August was a slow month for the children of Cortez library. The excitement of Summer with SAPL turned into excitement for the start of the new school year. Unfortunately, as school started again and families got used to a new routine, attendance for Story Time dipped. It did pick back up again at the end of the month, however! The start of the new school year did not slow down attendees to the weekly Lego Club! It remained a huge draw, with as many as 20 families coming per week to build. The monthly scavenger hunt run by circulation attendant Ana Rodriguez continued to be a big hit with the younger set, with many excited repeat participants. Library Aide Esmeralda Staudt lent her wonderful reading skills to both Dial-a-Story and Story Time, in both English and Spanish.



August saw two regular Teen Time activities with five attendees and one drop-in crochet session with two teens attending. Teens did artwork on black paper with metallic markers and crafted with air dry clay. The crocheters made mini animals.



There were five craft classes held in August. Classes consisted of diamond painting, salt dough, make your own jewelry, tin buckets with lights and teacup bird feeders. Craft class is happy to be getting attendees from Center for Health Care Services and Home Life. These centers bring their special needs folks to participate in craft class.

The *Healthy Neighborhoods* cooking program, led by Metro Health's Vince Escobedo, featured a flavorful Southwestern Quinoa Salad for August. Like other healthy foods the last few months at this program series, this was the first time tasting the versatile ingredient quinoa for several attendees. Everyone went home with another recipe to add to their cooking repertoire. Circulation Attendant Madeline Vasquez continued the *Monster Meet* program for horror film aficionados. This month fans watched a new Nicholas Cage film inspired by Bram Stoker's Dracula character.

Bexar County Master Gardener John Vann shared his expertise with the Cortez community as part of the 'Dig It!' Summer Gardening series, "Texas: It's a Whole 'Nuther Country!". Patrons learned that gardening in South Texas is unique, like living in another country.

## ENCINO

### Children's

Encino children's programming took a break in August to decompress and regroup for a busy fall! In the meantime, we worked with lots of children and parents in the children's room, helping both reluctant and excited readers find their next great read! We are looking forward to an exciting fall with some new programs and tweaks to the traditional programs we love.

### Teens

For the month of August, Teen Librarian I Michael Harle completed re/orientation training with all of Encino's 30 current and new teen volunteers. He has seen a marked increase in their understanding of their roles, including improved social etiquette, interest in improving and hosting events, and willingness to collaborate with peers (this includes two teen volunteers who underwent disciplinary training and have shown both remorse and notable improvement). In addition, teen patrons have shown an increased investment in their teen space, inspired by their recent rearranging of the furniture. Michael has also made a concerted effort to ensure that Encino's volunteer program does not grow unmanageable, working with Grace Holt at Brook Hollow to redirect teen volunteers to her location.

Outside of Encino, Michael has focused on finalizing plans for the San Japan outreach, collaborating with a systemwide team of staff; the event will take place during the first weekend of September.

### Adults

August proved a quiet month for adult programming as Encino adult services librarian Ann Laird took a hiatus from special programs after a busy summer reading season. Regular recurring programs such as Tai Chi on Mondays, Yoga on Tuesdays and Hand Bee on Wednesdays were very popular. Ann also performed an outreach visit to Franklin Park Retirement Community on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## FOREST HILLS

Starting with August 8<sup>th</sup>, Forest Hills has been hosting the Great Northwest Teen Librarian, Lisa Puchot, and teens from her branch who can come over for Teen Time each Tuesday. From video games to sewing, the teens have learned new skills and met new peers in this space. Teen Librarian Shannan Prukop attended a Fiesta Youth back to school event with Teen Librarian Gladys Nunez as representatives of the Teen Pride workgroup, sharing free library items with young people and helping



them learn about available resources from the library. Mx. Prukop continued their work with the InQUEERies podcast team, recording new episodes. They also continued working with the 210teenlibrary Discord server, hosting the weekly Dungeons & Dragons club, during which they challenge teens to think creatively and work collaboratively in difficult situations.

Children's programming took a break at Forest Hills during August, restarting on the last week of the month. Patrons were excited to return to Lego Time, Kids Time, Baby Time, and Story Time. Virtual Family Story Time started again as well, and Children's Librarian Ana Menchaca is delighted to participate in bringing stories, songs, rhymes, and games to kids everywhere.

Library Assistant Shy Axelrod continued leading the Forest Hills Scrabble Club in August; the group was happy to see new people. In addition, She also continued the Tabletop Gaymer Night program with support from the Pride Committee; members of the Sapphic Organization of San Antonio joined in this month. The **BYOB** Book Club led by Ms. Axelrod had the theme of books about, for, or by cats. All of the people who joined this month were either cat owners or cat fans so a lively conversation about the wonders and frustrations of cats ensued.

## GREAT NORTHWEST

In August, the Great Northwest Library completed a fun series at Tween Time. The kids explored different kinds of careers. They tried their hand at stage set designers, city planners, photographers, entrepreneurs, and robotic engineers. They talked about false narratives about certain lines of work and learning to respect all positions and what they provide for our community.

The kids were asked if they wanted to submit questions to actual people that were in these jobs in the community. The kids submitted 25 different questions and were excited to get answers back. They learned a lot!

The Great Northwest Branch Library hosted Teen Time events which were planned and implemented by GNW teens for the month of August. Each Teen Time meet-up is coordinated by Teen Time members and volunteers at their Sunday monthly meeting. This month teens planned a game night for their last Teen Time event before Great Northwest closed for renovations. Teens played *Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza*, a fast-paced tabletop game where players take turns flipping a card and saying one of those 5 words. If what you say matches the card you play, it's a race to slap your hand down. Once the teens played a few rounds they switched to a different game and discussed future Teen Time events, projects, and Discord activities. During the month of August, teens decided to collaborate with other teens on the 210 Discord server and scheduled programs at Forest Hills while GNW and other branches undergo renovations.

The teen volunteers prepared their first program, celebrating *International Cat Day* on August 8, where teens made cat toys out of felt and donated fabric for their pets and played themed table top games such as *Cat Lady* and *Taco Cat* to celebrate the occasion. During the *Boba Tea Class* the teens made their own bracelets, paintings from teen summer supplies, and tried out the Oculus and many other games on the Nintendo Switch. Teen volunteers also participated in a Back-to-School outreach with the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center over the weekend and advocated for LGBTQIA+ young adults in the San Antonio community.

The group hopes to continue this collaboration throughout the month of August and looks forward to future projects with Forest Hills and the GNW community.

The Great Northwest Branch Library staff are assisting at other branches while the branch undergoes renovations. The branch will be getting fresh new colors of paint, a restroom renovation, and pavement restriping. The branch looks forward to welcoming customers back to see the new look once the work is complete!

# GUERRA

The month of August was busy with programming and preparing the branch for its HVAC renovation and closure beginning August 21<sup>st</sup>. The Guerra team looked forward to offering interim service at its neighboring community center and assisting other branches during that time.

On August 19th, Library Assistant Roxanne Menchaca co-led a virtual, monthly installment of Queer Crafternoon. Patrons were invited to craft and display their creativity in a safe space while listening to stories with queer-centered storylines or queer characters.

Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson presented a trivia game at the Willie Cortez senior center on August 25<sup>th</sup> and moderated his monthly Spanish book club, Club de Lectura, on August 31<sup>st</sup>, relocated to Johnston Library due to Guerra's renovation. Big thanks to the Johnston team for their generous welcome!

Children's Librarian, Linda Lopez, had great attendance for all programs. She attended an outreach with library assistant, Roxanne Menchaca, at Jubilee Westwood Elementary and spoke to over 150 parents and children about all the services SAPL has to offer.

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, Linda Lopez, and circulation attendant, Abella Lazalde-Jimenez began interim library services at the Virginia Gill Community Center, now deemed: "Guerrita Library". Patrons were able to pick up holds, drop off returns, browse a small section of books, dvds & blu-rays, use laptops, and limited printing. Ms.Lopez and Ms.Lazalde-Jimenez registered seniors and community center staff for library cards and provided lots of reader's advisory. The partnership with the Gill Center proved magnificent and all of the staff and seniors were welcoming.



# IGO

Manager of Igo Branch Library runs "The Dollars and Sense Book Club" The Dollars and Sense Discussion Group is a thriving book group that fosters financial education and discussion. By addressing common financial questions, discussing the role of the Federal Reserve, exploring investment options, and predicting financial trends, this group equips its members with the knowledge and tools necessary to

navigate the complex world of finance. They discussed the book "Talking to Strangers" by Lewis Michael in August.

In the month of August 2023, Adult Services Librarian, Gamini Haluwana coordinated the program "Dig it! Grow Your Mind." The "Dig it! Grow Your Mind" gardening program organized by the San Antonio Public Library and Bexar County Master Gardeners proved to be a valuable initiative that enriched the gardening knowledge of participants, promoted community engagement, and encouraged sustainable gardening practices. As a result, the program not only helped individuals become more confident gardeners but also contributed to the creation of a vibrant gardening community in San Antonio. The program's success demonstrates the value of education and collaboration in fostering a deeper appreciation for gardening and the natural world. It is anticipated that future iterations of this program will continue to have a positive impact on the community's gardening enthusiasts. 20 people attended.



The "Discovering Your House History" program was organized by Gamini Haluwana, Adult Services Librarian to assist homeowners in uncovering the fascinating history of their residences. This program aimed to provide participants with valuable knowledge and techniques for researching their homes, particularly focusing on determining when their houses were built and identifying previous occupants. It offered insights into various research sources and techniques to answer these questions and more.

Participants left the program equipped with the skills and resources needed to embark on their own house history research journeys, fostering a stronger connection to the rich history of their homes and communities. Librarian, Sylvia Reyna from Texana Genealogy taught the class and 12 people attended.

Teen librarian Annie Calonico continues to host the Better Read Than Dead book club, which meets each month to discuss a horror or true crime read. The group continues to add new members and this month they talked about *The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century* by Kirk Wallace Johnson. Participants were all rather astonished to learn about the modern-day Victorian salmon fly-tyers and the theft one of them committed.

Children's librarian Carrie Vance and teen librarian Annie Calonico continue to jointly run The Stitchery, a weekly adult fiber arts program. Each week fiber artists gather to work on their current projects while building community and connecting with other fiber artists of various ages and backgrounds.

Igo's teen regulars and teen volunteer worked with teen librarian, Annie Calonico, to plan activities and request materials for Teen Time, including crafts, art supplies, video games, and board games. They have welcomed new teens, socializing, and learning new things while making new friends and connections. Having teens take the lead in planning and implementation of teen activities strengthens their sense of belonging and ownership over their time and space in the library while supporting them as they become more independent.

## JOHNSTON

Johnston hosted the mobile market, "Mercado por tu Corazon", on August 8<sup>th</sup> as part of the American Heart Association's partnership with the library to provide the opportunity to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables to residents. Johnston welcomed a new Circulation Attendant P/T, Cynthia Blancas on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Johnston bid a fond farewell to the LEARN Training Officer Marcella McGowan on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Johnston Library began hosting the Viva Health! Viva Salud! series offered by Health Program Specialist Ale Ochoa from San Antonio Metropolitan Health on Tuesday afternoons. This program runs for seven weeks and aims to educate people about nutrition and health.

Adult Services Librarian Cris Yamada conducted four Adult Craft Club during the month of August. As part of the Summer Reading, the weekly program offered the participants the opportunity to try different techniques to work on their journal, as well as making coasters and cards using the paper quilling technique.



Children's Librarian Jackie Gonzales held programs the first Three weeks in August before taking a break the last two weeks to plan future programming. At the three Family Story Times Ms. Gonzales sang songs, told rhymes, and read stories to children and their caregivers. Targeted for preschool age children, families were encouraged to come and listen, learn, play, and sing along. Within the program, the children's librarian ensured to incorporate the five building blocks for early literacy: sing, talk, read, write, and play. A few stories shared included: *Hooray for Birds!* by Lucy Cousins, *Who Needs Friends?* by Jia Liu and *Tip Toe Tiger* by Jane Clarke. A simple craft was provided at the end of each Story Time where children and their caregiver(s) could work on something. Children who wished to opt out of doing the craft were provided toys to play with. Ms Gonzales presented "Let's Create: Maker's Club" which started with an art prompt for school-age children and their families. Children were invited to follow the prompt or create another project with any materials provided. Prompts included: paper bird, paper bag puppet, and paper bees. Children were encouraged to be creative and to challenge themselves with the materials provided. Lego Time, held on Wednesdays at 4pm, gave children free build time and then challenges that they could do alone or with a partner. Projects created were then displayed until the next Lego Time. Ms. Gonzales visited La Petite Academy on Wurzbach for Story Time on August 1<sup>st</sup>. She told stories, sang songs, and did rhymes with the children. Some favorite rhymes and songs shared included: Two Little Black Birds where children learned examples about opposites.



Teen Librarian Ana Pina hosted the Johnston No-pressure Book Club on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> where participants gathered to talk about the books they have been reading for the month of August. Some notable books mentioned were *The Change* by Kirsten Miller and *Kiss Him, Not Me!* By Junko. Ms. Pina facilitated in-person Teen Time every Monday night of the month. The teens assisted in programing such as making snow cones, decorating the new teen

space including book ends, arts and craft activities, playing Pictionary, and watching movies. On August 14<sup>th</sup> San Antonio Food Bank chef Brittany Hernandez came to show the teens how to make Tostadas. The teens assisted in the preparing, cutting, and making of the food.

## LANDA

Children's in-house programming paused for the month of August after a very successful Summer with SAPL program. In June and July, Landa Library held 88 children's programs with a total of 3,134 people attending. Staff gave away 1,030 books to children visiting the branch.

During the last week of August, Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas added new self-directed programming activities to the Children's area including a Very Hungry Caterpillar Scavenger Hunt and a Fall Leaf hopscotch.

Teen Librarian Stephanie Thomas-Rosen facilitated two weekly programs for teens 13-18 years old throughout the month of August. This month, teens planned and implemented cooking activities, Switch gaming tournaments, board game fun, decorating the teen space, and their book club. Teen's involvement in this process fostered independence of thought, teamwork with peers, and provided an opportunity to see the library as their Space. Landa Branch continues to build trust and relationships with teens to be a safe and welcoming place.

The Village read *The Kitchen Front* by Jennifer Ryan. They enjoyed reminiscing about when they were younger and shared details about what they remember about food rationing.

As part of Summer with SAPL, Bexar County Gardeners chatted with patrons about summer gardening topics.

The Landa Mystery Club read *The Last Thing He told Me*. The group enjoyed that it was partly set in Austin, Texas, as some of the members had never been.

This month, Reader's Ink book club read *The Great Gatsby*. To our surprise, half of the club members had never read the book! Everyone loved the writing. They thought it was beautiful and timely. The characters were not liked at all. The women specifically were described as "meringue" as they were filled with air, no substance.

## LAS PALMAS

Las Palmas Branch Library closed its doors for renovations as of Monday, March 20, 2023. Interim services for Las Palmas Branch Library are located at Our Lady of the Lake University's Sueltenfuss Library (411 SW 24th St., San Antonio, TX 78207).

Interim services site updated their hours of operation for the Fall:

- Monday – Tuesday | 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday - Friday | 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday | 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



(San Antonio Public Library-Communications Department, 2023)

Branch Manager, Lily Treviño Pérez continues to develop outreach connections with area community centers. On August 4<sup>th</sup>, she registered with the YWCA and attended a Back-to-School Fair. During the event Las Palmas shared several library resources, such as Brainfuse (Live Homework Help) and the Enhanced Library Card to over 150 families in attendance. Las Palmas hopes to continue this collaboration with the D5 community and looks forward to future projects.

## MAVERICK

Maverick Library closed in August for renovations. Fresh new colors were applied to the immense walls and a new carpet design has been installed. Meanwhile, most of Maverick staff have been temporarily assigned to assist at nearby branches such as Igo and Forest Hills. Branch Manager, Jef Martin, remained on site to allow construction crews access to the building and assist with any inquiries. Library Aide, Laura Lopez, also remained on site to help to check in and shelve all incoming items. The plumbing phase of the project is expected to resume in the upcoming month.

## McCRELESS

Paula Lenington has a Family Story Time reoccurring every Thursday. The kids sang songs, listened to a story and had an engaging time playing and building.





Every Tuesday of the month, Kids came to build and play with Legos, they did a good job using their imagination to create.





The Children's Librarian has begun a crafting After noon called Creator Club. Anything can happen at creator club; it is only limited by your imagination.



Every Tuesday night (from 5:30-7:30) Daniela Moreno, Teen Services Librarian at McCreless, facilitated weekly programs for teens aged 13 to 18 in the teen space. During these weekly programs, teens are empowered to decide the activities they want to do. Some examples of these activities are playing with the Nintendo Switch, creating art with the materials provided, making friendship bracelets, using the button/keychain maker, etc.

On August 31st, Teen Services Librarian Daniela Moreno was invited to Highlands High School to speak to incoming freshman about what services the public library has to offer, especially for their age group. Librarian Moreno worked and communicated with Highland's High School Librarian Lisa Ramirez and set up a table at the library. She presented her PowerPoint slides to the students and answered any questions they had about the library. She then collected library card paper applications and interacted with the teens as she created keychains for them with the design of their choice. She also gave out small tokens with the library's logo such as pencils, highlighters, post it notes, etc.

Every Wednesday from 10:30 – noon, McCreless holds Coffee & Crosswords where patrons are invited to have a cup of coffee, work on puzzles, and talk. Initiated by Adult Services Librarian Vicky Villalobos, the goals were to offer a space where Older Adults can socialize; engage them in an activity like puzzles and brain games to promote positive mental health in mood, memory, and concentration; and build relationships with patrons who frequent McCreless Branch. The program was held five times in August, and Librarian Villalobos was joined by Teen Services Librarian Daniela Moreno who has done an impromptu Sudoku lesson and brings the chisme from the original program title: Crosswords, Coffee & Chisme to the delight of patrons.

Adult Services Librarian Vicky Villalobos held two monthly crafting programs: Drop-In Crafts Club which met on August 3 and Queer Crafternoon on August 20 where patrons are invited to craft and display their creativity in a safe space while listening to stories with queer-centered storylines or queer characters. This month's audio selection was *Never Been Kissed* by Timothy Janovsky.

On August 12, she hosted K-Pop Silent Disco and was joined by Pruitt Library Assistant Sheran Awe Jr., McCreless Circulation Attendant Madison Hinojosa, and Adult Services Coordinator Morgan Yoshimura. Patrons of all ages danced to their favorite K-Pop songs in this celebration of music and culture.

On August 25, Adult Services Librarian Vicky Villalobos joined Librarians Brook Mjolsness and Dan Garcia and Adult Services Coordinator Morgan Yoshimura for August's SAPL Live Trivia. Eleven teams competed for first place and bragging rights in this virtual program.

On August 8th Library Assistant Joseph Gonzales hosted Movie night at McCreless featuring *Guardians of the Galaxy 3* with over 18 attendees. Everyone enjoyed a hilarious and action-packed movie with popcorn and refreshments. Mr. Gonzales helped the children's librarian Paula Lenington create some programs for the Get eclipse ready event coming in September and October.

Christina and Lodie are pleased to report that during August, the McCreless Learn Center continued to deepen the partnership with the Texas Center for Infectious Disease, working with TCID staff to plan three classes on their extensive campus for September and October.

Resume-building, job applications, Computer Skills Training, and English language support continuing to be the Learn services most in demand, with 105 Learn sessions in August. One patron wrote to express gratitude for the support she received from Learn staff: "I wanted to first thank you for helping with my resume! I now am happily with the city, working with City Council as their Constituent Service Director for District 1. I would not be here without your assistance!"

## MEMORIAL



In August, Memorial Branch Library hosted Metro Health for a vaccine clinic on August 1 in the meeting room. Then, on August 23 and 24, Metro Health's mobile testing unit set up an STD testing clinic in the parking lot.

The meeting room was the scene of several library and community meetings during the month, including a gathering of staff from around the system as they learned about the events and activities surrounding the upcoming eclipses. Additionally, Public Services Administrator Elma Nieto-Rodriguez used the space for a monthly meeting of branch managers under her supervision, both for regular agenda items and to allow Memorial Branch Manager Christine Deffendall to show off the renovated spaces. A committee from the City/County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs also used the meeting room during August for one of their regular gatherings.

The lobby of the library was occupied on two occasions by representatives from Metro Health and Head Start, respectively.

Special events and regular activities at Memorial were few as the staff took a bit of a programming break to recover from the summer and to plan new activities for the next few months.

## MISSION

Mission Library hosted City of San Antonio leadership that included Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez and District 3 Councilwoman Phyllis Viagran, for a public meeting on August 14th, regarding the City's proposed budget. It was a well-attended meeting by the community.



The Mission Marquee's Farmers and Artisans Market continues to be a popular event for the community despite the record-breaking weather of 100-plus degree days. Mission staff members, Librarian Cindy Cruz and Library Aide Perla Campos continue to host outreach tables on the first and third Saturdays of the month.

On August 12th, Librarian Cindy Cruz hosted an outreach table at the YMCA's Back to School Bash. The event was sponsored by Fiesta Youth and brought families from across the community to the YMCA to

receive back to school supplies. Cindy brought a prize wheel for families to spin and win prizes like stickers, buttons/pins, and comic books. She was able to speak to approximately 85 individuals at the event.

Teens and teachers from St. Peter's-St. Joseph's Childrens' Home toured Mission Library on August 18th. The Childrens' Home hosts an international program that serves unaccompanied teens from Central America and Mexico. The teachers from the program coordinated the library visit with Librarian Cindy Cruz. The 30 teens (and teachers) met in the meeting room where they listened to a short intro to library services by Ms. Cruz. Many of the teens never grew up with a library where they were from. The group had a Q&A session and then took a tour of the library and grounds. Teens were very enthusiastic to learn about youth activities and free classes that the library offers.

Teens at Mission participated in a variety of activities during the reporting period. Teens played volleyball in the library's courtyard as well as Table Tennis and the Nintendo Switch. They also created "Desert Terrariums" and learned about cooking from the San Antonio Food Bank.

Librarian Kassandra Vela-Laosa presented a new music and movement program for school-age children called Get Up and Dance for Kids. In the program, children are encouraged to follow instructions in songs to move or dance a certain way. Children and caretakers alike enjoyed the program. It will be a regular program occurring on the first Saturday of the month.

## PAN AMERICAN

On August 5th, Pan American Branch Library met up with SAPL mascot Smarty at the Central Med Southside Clinic for a Back-to-School celebratory event. Librarian Barbaraella and Library Assistant Kaylee handed out Homework Help and 5 Things To Do At The Library bookmarks while promoting the library. They also took photos of Smarty with families, other city mascots, and City Council District 3 council member Phyllis Viagran. The event was well-attended and a lot of people were excited to see library representatives there.



During Teen Time this month, the branch's teen volunteer helped load new games onto the PS5 and enjoyed taking their time in playing each one of them. The teen volunteer created two YA displays (as well as the flyers) for the month of August. One centered on sports books and the other focused on books with a musical element. Both displays proved to be popular with patrons. As part of her work with the

Pride Committee, Teen Services Librarian Gladys Nunez attended Fiesta Youth's Back to School Bash at the Harvey E. Najim Family YMCA along with fellow Teen Services Librarian Shannan Prukop. A table was set up for giveaways including bookmarks, pencils, stickers, buttons, comic books, note pads, and advanced reader copies. Also, they answered questions community members had about the library and its resources.

Librarian Adrian Leal held his Adult Puzzle Time Program. This program is open to all adult patrons and allows them to select from an assortment of puzzle types to complete. Patrons are even able to keep the puzzle they worked on.

Mr. Leal also held his Older Adult Game Time Program. This program is specially designed for Older Adults. This program allows them the opportunity to "game" with other older adults. A wide assortment of games are available to select from i.e. PlayStation 5 Games, Jigsaw Puzzles, Crosswords, Word Searches, Dominoes, Playing Cards, just to name a few.

On August 5th, the Cancer Support Group held a session. These sessions are free and open to all community members that have been directly or indirectly impacted by Cancer and looking for to group to listen or help.

## PARMAN

Adults:

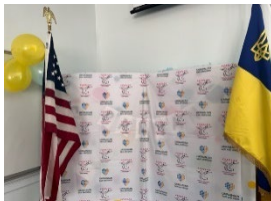
Parman staff took the opportunity to do some collaborative work during the library staff in-service day this month. Staff spent the morning reviewing the Library Strategic Plan Development presentations and then held an open discussion about the areas of strength and where they saw opportunities for growth in each of the individual presentations. It was a very productive meeting and allowed everyone to express their own ideas about the future of library services. All the discussion notes and ideas were collected and passed onto Jessica Zurita by branch manager Barbara Kwiatkowski.



In August, the Parman community was treated to the special gardening program that would not have been possible without the partnership made originally by SAPL with the Bexar County Master Gardeners organization. After the program provided by adult services "Dig in", branch manager was able to partner directly with Master Gardeners and monthly series at Parman has been created. This first class was entitled "Texas Superstar Vegetable: The Best Choice for Your Fall Gardens" and featured a presentation on the ins and outs of vegetable gardening in Bexar County by Master Gardener Nancy Mills. Ms. Mills shared information on what plants work best for this climate and soil, and how to plan and plant for the coming Fall season. She had a wealth of information and plenty of special tips that would make anyone's fall vegetable garden a thing of beauty. The room was brimming with excitement over what possibilities there were for their vegetable gardens this season and given the community engagement, Parman staff have high hopes for the series as it continues through the upcoming months.



Parman's Mystery Book Club got a refresh in the month of August with a new name and new members. At the club's latest meeting attendance doubled by 100% and with the new influx of people the members decided they wanted to read a wide variety of genres, which led them to renaming their group Parman's Indecisive Book Club. Library Assistant Melissa Moser created new flyers to go with the new name and helped to reformat the group so members could get the most out of the club. Parman's staff has received very positive comments on the new book selection for the club and how much excitement Ms. Moser has brought to the group.



August 24th is Ukraine's Independence Day which meant this month's Ukrainian Language and Culture Club meeting held special significance for all those who attended and that it was time to celebrate. Celebrations began with national anthem sang by all attendees, and opening remarks made by the president of Ukrainian Club of San Antonio. After that the Ukrainian community was sharing their own personal experiences and why this year's Independence Day was so important.



This was followed by group singing traditional songs and sharing traditional Ukrainian cake.

#### Teens:



Teen Librarian Zachary Woolston continued facilitating Teen Time throughout August, with over 40 teens attending the various programs. At their request, the popular LEGO building, and Jackbox Party Pack programs were brought back, with the teens teaming up to build summer-related scenes in a timed competition led by a teen volunteer. With the new Star Wars limited series Ahsoka premiering on Disney Plus, Zachary and teens put together a young adult-focused Star Wars display to celebrate the character and universe.

#### Children:



Children's programming took a quick break at the beginning of August to get geared up for the Fall! Miss Teague's Creator Club returned with its creators making bugs out of scraps of paper, a STEM Challenge Day, and building with Legos, while tweens jumped back into things with animal collages. A wizard scavenger hunt had almost 300 young witches and wizards scurrying through the library to find school supplies to aid in their magical studies.



Miss Lisa added a new Story Time on Fridays just for Toddlers. It kicked off with a bang as little ones learned nursery rhymes, songs, and finger plays. The children got to play with scarves and egg shakers as well as take a turn with felt board shapes. Everybody loved old favorites like "The Wheels on the Bus," and "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes."

Moms, dads, nannies, and grandparents brought their babies to Baby Story Time. Miss Lisa introduced "The Baby Hokey Pokey," and the babies enjoyed using egg shakers and scarves with music. The Family Time crowd's fine motor skills were challenged by playing sticks to Hap Palmer's "Tap Your Sticks." Tapping sticks end to end, rubbing the sticks together, and hammering the right with the left, and the left with the right was a workout!



Cuentos y Canciones attendees developed their sense of rhythm while using the maracas to play along to "La Bamba." Miss Veronica shared a story about careers, and when the costume box was pulled out after the story the kids enjoyed dressing up like some of the people in the book. Playdough was also a big hit during open play time.

## POTRANCO

Back to school readiness kicked off at the Potranco Library on August 13<sup>th</sup> with the Potranco Library's first ever school supply swap! Librarian Zeig invited patrons to donate their new or gently used school/office supplies to those in need. Approximately 150 adults and children participated. Patrons expressed their gratitude to be able to rehome unneeded supplies and recipients were grateful to have them. The program was a great success, and we look forward to hosting another one next school year.

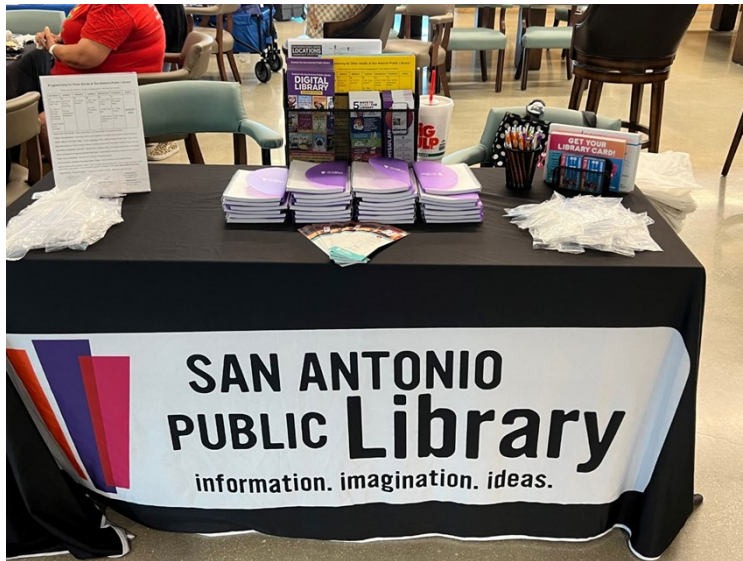
Librarian Zeig hosted a paper quilling craft as part of Summer with SAPL. Patrons enjoyed making beautiful designs out of paper. We will hold another quilling program in October with a fall theme. Librarian Zeig started a new program this month called Hormones and Hot Flashes. Patrons that are experiencing perimenopause or are in menopause are encouraged to come listen to a podcast, chat, and color on the last Sunday of every month.

Librarian Zeig held two book clubs this month. The morning and evening versions of Shelf Indulgence, on August 15 and 22 respectively, were both well-attended with some new faces added. This month's book was *Daisy Darker* by Alice Feeney. Librarian Zeig and Circulation Attendant Laura Villalpando continue to host Dreaded Threads on Monday evenings and it has become one of our best attended adult programs.

Librarian Zeig participated in an older adult outreach on August 24<sup>th</sup> at the Northeast Senior Center. The Senior Center held a resource fair for older adults. Participants expressed how much they enjoy the library and loved the magnifiers, stylus pens and notebooks that were given out on behalf of the San Antonio Public Library. Librarians Zeig and Mjolsness promoted library events taking place nearby and spoke to attendees about library offerings.

Potranco is excited to welcome its first full-time teen librarian! Sherry Ross joined the team on August 28<sup>th</sup> and is already planning fun teen activities and outreaches for September.

Children's Librarian Lisa Leandro had a variety of programs this month that were all well-attended. Librarian Leandro led rock-painting during Kids Time and children made a snake that will be displayed on our outdoor patio when finished. With the addition of part-time Children's Librarian, Kristin Yourdon, Potranco will be adding Baby Time to their robust programming schedule. We are excited to be adding a program for our youngest patrons at our location. Potranco is pleased that Chess Master David Pacheco III is back from his summer tournaments and has resumed volunteering his time to run a biweekly Saturday Chess program at our location.



## PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS

In August, Pruitt's Children's Services librarian Lucina Cisneros facilitated 11 programs for early childhood and school-age children, including tweens. The branch continued its regularly scheduled *Toddler Story Time*, *Sensory Play Time*, *Children's Yoga*, *Tween Yoga*, and *Let's Build* weekly programs, and also offered its first *Tween Movie Crafternoon* program. *Children's* and *Tween Yoga* participants were taught breathing exercises and meditation tips led by instructor Ms. Lisette from the City of San Antonio's Metro Health Healthy Neighborhoods program, to help them navigate the transition from summer vacation to back-to-school. Participants in *Sensory Play Time* explored their world and enhanced their fine motor skills, socialization, and imagination through a variety of sensory and tactile experiences while also interacting with their peers. The branch's *Tween Movie Crafternoon* was a sensory delight, as participants



created uniquely scented and textured art pieces using a variety of spices, tea, and coffee while watching the movie *Ratatouille*.



August was an especially exciting month at the Molly Pruitt Library because school began and the branch's large teen patronage in the vicinity of Roosevelt High School returned to start a new year. Teen Services librarian Lauren Hime helped to spread the word about SAPL Teen Services and activities and partnered with the school librarian during library orientations and through the branch's popular courtyard *Mega Chess* outreach series that continues throughout the school year.

Pruitt branch teens showed serious initiative regarding leadership and engagement. Many teens showed interest in volunteering at the library with more and more applications going out every day. The branch's more seasoned volunteers set their sights on leading teen activities.

Teen Time assistant and volunteer Mia coordinated a fun *Movie Day* in the pit. Mia polled teens on what movie they'd like to watch, passed out popcorn and documented the event with photos featured below. Teen volunteer Aukai conceptualized and organized an after-school meetup where students could learn to play *Magic: The Gathering*. He now runs "*Magic in the Pit*" every Thursday. Teen volunteer Andrew singlehandedly revived "*Anime Hour*" and planned to run it every other Wednesday with teen-selected viewing choices. With these driven and capable teens leading the way, it's going to be an awesome year!





Pruitt's Adult Services librarian Paula Opiela facilitated *Adult Virtual Coloring* on Friday afternoons, with participants alternately coloring and chatting. One online patron commented, "I was so stressed [earlier today], but I thought, 'I've got coloring this afternoon, and I can just relax!'"

Patrons at the *Adult Craft Time* made lovely fall leaf wreaths accented with metallic paint out of paper bags. *Special Needs Adult Programming* participants read Samantha Vamos' "The Piñata that the Farm Maiden Hung" and made piñatas filled with literary stickers, drink umbrellas, and sweet treats.



## SAN PEDRO

The San Pedro Branch Library provided a variety of programs and services during the month of August. Programs for children, teen and adults were offered either weekly or once per month. Additionally, the branch started passive adult coloring and word search programs for patrons to take a mental and creative break during the hot days of summer.

Children's Librarian Karen Braeuler continued outreach programming at Respite Children's Daycare and Davidson House. The children participated in a program of singing, reading and rhyme.

Baby Story Time at San Pedro continued every Saturday morning with increasing attendance. New parents and their children were able to socialize while enjoying a good story and activity.

San Pedro librarian Karen Braeuler conducted the monthly book club at Chandler Senior Living. Nine residents participated in the discussion about *Last Dance of the Debutante*. Residents were presented with library copies of next month's book for their reading pleasure.

In August, 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 an entire game of 1 hour. Additionally, the branch continued to host “Yarn Over to San Pedro” where the public could knit and crochet different projects. Needle crafters of all kinds were welcomed and invited to bring their own project to work on. Beginners were welcomed as well. Once you get started, we’ll have you hooked!

July’s Film Virtuosity: A Reflection of Art showcased a double feature from local writer and director Alex Ramirez, ‘2:153’ and ‘A Life in Technicolor’. The program kicked off with a student film from the ‘Say SI’ educational organization called ‘Spiral’.

Two of the films shown were filmed during the Covid-19 pandemic and showcased what life was like during this time and the creative minds that continued to work despite the circumstances of the world.

Filmmaker Alex Ramirez will be in attendance, joining us to talk about his works and his inspirations for his craft.

Finally, the San Pedro Branch had a wonderful staff in-service half day on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The time included a presenter from Visit San Antonio who talked about the world-class attractions and features of our beautiful city. Also, staff had teambuilding opportunities and enjoyed a healthy salad luncheon together.

## SCHAEFER

After a busy June and July at Schaefer with more than 50 children’s programs and more than 1,100 Summer with SAPL books given to kids, the children’s programs paused for most of August. At the end of August, Baby Story Time and Outdoor Family Story Time returned, and a full slate of children’s programming is planned for September.

Through the month of August, the Adult Services Librarian coordinated a weekly health and fitness program at Schaefer: “Cardio-Dance Class”, which features a moderate dance workout led by a Schaefer community member. On August 13, 2023, the Adult Services Librarian hosted the monthly program, “Chess+Checkers+Dominoes”, a family-oriented gaming program. On August 20, 2023, the Adult Services Librarian hosted the monthly “Board Game Social” program, an adult oriented gaming program that focuses on socializing, and more sophisticated and complex board games which appeal to an adult audience.

Branch manager, Maria Adams presented a beginning sewing class to adult patrons. Assistant, Blanca Silvia Hernandez, assisted with the program by providing hands on instruction to patrons.

In August, Dacari Lambert, Teen Services Librarian at Schaefer Branch Library facilitated weekly Teen Time alongside three teen volunteers. During Teen Time, teens engaged in peer led programming that consisted of: Just Dance competitions, arts and crafts, and cooking demonstrations. A long-standing teen volunteer created and lead a “how to make French toast” cooking demonstration class for other teens.

Dacari worked with colleague Ami Sarabia to host Music Mondays, weekly, on the 210 Teen Library Discord Server. Dacari worked alongside Adult Services Librarian, Daniel Garcia, to host Mercado por tu Corazon and a variety of other adult and family-based programs throughout the month.

For systemwide efforts, Dacari worked with colleagues Shannan Prukop, Lisa Puchot, Michael Dunbar-Rodney, Daniel Garcia, and Jason Futrell to launch InQUEERies: a queer themed SAPL podcast which centers creative folks and explorations in their work and how it intersects with our work as Librarians. Dacari continues her efforts in the system-wide Pride committee, and Teen Services committees: Discord, Teen Pride, and Professional Development.

# SEMMEs

Semmes Library's children's programming included a Let's Build: LEGOs and More program for school-age children on August 21 which was attended by 16 children and 5 grownups. Three Wednesday Preschool Story Time sessions were attended by 111 children and 84 grownups. Two Thursday Toddler Story Time sessions were attended by 51 children and 41 grownups. Two Thursday Baby Story Time sessions were attended by 35 babies and 44 grownups. Ms. Randi presented the opening songs for Family Story Time Online on August 23. She recorded a story for the Dial-a-Story line on August 1, 4, 8, 18, 22, 25 and 29. Her curated Story Time for toddlers (*Roly Poly Pangolin* by Anna Dewdney) premiered on the SAPL website on August 7.

Teen Time continued throughout August with Teens meeting up to make Perler Bead creations, and share art while chatting with peers. Tween Time on Wednesdays drew in tweens who enjoyed a Ping Pong tournament, bracelet making, and duct tape crafts.

Semmes Library continued with several popular recurring programs in August for adults; Tai Chi, Yoga and Table Tennis. Our Tai Chi program brought tranquility and balance to the library, as participants came together to explore the ancient Chinese martial art. With expert instructor, Josue guiding them through graceful movements, our patrons found relaxation and improved mental clarity. Yoga (in partnership with Parks and Rec) has been a great success as well, newcomers and regular practitioners alike found the class relaxing and beneficial to their flexibility. Table Tennis has been smashing success, bringing a sense of camaraderie and a healthy dose of fun competition.

# THOUSAND OAKS

Assistant Branch Manager Brooke Mjolsness hosted in-person Yoga Class programs led by an instructor from the Parks and Recreation Department on August 1, 15, 22 and 29. She hosted in-person Tai Chi classes led by certified instructor Debra Cox on August 3, 10 and 31. She served as co-host and chat moderator for the virtual Film Noir Movie Club on August 8. On August 9, she hosted an in-person Beginning Genealogy class taught by Andy Crews from the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) Texana and Genealogy Department. Ms. Mjolsness hosted two in-person programs taught by instructors from Older Adults Technology Services – Cloud Storage on August 16, and Using Google Drive on August 23. She represented SAPL at the Northeast Senior Center Resource Fair on August 24. On August 25, she served as Master of Ceremonies for the virtual SAPL Live Trivia program. On August 26, she held an in-person Classic Movie Showing program. Attendees watched *The Killing* and participated in a discussion.

Children's Librarian Cheryl Penick held in-person Let's Create!: Arts & Crafts Friday programs on August 4, 11, 18 and 25. She held in-person Let's Move!: Music & Movement programs on August 5, 12, 19 and 26. She assembled themed book bundles for families to check-out.

Librarian Kimberly King held in-person Teen Time programs on August 7, 14, 21 and 28. She held an in-person Thursday Book Club program on August 10. Participants discussed *The Cloisters* by Katy Hays. She facilitated an outreach book group at the Northeast Senior Center on August 23. Attendees discussed *The Summer Place* by Jennifer Weiner. Ms. King created a book display highlighting young adult graphic novels.

Library Assistant Mari Carmen Castellano held an in-person Adult Craft Time program on August 16 at which participants made paper quill art. She held an in-person Tabletop Gaymer Night program on August 20. On August 23, she hosted a virtual Mario Kart program. She created three book displays this month for Historical Fiction, Personal Finance, and National Honey Bee Day.



## TOBIN LIBRARY AT OAKWELL

August at Tobin began with the final days of the Summer Reading programming and with preparing for the upcoming school year. With the new school year, Children's Librarians Lisa Ramirez, Kara Bailey and Teen Librarian Connie Hejl welcomed students back to Tobin Library with After School Programming by sharing games and snacks. Children's Librarian's took this time to also prepare for all upcoming Fall programming to include Toddler Story Time, Preschool Story Time, Read to a Dog, Lego Time and After School Zone for teens.





During this month, patrons zealously checked out many book bundles from a special book display created and maintained by Circulation attendants Lilliana Aguilar, Lauren Nyreen and Sabrina Longoria. The popular titles are frequently checked out and replenished during the week.



Tobin Teen Time kept the teens busy with a variety of activities. They enjoyed playing games on the Switch and board games such as Uno and Connect 4. Teens showed their creativity by making really cool bookmarks reusing old book pages. Teen librarian Connie Hejl also ran the Discord program Random Fandom, chatting with teens about a variety of Pop Culture topics.

Dungeons & Dragons Nights lets players of all ages develop characters and create adventures. Library Assistant David Hazlett and circulation attendant Sabrina Longoria DM the adventures and provide crafts such as button making for the players.

The regular Tai Chi and Tea and Sit and Stitch programs helped the Tobin adults keep their minds and bodies flexible as well as providing time to talk and socialize. Tobin also hosted an adult Summer at SAPL program for the Dig It! series about how to grow herbs. Twenty-three people attended the presentation by Bexar County Master Gardener Diana, and afterwards librarian Rhonda Woolhouse helped patrons plant their own herbs to take home.





## WESTFALL

Westfall Library hired new staff member Zully Avelino as a circulation attendant and are hosting library assistant Amber Hughes during the closure of Great Northwest. During the Staff In-Service on August 4, Troy Hoyles and Jamie Flowers visited Westfall to discuss with staff their roles in the collection development department and allow staff to ask questions. It was a wonderful visit, and Troy and Jamie were very generous with their time. Westfall also hosted the League of Women Voters on August 23 when they set up a table to provide information and resources to the community about voting.



Machaia McClenny, Branch Manager at Westfall, continued her Classic Movie Monday series on August 28 by showing *Singin' in the Rain* and allowed patrons to vote for the next movie to be shown in September. She also hosted interviews at Westfall to hire a part time circulation attendant and learned

how to utilize NEOGOV to enter the selections of seven libraries. She took part in LibGuide training so that she would be able to create LibGuides in the future.

Monty Holcomb, Adult Services Librarian at Westfall, started a weekly dominoes program that is for seniors, giving older adults in the community an opportunity to play the game with other seniors. In the program, Mr. Holcomb helps to facilitate game flow and gives assistance as needed depending on the needs of those attending. The program has, from the onset, had a decent turnout with a core group clearly forming. Mr. Holcomb, along with the Westfall's Learn Center Training Officer, also did an outreach to the Granados Senior Center to make them aware of SAPL programs and resources that would be relevant to them. Additionally, Mr. Holcomb also coordinated and arranged for a Texana staff member to present a Genealogy program at Westfall. Despite the major power issues that the library experienced in the hours preceding the program, the program still had a respectable turnout. Furthermore, Mr. Holcomb has continued his weekly chess program that is for all ages, giving the community an opportunity to play and/or learn informal chess games. In the program, Mr. Holcomb helps to facilitate game play flow among the players and gives assistance (including lessons) as needed depending on the needs of those attending.

In August, Children's Librarian Imelda Merino planned and presented five Preschool Story Times and four Family Story Times. Ms. Merino was invited to present a Story Time for the families at the SAMMinistries Transitional Living and Learning Center on August 22. She also collected titles to add to the Children's Book Picks, which can be found in the Reading Tab on the SAPL Children's Services webpage. The topic was Hispanic Heritage Month.

Heather, the Teen Services Librarian at Westfall, asked for the teen volunteers to fully take charge of the Teen Space while she took some time off in August. The teen volunteers continued to lead Teen Time, maintained the appearance of the Teen Space and games/supplies in it, and managed their snack supply so that they had enough for all programs in the librarian's absence. One teen found supplies to make slime were available and taught another teen how to make it, allowing them to grow confidence in teaching and interacting with their peers.

In the month of August, the Learn Center at Westfall continued to see an increase in walk-in patrons seeking service for everything from computer training to resume building. Westfall continues to receive a variety of patrons of which Westfall is not necessarily their home library branch but have come here to seek out the learn services. Of those groups, we continue to welcome several senior patrons who are getting to know how to use the computer for the first time. During the month, Louis Medellin participated in the back-to-school event with Empower house on the east side of San Antonio.



# PERFORMANCE MEASURES

# SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

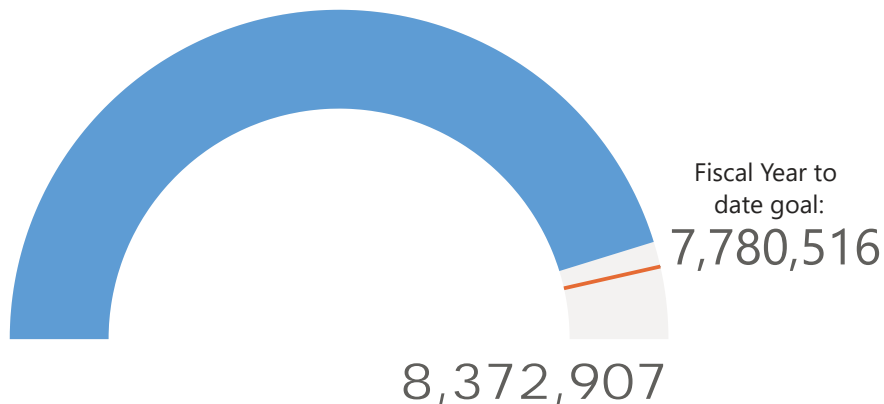
## KEY INDICATORS

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.

# August 2023

## FY 2023

### Circulation: Goal

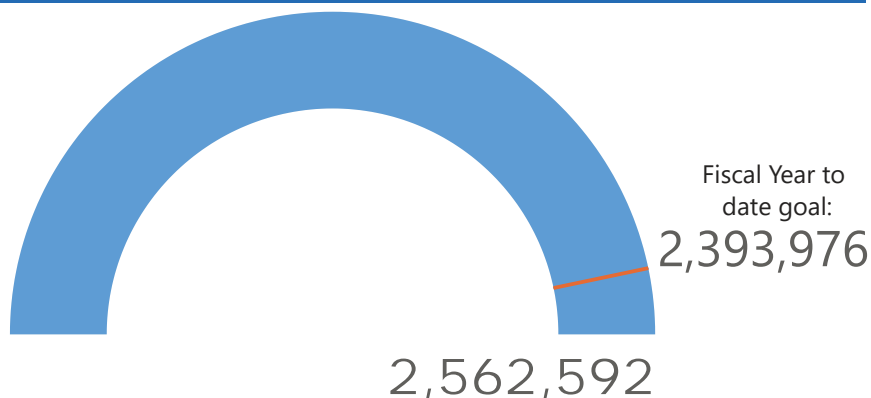


### FY 2023 to date Items Borrowed



7,573,992  
(-2.65%)  
Circulation

### Visits: Goal

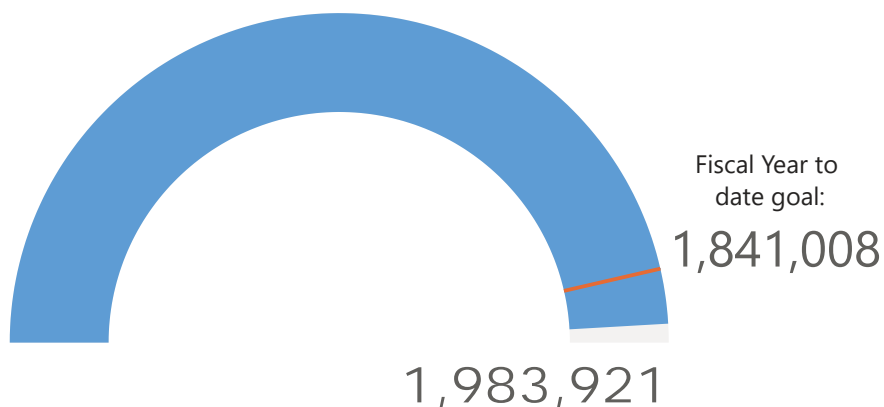


### FY 2023 to date Library Visits



2,775,484  
(+15.94%)  
Visits

### Digital Access: Goal



### FY 2023 to date Digital Access



245,244  
Hours of Computer Use



1,702,277  
Hours of Wi-Fi Use

1,947,521  
(+5.79%)  
Hours of Technology Use

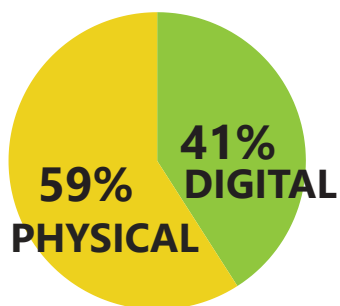


# SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS

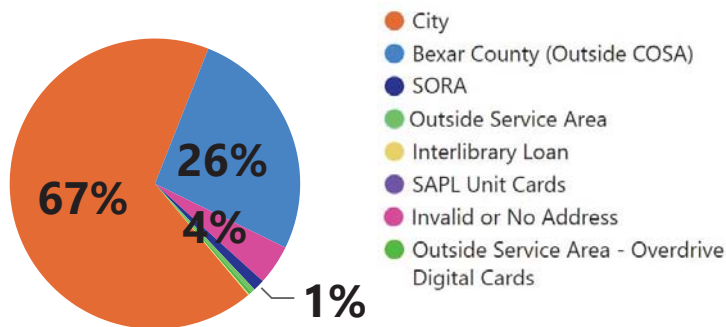
## August 2023 (CONTINUED)

### USE OF COLLECTION: FISCAL YEAR 2023

#### CIRCULATION BY TYPE



#### CIRCULATION BY SERVICE AREA



### VIRTUAL: FISCAL YEAR 2023



1,575,304  
MYSAPL.ORG  
VISITS

20,799  
MYSAPL  
APP DOWNLOADS

523,245  
OVERDRIVE  
SITE VISITS

3,151,955  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
IMPRESSIONS

### PROGRAMS & ATTENDANCE: FISCAL YEAR 2023

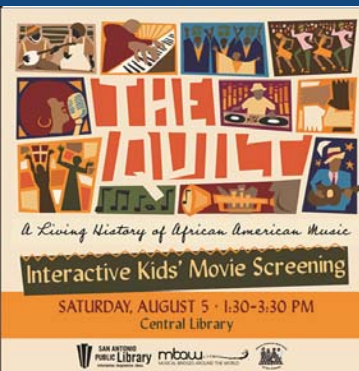
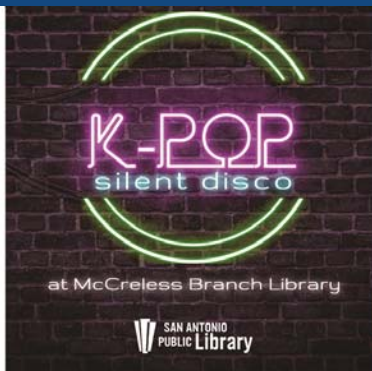
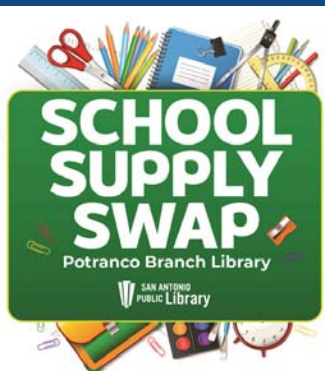
Total	Early Literacy (0-5)	School Age (6-12)	Teens (13-18)	Adults (19+)	Older Adults (60+)	General Interest*
9,657 programs	2,326 programs	1,967 programs	2,395 programs	2,173 programs	412 programs	384 programs
185,561 attendance	68,864 attendance	60,360 attendance	21,021 attendance	20,041 attendance	4,346 attendance	10,929 attendance

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

35 PROGRAM VIDEOS UPLOADED

39,302 PROGRAM VIDEO VIEWS

### AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS





# San Antonio Public Library

## August 2023 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
<b>Bazan</b>	3,035	6,148	6,635	1,832	4,803
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	19,803	11,352	5,597	735	4,862
<b>Carver</b>	2,621	4,606	4,375	870	3,505
<b>Central</b>	31,615	28,091	41,858	7,674	34,185
<b>Cody</b>	34,932	14,496	11,823	1,392	10,431
<b>Collins Garden</b>	3,958	4,717	4,640	569	4,071
<b>Cortez</b>	4,433	6,682	3,750	644	3,106
<b>Digital</b>	312,921	0	0	0	0
<b>Encino</b>	23,715	9,130	6,294	313	5,980
<b>Forest Hills</b>	9,027	4,580	3,661	314	3,347
<b>Great Northwest</b>	16,715	2,277	1,648	125	1,523
<b>Guerra</b>	6,003	3,734	3,179	367	2,812
<b>Igo</b>	52,459	21,802	11,475	1,106	10,369
<b>Interlibrary Loan</b>	1,300	0	0	0	0
<b>Johnston</b>	9,698	6,163	3,658	632	3,026
<b>Kampmann</b>	0	340	211	0	211
<b>Landa</b>	18,637	8,883	4,695	457	4,237
<b>Las Palmas</b>	313	51	122	0	122
<b>Maverick</b>	10,055	0	522	0	522
<b>McCreless</b>	8,109	4,222	7,462	1,203	6,258
<b>Memorial</b>	5,212	5,296	6,410	1,062	5,349
<b>Mission</b>	10,190	9,311	6,106	848	5,257
<b>Pan American</b>	3,898	3,485	3,055	440	2,616
<b>Parman</b>	36,303	16,791	6,961	493	6,467
<b>Potranco</b>	22,970	12,168	16,555	751	15,804
<b>Pruitt</b>	5,624	9,608	4,352	216	4,136
<b>San Pedro</b>	2,541	4,349	4,950	499	4,451
<b>Schaefer</b>	9,521	7,490	5,797	458	5,339
<b>Semmes</b>	28,219	12,128	8,167	1,267	6,900
<b>System</b>	36,760	0	0	0	0
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	8,272	5,697	5,324	762	4,562
<b>Tobin</b>	18,265	10,304	5,074	855	4,219
<b>Westfall</b>	10,125	7,635	7,624	1,330	6,294
<b>Total</b>	<b>767,249</b>	<b>241,536</b>	<b>201,980</b>	<b>27,214</b>	<b>174,766</b>

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

# San Antonio Public Library Programs

## August 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
<b>Bazan</b>	0	0	1	6	3	1	11
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	10	6	3	0	0	1	20
<b>Carver</b>	0	0	0	9	0	0	9
<b>Central</b>	5	1	81	11	1	2	101
<b>Cody</b>	0	0	14	13	0	0	27
<b>Collins Garden</b>	1	2	0	1	1	4	9
<b>Cortez</b>	5	7	3	8	0	0	23
<b>Encino</b>	0	0	5	12	10	0	27
<b>Forest Hills</b>	2	2	5	4	0	0	13
<b>Great Northwest</b>	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
<b>Guerra</b>	2	5	0	0	1	0	8
<b>Igo</b>	0	0	4	11	0	0	15
<b>Johnston</b>	4	3	4	10	1	0	22
<b>Landa</b>	0	0	4	3	0	0	7
<b>Las Palmas</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Little Read Wagon</b>	3	0	1	5	0	0	9
<b>Maverick</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>McCreless</b>	3	7	5	12	0	1	28
<b>Memorial</b>	4	5	0	23	1	1	34
<b>Mission</b>	10	3	6	17	0	5	41
<b>Pan American</b>	0	3	3	3	1	0	10
<b>Parman</b>	14	5	5	8	11	0	43
<b>Potranco</b>	3	4	2	9	0	2	20
<b>Pruitt</b>	6	5	9	2	0	0	22
<b>San Pedro</b>	6	0	0	3	2	0	11
<b>Schaefer</b>	2	1	5	8	0	8	24
<b>Semmes</b>	9	6	5	7	0	5	32
<b>System</b>	2	0	27	10	0	1	40
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	4	4	2	13	4	0	27
<b>Tobin</b>	0	5	5	8	4	1	23
<b>Westfall</b>	5	5	7	3	11	4	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>693</b>

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

# San Antonio Public Library Program Attendance

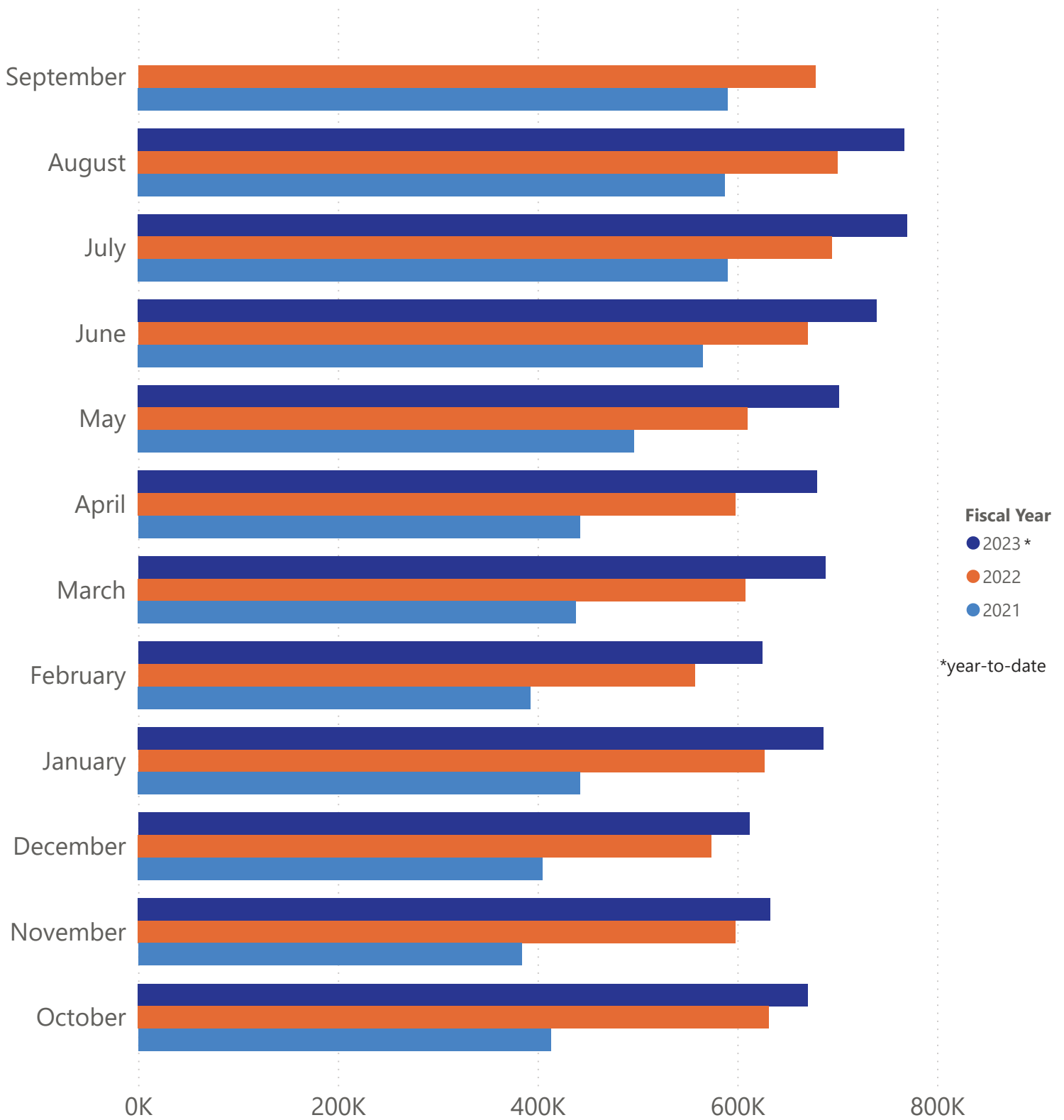
## August 2023

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
<b>Bazan</b>	0	0	1	43	17	16	77
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	405	105	12	0	0	35	557
<b>Carver</b>	0	0	0	201	0	0	201
<b>Central</b>	71	78	778	87	9	23	1,046
<b>Cody</b>	0	0	126	93	0	0	219
<b>Collins Garden</b>	12	13	0	3	3	18	49
<b>Cortez</b>	22	112	7	70	0	0	211
<b>Encino</b>	0	0	67	119	35	0	221
<b>Forest Hills</b>	25	27	28	22	0	0	102
<b>Great Northwest</b>	0	8	9	0	0	0	17
<b>Guerra</b>	115	234	0	0	22	0	371
<b>Igo</b>	0	0	12	95	0	0	107
<b>Johnston</b>	194	37	17	31	3	0	282
<b>Landa</b>	0	0	32	24	0	0	56
<b>Las Palmas</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Little Read Wagon</b>	49	0	9	263	0	0	321
<b>Maverick</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>McCreless</b>	31	90	41	62	0	22	246
<b>Memorial</b>	75	93	0	96	2	3	269
<b>Mission</b>	253	32	57	197	0	47	586
<b>Pan American</b>	0	31	202	21	0	0	254
<b>Parman</b>	520	38	49	117	85	0	809
<b>Potranco</b>	121	165	5	69	0	145	505
<b>Pruitt</b>	152	36	191	34	0	0	413
<b>San Pedro</b>	89	0	0	17	11	0	117
<b>Schaefer</b>	50	0	38	70	0	78	236
<b>Semmes</b>	470	72	16	46	0	101	705
<b>System</b>	14	0	170	82	0	3	269
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	58	55	1	85	259	0	458
<b>Tobin</b>	0	98	42	73	39	5	257
<b>Westfall</b>	47	61	16	20	32	9	185
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,773</b>	<b>1,385</b>	<b>1,926</b>	<b>2,040</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>9,146</b>

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# San Antonio Public Library

## Circulation



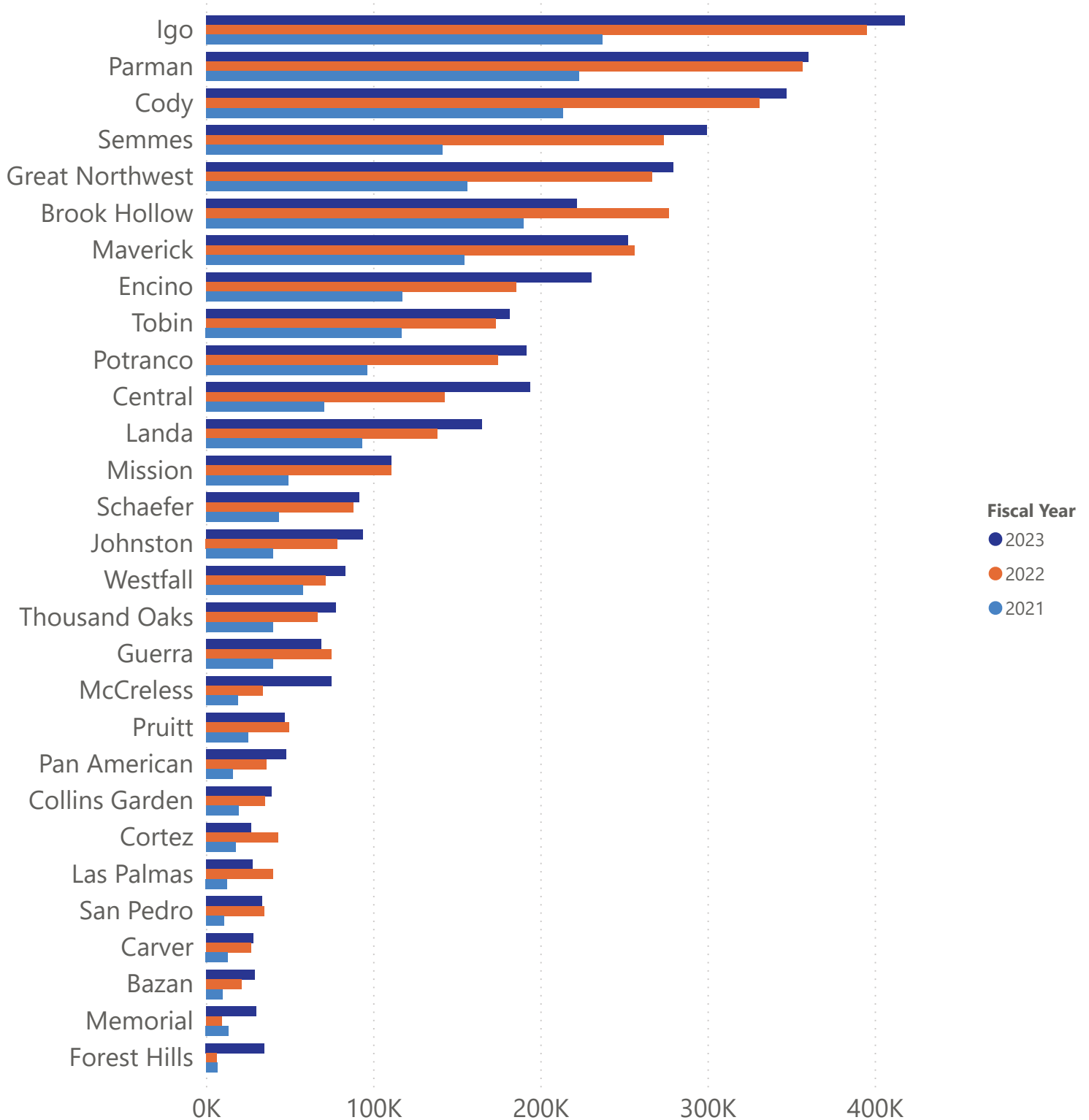
### Location Closures:

FY 23: Forest Hills Oct 1-March 18, Memorial Oct 1 - Feb 24, Westfall Oct 1 - Nov 29, Cortez Oct 1 - Feb 13, Las Palmas March 20 - TBD, Brook Hollow April 24- July 29, Maverick Aug 1 - TBD, Great Northwest Aug 7 - TBD, Guerra Aug 21 - 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 - August 2023



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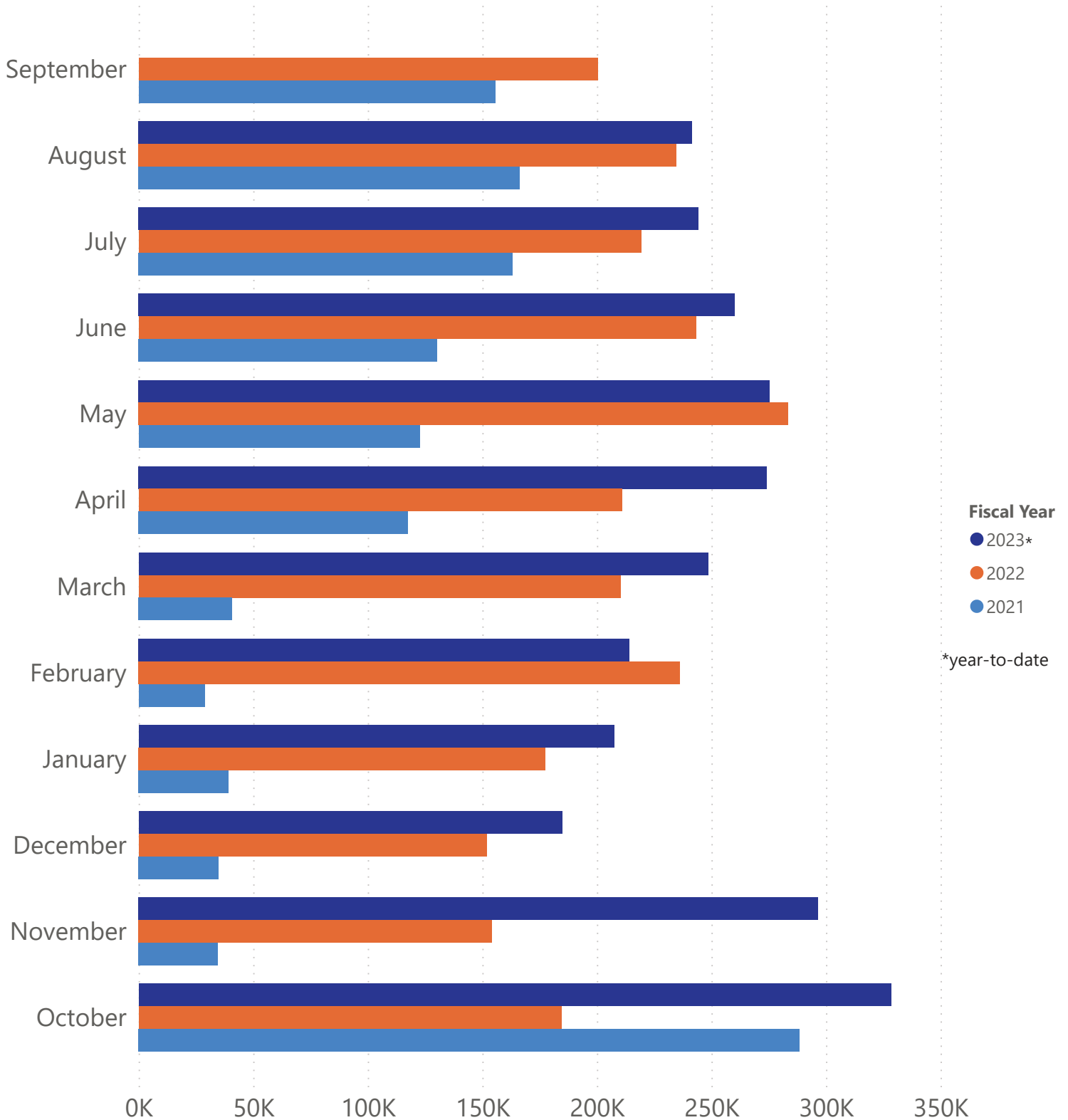
Maverick Aug 1 - TBD, Great Northwest Aug 7 - TBD, Guerra Aug 21 - TBD

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

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# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits

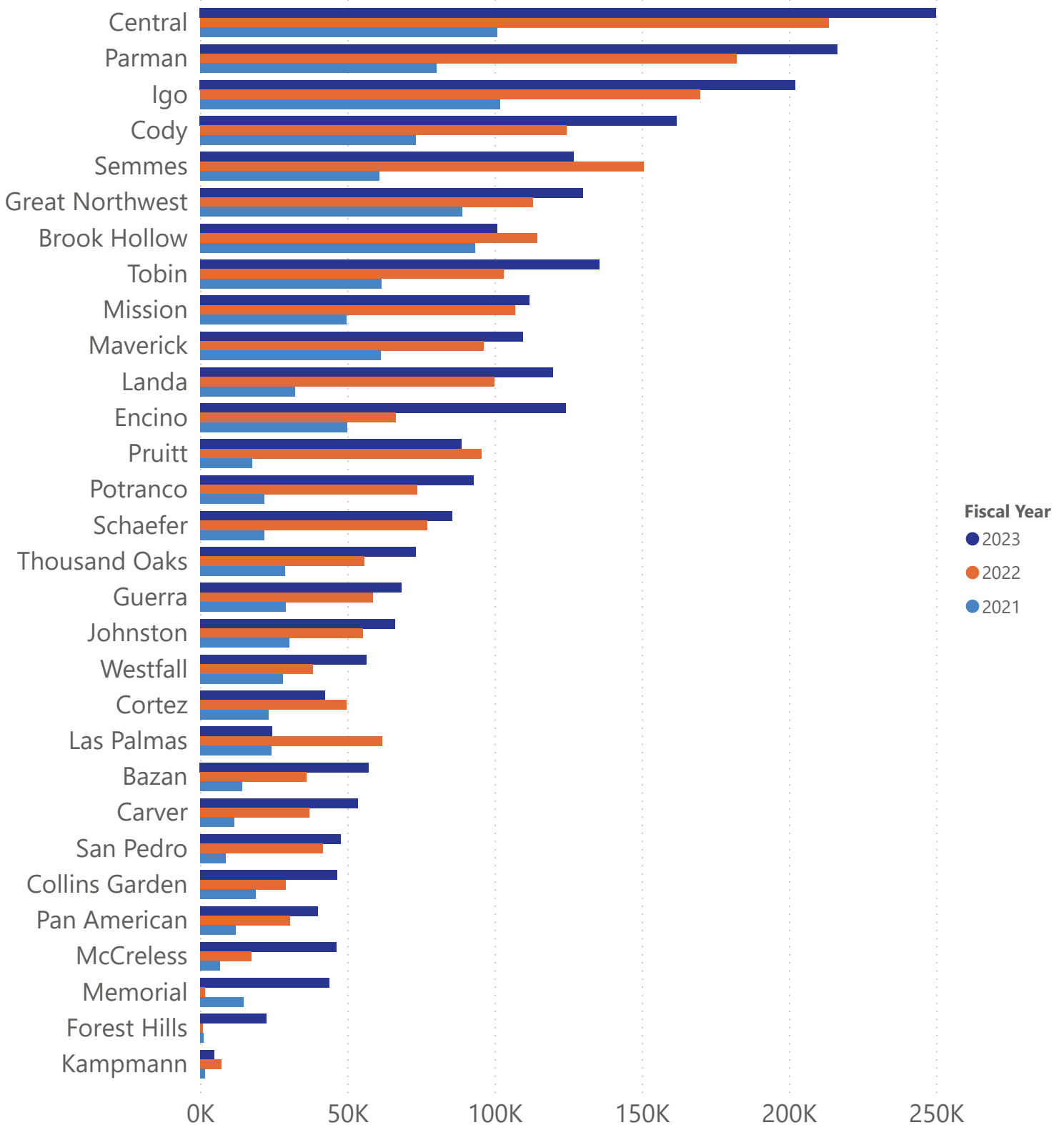


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# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - August 2023



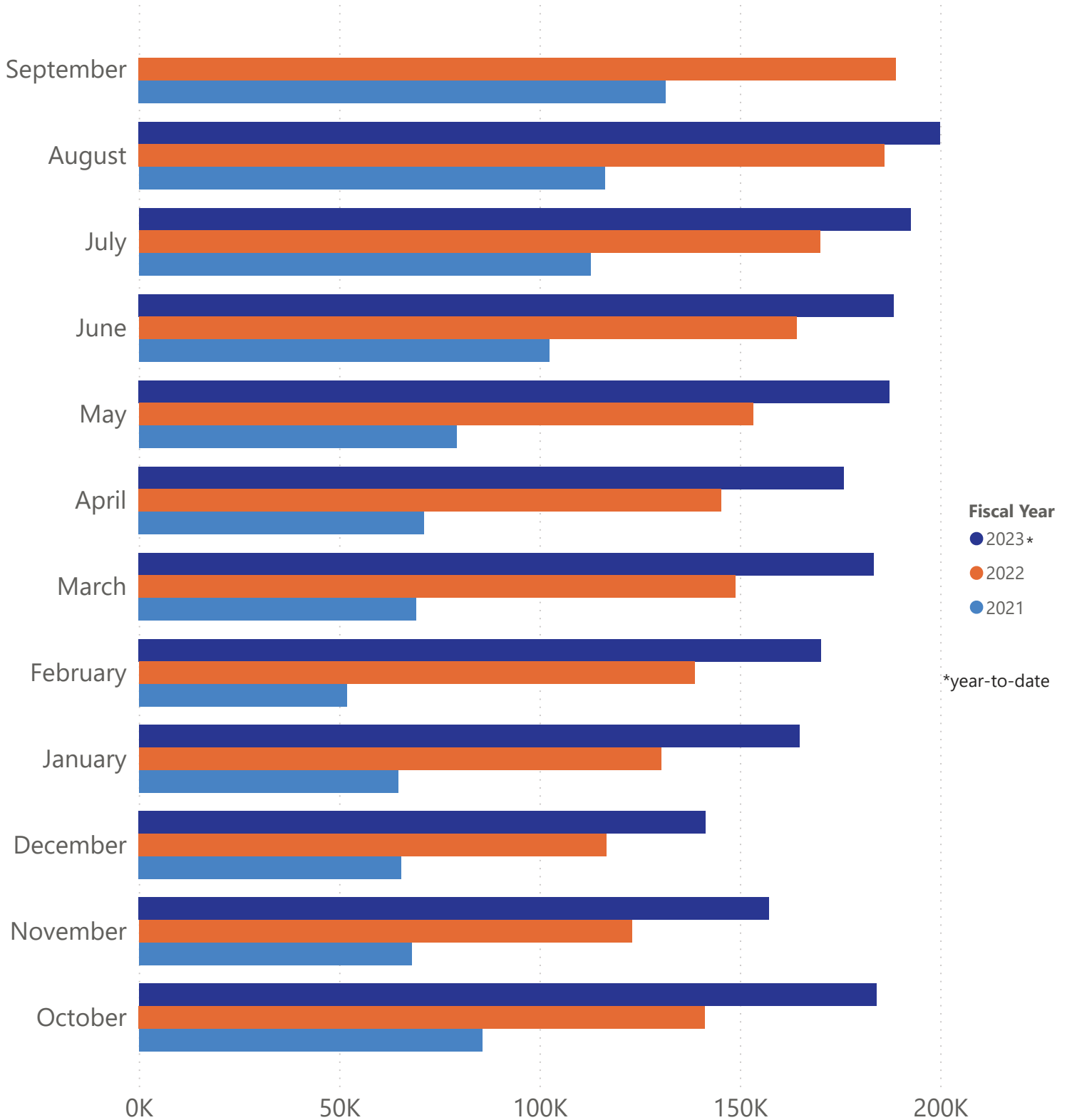
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# San Antonio Public Library Hours of Computer & Wi-Fi Use



## Location Closures:

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# 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.

**ITSD** – Information, Technology Services Department, a City Department

**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.