



# ENCINO BRANCH LIBRARY PLAYGROUND GROUNDBREAKING

You're invited to join  
Councilman John Courage and San Antonio Public Library  
as we break ground on a new play structure and adult fitness area.

**Friday, October 29, 10 a.m.**  
**2515 E. Evans Road, 78259**



Council District 9  
John Courage



SAN ANTONIO  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Information. Imagination. Ideas.



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
PARKS & RECREATION

## San Antonio Public Library Director's Report October 2021

San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) and District 9 Council Member John Courage announced the groundbreaking of the new ADA accessible playground and adult exercise area at the Encino Branch Library on Friday, October 29.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Administration.....	1
II. Central Library.....	11
III. Branch Libraries (Alphabetical).....	15
IV. Performance Measures .....	40
V. APPENDIX.....	49

# DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar met with the Public Library Association as Chair of the 2022 Nominating Committee to begin to process for the slate for the PLA 2022 Officer Elections.

Mr. Salazar met with new District 6 Library Trustee Fernanda Cardenas to provide a New Trustee Orientation on October 20. He met with new District 5 Library Trustee N. Jeremy Landin to provide a New Trustee Orientation on October 22.

Ramiro S. Salazar participated in the Executive Board Meeting of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation on October 20.

On October 23, the San Antonio Public Library Foundation held its annual Catrina Ball, a fundraiser for the Library and the Foundation. Mr. Salazar served as El Catrin for the event. The event was a success.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the playground for the Encino Branch Library took place on November 22. Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar and District 9 Councilmember John Courage delivered remarks as part of the ceremony.

# MARKETING

## **ADA-accessible playground and adult exercise area to open at Encino Branch Library**

Project expected to open in early 2022.



*Council District 9 and San Antonio Public Library broke ground on a new ADA accessible playground and adult exercise area at the Encino Branch Library.*

- KENS 5 aired an interview with Dale to discuss SAPL's elimination of fines.

- KSAT 12 reported live from Landa Library during Artpace's Chalk It Up 2021. The partnership brought the annual event to 10 library locations, one in each council district.
- The San Antonio Express News published an article highlighting SAPL and Artpace's partnership and how this year's Chalk It Up event brought art into the communities by hosting artists throughout the City.
- The San Antonio Current reported on the Chalk It Up event.
- The Current published a feature on the Raza Cosmica Film Series and specifically highlighted the special Hispanic Heritage Event event hosted by LCRC.
- Telemundo and TPR reported on SAPL's partnership with DHS to lend iPads out to older adults.
- The Express News published an op-ed in their print edition on page A14 and online which argues against the name change proposal for Las Palmas.
- KABB aired an interview with Amy Hone, Executive Director of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation on October 19.
- WOAI's SA Living featured a segment on the BookCellar reopening.
- Adult Services Librarians Lorin Flores and J.D. Elizondo appeared on KSAT 12's SA Live to promote SAPL's Halloween Happenings campaign and various programs, crafts, and collection items associated with Halloween.
- San Antonio Express News published an article about the City's upcoming Bond cycle and mentioned Central Library renovations.
- KSAT 12 highlighted Catrina Ball on their newscast on October 23.
- San Antonio Magazine highlighted Catrina Ball in a compilation of Dia de los Muertos events in San Antonio.
- KSAT 12 published a feature story on the Encino Branch Library playground groundbreaking.
- KSAT 12 aired a segment on the Encino Playground Groundbreaking which took place Friday, October 29.
- WOAI, Telemundo, and Community Impact News reported on the Encino Playground Groundbreaking.

**Social Media fun facts for the reporting period:**

- SAPL's social media generated 321,690 impressions
- SAPL's social media following base grew by 219 new fans
- Content shared across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram contributed to users engaging with our posts 8,517 times.

**Social Media statistics for the month:**

- Twitter: 5,789 followers
- Facebook: 21,311 followers
- Instagram: 7,537 followers

**Graphics**

The Graphics Team created publicity materials for a variety of programs and events during this reporting period, including graphics for Dia de Muertos, Bond project updates, the iPad lending program at senior centers, displays for Texana at the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's Catrina Ball, and updated branch hours signage, as well as social media and other promotion for branch events.

# DIGITAL SERVICES

On October 12, Digital Services Coordinator Adam Spana met with Children's Services Coordinator Cresencia Huff to discuss the Beanstack reading challenge platform as a possible candidate to consider for use in future summer reading programs.

Digital Library Services Analyst Tricia Masterson led a meeting between Digital Services and Marketing on October 13 to plan a marketing campaign for the online print portal.

On October 14, Mr. Spana presented an update on the Change Management call regarding the successful launch of the library's updated app.

On October 14, Mr. Spana and Digital Library Services Supervisor Rolf Laun spoke with Librarian II (Teen Services) Matthew Loaiza as well as Verónica Díaz and Maria Miers members of the Arts & Culture Action Team, about possible options for the Library to collaborate on issuing "museum passes" to patrons.

On October 14, Mr. Spana, Community and Public Relations Manager Scott Williams and Library Services Administrator Ron Suszek met with Alyx Park, Senior Partnership Development Lead for BiblioCommons, to discuss the Dallas Public Library's experience with launching the BiblioWeb website management system. BiblioWeb is one component of a suite of services provided by BiblioCommons. The library currently uses the BiblioCore catalog and the BiblioApp. BiblioWeb would provide stronger integration of these services, improved customer experience and a stronger focus and presentation of library events and collections.

On October 21, Mr. Laun attended a City HR focus group for Professional Employees, on the subject of the City's total compensation package. The results of that discussion, and talks with similar focus groups, will help the Human Resources department to create a survey for City staff concerning compensation and various ways to change or improve what the City offers.

On October 25, Mr. Spana, Mr. Laun and Digital Library Services Specialist Brian Douglass met with Mr. Williams to discuss increased use of UTMs (urchin tracking module) within Google Analytics to produce a better understanding of the reach and success of Library marketing campaigns.

On October 28, Mr. Spana joined colleagues from the Library and ITSD to plan for a test of a fail-over network connection for library branches. When fully implemented, the fail-over network will provide an alternative to the main network connection in the event of its failure and mitigate any interruption to library services during such an event.

On October 29, Mr. Spana met with the incident report system team (a joint Library/ITSD endeavor) to discuss the findings from the first round of user acceptance testing of the new system.

During the month of October, the Digital Services Info Team reached 327 staff users and had a very active month with 160 posts, 1,342 replies, 239 mentions, and 1,180 reactions. The Digital Services team also responded to 215 internal chat requests and 285 tickets from staff..

# LITTLE READ WAGON

October saw Little Read Wagon (LRW) staff return to in-person services, while maintaining virtual program offerings as health metrics began to drastically improve. The 2021-2022 early childhood training highlighted Landa Branch Library on October 2 and Collins Garden Branch Library on October 23. Early childhood teachers and families joined the Saturday virtual workshops and were invited to play on the branch library grounds the following day, Sunday. LRW used open ended play materials and captured images of children of all ages with them, from toddlers to ten-year olds, playing independently and together. A StoryWalk® is set up too and the current title is *Wonder Walkers* by Micha Archer.

As a component of the Saturday *Hello from the Library* training, LRW staff created videos of featured branches as an invitation to visit. Michelle Rickman created a video of LEARN services, how to check out a book from a child's perspective and an invitation directly to Spanish speakers from Ana Menchaca. These videos will help those unfamiliar with libraries, providing a visual of what to expect and what they will experience. Feedback from participants is overwhelmingly positive and LRW is tweaking the dates so that virtual workshops are followed a week later by outdoor play and both events will be on a Saturday.

LRW staff represented the library at large community events. Staff prepared giveaway materials for 500 Avance Dia de la familia participants and delivered them so that Avance staff could distribute items. Clair Larkin and Julia Lazarin met with Pre-K 4 SA families on Saturday, October 9 at Wolff Stadium to celebrate their Family Reunion. Ms. Lazarin created a two-sided map that featured library branches with or adjacent to playgrounds and included a scavenger hunt. Over 200 families were delighted to see these maps and stated that having this information will definitely entice them to visit. Children's librarians have requested copies for giving away to library patrons and at outreach events.

A number of early literacy workshops were presented throughout the month. Ms. Lazarin presented virtually at two Pre-K 4 SA sessions and held one in-person workshops at Knox Early Childhood Center. Eva Banda joined Ms. Lazarin to provide two workshop opportunities for Pre-K 4 SA Spanish speaking families. Megan Cruz presented at Gonzales Early Childhood Center. For any event that occurred online, books, bedtime routine charts and library information were delivered post-presentation. Ms. Cruz visited teen parents in-person at Southwest High School, Ms. Larkin visited teen parents virtually at Navarro Academy, while Ms. Banda presented Story Time virtually to children at Navarro Learning Center.

LRW staff presented a virtual workshop titled "Mirrors, Windows and Doors: Cultivating Identity-Affirming Libraries" at the Texas Library Association's District 10 conference. This workshop was similar to the series that LRW offered to San Antonio Public Library staff and hope to offer again in the near future. The topic also has ties to the certification in Trauma-Informed, Resilient Community training that Ms. Larkin and Ms.Larzarin are pursuing.

LRW loaned the *Wonder Walkers* Storywalk® to the San Antonio River Authority Foundation for display at this year's Pollinator Festival on October 16. The StoryWalk® was displayed along the river trail at Confluence Park. Numerous requests have come in for more StoryWalk® displays at locations throughout the city. A number of possibilities are under consideration to continue providing this popular service.



## CHILDREN’S (SYSTEM-WIDE)

In October the Children’s Services team welcomed two new colleagues: Dawn Zeig (Potranco) and Cheryl Penick (Thousand Oaks). Both are new to the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL). Zeig and Penick quickly began to get to know their children’s services colleagues by signing on to Zoom programs and reaching out with questions. Several team members appeared in an Employee Spotlight video which was shared as part of the City Manager’s Report at a recent City Council meeting. Julia Lazarin, Ana Menchaca, and Shannon Seglin were interviewed for the feature.

On October 13, for the first time since February 2020, the children’s librarians met in person. Parks and Recreation permitted use of the clubhouse at Roosevelt Park for the occasion, allowing for ample indoor and outdoor space in a lovely setting. Fred Cardenas of Family Service made a brief presentation to the group about his organization and the resources available to support children and families for free or on a sliding scale. He led the group through a discussion on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and how community supports such as public libraries contribute to resilience.

With the improvement in community health conditions, children’s librarians eagerly began offering outdoor programs for families and children of various ages. The initial programs were held at the Johnston, San Pedro, Collins Garden, and Landa Branch Libraries, with more programs in the works for November. In most cases, children’s librarians worked in pairs or small groups to provide ideas and on-hand support for each other.

A group of youth librarians from the region, extending to New Braunfels, Seguin, and Boerne, met October 28 at the Mammen Family Public Library in Bulverde. Coordinator of Children’s Services, Cresencia Huff, represented SAPL at the gathering on the patio of the recently renovated facility. The group shared updates on their respective libraries and enjoyed a tour of the beautiful host library.

The children’s Take-and-Make kit for October-November focused on sensory art. The kits included a large sheet of watercolor paper, tea bag, clothespin, and suggestions for how to use the tea bag plus water to

create colorful designs. Using multiple senses, in this case sight, touch, and smell, facilitates learning and brain development in a fun and creative way.

District 10 of the Texas Library Association and Council of Research and Academic Libraries (CORAL) held a joint conference via Zoom on October 29. The conference theme, Mission Critical, emphasized the importance of representation, student voice, and freedom to read. The inspiring keynote was presented by Cicely Lewis, School Library Journal 2020 School Librarian of the Year. Lewis encouraged librarians to share beyond the classics, look for books that will widen horizons and encourage readers to take action in their communities. SAPL was well-represented with attendees and presenters for three sessions plus a lunch time game of trivia. Cresencia Huff, as District 10 chair-elect, moderated multiple sessions and assisted with conference planning.



# TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

**Virtual Teen Programs and Activities** — The 210teenlibrary Discord workgroup, led by Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) and consisting of Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons from around the system, worked with off-site teen volunteers (“Teen Mods”) to host weekly virtual teen programs (“clubs”) on Discord (“the server”) along with additional activities and events. Several new teen suggestions appeared on the server, including an official introductions channel, a place to chat about school-related topics, and channels to discuss wild animals and share fun quizzes. Teens continued to use the server to make connections with teens throughout the city and meaningfully interact with one another through clubs, activities, and conversations on the server. To celebrate Halloween, teens had the opportunity to participate in a virtual costume contest on the server. Teens were able to submit up to two entries for the contest, and entries could be photos or drawings of their own costume or their pet’s costumes. Over the course of the month, teens used the server to chat about their costume ideas, share tips and tricks for costume making, and discuss Halloween plans. Overall, teens submitted 15 entries of their own costumes and 6 entries of their pet’s costumes, with 47 votes from teens determining the winners.

For the 210teenlibrary Instagram page, Regina Almanza (Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central) has been creating graphics and videos for posts and stories. These items include teen interest content and highlight celebratory events, such as booklists, and including recipe posts for Halloween featuring teen volunteer Kaylee. Regina will also evaluate teen-created content for posting as well.

Ciana Flores (Library Assistant PT, Teen Library @ Central) continues to engage with teens via the 210teenlibrary Instagram page. Ciana takes both teen and staff content and presents it as posts and stories, as well as creating indirect programming. She continues to participate in Instagram Live videos with Teen Library staff. Ciana has continued to respond to the 3D printing requests from teens on the Discord server. She prints and sends the requested item out to the teens’ preferred library branch for pick up. Ciana also records and submits all monthly statistics associated with the 210teenlibrary Instagram account.

Amisarahi Sarabia (SAPL’s Teen Outreach Specialist) shares teen-created Spotify playlists on the 210teenlibrary Instagram account weekly and creates weekly Instagram Spotify questions with which teens interact. Amisarahi also joins Matthew to host Music Mondays on the 210teenlibrary Discord server in which teens stream their favorite songs and artists while chatting with friends on the server.

Kathleen Fordyce (Manager, Teen Library @ Central) joins Connie Hejl (Teen Services Librarian, Las Palmas) Thursdays on Discord to host the “Random Fandom” club, where teens engage in discussions about different fandoms that interest them and stream their favorite anime shows. Kathleen also continues to serve as a member of the SAPL Incident Reporting Database committee, Teen Services Discord team, and the YA Nonfiction workgroup.

**Virtual Teen Content and Resources** — The 210teenlibrary Instagram workgroup, led by Matthew Loaiza and consisting of Amisarahi Sarabia, Ciana Flores, and Regina Almanza, shared information, resources, activities, and other content for teens on Instagram, created by teen volunteers and Teen Services staff. Teen-created content highlights include how to bleach Halloween shirts, monster face pies, Halloween cookie pops, DIY jar lanterns, and smoky pumpkin deviled eggs, as well as self-care ideas. Teen volunteers also provided daily celebrations (such as “Make a Difference Day,” “National Dessert Day,” and “International Sloth Day”), music playlists (such as “Lo-Fi Study Music” and “Head Bopping Electronic Music”) and other relevant/helpful information through Instagram Stories. Teen Services staff also contributed additional content such as a fall book list, a highlight of Jesse Treviño’s art at the Central Library for Hispanic Heritage Month, and interactive Instagram Stories that focused on pop culture topics and events.

**Teen Pride** – The Teen Pride workgroup, led by Matthew Loaiza and consisting of Chris Castillo (Teen Services Librarian I, Great Northwest), Dacari Lambert (Teen Services Librarian I, Schaefer) and Shannan Prukop (Teen Services Librarian II, Carver), met with Giselle Weyte (Design Communications Coordinator) and Joshua Linares (Graphic Designer) over the past few months to design two new Teen Pride bookmarks for teens – one that highlights Fiesta Youth’s recent donation of LGBTQ+ young adult books and another that expresses the safe spaces that exist for teens at the San Antonio Public Library. With the start of LGBTQ+ History Month in October, these new bookmarks were sent to each library location to hand out to teens and display in their teen spaces. The workgroup also hosted a virtual screening on the 210teenlibrary Discord Server to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month and the Halloween season.

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

In October, the San Antonio Public Library recognized National Disability Awareness Month. This recognition included two online programs. The first was hosted on October 20th and was presented by the organization Guide Dogs of Texas. Participants had the opportunity to learn how a professionally bred, raised, trained and personally matched certified guide dog from this organization increases freedom, mobility and independence for Texans age 17 and up impacted by blindness. The second online program, hosted on October 26th and presented by Professor John Cage from the Dept. of American Sign Language and Interpreter Training at San Antonio College, provided participants the opportunity to learn about the various aspects of Deaf Culture including social beliefs, behaviors, art, literary traditions, history, values, and shared institutions of communities that are influenced by deafness, and use sign languages as the main means of communication. Other opportunities facilitated by the Library in recognition of National Disability Awareness Month included the curation of online resources and booklists via a LibGuide, and a Take-and-Make kit distributed at all Library locations.

Halloween was also celebrated by the San Antonio Public Library in October. Opportunities for adults throughout the month were organized under the theme Library Stories to Tell in The Dark. A wide variety of opportunities, both in person and online, were offered. One highlight was the series Screening Screams, which involved a series of showings of horror films that were offered in person at a variety of library locations. As another in person opportunity for film fans, the ongoing program Cinema Terrible was offered in person for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic moved this program online and featured a showing of the public domain cult classic horror film “Horror Express.” In addition to these in person opportunities, many online opportunities for adults to celebrate Halloween were offered, including a video featuring interviews of unexplained, possibly paranormal, experiences staff have had while working at Library locations, online scavenger hunts and a costume contest, and online zines featuring spooky occurrences and locations in San Antonio.

Two virtual programs were hosted in October to highlight and serve the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community. The first was a trivia program hosted in partnership on October 15th with Pride Center San Antonio to highlight October as LGBTQIA+ History Month. Participants had the opportunity to test their knowledge of LGBTQIA history, pop culture, terminology and more. The second program provided individuals who identify as TGI (transgender, gender diverse or intersex) with information to guide and empower them during the job search process - specifically in preparing for job interviews.

## CENTRAL LIBRARY

# CHILDREN @ CENTRAL



Shannon Seglin, Central Children’s Dept. Assistant Manager, was featured along with two other SAPL Children’s specialists, in an Employee Spotlight video which aired at a City Council Meeting. She was filmed conducting a live virtual Story Time and interviewed about her role as a Children’s Librarian. Ms. Seglin received many compliments about this video, including praise from the Library Director himself.

Ms. Seglin was integral to the presentation of an exciting in-person outdoor program for children at the neighboring San Pedro Branch Library. She worked closely with Karen Braeuler, Children’s Librarian II at San Pedro, to develop and lead a Halloween-themed yoga program for families. Librarian Ashley Stubbs also conducted an in-person Story Time this month. She read stories to toddlers at the Central Christian Day School outdoors near their playground.

Both Librarians were very active in virtual programming. Ms. Seglin presented several live virtual Toddler Time and Story Time programs. She also participated in a virtual LEGO Club program. Ms. Stubbs presented several live online Story Time programs as well. She supported the Tiny Tots and Story Time weekly programs by maintaining their “Books We Love” section of the LibGuide and their curated online programs. She also produced a Story Time video for SAPL’s YouTube page and recorded a Dial A Story reading as well.

Central Children’s staff continued to develop outreach connections with area child care centers. Ms. Seglin held a live virtual Story Time for children at Madison Square Child Development Center and delivered books in support of their curriculum. Ms. Stubbs made similar book deliveries to Central Christian Day School. Ms. Seglin also partnered with Little Read Wagon to share library resources with parents at Upbring Head Start Preschool in a virtual presentation.

# TEEN LIBRARY @ CENTRAL

The Teen Library is now accessible to teens and for safety reasons during construction, Teen Library staff are accompanying teens from the Central Interim space up to the third floor. Teens are able to use computers in the Teen Library, browse the collection, use craft supplies, play video games, and use select music instruments and the 3D printer. Teens that have not been able to visit the space since before the pandemic are excited to return, and new teens are discovering their Teen Library.

Staff provided several tours of the Teen Library to high school classes from schools in Central Library's service area to spread the word about the Teen Library opening. Teen Library staff spoke with over 350 students from Fox Tech and CAST Tech High Schools over several days about the resources and activities available for them in the Teen Library, as well as homework help from Brainfuse, opportunities for earning volunteer service hours and free afterschool snacks provided by the SA Food Bank.

## REFERENCE

In the month of October members of the Halloween Initiative worked on several systemwide projects. Contributions included the "Library Stories to Tell in the Dark" LibGuide (created by Michelle Villarreal and Melissa Gomez), a digital and print coloring book (illustrated by Brianna Glass), a spooky scavenger hunt (created by Melissa Gomez), digital zines (created by Michelle Villarreal), a spooky film of staff recollections of experiences with the unexplained (Lead editor and Cinematographer: J.D. Elizondo, acting and assistance: Michelle Villarreal, Brianna Glass and members of the Teen department), and a virtual costume contest (created by several members of the Halloween Initiative).

Julia Selwyn and Michelle Villarreal created systemwide Omingo training for our new Incident Report database. The training will be rolled out to San Antonio Public Library staff in November and December.

On October 6th, Pannaga Prasad and Jordan Torres hosted an online session entitled "Classical Dance Performance: Bharatanatyam" over the library Zoom online platform as an art and culture theme. This session was offered by Kaveri Natya Yoga Dance Group organization. Pannaga Prasad also hosted "Beginner's Chair Yoga Class" (Oct 8 and Oct 22), "Discover Self-Care Through Ayurveda" (October 13<sup>th</sup>), and "How to Maintain Healthy Skin Through Application of Skin Products to Achieve Better Skin Results (October 23<sup>th</sup>) with her branch partners.

On October 15th, the Central Library hosted a LGBTQIA+ trivia night on Zoom in partnership with Pride Center San Antonio in honor of Queer History Month. The Pride Center provided prizes for the top three scorers. There were five attendees, and they commented on how much they appreciated the library putting on the program and the facts learned during the game.

On October 20<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 pm, Cynthia "Cindy" de León and Blanca Silvia Hernandez offered a Disability Awareness program, "Meet the Guide Dogs of Texas" on Zoom. It was presented by The Guide Dogs of Texas, Inc's Director of Development, Dr. Carol Ann Tonn and Marketing Manager Reina Gonzales from The Guide Dogs of Texas, Inc. (GDTX.) Participants learned how GDTX professionally breeds, raises, trains and personally matches certified guide dogs with Texans age 17 and up impacted by blindness. Participants also listened to a firsthand account of how life-changing a guide dog has been from a GDTX client and had the opportunity to meet two guide dogs in training, Luke and Laura.

On October 26th, from 6-7 pm Cynthia "Cindy" de León and Blanca Silvia Hernandez offered a Disability Awareness program, " Deaf Culture 101" on Zoom. It was presented by John Cage, Assistant Professor

of American Sign Language (ASL) at San Antonio College and his interpreters Susan Leonard and Grantham Woods. Mr. Cage taught participants ASL vocabulary related to libraries, and discussed various aspects of Deaf Culture including social beliefs, and behaviors. He even told some jokes that included ASL puns. Mr. Cage also answered many questions from the audience after the presentation.

On October 26th, the Central Library hosted a Zoom program about job interviewing as a transgender, gender diverse, and intersex person. The presenter was Sydney Rogers who is the Training & Education Manager for TransCanWork, Inc., a California based nonprofit that advocates for workplace equity. The San Antonio Gender Association and Pride Center San Antonio partnered with the library to promote the program. There were nine attendees, and there was active engagement during the program with attendees asking questions throughout the program. TransCanWork has other workshops available that Central would like to host, but will have to wait until additional grants are found to provide funds.

On October 26th, Lorin Flores and Joseph Gonzales hosted the first in-person Cinema Terrible since 2020. The film shown was "Horror Express," a public domain cult classic horror film starring Peter Cushing, Christopher Lee, and Telly Savalas.

On October 29th, Lorin Flores and Michael Dunbar-Rodney from Central were invited to give their presentation "Alternatives To Zoom: Twitch & Discord" at the Texas Library Association D10 conference. They were joined by Edward Mayberry from the Thousand Oaks branch. There were 18 attendees for the online presentation which contained updated information from its first iteration presented at the American Library Association online conference in 2020.

## **LATINO COLLECTION & RESOURCE CENTER**

María Amparo Escandón, #1 Los Angeles Times bestselling author of "Esperanza's Box of Saints," presented her newest book, "L.A. Weather," with an Author Talk in Spanish on October 5 and in English on October 12. Escandón discussed the cultural influences in her work and the process of bilingual writing, as she explained she thinks in Spanish and writes in English.

On October 12, the LCRC presented the film "Moebius," preceded by the short "La luna y el colibrí" as part of the Latinx Film Festival "Raza Cósmica," organized by MonteVideo Productions and co-sponsored by the LCRC. Renowned Argentinian filmmaker Gustavo Mosquera, director of the classic masterpiece "Moebius" and local filmmaker Luis Puente participated in a Director's Talk after the film and responded to audience questions. On October 14, the LCRC presented the film "Children of Men" at Art Pace as part of the film festival as well. The events were held in Spanish and highlighted in local publications such as The Current.

Interim Program Manager Emily Flores continues to offer English classes, lead an English Conversation Group and co-teach an English as a Second Language Book Club. During the month of October, a large selection of both Spanish and LCRC Collection books were put on offer to the public in the temporary space in an effort to better serve diverse community needs and interests.

# TEXANA/ GENEALOGY



Cortez Library



Thousand Oaks Library



Parman Library

In celebration of October being Family History Month, Library Assistant Clarissa Chavira, Librarian I's Andy Crews and Sylvia Reyna and Librarian II's Deborah Countess and Matt De Waelsche visited nine branch libraries to share their knowledge and bring awareness to the genealogy resources available through the library that can help people uncover their past. With funding provided by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation, staff developed a "Take-and-Make" craft involving a way for families to record important celebration dates. The custom designed Family Celebrations Calendar Board was created as a colorful and unique way for families to keep track of not just birthdays, but also anniversaries and other celebratory dates that beg to be remembered. The kits were distributed at Brook Hollow, Cody, Cortez, Igo, Pan Am, Parman, Pruitt, Schaefer and Thousand Oaks and included all the necessary supplies families would need to complete the craft and then hang the calendar for everyone to enjoy.

Ms. Reyna was interviewed on October 15 about her encounters and memories working with the late John Igo. The interview, conducted by University of Texas at San Antonio marketing students, was one of several planned for inclusion in a memorial video about Mr. Igo being presented in December at the Igo Library.

On October 22, Mr. De Waelsche was interviewed by a Chicago National Public Radio reporter regarding the local "Ghost Tracks" legend that has persisted here in San Antonio for decades and which apparently mirrors an urban legend there in Chicago. Chicago's ghost crossing is almost identical and the reporter contacted Express-News columnist Paula Allen who informed him of a discovery Mr. De Waelsche had made several years ago. The research discovery proved that in 1938 a train did hit a stalled school bus, but in Salt Lake City, Utah, not San Antonio or Chicago. The Utah accident, which claimed the lives of 26 people, was front-page news, both here in the San Antonio newspapers, as well as in the Chicago Tribune.

The Texana/Genealogy Department was invited by the San Antonio Public Library Foundation (SAPLF) to staff a display table at the 2021 Catrina Ball on October 23. Haley Holmes, Public Services Administrator for the Central Library attended the event to represent the department. The display highlighted three areas of public interest: (1) Texana and Genealogy Collections at the Central Library; (2) the 2017 Texana Bond Project; and (3) The Winds and Words of War traveling exhibitions, 2008-2019.

# BRANCH LOCATIONS

## BAZAN

The Bazan branch was a host site for the *Chalk It Up!* festival on October 9 which included two feature artists who created original large-scale murals on the theme of *The Spirit of San Antonio*. The public was also invited to participate and create their own smaller scale works of art. The event attracted many individuals and families who filled the shaded sidewalk in front of the library with a beautiful array of characters and colors.

The *Bazan branch Virtual Bazan Book Club* met in October to read *Practical Magic* by Alice Hoffman. The book was published in 1995 and later made into a movie. The group fell head over heels for the witchy drama and discovered that the book and movie versions were very different. The book group loved it so much that they made plans to include the *Practical Magic* series in their reading list for 2022. It was the perfect read for the Halloween season.

The *Teen Gaming Club*, hosted by Teen Librarian Georgina Garcia, saw an increase in teen participation over the past few weeks. Several teens showed initiative with creating and sharing with the group. One young game designer showed everyone how to create and manipulate sprites and volunteered to create a custom game prompting interaction between other participants. One regular was inspired to create a trivia game on Kahoot about music in video games. *Gaming Club's* teen-mod, an Esports player, dedicated his time to coach teens on how to improve their gameplay with Valorant, a free online PC game. Various teens shared that their schools take video gaming seriously by sponsoring Esports clubs and participation in UIL Esports.

Teen Librarian Georgina Garcia alongside Teen Librarian from the Pan American branch Cassie Garza offered teens resources for internship opportunities with video game developing companies, and most importantly cultivated a positive outlook with gaming.

Ms. Garcia attended National Night Out at Lanier High School with Teen Librarian Cassie Garza. The event was well attended and most, if not all of the people visiting the library booth were teens. Ms. Garcia was equipped with resources to share with teens about volunteering, Homework Help, and online teen programming. Teens left with free comic books, summer teen shirts, and teen Take-and-Make kits. One of the teens took the time to share her interest in poetry and recited two poems with the Teen Librarians. Ms. Garcia gave her reading recommendations based on her writing style.

The Esports Committee hosted another Animal Crossing program on October 29. The program featured a Halloween themed obstacle course and guests participated in a costume contest. Library Assistant at Mission Mari Castellano and Ms. Garcia facilitated the event.

## BROOK HOLLOW

Brook Hollow Library (BHL) hosted Bexar County Joint Constitutional Amendment, General, Special and Bond Elections, Early Voting, October 18-29 and Election Day, November 2, 2021. BHL & Manager Jeannette Davies hosted City of San Antonio (COSA) Councilperson John Courage Friday, November 6,

2021 from 10-12 pm as he met with constituents. Davies toured the library with the councilperson and discussed future needs for the facility. CPS Energy and San Antonio Water System (SAWS) were on site as well. Davies hosted Noon Time Helping of Cooking Halloween Madness in SAPL's Virtual Kitchen, October 14, 28, @ noon, featuring Halloween treats including donut hole, pretzel and tootsie pop ghosts; mini-dirt cups and candy corn concoctions. Davies completed Employee Performance Evaluations for employees at Brook Hollow and some from the Collins Garden Libraries. Davies also attended the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's (SAPLF) Catrina Ball at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in October and in November the Texas Library Association's (TLA) District 10 Social at The Good Kind Southtown.

**Adults:** Brook Hollow Library Adult Services Librarian Marco De Leon attended REFORMA's National Conference V11 in November. REFORMA is the National Associate to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and Spanish-Speaking. De Leon continues to host two popular virtual programs and manages three in-person and hybrid book clubs. In October, the Among Us and Spyfall virtual programs had full attendance. De Leon hosted The Mystery Book and The La Tertulia Book Clubs and De Leon continues to co-host the Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Club as a hybrid meeting with some members virtually and those who meet in-person at the Potranco Branch Library. BHL Mystery Book Club read *Nobody's Sweetheart Now* by Maggie Robinson, The La Tertulia Book Club read *Los Niños Del Verano* by Dot Hutchison and the Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Club read *City of Brass* by S.A. Chakraborty.

**Children:** In October, Brook Hollow Library Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas and Children's Librarian Valerie Carroll from the Semmes Library presented two virtual outreaches to discuss library services with the parents of Eisenhower and Driscoll Middle School students. Salinas also helped set up, clean up, and facilitate at the Landa Boo in-person Halloween event where ninety-five children attended with their grown-ups. Salinas and Library Assistant Jennifer Olivarez developed two spooky-themed Scavenger Hunts for BHL families to enjoy doing together in the children's area. Olivarez also created an iSpy table game for families to do together when visiting. Circulation staff at BHL distributed more than sixty Hispanic Heritage and Nature Rubbing Take-and-Make craft kits for children provided by SAPL Children's Services. Salinas participated in creating content for Game Time Online; Baby Time Online; Tweens Play Among Us; and Lego Time Online. She hosted Zoom meetings for Art Club Online and Read to a Dog Online. Salinas converted the long-time in-person Read to a Dog program into a virtual program and continues to lead the group of Children's Librarians that help to facilitate the program twice a month. The Read to A Dog Online program was featured in the Government and Public Affairs video in October, and the program received 3,299 total engagement interactions on the SAPL's Facebook account. Salinas also wrote a book review for the SAPL Children's blog found on the SAPL Children's Services webpage and edited video content created for toddlers for the mySAPL YouTube Channel.

**Teens:** Teen Librarian Julia Pouliot continues to co-host Music Mondays, a music program for teens on the 210teenlibrary Discord. Pouliot and her fellow host serve as moderators as teens choose their own music to share while typing to each other about their interests, and sharing stories of what they have been up to throughout the week. Recently teens got creative sharing the music they grew up listening to. Pouliot visited Coker Elementary School for literacy night in October. She was stationed at a table outside the library where she interacted with students and parents informing them on all the updated offerings at Brook Hollow Library and online across the San Antonio Public Libraries. Pouliot handed out information about the new library hours, online academic help for students, and buttons and pencils to promote community engagement. Pouliot is looking forward to once again hosting Teen Time in person starting November 9, 2021. Teens are encouraged to meet up in person to play games, craft, and hang out in the Brook Hollow Library meeting room.

## CARVER

Carver branch has continued to facilitate opportunities for seniors in its service area to keep fit. Two programs drew fitness minded individuals to its mat and chair yoga venues. Mat yoga attracted modest attendance with enthusiastic participants in October. However, chair yoga attracted nearly 20 participants during the same month.

For parents seeking to build stronger relationships with their LGBTQ children, the branch invited author-pediatrician Uchenna Lizmay Ume to offer them support and guidance. Ume, also known as Dr. Lulu, is the author of several books, *How to Raise Well Rounded Children*, *How to Teach Your Children about Racism* and *A Teen's Life*. Parents were able to ask questions and discuss their experiences. One audience member traveled from the Houston area to attend.

A program proposal submitted by Carver Branch's Teen II Librarian Shannan Prukop and Matthew Loaiza of Central Library, also a Teen II Librarian, was accepted for the LibLearnX virtual conference sponsored by the American Library Association. The event will be held January 21-24, 2024. Their session is entitled "A Virtual Place of their Own: Providing Radical Teen Services on Discord." According to Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez, the program "will highlight the ground-breaking efforts made by SAPL Teen Services to swiftly develop and evolve online communities for teens during the pandemic -- services that have become a best-practice and have fundamentally shifted our approach to teen participation and engagement."

In October, the LEARN Center was used by 33 individual patrons for a total of 86 sessions. Each month there have been more patrons and more sessions, demonstrating that the Carver LEARN Center is being utilized increasingly.

Forty-two sessions were dedicated to improving computer skills, twenty sessions were dedicated to job search, job applications and job-related activities, and fourteen sessions were dedicated to submitting government forms.

One patron completed the Digital Inclusion program and received her certificate in October and was expected to begin working on her second certificate.

A new Learn Spanish 1 course began in October with a total of thirteen new students. Four students advanced from Learn Spanish 2 to the Learn Spanish 3 class. Four students completed Learn Spanish 3 and are requesting a fourth course. Each Learn Spanish class meets twice a week on Zoom.

The Training Officer also held the Film Noir Club's monthly meeting. There is a steady participation of about ten patrons in this club. The club was expected to celebrate its one year anniversary in November.

Teen Librarian Shannan Prukop transferred from Johnston to Carver branch in mid-September, taking on the role of assistant branch manager as well as Teen Librarian II. Mx. Prukop attended Big Texas Comic Con with Rhonda Woolhouse on October 10th as part of the Pop Culture Committee, providing Take-and-Make crafts for kids and information for adults about the library and its services. On October 13th, Mx. Prukop and Daniella Toll switched roles in the Dungeons & Dragons program for teens, with Prukop leading and Toll observing. While furniture continues to arrive for the renovated teen space, Mx. Prukop worked to update the teen collection and make sure teens feel welcome in the library.

## **CODY**

The Cody Branch Library served as an early voting polling site for the Joint Constitutional Amendment, from October 18 to 29, and an election date site as well, on November 2.

Library Assistants Luanne Bloom and Angela Olivarez continue to engage the staff in Wellness activities, twice a month. Luanne also represented the San Antonio Public Library at the District 8 Resource Fair, held at the University United Methodist Church on October 19.

Children's Librarian Kristin Yourdon presented during Story Time Online on October 7th. Yourdon read an interactive story called *The Hungry Bunny* by Claudia Rueda and had children complete several actions with scarves or blankets to go along with the story. Yourdon then sang an action song about the leaves changing colors, and taught the children an action rhyme called *Pumpkin, Pumpkin* that teaches about how pumpkins grow from seeds.

Yourdon and Library Assistant Haly LeFlore continued to offer weekly scavenger hunts in the children's area. For the first week, Yourdon created a Fall Leaves scavenger hunt in which children had to find 10 different leaves and then do a leaf rubbing on their paper with crayon to reveal a secret message. The second week, LeFlore set out a Disney Buddies scavenger hunt. Children had to match characters from the same Disney movies and then find them in the children's section.



For the third week, Yourdon set out a paper lantern scavenger hunt. Children had to find eight paper lanterns hanging in the children's section, with a letter hanging from it. Children had to put each letter on their answer sheet to reveal a secret message. Finally, during the last week in October, Yourdon and LeFlore set up a Pumpkin Patch scavenger hunt. Children had to follow the pictures of hay bales through the library, complete actions like tiptoe past pictures of ghosts, and draw the faces of 11 unique jack-o'-lanterns hidden along the route.

Yourdon put together Take-and-Make kits during the month of October, including a Fall Leaf kit which children could use to make their own colorful trees out of brown construction paper and small squares of tissue paper in various fall colors. There was also a Jack-O'-Lantern Playdough kit which included black beans, googly eyes, straws, and construction paper to make a jack-o'-lantern.

In October, Teen Librarian Amy Rae Weaver continued to ramp up services for both Teens and Adults at the Cody Library. Adults had numerous opportunities to try out new crafts, both in the library and outside it. Amy Rae worked with Debbie Countess to set up a Family History Month tabling event on October 9, featuring a Take-and-Make Family Calendar craft to help keep track of important events like birthdays. Other Take-and-Make crafts available at the Cody Library during October included the last of the mason jar papercrafts, papel picado décor for Día de los Muertos, bat brooches for Halloween, and hand-lettering kits. Starting on October 18, crafty adults could also participate in Cody's new Fiber Club, where they met weekly on Monday evenings to practice and share their fiber arts skills, with library assistant Haly LeFlore.

Teen Time came back in a big way, starting on October 12th. Teens expressed their identities and exercised their creative sides by designing and assembling their own pins. Since it was the day after National Coming Out Day, LGBTQ+ identities were on attendees' minds, and they chose to create preferred pronouns and flag pins in addition to other designs. On October 19th, they learned some basic jewelry-making skills when they used Shrinky Dinks to create their own keychains – and used lateral

thinking to solve problems that arose! For October 26th, to celebrate the spooky season, they designed their own ceramic skull banks. One teen decorated theirs to give as a gift!

Teens who didn't have the time to hang out could also take home multiple activity kits designed to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month as well as prepare for Día de los Muertos. By making a Libro de las Calaveras, teens could create a skull-shaped book to write memories, poetry, or whatever else appealed to them, while a hojalata-inspired picture frame could be used for photos of loved ones who have passed.

## COLLINS GARDEN



The Collins Garden Branch served as an early voting location from October 18 to October 29, for the Joint Constitutional Amendment, General, Special Bond Elections.

Teen Services Librarian Daniella Toll onboarded a new enthusiastic volunteer at the branch. For the Off-site Teen Volunteers, Ms. Toll answered questions and assisted 11 teens with volunteer applications on the 210teenlibrary Discord server, Instagram and Spotify platforms. In the month of October, the 9 active teen volunteers donated over 75 hours by creating content for the 210teenlibrary Instagram account, curating playlists for their peers and acting as Teen Moderators and Club Assistants on the 210 Teen Library server. On October 5, Ms. Toll assisted with the Older Adult Device lending program at the Normoyle Community Center, creating library cards and checking out iPads to seniors. On October 9, she hosted the 210teenlibrary Teen Moderator meeting and discussed roles and objectives for the coming month. Ms. Toll assisted Teen Services Librarian Shannan Prukop with a weekly teen program on the 210teenlibrary Discord server - Dungeons and Dragons. A total of 14 teens attended the October Wednesday clubs with the teen-requested theme of spooky stories.

Children's Librarian Gina Brudi attended, "Hello from the Library-Building Community Connection" workshop hosted by Little Read Wagon on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. She answered questions from participants, read a story and presented the rhyme, Two Little Black Bats. On Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup> the first Play & Learn at the Collins Garden Library took place in the green space area behind the library in conjunction with Little Read Wagon. Children engaged in free play with balls, buckets, cardboard boxes, sidewalk chalk and foam building materials. Each child received a free book to take home. As part of the Babies and Toddlers work group Ms. Brudi engaged young children via Zoom with stories and rhymes. She continued her online Story Time outreach with Knox Early Education Center with books, rhymes and songs. Ms.

Brudi assisted at the Baby Boo event at Landa Library on October 26<sup>th</sup>. She facilitated the monthly Collins Garden Adult Book Club. The group read **Calypso** by David Sedaris.

Library Assistant Carlos Loera hosted Voces Cosmicas in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The theme of the poetry readings were "Viva la Vida". On October 8, seniors enjoyed a Coffee and a Movie program at the branch.

In commemoration of Day of the Dead, staff assembled a Day of the Dead Altar display.

## **CORTEZ**

### **Manager and All Staff**

Branch Manager Cammie Brantley discovered during the time without a Children's Librarian that she likes to create craft projects for "Take-and-Makes" for kids. This month she did an activity featuring squirrels for "National Squirrel Month" and also purchased supplies for kids to make spooky spiders out of pipe cleaners and pom-poms.

Ms. Brantley was presented with her 30-year pin by PSA Jake Odland on October 20.

Cammie won a single ticket to the Catrina Ball benefiting the Library Foundation and was happy to attend that event on October 23.

Cortez was a voting site for the Constitutional Amendment balloting the last two weeks of October.

The staff got back to meeting weekly for team-building events on Tuesdays before opening to the public. Activities this month included making worry dolls one day and glue art pictures another day. Cammie worked with the staff to purchase items for future events thanks to funding from Organizational Health.

Book displays for the month included: Hispanic Heritage and Monster Mash for adults with additional displays on Stars and Planets, Cats and Dogs, and book bundles for kids. The library also hosted a large Ofrenda for Day of the Dead and staff as well as the public contributed items in memoriam for family members and pets.

### **Children**

In October, Children's Librarian Olivia Escovedo attended the SET training in recruitment to learn about the process for candidates to work for the city. She also assembled one Take-and-Make activity to distribute to kids, which included a fall art project. For outreach, Olivia went to an event at Zamora Middle School for their English Language Arts Night and spoke to students and parents about library resources. Later in the month around Halloween, Olivia returned to Zamora M.S. to take part in their Halloween scary reading activity. For programming, she took part in a Story Time online and read a Fall book, and sang some Fall songs. She also read two dial-a-story books in Spanish and read one dial-a-story in English.

### **Adults**

Library Assistant Jo Ann Paredes has been receiving a lot of emails from new patrons interested in attending the crafting class on Monday mornings. For the month of October, the crafts included: t-shirt crayon, basket weaving and crocheting v-stitch blanket. The average attendance is staying stable at around seven people per class.

In October, Librarian 2 Vicky Villalobos was one of the many staff members who contributed to the Halloween Annual Initiative. Librarian Vicky assisted with the Adult Costume Contest and Scavenger Hunt. She also organized the “Screening Screams” movie festival that took place at several locations across the system. On October 10, the Branch held the first Screening Screams event at Cortez. Patrons viewed “Train to Busan,” and were thrilled to discover the library did movie screenings monthly.

Vicky also implemented two fun Take-and-Makes for adults at Cortez this October-- yarn pumpkins and ghost tassels.

On October 15, Vicky Villalobos joined Michael Dunbar-Rodney and Morgan Yoshimura for “A Colorful Past: Queer History Trivia Night”. This informative program was done in partnership with the Pride Center of San Antonio. Vicky offered logistical support and chat moderation for the event. Patrons had a wonderful time learning history and sharing resources.

On October 29, Vicky along with Brooke Mjolsness, and Morgan Yoshimura joined Cresencia Huff as they hosted TLA D10 Trivia. That same night Brooke and Morgan hosted a SAPL Live Trivia event with Vicky contributing to the “Monster Mash” category.

### **Teens**

Teen Time is expected to start in November. There were no October activities due to voting taking place.

## **ENCINO**

The Encino Friends Group held their biannual Friends Book Sale on Saturday, October 9 and on the same day, Encino hosted Art Pace’s Chalk It Up community art program. Both programs were successful and mutually beneficial.

The branch hosted Early voting from October 18-29 and brought in 333 voters.

Encino Library also celebrated the Encino Playground Groundbreaking on October 29. District 9 Councilperson John Courage and Library Director Ramiro Salazar spoke about the importance of this project long in the making. Councilperson Courage and Director Salazar, along with District 8 Library Board Trustee Juspreet Kaur and Mayoral Library Board Trustee Judy Cruz performed the ceremonial groundbreaking for the project.

In collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Department, Fitness in the Park returned to Encino with Cardio and Yoga in-person classes happening on Tuesday afternoons.

Adults and Teens also enjoyed an in-person painting class held by Adult Services Librarian Ann Laird. They painted brightly colored trees on a black canvas. Staff were happy to see that some patrons took this program as an opportunity to have parent-teen bonding time.

Take-and-Make crafts are also still popular at Encino. On October 1, Encino distributed a Wool Ball Car Diffuser craft, and on October 27 a spooky pumpkin spider family craft was given away. The bat pin system-wide Halloween craft was also a hit! Encino’s Spice is Right program continued on October 29, with a smoked paprika kit. The Spice is Right program will continue through the end of the calendar year.

Children's Librarian Lea Ann McDonald's Foggy Forest scavenger hunt/passive program for children and families to enjoy with over 100 participants in October

Families enjoyed weekly Take-and-Make kits created by Ms. Lea Ann for October which included: Sensory Kit with play dough and a spiky light up ball, blue tape relief process art kit and a make your own raffia basket kit for Tweens

Ms. Lea Ann presented a live interactive Art Club Online Zoom program on October 14. Ms. Lea Ann showed a variety of techniques to use oil pastels, chalk pastels, and chalk on black paper to create original artworks

Encino Teens enthusiastically engaged with the library this month by using the teen space for studying and hanging-out after school, checking out the teen nonfiction collection (60 check-outs this month!), applying to volunteer, and crafting with DIY kits created by Teen Liaison Katy Dillard and Teen Librarian Bek Corley.

Ms. Corley and Ms. Dillard created multiple activities for teens in the space including puzzle sheets, table-top questionnaires and an Inktober art prompt mural. They began polling visiting teens about their interests for the return of in-person programming in November and connected with Johnson High School to share information about programming and services.

## FOREST HILLS

The librarians were able to incorporate a small DVD collection for both children and adults at the Gilbert Garza Community Center. Patrons can browse the collection which includes new releases, express and popular films like Halloween movies. One popular activity is for teens to check out a movie on Saturdays and watch in the community center's reading room with their friends.

### **Children's Services**

As she does several times a month, Ms. Menchaca participated in virtual Story Times. Children and their adults always have such a great time, sharing stories and songs and the highlight of Ms. Menchaca's week is the virtual Friday Baby Time. It is debatable who has a better time, the babies or the children's librarians. It is a true joy to interact with the youngest patrons and give their adults early literacy tips. Lego time happens every other week and Ms. Menchaca was happy to help host once this month. It is always amazing to see children's creations. Ms. Menchaca, along with two other librarians, prepared a booklist for Dia De Los Muertos.

Glen Oaks Elementary invited Ms. Menchaca to speak about the public library virtually. Ms. Menchaca spoke to all of the 5th grade about the wonderful opportunities the public library has. Ms. Menchaca also visited PCI Head Start to drop off books to the 3, 4, and 5-year-olds classrooms. This occasion was the first time since the beginning of the pandemic that Ms. Menchaca has been able to go to the center. Ms. Menchaca will continue to go monthly to check-out books out to the center.

### **Teen Services**

Laura Herman brought a button maker to the Gilbert Garza Community Center and was able to talk to kids and teens about the library while they made buttons at the front desk. They were able to share their interests, hobbies and talk about what books they are reading while waiting for their buttons.

## GREAT NORTHWEST

Great Northwest Branch Library Children's librarian Cari Raley sent the Explorers@Home on a trip to Italy this month. This month's theme was mainly focused around food. The families made their own chef's hat to wear while cooking some great Italian food at home. They learned an Italian folk dance and painted their own version of the Mona Lisa. The ABC Club@Home has completed exploring the alphabet! They will get to take a short break before starting up again.

During October, Teen librarian Chris Castillo facilitated four virtual Teen programs on the 210teenlibrary Discord server. In Teen Time, teens expressed displeasure about the volume of their school assignments, suggested scary movies to watch in preparation for Halloween, and a teen promoted their teen-led video game training camp about the video game title *Valorant*.

Teen Time and Create Club switched days during October. In Create Club, teens proudly shared a wide array of creative works ranging from artworks created for a virtual health competition, their own programmed video games, creative cake baking for class, cosplay progress, musical compositions, and CAD robot designs. The support that teens give each other encourages a wide variety of creative expression throughout the server, not solely exclusive to Create Club.

The Teen Pride committee planned, promoted, and screened the film *Paranorman* on the 210TeenLibrary Discord server.

Teens suggested Discord server improvements including new role designations for a teen's home branch, #wildanimals, #quizzes, #school, and #introductions. Teens submitted requests for free 3d printing, custom buttons, and magnets services, and picked them up from the branch.

In support of the Latino Resource Collection's Hispanic Heritage Month programming, Castillo facilitated a film screening outreach at *Raza C3smica: A Constellation of Classic and Contemporary Latinx Science Fiction*. In collaboration with MonteVideo and Presa House Gallery, this event was hosted at Artpace. Local director Grace Goen provided the audience with an introduction of her short film.

Adult Services librarian Stephanie Vazquez created a Craft Demo video on Halloween crafts for the San Antonio Public Library's YouTube channel. Ms. Vazquez also created and distributed Optical Illusion and Halloween Origami Take-and-Make kits for October. Great Northwest Library partnered with the Parks and Recreation Department and offered a Fitness in the Park program at the library on October 7 and 14.

## GUERRA



Guerra Branch Library prepared for the Halloween season with several displays of scary stories and a bulletin board titled “Trick or Treat Smell My Feet Guess the Character Under the Sheet” which included many children’s literature favorites. Staff also created a Day of the Dead or Dia de Los Muertos display with sugar skulls. Guerra Library served as an Early Voting site from October 18 to October 29.

Branch Manager Monica Bustillo participated in “A Novel Afternoon: Middle Grade and YA Authors Share their Stories” webinar on October 6. Ms. Bustillo facilitated the Athena Readers Book Club discussion of Sarah Penner’s *The Lost Apothecary* on October 18. On October 21 Ms. Bustillo attended the “IPG’s Bestselling Mystery Publishers present their Latest Title’s” webinar and the ALMA Book Buzz on October 27. Ms. Bustillo attended the School Library Journal SLJ Summit: In Community on October 28.

Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson recorded *Roro el rugidos (Roo, the roaring dinosaur)* by David Bedford for October’s Dial-a-Story in Spanish. He recorded a second book *Canelo busca su hueso (The dog that dug)* by Jonathan Long and Kork Paul on October 19. He moderated the Spanish book club Club de Lectura on October 21. They discussed *La espía (The spy)* , a documentary of Mata Hari by Paulo Coelho. He then recorded *Ojalá supieras* by Jackie Azúa Kramer on October 22. He presented the library trivia program at the Willie Cortez Senior Center on October 29.

## IGO

Adult Services Librarian Gamini Haluwana and the Igo staff arranged a pooch parade on the 30th of October 2021. The pooch parade followed by the costume contest drew a lot of spectators. Forty two people were watching the dogs walking on the red carpet and the Igo community enjoyed the program. Five dogs contested and three dogs won prizes.

Early voting in person for the Joint Constitutional Amendment, General, Special and Bond Election was held on Monday, October 18, 2021 - Friday, October 29, at Igo Branch Library. More than one thousand people voted at the Igo location during early voting.

Senior services coordinator Irene Scharf created and distributed 150 Elderberries, the Elderberries Newsletter. Topic for online resources was Archaeology for Texas Archaeology Month. Included in the newsletter was an attachment from OASIS with the new Silver Connect Telephone Chat Line. Mrs Scharf coordinated the UTSA Students’ Digital Marketing Class’s film about John Igo and the Igo Library. This involved contacting Bill Woller, John Igo’s cousin and Sylvia Reyna, researcher for John Igo, and arranging the interview times. She was also interviewed by the UTSA students about her knowledge of and friendship with John Igo.

## JOHNSTON

The Johnston Branch bid a fond farewell to Library Assistant Thalia Veizaga who left to pursue opportunities in another state. Ms. Veizaga's last day was October 15. The branch hosted Early Voting for the Joint Constitutional Amendment, General, Special and Bond Election Monday, October 18 - Friday, October 29, 2021. More than 430 people voted at Johnston during Early Voting.

Children's Librarian Tiffany Durham began outdoor programming at the Sun Valley Playground next to Johnston this October. The new program Bubbles at the Playground was held on Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. Activities included multiple bubble machines, soapy water tubs with paint brushes to "paint the playground", household items to make bubbles of all shapes and sizes, sidewalk chalk in water, music, dancing and stories. This family-friendly program is planned to continue in November and December, weather permitting. Miss Tiffany continued her work as the co-lead of the Tiny Tot Work Group. She hosted and presented at Toddler Time Online on Wednesday, recorded a story for Dial-a-Story and presented online at Art Club, Lego Club and Game Time. Miss Tiffany worked on the Take-and-Make committee to develop system-wide Take-and-Make Kits, as well as created supplemental kits for the branch. This month included Crafts using construction paper circles with design ideas, beading and a spooky-kooky black paper bag craft. On Halloween Day, Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup>, Miss Tiffany and Vida Salas, Circulation Attendant, represented San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) at the District 4 Halloween Trunk-or-Treat Drive thru event at Pearsall Park from noon to 2 p.m. The duo decorated Miss Tiffany's trunk full of Halloween balloons to represent the library being full of favorite spooky tales for all ages. Library pencils, tattoos, candy, information and smiles were passed out to hundreds of families all dressed in their Halloween costumes.

Library Aide Cindy Blancas represented SAPL at the 2021 Chalk It Up event held in Johnston's parking lot. In partnership with Artpace, artists created chalk drawings on the library's parking lot. From 10:00 a.m. until 2 p.m. the public was provided with chalk and encouraged to add their own drawings to the sidewalk around the Sun Valley playground adjoining the parking lot. More than 80 people of all ages joined the fun!

Training Officer Marcella McGowan was busy with drop-in appointments for the LEARN center. Ms. McGowan is continuing with the Innovation Academy and has completed Lean Six Sigma Yellow and Green Belt classes.

## **LANDA**

Landa Library celebrated the sixth annual Halloween event, Landa Boo!, on Tuesday, October 26. Families were able to play outside with giant blocks, mix and make potions, and create chalk art. Landa Boo! is a wonderful event in which all the stakeholder groups contribute to the festivities. Supplies for the goodie bags, crafts, and decorations were provided with funds from the Friends of Landa Library. Treat bags were provided by the Monte Vista Historical Association. Take home pumpkins & gourds were generously provided with funds from the Landa Gardens Conservancy. Brook Hollow Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas assisted Children's Librarian Robin Alcorta with this event. Ms. Salinas was the previous Landa Children's Librarian. She helped create the event. All Landa staff members contributed to the event in one way or another as well. Circulation Attendants Greg Cruz and Amy Peppersack were the photographers for the event. Branch Manager Kiyanna Stephens helped with set up and acquiring funds and items. Library Aide Irene Gonzalez brought her grandkids to the event, providing moral support. Every year the program turns into something a little different than the year before. Landa Boo! 2021 was the first in-person family program that was hosted at Landa since winter 2019. The turnout was fantastic. The community welcomed the event back to the grounds with open arms and costumes.

Children's Librarian Robin Alcorta gave a short interview about Landa Library to teachers on Zoom. The interview is part of the series Little Read Wagon was hosting called "Hello," where patrons get a chance to meet the librarian, hear a story, and say hello. The day following the interview, patrons are invited to visit the library, play, and say hello. The event was on the grounds of Landa, but hosted by Little Read Wagon staff.

Children's Librarian Robin Alcorta continued working with the University Presbyterian Children's Center. She offers book drop offs to the teacher. Every month, the UPCC teacher will request a collection of books on a subject. Ms. Alcorta compiles the books and delivers them to the school. She then returns the books from the previous month. This connection has been ongoing for several years. The theme for October was Robots.

Children's Librarian Robin Alcorta continued to host and participate in online programs such as Art Club, Game Time, Read to a Dog, Lego Club, Story Time, Tweens Play Among Us, and Baby Time with her Children's Librarian colleagues.

Teen programming at Landa picked up slightly with some passive DIY kits created by previous Teen Liaison/Library Assistant Bek Corley. Ms. Corley put together several DIY kits before accepting a promotion to Teen Librarian I. She put together the DIY kits that were available to teens for Landa Boo! as well. Ms. Corley worked with the Landa teen volunteer to create something that didn't involve decorating pumpkins (as that was the project for the past couple years). She and the Landa teen volunteer created a wonderful (and quickly taken) kit.

Adults had a full month of events in October at Landa. Adult Librarian Karen Sebesta continued her monthly book clubs (Reader's Ink and Mystery Book Club) with close to 20 attendees at each club. This month, Reader's Ink readers read *The Wonder Boy of Whistle Stop*. Mystery Book Club readers read *The Consequences of Fear*.

In addition to her regular book clubs, Ms. Sebesta hosted two authors and book signings. Author Bella Cruz was on site at the beginning of the month. Later in the month, Author Gil Dominguez returned to Landa to promote his book.

## LAS PALMAS

Halloween was celebrated early this year with an outdoor program for the children on October 25. Costumes were worn by all, and decorated craft bags were distributed. Valerie Shelley, Children's Librarian, led young readers through the Read to a Dog activities every Tuesday. Registration for these events fill up as soon as they open. Take-and-Make kits from the children's department continue to be developed and handed out; children look forward to creating things with the materials given.

Our Teen Librarian Connie Hejl participated at the Big Texas Comic Con on October 8-10, where she was able to engage with 100 adults and 50 teens.

On October 12, Las Palmas staff members Lily Pérez & Elvia Ramos participated in an outreach event launching a new program, "iPad Project for Seniors." The senior community was encouraged to obtain a library card to check-out an iPad Tablet to help bridge the digital divide through technology. The iPad Tablet can be used to participate in technology courses provided by program partners, access library

resources, meet with a health care provider through telemedicine, or simply connect with friends and families.

On October 27, the Las Palmas staff set up a table for the non-profit organization called “ChildSafe”, a children’s advocacy center to provide resources and answer questions from the community. ChildSafe is scheduled to return every 4th Wednesday of the month.

## MAVERICK

Maverick Library hosted the Bexar County Election Department for Early Voting from October 18 through October 29. The Maverick Reference staff collaborated together making it successful for opening and closing through the entire voting session. Maverick library offered a few adult programs in October. Although attendance was minimal for all programs, it did provide a safer setting for attendees with COVID-19 concerns within the community. Steadily, Maverick is seeing volunteers return back to Maverick.

On October 18, Ms. Roberts created a curated Story Time for the Tiny Tots committee based on the book “Five Little Pumpkins” by Dean Litwin. On October 19, she created a video for the Tiny Tots committee on the SAPLisHere4You website. The video was the song “Five Green and Speckled Frogs” and she also created a flannelboard to use while performing it. On October 25, Ms. Roberts read “Mouse’s First Halloween” by Lauren Thompson for Dial-a-Story. She also attended a children’s librarians meeting on October 27.

## McCRELESS





McCreless patrons continue coming to the Southside Lions Community Center to pick up their holds and check out some of the newest and popular items from our Express Collection. The youngsters who come with their families to attend the games put on by the community center, enjoy stopping by and checking out items from the lovely displays made by our Circulation Attendant Krys Hernandez. In addition to the dance and soccer displays, there is one celebrating Halloween with items for adults and children. Krys added Fall theme items to the display making gourds with paper, watercolor and real twigs.

Assistant Manager Yamada Lokensgard continues seeking professional development opportunities. She attended the Virtual Lunch and Learn "VIA's Reduced Fare Programs for Older Adults (62 or older) and VIA Trans". On October 29, she attended three Texas Library Association (TLA) virtual sessions: "Mirrors, Windows and Doors: Cultivating Identity-Affirming Library" (Clair Larkin), "Flip Shot: Improving One-shot Library Instructions using Flipped Learning" (Kelly Drifmeyer); "Alternatives to Zoom: Twitch and Discord" (Michael Dunbar-Rodney, Lorin Flores, Edward Mayberry).

Krys Hernandez also created a wreath for the Parks & Recreation door decoration in observance of the National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The wreath is made of purple paper butterflies.

## MEMORIAL

### October Director's Report

Adult Services librarian Freddy Hudson attended training for Northstar on October 28 and 29. Northstar is a curriculum for teaching digital literacy and computer skills. Mr. Hudson will use the training to assist patrons and organize programs for the community. He is teamed with other staff throughout SAPL on this project, led by librarian Angelina Cortes.

Children's Librarian Christine Deffendall contributed to the Children's Services Blog on October 26 with a review of *Miep and the Most Famous Diary*, by Meeg Pincus. Branch Manager Maria Gonzales also contributed to Children's Services on Dial A Story Telecuentos by reading and recording *Pedro y el Monstruo* by Fran Manushkin on October 29..

The branch is continuing with renovation activities both inside the facility as well as outside. Outside evidence is visible by the large machines operating on the front of the building with workers milling about

everywhere.

Public services continue with the book drop in clear site by the entrance site and staff working inside Bus on the Go continuing to provide curbside services.

## MISSION

Librarian Oscar González participated in the Day of the Dead festivities at the Mission Marquee Plaza on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Mission Library partnered in the celebration by creating an Ofrenda at the library as well as creating a dead author display for Mission patrons. Mission staff were present at the Marquee to help with the many children's activities throughout the day. Around 300 children participated in Day of the Dead crafts.

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, Library Aide, Perla Campos (PT), represented Mission Library at the Mission Marquee Plaza Farmers & Artisans Market at the event and had a table set up to inform visitors about library services. In addition, the Friends of Mission Library held their yearly book sale at the event as well.

For the first time since the libraries re-opened, the screening of movies resumed. In a system-wide program, *30 Days of Night* was shown at Mission Library as part of the San Antonio Public Library movie festival, *Screening Screams*.

Teen Librarian, Cindy Cruz, and teen volunteers assisted at the Chalk it Up! event on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Cindy and the volunteers helped to coordinate activities in the Mission Library courtyard. Teens also contributed by creating a chalk art mural. Artpace estimated 150 people showed up for the event.

Three teen programs took place in October with a total of 25 teens participating. Teens took part in programs where they created Halloween bracelets, decorated Jack O' Lanterns, and painted ceramic calavera figures for Día de los Muertos.

Mission Library served the community by providing space as an early voting location from October 18<sup>th</sup> to October 29<sup>th</sup> for the Bexar County Joint Constitutional Amendment, General, Special and Bond Elections.

## PAN AMERICAN

Library assistant and teen liaison Cassie Garza attended Literacy Night at Leal MS. The night included Harry Potter themed crafts and activities. Ms. Garza set up an information table inside Leal MS's library



and handed out free comic books and shared materials about SAPL. Ms. Garza also assisted with a literacy night at Lanier HS with Gina Garcia. The event was outdoors and had live music and dancing.

Ms. Garza hosted two Screaming Screen programs in which she showed two spooky movies. The movies were Little Shop of Horrors and The Thing. There were a handful of patrons that watched Little Shop of Horrors.

Pan American's Meditation class attendance continues to grow. Participants are very excited to be meeting back in the branch on a consistent basis. Adult Services Librarian, Adrian Leal, organized a branch specific Magic Scratch Halloween Ornament Take-and-Make for Pan American patrons. Patrons received either a skeleton or a ghost to decorate and then make into their very own Halloween ornament. The branch also welcomed the San Antonio Ghost Hunters for a very spooky and interesting presentation on paranormal activity in San Antonio just before Halloween

Children's librarian Jacqueline Gonzalez compiled Take-and-Make crafts for children. One craft was to make your own paper plate bird. Kit included a paper plate, paper, crayons, sequin, glue, glue glitter, and pom poms.

Another Take-and-Make Pet Spiders kit- For children to make chenille stem spiders. Included with instructions were chenille stems, yarn, and beads.

Library assistant Stephanie Perez participated in a Virtual Sketchbook & Journaling program using Zoom. There are two meetings a month and each has a prompt for the participant. The focus is on drawing and writing. The purpose is to bring people together and encourage people's creativity. This program is for adults only



## PARMAN

The fall season at Parman means "Spookie Walk" is back. For the second year in the row the "Spookie Walk" was available for patrons for the entire month of October. This adjustment- necessary to address COVID related recommendations was welcomed by the community. It created the opportunity to enjoy the traditional and beloved Halloween experience - costumes, ghouls and all things frightful but friendly while social distancing the youngest visitors got to enjoy a special Halloween story walk safely located

far away from spooks. Over 200 people visited the walk daily, many wearing costumes and taking pictures with the decorations on the trail.

Parman was lucky enough to be selected by the Texana department for a genealogy exhibit this October. Matt and Andrew did a wonderful job in connecting with the community. Patrons were invited to learn more about the genealogy department and how to begin researching their family history and explore their past. Many people stopped by to get advice on anything and everything about genealogy. All those that stopped by left with a delightful "Take-and-Make" family tree calendar.



The opening reception of artist Mike Fisher's "Retro Future" exhibit was this October and along with his amazing line drawings Fisher displayed his retro panoramas and had hand drawn comic books. The San Antonio illustrator and animator talked about old cartoons and pop culture with visitors as well as his drawing techniques. The audience enjoyed the refreshments and conversation.

Lisa and Teague shared 98 spooky hand-tracing craft kits and 20 cut-paper pumpkins with the patrons. They kept their displays full of creepy books for children of all ages. They also showed off graphic novels for early readers. Lisa continued to help with digital programs on Zoom and also joined the Toddler Time Online team. She led fun fingerplays and played a felt board game with the young participants. Teague also helped host SAPL's Lego Club Online twice this month.

Parman branch served as a Bexar County Joint Constitutional amendment, General, Special and Bond Elections site and 1381 voters voted at Parman during Early Voting.

## POTRANCO

Teen Librarian Jenny Borrero resumed Teen Time on Saturday, October 23 and went through the whole month. Teens chose to play Here to Slay and Uno as well as had snacks. They bonded over talking about video games and card games as well. They continue to look forward to Teen Time.

Bookworms continued reading *The Book Thief* throughout the month. On October 30, Bookworms took a break from the book and read some Edgar Allan Poe short stories in celebration of the spooky season. The teens submitted the short stories they wanted to read and they all ended up being Edgar Allan Poe. It was a funny moment and the teens enjoyed discussing them.

Children's Librarian, Dawn Zeig, has been actively participating in the virtual program Game Time along with several other San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) children's librarians. Game Time consists of

bringing four to five interactive fun games to City children geared towards grades kindergarten through third.

The Take-and-Make Children's craft for the month of October was sensory painting. Children created "paint" by soaking an herbal tea bag and then explored painting with the scented colored water on various types of media. The November Take-and-Make craft is Torn Paper Art.

Ms Borrero and Ms Zeig attended an outreach event at the YMCA's annual Boo Bash. Over 400 people were seen at the table. Take-and-Make crafts and other swag were given out to those that stopped by to chat.

Adult Services Librarian Monica Huerta hosts a weekly Mindful Meditation program. Ms. Huerta gives the group small tips on stress relief for the week and leads a guided meditation. The group focuses on mindfulness and breathing techniques.

Ms. Huerta hosts the monthly Sci-Fi & Fantasy Book Club. This month the group discussed *The City of Brass* by S.A. Chakraborty.. The book club was held in-person and via Zoom. The virtual option of attendance is still an option for those not comfortable attending in person.

Ms. Huerta continued Thursday Threads. Patrons choose a pattern and embroider it on cloth that is provided. For October, Ms. Huerta provided witchy patterns to celebrate Halloween.

Library Assistant Lisa Leandro hosts the Virtual Adult Coloring program via Zoom. Her regular attendees continue to enjoy spending time coloring, discussing their artwork, current events and sharing stories about their families.

Ms. Leandro and Ms. Huerta host the Café con Libros book club. This book club focuses on LGBT+ books. This month the group discussed *In the Dream House*, a memoir by Carmen Maria Machado. Coffee and cookies are provided for those in attendance.

Circulation Attendant Pat Booker hosted his bi-weekly Writer's Group. Those in attendance bring along their creative writing projects and share them with the group. The group engages in discussion about writing techniques and they give each other positive feedback on their projects.

Circulation Attendant Miranda O'Neill hosts a bi-weekly Twisted Stitches program. The attendees work on crocheting and knitting projects while jamming out to some classic rocks tunes. Beginners are welcome to attend and Ms. O'Neill provides a pattern and instructions on getting started.

Ms Huerta and Branch Manager Steven Barrera attended an outreach event at the Valley Ranch subdivision. The subdivision was holding their annual Boo Bash. Over 200 people came to the library table and were given information about library services and a Halloween themed Take-and-Make craft.

## **PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS**

Pruitt's Children's Services celebrated the advent of Fall and Halloween with displays and children's and toddler's *Take-and-Make* craft kits created by the branch's librarian Lucy Humphries and library assistant Sheran Awe. Patrons also enjoyed the sensory *Take-and-Make* kits from Children's Services. The *Page-Turners Book Club* met virtually and discussed their October selection which was selected by one of the dedicated book club members. School-age patrons participated in several passive programs in the Kids' Zone, giving them the chance to connect with the collection and participate safely in library programming.

Children voted in a Halloween-themed “*This or That*,” participated in a *Spooky Scavenger Hunt*, and were given Halloween stick puppets as a “come and go” craft.



Teen Services partnered with the TR Pride Coalition at Roosevelt High School in observance of International Pronoun Day. The theme was “Unity” focused on the commonality of human experience. Additionally, Junior Achievement of South Texas partnered with Pruitt Teen Services, providing their *Personal Finance* curriculum for teen financial programming. Teens who participated in manga and anime programming created Naruto-inspired crafts which they could wear or display. Patrons were also offered Halloween-themed *Take-and-Make* crafting kits which contained supplies for bracelet making.



Adult Services conducted two hybrid events in October. The *TGIF Book Club* met and discussed *Mexican Gothic* (“I’d never pick that book out myself, but it was interesting!” one of the patrons commented.) The *Saturday Book Club* discussed *There, There*. Additionally, the *Roosevelt Rough Rider Readers* staff and parents’ book club reconvened with a discussion of *Keep It 100*. Combined Molly Pruitt and Potranco staff hosted the weekly *Adult Virtual Coloring* program. *The Special Needs Adult Programming* group met on-site to read *The House of Madame M* and built haunted house candle covers. Ms. Opiela, a Bexar county Volunteer Deputy registrar, submitted completed voter registration forms for patrons. Pruitt branch also took part in the San Antonio Public Library Movie festival *Screening Screams* with a presentation of *Get Out*.

*Teen and Family Chess* continued on Thursdays with lessons provided via Zoom by Chess Master Alex Weinberg to patrons gathered in the library.

## SAN PEDRO

San Pedro Branch was delighted to present its first in person children’s program since the pandemic began. Children’s librarian Karen Braeuler along with Central Children’s librarian Shannon Seglin presented “Halloween Yoga Story Time,” a hour of song, yoga poses and a seasonal craft. It was held outside on the walkway adjacent to San Pedro Park on a beautiful, sunny morning.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class from the Gathering Place charter school visited the branch for a family field trip. Braeuler gave a brief orientation outside, then the families came in, got library cards, read, and checked

out books on their own. The class members had only seen each other in person one other time this year, since they were still mostly operating virtually. They were appreciative of the opportunity to learn about the public library and get together.

Braeuler presented rhymes and songs for two live Toddler Time Online programs as well as reading a story “The Three Billy Goats Buenos” for the Dial-A-Story phone line.

In October, the San Pedro Branch renewed contact with the Alta Vista Neighborhood Association and will be contributing information about the library and its events through the bi-monthly newsletter and Facebook page.

Finally, the San Pedro branch team bid good luck and farewell to circulation attendant James Sontag on his retirement with the City of San Antonio. Mr. Sontag enjoyed a career with SAPL spanning 22 years at a variety of location throughout the system. James will be missed and the San Pedro team wishes him well.



## SCHAEFER

Schaefer’s Children’s librarian Leslie Elsasser participated in online programming for all ages of children throughout the month of October. She was the host of Story Time Online Oct. 14 and on Oct. 28 she presented pumpkin-themed songs and rhymes for the pre-school kids. LEGO Club Online is every other Tuesday afternoon for school-age kids, and Leslie was the host for each program and presented the free building challenge to the kids each program in October. During the program, the kids are given five building challenges and have five minutes to use their imaginations to create something that they can share with the group when time is up. Leslie also participated in her first Game Time Online program on

Oct. 21. She led the kids in a fun drawing challenge where the kids had to draw scenes given by Leslie, but the catch was that the paper was on their heads.

Passive programming also took place at the branch during October. Toward the end of October, kids were given sidewalk chalk and were encouraged to be creative and draw on the Schaefer sidewalks. They also had the opportunity to decorate pumpkins made out of construction paper to tape to a pumpkin patch in the children's area of the library.

Leslie is also the co-lead of the Summer 2022 committee and weekly meetings and preparations are underway.

This month Library Assistant BlancaSilvia Hernandez:

Published a Spotify Halloween themed playlist and a curated BiblioCommons list for Schaefer's I ♥ Vinyl monthly program. Schaefer staff contributed their favorite spooky music to share with patrons.

She created a Disability Awareness Stress Ball Take-and-Make for site-wide distribution to patrons and featured local and national events promoting Disability Awareness in the Disability Resources LibGuide. She also moderated Librarian Cynthia DeLeon's Zoom programs: Meet the Guide Dogs of Texas, where patrons learned how the guide dogs are bred, trained and matched with Texans impacted by blindness to increase their freedom, mobility and independence and Deaf Culture 101, where Professor John Cage and students from the Dept. of American Sign Language and Interpreter Training at SAC presented various aspects of Deaf Culture and shared institutions of communities that are influenced by deafness, and use sign languages as the main means of communication.

She created a Halloween Month Bat Pendant Take-and-Make for site-wide distribution to patrons.

On Tuesday, October 19, Interim Branch Manager Maria Adams, hosted the Skimmers Book Club. The group discussed the book by Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg, "The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules." There were three in person participants, and one person joined us via Zoom.

In October 2021, Dacari Lambert, Teen Librarian at Schaefer Branch Library helped facilitate the weekly Create club with colleague, Chris Castillo. Dacari continues to work with teen services colleagues to meet the needs of teens across San Antonio with modified services and programming. The Teen Pride workgroup hosted a discord program at the end of October to celebrate LGBTQ History Month, with a spooky twist. In addition to programming, Dacari also helped with a branch wide book display for Halloween. Additionally, Dacari collaborated with Adult Services Librarian Maria Adams to create a community Ofrenda to celebrate day of the dead. The community Ofrenda saw enthusiastic participation from the community with 26 photos adorning the altar.



# SEMMES

In the month of October, Ms. Randi continued her participation as tech support for the Read to a Dog on Zoom on October 5 and again on October 19. She was the host for Toddler Time Online Live on October 6 and presented the closing songs for that program on October 20. For Story Time Online Live, she hosted on October 7 and October 28 and sang a song, presented a fingerplay/action rhyme and lead the children and their grownups in an interactive activity called “Body Language” on October 14. Ms. Randi’s curated Story Time for the book, *Ball and Balloon* by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Helen Yoon, premiered on the SAPL website on October 26. She recorded stories for the Dial A Story line on October 5 (*Pattan’s Pumpkin: A Traditional Flood Story from Southern India* by Chitra Soundar and Frane Lessac), on October 15 (*The Day It Snowed Tortillas* by Joe Hayes) and on October 29 (*Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carroll).

Ms. Carroll (Children’s Librarian) co-hosted on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, Tweens Play Among Us on Zoom – co-hosted on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and Adventurer’s Book Club – was hosted on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 9 children attended to discuss *Scary Stories for Young Foxes*

Ms. Carroll coordinated with Harris and Wood Middle Schools and both provided and installed art for our community display and she used Cricut to add school names to display glass

Ms. Carroll conducted virtual outreaches for NEISD parents to demonstrate resources available to them and to their students (catalog, databases, Homework Help, e-books, events calendar, etc.) Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> – Eisenhower Middle School, about 10 parents and Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> – Driscoll Middle School, about 12 parents

# THOUSAND OAKS

Assistant Branch Manager Brooke Mjolsness was co-host and chat moderator for the popular self-care program Ayurveda on October 13. The main host Maggie Grueskin led the presentation. Ayurveda is held on the second Wednesday of every month.

Ms. Mjolsness served as chat moderator for the Noon Time Helping of Cooking program on October 14 and 28. The program series is offered bi-weekly on Thursday afternoons and covers various recipes and kitchen topics.

Ms. Mjolsness co-hosted a virtual Beginner’s Chair Yoga program on October 22. The chair yoga series has a dedicated following and is held the second and fourth Fridays of every month.

On October 29, Ms. Mjolsness was the Master of Ceremonies for the SAPL Live Trivia program. This popular program is held on the last Friday of every month. She served as Master of Ceremonies for a Live Trivia program for the Texas Library Association District 10 Conference on October 29.

Librarian Kimberly King attended the Change Management and Pop Madness committee meetings. She created a book display with a Halloween-lite theme of “I don’t know the title but the book is black,” and an interactive activity which encouraged teens to vote for their favorite Halloween candy.

On October 20, Ms. King facilitated an outreach book group at the North East Senior Center. Participants discussed *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*. On October 26, she served as co-host for the Speak Geek program on vampires.

Library Assistant Edward Mayberry attended the Teen Services meeting. He attended the Black & African American Employee Affinity Group Mentorship Program Kick-Off on October 1.

On October 26, Mr. Mayberry, along with colleague Dan Garcia, facilitated the Racial (In)Justice podcast featuring community partners Coda Rayo-Garza and Mayra Juarez-Denis from the YWCA Olga Madrid Center.

On October 29, Mr. Mayberry presented “Alternatives to Zoom: Twitch and Discord” with coworkers Lorin Flores and Michael Dunbar-Rodney at the Texas Library Association District 10 Conference.

## TOBIN LIBRARY AT OAKWELL

Adult Services Librarian, Rhonda Woolhouse, hosted a San Antonio Public Library table at Big Texas’ Comic Con at the downtown convention center October 8 – 10. Jared Thompson, one of Tobin’s library aides, assisted with this event on October 10, along with other SAPL employees helping throughout the weekend. This was one of the largest in person SAPL adult outreach events this year with over 2000 visitors to the library’s booth.

Teen Librarian, Marisa Debow has stimulated interest with teens by proposing clever questions for kids to answer on the white board in the teen room. Also, original Tobin teen Take-and-Make crafts were beaded bracelets and bubble magnets and both went very quickly. Ms. Debow began conducting a survey this month to gather information on interests for future in person programs, along with preferred days and times. The results will be compiled in November and help determine the type of activities and days that teen and after school programs will be offered.

Barbaraella Frazier, Tobin’s Children’s Librarian, continues enthusiastically co-hosting on-line virtual programs. She helps with Read to a Dog twice a month. This activity is for school aged children to practice their literacy skills by reading aloud to a registered therapy dog. On October 16, Ms. Frazier hosted Cooking around the World with two sessions on Greece. Kids of all ages learn about other countries and culture with a cooking demonstration that an entire family can enjoy.

Library Assistant, Terry Verner, and Circulation Attendant, Lilliana Aguilar, are participating in the new



monthly Grupo Bienvenidos a la Biblioteca. This group was formed by Public Service Administrator, Elma Nieto-Rodriguez, to encourage consistency among staff when aiding Spanish speaking library users.

Tobin at Oakwell branch served as an Early Voting site for Bexar County’s Joint Constitutional amendment and General, Special and Bond Elections with 1116 voters.

Some special visitors stopped by Tobin at Oakwell on October 30. (Picture left).

# WESTFALL

Beginning with the excitement of accepting money at the start of October, Westfall provided the exterior backdrop for news coverage about money being taken again at San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) on October 1st. In partnership with CPS Energy, Westfall's meeting room hosted weekly sign-up events run by CPS Energy employees with the goal of assisting District 1 patrons in signing up for money-saving programs and services. Westfall staff also welcomed a new Library Aide, Rose Hernandez, to the San Antonio Public Library and are glad to have her with us.

Branch Manager Angela Morrow hosted a Staff Meeting October 6th to kick off the new fiscal year with healthy snacks, an engagement activity: *Share Something Positive*, a Question and Answer forum, and a City of San Antonio staff trivia challenge, won by Learn Officer, Michelle Rickman. Angela also requested that the Westfall Wellness Ambassador, Michelle Rickman, reinstate *Wellness Wednesdays* at Westfall, which started immediately; featuring groovy velvet color pages and a staff survey for how to use the provided Wellness funds. It was well-appreciated. Additionally, Angela joined the ongoing Facilities Committee to help improve the flow of Facilities tickets. She also provided guidance and support to fellow scheduling Librarians who reached out to become better at using Snap Scheduling, the new staff scheduling tool. Lastly, talks of Westfall's improvement plans of new carpet and paint have moved along smoothly, which Westfall staff are greatly looking forward to in the next year.

Adult Services Librarian, Angelina Cortes, created and taught the first Computer Basics course in person since COVID-19 safety precautions took effect. Her class was well-received by the attendees, resulting in an Encore for Angelina and multiple requests in the days following from new patrons to have her teach again. Due to demand, the request for more in-person Computer Basics will result in expanding these courses throughout the 2022 year. Additionally, Angelina took part in the Hispanic Heritage month initiatives, hosting a live virtual author talk with Maria Amparo Escandon to discuss her newest book, *L.A. Weather*, and assisting in the viewing of "*Children of Men*" for the Raza Cósmica Film Screening and Director Introduction. As part of her commitment to enriching the San Antonio Community, during the month of October Angelina created a Digital Inclusion Team consisting of seven additional San Antonio Public Library Librarians. She has started her Northstar Digital Literacy training and will be certified as a proctor to teach four basic Digital Literacy (DL) classes through her partnership with the San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology. She is also currently working on a partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank (SAFB) to teach computer classes to SAFB clients, who will receive a free laptop. Lastly, Angelina was invited by Google Fiber to attend *Lonche y Arte*, a special luncheon to celebrate and support the new location of Say Si, a local non-profit artists' space for youth. She represented The San Antonio Public Library.

Heather Swindell, Teen Services Librarian at Westfall, distributed spooky-themed goody bags (picture below) with candy, SAPL swag, and promotional flyers for the virtual Teen Fall programming throughout the month of October. Teen patrons have been steadily returning to Westfall to study in groups and spend time in the Teen Space. Ms. Swindell has been asking about in-person Teen Time programming starting again, and our young patrons were glad to hear that the program would formally resume in November

Children's Librarian, Imelda Merino, added six curated Story Times to the Preschool LibGuide. These programs were prepared by other librarians and Ms. Merino added these to the LibGuide. She added one video to the Read Aloud Box and participated in an Art Club program with the theme of complementary colors; in which the children experimented with different colors to see how they look together. Ms. Merino helped create book displays for *Día de Los Muertos* and *Spooky Stories*. She also filled in as LIC at the Carver Library on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ms. Merino visited Nimitz Middle School at the request of the

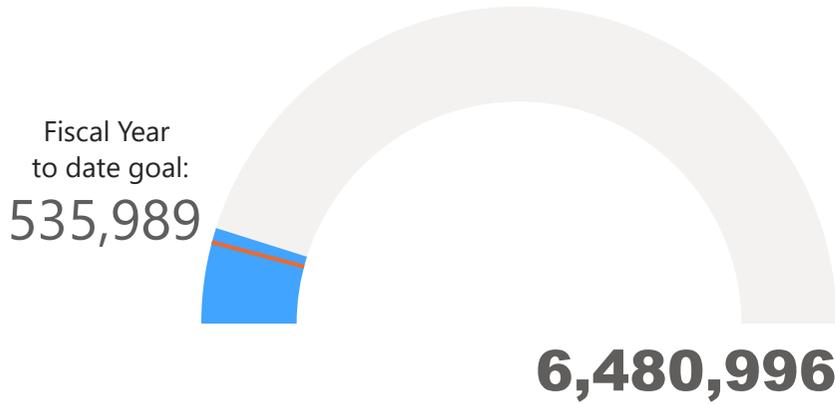


**SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**KEY INDICATORS**

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

**OCTOBER 2021**  
**FY 2022**

**Circulation: Goal**

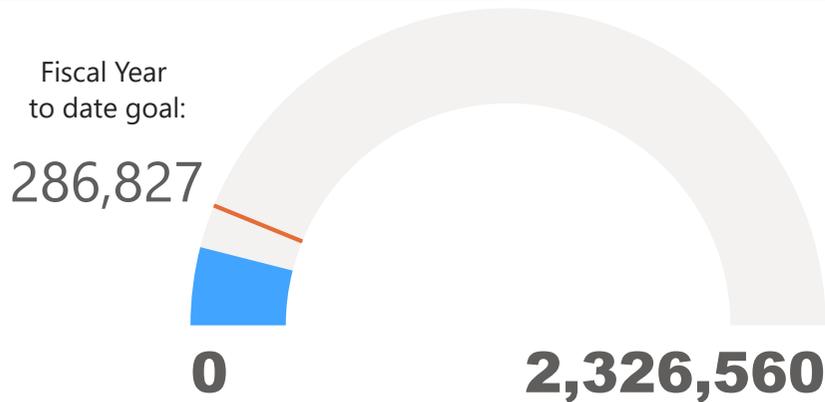


**FY 2022 to date Items Borrowed**



**631,567<sup>✓</sup>**  
 (+17.83%)  
 Circulation

**Visits: Goal**

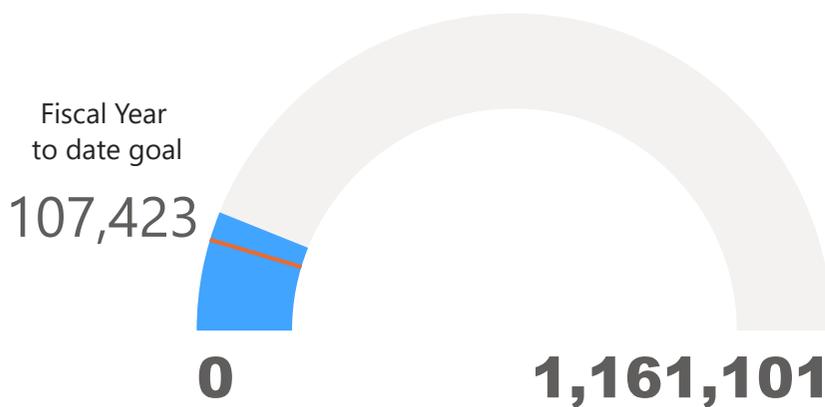


**FY 2022 to date Library Visits**



**184,445<sup>!</sup>**  
 (-35.69%)  
 Visits

**Digital Access: Goal**



**FY 2022 to date Digital Access**



**14,113**  
 Hours of Computer Use



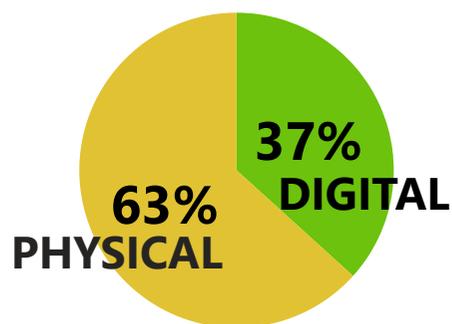
**127,121**  
 Hours of WI-FI Use

**141,234<sup>✓</sup>**  
 (+31.47%)  
 Hours of Technology

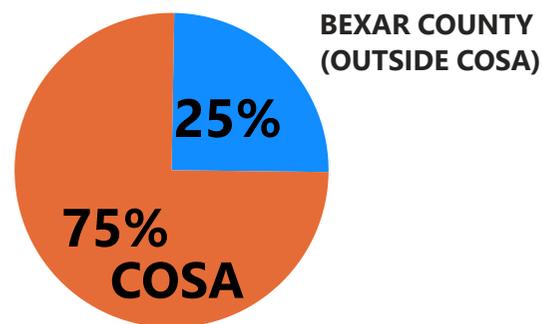
# SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS OCTOBER 2021 (CONTINUED)

## USE OF COLLECTION: FISCAL YEAR 2022

CIRCULATION BY TYPE



CIRCULATION BY SERVICE AREA



## VIRTUAL: FISCAL YEAR 2022



**118,000**  
MYSAPL.ORG  
VISITS

**27,247**  
MYSAPL  
APP SESSIONS

**110,006**  
OVERDRIVE  
SITE VISITS

**321,690**  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
IMPRESSIONS

## PROGRAMS & ATTENDANCE: FISCAL YEAR 2022

**327**  
TOTAL PROGRAMS

**145**  
ADULT PROGRAMS

**103**  
TEEN PROGRAMS

**79**  
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

**9,808**  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE

**2,569**  
ADULT ATTENDANCE

**1,303**  
TEEN ATTENDANCE

**5,936**  
CHILDREN'S ATTENDANCE

**14** PROGRAM VIDEOS UPLOADED

**2,689** PROGRAM VIDEO VIEWS

## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

**¡Adiós fines!**

San Antonio Public Library is now fine free.

SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

**BENEATH THE SURFACE:  
A Deeper Look at Interview  
Techniques for TGI People**

Tuesday, October 26 · 6:30-7:30 pm  
Presented on Zoom

SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Center for Career and Workforce Development

aga

**HALLOWEEN  
HAPPENINGS AT SAPL!**

SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

**New MySAPL App**

Instant access to the library is now easier than ever!

SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

# San Antonio Public Library

## October 2021 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Computer & Wi-fi Use	Computer Hours of Use	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
<b>Bazan</b>	2,437	4,083	4,102	699	3,403
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	25,320	11,923	4,919	470	4,449
<b>Carver</b>	2,577	2,621	2,766	578	2,188
<b>Central</b>	22,025	13,411	18,391	1,726	16,665
<b>Cody</b>	29,758	11,367	7,136	637	6,499
<b>Collins Garden</b>	3,516	1,212	4,487	535	3,952
<b>Cortez</b>	3,692	3,757	2,928	322	2,606
<b>Digital</b>	231,871	0	0	0	0
<b>Encino</b>	16,139	2,622	4,694	166	4,528
<b>Forest Hills</b>	862	43	0	0	0
<b>Great Northwest</b>	22,796	8,630	5,922	511	5,411
<b>Guerra</b>	6,631	4,445	4,397	461	3,936
<b>Igo</b>	35,779	12,021	9,622	428	9,194
<b>Interlibrary Loan</b>	1,218	0	0	0	0
<b>Johnston</b>	6,775	4,732	2,894	584	2,310
<b>Kampmann</b>	0	660	119	0	119
<b>Landa</b>	14,090	9,058	2,771	313	2,458
<b>Las Palmas</b>	3,259	4,676	4,332	505	3,827
<b>Maverick</b>	23,526	8,199	4,520	500	4,020
<b>McCreless</b>	1,702	166	590	0	590
<b>Memorial</b>	1,144	155	0	0	0
<b>Mission</b>	10,519	9,447	5,774	980	4,794
<b>Pan American</b>	3,060	2,739	2,116	287	1,829
<b>Parman</b>	32,303	12,940	5,991	208	5,783
<b>Potranco</b>	16,142	6,092	10,519	393	10,126
<b>Pruitt</b>	4,566	11,245	3,715	156	3,559
<b>San Pedro</b>	2,842	3,124	3,032	507	2,525
<b>Schaefer</b>	8,408	6,379	4,373	412	3,961
<b>Semmes</b>	22,239	11,021	7,454	647	6,807
<b>System</b>	43,755	0	0	0	0
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	6,032	4,278	3,168	343	2,825
<b>Tobin</b>	15,803	7,145	3,439	609	2,830
<b>Westfall</b>	10,781	6,254	7,063	1,136	5,927
<b>Total</b>	<b>631,567</b>	<b>184,445</b>	<b>141,234</b>	<b>14,113</b>	<b>127,121</b>

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

# San Antonio Public Library

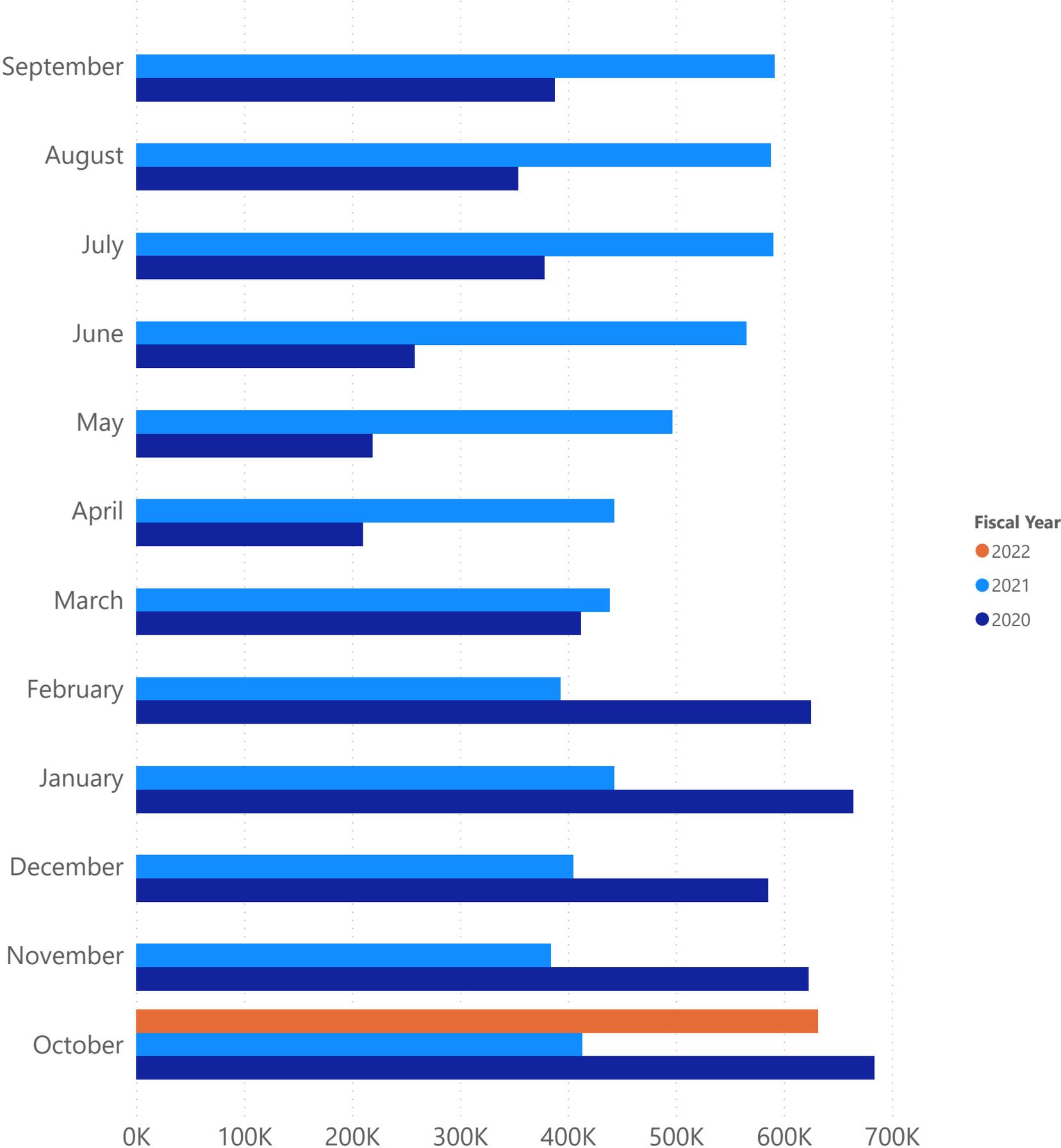
## October 2021 Programs & Attendance

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, programs are developed with a system wide approach and not by location.

Location	Adult Programs	Teen Programs	Children's Programs	Total Programs	Adult Program Attendance	Teen Program Attendance	Children's Program Attendance	Total Attendance
<b>Bazan</b>	2	1	0	3	155	75	0	230
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	2	0	4	6	19	0	101	120
<b>Carver</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Central</b>	20	31	2	53	77	403	31	511
<b>Cody</b>	4	3	0	7	143	16	0	159
<b>Collins Garden</b>	3	2	4	9	31	0	492	523
<b>Cortez</b>	8	0	2	10	45	0	66	111
<b>Encino</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Forest Hills</b>	0	0	1	1	0	0	30	30
<b>Great Northwest</b>	2	0	0	2	6	0	0	6
<b>Guerra</b>	3	0	0	3	41	0	0	41
<b>Igo</b>	6	0	0	6	40	0	0	40
<b>Johnston</b>	0	0	3	3	0	0	2,729	2,729
<b>Kampmann</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Landa</b>	5	1	2	8	79	28	201	308
<b>Las Palmas</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Little Read Wagon</b>	0	0	18	18	0	0	611	611
<b>Maverick</b>	5	4	0	9	21	31	0	52
<b>McCreless</b>	1	0	0	1	150	0	0	150
<b>Memorial</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Mission</b>	10	3	0	13	137	25	0	162
<b>Pan American</b>	8	5	0	13	38	115	0	153
<b>Parman</b>	18	0	3	21	98	0	700	798
<b>Potranco</b>	14	0	0	14	659	0	0	659
<b>Pruitt</b>	13	19	11	43	53	279	160	492
<b>San Pedro</b>	0	0	2	2	0	0	20	20
<b>Schaefer</b>	2	0	0	2	10	0	0	10
<b>Semmes</b>	5	0	0	5	30	0	0	30
<b>System</b>	9	34	25	68	95	331	645	1,071
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	1	0	1	2	4	0	120	124
<b>Tobin</b>	1	0	0	1	600	0	0	600
<b>Westfall</b>	3	0	1	4	38	0	30	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>2,569</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>5,936</b>	<b>9,808</b>

# San Antonio Public Library

## Circulation



**Location Closures:**

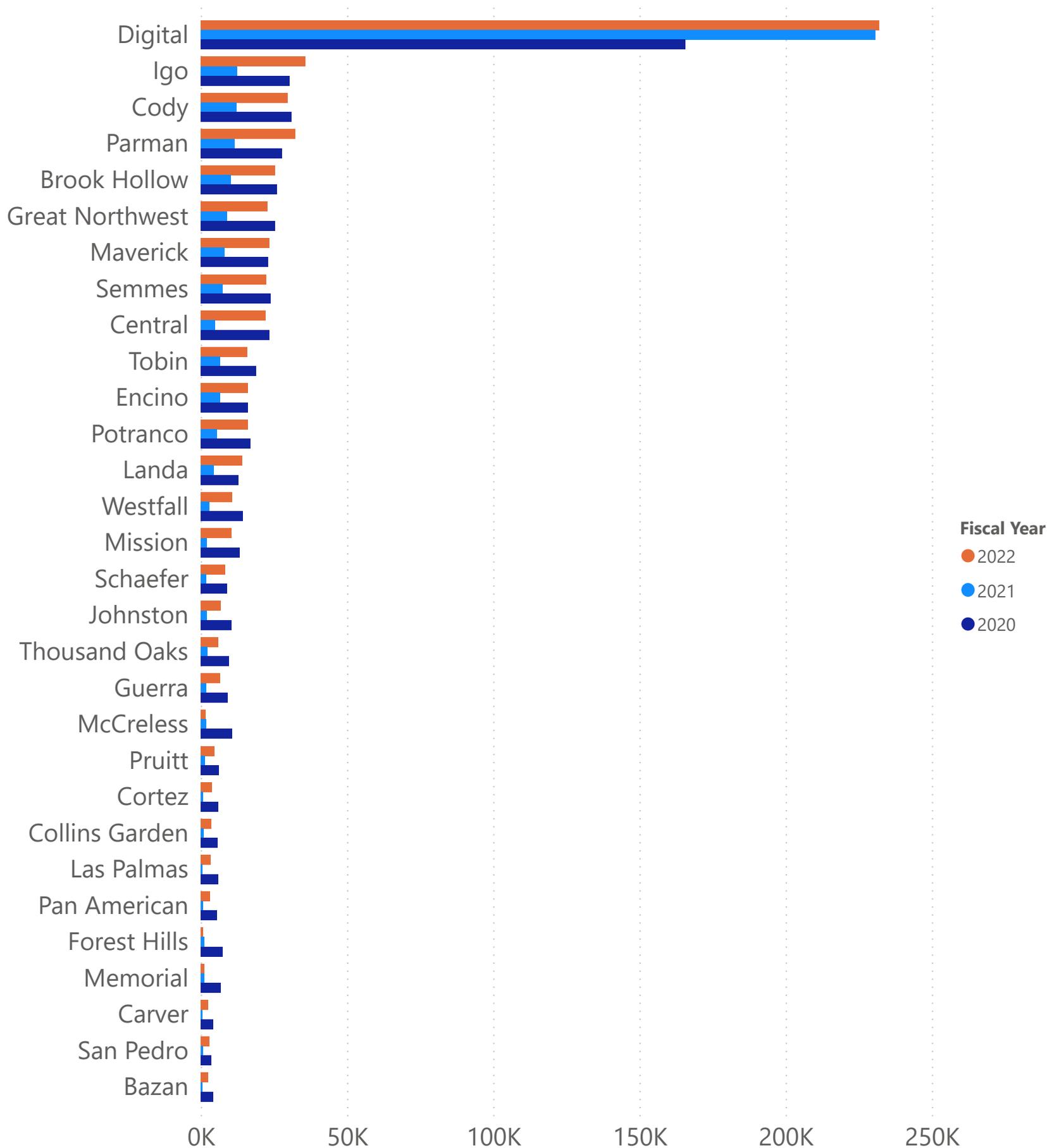
FY22: Forest Hills Oct 1-TBD, McCreless Oct 1-TBD, Memorial Oct 1 - TBD

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

FY 20: Central Oct 26 at 1pm, Landa Jan 13-Jun 1, All physical locations Mar 14 through Jun 15 due to COVID-19, Pruitt Jun 30-Jul 13, Forest Hills Sep 29-30

# San Antonio Public Library

## Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - October 2021



### Location Closures:

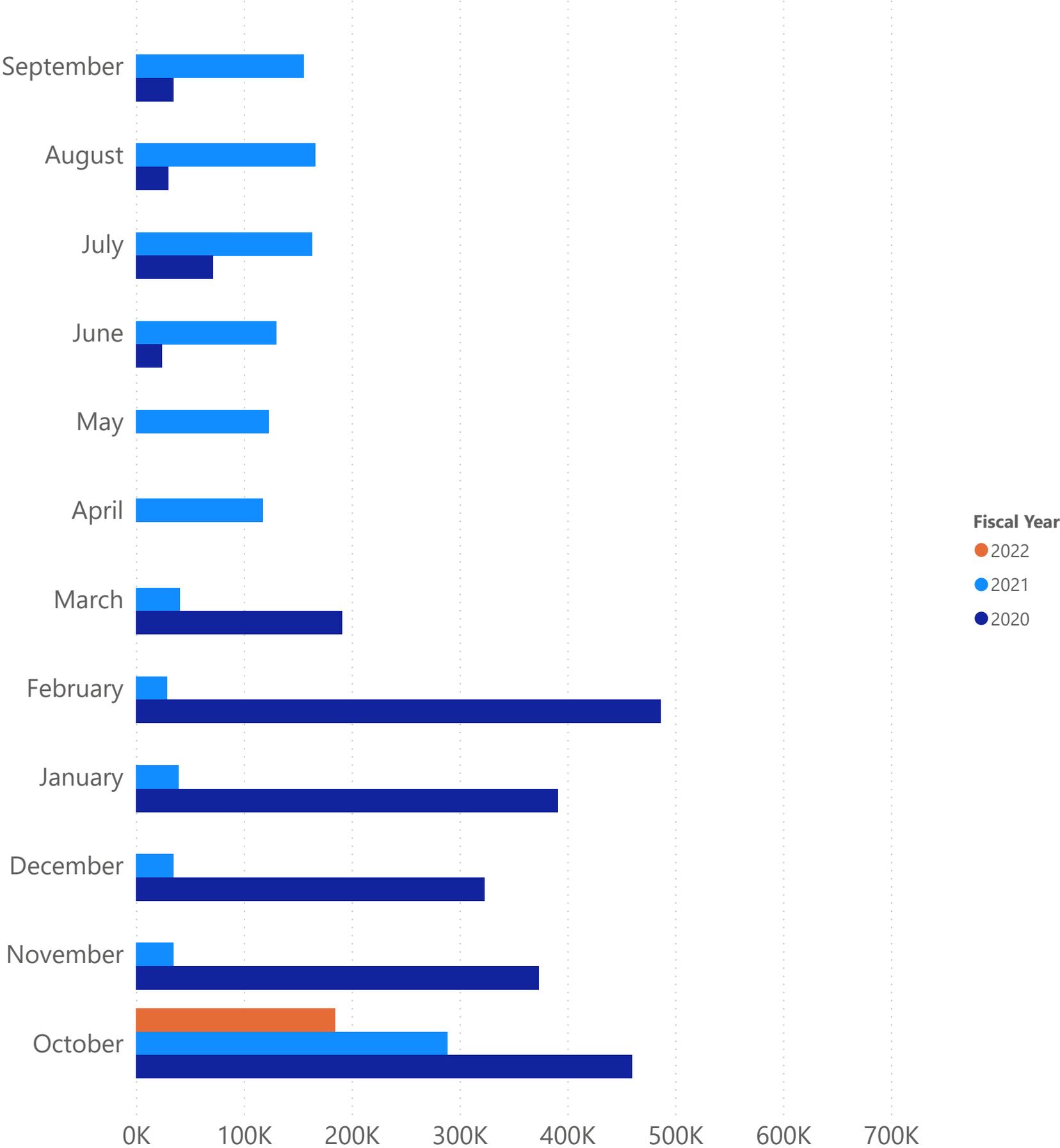
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# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits



**Location Closures:**

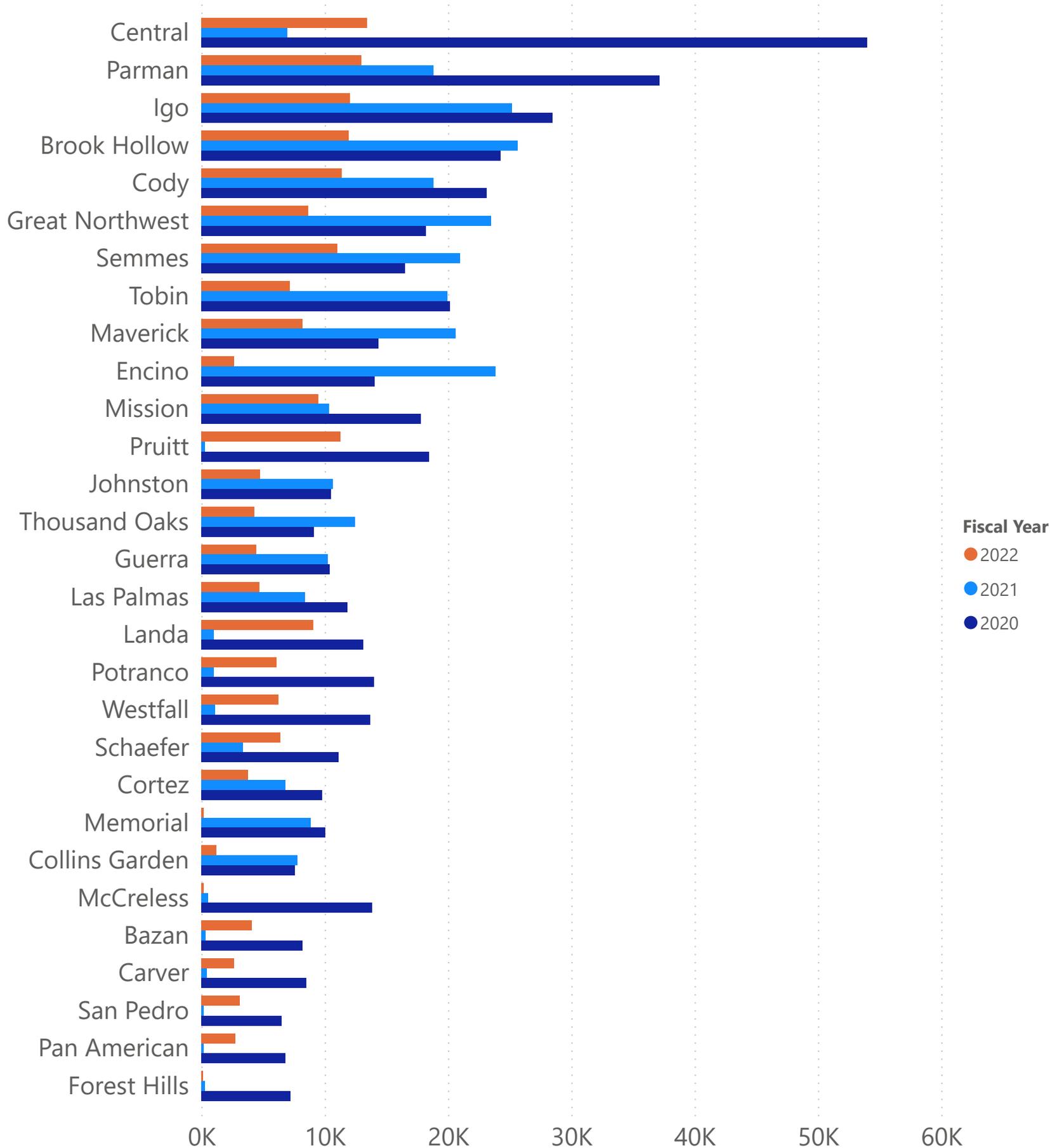
FY22: Forest Hills Oct 1-TBD, McCreless Oct 1-TBD, Memorial Oct 1 - TBD

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# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - October 2021



**Location Closures:**

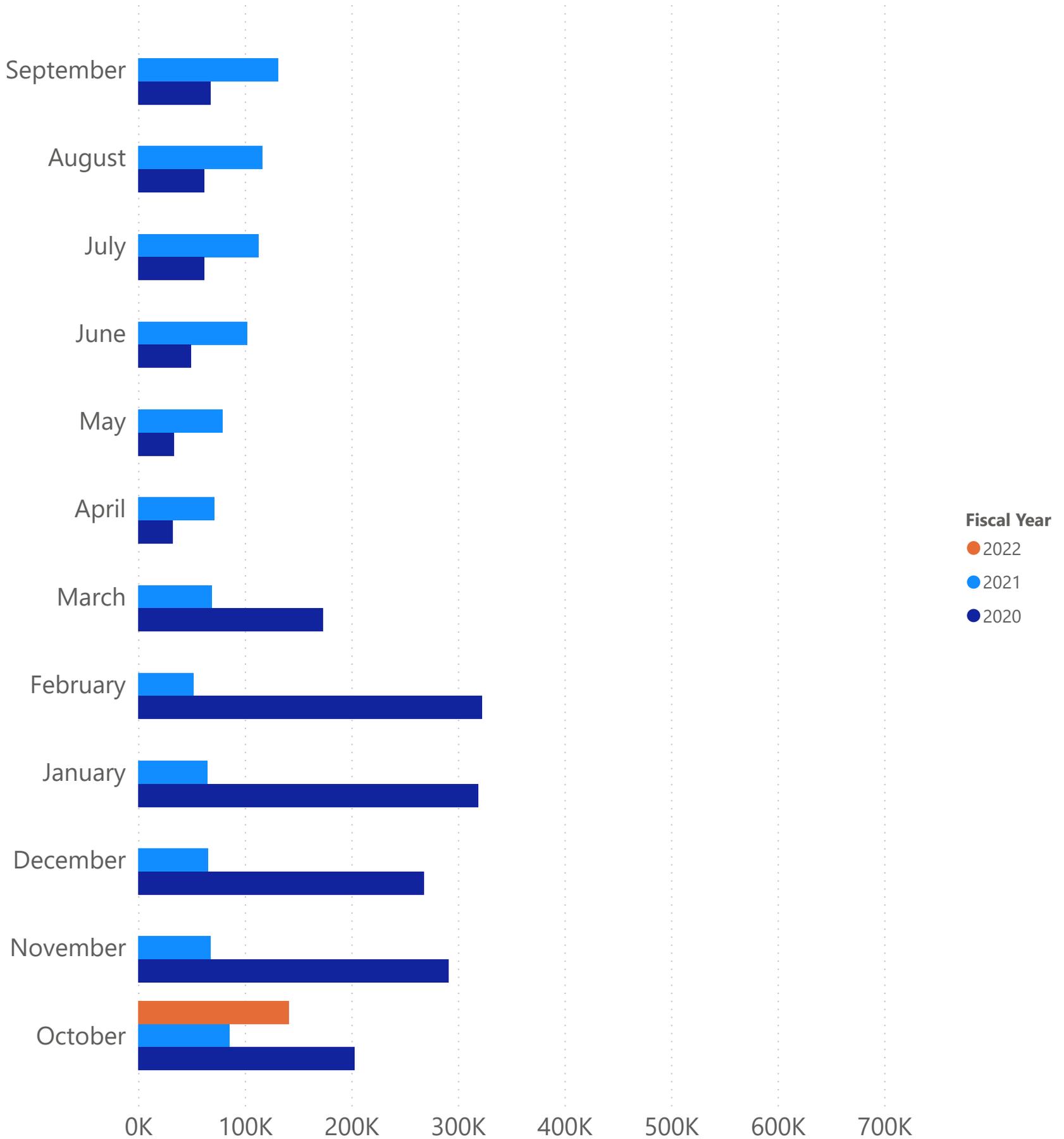
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# San Antonio Public Library

## Hours of Computer & Wi-Fi Use



**Location Closures:**

FY22: Forest Hills Oct 1-TBD, McCreless Oct 1-TBD, Memorial Oct 1 - TBD

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

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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.

**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** – Video Conferencing application used by San Antonio Public Library.