



San Antonio Public Library celebrated Westfall Branch Library's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a special anniversary event on December 19, 2024.

San Antonio Public Library Director's Report

November/December 2023

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# DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar virtually attended the Local Government Hispanic Network Central Chapter Board Meeting on November 7, 2023.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended Carver Library Public Input Meeting on November 8, 2023. District 2, San Antonio Public Library and Public Works Department held a Community Meeting at Second Baptist Church's Community Center, to seek community input regarding the 2022 Carver Branch Library bond project.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Annual Board Meeting at the Central Library on November 15, 2023.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar virtually attended the Local Government Hispanic Network Chapters Meeting on November 17, 2023.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attend the City Manager's Appreciation Lunch on November 21, 2023, to honor SAPL employees Imelda Merino and Darlene Fenimore for 40 years of service.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended the Institute of Museum and Library Science Board Meeting on December 13, 2023, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar virtually attended the Local Government Hispanic Network Central Chapter Board Meeting on December 19, 2023.

# COMMUNICATIONS

The Kanopy app, winter programming and holiday closures were the main subjects of media coverage and marketing initiatives for San Antonio Public Library in November and December. These stories garnered significant media attention. The Communications Team also promoted the Westfall 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and prepared campaigns for The Holocaust Learn and Remember series and Brook Hollow Branch Library's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## Media Highlights

- November 6 – TPR aired a highlight of a National Novel Writing Month program happening at SAPL.
- November 6 – KENS 5's morning show, Great Day SA featured Landa Branch Manager Kiyanna Stephens for a segment on fall crafts at the library.
- November 8 – KENS 5 aired a highlight on the Carver Meeting the morning of the meeting.
- November 8 – KSAT 12 aired a feature segment on the Carver Community Meeting during their evening newscast on November 8. This segment featured an interview with Ramiro S. Salazar.
- November 9 – KSAT 12 featured SAPL's Landa Branch Manager Kiyanna Stephens for a segment on fall crafts and programs for children.
- November 13 – San Antonio Express News published an Op-Ed written by SAPL Board Chair Juspreet Kaur.
- November 14 – Fox San Antonio KABB aired a broadcast feature human interest segment on Imelda Merino, SAPL's longest-tenured librarian.
- November 16 – 30 – Multiple outlets including KSAT 12, News 4 San Antonio, San Antonio Express News, and Fox San Antonio reported on the Kanopy streaming service's expanded content and availability to SAPL cardholders.
- December 6 – SAPL Children's Librarian Linda Lopez visited KSAT 12's SA Live to talk about children's programming and demonstrate winter crafts.
- December 8 – San Antonio Report published an article about the Library's pilot program to have SAPD officers onsite on select days of the week.
- December 14 – The San Antonio Express News published an online article about the SAPD at SAPL pilot program.
- December 16 – My San Antonio published an article about the SAPL SAPD pilot program.
- December 18 – KSAT 12 re-aired the SA Live show with SAPL Children's Librarian Linda Lopez who promoted children's programming and demonstrate winter crafts.
- December 21 – 30 – News 4 San Antonio and its affiliate FOX San Antonio broadcast and published the same story about the SAPL SAPD pilot program.

## Social Media metrics overview for November and December 2023:

- SAPL's social media generated **351,155** impressions
- SAPL's social media following base grew by **556** new fans
- Content shared across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram contributed to users engaging with our posts **14,114** times.

### **Social Media growth for November and December 2023:**

- X: **0** followers
- Facebook: **199** followers
- Instagram: **368** followers

### **YouTube statistics for November and December 2023:**

- Subscribers: **10**
- Impressions: **38,703**
- Total Views: **3,793**
- Videos published: **1**

### **Graphics**

The Graphics Team created publicity materials for a variety of programs and events during this reporting period, including the Holocaust Learn and Remember series, as well as branch updates, social media and other promotions for branch events..

## **DIGITAL SERVICES**

During the months of November and December, Digital Library Services Analyst Tricia Masterson and Digital Library Services Assistant Christina Hess, working with ITSD, Library Facilities, and Bibliotheca, assisted in the installation and set up of new RFID equipment at 16 library locations.

On November 20, the new version of the Facilities ticket system went live. Digital Library Services Specialist Brian Douglass and Digital Library Services Assistant Elise Garcia worked with the Facilities team to enable the new system, and continue to refine the set up after the launch.

# LATINO COLLECTION & RESOURCE CENTER

On November 4, in collaboration with the West Side Sound Oral History Project, the LCRC held a community workshop led by independent filmmaker Chuco Garcia, DJ Rambo Salinas and UTSA Mexican American Studies professors Dr. Gloria V. Gonzales and Sylvia Mendoza. The collective shared information and resources for conducting oral history interviews at home and in the community, including recording equipment and tips for writing interview questions. The independent film “You’ve Succeeded”, which documents local West Side Chicano Soul recording artist, Dimas Garza, was screened and followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Chuco Garcia.



On November 9, LCRC program coordinator Sarah De La Rosa & Central Library Information Services librarian Patricia Perez, tabled at Trinity University's First Annual Fine Arts Festival. Sarah & Patricia shared LCRC & SAPL resources and information with students and professors, such as zines and LCRC merchandise, while also promoting upcoming LCRC sponsored programming.



On November 18, the LCRC hosted the opening reception of the In Lak Ech 'I Am One Like You' art exhibit in honor of Indigenous Heritage month, in Central Library's gallery. The exhibit is a tribute to the enduring legacies, wisdom, strength, and stories of indigenous communities in the United States and Latin America. The exhibit features work by Charles Ingram, Laura Delmis, and Mario Alvarado. This exhibition aims to connect heritage and creativity in a unified celebration to honor these extraordinary cultures and will be on display until December 30.



San Anto Zine Fest (SAZF) partnered with the San Antonio Public Library and was sponsored by the LCRC, to present the 2023 Zine Festival on Saturday, December 9 at Central Library. SAZF is dedicated to independently published media, zines, comics, and alternative press. The LCRC programming space housed a zine presentation, zine panel, zine workshop, as well as the SAPL *Big Read Zine* release, contributor readings.



On December 14, an insightful art talk within the In Lak Ech exhibit took place at the Central Library gallery. Artist Laura Delmis shared her inspiration and perspectives, and discussed issues experienced by minority women, including gender violence. The discussion was led by Patricia Castillo of the P.E.A.C.E. Initiative of San Antonio. A community circle conversation led by Empower House concluded the program.



## LITTLE READ WAGON

The months of November and December proved to be two busy months full of fun and community connection for the Little Read Wagon (LRW) Team. Monthly Saturday events continued to be held on the lawn outside Cortez Library in November and December. Additionally, (LRW) hosted weekly Let's Play! events throughout November and December at Denman Estate Park. These events were highly attended and several of the participants expressed how much they appreciated the program, and how lovely the park was.



Megan Cruz, Library Service Specialist, presented follow up visit programs to school age parents in Harlandale Independent School District (ISD), Northeast ISD and San Antonio ISD. During these programs, teen parents continued to learn about early literacy practices to use at home with their children. Teen parents worked on personalized board books for their babies and young children. The teens expressed how much they enjoyed the activity and some teens asked for permission to stay longer after the session to keep working on their books. Eva Banda, Library Service Specialist, presented early literacy workshops to the school age parents of Southwest High School in Southwest ISD, Cooper

Academy at Navarro in SAISD and Legacy of Educational Excellence (LEE) High School in NEISD. Ms. Banda also presented bilingual story time to the children at Navarro Childcare Center and Southwest ISD PCI.

Ms. Cruz and Julia Lazarin presented a workshop for the early childhood professionals of Sprouts Nature Preschool on the topic of early literacy and the importance of play in early childhood. The group was also able to tour the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Ms. Banda welcomed the parents of children at Pre-K West Avenue (Northeast Independent School District) to the Central Library and provided them a workshop on best early literacy practices. The parents were able to make a bedtime routine chart for their children and tour Central Library.

Ms. Lazarin and Melisa Hill led an in-person and virtual early literacy workshop for parents and other primary caregivers at Gardendale Early Learning Center. Ms. Lazarin and Ms. Hill also presented an early literacy workshop for the families at SAMMinistries. They also provided a reading tent experience and bubbles for families to enjoy together. Similar workshops and Family Reading Tents were offered for families across several school districts which include, Northside ISD, SAISD, and Southwest ISD.

Ms. Lazarin and Ms. Hill represented San Antonio Public Library at Family Learn and Play Day, which was presented by Help Me Grow Bexar County. They provided early literacy resources and a bubble station for families to enjoy.

## CHILDREN'S (SYSTEM-WIDE)

November 4, 2023 was the annual Arbor Day celebration. This year it was held at Mission Library and included a tree giveaway and Story Walk® featuring Nell Plants a Tree. The Library booth was staffed by Mission Branch Library manager, Oscar Gonzalez and Coordinator of Children's Services, Cresencia Huff. Visitors to the booth were invited to make chalk rubbings of leaves from native trees. Later on the same day, the Library was represented at the University of Texas at San Antonio Family Engagement Summit. Held at the Downtown campus, current and prospective students attended information sessions and visited tables with their families.

Planning for Children's Summer with SAPL 2024 began in earnest in November, with work groups meeting to develop activity ideas and contact featured guests. November 30 was the deadline for Young Pegasus Poetry Competition entries, and staff worked to sort the entries into packets for the judges to begin reviewing.

Teen Library Services Coordinator, Jennifer Velasquez, joined the Children's Services Team at their December 13 meeting. Ms. Velasquez presented on the needs of older children (ages 9-12) and the continuum of library services and activities as children mature into teens.

## TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

**Virtual Teen Programs and Activities** – The Virtual Teen Services workgroup—led by Matthew Loaiza (Teen Services Librarian II / Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) and consisting of Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons from around the system—continued to collaborate with virtual teen volunteers (“Teen Mods” and “Club Assistants”) to offer weekly virtual activities (“clubs”) on the 210teenlibrary Discord Server (“the server”). Teens made meaningful peer-to-peer connections during clubs while they

chatted about topics including traveling the world, holiday plans, college, video games, Dungeons & Dragons, driver's ed, Spotify Wrapped, movies, writing, and more. Teens also engaged with each other through their own conversations on the server in a variety of channels, discussing topics within their communities of interests such as dreams, politics, fashion, memes, and art. Teens and teen volunteers on the server worked together to plan two in-person parties—a Winter Party in November and a Holiday Party in December—to celebrate the upcoming holiday season. After discussing ideas for party activities, teens developed and implemented several options for each party and ultimately led the activities during each party. For the Winter Party, teens made hot cocoa, S'mores, and S'moreos; created and decorated plastic ornaments, watched a holiday movie; and listened to music. For the Holiday Party, teens built gingerbread houses and participated in a friendly competition to vote for their favorite build; decorated holiday stockings and wooden ornaments; and made hot cocoa and S'mores.

**Virtual Teen Content and Resources** – The 210teenlibrary Instagram workgroup, led by Matthew Loaiza and consisting of Ami Sarabia (Teen Services Outreach Specialist, Teen Library @ Central), Ciana Flores (Teen Services Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central), and Regina Almanza (Teen Services Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central), shared information, resources, activities, and other content for teens on Instagram, created by teen volunteers and Teen Services staff. During the reporting period, teen volunteers and Teen Services staff posted content that celebrated Dia de los Muertos, reviewed books, demoed recipes, showcased art, and highlighted daily celebrations and informative facts.

**Pictures below:** @210teenlibrary Instagram post of a teen in the Teen Library @ Central dressed as “The Grinch”; Instagram posts of a teen book review by teen intern Emma:



**Professional Development** – On November 1, Matthew Loaiza led the 210teenlibrary Discord workgroup through its first Fiscal Year 2024 Strategic Planning meeting to establish a mission and vision statement for the workgroup, as well as goals to accomplish throughout the fiscal year. During this meeting, Loaiza also announced that the workgroup would now be known as the Virtual Teen Services workgroup to better reflect the workgroup’s efforts in establishing best practices for providing virtual library services for teens, regardless of platform. On November 2, Loaiza assisted with an interview panel for a Teen

Services Librarian I position. On December 18, Loaiza began serving as the Interim Manager of Little Read Wagon.

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

On November 4, in collaboration with the West Side Sound Oral History Project, the LCRC held a community workshop led by independent filmmaker Chuco Garcia, DJ Rambo Salinas and UTSA Mexican American Studies professors Dr. Gloria V. Gonzales and Sylvia Mendoza. The collective shared information and resources for conducting oral history interviews at home and in the community, including recording equipment and tips for writing interview questions. The independent film "You've Succeeded", which documents local West Side Chicano Soul recording artist, Dimas Garza, was screened and followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Chuco Garcia.

On November 12, Children's Services and Adult Services collaborated to offer an all ages program at Great Northwest for Native American Heritage Month. Participants in this session, Archaeology and the San Antonio Missions, learned about the archaeological work at the San Antonio Missions and what it means to us today with a presentation from archaeologist Kelton Sheridan, and Diana Moreno-Reyes and Margot Moreno of San Antonio Mission Indian Descendants. Hands-on activities followed the presentation.

On November 18, the LCRC hosted the opening reception of the In Lak Ech 'I Am One Like You' art exhibit in honor of Indigenous Heritage month, in Central Library's gallery. The exhibit is a tribute to the enduring legacies, wisdom, strength, and stories of indigenous communities in the United States and Latin America. The exhibit features work by Charles Ingram, Laura Delmis, and Mario Alvarado. This exhibition aims to connect heritage and creativity in a unified celebration to honor these extraordinary cultures and will be on display until December 30.

On November 20, Kaylee Avila - Library Assistant in Texana - hosted Transgender Day of Remembrance in collaboration with the library's Queer Committee, the San Antonio Gender Association, and the Pride Center of San Antonio. The event began with a resource fair in the foyer that included the following organizations: The San Antonio Gender Association, the Pride Center of San Antonio, San Antonio Human Rights Campaign, Women in Transition, Trans Masc Folks y Mas, Binders for Brothers, Fiesta Youth, PFLAG, American Veterans for Equal Rights, Thrive Youth Center, The Kind Clinic, Living Positive San Antonio, Equality Texas, and the Alamo Area Resource Center. UTSA Special Collections curated a display showcasing local transgender history through photos, articles, and artifacts. Following the resource fair there was a program in the auditorium. Ms. Avila gave an introduction and then Gideon from the San Antonio Gender Association spoke about the importance and value of community for building resilience. Three representatives from community organizations spoke briefly. Community members volunteered to help read the 62 names of trans/gender non-conforming individuals lost to violence over the past year. The event concluded with an outside candlelight vigil. About 10 library staff members helped with this event that brought together an estimated 150 people from the community.

In November, four San Antonio Public Library locations hosted a series of programs for NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month). Since 1999, NaNoWriMo has existed as a national initiative that challenges individuals to write 50,000 words of a novel in thirty days. Participating Library locations – Mission, Bazan, McCreless and Westfall – offered participants a weekly opportunity to gather with other writers in a shared space as they worked on their NaNoWriMo goal.

San Anto Zine Fest (SAZF) partnered with the San Antonio Public Library and was sponsored by the LCRC, to present the 2023 Zine Festival on Saturday, December 9 at Central Library. SAZF is dedicated to independently published media, zines, comics, and alternative press. The LCRC programming space housed a zine presentation, zine panel, zine workshop, as well as the SAPL *Big Read Zine* release, contributor readings.

From November through December 15, the Library continued to host a fall/winter version of the gardening series Dig It! This series was organized in collaboration with Bexar County Master Gardeners and was the second series that has come from this series. Presentations included in the fall/winter series included Basic Tree Care, Vegetable Gardening, and selecting low maintenance plants that will thrive year round in South Texas. Nineteen San Antonio Public Library locations hosted a session as part of this series.

**Learn at SAPL** received over 1300 patron visits across six operational service centers for the months of November and December. Learn staff hosted 90 programs, nearly half of those focused on technology.

A cohort of Learn at Central staff members and administrators completed Program One, the Assisting Process, during the half-day Staff In-service. The training was taught by local risk management educator Satori Learning, and provided a step-by-step script and philosophy for de-escalation. Staff combined this training with recent Ryan Dowd trainings to think critically about how we approach others in service.

The end of the year also marked the end of the 2023 iPad Lending Program. Learn locations have played a critical role in checking out the devices, as well as providing training on usage, communicating, troubleshooting, and generally supporting the program's success.

Finally, Learn welcomed it's first post-Covid volunteer. The new volunteer started assisting once a week at Westfall Branch Library, helping computer patrons on a drop-in basis.

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

Special events included three offerings of "Love Where You Live, for Life" presented by partners from Successfully Aging and Living in San Antonio, an initiative of the San Antonio Area Foundation. Sessions were held at Central Library, and Memorial and McCreless Branch Libraries. Patrons were introduced to the idea of aging-in-place, and given resources to start planning for the future in their home and chosen community.

# CENTRAL LIBRARY

## CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Librarian Ashley Palacios created popular Tween Time programs for her devoted group of regulars. She partnered with Librarian Madeline Nezat to promote the Young Pegasus Poetry Competition to the tweens. At other Tween Time events, she provided opportunities for the tweens to create bracelets from wooden beads they painted, "snow" from kitchen ingredients, snowflake collages, and play games like "snowball toss" and "roll a turkey," as well as traditional board games. She also presented the *Scooby-Doo* feature film, which the tweens enjoyed along with popcorn! Ms. Palacios designed a special Staff Edition Tween Zine to be featured at the SAPL Zine Fest with book reviews submitted by Children's Library staff members of titles that appeal to the tween community.

Librarian Madeline Nezat continued to expand and tinker with the Sensory Friendly Playtime set up. With the cold weather came different varieties of winter themed sensory bins including fake snow and frozen wonderlands of frozen shaving cream and gelatin icebergs. Ms. Nezat expanded her DIY sensory toys by making new sensory boards, sensory sticks, and changing up the shadow puppet station by wrapping colored paper around the flashlights, letting the children play with color as well as light. The winter break season brought in an influx of visitors to the program and demonstrated the variety of children that benefit from sensory play.

Family Story Time continued to be a joint effort organized by Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin in collaboration with Ms. Palacios and Ms. Nezat. Each one took turns presenting different elements of the story time - reading books, singing songs and leading movement activities. The librarians highlighted books based on the indigenous experience during Native American Heritage Month. After each program, different sensory elements and play invitations were shared with the families. These included everything from a sensory bin with gourds and pumpkins in water to white homemade playdough with silver glitter and cookie cutters. The young children enjoyed playing in sand, with musical instruments and a host of other engaging play items.

Children's Library tours were given by staff to students from Legacy Christian School and the SW Keys organization. Also, two tours were given to different groups of parents whose children attend PreK4SA.

Ms. Palacios and Ms. Seglin each presented a Story Time program at the Brook Hollow Branch Library in the absence of the Children's Librarian there. Ms. Nezat participated in an outdoor Little Read Wagon Let's Play! Program day at Denman Estate Park. She assisted with the set up and take down of all the materials, observed and encouraged play with the visiting children, and helped pass out free reading materials to the parents and children.

Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernandez cohosted the *Escape the Earth* podcast with Tim Johnson (Igo) and Elissa Vura (Brook Hollow) and JD Elizondo (Information Services @ Central). In November, they discussed Fonda Lee's mafia-esque world *Jade City* with glamorous cars and magic instead of tommy guns and in December, the mind-bending universe of Paul Cornell's *Rosebud*. The *Escape the Earth* podcast can be found on Soundcloud on SAPL's Podcast TunedIn Channel.

Ms. Palacios recorded 3 books for the Dial A Story service. She also created a fall-themed I Spy passive program, as well as a letter-writing station for Veteran's Day in partnership with the Information Services department at Central.

Children's Library staff continued to develop outreach connections with area childcare centers and schools. Ms. Palacios visited Central Christian Day School twice each month, where she presented story times to children and brought books for the teachers to use in class. Ms. Seglin shared stories and songs with two classes at Madison Square Child Development Center and delivered library books in support of their curriculum. The children there remember many of the songs she sings and sometimes request them! Manager Kate Simpson delivered books each month for all 5 grades of children at Discovery School as well.

## TEEN LIBRARY

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

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

Rosalie Barrera (Librarian I) joins Shannan Prukop (Teen Services Librarian II / Assistant Manager, Forest Hills) on Wednesdays on the 210teenlibrary Discord server during the weekly Dungeons & Dragons club, in which teens are encouraged and challenged to work collaboratively and practice creative problem-solving skills through gameplay. Rosalie continues to support and engage with teens as they explore and activate the Teen Library as their own space to serve their needs, such as studying, crafting, gaming, or gathering with friends.

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

Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): Teen Tuesday after-school activities in November and December continued to highlight general teen interest and celebrations, such as celebrating Fall and the festive season, learning new cooking techniques, and satisfying curiosities. Suggesting, participating, and leading these activities allow them the chance to pick up a new skill, or show their peers tips and tricks. To celebrate *Dia de los Muertos*, teens created mini-charcuterie boards using paper coffins as a tray and created roses out of pepperoni. Teens made ramen, apple pie cookies, and popcorn snacks. To celebrate the upcoming holiday season before their school break, teens made pretzel wreaths, peppermint milk, peanut butter cracker ornaments and adorable puff pastry trees. They also set up a cocoa station for a hot cocoa night. Crafts continue to be a popular after-school craft activity. Teens used the perler beads, pony beads, rainbow loom, and sewing machines to get creative. One teen requested the use of a glue gun and ribbon to create ribbon roses. Using Borax and pipe cleaners (and science!), they also created crystal ornaments for the holiday tree.

Teen volunteers also produced short demos and posts for Instagram, including Jade making pancake strawberries, Angelina and Melody teaming up to make banana snowmen, and Emma's book review. Pictures and videos from activity times can be found on the @210teenlibrary Instagram page.

**Pictures below** – teen volunteers Melody & Angelina posing for a pic; teens making holiday cookies & cocoa; teen volunteers Jade and Michelle at Ramen Night; teens crafting:



# INFORMATION SERVICES

Information Services hosted several Information Tables to provide vital resources for our patrons. On November 1, Christina Montero hosted CPS Energy's Casa Verde information table where they shared weatherization information and financial benefits. Standup For Kids, an organization which provides resources to homeless and at-risk youth, was hosted on November 4, 18, and December 2. Information Services also hosted The Center- Pride Center San Antonio, which provides resources and a safe space for LGBTQIA+, on November 4 and 18.



Pannaga Prasad coordinated a system-wide Diwali Classical Dance Performance with library staff hosts. The vibrant dance program was held at San Pedro on November 5 with Diana Starrett; at Semmes on November 12 with Mark Hall; at Collins Garden on November 18 with Rosa Villa; at Central Library on November 18 with Jordan Torres, at Westfall on November 19 with Monty Holcomb; at Thousand Oaks on November 25 with Brooke Mjolsness; and at Igo on November 25 with Gamini Haluwana. The dance performance offered a Diwali theme in the form of music, dance and storytelling by the Kaveri Natya Yoga dance group. The attendees enjoyed the performances and stated they like to attend any cultural and entertaining event.



On November 2, Arland Schnacker and Jordan Torres worked an outreach table for the GI Forum's StandDown Day and talked with roughly 65 patrons. They shared information about SAPL's learn centers, Libby, Kanopy, and more.



For November, Raquel Reyes and Arland Schnacker created a Veteran's display for SAPL employees and patrons to recognize friends and loved ones who have served their country in the Armed Forces.



On November 17, Jordan Torres invited the San Antonio Food Bank to Central Library to assist adult patrons in filling out applications for SNAP (formally known as Food Stamps), TSAP (60 years+, or Disabled), TANF, CHIP/Children's Medicaid, Adult Medicaid, Women's Health Care, Medicare Cost Sharing, WIC, and other Food Bank programs. The representative assisted several households applying for benefits and helped with additional resources and questions. Information Services greatly appreciates the San Antonio Food Bank's presence and looks forward to their continuing partnership.

On November 17, a virtual Chair Yoga Class session was offered by Pannaga Prasad and Patricia Perez over the Library Zoom platform. The class was presented by Ashley Ludwick, a professional Yoga instructor from Idoyogasa organization. The instructor taught chair yoga and demonstrated how to modify various Yoga exercises using the chair.

On November 18, Christina Montero hosted the program Brain Health - Living with Dementia in which Dr. Neela K. Patel from UT Health did a presentation focusing on older adults with Alzheimer's Dementia and how their caregivers can assist persons with dementia.



On November 28, Librarian Valerie Saucedo and LCRC Program Manager Sarah De La Rosa hosted a Tarot and Astrology program at Memorial Branch. After a brief overview on tarot, astrology, and numerology, patrons were able to do their own tarot readings and received zines created by the hosts.



Patricia Perez and Josh Yurcheshen hosted Bexar County Master Gardner Nancy Mills presentation Dig It! Texas Superstar® Vegetables on December 2, 2023. The presentation focused on fall and early spring vegetable planting.



On December 11, Arland Schnacker and Christina Montero (SAPL) attended a Blue Santa outreach to not only support the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) but also to provide SAPL Resources to patrons and their families.



On Dec 12, Arland Schnacker assisted with the River City Ringers program in Central's Auditorium. This Winter Holiday program had beautiful handbell choir music which was greatly enjoyed by the audience.



On Dec 13, Arland Schnacker attended a Train-the-trainer Federal Resume program at the Good Samaritan Veteran Outreach & Transition Center, which provided staff resources on assisting patrons who are seeking federal employment.

Arland Schnacker completed his Winter Prep program on December 16 and December 30th. The program gave resources on preparing homes for winter weather, tips on staying warm, and provided a list of items that one should have in their home in case of hard freezes and power outages. The program also allowed patrons hands-on training for building a safe Do It Yourself (DIY) space heater using terracotta pots.

## LEARN AT CENTRAL

Insert response here. Learn at Central had a couple of success stories with patrons who were able to receive first and second interviews as a result of working on their resumes and applying for jobs with the Learn staff's assistance.

Training Officer Daniel González and Library Assistant Brianna Glass taught five Creative Learning and Computers classes for the month of November. The program takes place Wednesdays at 11 am.

Brianna and SAPL Zine Committee members successfully printed and assembled 250 copies of this year's Big Read Zine, where it will debut for free at San Anto Zine Fest 2023. Brianna is very proud to be part of the Zine Committee and community.

There were a few success stories in Learn at Central in December. At the beginning of the month, Learn had a woman working on her resume for a few days. It was the first time she had revamped her resume in years. While she was working on her resume she also applied for a few jobs and was able to secure interviews. A patron came in to work on his resume for USAA and used the space to interview. He now has two potential job offers. Learn had another patron come in that wanted help with interview preparation. Training Officer Denise sat down with him about an hour before his interview and shared some strategies for answering interview questions with him.

Training Officer Daniel González and Library Assistant Brianna Glass taught four Creative Learning and Computers classes for the month of December, assisting about 10 folks during these patron-curated classes.

In the month of December Learn hosted three social media classes covering Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok during Fun Friday Tech Time at 10 am.

On December 7, staff shared information about the services, programs, and resources Learn provides with a group of parents that toured Central.

On December 13, 2023, Library Assistant Francisco Rodriguez went to the Federal Resume Workshop at the Good Samaritan Veterans Outreach and Transition Center. The workshop dealt with helping military veterans and library patrons learn how to apply for jobs on the website USAJobs.gov.

# TEXANA/ GENEALOGY



During the Staff In-service on November 3, Texana/Genealogy staff viewed two training webinars hosted by the Texas Historical Commission. The first webinar, *Organizational Practices: A Digital Repository's Perspective*, examined collection organization and preservation from the perspective of The Portal to Texas History, a digital repository for cultural heritage and historic materials from across the state of Texas. For the second webinar, *Translation in Museums: Tips and Tricks to Get it Right*, a professional translator discussed how the translation process works, the different services offered by translation providers, and the most common timing and pricing for translation projects. After the training, staff were provided a

tour of the newly renovated third-floor Children's Department, including behind-the-scenes locations in their staff workroom area. Special Collections Manager Heather Ferguson was recognized by Public Services Administrator Haley Holmes for her 5-years of service to the City of San Antonio. The Staff In-service concluded with a wellness craft activity and group lunch.

As part of their "Lunch and Learn" series, Librarian Sylvia Reyna conducted a beginning genealogy class at the Commander's House Senior Center on November 8. Classes in this series are in a less formal atmosphere which lends itself to more participant engagement.

Librarian Deborah Countess led the virtual class *Searching Bexar County Records Online* on November 13. The Bexar County Clerk's website maintains current and historical land and marriage records available through the GovOS, Inc. software platform. Ms. Countess went over how to navigate the site and find information that can help further local genealogical research. On December 11, she held the virtual class, *Using Vital Records for Genealogy Research*, focusing on finding and understanding, within a genealogical context, both civil and religious birth, marriage and death records.



Ms. Reyna invited Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson, San Antonio Poet Laureate (2020-2023), to present her workshop *Writing Family Memoirs for the Non-Writer, or "What Did Grandma Say?"* on November 18. Participants were instructed on how to gather information for their family memoir and begin the writing process. Ms. Sanderson went over conducting an oral interview, gathering genealogical information and visiting the library to gather resources. Within the writing process, she noted how language, tone, and imagery, are just a few of the many writer's tools available that can help breathe life into a family memoir.

On November 20, Library Assistant Kaylee Avila hosted Transgender Day of Remembrance in collaboration with the library's Queer Committee, the San Antonio Gender Association, and the Pride Center of San Antonio. The event began with a resource fair in the foyer that included the following organizations: The San Antonio Gender Association, the Pride Center of San Antonio, San Antonio Human Rights Campaign, Women in Transition, Trans Masc Folks y Mas, Binders for Brothers, Fiesta Youth, PFLAG, American Veterans for Equal Rights, Thrive Youth Center, The Kind Clinic, Living Positive San Antonio, Equality Texas, and the Alamo Area Resource Center.



UTSA Special Collections curated a display showcasing local transgender history through photos, articles, and artifacts. Following the resource fair there was a program in the auditorium. Ms. Avila gave an introduction and then Gideon from the San Antonio Gender Association spoke about the importance and value of community for building resilience. Three representatives from community organizations spoke briefly. Community members volunteered to help read the 62 names of trans/gender non-conforming individuals lost to violence over the past year. The event concluded with an outside candlelight vigil. About 10 library staff members helped with this event that brought together an estimated 150 people from the community.

Librarian Andy Crews presented an online class on the Fold3 library subscription database on November 27, demonstrating the types of military and other records available to researchers and providing tips for accessing and utilizing them. Mr. Crews also presented a "Beginning Genealogy" class on November 28 at McCreless Library that provided guidance on getting started in family history research. As part of the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Adult Initiative, November 11-18, Mr. Crews partnered with Librarian Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard in coordinating and promoting the staff food drive. He visited Tobin Library on December 15 and presented a class on using the subscription database (*Access Newspaper Archive*). Mr. Crews demonstrated how to research the digitized newspapers to find relevant historical information and how to access the database from home.



The San Antonio Public Library partnered with San Anto Zine Fest (SAZF) to present the 2023 Zine Festival on Saturday, December 9 at Central Library. The event showcased 100+ artists who create and self-publish works including comics, poetry, nonfiction, personal stories, anthologies, photography, art, and more! The event also featured a series of panels and workshops in the Latino Collection & Resource Center (LCRC), the Library's Big Read Zine'23 Release, a zine-making activity by Spare Parts, and four food trucks stationed outside of Central. Ms. Ferguson, along with LCRC Program Manager Sarah De La Rosa, served on the planning committee to coordinate the event logistics and run-of-show. The door count for the day's event surpassed 2,450.

On December 13, Ms. Reyna presented the class *Methods in Conducting Cemetery Research* at Walker Ranch Senior Center. She went over the various types of cemeteries that exist and discussed the symbolism, inscriptions, and information that can be gleaned from visiting a cemetery. She then compared it to documentation that can be found using library databases. Ms. Reyna returned to the Walker Ranch Senior Center on December 15 to lead the program *Tips and Techniques in Scrapbooking*. She presented a slideshow that provided examples of thematic scrapbooking, intertwining genealogy documents with colorful and illustrative backgrounds. She also stressed the importance of using archival quality, acid and lignin free materials when producing the physical book.

# BRANCH LOCATIONS

## BAZAN

The Bazan branch library partnered with the Area Agency on Aging and the WellMed Charitable Foundation in November to host two programs for caregivers, one for English speakers and one for Spanish speakers. The programs provided valuable information and resources for both family caregivers and professionals to support their work.

Bazan library spread some cheer during the holidays with help from the Bazan Friends of the library. The friends group donated books, which were festively wrapped, as a gift to customers who checked out five or more library items. With this initiative, Bazan's circulation jumped 60% from 2022 circulation totals.

Assistant Manager and Teen librarian Cassie Garza hosted the BTS Craft Club at Bazan library. For the month of November the group made shrinky dink BTS themed keychains and magnets. December's craft was sharing BTS themed 2024 calendars and DIY glitter ornaments.



Ms. Garza continued to facilitate the 210 Teen Library Discord Gaming club. Every Saturday afternoon at 4pm teens met up on the 210 Teen library Discord server and discussed and streamed video games. For the month of November and December the teen group played Roblox games, streamed Lego Minecraft and a new game called Duskers.

Ms. Garza also hosted Teen Time on Saturday afternoons along with help from teen volunteers. Teens had a great time making quesadillas, playing video games, and designing and creating their own pinback buttons.

The Bazan Ink Slayers Writers Group, facilitated by Bazan Library Assistant Enedina Prater, had three meet-ups in December, with new writers attending every session. The group consisted of new writers along with more seasoned writers, each learning from the other.

The 210 Swifties held another Taylor Swift meet-up and event to celebrate her album *Evermore*. The event entitled, *Tis' the Damn Season: Evermore Three-Year Anniversary Listening Party* referenced a song from her *Evermore* album. Nearly three dozen super fans of all ages gathered to listen to the entire album, sing along to the lyrics which were projected on a screen, make shrinky dinks craft and bracelets and color Taylor Swift themed coloring sheets. The group had a great time.



The Learn Center at Bazan, staffed by Training Officer Carlos Loera, continued to assist adult customers with sessions covering computer skills, resume building, job search, job applications and help with personal devices. ESL (English as a Second Language) classes were offered every Tuesday evening where students continued to develop their English language skills. Mr. Loera also led painting classes for senior adults twice a month and hosted *Coffee and a Movie for Senior* adults on the first Friday of the month. *Coloring for Adults*, a place and time to enjoy creativity and make new friends, was offered every third Friday.

## BROOK HOLLOW

In December 2023, Santa Clause arrived at Brook Hollow Library on a COSA Fire Truck to say hello to the staff and neighborhood children. BHL Circulation Attendant Stephanie Trevino and Adolfo with Selrico visited with him. BHL Manager Davies wrote an article for the *Texas Library Journal's* Winter 2023 issue titled *Libraries are a Gift that Keeps on Giving*. (See the Texas Library Association website). The manager attended the Walker Ranch Senior Center's Holiday Party, judged the ugly sweater contest, and shared baked wreaths with nearly 200 seniors. The Friends of Brook Hollow Library (FOBHL) had a book sale in December @ BHL featuring holidays wreaths made by the BHL Staff and donated to the BHL Friends.

In November and December 2023, Guest SAPL Children's Librarians Shannon Seglin; Karen Braeuler, Ashely Stubbs, along with the BHL manager, covered Thursday morning story times at BHL. BHL's new children's librarian joins the BHL Team at the end of January 2024.

BHL hosted Bexar County Election Department's Early Voting October 23-November 3 and Election Day, November 7, 2023. Nearly 5,000 Bexar County Residents voted at BHL during the voting cycle. The Manager and BHL Team received ENCORE cards from voters and the onsite Bexar County Election Judge Marilyn Jowdy. "Excellent support to Elections team! Doors opened timely, Wonderful to work with Jeannette and her Team!" Voter Janie Jones wrote that "you were graciously available as we needed information and assistance in securing an application for a mail-in ballot for my sister who is unable to go to the poll and urgently wanted to participate in the voting process. Our Thanks!"

Adult Services Librarian Marco De Leon coordinated BHL's December book clubs including, The Mystery Book Club 12/7 with eight attendees; Tuesday Evening Book Club 12/12 with six attendees; and the Walker Ranch Book Club at Walker Ranch Senior Center 12/21 with 18 attendees.

In November & December 2023, BHL Assistant Elissa Vura along with Librarian Tim Johnson (Potranco), Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernandez (Central - Childrens), and J.D. Elizondo (Central - Information

Services), hosted the Escape the Earth podcast—a monthly sci-fi and fantasy book discussion. The November episode, featuring Fonda Lee's *Jade City*, has received 67 plays to date. The December episode, in which the Escape the Earth crew discussed the novella *Rosebud* by Paul Cornell, has 60 plays and counting. The Escape the Earth podcast is available on Soundcloud under the San Antonio Public Library Podcast TunedIn Channel.

Vura coordinates BHL's Teen Gaming program, a new weekly program for teens ages 13-18, launched November 16. Teens led the way in the selection and planning of gaming activities such as video gaming on the Nintendo Switch and playing various tabletop games. The program provides teens the opportunity for positive social interaction with their peers and exploration of interests and hobbies.



McArthur High School American Sign Language Honor Students & BHL teen making a Pikachu pancake.

BHL Teen librarian Grace Holt facilitated Teen Time on Tuesday evenings throughout November, where teens engaged in activities, they chose like playing Super Smash on the Switch, embroidery, and scratch art. Teen volunteers at BHL designed Teen Time flyers and helped prep for Teen Time each week. Teen volunteers also created new book displays each week, including a "Fall into Reading" display. Based off teen requests for activities on Thursday evening, Library Assistant Elissa Vura began hosting Teen Gaming Club on Thursdays. The Teen Area at BHL continues to make space available for teens to express themselves.

Holt met with local Girl Scout Troop 66 on November 26th to resume collaboration on a Free Little Library project. Holt also worked with Churchill High School teachers Susan Mann and Casey Gibson to distribute information on the Young Pegasus Poetry Competition to their students. Holt also worked with Branch Manager, Jeannette Davies, and the SAPL Communications team to start planning Brook Hollow Library's 40th Anniversary event.

MacArthur High School Honors students led American Sign Language classes weekly on Sundays throughout November with attendance ranging from 57-72 participants.

Teen librarian Grace Holt facilitated Teen Time on Tuesday evenings throughout December, where teens engaged in activities they chose like pancake art, perler beads, and painting wood rounds. Teen volunteers at BHL designed Gaming Club flyers and helped prep for Teen Time each week. Teen volunteers also created new book displays each week, including a Mystery book display. Library Assistant Elissa Vura continued hosting Teen Gaming Club on Thursdays, where teens engaged with board games as well as videogames. The Teen Area at BHL continues to make space available for teens to express themselves. Holt met with local Girl Scout Troop 66 on December 3rd to resume collaboration on a Free Little Library project. Holt also worked with the Teen Summer Workgroup to create the submission form for this year's Teen Summer Shirt Art Contest, to update the Teen Summer LibGuide with 2024 information, and to let teens in the 210teenlibrary Discord server that the contest is open for submissions.

# CARVER

On Sunday, November 12, the Prudence Curry Writers' Series welcomed poets John Espinoza Olivares and Yvette DeChavez. Olivares, who has been long associated with the non-profit Macondo Writers Foundation, read from his collection, *The Date Fruit Elegies*. DeChavez who holds a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin, has also been associated with the Macondo Writers, shared her work as well. She has published in the *LA Times* and *The Mujerista* as well as in *Fierce* by Mitu. A collection of verse is forthcoming. The Writers' series honors the legacy of longtime Carver Branch Manager Prudence Lewis Curry, who served from 1929-1958.



The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa (NSPDK), Inc. hosted its 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Educators' Hall of Fame Banquet with Carver Branch receiving recognition for public service to the community. The event was held on Saturday, November 18, 2023, at the Red Oak Ballroom. The theme was Educators Rising Up: Strengthening and Building the Next Generation. Founded in 1923, NSPDK, is devoted to promoting the highest ideals of the teaching profession and encouraging the development of the potential of youths.



The November meeting of the Carver of the Coliseum-Willow Park Neighborhood Association marked the retirement of Kevin Whisenhunt, the community's San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) officer. The residents and Carver Branch thanked him for his many years of service and presented him with a going away gift as well as a citation award presented by neighborhood association president Armand Hathaway.

Kwanzaa at Carver attracted 20 celebrants here on Wednesday, December 27, 2023. The observance was led by Aundar Maat, a member of the Friends of Carver Branch. The celebration was marked by singing and drumming and included a display of Kwanza traditional Kwanza emblems, such as dried corn, fresh fruit, a cup symbolizing unity and seven candles representing African ancestors. Kwanzaa, a seven-day event, honors the history, heritage and resilience of African and African American culture. Nias and Beverly Harris, long-time collectors of African artifacts and members of the Carver Friends, loaned items from their collection to enhance the celebration and display.



In November, Mr. Jarzobek continued to do Story Time with the four separate pre-Kindergarten classes at Tynan ECEC for a third time this school year on November 9th, which included reading a Thanksgiving story and singing some songs with the children while playing his guitar. As an extra treat for the children, at the end of Story Time he let the children take turns strumming a chord on his guitar. He also did his first Story Time at Miller CDC and intends to also make Miller CDC a place to do his regular monthly outreach.

Mr. Jarzobek volunteered to attend the Chalktopia event at YWLA Primary on November 4th, and brought materials (paper towel roll, aluminum foil, Sharpie, toothpick, and a book showing constellations) to make a homemade constellation viewer so the children could see what the constellations would look like if they viewed the constellations through a telescope.

Green Elementary School held a Career Day event on November 14th, and Mr. Jarzobek was contacted a day before the event to see if he could fill in for a librarian who was unable to attend. Mr. Jarzobek accepted the invitation to attend the event and met with students from the school to talk to them about being a librarian.

Shirley Coleman, who is a member of the Friends of Carver Library, asked Mr. Jarzobek to start planning for a Santa Comes to Carver event to be scheduled for December 9th. This had been an annual event at the library that last took place in December 2019, which was just a couple of months before the Covid pandemic arrived and kept the event from being held the past few years. It is her intention to restart the event this year and for it to again become an annual event in the future.

In December, Mr. Jarzobek continued to do Story Time with the four separate pre-Kindergarten classes at Tynan ECEC on December 6th, which included reading some Christmas stories and singing some Christmas carols with the children while playing his guitar.

Mr. Jarzombek also followed up his Story Time at Miller CDC last month by doing another Story Time at Miller CDC on December 21st. During the Story Time, after hearing the children singing Christmas carols, one of the teachers in the room approached Mrs. Miller and suggested that a choir be created. Mrs. Miller approached Mr. Jarzombek after the Story Time about creating a choir, and they are exploring this possibility.

A new outreach was made at a grand opening for a second location of the Stephanie's Angels Childcare Center, where Mr. Jarzombek accepted an invitation to do a Story Time on December 22nd.

Mr. Jarzombek was contacted on the morning of December 5th by Sydney Orchard, a student from Trinity University who visited Davis Middle School, to see if he would be able to attend the school's Literacy Night event being held later that evening. He accepted the invitation to attend the event, and talked to the students about reading and encouraged them to visit the library. He also brought information so he could talk to the adults about the services offered at the library and the planned renovation/expansion of the library next year.

Mr. Jarzombek also attended a Literacy Night event at Cameron Elementary School on December 7th.

The Santa Comes to Carver event that was held on December 9th was officially attended by 39 children. Books were donated by the Book Cellar so that each child could receive a free book. Mr. Jarzombek read "The Night Before Christmas" to the children and sang Christmas carols with the children while playing his guitar. Perhaps the highlight of the event was the drawing for the two bicycles that were donated by the Friends of Carver Library. The drawings for both the boy's and girl's bicycles went to children from a family who did not even know about the event that was happening that day – they were invited to attend the event by Roxanne Budd, the library's security guard, when she saw the children playing at the library's playground. The boy could hardly believe he had won the bicycle – he went to his mother and started crying, and then the mother also started crying. Great things happen when you come to the library!



Shauna Mendoza, Learn Training Officer Kicked off The Wall of Warmth. The community members are still actively donating warm clothing for those in need and Carvers Wall of Warmth is able to provide these items.



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

1. Computer Training: Held Monday through Friday, from 1 pm to 6 pm.
2. Crochet & Knitting Club: Takes place every Tuesday from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.
3. Smart Phone and Personal Device Training: Offered on Wednesdays, from 10 am to 11:30 am.
4. Introduction to Computers: Available on Fridays, from 10 am to 11:30 am.
5. Breast Cancer Support Group: Every first and third Monday, from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

The Breast Cancer Support Group convenes every first Monday of the month to discuss upcoming medical issues, treatments, nutrition, and, most importantly, to foster fellowship within the community.



Shauna remained actively engaged in the community by participating in various events and locations, including the Claude Black Community Center, District 2 Senior Center, Metro Pink Warriors, UnitedWay Eastside Family Resource Center Grand Opening, Town Twin Village, YWCA: Think Pink, and the ThriveWell Cancer Foundation.

Shauna led a booth to provide information about SAPL and Learn at SAPL. This event hosted a gift give away for over 200 children. The total attendance was over 400 community members.



Carver has successfully supported numerous housing-insecure patrons, including a long-time unhoused individual who benefits from Carver and Learn Center resources. This patron was recently gifted a tiny home situated in the newly constructed community known as Towne Twin Village. For additional details on this remarkable COSA development project, please visit the website: [www.housingfirstsa.org](http://www.housingfirstsa.org)



## CODY

The Cody Branch Library served as an election site for the Uniform Election on November 7, as well as early voting the week prior. The Friends of Cody Library held a successful one day book sale on December 17 and have been diligently working on clearing out stored donations from the branch.

The teens at the Cody Library had a fantastic November filled with teen led programming for crafts, cooking, movies, and more! Teens have continued to fill their space with art, laughter, and personality. Throughout November our teen volunteers have worked on programming, displays, pulling holds, and making the teen area a welcoming space for all.

Teens have been particularly interested in making bracelets, painting, and yarn pom-poms this month. They have also greatly enjoyed utilizing the "living room" space in the teen area filled with comfy seating reclaimed from other locations. Finally, the teen librarian brought some library crafting to students with school outreach at Health Careers High School.



In November, the InQUEERies podcast, on which Michael Dunbar-Rodney is a co-host, released their recorded episode with Tyler Feder. Feder is an author whose work includes *Dancing at the Pity Party* and *Bodies are Cool*, a children's book on body positivity.

Monthly gaming programs *Do You Wanna Play A Game* and *Tabletop Gaymer Night* were held this month. The branch hosted the Bexar County Master Gardener's presentation on the topic of *Texas Superstar Vegetables®*.

Children's programming took a break in December, to prepare for all new programs being offered in January.

## **COLLINS GARDEN**

Collins Garden Library served as a site for the November 7, 2023 Joint Constitutional Amendments, General, Special, Charter, and Bond Election.

On November 15, Adult Services Librarian Rosa Villa hosted the Collins Garden Book Club, where the group discussed the book: *The Other Birds* by Sarah Addison Allen. They also discussed the booklist for 2024 and welcomed a new member to the group. This was the group's last meeting for 2023 and they will resume in January 2024. Ms. Villa mounted the Collection Development curated book display for Native American Heritage Month. She also mounted a gluten-free diet book display. On November 14, she hosted a DIY Fall Leaf Bowl craft event. Participants created a fall centerpiece using fabric leaves.

On November 18, the branch hosted Kaveri Natya Yoga Dance Group. In celebration of Diwali, patrons enjoyed traditional dances that symbolized light over darkness and hope over despair.

On December 5, Ms. Villa hosted an Ornament Decorating craft for adults. Attendees designed their own ornament with the supplies provided.

On December 9, the branch hosted Our *Lady of the Lake University's Mariachi de los Santos*. Attendees listened to festive and traditional mariachi music. For many of the students, this was their first public performance.

Ms. Villa also hosted a Gift-Wrapping Swap event on December 16. Attendees had the opportunity to listen to holiday music and socialize.

For the month of December, Adult Librarian Rosa Villa mounted Holiday and Gingerbread display.



Teen Services Librarian Daniella Toll facilitated 4 teen events at Collins Garden Library in November, with 15 teens in attendance, and 2 events in December, with 8 teens. Under Ms. Toll's supervision, teen volunteers led events for ages 13-18. They selected the activities, prepared the supplies, and identified items for future events. They learned graphic design skills by creating fliers for events and developed confidence and social skills by welcoming new teens and starting conversations with them. Ms. Toll coached teens in job readiness and gave tips on job applications and follow-up. Under Ms. Toll's guidance, teen volunteers used their creative skills to assist with promoting library programs. facilitated an off-site teen volunteers discussion on November 18 where teens brainstormed about clubs they lead on the 210teenlibrary Discord server. They also engaged in some platform troubleshooting to best fit the needs of the virtual meetings they host. Discord teens hosted a digital gift exchange and a creative writing contest for each other Ms. Toll assisting with the logistics. She also facilitated conversation encouraging teens to consider positive aspects of change.



In November, Children's Librarian Gina Brudi hosted four Lego Clubs, four Preschool Story Times, two Let's Create: Art Time and two Let's Build: Blocks and More. She continued her monthly story time visits to Little Wonderland, Knox Early Education Center, and the Preschool classrooms at Collins Garden Elementary. On November 16<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Brudi attended the Revving Up Reading Car Show event at Graebner Elementary and spoke with families about library services. At the event, children used tempera paint sticks and created art on butcher paper. On November 17, she attended Career Day at Harris Middle School where she presented to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms about Librarian careers. She then shared funny picture books and scary stories. She attended the Principal's Coffee event at Collins Garden Elementary where she shared with adults about library services and highlighted Kanopy. In celebration of Picture Book Month, she mounted a display of some of her favorite titles. Children participated in a passive program: decorate your own turkey. They were invited to display their creations on the whiteboard in the children's area.

In December, Ms. Brudi continued her monthly Story Time visits to Little Wonderland, Knox Early Education Center, and the Preschool classrooms at Collins Garden Elementary where she shared holiday books and songs. She hosted two Lego Clubs and Preschool Storytime and one Let's Create: Art Time. In celebration of the colder weather, she mounted a Winter book display. Children decorated pine trees and gingerbread people and taped them on the whiteboard in the children's area.



# CORTEZ

Cortez staff enjoyed an in-service day together on November third, where, after a quick open forum, employees enjoyed crafting, learning new skills, and gaming together. In the month of November Cortez library served as an early voting and election day location for the Bexar County for Joint Constitutional Amendments, General, Special, Charter, and Bond Election. Branch Manager Angela Morrow and Assistant Branch Manager Melissa Carroll attended an online webinar about Crisis Prevention at work to assist in de-escalation with patrons. In November, staff set up an ofrenda to honor our dearly departed relatives for *Día de los Muertos*. Adult patrons were offered a paper photo frame craft to take home to add to their own ofrenda. Additionally, an art exhibit of local photographer Richard Vasquez's work, featuring Day of the Dead celebrations in both San Antonio and Matamoros, Mexico was set up in the Cortez meeting room for patrons to enjoy while waiting to vote.



The Friends of Cortez Library hosted a fundraiser with the hostess help of Branch Manager Angela Morrow, Assistant Branch Manager Melissa Carroll, and Children's Librarian Linda Childs. The Friends invited patrons to get holiday or family pictures taken on a green screen with a background of their choosing to be added and e-mailed later in the week. The event was free to anyone, with a suggested donation of \$3 to support the Friends. The event happened over two days with much excitement and gratitude from patrons for offering an easy and affordable avenue towards celebrating the holiday with friends or family. In December, community members from Wells Fargo volunteered their time and resources to gift wrap presents for the patrons of Cortez Library at no charge. Ale Ochoa from Metro Health's Diabetes Prevention & Control Group offered the Diabetes Prevention workshop, *Prevent T2*, for patrons with prediabetes or another chronic disease. This is an ongoing series hosted by Ale and Metro Health.

For Adult Programming, Circulation Attendant Madeline Vasquez hosted her program for horror film aficionados, *Monster Meet*. In November, fans watched "Suzu" and enjoyed a lively chat afterwards. Adult Services Librarian Melissa Carroll hosted her Cortez Library *Nothing Fancy Book Club* meet up for its third meeting. In November, members chose to read two books, and all agreed to continue this format for next month, as it was a fun change-up from a single-book format and led to many engaging

conversations. Several new patrons were in attendance along with returning members. The Club read two thrillers: *Devolution* by Max Brooks and *The House Across the Lake* by Riley Sanger. The group's clear favorite was *Devolution*, a suspenseful tale of bigfoot written by the son of Mel Brooks and Anne Bancroft. Club members are excited to watch the movie based on *Devolution* that is presently under development. In December, Adult patrons enjoyed an afternoon before the holiday relaxing at a "Drop-In Crafternoon", making easy, stress-free Luminarias and ornaments using upcycled old books. Librarian Melissa Carroll began a partnership with Senior Planet and Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) from AARP. "Getting to Know your smartphone" was the first of many workshops that focus on helping older adults with technology. *Getting Crafty*, Library Assistant Jo Ann Paredes's crafting class celebrated 10 years strong. The Cortez Crafters had fun making twine pumpkins, mesh wreaths, Decongestant Shower Melts, Grinch ornaments, holiday wreaths, and poinsettia bows. One crafter donated some fleece fabric which was used by the instructor to make mittens for the Cortez Wall of Warmth.

For Children's Services, November was an exciting month. Not only did Cortez have its regularly scheduled and popular programs of *Story Time with Miss Linda* and Lego Time, but Tween Time had its first official participant! The young lady was very excited about the prospect of talking, telling jokes, and creating a comic strip about mice.



The two notable events this month were a partnership with San Antonio Parks and Recreation at the Medina River Natural Area and a *Bread and Butter* event at the library. The Medina River Natural Area and the Cortez branch held a joint Nature Smart event where children were able to make hats and bird feeders, inspect bugs up close, and learn about birds which are native to the area. *Bread and Butter* was held during the week of Thanksgiving. In preparation for the holiday, over 20 children and their adults were able to start making bread that they could then take home to bake, as well as make butter for their fresh baked bread! December was a slow, but fun, month for the children of the Cortez Library. December started off with a giant gingerbread house building event, made with collected cardboard boxes. Kids put their imaginations, engineering skills, and painting skills to work building elaborate and colorful gingerbread houses, complete with stairs and flower boxes! Attendance at regular programs slowed as families got ready for holidays and travel, but those who did come in had fun. The month closed out with a bang at an outreach at a nearby day care, where much fun was had playing with shaving cream and making tin foil art!

# ENCINO

November and December were fun months for Encino Children. Our Baby Time continues to see growth and connection as caregivers get to know each other and become more comfortable. We have continued our twice weekly story time sessions (minus a two week break in December!). Bringing out the water table in story time continues to be our biggest hit, with kids running over to play and explore each time.

We enjoyed our last few weeks of yoga for kids with Chrissy from Parks & Rec, who finished her last day teaching in December. Encino kids painted rocks to contribute to a rock snake in our food forest garden for art in November. They also enjoyed exploring sensory stations and experimenting with different materials during our sensory program. Read to a Dog also continues to be a success as students enjoy visiting Dorothy and reading their favorite stories to her.



In December, we held Holly Jolly Fest featuring baby goats in pajamas as our special guest. The goats were a hit and brought delight to all visiting families. Along with our goats, we had fake snow for kids to play in with winter animals. We also had a station for students to create their own snowflakes, as well as a station to build igloos using packing peanuts and glue sticks. It was a lot of fun to see the creations the kids came up with. We received many compliments and enjoyed seeing Encino families celebrate together.

Encino teens have been led by our teen library aide Kelli Pyles while we await our next Teen Librarian. Each week the kids come up with different activities and they always have a nice big group hanging out together. They have also continued their weekly Monday Art program led by volunteer Aubry Warmke where the students enjoy hanging out and working on different projects together.

Encino Adults had a busy holiday season including informational programming and many craft opportunities! On November 12, Encino hosted the Bexar County Master Gardeners for a program about rainwater harvesting. The program was well attended, and the audience was very engaged.

Extra programs were offered in the Get Craftin' series over November and December in honor of the holiday season, and with the idea that some crafts may be giftable. Adults made terracotta gingerbread men out of mini flowerpots; they made bath gems; we painted mason jars to be holiday lanterns (with a

battery-operated votive candle inside); and made holiday room spray to freshen up everyone's homes over the holidays!

Adult Librarian Ann Laird also continued "Sunday Fun Day" programs for all ages in November and December. On November 19, all age patrons enjoyed making mini turkey placeholders for their holiday celebrations. In December, patrons got a chance to make cloud lanterns on December 11 and snowman paintings on December 17.

## FOREST HILLS

Branch Manager Mary Naylor hosted the monthly book club at the Doris Griffin Senior Center on November 29. The group discussed Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. The group paused meetings during the holiday season and will resume meeting in January 2024.

The Craft and Chat Book Club began meeting in November. The group has not met since before 2020 was excited to resume the regular meeting. The Craft and Chat Book Club will offer a time and space for members to discuss current reading lists while working on a fabric art of their choosing, including knit and crochet projects and will meet twice a month on Tuesdays at 12:30 pm.

The Fiber Artists of San Antonio loaned their art piece titled The Joy of Reading to the Forest Hills Branch Library during the months of November and December. The art piece was compiled of 23 unique works by fiber artists depicting their favorite books, and other themes related to reading

Teen Librarian Shannan Prukop's Teen Time had teens learning different crafting and fabrication methods through various materials, as well as engaging in creative problem solving to find a way to project Just Dance videos so they could dance along. Mx. Prukop also continued leading the weekly Dungeons & Dragons Club on the 210teenlibrary Discord server, with teens working together to understand rules or consider alternatives, solving logic puzzles, and engaging in improvisational storytelling. Along with the other members of the team, they recorded more episodes for the podcast Inqueeries.

As always Ms. Menchaca is delighted to facilitate Storytime. Additionally, she also does a monthly bilingual story time. Baby Time is a success at Forest Hills!! The youngest and cutest patrons and their caregivers are exposed to songs and books to help with early literacy skills. Lego Time continues to delight children with the opportunity to create masterpieces in blocks. Since the children are out of school, Ms. Menchaca had a come and go craft that they could do if they popped into the library.

Ms. Menchaca was happy to contribute to the children's blog, she reviewed the juvenile graphic novel "Mexikid" by Pedro Marin in November, and "Puppets of Spelhorst" by Kate DiCamillo in December. Ms. Menchaca attended "Career Day" at Esparza Elementary and Linton Elementary. She spoke with several classes about the joy of being a children's librarian. Ms. Menchaca went to PCI, A Place for Life, to read a story to four classrooms and to deliver checked-out books to them. Ms. Menchaca attended training to be more effective with patrons that have behavioral issues.

Library Assistant Shy Axelrod continued the twice monthly Scrabble Club through November and December, inviting interested adults to join in enjoying the game. The Bring Your Own Book Club also continued in December, with a theme of books about winter. Gaymer Night met in November and December, as an opportunity for the community to gather around the holidays.

# GREAT NORTHWEST

In November and December, the Great Northwest Library began Family Story Time with the assistance of Children's Librarians Hope Sonnen, Lisa Leandro, and Kristin Yourdon. Children ages 5 and younger and their grownups visited the library for stories, songs, and activities. Library Assistant Taylur Loera started a Lego Club in the month of November and children ages 5 to 12 years old were invited to take part in some building activities.

On November 12 the library hosted an all-ages Archaeology Program with a presentation from archaeologist Kelton Sheridan, and Diana Moreno-Reyes and Margot Moreno of San Antonio Mission Indian Descendants. Hands-on activities followed the presentation.

Presenter Liz Godsey from UTSA presented the Birds and Indigenous Cultures presentation at Great Northwest Library on November 25. This presentation was geared toward kids ages eight to twelve years old and focused on bird and human migration, what they have in common, and Native American stories about local birds.

On November 10 the library hosted Dig It! Texas Superstar Vegetables. Presenter Karen Gardener with Bexar County Master Gardeners provided a presentation on the best choices for fall gardening and introduced attendees to the Superstar lineup of vegetables to plant for fall and spring gardens.

On November 18 Great Northwest Library hosted the Library Bee quilting group where older adults and adults can meet once a month to work on quilting projects and learn new quilting skills.

The GNW Book Club met on November 18 and December 16 to discuss the book selections for the month *Lock Every Door* by Riley Sager and *The Wives* by Tarryn Fisher. The GNW Book Club meets every third Saturday of the month.

Great Northwest Library hosted winter programs for all ages. Library Assistants Jenn Tristan and Vanetta Coker hosted a Winter Craft Workshop and a Frozen Movie Sing-Along program. The Craft Workshop on December 11 included ornaments, wall décor, and faux gingerbread houses.

Great Northwest Teen volunteers plan and implement all programs each month for Teen Time. In November we celebrated Native American Heritage Month. Teen volunteers made a young adult Indigenous Book Display for the teen space and honored Indigenous ingredients by hosting a cooking demo! Teens brought in a family recipe and learned how to cook Calabacitas con Elote (Zucchini with Corn) and tasted veggie tamales made with kale, beans, and corn. Teens talked about their favorite family dishes and about the variants of each dish regionally. They played games including Taco cat and hang man on the white board!

Teens created an Escape room with a graveyard theme from left over decorations from Halloween and teen volunteers helped hide several clues and riddles and Teens had to solve as a team to "escape" the meeting room! Each teen had to pop several balloons that contained a riddle inside that led them to their next clue, while Teen Librarian Lisa Puchot waited outside the room until they solved the final clue. Teens really loved participating in this event and hope to have another one soon! They spent the last Tuesday of November planning events for December, played UNO and listened to their favorite music! A special thanks to teen volunteer Benjamin Rodriguez who worked on a Trans Day of Remembrance altar in the teen room and volunteered at Central for San Antonio Public Libraries first TDOR event. Benjamin's advocacy to the community has not gone unnoticed.

In December teens planned holiday movie nights with all the snacks! Every year the teens vote on a theme for the teen room and this year was *The Grinch's Lair*. Together we built a photobooth out of

discarded cardboard, wrapping paper, and Holiday Décor, each teen could take a selfie inside the photo booth, and it would transport them to an unknown destination. Were they at the library? Or at a celebrity party? Who knows, the options are endless with the Grinch photo booth! Teens also played pin the heart on the Grinch, where they blind folded themselves, spun them around to see if they could give the Grinch a beating heart! If they weren't watching movies, they were busy making home-made personal pizzas out of fresh ingredients and learning how to create their own Master Chef quality pizza!



## GUERRA

Guerra Library joyfully reopened to the public on December 4th to a small group of waiting patrons after its three-month closure for improved HVAC system and parking lot. Library staff were excited to reconnect with the community and though sad to say farewell, eternally grateful for the new partnership and connections made during interim services at Gill Community Center.

Guerra also welcomed part-time library assistant, Josiah Garcia, to the team as its newest permanent staff member. Mr. Garcia transferred from Westfall where he contributed to popular virtual and in-person adult programming, including SAPL's "What's Poppin'" pop culture, movie review series and Westfall's chess club.

Children's programming, including Toddler Story Time and Lego Club led by Children's Librarian, Linda Lopez, returned in full swing after having been paused since August. Families and children shared their enjoyment for their time back at the branch and participation in activities and programming. Ms. Lopez visited Passmore Elementary presenting a story time for Pre-K and Kindergarten and represented SAPL on KSAT Live in December, sharing information on programs, books, and various services the library offers.

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson, presented two trivia games at the Willie Cortez Senior Center in November and December, emphasizing topics of Thanksgiving and Christmas. In November, he moderated his monthly book discussion group, Club de Lectura, both face-to-face and by Zoom, which met at Potranco Library. They discussed *Marianela* by Pérez-Galdós, Benito. In December the group returned to Guerra where they discussed *Crónicas del desamor* (Chronicles of heartbreak) by Rosa

Montero. Mr. Jackson also recorded *La luna mango (Mango moon)* by Diane de Anda, *Arce y Sauce separadas (Maple and Willow apart)* by Lori Nichols, and *La cabra glotona (The greedy goat)* by Petr Horáček for Dial-a-Story in Spanish.

## IGO

Circulation attendant, Morghann Patterson led the Entangled Life Book Club in November, where she delved into the intricate subject of ethnobotany. In a thoughtful move, he invited Maeve Bassett as a guest speaker to enrich the discussions, bringing a wealth of knowledge to the forefront. Furthermore, Morghann consistently guides the Tween Time program every Tuesday, curating a diverse array of craft activities and games. His commitment to fostering engaging and educational experiences showcases his dedication to both the book club and the weekly program.

The 4th Annual Igo Pooch Parade was a heartwarming and whimsical event that celebrated our furry friends in grand style. This year's parade exceeded all expectations, attracting 48 enthusiastic participants and showcasing the charm of 14 delightful dogs. The event was organized by Adult Services Librarian, Gamini Haluwana and Library Assistant, Cara Sifiuntes. The event was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023.

The event kicked off with an air of excitement and anticipation, promising a tail-wagging fiesta like no other. Attendees were treated to a spectacle of canine charisma as our four-legged friends took center stage, stealing the show with their adorable costumes and spirited personalities.

One of the highlights of the parade was the Costume Contest, a spirited competition that brought out the creativity and originality of our participants. Dogs and their owners enthusiastically embraced the challenge, vying for the coveted titles in categories such as Best Dressed Costume, Most Spirited Pooch, and Best Owner-Dog Duo Costume. The judging criteria included costume originality, creativity, detail, and presentation, making the competition fierce and entertaining.

In a heartwarming twist, three unique dogs emerged victorious, claiming the first three prizes and capturing the hearts of everyone present. The winners not only showcased their impeccable style but also demonstrated the unbreakable bond between owners and their canine companions.

Beyond the glitz and glamour, the Igo Pooch Parade had a meaningful side, featuring an Adoption Corner that highlighted local animal shelters with dogs in need of loving homes. This thoughtful addition provided a platform for those considering adding a furry friend to their family to connect with potential pets and contribute to the well-being of animals in need.

The success of the 4th Annual Igo Pooch Parade is a testament to the dedication of our community and the enduring love we share for our four-legged companions. The event not only entertained and delighted attendees but also fostered a sense of community spirit and compassion for our furry friends.

November and December usually mean smaller groups for children's programs, and this year was no exception. Children's librarian Carrie Vance took full advantage of the smaller crowds at Preschool Story Times to do more involved art projects using the children's favorite media: paint. However, the paintbrushes were mostly relegated to the closet. Instead, the children created art using scrunched up foil balls to create fall colored pieces or wood craft sticks to scrape large blobs of paint across the paper. Many exciting discoveries were made about color mixing. The children also enjoyed saturating their paper with watercolors and then scrunching up plastic wrap over the painting to create interesting effects. The

activity the children most enjoyed was coloring foil with markers, spraying it with water, then taking a print of the resulting marbling and blending by pressing a piece of cardstock into the foil.

December 21 was a bittersweet day at Igo as it was Ms. Vance's last program day at the branch. Families in all the groups got together to bid farewell. The Baby Story Time group that day was larger than usual, and the group presented Ms. Vance with an assortment of handwritten bookmarks describing the many ways that Baby Story Time and Ms. Vance had impacted their lives.

The Igo Stitchery is still going strong. Due to the departure of the two facilitators, Teen Librarian Annie Calonico and Children's Librarian Carrie Vance, the group spent a lot of November and December very concerned about its ability to continue. The group had a lot to say about how the group helped them grow as stitchers and as friends over the years. They were gearing up to write to administration about how much they valued this time where they are allowed to work on their own projects but are still inspired by the work of others. There was a minor celebration when they heard the group will continue.

## JOHNSTON

Johnston hosted the mobile market, "Mercado por tu Corazon", on November 14 and December 12 as part of the American Heart Association's partnership with the library to provide the opportunity to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables to residents.

Adult Services Librarian Cristiane Yamada and Librarian Andrew organized a Staff Food Drive that ran from November 1st through November 15th. San Antonio Public Library staff donated 1,037 pounds of food to the San Antonio Food Bank. Ms. Yamada attended the Health/Resource Fair at the Grace First Baptist Church on November 11th. The local community had the opportunity to talk to representatives of several organizations, including the San Antonio Public Library and learn about their services. Ms. Yamada conducted two Adult Craft Time sessions. In the November session participants continued working on their journals. In December patrons made a Santa Claus using seashells.



Children's Librarian Jackie Gonzales held Family Story Times every Thursday. Ms. Gonzales sang songs, told rhymes, and read stories to children and their caregivers. Targeted for preschool age children, families were encouraged to come and listen, learn, play, and sing along. Within the program, the children's librarian ensured to incorporate the five building blocks for early literacy: sing, talk, read, write, and play. Stories shared included *Uni the Unicorn* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and *See You Later, Alligator* by Sally Hopgood. A simple craft was provided at the end of each Story Time where children and their caregiver(s) could work on something. Children who wished to opt out of doing the craft were provided toys to play with. Ms. Gonzales offered Let's Create: Come and Go Art every Thursday afternoon. Children were invited to follow the prompt or create another project with any materials provided. Prompts included: turkey hats, polar bears out of paper plates, an arctic fox, and snowmen with paper plates. One popular craft was making a polar bear where they traced their hand and used it as the bear's body. Children were encouraged to be creative and to challenge themselves with the materials provided. Lego Time was held on Wednesdays at 4pm. Children were given free build time and then challenges that they could do alone or with a partner. Projects created were then displayed until the

next Lego Time. Ms. Gonzales visited La Petite Academy on Wurzbach on November 14 and provided Story Time. She participated in the Fall Festival for Medio Creek on November 3 and visited Hidden Cove STEAM Academy on November 20 where she talked about the library and read some fun stories.



Teen Librarian Ana Piña

facilitated in-person Teen Time every Monday night of the month in November and December. Teens assisted in selecting and planning weekly activities throughout the months which included painting pumpkins, learning how to make waffles, DIY snow globes, cake pops and working on small accessories and stickers. Ms. Piña also hosted the Johnston No-pressure Book Club on Sunday, November 19th and December 17 where participants gathered to talk about the books they have been reading for the month. Notable titles were *Haunted History of Old San Antonio* by Lauren Swartz, *Breasts and Eggs* by Meiko Kawakami and *I Am Stuck* by Julia Mills. Ms. Pina attended the Southwest High School Schoolastic book fair for outreach on December 6th. Ms. Pina partnered with Adult Services Librarian Dawn from Potranco to represent the library at Movie at the park at the Yates Community center on December 14.

## LANDA

In December, Landa saw many different teens walk through the door. Each day looked different as far as who attended, and each individual had their own needs. Some days, we had large groups of teens that visited after school. They were looking for a place to hang out while they waited for their parents. They mainly wanted snacks and a comfortable place to unwind after school. On other days, we had individuals looking to connect with like-minded teens. They wanted to play games, hang out, and get to know each other. We also had those teens who wished to contribute to the community through volunteering. We provided open communication to learn who they are, what skills they have or want to develop, and what they hope to gain from working with the library. No matter the group, all teens were looking for an inviting, welcoming space. Landa met the needs of these teens by getting to know each of them and building meaningful relationships.

In November, The Village at Incarnate Word read *The Revolutionary Samuel Adams* by Stacy Schiff. The members were surprised by his accomplishments but did not have much conversation. The book centered around politics and many disagreed with one another. Reader's Ink book club read *The Candy House* by Jennifer Egan. Members debated whether or not they would like to access their memories from a cloud and share with others. A scary concept. Mystery book club read *The Other Mrs.* by Mary Kubica and talked a lot about mental health. There were too many characters. It was a confusing read.

Landa Branch Library hosted Dig It! Water Conservation in the Vegetable Garden. In partnership with Bexar County Master Gardeners, patrons learned that it is possible to conserve water in your home vegetable garden. They got tips on how to prep beds and manage irrigation to save water and money.

Landa Branch Library hosted Providence Umugwaneza. Providence was a survivor of the Rwandan Genocide. She shared her story with patrons and did a q & a afterwards.

In December, The Village at Incarnate Word read *All Good People Here* by Ashley Flowers which was another mystery novel. They didn't enjoy the book as it felt like things didn't add up. Reader's Ink book club read *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbit. It was a nice bridge from last month when conversations about preserving memories were debated and now conversations about living forever were discussed. Many were torn about whether or not that would like to live forever. Mystery book club read *My Sister, the Serial Killer* by Oyinkan Braithwaite. The book was a best seller so conversations around why it was a best seller were discussed because many did not enjoy the book.

## LAS PALMAS

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

Interim services site hours of operation:

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



(San Antonio Public Library-Communications Department, 2023)

On November 21, Branch Manager Lily Treviño Pérez contributed to SAPL's Telecuentos this month by reading, "*La llama llama rojo pijama*" by Anna Dewdney.

During December, patrons at the Las Palmas interim site shared their experiences and conveyed well wishes for the Las Palmas community through brief interviews.



(Las Palmas visitor, Mr. Peña)

Teen Librarian, Amisarahi Sarabia, continues to host the 210teenlibrary Discord Music Program every Monday evening from 5:00-7:00pm.

In December, Las Palmas team members, Nicole San Martin, Elvia Ramos and Celicia DeLosSantos, engaged in the "Best of 2023" campaign, showcasing their favorite items from the small browsing collection, that left a lasting impression on team members throughout the year.



## MAVERICK

The Lady Mav's Book Club met in November and December. The Poetry Club also met in November. The Mah Jongg Group also met twice in November and once in December. During the beginning of November, Maverick hosted the Bexar County Elections Office for the Joint Constitutional Amendment, General, Special, Charter and Bond Election. Library staff planned to ensure the Election Judges had access to the building during the first days of early voting in November and on Election Day. Ben Longoria, Adult Services Librarian II, continued reviewing and weeding through the non-fiction collection.

Children's Librarian II, Amy Roberts, spent quite a bit of the reporting period weeding the grubby items out of the children's collection this included Juvenile Beginner Books, Juvenile Audio Books and Juvenile Paperbacks.

Ms. Roberts had many other duties during the reporting period. She opened the branch for Election Day on November 7. Ms. Roberts wrote annual evaluations in November for two employees. She received the 2024 Book Lists from both the Lady Mav's Monday Book Group and the Ladies' Choice Book Group and ordered their January selections. The children's librarian participated with LibChat, answering online reference questions, on November 9 and December 8. Ms. Roberts attended Children's Librarian Meetings on November 8 and December 11. She also completed Security Awareness Training on November 13 and December 11 and Slips, Trips and Falls Training on December 6. On December 12, Ms. Roberts and Children's Coordinator Cresencia Huff met with a ranger from Texas Parks and Wildlife to explore possible program opportunities.

In November, Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl partnered with Marshall High School Librarian, Roxanne Jenke, to provide students an opportunity to get new or replacement Library cards. Bleichwehl assisted the Maverick Teen Volunteers implement the activities they planned for November and December. Some Maverick Teens competed at Mario Kart and watched movies while others expressed

their creativity with Perler beads, acrylic paint, Shrinky Dinks, glitter filled ornaments and snow scene dioramas. Two Teens that had attended Middle School together, before COVID separated them, were reunited at Teen Time at Maverick and they enjoyed reminiscing about their shared history.

## McCRELESS

Children Services Librarian Paula Lenington facilitated Family Story Time on Thursdays. The kids sang songs, listened to stories, and had an engaging time playing and building. Every Tuesday of the month, kids came to build and play during Lego Time at McCreless where they did a fabulous job using their imagination to create. Paula also held a reoccurring crafting time called Creator Club. Anything can happen at Creator Club; it is only limited by your imagination.



On November 7, Paula joined colleagues from San Antonio Public Library to attend Municipal Court Week at the Municipal Courthouse. There they gave information to San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) students on how to get library cards and highlighted the online features available to patrons.

The Center for Health Care Services visited McCreless Library with a group of 11 adults with disabilities. Children Services Librarian Paula Lenington held a Story/Craft Time with them where she read stories about fall and crafted. The patrons really enjoyed the opportunity and will be back in January.

On December 12, Paula attended Highland Hills Elementary Winter Wonderland Literacy Night. There she read *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Sleigh* and gave information to SAISD students on how to register for a library card and highlighted the online features available to patrons. She connected with approximately 75 families.

On December 19, Paula visited Kiddie Corner Learning Academy and had the privilege to read stories to and sing songs with the kids. There were around 30 kids in attendance.

Tuesday nights from 5:30-7:30 PM, Teen Services Librarian Daniela Moreno facilitated a weekly program for teens aged 13 to 18 in the Teen Space. Teens chose the activities they did for the following week while at the program, so they were consistently able to decide what they wanted to do. Some examples of these activities were playing with the Nintendo Switch, creating art with the materials provided, making

buttons, etc. And on December 19, the teens had a special Teen Time: Winter Edition where they made hot cocoa, created gingerbread houses, and watched Elf together.

In November, Library Assistant Joseph Gonzales hosted Movie Night at McCreless featuring Transformers Rise of the Beasts. Patrons had a wonderful, exciting time with refreshments and popcorn in hand. Also, Joseph assisted Librarian Andrew Crews from Central Texana organize an Introduction to Genealogy program for six enthusiasts wanting to learn how to research their family history. And in November, Joseph made another dazzling display for Thanksgiving featuring delicious recipes.



In December he hosted a Christmas Movie Series at McCreless featuring Die Hard, Elf, and Home Alone. Patrons had a wonderful, exciting time with hot cocoa to warm their souls and popcorn to enjoy. To tie in with the holidays, Joseph also created a dazzling Holiday Movie display so patrons could enjoy their favorite holiday movies this holiday season.



On December 9, Circulation Attendant Madison Hinojosa held an informative bookbinding program. Popularized on TikTok, patrons were led through the process of creating a hardcover journal from start to finish.



Adult Services Librarian Vicky Villalobos was joined by Teen Services Librarian Daniela Moreno for McCreless' weekly Coffee & Crosswords program for Older Adults. On Wednesday mornings, patrons are invited to have a cup of coffee while they work on crosswords, Sudoku, and word finds as they discuss the latest celebrity "chisme" (gossip).

Vicky and Circulation Attendant Briana Rangel hosted a weekly series of programs called "NaNoWriMo Drop-ins at McCreless" in celebration of National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo).

And in November and December, Children Services Librarian Paula Lenington and Teen Services Librarian Daniela Moreno facilitated the monthly Drop-In Crafts Club for adults. Vicky held the monthly Queer Crafternoon in November and December; while working on individual projects, the groups respectively sampled the audiobooks A Dash of Salt and Pepper by Kosoko Jackson and The Holiday Trap by Roan Parrish.

McCreless LEARN Training Officers Christina Flores and Lodie Mueller were delighted in November when a Learn patron came by to share photos of her Naturalization Ceremony.

She was so excited to become a U.S. citizen and said she would not have been able to pass her exam and interview without the resources the Learn Center provided! The same patron also said that the materials which the ESL class studied describing the history of Thanksgiving really enriched her family's celebration, because many of her relatives were not familiar with the origins of the holiday.

The ESL students closed out the year in December by organizing a festive potluck party with everyone bringing food from their home country which is usually eaten at Christmas. Lodie brought her guitar and taught the class a special version of Jingle Bells adapted to San Antonio. The yoga and Civics classes continue to thrive, and all three classes will resume during the first week of January in 2024.

## MEMORIAL

In November, Memorial Branch Library continued to serve as a polling place for Early Voting and Election Day. Additionally, the branch welcomed members of the local Geocaching community for a Geocaching Film Festival and discussion. Near the end of the month, Sara de la Rosa of the Latino Collection and Resource Center came to the branch and conducted a program introducing tarot card reading to a fascinated audience.

December saw a flurry of activities and opportunities for the Memorial community to learn and explore and contribute. The Dig It! program showed attendees how to care for trees and how much benefit is derived from having them in their landscapes. The branch sponsored drives for Toys for Tots and the San Antonio Food Bank. The first provided nearly a dozen toys for the United States Marines to distribute to local children. The second brought in more than 40 pounds of food for the broader San Antonio community.

Successfully Aging and Living in San Antonio (SALSA), an initiative of the San Antonio Area Foundation, provided an interactive session addressing how to plan to stay comfortable, safe, socially connected, and get around as one ages.

After a three-year hiatus due to COVID and branch renovations, Memorial was able to revive its annual Community Tree Lighting tradition. Gracing the branch's brand-new lobby was a brand new, nine-foot-tall tree, paid for by the Memorial Library Amigos. More than twenty-five people attended the event, enjoying s'mores prepared in the microwave, gingerbread house decorating (with the part of gingerbread played by graham crackers), a gift-wrapping station, and take-and-make crafts.

## MISSION

Mission served as an early voting location as well as a voting day location for its community.

Mission Branch Library hosted Parks and Recreation's 'Arbor Day' on November 4th in which many local organizations participated. There was a tree planting event near Mission's community garden where Councilwoman Viagran from District 3 participated. Also, there was a very popular tree-give-away event, at which more than a thousand trees and plants were given away to the public. This was a well-attended city-wide event.

Community connections were also made when Librarian, Cindy Cruz, visited Greg Garcia Early College Intermediate School to talk about SAPL's online tutoring and databases on November 18th. She had previously worked with the school's leadership to schedule several parent nights at Mission Library. They

were eager to have her bring information to campus and meet with the students. She talked to 35 teens and parents about SAPL's many resources, including Homework Help/Tutoring assistance.

FOSAPL (Friends of San Antonio Public Library) Arts and Letters Awards took place at Mission Branch on November 12, where the FOSAPL recognize and present this prestigious award to three recipients. Diana Kersey and Joe Luna were recognized in the Artistic Merit category. Diana is a ceramicist, whose work can be found across town in locations such as the Pearl, Five Points, Brackenridge Park, and San Pedro Creek. Joe is a Picasso-inspired muralist, whose work can be commissioned for any occasion. Frank Vilani was recognized in the Legacy category. Frank has had an incredible career, dedicated to fostering arts and culture in San Antonio, most recently as director of Magik Theater.

Saturday, November 18th was the last Mission Marquee Farmer's and Artisan Market of the season. Library Aide, Perla Campos finished the year after alternating with Teen Services Librarian, Cindy Cruz throughout 2023.

On November 18th Mission Branch hosted a Table Tennis Tournament for the public, where medals and trophies were given away, courtesy of the Friends of Mission Branch Library.

Adult Services Librarian, Kassandra Vela-Laosa hosted a NanoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) meetup every Wednesday during the month of November. Several vintage typewriters were available for use as a way to minimize social media distractions.

Jessica Viera, PT Library Assistant, screened a special holiday-themed movie, Last Holiday, on December 15th.

On December 18th, Megan Feeley, Circulation Attendant hosted a DIY U: Journaling program for participants to ready their journal for the upcoming new year.

On December 19th Librarian Oscar Gonzalez co-hosted a Virtual Holiday cooking program with Jeannette Davies from Brookhollow, spreading holiday cheer with food ideas for the season.

Teens had numerous opportunities to share, connect, and create throughout the reporting period. Teen volunteers who meet on Saturdays (the self-proclaimed "Teens on a Mission") signed over 80 holiday cards as a service project for the holiday season. These cards were given to St. Peter's – St. Joseph's Children's Home. Teens wrote their own personal sentiments to the children at the home and added stickers in each card too. Director of Volunteer Services for the Children's Home, Yahaira Rodriguez, stated that the children loved the cards and that they would share information about the cards on their social media platforms.

Teens connected and created at each of the Teen Club events held at Mission Library on Tuesday nights. Teens made food, created crafts, and played minute to win it games, card games and video games. These activities were all self-selected to encourage ownership in their program.

## PAN AMERICAN

Pan American Branch Library' Children's Programming had Thanksgiving Come and Go crafts and a scavenger hunt. Children created bird feeders, turkeys, and looked in the Children's section for Thanksgiving food items! Teen Librarian, Gladys Nunez and Children's Librarian, Rachel Forbes collaborated and hosted a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving movie event. Families enjoyed a movie and did a

small craft! In December Ms. Forbes collaborated with Ms. Nunez and hosted a Family Fun Time with winter activities and snacks!

In November, Ms. Nunez attended the Municipal Courts Week outreach with fellow Teen Librarians Daniella Toll and Heather Swindell. The Teen Librarians talked to teens from various high schools about the library's services, resources, and teen programming. Teens were also able to pick their own design for a button and make it.

During Teen Time the PS5 was popular with teens and it was used during every program in the months of November and December. Other activities included sewing mini fruits and food, using the button maker, and painting mini canvases and pots. Additional Teen Time activities included designing bookmarks, crafting with beads, making slime, and watching movies. On the last Teen Time of 2023, teen volunteers planned a holiday party. Teens made their own s'mores, made wreaths out of beads, and made festive pins with mini jingle bells.

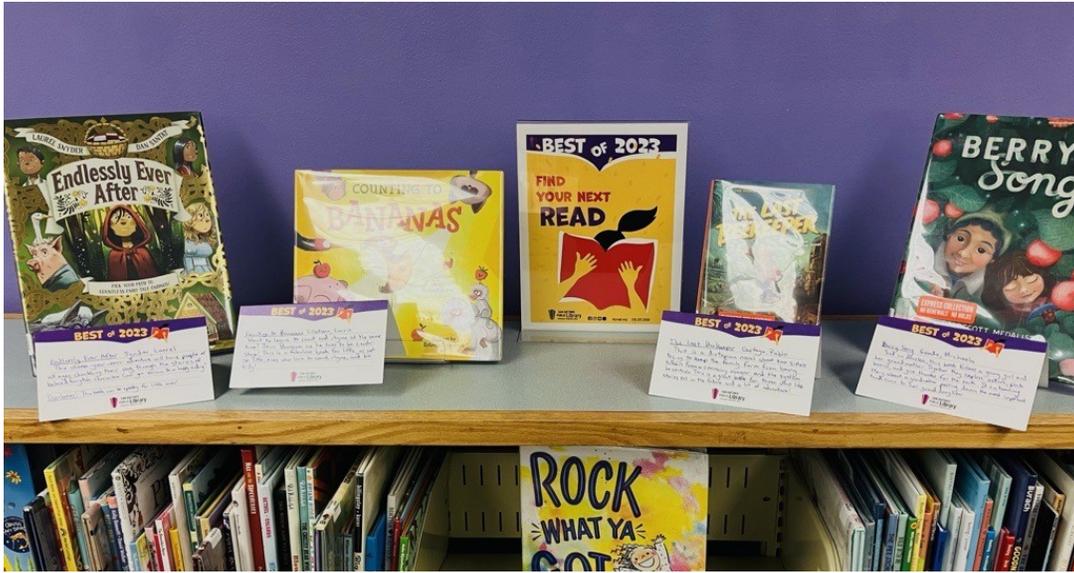
In November and December Adult Services Librarian, Adrian Leal, held his biweekly Puzzle Time for Adults Program. This program is geared toward Adult's 18+. It allows them the opportunity to select from an assortment of puzzle types to complete. The assortment of puzzles that can be selected are jigsaw puzzles, word searches, crossword, and wooden block puzzles. In addition, Mr. Leal also held his biweekly Older Adults Game Time Program. This program is geared towards patrons 55+. Participants can select from an assortment of games to play individually or with others.

On November 4th and December 2nd, the Cancer Is One Cancer (C.I.O.C) held a support group session. This support group meets once a month except in June. These sessions are free and open to all members of the community that have been directly or indirectly impacted by Cancer.

In November and December Meditation classes were held at the branch. Classes are free and open to the public, ages 18+. The program focuses on the benefits of meditation. Each session involves a little theory and then a meditating session.

On November 18th, the branch hosted a "Native American from the San Antonio Missions" presentation in honor of Native and Indigenous Heritage Month.

During the month of December Mr. Leal also coordinated two movie seasonal movie presentations. Two cult holiday classic movies were shown: Nightmare Before Christmas on December 5th and Elf on December 15th, just in time to get community members into the holiday spirit.



In December the Children's Display "Best of 2023" had books and reviews from library staff.

# PARMAN

Parman Library had the great privilege to be picked as an early voting site once again for the Stone Oak community this past November. Many patrons remarked on how they appreciate being able to vote at a central location for the neighborhood that is both safe and familiar at the same time. There was a good



turnout this year and as always staff took the opportunity to tell newcomers about library services as they entered the library to cast their votes. In November and December, members of Parman's newest weekly program, the Nordic Walking Club, took advantage of the beautiful weather and hit the library's surrounding trails for some Nordic walking and to socialize with their neighbors. Parman started the brand-new wellness program in partnership with a local health organization, to promote the benefits of Nordic walking and take advantage of the trails both behind the library and in Panther Springs Park. Nordic walking started originally as a summer training routine for cross-country skiers and quickly gained popularity with older adults as a common pastime due to its health benefits and added stability while walking. The exercise strengthens both the upper and lower body, burns more calories than regular walking, and is highly recommended by cardiologists. Given these advantages it seemed a perfect fit to

offer the Stone Oak community. The program is the only one of its kind currently offered in San Antonio and its gaining popularity already.



The Parman Library Gallery was proud to feature artist Mary Carmen Sessions and her series of paintings entitled "Unveiling the soul: a journey to self-discovery." Mary Carmen, born and raised in the heart of Mexico, pushes the boundaries of traditional art by experimenting with various techniques and materials. Her Mexican background serves as her inspiration, infusing her work with cultural richness and personal meaning. "For me, art is a way to express my innermost thoughts and feelings and to connect with others on a deeper level," she says. A reception was held for Sessions and her exhibit that had over 60 people in attendance. Many commented on her use of bright, vivid colors and words in her pieces. The exhibit has been without a doubt one of the most inspiring shows the gallery has been lucky enough to host.

Parman's Indecisive Book Club has been gaining new members each month and it is due in no small part to its variety of book choices. In November the club read "Anxious People" by Fredrick Backman and then rounded out the year with "Arsenic and Adobo," a cozy mystery by Mia Manansala. The club's main focus is to read a little bit everything and its members have commented how refreshing it is to read something they normally wouldn't pick up.



Parman started the month of December off with its annual Multicultural Winter Festival, a holiday extravaganza that celebrates the diverse cultures and holiday traditions of different countries around the world. 22 teen volunteers from the community, coordinated by Zachary Woolston set up tables with a variety of cultural items, crafts, and games to share with attendees. Teens also provided information and insight about their chosen country. While people enjoyed stories and beautiful costumes from 16 different countries, they were treated to holiday music from local pianists and even had the opportunity to get their face painted by elves. It was so much fun even Santa dropped by. As always, the event celebrated Parman's diverse community and with over 350 people in attendance it continues to be the library's most popular winter event.

Teen Time attendees enjoyed a variety of activities during their November and December Programs. Librarian Zachary W. helped the teens set up a variety of games and provided them with the needed materials to continue their Dungeons and Dragons Campaign. Zach also organized a Teen Time Thanksgiving Party, where teens enjoyed pies, games, and a friendly foosball competition. Teens also enjoyed watching a series of holiday themed movies during December programming, with Elf in particular being a crowd favorite!

Dinosaurs took over Parman Library in November with dinosaur display created by Teague Shosh and a dinosaur scavenger hunt. To go along with the Dinovember theme, Teague's Creator Club kids drew elaborate cities and decorated dinosaurs to stomp through their pictures. Creators also had a great time making robots out of recycled materials, coloring with chalk and building with Legos.

"Reading is Snow Much Fun!" was the theme for December. During winter holidays break, children were encouraged to take an in-house craft kit to create a snow creation holding their favorite book! 20 children have created snowmen and placed them on our winter scene in the back window. In December kids participated in two wintry crafts during Creator Clubs. One week they used salt to add extra texture to watercolor snowflakes and another week they made forest scenes and then used a cotton swab and white paint to cover their artwork in snow.

Tweens enjoyed a multi-day project using air dry clay to make various masterpieces. After the clay dried, they painted and then sealed their creations. Miss Teague checked out Meeper Bots and Artie drawing robots from the Children's Services Department and the tweens had a great time using both. One group of kids made elaborate tracks for the Meeper Bots to race through. Before Tween Time took a break for the remainder of the year, tweens got to decorate wreaths and make ornaments during a very festive afternoon together.

The babies at Baby Story Time did lots of bouncing which helps them feel the rhythm of language and stimulates the vestibular system that contributes to skills like balance, sensory integration, and spatial orientation. Toddlers played with the parachute again. Some liked to get under the chute and some liked to hold onto the handles with their adult.

In November Cuentos y Canciones attendees read books about día de los Muertos and made their own beautiful calaverita (skull). In another program they also enjoyed reading books about Thanksgiving, making turkeys to celebrate Thanksgiving. Rhythm skills were enhanced as the children danced with maracas and scarves. Miss Veronica's Cuentos y Canciones celebrated the winter holidays by making winter trees with decorations and cotton ball snowmen. A favorite scarf song was "Muevo mis Panuelos." One of the Cuentos y Canciones attendees sent Miss Veronica an email with a video of her twelve-month-old waving scarves as she sang the song. Miss Veronica loved that families took home what they learned in her story time.

# POTRANCO

In November, the Potranco Writers Group continued its twice monthly meetings on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. Attendance numbers have remained steady, with a growing number of new and regular attendees, all of whom are writing. With the published debut of the group's inaugural anthology, there is talk of wanting to showcase it in some way: perhaps with a public reading at the branch or at another suitable venue.

In December, the Potranco Writers Group continued its twice monthly meetings on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. Attendance numbers have remained steady, with a growing number of new and regular attendees, all of whom are writing, many of them already committed to ambitious, extended projects. Several items have already been earmarked as worthy submissions for the 2024 Potranco Writers Group anthology. The group is moderated by Circulation Attendant Pascal Booker.

Potranco Library Assistant Viviana Roldan assisted Teen Librarian Sherry Ross with an outreach event at Stevens High School. The Stevens teens were excited for the opportunity to get some experience making buttons. Ms. Roldan also assisted Adult Services Librarian II, Dawn Zeig with the Dreaded Threads program on December 11<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Sherry Ross, Teen Services Librarian at Potranco, facilitated weekly programs for teens aged 13 - 18 throughout November and December, utilizing the library's shared "Create" space and the dedicated teen space. During the weekly Teen Time, teens participated in various crafts and watched movies. Teens' involvement in these activities encouraged creative expression and positive social interaction. Three new teens submitted volunteer applications, and once cleared, will join the current volunteers in the planning and implementation of teen programs, providing them opportunities for decision-making, and leadership. Sherry Ross also visited Stevens High School where she shared information about the library, opened library cards for interested teens, and promoted the benefits of becoming teen volunteers at SAPL. Sherry Ross continued to mentor a student from Stevens High School involved in an independent studies class, facilitating the teen's exploration of career options and the development of career readiness competencies.

Potranco Children's Librarian II, Lisa Leandro continues to offer story time which is very popular with the Potranco families. Come and go crafts were also a big hit. Many children enjoyed photos with Santa (who looks suspiciously like Potranco Manager Tim Johnson). Twenty-nine families turned out for the event. Children had fun writing letters to Santa and placing them in the mailbox.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, Librarian Zeig hosted a fun fall craft: Felted Gnomes. Participants learned the art of felting wool and created adorable gnomes to take home. On December 17<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Zeig held a shredded book ornament craft as part of the Winter Initiative. Both craft programs were well attended and captured the attention of several young adults that attended both programs. We will have another felting craft in February for Valentine's Day and a Luminarias craft in January. On December 10<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Zeig hosted her second annual Drop-In Holiday Wrapping program. Participants were treated to a screening of National Lampoons Christmas Vacation while given space to wrap their holiday gifts.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, Librarian Zeig hosted Master Gardener Grace Emery for a presentation titled Dig It: Plants for Fall. Ms. Emery presented details about the trees, bushes and flowers that are best suited for growing in South and Central Texas and thus labeled Texas Superstars. Participants were able to have many of their gardening questions answered and took home a lot of valuable information to assist them with planning their fall gardens and landscapes. On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ms. Zeig hosted Bexar County Master Gardner Candy Roach for Dig It: Pruning Trees. Ms. Roach provided many useful tips for taking care of trees during the winter months so that they can flourish in the spring.

Librarian Zeig along with Teen Librarian Ana Pina of the Johnston Library participated in Parks and Recreation's Free Movies in the Park outdoor family event at the Yates Community Center on December 14th. The featured movie was *The Grinch That Stole Christmas*. Ms. Zeig and Ms. Pina met the Grinch and gave away San Antonio Public Library promotional swag. The librarians shared information about the library and its services as well as information about upcoming programs.

Librarian Zeig continues to host *Hormones and Hot Flashes* on the last Sunday of the month. Patrons that are experiencing perimenopause or are in menopause are encouraged to come listen to a podcast, chat, and color. November's podcast featured Broadcaster, Writer, and Impact Coach Dr. Vanessa Collingridge discussing "Invisibility and the Menopause: How to Get Yourself Seen".

Librarian Zeig held two book clubs in November and December. The morning and evening versions of Shelf Indulgence, on November 28, discussed *An Absolutely Remarkable Thing* by Hank Green. The morning and evening sessions of Shelf Indulgence on December 19th discussed *Cultish: The Language of Fanaticism* by Amanda Montell. Ms. Zeig was pleased to see several new faces at her meetings.

Librarian Zeig and Circulation Attendant Laura Villalpando continue to host *Dreaded Threads* on Monday evenings and it continues to be one of our best attended adult programs. In December, Vivianna Roldan began assisting Ms. Zeig with the program due to Ms. Villalpando's recent promotion and subsequent transfer to the Central Library.

Chess! At Potranco continues to be very popular. Volunteer Chess Master David Pacheco III brought his skills and enthusiasm for the game to Potranco on the 4th and 18th of November and the 2nd, 16th and 30th of December.

Branch Manager Tim Johnson continues to cohost the *Escape the Earth* podcast for SAPL with Elissa Vura (Brook Hollow), Mary Elizabeth Fernandez (Children's Services), and J. D. Elizondo (Information Services). The November episode covers Fonda Lee's *Jade City* and December covers Paul Cornell's *Rosebud*.



# PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS

Pruitt's Children's Services celebrated Thanksgiving with a series of fun and engaging events for children. The *Toddler Story Times* and *Sensory Play Times* were both themed around the fall season. *Story Time* featured books on cooking, turkeys, and leaves, while *Sensory Play Time* helped attendees strengthen their fine motor and pre-writing skills through Thanksgiving-themed playdough mats, sensory bins, and stickers. Participants had a great time exploring their imaginations with the branch's play kitchen center.

*Children's Yoga* and *Tween Yoga* classes both focused on practicing gratitude meditations. Additionally, children had the opportunity to participate in a turkey-themed scavenger hunt in the Kids' Zone, which helped them exercise their reading and writing skills, and encouraged them to "Gobble up a good book." Overall, Pruitt's Children's Services hosted eight programs in November for early childhood and school-age children, with a total of 102 members of the Pruitt community in attendance.

December was a time of joy and excitement for Pruitt's Children's Services as the branch organized a series of entertaining events for children. The *Toddler Story Times* and *Sensory Play Times* were both winter-themed, featuring books on snow and arctic animals to ignite the children's imagination. *Sensory Play Time* offered attendees the chance to enhance their fine motor and pre-writing skills with winter-themed playdough mats, arctic animal habitats, as well as an icy penguin sensory bin.

To add to the fun, children were invited to participate in a winter holiday-themed scavenger hunt in the Kids' Zone, which not only helped them exercise their reading and writing skills, but also encouraged them to "Get wrapped up in a good book." In total, Pruitt's Children's Services hosted seven programs in December for early childhood and school-age children, with 125 members of the Pruitt community in attendance.



Pruitt's Adult Services featured guest speaker Master Gardener Kathy Breniman who chatted with participants about south-central Texas plants during the *Dig It! Master Gardener – Texas Superstars: Plants for Fall* program. *Adult Virtual Coloring* sessions continued on Friday afternoons, including a participant-led virtual Christmas party featuring seasonal outfits and themed snacks and drinks. *Adult Craft Time* featured Christmas / Holiday Bunting made from greeting cards in November and Luminarias in December courtesy of the Adult Services Winter Committee. *Special Needs Adult Program (SNAP)* participants read *Memoirs of an Elf* by Devin Scillian and *The Very Last Castle* by Travis Jonker, and made Christmas / Holiday bunting from greeting cards and scenes of castles with a background of salt and watercolor firework explosions. Pruitt branch also hosted a *Community Chess Tournament*, overseen by Chess Master Alex Weinberg, which attracted 24 competitors of all ages and a crowd of 27 onlookers silently cheering them on.



## SAN PEDRO

The San Pedro Branch Library provided a variety of programs and services during the months of November and December. Programs for children, teen and adults were offered either weekly or once per month. As the holiday season approached, branch staff decorated and offered programs and service to match.

In November, senior adults at the Chandler Senior Living Community enjoyed discussing *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams, facilitated by librarian Karen Braeuler. In December, the group enjoyed *Forget the Alamo: The Rise and Fall of An American Myth*, by Ryan Burrough with 14 people anxious to give an opinion on the different take on the traditional historical narrative. The group chimed in singing the “Davy Crockett” song from the show of their youth and one member wore a coonskin cap! Each month the seniors are supplied with copies of the book for discussion the following month.

To increase children’s awareness of nature, staff created a display of books about trees that was embellished with touchable tree parts. Children could pick up bark, acorns and all kinds of leaves that live in San Pedro Springs Park.

An instructor from San Antonio College brought some of her English as a Second Language students to San Pedro Library to get library cards, familiarize them with American libraries and check out English language books. Librarians Diana Starrett and Karen Braeuler assisted them.

Manager Nathan Laubner and librarians Karen Braeuler and Diana Starrett met with San Antonio College students interested in advancing science and engineering programming at the San Pedro branch. Some ideas were discussed and the students will contact the group in the new year, when the new semester starts.

San Pedro Branch Library represented SAPL with an information table at the Beacon Hill Academy Community Resource Fair. In addition to talking with families, connections were made with other groups who participated in the event.

In addition to regular Children's programming in November and December, STEAM robotics programs were offered for school age children, as well as extra activities for families during the Thanksgiving break.

In November, the branch hosted a classical Bharatanatyam performance to celebrate Diwali in the form of music, dance and storytelling, offered by the Kaveri Natya Yoga Dance group.

In December, District 1 presented a Holiday Lights Fair for the public on the front grounds of the San Pedro Branch Library. Approximately 100 attended and were treated to food, music from a DJ and mariachis, vendor booths, a snow globe inflatable and beautiful holiday lighting which adorned the branch during the season.

## SCHAEFER

During November and December, children of all ages had the opportunity to attend many different programs at Schaefer. For children younger than five, Outdoor Family Story Time was every Wednesday morning. The kids and families met on the playground for the program. In the case of inclement weather, the group moved inside. Babies and caregivers attended Baby Story Time on Tuesdays. An exciting new opportunity started in December with Story Time: Sing and Stroll with Us. Schaefer's children's librarian Leslie Elsasser worked with Pan American's children's librarian Rachel Forbes to create a story time program that took place along the Schaefer trail. This program will take place once a month.

Programs for school-age children and tweens were offered to suit a variety of interests. Construction programs Let's Build: LEGO Time and Let's Build: Blocks & More were offered every other week. Let's Create: Come & Go Art was offered on select weekends to let kids develop their creativity. Read to a Dog took place twice a month for kids to practice their reading skills by reading to Molly, a therapy dog. Robot Roundup, Tween Tech Time and Video Games for Kids were offered monthly for kids to explore the world of technology available at Schaefer.

Library Assistant BlancaSilvia Hernandez hosted: a Family Crafting Program where patrons made Winter Holiday Art by tracing cookie cutter shapes on cardstock and using glue to fill it in with various color of sand. A Family Coloring Program where patrons were given the opportunity to color winter themed sheets and bookmarks. An Adult Craft program, where patrons made ornaments. They used an engraver tool to burn stenciled winter scenes on raw wooden discs. And a Winter: Come and Go Craft Program offered over the course of two days, where patrons were provided materials and infographics to make clothespin snowmen, shredded book ornaments and luminaries. She published two catalog list of popular titles for Schaefer's I ♥ Vinyl (Digital Edition) program. She assisted Librarian Dacari Lambert with the Native American Heritage Display. She also created a Winter Display highlighting all the activities, holidays, and foods of the season.

In November and December, Dacari Lambert, Teen Services Librarian at Schaefer Branch Library facilitated weekly Teen Time alongside three teen volunteers. During Teen Time, teens engaged in peer led programming. Dacari worked alongside Adult Services Librarian, Daniel Garcia, to host Mercado por tu Corazon and a variety of other adult and family-based programs throughout the month, including a puzzle swap, which was successful. Dacari continued to work in partnership with the Vocational 18 program at East Central High School to host two groups of student volunteers on a weekly basis, to learn real world work experience.

For systemwide efforts, Dacari worked with colleagues Shannan Prukop, Lisa Puchot, Michael Dunbar-Rodney, Daniel Garcia, and Jason Futrell to continue InQUEERies: a queer themed SAPL podcast.

Dacari continues with her efforts in the system-wide Queer committee; In November helping to organize and host, for the first time ever, Trans Day of Remembrance with community partners. Dacari continues work with Teen Services committees: Discord, Teen Pride, and Professional Development.

During the month of November, the Adult Services Librarian coordinated a weekly health and fitness program at Schaefer: "Cardio-Dance Class", which features a moderate dance workout led by a Schaefer community member. On Saturday, November 10, 2023, the Adult Services Librarian hosted a community volunteer who provided a Medicare information session for older adults. On Saturday, November 18, 2023, the Adult Services Librarian hosted a member of the Bexar County Master Gardeners for a fall session of the Dig It! Gardening series focused on basic tree care. On Sunday, November 19, 2023, the Adult Services Librarian hosted the monthly gaming program, Board Game Social, which provides adults an opportunity to play games and socialize with other adults.

During the month of December, the Adult Services Librarian again coordinated the weekly "Cardio-Dance Class" before the program took a break for the holidays. On Saturday, December 9, 2023, the Adult Services Librarian hosted a second session of the Medicare Information for Older Adults program. On Sunday, December 10, 2023, the Adult Services Librarian hosted another session of "Board Game Social" to finish out the year's programming.

## SEMMEs

Tween Time at Semmes continued weekly on Wednesday evenings in November and December. Participants played board games with peers, organized a live Among Us style game, and explored their creative sides with a process art night.

The teens attending weekly Teen Time on Tuesday evenings continue to favor Perler beads, though they also appreciate having paper and drawing supplies on hand to be able to draw, sketch, and write while connecting with new friends.

On December 29<sup>th</sup>, Semmes hosted a Dungeons and Dragons event for teens. One of our teen volunteers wrote a campaign to run for other teens while on break from school. This campaign wasn't well attended, but the one teen who did show up had lots of fun with the story details in the campaign.

Adult services at Semmes continued with a large number of regular programs; Tai Ji, twice-weekly Table Tennis, and both general interest and an adult special needs book program. Library Assistant Markeico Deuser also presented, in addition to her book club, two separate Cricut crafting events, one in November and another in December.

School-age children's programming in November included one session of Read to a Dog (attendance—9 children, 7 grownups) and 2 sessions of Let's Build: Legos & More (attendance—42 children, 19 grownups). Wednesdays' Preschool Story Time sessions were attended by 103 children and 75 grownups. Thursdays' Toddler Story Time sessions were attended by 110 children and 89 grownups. Thursdays' Baby Story Time sessions were attended by 56 babies and 54 grownups. Ms. Randi recorded a story on the Dial-a-Story line on November 3 and 17.

School-age children's programming in December included 2 sessions of Read to a Dog. (attended by 10 children and 8 grownups) and 1 session of Let's Build: Legos and More attended by 4 children and 2 grownups. Wednesdays' Preschool Story Time was attended by 76 children and 60 grownups. Thursdays' Toddler Story Time was attended by 67 children and 59 grownups. Thursdays' Baby Story Time was attended by 45 babies and 54 grownups. Ms. Randi recorded a story on the Dial-a-Story line on December 1 and 15.

# THOUSAND OAKS

Assistant Branch Manager Brooke Mjolsness hosted in-person Tai Chi classes led by certified instructor Debra Cox on November 2, 9 and 30, and December 7, 14, 21 and 28. She hosted four in-person programs taught by instructors from Senior Planet – Online Tools to Contact Your Lawmakers on November 2, Online Travel Sites on November 16, Intro to Selling Online on December 7, and Smartphones at a Glance on December 14. She hosted in-person Yoga Class programs on November 14, 21 and 28, and December 5, 12 and 19. A certified instructor from the Parks and Recreation Department led the yoga classes.

Ms. Mjolsness co-hosted the virtual Film Noir Movie program on November 14 and December 12. On November 25, she held the in-person Classic Movie Showing program. Attendees watched *Touch of Evil* and participated in a discussion. To celebrate Diwali, she hosted a Bharatanatyam Dance Performance by the Kaveri Natya Yoga Group on November 25. Dancers performed in authentic garb to traditional music. On December 8, she served as Master of Ceremonies for the virtual SAPL Live Trivia program. On December 16, she held a Gift-Wrapping program. Participants brought their Christmas gifts to wrap away from prying eyes while socializing and watching the movie *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*.

Children's Librarian Cheryl Penick held in-person Let's Create: Arts & Crafts Friday programs on November 3, 10 and 17, and December 1, 8, 15 and 29. She held in-person Baby Time programs on November 10, and December 1, 8, 15 and 29. She held in-person Let's Move!: Music & Movement programs on December 2, 9, 16 and 30. Ms. Penick assembled holiday Take-and-Make craft kits for distribution to patrons beginning on December 22. She assembled themed book bundles highlighting the juvenile collection.

Librarian Kimberly King held Teen Time programs on November 6, 13, 20 and 27, and December 4, 11 and 18. She held the in-person All Booked Up Book Club programs on November 12 and December 10. Participants discussed *This Time Tomorrow* by Emma Straub, and *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng respectively. She facilitated the outreach Senior Book Club programs at the Northeast Senior Center on November 15 and December 20. Participants discussed *Never Have I Ever* by Joshilyn Jackson, and *The Clockmaker's Daughter* by Kate Morton respectively. For November, Ms. King created a "Books to be Thankful For" book display. For December, she created a winter holidays display highlighting Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanza and New Year's titles in the young adult collection.

Library Assistant Mari Carmen Castellano created five book displays for November and December – Cozy Mysteries for Autumn, Season of Hygge (a Danish concept of wellness and community), 2023 Staff Favorites, Holiday Reads, and Technology. She created a "2023 Favorite Books" list of titles for BiblioCommons. She hosted National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) programs on November 7, 14, 21 and 28. She held Fiber Arts Community programs on November 12 and December 10. Participants worked on their needlecraft projects with other like-minded community members.



Ms. Castellano held Adult Craft Time programs on November 15 and December 20. For December, participants made book page ornaments and pressed flower mason jar lanterns. She held Tabletop Gaymer Night programs on November 19 and December 17. On December 3, she hosted a Dig It: Texas Superstar Vegetables program. On December 9, she assisted at the Central Library's Zine Fest event.

## TOBIN LIBRARY AT OAKWELL

November and December was a busy and joyful time at the Tobin at Oakwell branch library. In cooperation with Bexar County, Tobin saw over 2,000 voters in November. Branch Manager Amanda Neace selected to participate in the Wall of Warmth initiative, and almost 200 items of clothing have been donated since November. Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse hosted Tai Chi and Tea for older adults every Wednesday, as well as monthly Sit & Stitch crafting programs. In December, Woolhouse also coordinated one genealogy and one gardening program through Adult Services.

Teen Services Librarian Connie Hejl assisted with outreach to the municipal court in November, in addition to hosting regular Teen Time programs and coordinating volunteers. Children's Librarian Lisa Ramirez planned a Polar Express Party for families with Hejl in December. Children enjoyed watching the movie, visiting Santa, and crafting wintery ornaments (see photos).



Ramirez hosted weekly Toddler Story Times and monthly Play & Learn programs for young children on Thursdays, in addition to regular LEGO Club and Read To A Dog events. Children's Librarian Kara Bailey also offered Preschool Story Times weekly, and worked with Ramirez to host After School Zone and Tween Time programs, which were especially popular with Garner Middle School students. One activity that Ramirez and Bailey offered in November and December was marble painting (see photos).



Library Assistant David Hazlett and Circulation Attendant Sabrina Longoria hosted Dungeons & Dragons twice monthly. Circulation Attendants Lauren Nyreen and Lilliana Aguilar created very popular book bundles for families. The circulation team, along with Library Aides Cathy Tschoepe and Ashlin Sommer kept the building looking merry and bright for staff and patrons alike.

Toward the end of December, we all celebrated longtime Circulation Attendant Maria Taylor's retirement with strawberry shortcake and a beautiful plaque from Administration that commemorated her time with the San Antonio Public Library (see photos).



## WESTFALL

Westfall Branch Library celebrated its 60th anniversary on Tuesday, December 19. Communications, Facilities, and Westfall staff came together to plan and host an evening celebration event, which included programming for children, teens, adults, and Learn patrons. Assistant Director Dale McNeil led the speaking portion of the evening, and several dignitaries attended including San Antonio Public Library District 1 Board Member Karla Gurgiolo, Assistant City Manager David McCary, Texas District 26 State Senator José Menéndez, and SAPL mascot Smarty! Refreshments, 60th anniversary buttons, and a historical display were also available to the public.



During the month of November, Branch Manager Machaia McClenny hosted multiple events for National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) including a kick-off sprint, four writing meetups and a thank goodness it's over party. Ms. McClenny completed her Classic Movie Monday series by showing *Nightmare Before Christmas* and *Miracle on 34th Street* (1994). Furthermore, Ms. McClenny joined the Wall of Warmth initiative for the second year. Over 150 items were donated and utilized by the community in the months of November and December. Ms. McClenny also began to host a weekly sit and stitch for fiber arts items to go towards the Wall of Warmth.

At Westfall Library's 60th Anniversary, Mr. Holcomb hosted a Westfall Trivia Contest for the patrons. Mr. Holcomb created the questions, the prize vouchers, and the rules of the contest. The contest had full attendance and, after the contest, several patrons expressed how much they enjoyed the event. Mr. Holcomb also started a new Tai Chi program in which he serves as a facilitator for patrons wanting to practice Tai Chi in a relaxed setting. The Tai Chi provided in his program focuses on Tai Chi that is done at an easy level and so it is most ideal for older adults. As part of the Native American Heritage Month Committee, Mr. Holcomb contacted an outside presenter on Native American traditions and then coordinated arranging the programs to be held at three library locations, including Westfall Library. Mr. Holcomb also updated and maintained the website to which all the Native American Heritage Month events were featured. Additionally, Mr. Holcomb coordinated with another SAPL librarian with connections to the Kaveri Natya Yoga Dance group to arrange for a Diwali dance presentation at Westfall Library. Mr. Holcomb also coordinated with Metro Health to run a diabetes information table that was set up in the main area of the library to inform patrons of diabetes-related programs that the City of San Antonio has to offer. Mr. Holcomb scheduled a Well Med representative to come to Westfall to run a caregiving information table. Furthermore, Mr. Holcomb has continued his weekly chess program that is for all ages, giving the community an opportunity to play and/or learn informal chess games. In the program, Mr. Holcomb helps to facilitate game play flow among the players and gives assistance (including lessons) as needed depending on the needs of those attending.

In the month of November, Westfall's Children's Librarian, Imelda Merino planned five Preschool Story Times and three family story times. Game Time and The Come and Go Crafts were offered on alternate Thursdays. The Discovery School first graders visited Westfall on November 8th. Ms. Merino shared information about the San Antonio Missions and the children selected and checked out books. Ms. Merino participated in Art Club Online on November 28th. A reporter for Fox News affiliate KABB interviewed Ms. Merino on November 9th. She shared reflections on her forty years of working at the San Antonio Public Library. In the month of December 2023, Children's Librarian Imelda Merino planned and presented four Preschool Story Times, four Family Story Times, and four craft times. Ms. Merino was invited to Franklin Elementary's Academic night which took place on December 6th. A total of about twenty people came by the library table to get library information and to pick up holiday gingerbread men cut-outs that the children could take home to decorate. Ms. Merino also prepared a simple craft for both adults and children as part of Westfall's 60th anniversary celebration.

Heather, the Teen Librarian at Westfall, attended the Municipal Court Week outreach with other Teen Services Librarians in November, where she answered questions from the community about library programs and services and made buttons with the teens. Teen Time was led by teen volunteers on a weekly basis. Westfall celebrated its 60th anniversary in December. In the Teen Space, a teen volunteer managed the playlist and set up activities, including a game of Twister, board games, and the button maker and supplies for them to make a limited-edition anniversary button.

During the month of December, Westfall Library celebrated its 60th anniversary on 12/19/2023. During this celebration, the Learn Center participated in the open house event of which over 100 patrons were in attendance. The Learn Center gained a regular group that has been attending the Wednesday morning Smartphone and Smart Device class. The Learn Center at Westfall also continues to offer other weekly technology classes on Friday mornings as well as walk-in hours to offer one-on-one sessions and tutorials. The number of patrons seeking job assistance continues to rise each month as well as those seeking resume assistance.

## **PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Circulation: Goal

Fiscal Year to  
date goal:  
1,399,467



8,650,840

FY 2024 to date Items Borrowed



1,517,869

(+8.46%)  
Circulation

Visits: Goal

Fiscal Year to  
date goal:  
600,835



3,041,064

FY 2024 to date Library Visits



524,673

(-12.68%)  
Visits

Digital Access: Goal

Fiscal Year to  
date goal:  
369,536



2,188,555

FY 2024 to date Digital Access



46,538

Hours of Computer Use



328,209

Hours of Wi-Fi Use

374,747

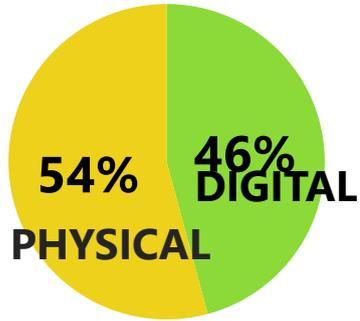
(+1.41%)  
Hours of Technology Use

# SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS

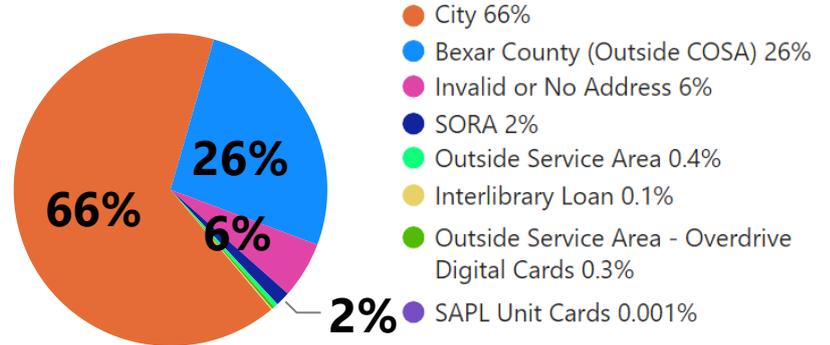
## November 2023 (CONTINUED)

### USE OF COLLECTION: FISCAL YEAR 2024

#### CIRCULATION BY TYPE



#### CIRCULATION BY SERVICE AREA



### VIRTUAL: FISCAL YEAR 2024



**296,968**  
MYSAPL.ORG  
VISITS

**3,902**  
MYSAPL  
APP DOWNLOADS

**69,140**  
OVERDRIVE  
UNIQUE USERS\*

**441,582**  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
IMPRESSIONS

\*New measure as of November 2023. Replaces previous "Overdrive visits"

### PROGRAMS & ATTENDANCE: FISCAL YEAR 2024

Total	Early Literacy (0-5)	School Age (6-12)	Teens (13-18)	Adults (19+)	Older Adults (60+)	General Interest*
2,073 programs	512 programs	399 programs	476 programs	464 programs	97 programs	125 programs
35,930 attendance	13,289 attendance	7,285 attendance	4,499 attendance	4,167 attendance	866 attendance	5,824 attendance

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

**2** PROGRAM VIDEOS UPLOADED      **4,610** PROGRAM VIDEO VIEWS

### NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**IN LAK ECH**  
**'I AM ONE LIKE YOU'**

Exhibition on display at Central Library Gallery  
November 18 - December 30, 2023

San Antonio Public Library  
**YOUNG PEGASUS**  
ANNUAL POETRY COMPETITION  
Since 1927

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  
**CHILDREN'S BOOK LIST**

**Dig it!**  
Fall & Winter Garden Series

presented by  
San Antonio Public Library & Bexar County Master Gardeners

# San Antonio Public Library

## November 2023 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
<b>Bazan</b>	2,930	4,129	5,088	984	4,104
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	22,391	13,778	5,079	650	4,429
<b>Carver</b>	2,382	4,370	3,290	863	2,427
<b>Central</b>	24,677	24,897	35,455	6,035	29,420
<b>Cody</b>	30,698	15,400	9,878	1,038	8,840
<b>Collins Garden</b>	3,583	4,207	3,392	448	2,944
<b>Cortez</b>	4,373	6,525	3,676	592	3,084
<b>Digital</b>	344,135	0	0	0	0
<b>Encino</b>	19,395	10,509	4,125	142	3,983
<b>Forest Hills</b>	6,237	3,063	2,206	207	1,999
<b>Great Northwest</b>	16,521	8,645	4,590	501	4,089
<b>Guerra</b>	1,322	221	591	0	591
<b>Igo</b>	42,251	24,484	9,534	724	8,810
<b>Interlibrary Loan</b>	1,145	0	0	0	0
<b>Johnston</b>	9,048	5,569	3,666	526	3,140
<b>Kampmann</b>	0	362	398	0	398
<b>Landa</b>	16,511	9,410	4,084	351	3,733
<b>Las Palmas</b>	298	0	26	0	26
<b>Maverick</b>	17,651	9,514	4,664	582	4,082
<b>McCreless</b>	5,587	3,197	5,486	891	4,595
<b>Memorial</b>	4,452	5,423	5,052	880	4,172
<b>Mission</b>	9,473	8,635	4,858	709	4,149
<b>Pan American</b>	3,593	3,039	2,030	388	1,642
<b>Parman</b>	30,928	16,452	5,533	219	5,314
<b>Potranco</b>	19,436	7,739	13,004	559	12,445
<b>Pruitt</b>	4,796	8,461	5,054	200	4,854
<b>San Pedro</b>	2,589	3,726	4,365	434	3,931
<b>Schaefer</b>	7,837	8,444	4,822	378	4,444
<b>Semmes</b>	24,717	10,441	6,650	1,072	5,578
<b>System</b>	32,965	0	0	0	0
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	6,089	5,234	3,452	591	2,861
<b>Tobin</b>	15,844	11,127	4,466	587	3,879
<b>Westfall</b>	9,189	6,188	6,464	974	5,490
<b>Total</b>	<b>743,043</b>	<b>243,189</b>	<b>170,978</b>	<b>21,525</b>	<b>149,453</b>

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

# San Antonio Public Library Programs

## November 2023

Location	Early Literacy Programs (0-5)	School Age Programs (6-12)	Teen Programs (13-18)	Adult Programs (19+)	Older Adults Programs (60+)	General Interest Programs*	Total
Bazan	0	10	2	8	3	0	23
Brook Hollow	2	1	6	0	1	2	12
Carver	1	0	0	12	0	0	13
Central	15	5	75	12	5	5	117
Cody	11	17	22	11	0	0	61
Collins Garden	19	9	3	1	2	2	36
Cortez	6	10	0	8	0	0	24
Encino	14	4	5	10	2	1	36
Forest Hills	10	17	4	0	3	0	34
Great Northwest	2	5	4	0	1	0	12
Guerra	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Igo	16	5	4	10	0	2	37
Johnston	3	5	3	1	0	0	12
Landa	39	9	6	0	0	0	54
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	13	0	5	8	0	0	26
Maverick	13	4	5	1	0	0	23
McCreless	3	7	3	9	5	0	27
Memorial	5	6	1	19	2	1	34
Mission	6	3	7	17	0	7	40
Pan American	4	10	4	3	1	1	23
Parman	20	9	4	16	7	0	56
Potranco	6	2	2	11	1	1	23
Pruitt	4	4	9	3	0	2	22
San Pedro	5	9	0	3	2	2	21
Schaefer	9	11	4	6	0	3	33
Semmes	13	8	4	3	0	3	31
System	0	2	25	5	0	3	35
Thousand Oaks	0	3	0	13	3	1	20
Tobin	7	10	3	11	4	2	37
Westfall	8	5	4	13	7	5	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>966</b>

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

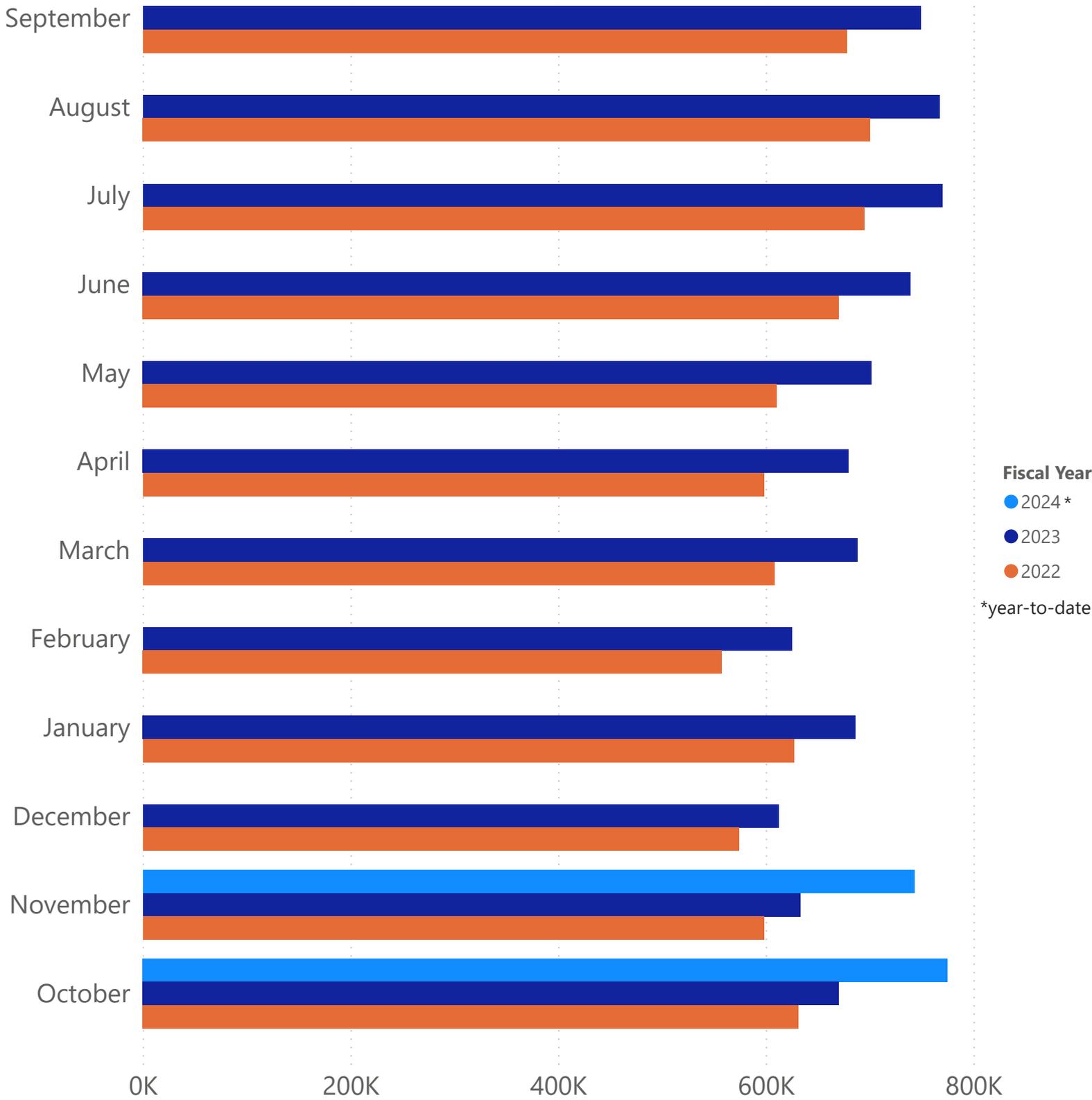
# San Antonio Public Library Program Attendance

## November 2023

Location	Early Literacy Attendance (0-5)	School Age Attendance (6-12)	Teen Attendance (13-18)	Adult Attendance (19+)	Older Adults Attendance (60+)	General Interest Attendance*	Total
<b>Bazan</b>	0	6	101	46	17	0	170
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	29	21	17	0	4	96	167
<b>Carver</b>	61	0	0	114	0	0	175
<b>Central</b>	158	32	554	121	31	412	1,308
<b>Cody</b>	644	352	415	77	0	0	1,488
<b>Collins Garden</b>	271	76	11	10	11	2	381
<b>Cortez</b>	33	173	0	44	0	0	250
<b>Encino</b>	368	46	33	64	11	56	578
<b>Forest Hills</b>	88	357	20	0	6	0	471
<b>Great Northwest</b>	70	34	23	0	6	0	133
<b>Guerra</b>	85	0	0	0	26	0	111
<b>Igo</b>	805	63	26	98	0	73	1,065
<b>Johnston</b>	102	74	11	7	0	0	194
<b>Landa</b>	1,152	150	48	0	0	0	1,350
<b>Las Palmas</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Little Read Wagon</b>	494	0	30	80	0	0	604
<b>Maverick</b>	260	74	142	29	0	0	505
<b>McCreless</b>	16	91	12	49	20	0	188
<b>Memorial</b>	45	47	21	127	27	11	278
<b>Mission</b>	66	20	56	138	0	24	304
<b>Pan American</b>	6	72	7	9	1	6	101
<b>Parman</b>	732	478	38	255	46	0	1,549
<b>Potranco</b>	146	9	3	74	30	15	277
<b>Pruitt</b>	74	28	180	43	0	16	341
<b>San Pedro</b>	56	112	0	7	13	15	203
<b>Schaefer</b>	179	138	30	26	0	58	431
<b>Semmes</b>	499	137	13	26	0	46	721
<b>System</b>	0	13	477	14	0	27	531
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	0	50	0	70	15	9	144
<b>Tobin</b>	36	61	6	76	25	11	215
<b>Westfall</b>	32	37	11	44	33	24	181
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,507</b>	<b>2,751</b>	<b>2,285</b>	<b>1,648</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>14,414</b>

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

# San Antonio Public Library Circulation

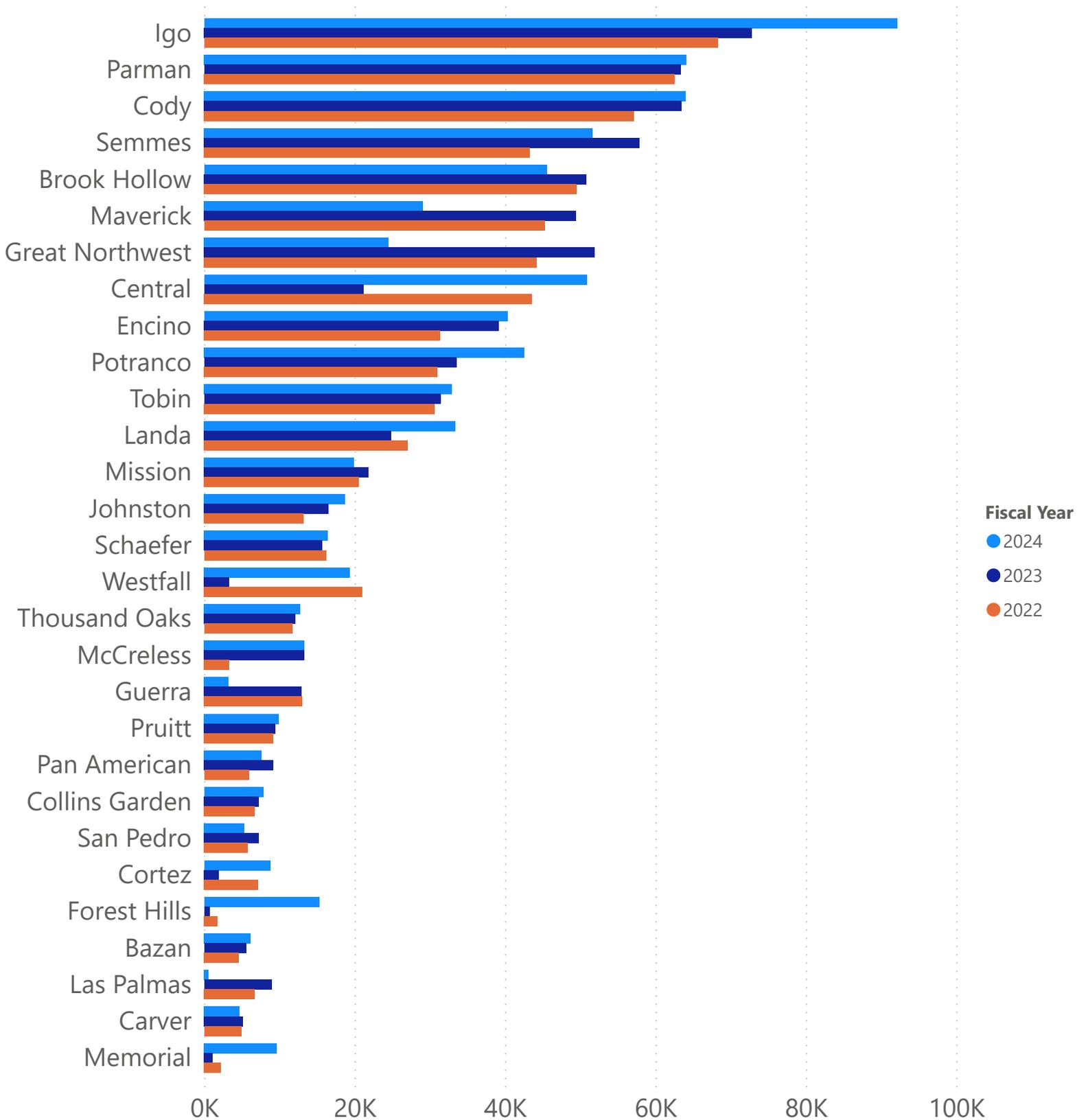


**Location Closures:**

FY24: Maverick Oct 1 - Oct 8, Great Northwest Oct 1 - Oct 15, Las Palmas Oct 1 - TBD, Guerra Oct 1 - Dec 3  
 FY23: Forest Hills Oct 1-March 18, Memorial Oct 1 - Feb 24, Westfall Oct 1 - Nov 29, Cortez Oct 1 - Feb 13, Las Palmas March 20 - TBD, Brook Hollow April 24- July 29, Maverick Aug 1 - Sep 30, Great Northwest Aug 7 - Sep 30, Guerra Aug 21 - Sep 30  
 FY22: Forest Hills Oct 1-Sep 30, McCreless Oct 1-Apr 15, Memorial Oct 1 - Sep 30, Westfall Mar 28 - Sep 30, Bazan April 11-June 4, Cortez Sept 6 - Sep 30

# San Antonio Public Library

## Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - November 2023



Location Closures:

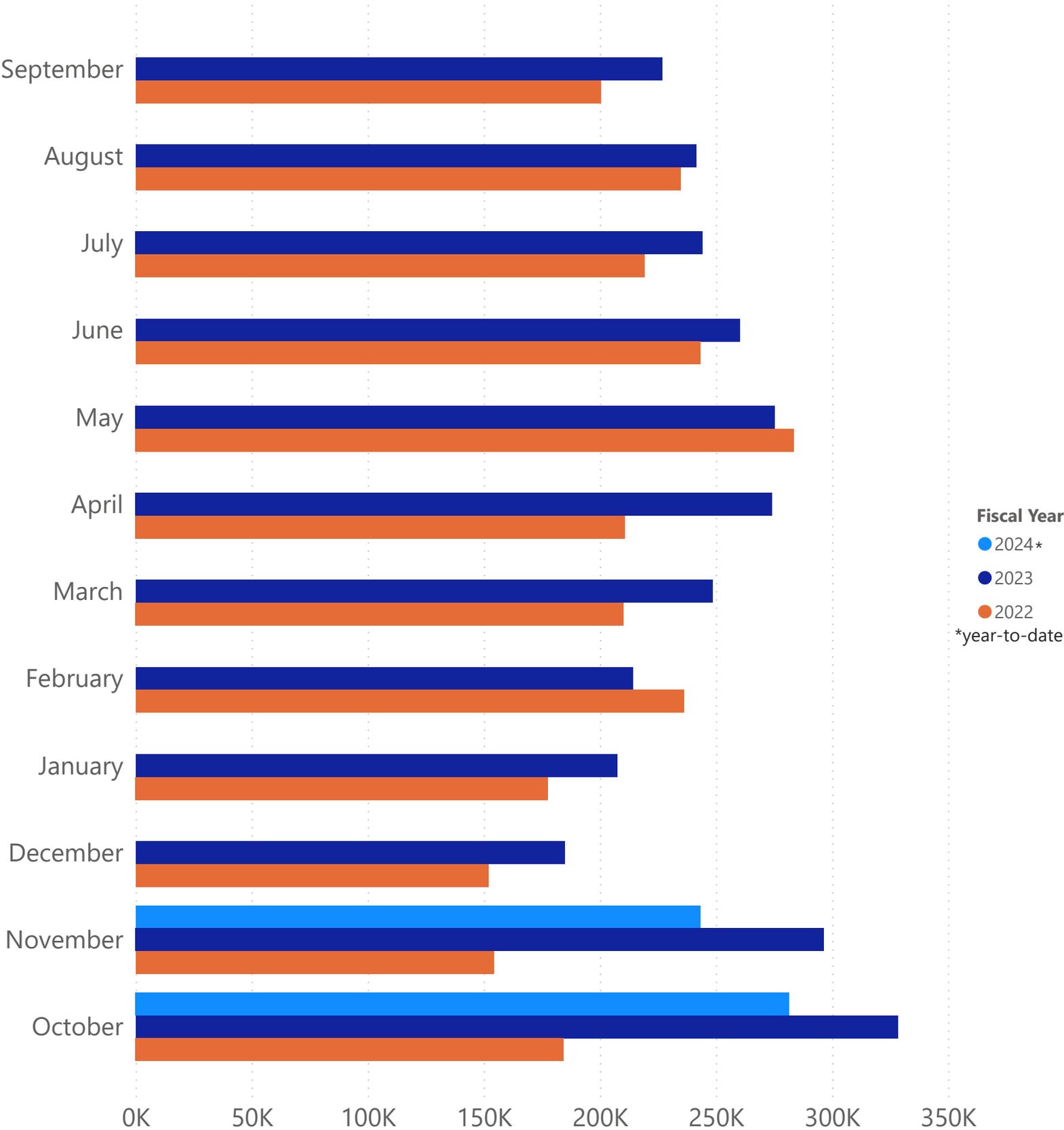
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# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits

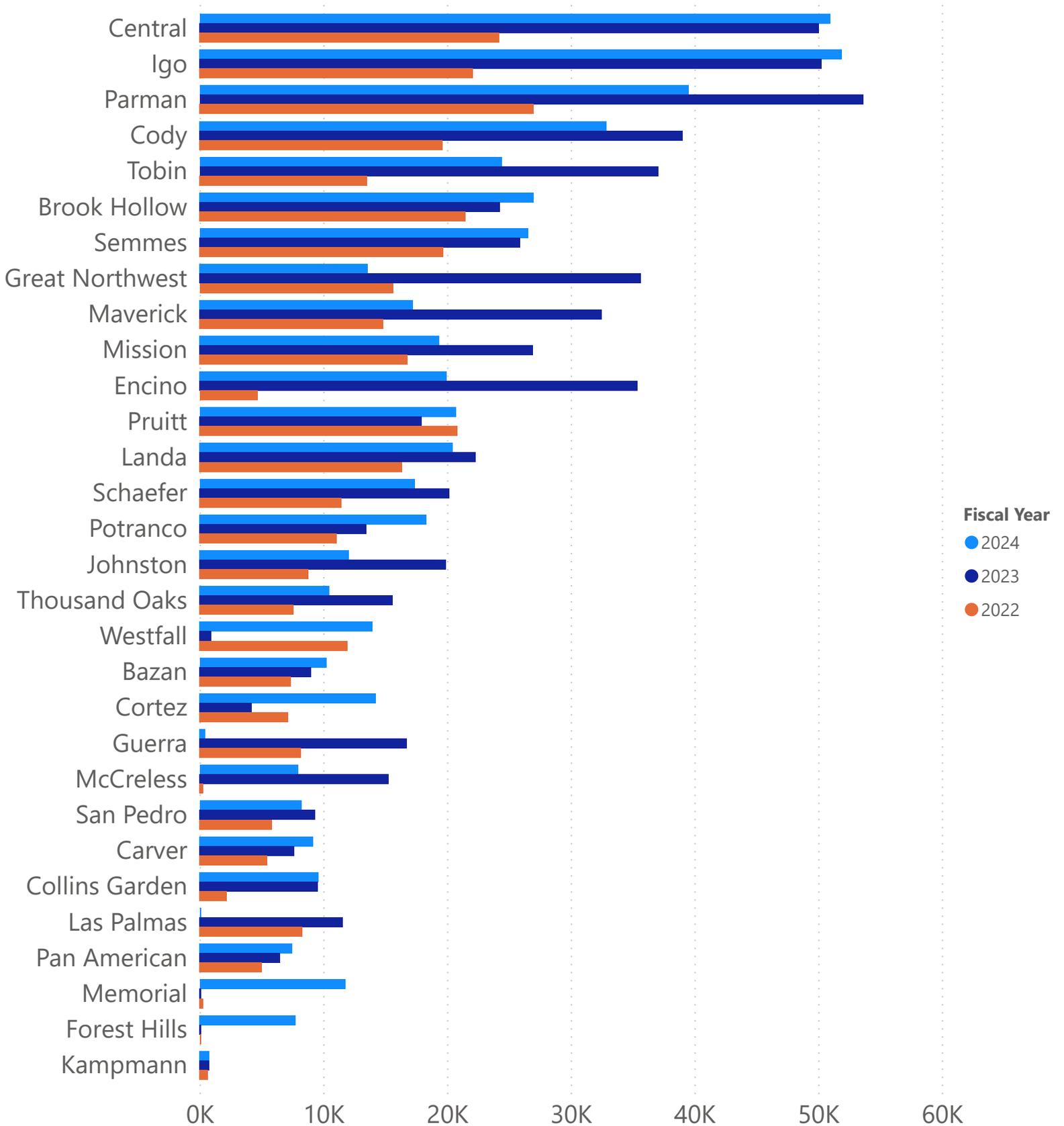


**Location Closures:**

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 FY22: Forest Hills Oct 1-Sep 30, McCreless Oct 1-Apr 15, Memorial Oct 1 - Sep 30, Westfall Mar 28 - Sep 30, Bazan April 11-June 4, Cortez Sept 6 - Sep 30

# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - November 2023



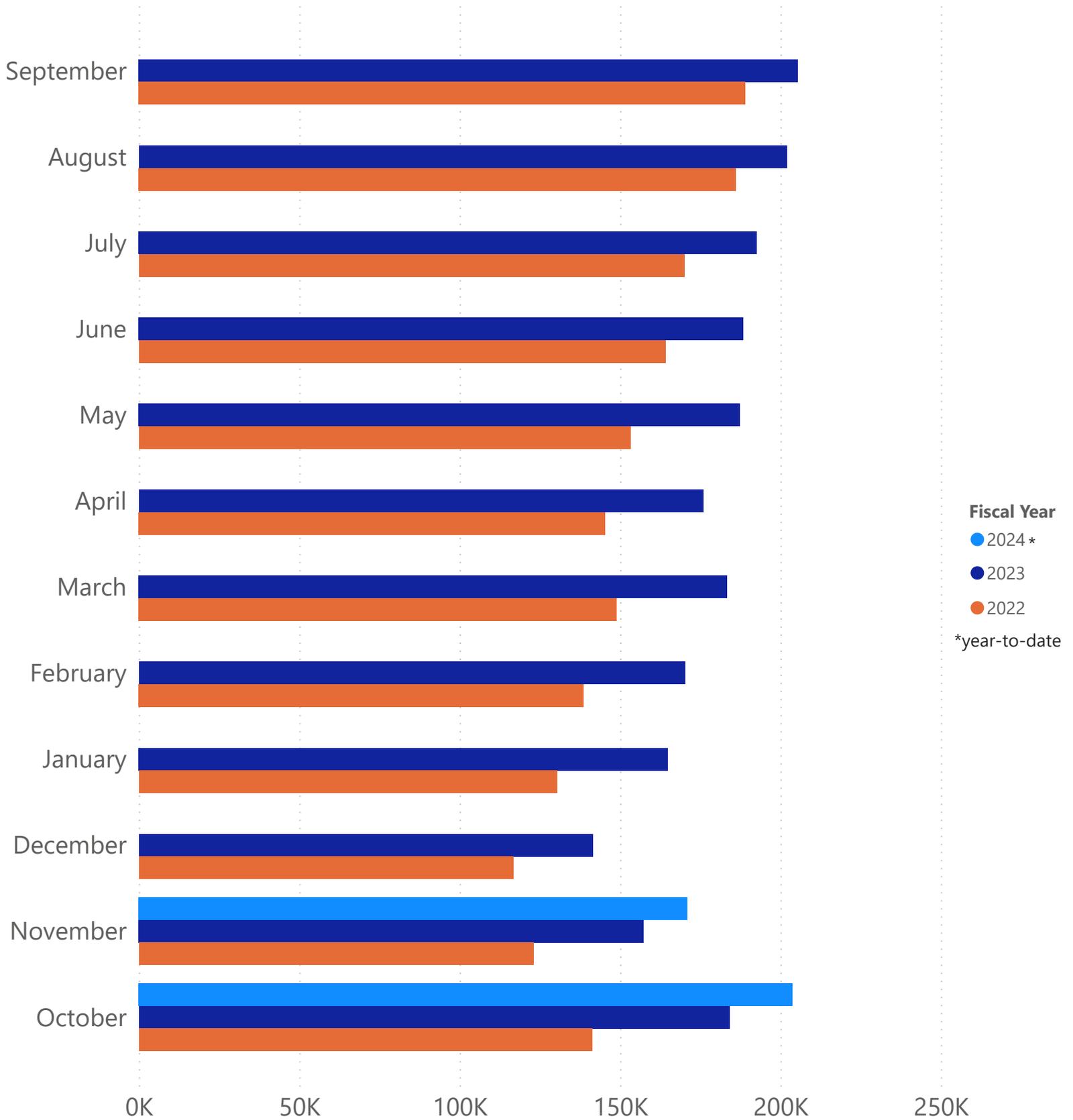
Location Closures:

FY24: Maverick Oct 1 - Oct 8, Great Northwest Oct 1 - Oct 15, Las Palmas Oct 1 - TBD, Guerra Oct 1 - Dec 3

FY23: Forest Hills Oct 1-March 18, Memorial Oct 1 - Feb 24, Westfall Oct 1 - Nov 29, Cortez Oct 1 - Feb 13, Las Palmas March 20 - TBD, Brook Hollow April 24- July 29, Maverick Aug 1 - Sep 30, Great Northwest Aug 7 - Sep 30, Guerra Aug 21 - Sep 30

FY22: Forest Hills Oct 1-Sep 30, McCreless Oct 1-Apr 15, Memorial Oct 1 - Sep 30, Westfall Mar 28 - Sep 30, Bazan April 11-June 4, Cortez Sept 6 - Sep 30

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



**Location Closures:**

FY24: Maverick Oct 1 - Oct 8, Great Northwest Oct 1 - Oct 15, Las Palmas Oct 1 - TBD, Guerra Oct 1 - Dec 3

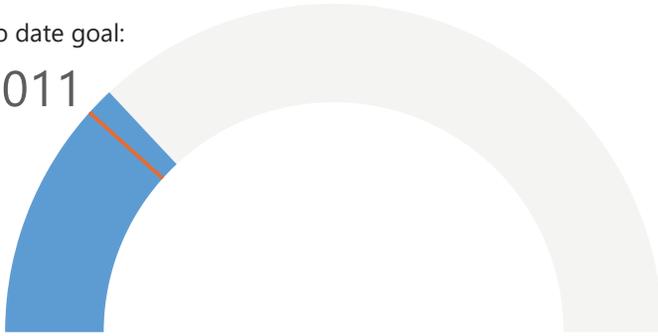
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FY22: Forest Hills Oct 1-Sep 30, McCreless Oct 1-Apr 15, Memorial Oct 1 - Sep 30, Westfall Mar 28 - Sep 30, Bazan April 11-June 4, Cortez Sept 6 - Sep 30

Circulation: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:

2,018,011



8,650,840

FY 2024 to date Items Borrowed



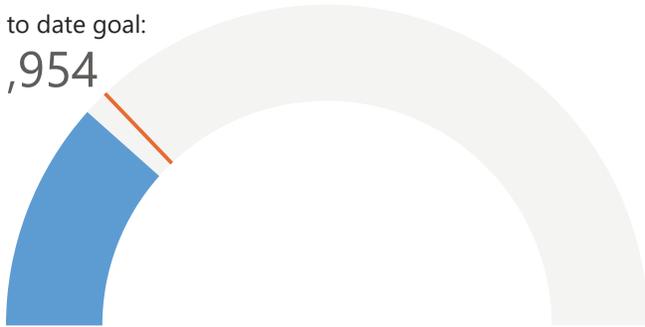
2,255,601

(+11.77%)  
Circulation

Visits: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:

781,954



3,041,064

FY 2024 to date Library Visits



704,572

(-9.9%)  
Visits

Digital Access: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:

520,693



2,188,555

FY 2024 to date Digital Access



67,542

Hours of Computer Use



470,954

Hours of Wi-Fi Use

538,496

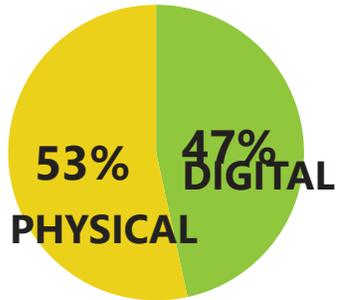
(+3.42%)  
Hours of Technology Use

# SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS

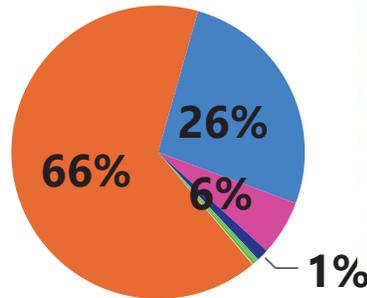
## December 2023 (CONTINUED)

### USE OF COLLECTION: FISCAL YEAR 2024

#### CIRCULATION BY TYPE



#### CIRCULATION BY SERVICE AREA



- City 66%
- Bexar County (Outside COSA) 26%
- Invalid or No Address 6%
- SORA 1%
- Outside Service Area 0.4%
- Interlibrary Loan 0.1%
- Outside Service Area - Overdrive Digital Cards 0.3%
- SAPL Unit Cards 0.001%

### VIRTUAL: FISCAL YEAR 2024



**421,704**  
MYSAPL.ORG  
VISITS

**5,849**  
MYSAPL  
APP DOWNLOADS

**78,042**  
OVERDRIVE  
UNIQUE USERS

**595,779**  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
IMPRESSIONS

### PROGRAMS & ATTENDANCE: FISCAL YEAR 2024

Total	Early Literacy (0-5)	School Age (6-12)	Teens (13-18)	Adults (19+)	Older Adults (60+)	General Interest*
2,833 programs	688 programs	528 programs	657 programs	653 programs	141 programs	166 programs
48,792 attendance	17,464 attendance	9,217 attendance	5,906 attendance	5,501 attendance	1,363 attendance	9,341 attendance

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

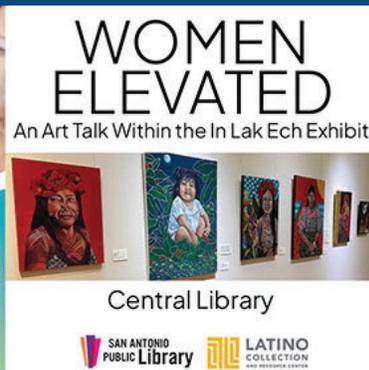
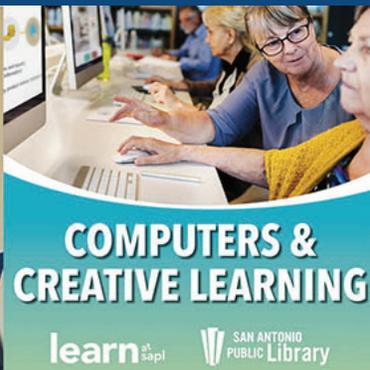
**2**

PROGRAM VIDEOS UPLOADED

**6,301**

PROGRAM VIDEO VIEWS

### DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



# San Antonio Public Library

## December 2023 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
<b>Bazan</b>	3,220	4,253	5,084	1,156	3,928
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	20,450	9,176	4,745	611	4,134
<b>Carver</b>	2,523	3,972	2,751	739	2,012
<b>Central</b>	25,198	19,965	37,682	6,227	31,455
<b>Cody</b>	30,402	11,698	9,027	1,100	7,927
<b>Collins Garden</b>	3,377	3,543	2,950	489	2,461
<b>Cortez</b>	4,041	4,924	2,417	401	2,016
<b>Digital</b>	355,299	0	0	0	0
<b>Encino</b>	18,826	7,670	4,336	169	4,167
<b>Forest Hills</b>	4,707	2,163	2,261	200	2,061
<b>Great Northwest</b>	18,434	5,410	4,042	450	3,592
<b>Guerra</b>	2,931	1,530	2,119	258	1,861
<b>Igo</b>	37,443	15,391	8,661	566	8,095
<b>Interlibrary Loan</b>	964	0	0	0	0
<b>Johnston</b>	8,134	3,124	3,516	529	2,987
<b>Kampmann</b>	0	678	209	0	209
<b>Landa</b>	15,474	8,722	3,495	305	3,190
<b>Las Palmas</b>	234	65	58	0	58
<b>Maverick</b>	18,162	6,201	4,392	430	3,962
<b>McCreless</b>	4,284	2,570	5,135	933	4,202
<b>Memorial</b>	3,854	4,527	4,836	712	4,124
<b>Mission</b>	8,768	7,065	4,675	700	3,975
<b>Pan American</b>	3,300	2,447	2,128	380	1,748
<b>Parman</b>	30,511	12,714	4,690	154	4,536
<b>Potranco</b>	17,170	5,873	11,048	508	10,540
<b>Pruitt</b>	4,427	6,672	4,654	180	4,474
<b>San Pedro</b>	2,516	3,551	4,505	443	4,062
<b>Schaefer</b>	7,403	6,084	3,919	327	3,592
<b>Semmes</b>	23,481	5,948	6,405	986	5,419
<b>System</b>	32,737	0	0	0	0
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	5,860	3,075	3,866	537	3,329
<b>Tobin</b>	15,116	6,014	3,821	619	3,202
<b>Westfall</b>	8,486	4,874	6,322	895	5,427
<b>Total</b>	<b>737,732</b>	<b>179,899</b>	<b>163,749</b>	<b>21,004</b>	<b>142,745</b>

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

# San Antonio Public Library Programs

## December 2023

Location	Early Literacy Programs (0-5)	School Age Programs (6-12)	Teen Programs (13-18)	Adult Programs (19+)	Older Adults Programs (60+)	General Interest Programs*	Total
Bazan	0	3	0	6	2	1	12
Brook Hollow	3	1	6	0	1	0	11
Carver	2	2	0	10	3	1	18
Central	9	4	67	9	2	5	96
Cody	0	2	15	8	0	0	25
Collins Garden	5	5	3	2	0	1	16
Cortez	3	8	1	11	1	0	24
Encino	6	1	3	7	3	2	22
Forest Hills	3	6	2	1	0	0	12
Great Northwest	2	3	3	0	0	2	10
Guerra	5	3	0	2	1	0	11
Igo	12	5	4	5	1	0	27
Johnston	5	7	4	1	0	0	17
Landa	22	9	7	0	0	0	38
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	8	0	1	5	0	0	14
Maverick	6	2	4	2	0	0	14
McCreless	2	5	3	8	3	0	21
Memorial	3	7	1	26	1	3	41
Mission	6	2	5	14	1	4	32
Pan American	3	7	3	5	2	1	21
Parman	15	5	3	8	5	1	37
Potranco	6	0	4	8	0	2	20
Pruitt	6	1	2	1	0	2	12
San Pedro	5	5	0	4	2	0	16
Schaefer	7	10	3	4	1	4	29
Semmes	12	7	5	4	0	4	32
System	0	0	25	8	0	1	34
Thousand Oaks	8	4	1	13	3	0	29
Tobin	6	7	2	12	4	3	34
Westfall	6	8	3	5	8	4	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>759</b>

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

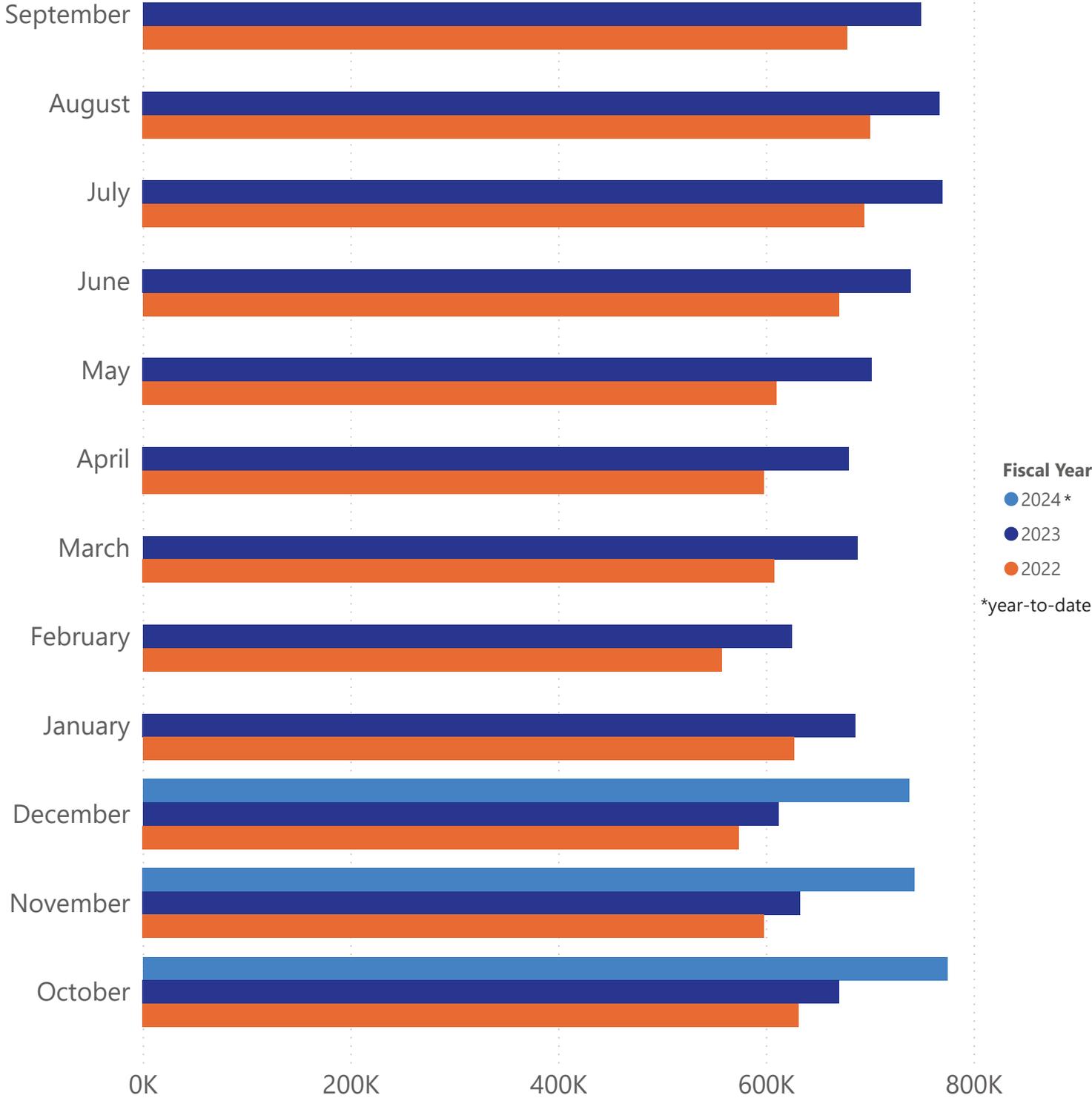
# San Antonio Public Library Program Attendance

## December 2023

Location	Early Literacy Attendance (0-5)	School Age Attendance (6-12)	Teen Attendance (13-18)	Adult Attendance (19+)	Older Adults Attendance (60+)	General Interest Attendance*	Total
<b>Bazan</b>	0	6	0	50	13	16	85
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	45	18	20	0	200	0	283
<b>Carver</b>	97	78	0	169	34	15	393
<b>Central</b>	121	37	374	54	12	223	821
<b>Cody</b>	0	91	178	63	0	0	332
<b>Collins Garden</b>	240	36	44	5	0	41	366
<b>Cortez</b>	20	150	2	52	1	0	225
<b>Encino</b>	182	180	33	42	24	19	480
<b>Forest Hills</b>	12	37	7	1	0	0	57
<b>Great Northwest</b>	61	33	16	0	0	28	138
<b>Guerra</b>	101	15	0	7	37	0	160
<b>Igo</b>	457	52	15	43	16	0	583
<b>Johnston</b>	148	132	109	7	0	0	396
<b>Landa</b>	543	146	71	0	0	0	760
<b>Las Palmas</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Little Read Wagon</b>	458	0	7	83	0	0	548
<b>Maverick</b>	125	27	33	16	0	0	201
<b>McCreless</b>	6	79	9	56	18	0	168
<b>Memorial</b>	30	29	8	132	4	33	236
<b>Mission</b>	70	14	18	130	1	23	256
<b>Pan American</b>	6	23	7	28	0	1	65
<b>Parman</b>	557	348	18	102	23	350	1,398
<b>Potranco</b>	107	0	203	37	0	100	447
<b>Pruitt</b>	125	0	41	8	0	59	233
<b>San Pedro</b>	39	37	0	0	17	0	93
<b>Schaefer</b>	127	137	21	18	0	43	346
<b>Semmes</b>	361	61	18	14	0	59	513
<b>System</b>	0	0	131	34	0	2,454	2,619
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	89	52	5	64	18	0	228
<b>Tobin</b>	20	73	5	77	32	40	247
<b>Westfall</b>	28	41	4	42	47	13	175
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,175</b>	<b>1,932</b>	<b>1,397</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>3,517</b>	<b>12,852</b>

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

# San Antonio Public Library Circulation

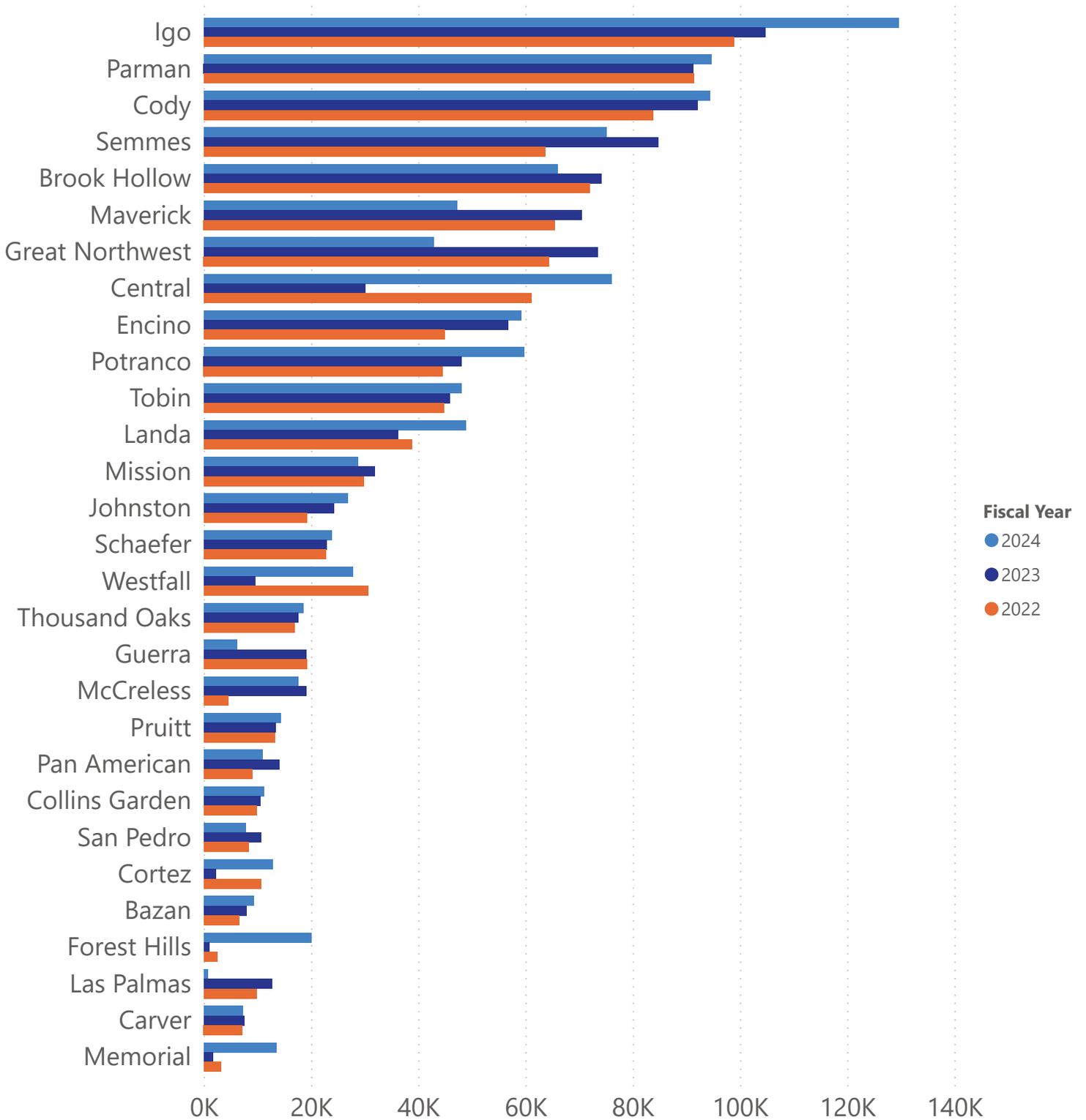


**Location Closures:**

FY24: Maverick Oct 1 - Oct 8, Great Northwest Oct 1 - Oct 15, Las Palmas Oct 1 - TBD, Guerra Oct 1 - Dec 3  
 FY23: Forest Hills Oct 1-March 18, Memorial Oct 1 - Feb 24, Westfall Oct 1 - Nov 29, Cortez Oct 1 - Feb 13, Las Palmas March 20 - TBD, Brook Hollow April 24- July 29, Maverick Aug 1 - Sep 30, Great Northwest Aug 7 - Sep 30, Guerra Aug 21 - Sep 30  
 FY22: Forest Hills Oct 1-Sep 30, McCreless Oct 1-Apr 15, Memorial Oct 1 - Sep 30, Westfall Mar 28 - Sep 30, Bazan April 11-June 4, Cortez Sept 6 - Sep 30

# San Antonio Public Library

## Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - December 2023



### Location Closures:

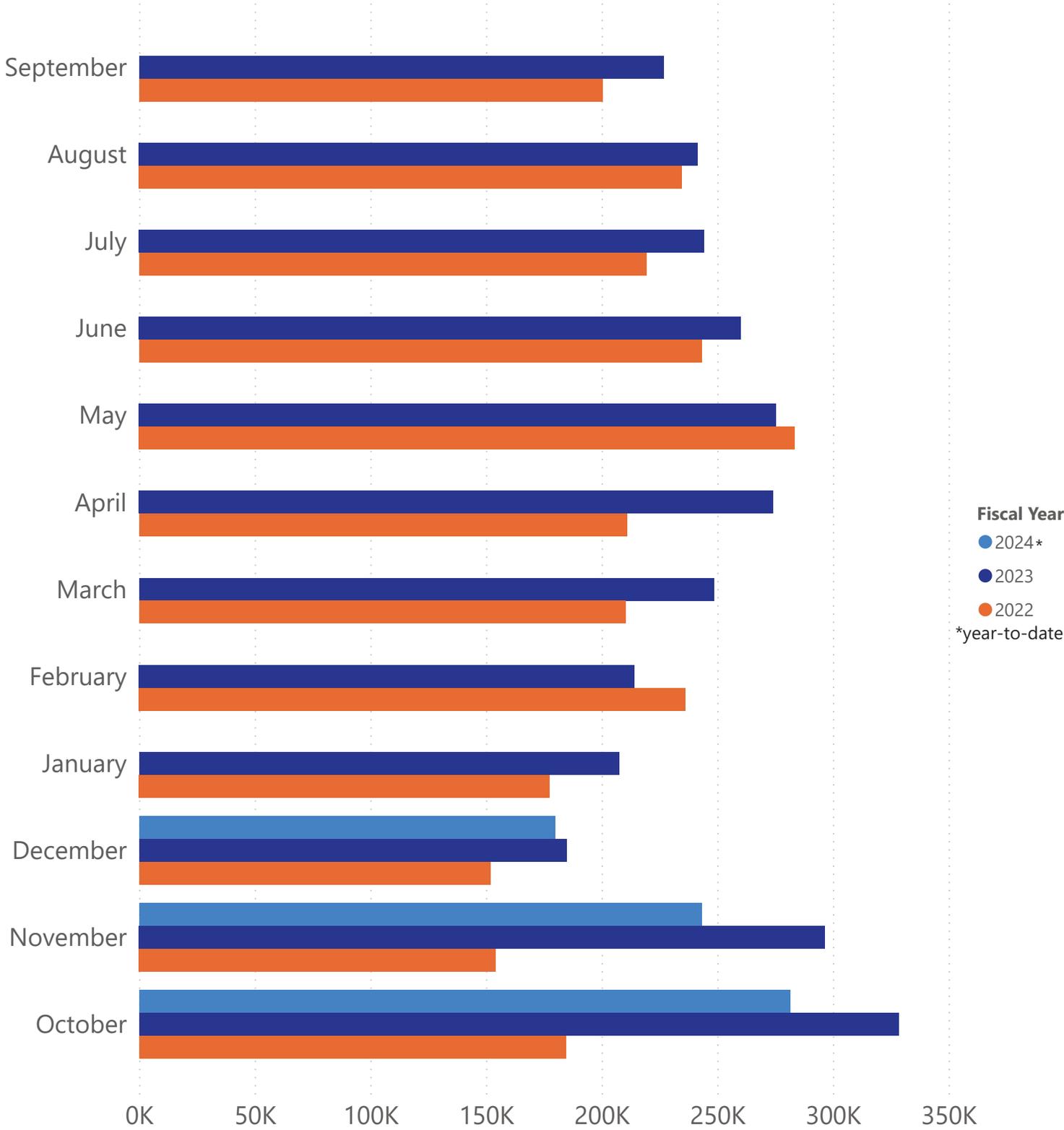
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# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits

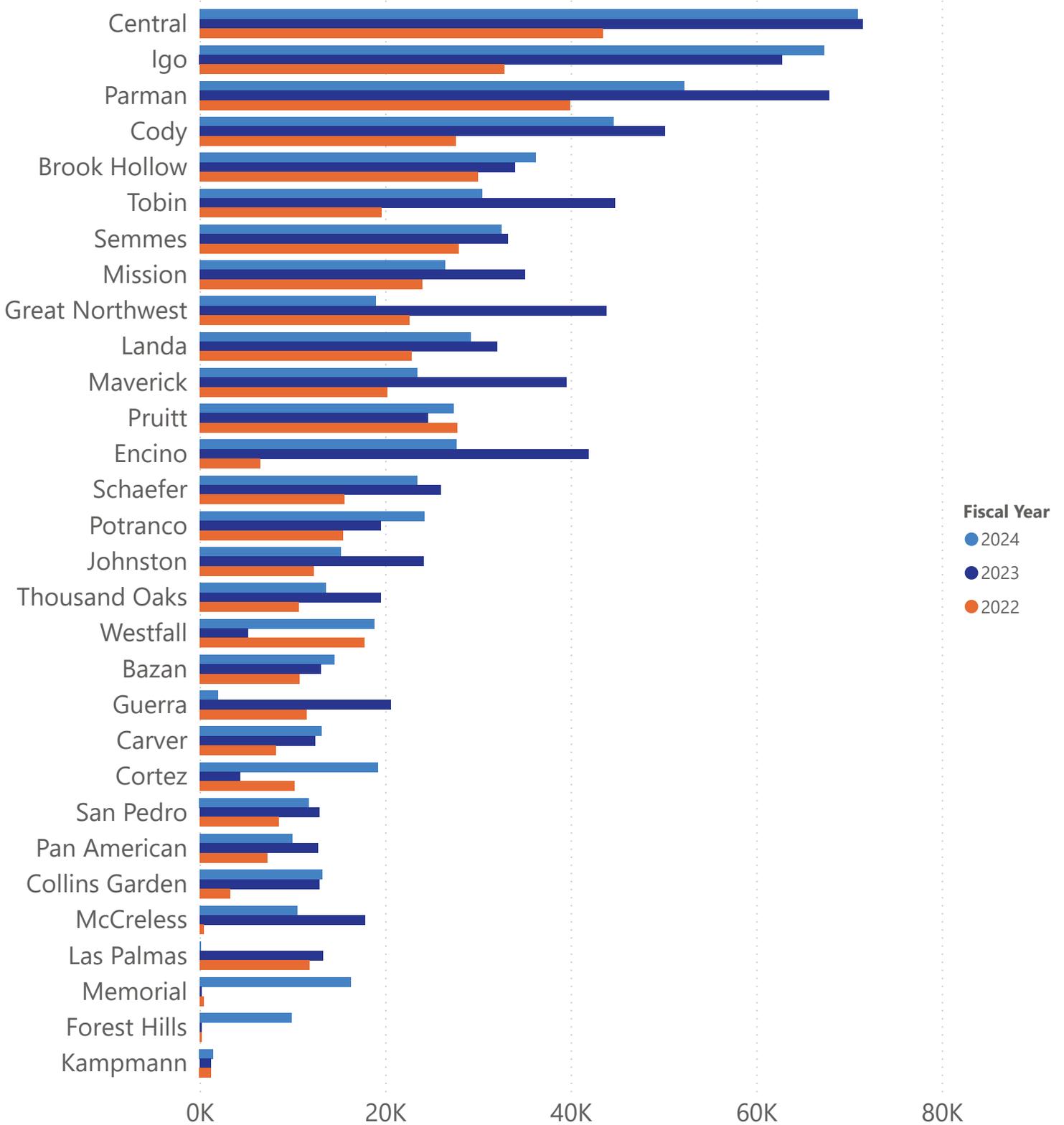


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# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - December 2023



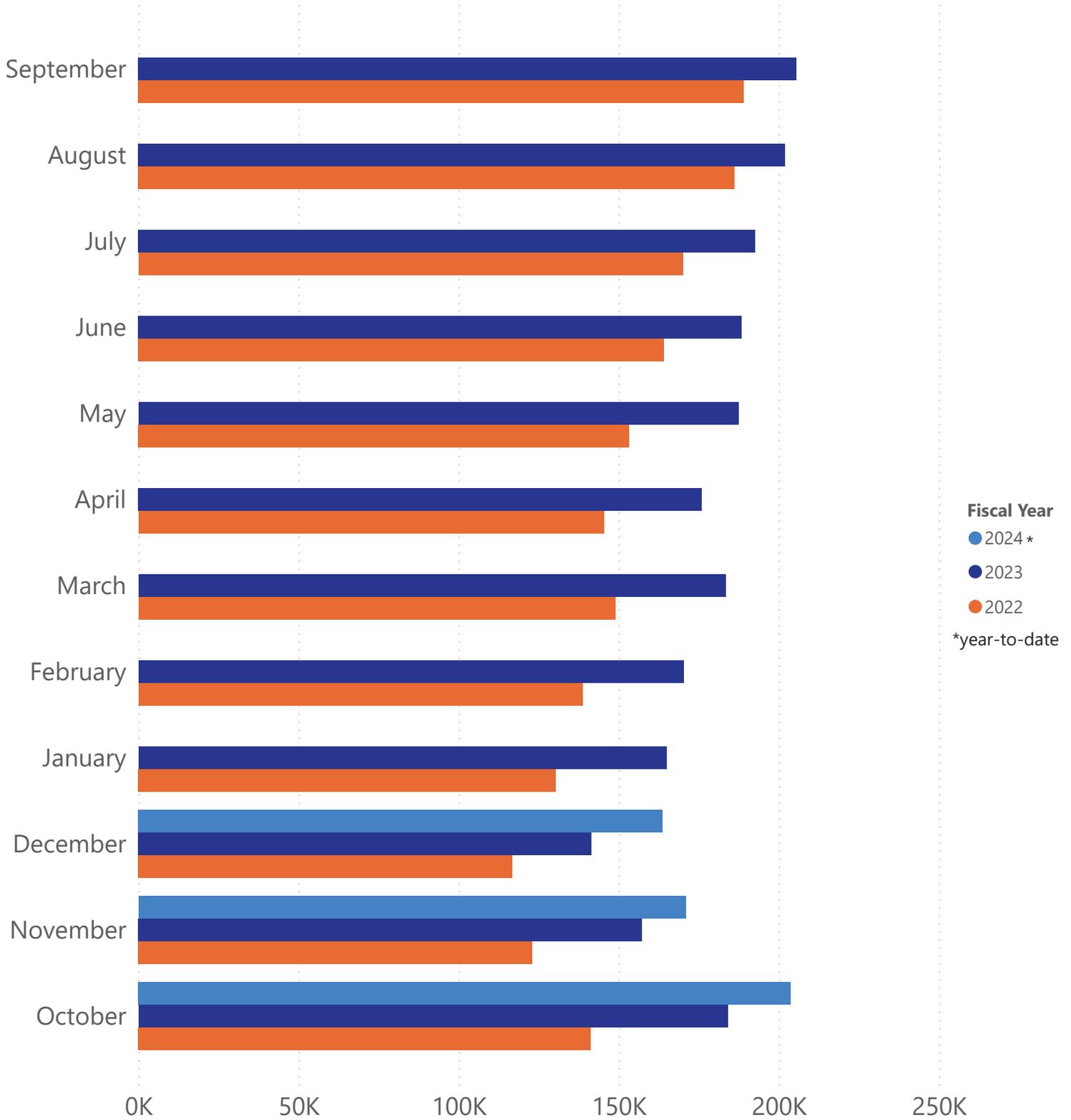
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# San Antonio Public Library Hours of Computer & Wi-Fi Use



**Location Closures:**

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# APPENDIX

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**STEAM** - Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

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

**Trumba** – San Antonio Public Library's events calendar.

**Webex** – Videoconferencing application used by San Antonio Public Library.