



San Antonio Public Library celebrated Brook Hollow Branch Library's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a special anniversary event on January 20, 2024.

## San Antonio Public Library Director's Report

January 2024

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# DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

*The following is a summary of notable activities during the month of January 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 January 5, 2024.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended the San Antonio Public Library and the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio media event announcing the 12th Annual Holocaust Learn and Remember series on Monday, January 8, 2024 at the Central Library. The 2024 theme "Upstanders", focuses on individuals who recognized wrongs and took action to make them right. Participants in this formal announcement included Mayor Ron Nierenberg, State Senator José Menendez, Leslie Davis Met, Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio Director, Ramiro Salazar, Library Director and Howie Nestel.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar met with the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library leadership on January 11, 2024.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended the Bexar County and City of San Antonio Meeting to discuss the Interlocal Agreement for Library Services on January 17, 2024.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended the Local Government Hispanic Network Biennial Conference Meeting on January 17, 2024, in Mesa, Arizona.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended Carver Branch Library Bond Project Open House Meeting on January 23, 2024. District 2, San Antonio Public Library and Public Works Department held an Open House as an opportunity for community members to meet the Carver Bond Project Team, ask questions, and share their input to inform the design for the Carver Branch Library project.

# COMMUNICATIONS

The Brook Hollow 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Holocaust Learn and Remember, and and winter weather closures were the main subjects of media coverage and marketing initiatives for San Antonio Public Library in January. These stories garnered significant media attention. The Communications Team also prepared campaigns for the Corazon Collection and Black History Month to launch in February.

## Media Highlights

- January 1 - TPR aired a promotion of Memorial Branch Library's Red Carpet movie series.
- January - Multiple outlets reported on San Antonio Public Library's 12th Annual Holocaust Learn and Remember Series.
- January – Multiple outlets reported on the gift H-E-B presented to select SAPL branches at the beginning of the year.
- January 11 - 15 - Multiple outlets reported on warming centers in the City and included select libraries as locations.
- January 17 - KENS 5 and News 4 San Antonio Reported on the City's VITA tax assistance program.
- January 22 - KENS 5 published an online article on SAPL's top books of 2023.
- January 26 - TPR aired a clip on the retirement announcement of SAPL Director Ramiro S. Salazar.

## Social Media metrics overview for January 2024:

- SAPL's social media generated **246,907** impressions
- SAPL's social media following base grew by **1,345** new fans
- Content shared across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram contributed to users engaging with our posts **12,646** times.

## Social Media growth for January 2024:

- X: **1** followers
- Facebook: **75** followers
- Instagram: **1,269** followers

## YouTube statistics for January 2024:

- Subscribers: **11**
- Impressions: **26,131**
- Total Views: **2,211**
- Videos published: **0**

## Graphics

The Graphics Team created publicity materials for a variety of programs and events during this reporting period, including the Corazon Collection and Black History Month, as well as branch updates, social media and other promotions for branch events.

## **DIGITAL SERVICES**

On January 5, Digital Services Coordinator Adam Spana met with ITSD Business Relationship Manager Cynthia Ramirez to discuss recent feedback about performance issues with the Library's staff and public iMacs.

On January 9, Mr. Spana, Digital Library Services Supervisor Rolf Laun Digital Library Services Analyst Tricia Masterson, Digital Library Services Specialist Brian Douglass, and Digital Library Services Assistants Christina Hess and Leandra Flores attended a training session hosted by Bibliotheca on how to administer the Library's new RIFD devices through the LibraryConnect online portal. LibraryConnect allows Digital Services to monitor the health of the new self-checkout devices and security gates and to perform needed configuration changes.

On January 10, Mr. Spana met with Ms. Ramirez, Marketing Manager Scott Williams, and Library Services Administrator Adam Zaby to regroup on tactics necessary to expanding the use of digital signage throughout the Library system.

On January 17, Mr. Spana met with Digital Library Services Analyst Tricia Masterson, the ITSD Application Support team and the support lead from the vendor Pharos to kick off project planning for updating the Pharos print and computer management system.

On January 29, Mr. Spana attended a webinar from Springshare highlighting their new rules-based chatbot service, a planned improvement that the Digital Services department intends to deliver to the Library in 2024.

## **LATINO COLLECTION & RESOURCE CENTER**

On January 6, the LCRC hosted a linocuts workshop, presented by Mario Alvarado & Laura Delmis. Instructors guided a class of 15 students through the process of carving their own unique designs, to create an inked print.



The weekends of January 13, 20 and 27, the LCRC partnered with Gemini Ink to host a series of bilingual story telling workshops, presented by local poet and storyteller Eddie Vega. Attendees crafted their stories of choice during these first two sessions, where they refined their ideas and performance strategies. The final weekend the attendees presented their stories, which were recorded by Caesar Morales for future airing on Empower House's radio station.





On January 31, the American Institute of Architects sponsored a free, public lecture featuring Victor Legorreta, son of renowned architect Ricardo Legorreta and collaborator on San Antonio's Central Library. The presentation addressed the fundamental role of design as a key factor in sustainability. Legorreta presented to a full house at Central Library's auditorium.



## LITTLE READ WAGON

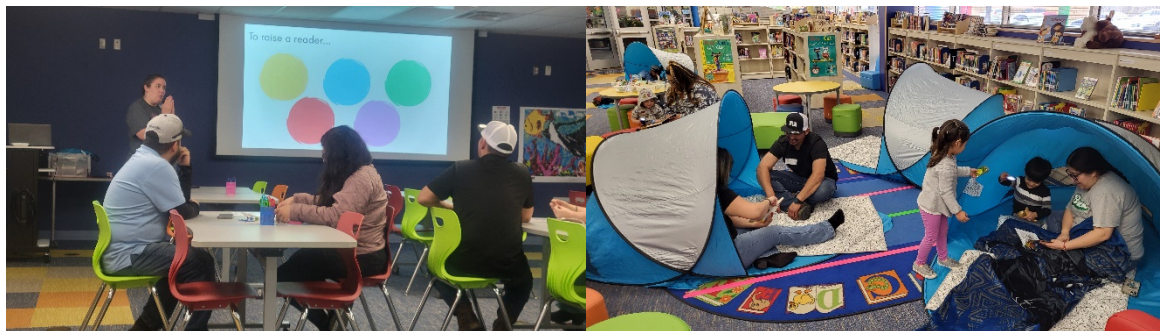
January proved to be a busy start to the new year for the Little Read Wagon (LRW) team. The new year brought new play opportunities for children and families. The team began offering Let's Play! at the Hamilton Community Center on Tuesday evenings. The LRW team also developed a soft play version of the Let's Play! event at the Berta Almaguer Dance Studio & Community Center on Wednesday mornings. Materials selected for this event were all soft so they would not damage the beautiful dance floor at the community center. Both play series started out small and intimate but have grown from week to week. One mom who attended the program at Berta thanked the team for providing a less structured children's program for her active son. Let's Play! was also offered at the Cortez Branch Library on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.



Megan Cruz, Library Services Specialist, presented follow-up visit programs to school-age parents in Harlandale Independent School District (ISD), Northeast ISD (NEISD) and San Antonio ISD (SAISD). During these programs, teen parents continued to learn about early literacy practices to use at home with their children. Teen parents made gel boards for their babies and young children.

Eva Banda, Library Services Specialist, presented early literacy workshops to teen parents of Southwest High School in Southwest ISD, Cooper Academy at Navarro in SAISD, and Legacy of Educational Excellence (LEE) High School in NEISD. During these workshops Ms. Banda presented a new Make-and-Take project. Teen parents printed their own photos to make personalized baby books for their children. The parents really loved this new project and enjoyed decorating the books. Ms. Banda also presented bilingual Story Time to the children at Navarro Childcare Center and Southwest ISD PCI.

Julia Lazarin and Melisa Hill, Library Services Specialists, presented several early literacy workshops to parents at Head Start and Pre-K locations throughout the city. At a couple of these workshops, Ms. Lazarin and Ms. Hill also offered reading tents so parents and children could spend some cozy time reading together.



## CHILDREN'S (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Regular children's activities resumed with the new year, including ongoing planning of activities leading up to the April 8 solar eclipse and finalizing special performer schedules for summer. Children's Librarians Randi Jones (Semmes), Jacqueline Gonzales (Johnston), and Madeline Nezat (Central) assisted with the judges' meetings for the Young Pegasus Poetry Competition.

On January 27, Children's Librarians Melissa Fulmer (Memorial) and Linda Childs (Cortez) represented the San Antonio Public Library at the Housing in San Antonio resource fair. The Dream Week event was held at Sam Houston High School, and the team provided deeply appreciated activities that drew interest from adults as well as children.



Sam Houston High School | 4635 E Houston St

# HOUSING IN SAN ANTONIO

A Free Community Event



**January 27, 2024**  
**10am to 2pm**

Connect with community members,  
friends and family while learning more  
about housing resources.



**DREAMWEEK**

**SAN ANTONIO**  
NEIGHBORHOOD &  
HOUSING SERVICES

**OPPORTUNITY**  
**HOME**

**SAN ANTONIO**  
HOUSING  
TRUST

**JEFFERSON**  
BANK

## 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 poetry, sewing projects, emojis, new music and video games, Godzilla movies, robotics, cold weather, 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 and providing supporting to one another through the “All the Feels” channel.

**Virtual Teen Content and Resources** – The 210teenlibrary Instagram workgroup, led by Matthew Loaiza and consisting of Ami Sarabia (Teen Services Librarian, Las Palmas), 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 with fun/informational daily celebrations (including National Spaghetti Day, National Daisy Day, and National Compliment Day), food demos (including Minecraft-inspired potatoes and fruit limeade), craft demos (such as how to make bows), and book displays (featuring Black History Month titles).

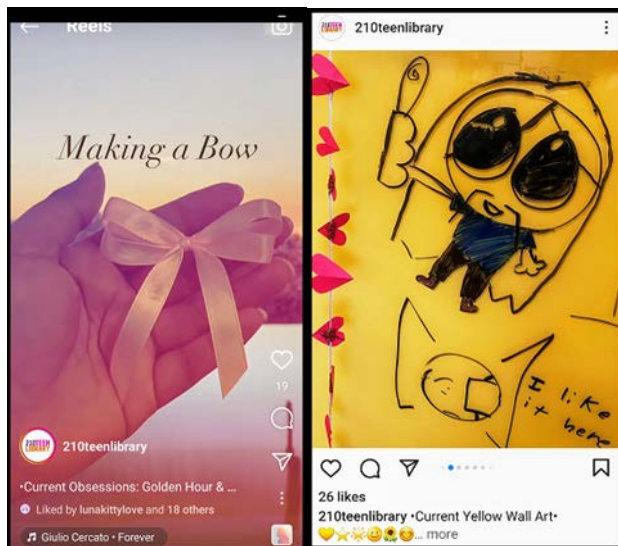
**Professional Development** – During the reporting period, Kathleen Fordyce (Manager, Teen Library @ Central), Rosalie Barrera (Teen Services Librarian I, Teen Library @ Central), and Matthew Loaiza served on an interview panel for the Teen Services Library Assistant (PT) position.

On January 13, Loaiza concluded his role as Interim Manager of Little Read Wagon. On January 16, Loaiza filmed an Instagram reel with Julia Martinez (Marketing Specialist, Communications) for the

@mysapl Instagram account following a popular social media meme; the reel has surpassed the record views and engagement milestones, with 5,425+ likes and 68.1k+ views.

The monthly Teen Services meeting was held in the Teen Library @ Central on January 17, and all the Teen Services workgroup leads gave presentations about their group's mission and vision statements. The workgroups (all led by Teen Services Librarian II's) are – Teen Services Professional Development (led by Cassie Garza, Bazan), Teen Volunteers (led by Daniella Toll, Collins Garden), Teen Summer (led by Grace Holt, Brook Hollow), Teen Pride (led by Shannan Prukop, Forest Hills), and Virtual Teen Services (led by Matthew Loaiza, Teen Library @ Central).

**Pictures below:** Teen volunteer Viviana practices making a bow in an Instagram reel; current teen art in the Teen Library @ Central



## ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

In January, the Library offered its 12<sup>th</sup> annual Holocaust Learn and Remember series in partnership with the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio.. The series began on January 8<sup>th</sup> with a kickoff press event held at Central Library featuring Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Mayor Ron Nirenberg, Senator Jose Menendez, and Jewish Federation President and CEO Nammie Ichilov. Between January 8 and January 18, the library hosted five programs at various library locations and a sixth program online. These programs featured presentations by Holocaust Memorial Museum Docents Liz Reichman and Robin Long, Texas A&M San Antonio professor Ed Westermann, and J. E. Wolfson of the Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission. Finally on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, the closing program for Holocaust Learn and Remember occurred on the campus of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. The closing program was a dramatized reading of the play *Undesirable Secrets*. This play, written by Rodolfo Alvarado has captured the story of World War II medic and prisoner of war Anthony Acevedo, who was also the first Mexican American to register as a Holocaust concentration camp survivor. The Library and Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio were honored to host the first public reading of this play and despite a rainy and cold Sunday afternoon, the Holzmman Auditorium was full of folks interested in learning about Mr. Anthony Acevedo.

**Learn at SAPL** received over 800 patron visits across six operational service centers. Learn staff hosted over 50 programs, around half concerning technology. Topics ranged from basic computer skills to Instagram, streaming services and personal device use. English as a Second Language programs continue to be in high-demand and well-attended.

Learn at SAPL staff racked up Encores from satisfied patrons noting their skills, sincerity, caring, kindness, helpfulness, support, inclusivity, enthusiasm and judgment-free attitude. COSA values of Teamwork and Professionalism were recognized and continue to be appreciated.

## OLDER ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Librarian Andy Crews from Texana presented two genealogy classes in January. The first, a beginning genealogy class at Collins Garden Library on January 20 for people new to researching family history. He went over resources available at the library and online for finding family history information. Mr. Crews also presented an online class January 23 titled, *Finding Family History in Divorce Records*, that demonstrated where to locate information on historical divorces and what family history information might be contained within the records.

Adult Services Librarian Vicky Villalobos and Teen Services Librarian Daniela Moreno held McCreless' weekly Coffee, Crosswords & Chisme program for Older Adults. On Wednesday mornings, patrons enjoy a cup of coffee while they work on crosswords, Sudoku, and word finds as they discuss the latest celebrity "chisme".

Monty Holcomb, Adult Services Librarian at Westfall, did several more Tai Chi programs this month in which he served as a facilitator for patrons wanting to practice Tai Chi in a relaxed setting. The activities provided in his program focus on Tai Chi that is done at an easy level, and so it is ideal for older adults.

# CENTRAL LIBRARY

## CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin participated in a panel presentation for San Antonio educators as part of Texas Holocaust Remembrance Week produced by the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio. The topic of the panel was integrating holocaust education into the K-12 curriculum. Ms. Seglin's presentation focused on upstanders and empathy and featured an extensive recommended book list from the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) collection. Her presentation was very well received and led to greater connections with the San Antonio teaching community.

Librarian Ashley Palacios created popular Tween Time programs for her devoted group of regulars. In January the tween group created clay sculptures, made giant drawings on butcher paper on the floor, dreamt big to create vision boards and engaged in sensory experiences with a tent and light projector as well as sand trays they manipulated with paint brushes. The highlight of the month was the special movie showing, complete with popcorn and other snacks!

Librarian Madeline Nezat continued to develop her weekly Sensory Friendly Playtime Program. She incorporated new types of slimes, doughs, and designed different sensory bins that focused on STEAM education, fine motor skills, and immersive, sensory experiences. In Ms. Nezat's program, children found joy in the community bonds shared with other regularly attending patrons, the curated environment of encouraged chaos and play, and the toys that were secretly making them smarter. Ms. Nezat continued to make all materials for the program in-house, including gelatin, playdough, fluffy slime, and the most popular sensory bin of all: ice.



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. During the month of January, the play options after Story Time featured sand and construction trucks, frozen & thaw sea creatures, playdough, water with foam blocks and a muddy sensory bin featuring farm animals.





Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernandez cohosted the Escape the Earth podcast with Tim Johnson (Igo) Elissa Vura (Brook Hollow), and JD Elizondo (Information Services @ Central). The Escape the Earth crew explored the world that coined the term Metaverse in Neal Stephenson's, *Snow Crash*.

Children's Library staff continued to develop outreach connections with area childcare centers and schools. Ms. Palacios visited Central Christian Day School, where she presented Story Times to children and brought books for the teachers to use in class. Ms. Seglin shared stories and songs with two classes at Madison Square Child Development Center and delivered library books in support of their curriculum. Manager Kate Simpson delivered books 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) host the "Random Fandom" club Thursdays on Discord, in which teens engage in discussions about fandoms that interest them and stream their favorite anime or pop culture shows.

Kathleen is supervising a TWU School of Library and Information Studies Practicum student, Sarah Phillips, who began working in the Teen Library in January.

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

Rosalie Barrera (Librarian I) joins Shannan Prukop (Teen 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. During the reporting period, Rosalie led tours of the Central Library and in-depth Teen Library tours for visiting Mexican American Studies students from Marshall High School. It was the first visit to the Central Library for many of the students. They were excited to learn more about teen volunteer opportunities and Virtual Teen Services while they explored the Teen Library.



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 the Teen Library highlight general teen interest and celebrations, such as celebrating winter, trying a recipe from a book found on the shelf at the Library, learning new cooking techniques, and satisfying curiosities. Suggesting, participating, and leading – these activities allow teens the chance to pick up a new skill, or show their peers tips and tricks. By request, teens made cinnamon rolls. Venturing away from the standard roll shape, teens were encouraged to create shapes and characters. The results were adorable and imaginative. Teens made quick and easy recipes like quesadillas, nachos, cocoa, and garlic bread roll ups. After days of perusing *Minecraft: Gather, Cook, Eat! An Official Cookbook* (641.5 THEOSARIS), teen volunteers Angelina and Melody decided on attempting Baked Potato Bites using red potatoes. Crafts continue to be a popular after-school craft activity. Teens used perler beads, canvases and paints, pony beads, rainbow loom, and sewing machines to get creative. Teens also had a slime-making session. Teen volunteers filmed and assisted in short demos for Instagram, including Viviana making coquette-core style ribbon bows, and Erick assisting in editing a video featuring the garlic bread roll-ups. Pictures and videos from program times can be found on the @210teenlibrary Instagram page.

**Pictures below** – teens at a Teen Tuesday activity—making a recipe from the Minecraft cookbook; teen holding an item they requested 3D printed in the Teen Library; teens at a Teen Tuesday activity



## INFORMATION SERVICES

Cynthia de Leon and Eliza Perez created a powerful book display to celebrate Dream Week and Martin Luther King Jr's birthday. The display focused on Civil Rights leaders and Human Rights.



On January 19, Pannaga Prasad and Patricia Perez organized a virtual Chair Yoga program over the Library Zoom platform. It was presented by Ashley Ludwick, a professional Yoga Instructor from Idoyogasa organization. The instructor taught chair-assisted yoga, including how to stand with chair support and safely stretch, connect within and find inner peace.

On January 20, SAPL Zine Committee members Jordan Torres (Central Information Services) and Brianna Glass (Central Learn) conducted a Johnston zine program with Johnston Librarian Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard. During the program, staff showed patrons how to make mini zines and discussed how to incorporate their personal/collective stories into the self-publishing format. To further inspire interest and intrigue, staff also brought the Zine Committee's Zine Pop-Up Kit, which contains a collection of zines from local San Antonio zine creators. All attending patrons received a limited press staff-created six-page zine called *Sharing Stories Thru Zines*.



On January 26, the San Antonio Food Bank (SAFB) was invited by Jordan Torres to assist patrons with SNAP applications and other food-related programs/services. During their visit, the SAFB representative helped patrons apply for benefits and aided a patron with food resources. Information Services looks forward to continuing this monthly service with hopes of expanding into other food assistance programs.

On January 30, Christina Montero put together a display for the program Timeless Design: The Base of Sustainable Architecture, which was presented by Victor Legorreta, the son of the architect of the San Antonio Public Library Ricardo Legorreta. Christina's display featured books about Ricardo Legorreta, the family's architecture firm and other renowned Mexican architects and firms.





# LEARN AT CENTRAL

Training Officer Daniel González and Learn Library Assistant Brianna Glass taught five Creative Learning and Computers classes for the month of January 2024, which takes place Wednesdays at 11 am. One quote from a patron who attended the class was "I liked how she teaches and the ease of explaining the computers and creativity." Brianna assisted Information Services Library Assistant Jordan Torres with his program "Sharing Stories Through Zines" at Johnston Library. There were 15 participants who had a great time creating art, sharing uplifting stories, and learning how to make zines. Brianna continues to invest time and her creative skills to create a precursor zine that introduces older bilingual adults to computers as part of her Digital Fellowship. She has started sketching ideas and is excited to hear feedback from her colleagues and San Antonio community members.

Training Officers Denise Cadena and Daniel González visited Kenwood Community Center and Guadalupe Community Center to share information about Learn at Central.

In the month of December Learn hosted four social media classes covering topics such as YouTube, LinkedIn and ChatGPT during Tech Time which is Fridays at 10 am.

On January 18, Learn Library Assistant Francisco and Training Officer Shauna gave a presentation to Learn staff on Understanding the Federal Resume on USAJobs so they could better serve patrons at their locations.

As the Librarian on the Learn at Central team, Angelina Cortes toggles between reference and digital literacy trainer on a daily basis. This month, Angelina obtained over 20 hours of professional development learning Socratic Methods in digital equity through the organization Digital Promise, as well as learning data science skills in artificial intelligence and constant self-training and assessment of Google Workspace. Her skills are well utilized in patron interactions as she often sits one-on-one with patrons teaching them file navigation in Gmail and Google Drive. Her guide on Digital Equity is available for all and can be found on the San Antonio Public Library's website page under LibGuides.

Angelina obtained over 12 starter decks of Magic: The Gathering cards from MagiKids organization in preparation of a potential program for adults.

# TEXANA/ GENEALOGY

This month new Texana librarian Lucia Agado facilitated a program in the Latino Collection and Resource Center for *The Holocaust: Learn and Remember* series on January 17. Ms. Agado hosted Robin Long of the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio whose presentation *Upstanders: Stories of the Righteous Among Nations* highlighted three stories of people who acted selflessly and helped rescue Jews during the Holocaust. Ms. Agado helped setup the space, introduced the program speaker and answered questions about the library's collection of resources available for further reading on the topic.

Librarian Andy Crews presented two genealogy classes in January. The first, a beginning genealogy class at Collins Garden Library on January 20 for people new to researching family history. He went over resources available at the library and online for finding family history information. Mr. Crews also presented an online class January 23 titled, *Finding Family History in Divorce Records*, that demonstrated where to locate information on historical divorces and what family history information might be contained within the records.

On January 26 Special Collections Manager Heather Ferguson and Library Assistant Kaylee Avila, together with Latino Collection and Resource Center Program Manager Sarah De La Rosa, met with Trinity University faculty members Kyle Gillette, Ph.D. and Angela Wherritt to discuss and explore various avenues of potential partnership between Trinity University and SAPL.



On January 27, Librarians Sylvia Reyna and Deborah Countess led the genealogy craft program, *Crafty Corazon Genealogy Keepsake*. Ms. Countess talked about the family history resources to be had within the Texana/Genealogy room as well as the databases available throughout the system. Ms. Reyna showed examples of crafts that could easily be done using copies of family photos and embellishing these craft items with copies of other family documents like marriage licenses or draft cards. She also showed how house-hold materials like bottles, cans and other found objects can be used for this craft that celebrates family members or any loved one.

Ms. Reyna facilitated a literary discussion at the *Lunch, Learn, y Libros* program held at the Commander's House Adult and Senior Center on January 31. During this informal discussion, folks were encouraged to share with the group what they were currently reading or a favorite book, magazine article, e-book or any other expression of the "written word."



# BRANCH LOCATIONS

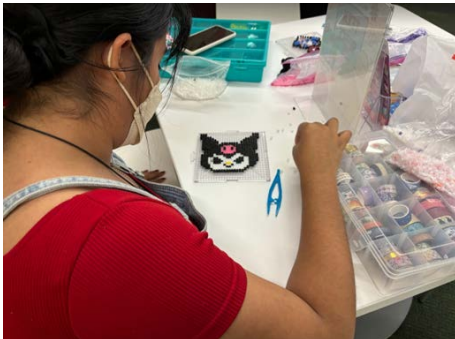
## BAZAN

Children's Librarian Hope Sonnen attended Ogden Elementary's STEAM Night program on January 24, where she spoke with parents and students about library programs and resources. Attendees were enthusiastic to learn about the exciting things happening at the library and were happy to receive free SAPL branded items.

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

Assistant Manager and Teen librarian Cassie Garza hosted the BTS Craft Club at Bazan library. The group was excited to learn that there were BTS songs on the new Just Dance Nintendo Switch game and decided to give it a try. While some of the regulars danced to BTS tunes, other members enjoyed cooking ramen and preparing sushi for everyone to enjoy.

Ms. Garza continued to facilitate the 210 Teen Library Discord Gaming club. Teens have been streaming several games they discovered on Steam. One teen has been sharing their progress on a game called Duskers.



Ms. Garza assisted with hosting *Teen Time* at Bazan library. Teens gathered at Bazan on two Saturday afternoons to hang out. During one session, several teens crafted perler bead magnets and were able to make some wonderful creations. Another Saturday afternoon was dedicated to playing retro video games like Mario Kart on Super Nintendo.

Bazan Library began hosting the VITA free tax preparation service in January. A kickoff event/press conference took place on January 27, during which VITA service partners praised the program's benefits to residents. They also took the opportunity to promote "Earned Income Tax Credit Day." Representing the Library, Marketing Manager Scott Williams highlighted the library's importance in providing welcoming spaces for the community to gather and connect.

The Ink Slayers Writers Group met several times in January, welcoming new members, some of whom mentioned finding the group from the library events calendar. Attendees enjoyed the loose structure of the group which allowed writers the flexibility to pursue their interests, whether brainstorming a plot, discussing a scene they had written, or receiving critiques of their work.

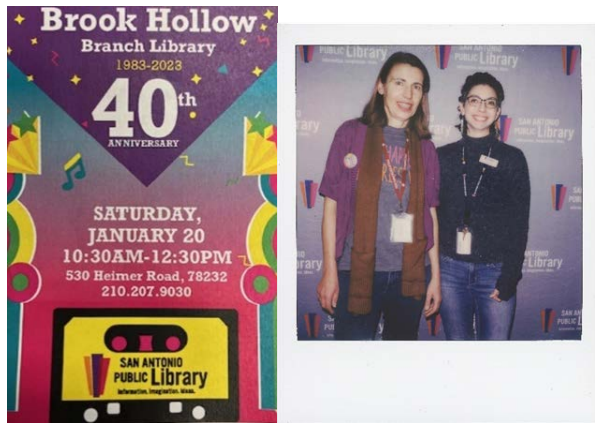
The Bad Girls Romance Book Club, facilitated by Library Assistant Enedina Prater, kicked off their January meeting with a new book discussion idea called Bring Your Own (romance themed) Book to discuss or *BYOB*. The group enjoyed learning about each other's taste in romance novels which spanned a variety of tropes and spice levels. They've planned to dedicate bi-monthly meetings to BYOBs in 2024.



The 210 Swifties fan group, dedicated to all things Taylor Swift, gathered to indulge their creative abilities by making vision boards, inspired by what else but the singer's lyrics, quotes, and images. The group also took time to sing, dance and enjoy snacks. The program provided a family-friendly, fun-filled atmosphere that spread great vibes and energy to everyone involved.

## BROOK HOLLOW





### Brook Hollow Library Team blinged out for BHL's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The Brook Hollow Library (BHL) Team celebrated the library's 40 years, 1983-2023, of service to the Brook Hollow community Saturday, January 20, 2024. Assistant Library Director Kathy Donellan kicked off the celebration with complementary words thanking the library community and BHL staff. Donellan mc'd the program introducing COSA Councilman John Courage; COSA Assistant City Manager David McCary and SAPL Board Member Marcie Ince who gave glowing remarks about the library and expressed their appreciation. Friends of BHL President Pat Bjornson, President of the San Pedro Hills Women's Club (SPHWC) Mauren Lancaster and BHL's first manager Beverly Jackson were in attendance. The SPHWC was instrumental in advocating the city to build BHL in 1983. Top musical hits from 1983 filled the library following the speaking ceremony as nearly 1,000 guests shared free-family-friendly, 1980s-themed activities including Rubrik's Cube making, playing board games, button making and posing in the digital photo booth.

BHL Manager Jeannette Davies, Assistant Manager/Teen Librarian Grace Holt & the entire BHL Team successfully contributed to planning and executing BHL's celebration. A special thank you to SAPL Facilities & Communications Departments for rising to the occasion and assuring the BHL Team was fully supported. Kudos to Rose Navarro and Scott Williams. Davies continues to record Libraries Transform Lives podcasts for the Texas Library Association (TLA) as chairperson of the association public relations committee.

In January, BHL welcomed new Children's Librarian Catherine Robbins who hails from the Fresno, California area and honed her skills as a children's librarian at the Pasadena Public Library in Houston, Texas. Robbins earned her MLIS at San Jose State University and has experience working in public and school libraries. "I am very excited to be in San Antonio working in the Brook Hollow community," Robbins said.

Adult Services Librarian Marco De Leon coordinated BHL's January book clubs including, The Mystery Book Club 1/4/24 with 11 attendees who read *Exiles* by Jane Harper; Tuesday Evening Book Club 1/9/24 with eight attendees who read *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir; La Tertulia Book Club via Zoom with 13 readers who read *El Viento Conoce Mi Nombre* by Isabel Allende and the Walker Ranch Book Club at Walker Ranch Senior Center 1/17/24 with 24 attendees who read *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano.



In January, the Teen Gaming program @ Brook Hollow Library, a weekly program for teens ages 13-18 who are interested in all aspects of tabletop and video gaming, has seen increasing and repeat attendance. The program, facilitated by Library Assistant Elissa Vura, offers teens an opportunity for positive social interaction with peers and exploration of interests and hobbies. The most popular game in January was Super Fight, a card game which engages teens' imagination and persuasion skills as they argue which of their fictional superheroes would win.

BHL LA 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 January episode, featuring Neal Stephenson's *Snow Crash*, received 89 views, and counting. The Escape the Earth podcast is available on Soundcloud under the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) Podcast TunedIn Channel.

BHL Teen Librarian Grace Holt facilitated Teen Time on Tuesday evenings throughout January, where teens engaged in activities they chose like sculpting with armature wire, perler beads, and button making. BHL Teen volunteers designed buttons and helped prep for BHL's weekly Teen Time, created new book displays including a Mythology and a Science Fiction book display. BHL LA Vura continues hosting Teen Gaming Club on Thursdays, where teens engage with board games and videogames. The BHL Teen Area continues to make space available for teens to express themselves. Holt met with local Girl Scout Troop 66 January 28th to resume collaboration on a Free Little Library project. Holt also worked with the SAPL Teen Summer Workgroup as the 2024 Teen Summer Art Contest went live. Additionally, Holt worked with Branch Manager, Jeannette Davies, and the SAPL Communications team on Brook Hollow Library's 40th Anniversary Event where the button making activity was a huge hit.

## CARVER

On Saturday, January 20, Carver Branch welcomed AMPED Inc., which met with the public to discuss ways they could better serve girls and their families. AMPED is a group that aims to uplift the ambitions of school-age females and their mothers, offering academic enrichment, mentoring, career exploration and parent advocacy. The group was established in 2020 by educators to serve the needs of District 2 residents.



Caption: AMPED Inc. girls show off their crafts



Caption: Teacher, left, offers a craft exercise to AMPED Inc. participants

On Friday, January 26, HEB surprised Carver Staff with a bouquet of flowers and festive balloons. To show appreciation, Branch Manager DL Grant put the check on display, announcing HEB's generosity and sending a message to Carver visitors that soon the library would be using the gift to enhance public-facing programs. It was a difficult secret to keep after the visit was announced to managers prior to the branch visits, but worth the effort when the staff was caught off guard when the smiling entourage strode in, gifts in hand.





Teen Librarian, Michael Harle, continued his efforts to build teen community at the library: he continued his monthly visits to Sam Houston High School's library for their lunch hours; he encouraged regular teen patrons to participate in Carver's Bond Project Community Night to ensure teen voices were included in feedback; he met with regular teen patron, Paula Rios, to provide more details on volunteer work in the hopes that she will join the team; and he continued his work with Library Aide, Laurabelle Alvarez, to clean and sort the youth resources so that, when teen programming begins, the teens will be able to self-select from what is available.

Children's Librarian Ralph Jarzombek continued to do Story Time with the four separate pre-Kindergarten classes at Tynan ECEC on January 17th, which included reading from a book about Martin Luther King. The book mentioned that the songs "We Shall Overcome" and "Woke Up This Morning with My Mind Stayed on Freedom" were sung during the Martin Luther King March, and Mr. Jarzombek sang those songs with the children while playing his guitar.

Mr. Jarzombek had been making phone calls and sending email messages the past few months to establish new outreach opportunities, and was finally able to establish a new outreach opportunity first mentioned in the September Director's Report by doing his first Story Time at St. Phillips CDC on January 31st.

Building on the Literacy Night event that Mr. Jarzombek attended at Cameron Elementary School on December 7th, he has also set up a tentative date to do his first Story Time at Cameron Elementary School on February 14th.

A person from Stewart Democracy Prep reached out to Mr. Jarzombek and he accepted an invitation to attend a Literacy Night event on January 31st, where he invited the students to come to the library and talked to the parents about the services offered at the library and about the renovation/expansion that will be happening at the library for the next few years.

Mr. Jarzombek is a member of the Professional Learning work group, and he has been talking with Cheryl Penick, the leader of the group and Children's Librarian at Thousand Oaks Library, about doing a session with the children's librarians to teach them how to play the ukulele. He has composed a "Hello/Goodbye Song" that can easily be played on ukulele and sung with the children during Story Time. It is hoped that the children's librarians will then feel comfortable enough to want to learn songs that require learning additional chords so that they will be able to play the ukulele while singing these songs during Story

Time. He has a lesson planned where he would teach the children's librarians the basics of how to play the ukulele – tuning, strumming, and learning how to play the two chords required for playing the "Hello/Goodbye Song".

## CODY

The new year at Cody saw the start of several new Children's programs, offered by Children's Librarian Cari Raley. Participants in ABC Club (ages 2-4) celebrate different letters each week through music, stations of crafts and learning games, and reading books together. Several families learned more about each other's culture and connected with new languages each week.

Story Time Club highlighted one book each week. The attendees get to practice their reading comprehension as a group as they identify the setting, main characters, problem and solution for each book. During stations, kids get a chance to design bracelets, necklaces and all kinds of wearable fashion to retell the story at home later. One male participant discovered how much he loved the storytelling hats of each book and created a display for it all in his room. The family shared that from now on his week outfits coordinate with his hat of the week.

Homeschool programs are called the Nature Club and World Makers. Both clubs focused on topography in January and learned what types of geology are in different parts of the world.

Teens have enjoyed crafting, creating, snacking, and making friends in after school hangouts, hosted by Teen Librarian Ashley Frost. The high school aged group that meets on Monday evenings has been steadily growing, enjoying more involved crafts and projects.

Cody staff members Luanne Bloom and Angela Olivarez continue to prepare Wellness sessions for staff on a regular basis. In January, the topic was ways to get healthier without trying very hard, focusing on NEAT or non-exercise activity thermogenesis (essentially all the calories that a person burns through their daily activity excluding purposeful physical activity). Staff also enjoyed a rousing game of Blank Slate with Library Aide Michael Cabeza coming out the victor.

## COLLINS GARDEN

Adult Librarian Rosa Villa hosted the Adult Coloring Club every Sunday, where patrons relax and color at their own pace. Ms. Villa held a Valentine Glitter Votives craft on January 16 to prepare for Valentine's Day. Patrons were able to create votives that they could give as gifts for their loved ones.

On January 17, Ms. Villa hosted the first Collins Garden Book Club for the new year, where they discussed F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel *The Great Gatsby*.

On January 14, Ms. Villa hosted a screening of the movie *Oppenheimer* for patrons to start the Movie Time program for the new year. For January, she mounted the Collection Development books for New Year New Idea theme and the Best Book for 2023 display.

On January 20, Librarian Andy Crews from Texana held a Beginning Genealogy class at Collins Garden. Mr. Crews gave patrons tips and resources to help them with researching their family history. This class was very successful, and many were motivated to start their search.

Collins Garden teens welcomed a new volunteer, who helped with planning Teen Club events, and budgeting the events that they wished to host during the next month. With guidance, the teens picked the items they would like to see for future teens events, including a sticker maker and decorative light for the Teen Area. One teen was inspired to create new designs for button making. Teens continued to create art in the Teen space at Collins Garden, and often use the space as a social area, to reconnect with friends over a board game after school.

Ms. Toll continues to assist with the weekly Teen Time club on the 210teenlibrary Discord server, and supervising the off-site teen volunteers, who created posts for the 210teenlibrary Instagram channel.



On January 24th Children's, Librarian Gina Brudi attended the Pre-K Early Literacy Meeting with parents at Collins Garden Elementary where she spoke to adults about library services for young children and their caregivers. Ms. Brudi continues her monthly Story Time visits to Little Wonderland, Knox Early Education Center, and the Preschool classrooms at Collins Garden Elementary. In January Ms. Brudi hosted three Lego Clubs, four Preschool Story Times and two Let's Create: Art Time and Let's Build: Blocks and More. She also mounted a Best Children's Books of 2023 display and in celebration of National Bird Day children decorated birds and taped them on the white board in the children's area.





## CORTEZ

In the month of January Cortez Library kicked off the pilot program thought up by Cortez staff and made possible by San Antonio Public Library Communications efforts of the 'Book-a-Month' stamp card. Patrons collect a card with a monthly checkout challenge. January's goal was to try a new author. When patrons check out a material meeting the challenge, they get a stamp. At the end of the year, they will be able to trade their card for a prize donated by the Friends of Cortez. Manager Angela Morrow along with Children's Librarian Linda Childs continued to host the popular Name that Tune program on Monday nights. Staff create themed lists of songs, play the first ten seconds of each, and patrons compete to name the songs.

Adult Services Librarian Melissa Carroll hosted the January meeting of the Cortez "Nothing Fancy" Book Club. Several new patrons were in attendance along with returning members. The group ambitiously picked two big books to read this month: *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens and *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, a modern retelling of David Copperfield. The book club agreed that they loved and grew attached to both characters, a credit to both authors' enormous talents. Adult's Programming welcomed Conservation Coordinator Corina & Erin from Mitchell Lake Audubon Center for a presentation on "Birds and Plants of Mitchell Lake Audubon Center". Patrons learned many new things including what native plants attract hummingbirds and other birds to our yards. Ale Ochoa from Metro Health's Diabetes Prevention & Control Group presented three Diabetes Prevention workshops (Prevent T2) for patrons with prediabetes or another chronic disease. Ms. Ochoa's regular group of patrons continue to show up for weekly classes to improve their health outlooks. Cortez Library began hosting a weekly crochet club based on the popularity of crocheting in the community. Attendance has been steadily rising each week. Staff and patrons have been busy crocheting donations for the Cortez "Wall of Warmth". These branch displays provide a location for donated clothing items that are intended to help vulnerable members of our community. Items handmade at Cortez include crocheted hats, ear warmers, and gloves.

Library Assistant Jo Ann Paredes continues to host her decade-long weekly craft class, 'Getting Crafty'. 'Getting Crafty' consisted of twenty-five attendees for four classes. The craft projects were a plastic bag dispenser, free choice craft day, candle making, and DIY upcycled makeup organizer. Ms. Paredes also hosted 'Crafty Teatime' which takes place once a month on Saturdays. It was a great success with six patrons attending. Various tea flavors were brought in and shared amongst each other while getting to craft projects which the patron chose themselves.

January was a fun month for Cortez kids! New families discovered 'Story Time with Ms. Linda' and began joining the fun on Thursday mornings. Lego Time on Wednesdays sometimes blended into other days of the week, with children coming in between "official" Lego events to work more on their creations. Meanwhile, Tween Time switched days to better accommodate everyone's schedule and hopefully allow more tweens to join in the activities. Children's Librarian Childs joined fellow Children's Librarian Fulmer

at the Housing in San Antonio Resource Fair. They brought activities for kids and their grownups, like coloring and drawing, and books about homes that families could read together. By far the biggest hit of the outreach, though, were the building sticks that the children and their grownups used to build a giant tower. It was almost six feet high, three feet wide, and another six feet long!

# ENCINO

## Children

Encino kicked off the new year with Baby Time and Story Times starting up right away! It was fun to have new visitors, some of which have become regulars in the past few weeks. Though we've had lots of switching around rooms due to meeting room availability, the parents and kids continue to adjust and have fun no matter where we land.

We're continuing to rotate Thursday programs between LEGOs, art, and sensory play. LEGOs program is going strong with kids eager to share their creations and explain their methods and inspirations for each build. For art this month we made rainbow tambourines with leftover paper plates, ribbon, bells and markers. This was a great project for kids to work on fine motor skills as they tried to pull the ribbon through the bells and punched holes. It was fun to see the older kids add their own creative flair, such as one that made each rainbow color into a representation of a different part of herself (i.e., emotions, qualities, interests). For sensory play this month we added in a calming tent (thanks to the wonderful Ann Laird!) with books and a wave light projector, it was really cute to see them go in and read with their families. We also added a shadow puppet area for kids to act out their own stories, which was a big hit!

Tween time was a fun experiment in creating marbled paper with shaving cream and food coloring. This was a lot of fun for kids to explore colors and learn different techniques to make different patterns in the paper. All in all it was a fun month and we're looking forward to more to come in February!

## Teens

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.

Examples of the teen led programming include: Italian Carnevale tradition presentation, a Connect 4 tournament, karaoke, temporary hand tattoos, card game called Monkey Monkey, and the always favorite, hang out and talk about whatever they want.

## Adults

In January, Adult services librarian Ann Laird resumed her visits to Franklin Park Assisted Living facility. Franklin Park has asked for a different author presentation each month. In January the featured author was Clive Cussler. Ann shared information about his life and works, brought books and books on CD to share, and screened a couple of short interviews with Mr. Cussler.

Adults are also still loving crafting at Encino! An alcohol ink bowls and mugs program was brought back for an encore presentation on January 8, due to patron requests. On January 29 Encino hosted a new format of craft program: Open Studio. At January's Open Studio program, adults were able to create whatever they could imagine from polymer clay. At future open studios adults will have the opportunity to make beaded bracelets, shrinky dink keychains and jewelry, and more!



Encino also hosted an all-ages Sunday Funday program on January 14 where patrons got to make mini-sand art bottles. The “sand” was actually salt that patrons colored with sidewalk chalk, then funneled into tiny bottles, making colorful layers.

## FOREST HILLS

Forest Hills hosted a weekly program in collaboration with Metro Health called Viva Health, focused on teaching attendees about improving their health through nutrition and exercise. The program started in January and continued into February.

Children’s librarian Ana Menchaca was happy to visit PCI Head Start, reading stories and singing songs to four classrooms. She also checked out books for the classes and passed out stickers that the children were thrilled to receive.

Ms. Menchaca started offering branch programming the first week of January, which includes Story Time, Babytime, Kids Time, Lego Time, and bilingual Story Time through May 2024. In order to boost the numbers of children at Kids Time, Ms. Menchaca asked the marketing department to make an outdoor sign.

Ms. Menchaca wrote a blog entry for the children’s page covering the graphic novel Clyde by Jim Benton, which she highly recommends for early readers. Getting ready for summer Ms. Menchaca has started to compile a themed book list around folktales. Keeping the diversity of San Antonio in mind, Ms. Menchaca is trying to ensure her list is diverse and has books for different age levels.

Teen librarian Shannan Prukop continued hosting weekly Teen Time, encouraging teens to build organizational and teamwork skills by creating a system for playing Super Smash Bros together on the Nintendo Switch in a way that worked for everyone. Mx. Prukop also continued leading the weekly Dungeons and Dragons club on the 210teenlibrary Discord server, during which they help teens build confidence in speaking improvisationally and shared storytelling through the actions of the game.

Library Assistant Shy Axelrod continued the Bring Your Own Book Club and Gaymer Night, letting Scrabble Club take a break for now. The January theme for Bring Your Own Book Club was books highlighting a minority experience in the U.S.

## GREAT NORTHWEST

In January Great Northwest welcomed a new Children’s Librarian, Crystal Carter. On Tuesday January 30, Great Northwest introduced their new children’s programming schedule beginning with a successful school age Story Time and craft.

In January Great Northwest Teen Librarian Lisa Puchot facilitated Teen Time on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Traditionally Teen Time is planned and implemented by teen volunteers and this month they planned some new events which included a Vision Board craft idea for 2024, cooking tutorials, a monthly Bored Game Club, and a Teen sewing club called Sew What? At the first sewing project teens could choose between making a Zombie duck, Zombie dog, or Fish toy for their cat. The options were limitless with a needle and thread as they taught each other how to sew. During Bored Game Club teens

could pick and choose between table-top games, card games, and freestyle games they made up themselves.



On January 13, Jenn Tristan hosted the third annual vision board program at Great Northwest. Attendees used magazine images and words, stickers, and other crafty ephemera to create a board to reflect their goals and intentions for the year ahead.

On January 22, Great Northwest Library held the first meeting of Hooked on Stories, a crochet club that meets every week to work on individual crochet projects while listening to audiobooks. The group was open to teens, adults, and older adults. The group met again on January 29 to discuss individual projects and opened up to all ages to include beginners learning to crochet.

On January 20 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 Great Northwest Potpourri Book Club met on January 20. The book club meets once a month to discuss a book from a different genre each month.

The Video Gaming Club meets every Saturday afternoon and is for all ages. Participants meet up to play a variety of video games every month at the library.

# GUERRA

January 16 marked the beginning of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program at the Guerra Library. This program provides free income tax return preparation to eligible taxpayers.

Branch Manager Arlene Richardson joined the Guerra team on January 23.

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson, recorded *La vaca que subió al árbol* (*The cow who climbed a tree*) by Gemma Merino for Dial-a-Story in Spanish on January 5. He recorded another book, *El globo aventurero* (*The noon balloon*) by Margaret Wise Brown on January 16. He facilitated a Spanish conversational class on January 22 for intermediate speakers. They discussed courtesy terms and engaged in role playing. They met again on January 29 and learned the song "Buenos días, Señor Sol" ("Good morning, Mister Sun"). On January 25, he moderated a book discussion group: Club de Lectura, both face-to-face and by Zoom. They discussed *Verity: La sombra de un engaño* (*Verity*) by Hoover, Colleen.

Children's Services Librarian, Linda Lopez, continued to host weekly ToddlerTime and Lego Club programs. Both programs were well attended and continue to have consistent participation. On January 18, her outreach efforts took her to John Glenn Elementary School's Pre-K Roundup. There she set up an information table and shared information about the importance of early literacy, services offered by the San Antonio Public Library and all the wonderful programming that families and friends can attend. Ms. Lopez is preparing to add two new programs to her programming lineup at the branch – Tween Time and Saturday Arts and Crafts.

# IGO

Friday, January 12, 2024, Adult Services Librarian Gamini Haluwana arranged a program as a part of Holocaust Learn & Remember month events. This program series was organized by Adult Services Librarian, Brooke Mjolsness and Adult Services coordinator Morgan Yoshimura.

The presentation aimed to address the reluctance in applying the "upstander" label to Jews in the context of the Holocaust. Hosted as part of "The Holocaust: Learn and Remember" series, the event was designed to provoke thoughtful consideration of the narratives surrounding Holocaust education and remembrance.

Dr. J.E. Wolfson, a renowned scholar in Holocaust studies, delivered the presentation. Dr. Wolfson offered insights into the historical dynamics that have shaped the narratives of Holocaust heroism and resistance.

The event targeted adults and older adults interested in Holocaust history, memory, and the complexities of historical narratives.

Dr. Wolfson's presentation delved into the analysis presented by author Dara Horn in *The Atlantic* in April 2023. Horn highlighted the prevalent trend in Holocaust education, where individuals labeled as "upstanders" are typically non-Jews, while the actions of Jewish individuals in resisting the Holocaust are often overlooked.

Dr. Wolfson explored the reasons behind this phenomenon, questioning the historical tunnel vision that prioritizes narratives of non-Jewish rescuers over Jewish resistance fighters. He emphasized the

importance of acknowledging Jewish resistance as a vital component of Holocaust history, challenging preconceived notions of heroism and martyrdom.

The presentation offered compelling case studies of Jewish individuals who actively resisted the Nazi regime, showcasing their courage, sacrifices, and contributions to the broader narrative of Holocaust resistance. This presentation provided attendees with a thought-provoking examination of Holocaust education and remembrance. 22 people attended.



Igo Crafters enjoyed their bi-monthly meet up on January 27th creating an easy no-sew Felt Wreath Pillow for some beautiful seasonal decor. This sweet subtle craft decoration was so easy to create and very low cost. Those who participated simply cut out their felt leaves (choosing their own color combinations), hot glued them into a wreath shape then added a few pearls for that extra special touch and VOILA! Instant Craft-ification! This program was arranged by Library Assistant, Cata Sifuentes.





## JOHNSTON

Johnston hosted the mobile market, “Mercado por tu Corazon”, on January 9 as part of the American Heart Association’s partnership with the library to provide the opportunity to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables to residents. On January 26, Johnston hosted the event Free Legal Advice for Low-Income Veterans by San Antonio Legal Services Association



Assistant Manager Cris Yamada conducted a Special Adult Craft Club on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, patrons enjoyed making vision boards to help them with their goals for the new year. Ms. Yamada also coordinated with Jordan Torres and Brianna Glass from Central to offer a class on Zines. The class was offered during the Adult Craft Club on January 20th. Patrons enjoyed making zines and meeting staff from other locations.



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 *All We Need Is Love and a Really Soft Pillow!* by Peter R Reynolds and his son Henry Rocket Reynolds and *A Parade of Elephants* by Kevin Henkes. 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: a teddy bear with a heart, a heart with limbs, and Clifford the Big Red Dog. 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 January 2 and provided Story Time. She teamed up with the Potranco Children's Librarian for Career Day at Forester Elementary School on January 24. There they spoke to several classes about being a librarian and what libraries offer to the community. They also provided stories, songs, and offered a simple craft to children.



Teen Librarian Ana Piña facilitated in-person Teen Time every Monday night of January. Teens assisted in selecting and planning weekly activities throughout the month which included making vision boards, crocheting, making cookies, making bracelets, and various other games and crafts. Ms. Piña also hosted the Johnston No-pressure Book Club on Sunday, January 21st where participants gathered to talk about the books they have been reading for the month of January. Notable titles were *I Don't*

*Want to be a Mom* by Irene Olmo and *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie ."

## LANDA

### Children

Landa Branch Library kicked off 2024 with a New Year's Toddler Dance Party. Toddlers came to wiggle, bounce, and shake as a fun dance mix of children's music played. We used shaker eggs, scarves, and a projector for shadow dancing to make the event extra fun. Landa Branch Library continued to offer two Baby Story Times a week led by Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas. Attendance since December has increased to over 20 babies each week.

In January, Librarian Jasmin hosted a total of 42 programs and reached an audience of 1,188 people.

### Teens

Teen Services Librarian Stephanie Thomas-Rosen facilitated two weekly Teen Time programs. Teens designed their teen time experience depending on their interests. Popular choices this month were board games, perler beads, cooking, and video games. Regardless of the activity, the teens enjoyed interacting with each other and building relationships. Teens continued to make the space their own by adding messages and artwork.

### Adults

Reader's Ink read *Maame* by Jessica George. The group talked a lot about the burdens of first-born children. All agreed it was a great debut book.

Mystery Book Club read *Mexican Gothic* by Silvia Moreno. There were nine members in attendance. Half did not like the book because they don't like magical realism. This sparked conversations about the horror and fantasy genre in books, as well as TV shows.

The Village at Incarnate Word read *My Sister, The Serial Killer* by Oyinkan Braithwaite and loved it. The group talked about racism in the south in the '70s and compared it to racism today.

## LAS PALMAS

Las Palmas Branch Library closed its doors for renovations. 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.

## MAVERICK

Maverick Library welcomed the new year. Both The Lady Mav's Book Club and the Poetry Club gathered in January. The new Edge Writing program hosted by Poet Dario Beniquez started in January. This writing program provides an opportunity for writers and poets to exchange ideas, suggestions, and encouragement among fellow writers. Judith Hurst presented "The Crusades" a historic and engaging program in January. The Mah Jongg Group also met in January. Ben Longoria, Adult Services Librarian II, continued weeding through the non-fiction collection.

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

Children's library programming resumed in January. Ms. Roberts conducted 8 Story Times with 271 in attendance and 2 Lego Times with 62 attendees. She also participated in LibChat, answering online reference questions on January 5 and January 19.

The children's librarian attended various training opportunities and meetings during the reporting period. Ms. Roberts did Security Awareness Training on January 9. On January 10, she attended an in-person meeting at Tobin Library. Ms. Roberts took Enhanced Library Card (ELC) Training on January 17. On January 18, Ms. Roberts took Active Shooter Training.

L. A. Mary Lou Bleichwehl assisted the Maverick Teen Volunteers in the implementation of the activities they planned for January. Perler beads were the most requested craft supply, with drawing materials a close second, but they also enjoyed creating Shrinky Dinks. Teens competed at Table Tennis, WiiU Sports, Mario Kart and Lego Star Wars, Clue, and checkers. One Teen brought his guitar twice and another Teen promoted the music studio at Central Teen Services to him.

## **McCRELESS**

Paula Lenington has a Family Story Time every Thursday. The kids sang songs, listened to a story and had an engaging time playing. The Children's Librarian also has a reoccurring crafting time called Creator Club. Anything can happen at Creator Club; it is only limited by your imagination. Every Tuesday of the month, kids came to build and play with Legos, and they all did a good job using their imagination to create.





On January 26<sup>th</sup>, Children's Librarian, Paula Lenington attended Longfellow Middle School Literacy night. She gave information to students on how to get library cards, and also pointed out the online features available when you have a library card. She was able to talk to around 200 students.

Twice a month, Amy and her dog Seamus come to the library to let kids read to them. Children really enjoy reading to Seamus to increase their fluency skills.

Every Tuesday night (from 5:30-7:30) Daniela Moreno, Teen Services Librarian at McCreless, facilitated weekly programs for teens aged 13 to 18 in the teen space. Teens decided 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 are playing with the Nintendo Switch, creating art with the materials provided, making buttons, etc.

On January 24th Paula Lenington had the opportunity to visit Kiddie Corner Learning Academy, and had the privilege to read stories, and sing songs with the kids. There were around 30 kids in attendance.



McCreless hosted a Holocaust: Learn & Remember exhibit and program on January 9. Patrons of all ages joined us for the program “Upstanders: The Stories of the Righteous Among Nations” presented by Robin Long with the San Antonio Holocaust Museum. Ms. Long shared stories heroic acts during the Holocaust of those who hold the distinction of Righteous Among the Nations, an honor given by Israel to non-Jews.



Adult Services Librarian Vicky Villalobos and Teen Services Librarian Daniela Moreno held McCreless' weekly Coffee, Crosswords & Chisme program for Older Adults. On Wednesday mornings, patrons enjoy a cup of coffee while they work on crosswords, Sudoku, and word finds as they discuss the latest celebrity “chisme”. On January 26, Vicky joined Librarians Brook Mjolsness and Dan for SAPL Live Trivia. Ten teams and over 30 players competed for bragging rights.

At the Adult LEARN Center, students really enjoyed reading aloud and studying new vocabulary using Easy English News, a wonderful newspaper especially designed for adult English learners and founded by Elizabeth Claire and Mariko Sasaki.

Both the McCreless ESL class and the Civics for Citizenship class engaged in interactive lessons exploring the significance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Students reflected on the historical context of the Civil Rights movement using written and video resources highlighting the life and work of Dr. King, the experience of Ruby Bridges and her family, and more.

Learn services providing job support continue to be in high demand. In fact, a Learn patron called Abraham came in one Tuesday, ecstatic that he had already been hired using the resumé Learn staff helped him create on the previous Saturday. Other extremely popular services during walk-in hours are one-on-one computer skills development, and support in English language acquisition.

## MEMORIAL

Memorial Branch Library continues to present a thriving array of programs for adults, teens, and children. Of special note in January was a program led by Liz Reichman, a former attorney who is

currently a history and engineering lecturer at UTSA. Her personal family history is a motivating factor in her activities as a docent at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio and in her desire to share the stories of those who perished, those who escaped and survived, and those who worked against the terror. On January 18, she relayed the story of Irena Sendler, a Polish social worker who risked everything to rescue Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto during the German occupation.



Memorial Branch Library's meeting room seems to be a real hot spot. Three departments of the City of San Antonio used the space during January. San Antonio Water System (SAWS) conducted a community meeting regarding the North San Felipe Water Main replacement project. Parks and Recreation solicited community input about the trail project from Alderete Park to Tierra del Sol Park (part of the Greenway system). The Public Works Department (PWD) held a community meeting to receive input on a project at Tom Slick Park. Nine other organizations reserved Memorial spaces for meetings and activities, showing that the renovated Memorial Branch Library is a growing and valuable resource for the community.

## MISSION

On Monday January 29th, OATS from AARP and Mission partnered to bring a technology presentation on Google Workspace.

On Friday January 26th, Jessica Viera, PT Library Assistant held her monthly / semi-monthly Karaoke program at which 25 singers joined the fun that day.

On January 6th, Librarian Cassandra Vela-Laosa hosted her monthly program, Get Up and Dance for Kids at which young school-age children are encouraged to follow body movement instructions while listening to kids' music.

On January 22nd, Megan Feeley, Circulation Attendant hosted a K-Pop program for teens.

The month of January included several Teen programs on the schedule at Mission Library. Teens had the option to attend a weekly Tuesday night activity called "Teen Crafternoon", a weekly Saturday gaming club called, "Ready, Set, Game!" and a monthly "Teen K-Pop Club."

Teens in the crafting program created Shrink Art and perler bead creations, painted mini-canvases and tote bags, and used art prompts to inspire sketching activities. Teen K-Pop participants watched K-Pop videos. Gaming included chess, Nintendo Switch games, and various board and card games.

## PAN AMERICAN



Children's Librarian, Rachel Forbes, visited Highland Park Elementary School where over 50 students and parents stopped by to learn about the library and make a bookmark! The Pan American Branch Library' Children's Area had a teacup Come and Go craft where patrons could create their own teapot!





Pan American Library also collaborated with Metro Health and hosted a Vaccination Clinic where over 20 vaccines were administered.

Gladys Nunez, Teen Services Librarian, facilitated opportunities for teens at the Branch to share their creativity. Teen volunteers created two YA displays (as well as the flyers) for the month of January. One was titled "Warm Up with a Good Book" and the other focused on winter love books. Both displays proved to be popular with patrons. During Teen Time in January, teens played video games on the PS5, made s'mores, watched a movie while doing their homework, and played Roblox. The Branch also welcomed new teen volunteer this month who is a practicum student from McCollum High School. She comes to the library four days out of the week to learn about working at a library. The volunteer helps with branch related duties like looking for holds and other tasks for teens and children's services at Pan American.

## PARMAN



In January, thanks to the efforts of the branch manager Barbara Kwiatkowski and Morgan Yoshimura coordinator from adult services the Parman Library was finally be able for the first time, to be part of the San Antonio Public Library's Holocaust: Learn & Remember series. Parman Library presented to their community a program entitled You Jump In and Help: The Irena Sendler Story. Holocaust social worker Irena Sendler saved 2,500 Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto during the Holocaust. Her audacious actions resulted in her capture, imprisonment, and torture, but she was so valuable to the resistance, they paid a bribe to save her on the eve of her scheduled execution. The hour-long program was presented by Liz Reichman, Docent from the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio, who spoke about Irena's courage and legacy. The event was very well attended with over 40 people coming out to learn more about Sendler's life. Patrons expressed how wonderful the program was and how they look forward to seeing more of its kind at the Parman Library in the future.

Parman Library's Heartfulness Meditation program has gained a steady following with over 30 people attending per session over the past two months. The program's presenter, Mr. Naveen Chillara, provided virtual meditation sessions to the Parman staff during COVID and has shared his many talents with other libraries throughout the SAPL system. He was finally able come back to Parman, in-person this time, after

some schedule changes and staff were thrilled to see him again. During his sessions, Chillara not only leads participants through a guided meditation but teaches both the history of meditation and how it can reduce stress, anxiety issues, restlessness and increase individual resiliency.

It's already an annual tradition that the manager Barbara Kwiatkowski opens the door to new interns, and every year Parman Library becomes a home for at least one student of Library Science at TWU. This year, the manager also welcomed a new intern who is quickly adjusting to library life at Parman Branch, learning the ins and outs of librarian's trade. Assistant manager Zach Woolston is getting his training as well, so he can also provide valuable practicum instructions soon and help with this task in a future.

Teague Shosh Creator Club was making adorable animal portraits out of cardboard, building with Legos and painting with shaving cream. Our creators had a particularly fun time working together to color collaborative art pieces. As always both meeting rooms were needed to accommodate all children.

Miss Teague Shosh tween group is growing! The kids are enjoying getting to know one another while participating in various activities. This month they made New Year's Resolution door hangers, chalk bead bracelets, stickers, and suncatchers. Several spirited games of Jenga ended in laughter and screams when the tower fell.

Miss Veronica Yau came back with her regular Cuentos y Canciones (Spanish Story Time) after the winter break. Many members of the community expressed how much they missed this Story Time; how much they liked Miss Veronica story selection and how children can't wait for Cuentos y Canciones with Miss Veronica. The word spread, and right now, to accommodate all, Ms. Veronica must have an additional, second Story Time, right after the first one. A favorite craft this month was making hats to celebrate the book, *Un Sombrero Muy Anticuado*, by Emily Gravett.



January's Family Story Time celebrated snowmen and snow. During open play after the Story Time, children played with fake snow. It was a big hit. The toddlers were happy to sing one of their favorite songs, "The Wheels on the Bus" with Mss. Lisa Taylor. They also enjoyed books with farm animal characters so they could practice their animal sounds. The parents that came to Baby Story Time loved watching their infants interacting with each other. Often a little one would wander across the circle to look at another baby. As the group listened to music and played with shakers, there was a lot of "trading" of shaker eggs that happened.

This month, Parman teens, under a new leader, Teen librarian Ms. Rebecca Hillmann commemorated the highlights of 2023. With the help of one of our teen volunteers. Teens displayed the most imaginative and amusing drawings from their art stations. During Teen Time, teen Dungeon Master led the ongoing Dungeons and Dragons campaign, infusing it with creativity and spirited enthusiasm. Parman teens also celebrated their diversity by preparing a favorite Persian dessert. In addition to all this activity, a group of enterprising teen volunteers has been diligently organizing a STEM club tailored for middle school kids. The teens' efforts to create and lead these activities shows their dedication to positively impact their community. As Teens continue to exhibit creativity, leadership, and teamwork, finding in Teen time continual support

# POTRANCO

To kick off the new year, Potranco's Adult Services Librarian Dawn Zeig invited Melissa Gonzales of the Diabetes Prevention Unit of Metro Health to host a seven-week diabetes prevention program series centered on creating healthy habits. The sessions are on Tuesday afternoons beginning at 1pm. So far, the group has met twice and both meetings have been well attended.

Librarian Zeig assisted with Holocaust Remembrance Week by co-moderating a well-attended Zoom program on January 17<sup>th</sup> titled, "Protest and Resistance in Nazi Germany." The program was presented by Dr. Edward Westermann of Texas A&M University-San Antonio.

Ms. Zeig held two adult crafts in January. On January 7<sup>th</sup>, patrons were invited to create vision boards for the new year using a variety of materials and discarded magazines. On January 14<sup>th</sup>, patrons made electric candle-lit luminarias as part of the winter initiative series. Both crafts had robust turnouts.

Librarian Zeig continued 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. This month's podcast featured Midlife Women's Health Coach, Tania Dalton, discussing "Simple Steps to Create a Beautiful Midlife".

Librarian Zeig held two book clubs this month. The morning and evening versions of Shelf Indulgence, on January 30<sup>th</sup>, discussed this month's book Romantic Comedy by Curtis Sittenfeld. Librarian Zeig continues to host Dreaded Threads on Monday evenings and it continues to be one of our best attended adult programs.

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 27<sup>th</sup> of January.

The Potranco branch participated in Collection Development's New Year, New Ideas book display initiative for January as well as promoting books in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Month.

Potranco Children's Services Librarian Lisa Leandro teamed up with Jacqueline Gonzales from Johnston to represent SAPL at the Forester elementary school Job Fair. The Librarians visited with more than 60 children and shared many of the fun activities that SAPL has to offer.

Ms. Leandro's regular programs: Story Time, Kids Time and Tween Time all continue to be very popular. One of the Tween Time regulars graduated to Teen Time in January. The new Read Along books are proving to be very popular at Potranco as are the juvenile Spanish books.

Sherry Ross, Teen Services Librarian at Potranco, facilitated weekly programs for teens aged 13 to 18, utilizing the library's shared "Create" space and the dedicated teen space. During the weekly Teen Time, teens participated in and facilitated various activities including creating neon bouncy balls, homemade soap, and lollipops. One week, teens contemplated and had a very lively discussion about their futures

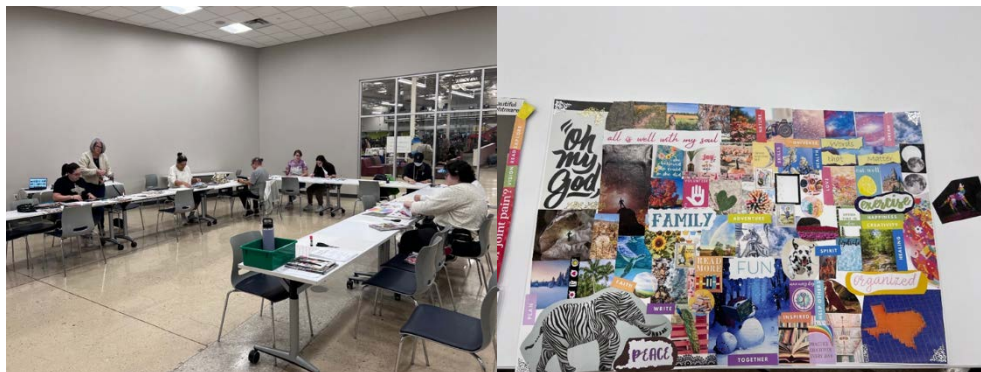
while crafting personal Vision Boards. The Teen Time activities encouraged creative expression and positive social interaction. Participants also decided on the activities for the following month, offering their unique interests and talents and demonstrating their sense of ownership in the library. Potranco welcomed new teen volunteers in January who will help plan and facilitate Teen Time activities and passive programming in Potranco's teen space. Through volunteering, teens practice leadership and teamwork while having fun.

Sherry Ross also visited Warren High School and John Jay High School where she presented at a National Honor Society Meeting and a Lunch and Learn, respectively, discussing the myriad of resources available at the San Antonio Public Library and the benefits of becoming involved as a teen volunteer. Attendees took advantage of the opportunity to open library cards and apply to become volunteers. Sherry Ross also helped facilitate Teen Night at the Mays Family YMCA and continued to mentor a student from Stevens High School involved in an independent studies class.

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Library Assistant Vivianna Roldan assisted with the Dreaded Threads program. Program participants can bring stitch-related projects and listen to a true crime podcast.

In January, Circulation Attendant Paschal Booker continued to lead the Potranco Writers Group in its two monthly meetings on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. Attendance numbers have dipped slightly from recent highs of 13-15 attendees to 8-10 attendees. This is not of concern: smaller attendance numbers can be a boon, though the move to an almost 3-hour format allows for ample time to manage the group's business even when attendance is higher. New participants continue to find the group and connect with the structure of the group's review process. The group continues to earmark work for eventual inclusion in the 2024 Potranco Writers Group anthology.

Potranco's Manager, Librarian III Tim Johnson continues to work on SAPL's Escape the Earth Sci-Fi and Fantasy podcast. The show is co-hosted by Elissa Vura (Brook Hollow), Mary Elizabeth Fernandez (Children's Services), and J. D. Elizondo (Information Services). January's episode featured a discussion on Neal Stephenson's book, *Snow Crash*, which is a staple of modern Sci-Fi and the source for the word "metaverse."





# PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS

In January 2024, Pruitt's Children's Services continued to enjoy the winter season with winter-themed Toddler Story Times and Sensory Play Times. We read books about snow, hats and scarves, and hibernation. The Sensory Play Time also included winter-themed playdough mats, an arctic animal habitat, an icy penguin sensory bin, and a "fill the snowman" sand and funnel activity, which all helped attendees enhance their creativity, problem-solving, fine motor, and pre-writing skills. Toddlers tried new pre-writing activities this month, such as shaving cream squiggles and experimenting with ripping tissue paper and finding ways to put it in a bottle.

Pruitt's Children's Librarian, Lucy Cisneros, visited Windcrest Elementary School and offered outreach at their STEM Family Night event, where she visited with families and offered Pruitt Branch and system-wide program information.

A Tween Movie Crafternoon program was offered this month, where participants were offered a movie of their choice and the opportunity to create buttons and stickers while socializing with their peers.

Overall, Pruitt's Children's Services hosted nine programs for early childhood and school-age children, with 132 members of the Pruitt community in attendance.



# SAN PEDRO

The San Pedro Branch Library provided a variety of programs and services in January to kick off the New Year. Programs for children, teen and adults were offered either weekly or once per month. To celebrate and jump start the new year, various book displays for featured throughout the library.

In January, senior adults at the Chandler Senior Living Community enjoyed discussing *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee, facilitated by Librarian Karen Braeuler.

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

Starting in January, Children's Librarian Karen Braeuler started a toddler time on Saturdays at 11:15 and moved Baby Time to 10:15. Attendance was strong and many families were appreciative for weekend programming. Everyone had a cozy time sharing the experience and socializing together.

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

Students from the Monte Vista Montessori School restarted weekly visits to San Pedro in January. Children of all ages updated their library cards and checked out a good book to read for the week. Teacher and parent volunteers also attended to ensure the visits were well organized and fun.



## SCHAEFER

Schaefer started off 2024 with lots of fun programs for kids of all ages. Programs for the younger set included Baby Story Time and Outdoor Family Story Time and Story Time: Sing and Stroll with Us. School-age programs included Read to a Dog, Let's Build: LEGO Time, Let's Build: Blocks & More, Let's Create: Come & Go Art, Video Games for Kids and Tween Tech Time. A winter scavenger hunt featuring winter animals hidden around the library throughout the winter season delighted kids. The animals move around every day (with the help of staff!) so kids can participate each time they visit Schaefer!

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, Library Assistant Isaai Ortega hosted a "Photography for Beginners" program. The program provided the opportunity for patrons to learn how to use a DSLR camera, and photography techniques. The program encompassed key topics such as adjusting the camera's aperture, managing shutter speed, manual focusing, and setting the camera's ISO.

Library Assistant BlancaSilvia Hernandez hosted a Family Crafting Program where patrons made Vision Boards for 2024 by cutting out relevant pictures from magazines and choosing from precut materials provided. Blanca also hosted an Adult Craft program, where patrons built their beading skills while learning to make Crystal Sun Catchers.

Blanca updated the Income Tax LibGuide for this year's tax season and published a catalog list of popular titles for Schaefer's I ♥ Vinyl (Digital Edition) program. She worked with Librarian Dacari Lambert with Schaefer's Celebrate the new year with a "new to you" book! from the friends of Schaefer. Blanca also worked with Librarian Dacari Lambert to set up the New Year New Ideas and The Holocaust: Learn and Remember & Celebrate Jewish Authors Book Displays.

During the month of January, 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.

In January, 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. Dacari continues work with Teen Services committees: Discord, Teen Pride, and Professional Development.

## SEMMES

In the month of January 2024, Ms. Randi and Ms. Valerie presented Preschool Story Time on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM (attendance: 133 children, 116 grownups) Ms. Randi presented Toddler Story Time on Thursdays at 10:00 AM (attendance: 105 children, 81 grownups) She also presented Baby Story Time on Thursdays at 11:00 AM (attendance 50 babies, 53 grownups)

All Story Time sessions are concluded with child-lead free play. Programming for school-aged children included two sessions of Read to a Dog on Monday afternoons, January 8 and January 22 (attendance: 18 children, 18 grownups) and one session of Let's Build: LEGOs and More attended by 22 children and 16 grownups. Ms. Randi recorded a story on the Dial-a-Story line on January 2 and January 16.

Tween Time continued on Wednesdays, with tweens able to vote on what activities they want to do this year. So far, tweens have enjoyed making 2024 vision board collages, crafting with clay, and playing games with friends.

Teen Time also continued on Tuesdays. Teens remain most interested in creating designs with Perler beads, but they also enjoyed playing with kinetic sand and creating worlds in Minecraft this month. On January 5th five teens, led by a teen volunteer, played Dungeons and Dragons. The teen volunteer created a home brewed campaign that led participants through a labyrinth full of monsters to fight.

Adult Services at Semmes continued with popular ongoing programs; table tennis, Cricut Crafternoons, Shelf Obsessed Book Club, and crochet and chess clubs, and added adult computer basics classes at the end of each month.

# THOUSAND OAKS

Assistant Branch Manager Brooke Mjolsness hosted Tai Chi classes led by certified instructor Debra Cox on January 4, 11, 18 and 25. She hosted two programs taught by instructors from Senior Planet – Smartphone Photography on January 10, and Sharing Photos from a Smartphone on January 24. Ms. Mjolsness co-moderated a virtual Holocaust: Learn and Remember program on January 17. The presentation was provided by Dr. Edward Westermann with Texas A&M University-San Antonio and was titled “Protest and Resistance in Nazi Germany.” On January 26, she served as Master of Ceremonies for the virtual SAPL Live Trivia program.

Children’s Librarian Cheryl Penick held Baby Time programs on January 5 and 11. She held Let’s Create: Arts & Crafts Friday programs on January 5, 11, 18 and 29. She held Let’s Move: Music & Movement programs on January 6 and 12. Ms. Penick led a Story Time program at the Memorial Branch Library on January 10. She assembled themed book bundles highlighting the juvenile collection and systemwide initiatives.

Librarian Kimberly King held Teen Time programs on January 8, 15, 22 and 29. She held an All Booked Up Book Club program on January 14. Participants discussed *The Dreamers* by Karen Thompson Walker. She facilitated an outreach Senior Book Club program at the Northeast Senior Center on January 24. Participants discussed *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams. Ms. King created a “Best Teen Books of 2023” book display featuring popular young adult titles published in 2023.

Library Assistant Mari Carmen Castellano created three book displays – Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Love and Romance, and 2023 Award Winning Books. She held a Fiber Arts Community program on January 14. Participants worked on their needlecraft projects with other like-minded community members. She held an Adult Craft Time program on January 17. Participants made vision boards for the new year.



# TOBIN LIBRARY AT OAKWELL





In January, families enjoyed weekly Preschool Story Times led by Children's Librarian Kara Bailey and Toddler Story Times led by Children's Librarian Lisa Ramirez. Bailey made the month extra special with colorful hanging streamers to greet children as they walked into atmospheric Story Time themes, like outer space and underwater.

Ramirez was invited to feature library services at an outreach event for Serna Elementary School and connected many families with the library. Read To A Dog and LEGO Time continue to be popular programs at Tobin, and Bailey and Ramirez worked together to create engaging weekly After School Zone events for Garner Middle School students. Some activities included table tennis, perler bead crafts, and video gaming. Garner students especially enjoyed meeting H-E-Buddy during the special visit with the San Antonio Public Library Foundation on January 24.

Teen Librarian Connie Hejl hosted weekly Teen Time programs on Tuesday evenings in January. Hejl continues to grow Tobin's volunteer program with adult and teen volunteers, along with hosting weekly Teen Discord programming online. Library Assistant David Hazlett and Circulation Attendant Sabrina Longoria planned three Dungeons & Dragons programs this month, which were very popular in attendance.

Hejl hosted a Geeks Assemble event for fandom-minded adults. Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse continued weekly Tai Chi classes and the monthly Sit & Stitch program. Regular partnership programs took place with the San Antonio Poets Association, Tobin Writer's Circle, and Interesting Book Club.

Woolhouse also coordinated a beautiful art exhibit with works created by PSA Cheryl Sheehan, through the SAPL Art Exhibits Committee.





# WESTFALL

During the month of January, Branch Manager Machaia McClenny assisted Sarah Linley with trainings at several branches in anticipation of the expansion of ELCs to all locations. Ms. McClenny also began the training of a library science intern from Texas Women's University. Furthermore, she continued the Wall of Warmth Sit and Stitch on Mondays and continued to facilitate the Wall of Warmth for Westfall.

Monty Holcomb, Adult Services Librarian, did several more Tai Chi programs this month in which he served as a facilitator for patrons wanting to practice Tai Chi in a relaxed setting. The activities provided in his program focus on Tai Chi that is done at an easy level, and so it is ideal for older adults. As in December, the programs in January were done on different days to help decide what days and times the program should be hosted at in the future. Mr. Holcomb also continued to coordinate with Metro Health's diabetes program and helped them to begin a weekly diabetes workshop here at Westfall that would last until March. 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.

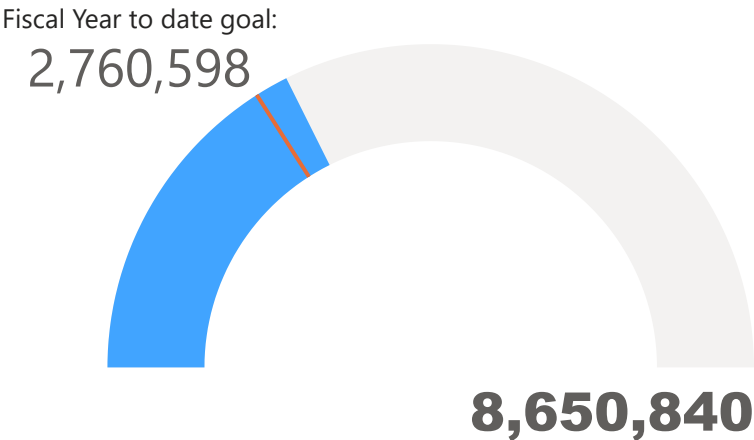
In January, Children's Librarian Imelda Merino planned and presented four Preschool Story Times, and four Family Story Times. On Thursdays at 4:00, open-ended craft programs were presented. The Discovery School first graders came for a visit on January 31st. Ms. Merino shared two stories with the children and then they selected books to check out. Ms. Merino also participated in Art Club Online on January 9th and on January 23rd. A total of seven children and two adults participated in these programs. The Children's Librarian also worked on two different book lists: African American Heritage and a Summer Reading book list for children on travel.

Heather, the Teen Librarian at Westfall, has been able to reconnect with teens and staff at the nearby Roy Maas Youth Alternatives – The Bridge. They have started to regularly visit the branch again and the teens have expressed enjoying SAPL's manga collection and the variety of games in the Teen Space. New teens are coming to the branch for Teen Time and other weekly activities.

Louis Medellin, Training Officer at Westfall, conducted a presentation on digital skills for the San Antonio Men's Breakfast Club Association with fellow Training Officer Shauna Mendoza from the Carver Branch. The Learn Center has gained a regular group that attends the Wednesday morning Smartphone and Smart Device class. The Learn Center at Westfall also continues to offer other weekly technology classes on Friday mornings. A variety of classes are being created based on patron feedback to focus on skills they are looking for including mobile apps, introduction to artificial intelligence apps, and other media apps that relate to their daily lives.

# PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Circulation: Goal

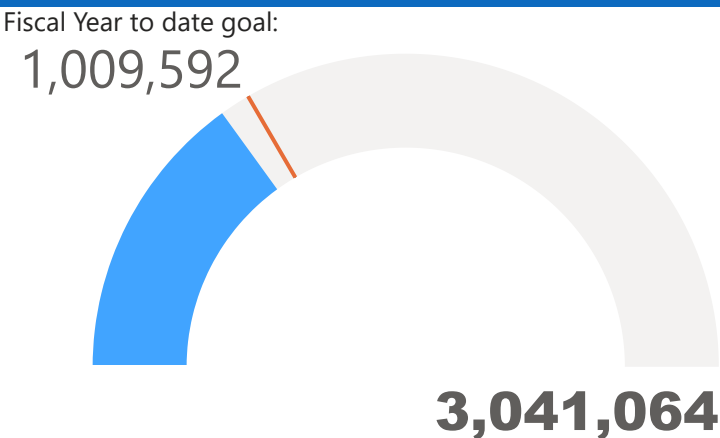


FY 2024 to date Items Borrowed



3,049,828  
(+10.48%)  
Circulation

Visits: Goal

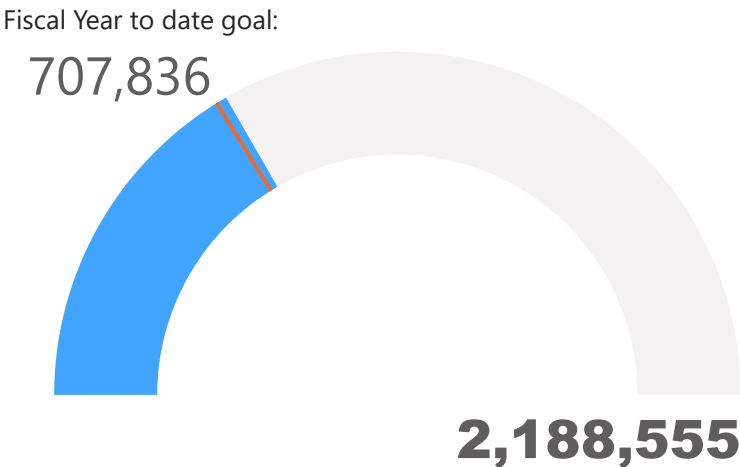


FY 2024 to date Library Visits



913,720  
(-9.5%)  
Visits

Digital Access: Goal



FY 2024 to date Digital Access



91,705  
Hours of Computer Use



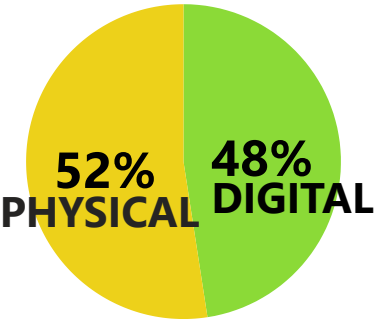
638,229  
Hours of Wi-Fi Use

729,934  
(+3.12%)  
Hours of Technology Use

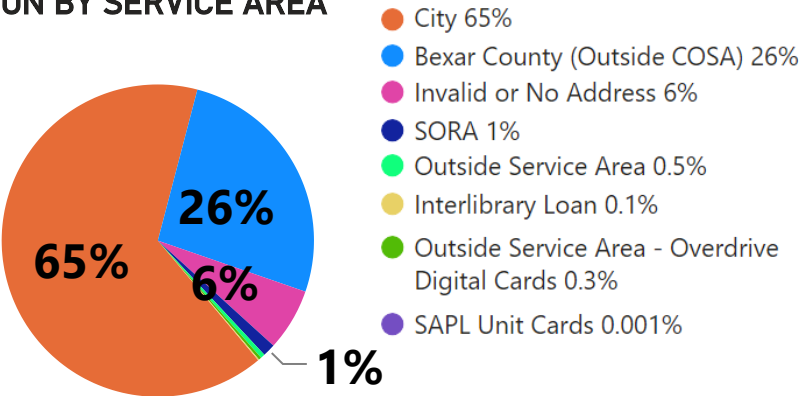
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS  
January 2024 (CONTINUED)

USE OF COLLECTION: FISCAL YEAR 2024

CIRCULATION BY TYPE



CIRCULATION BY SERVICE AREA



VIRTUAL: FISCAL YEAR 2024



572,516	7,998	87,294	842,751
MYSAPL.ORG VISITS	MYSAPL APP DOWNLOADS	OVERDRIVE UNIQUE USERS	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*
3,801 programs	948 programs	704 programs	881 programs	861 programs	207 programs	200 programs
61,993 attendance	23,595 attendance	11,958 attendance	7,517 attendance	7,308 attendance	1,910 attendance	9,705 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 8,512 PROGRAM VIDEO VIEWS

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Let's Build  
Let's Create

SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE HOLOCAUST  
LEARN & REMEMBER  
UPSTANDERS

YOU JUMP IN AND  
HELP: THE IRENA  
SENDER STORY

Presented by Liz Reichman

SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY  
sharkmatic  
THE ANTHONY C. ACEVEDO FOUNDATION

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
CHILDREN'S BOOK LIST

WE MARCH  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

VÍCTOR LEGORRETA  
TIMELESS DESIGN  
The Base of Sustainable Architecture

SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

# San Antonio Public Library

## January 2024 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
<b>Bazan</b>	3,358	5,767	6,485	1,218	5,267
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	25,252	9,286	5,194	691	4,503
<b>Carver</b>	2,377	4,249	3,476	850	2,626
<b>Central</b>	27,030	19,303	41,329	6,823	34,506
<b>Cody</b>	33,034	11,277	10,605	1,231	9,374
<b>Collins Garden</b>	3,505	3,635	4,295	492	3,803
<b>Cortez</b>	4,591	5,557	2,574	461	2,113
<b>Digital</b>	399,959	0	0	0	0
<b>Encino</b>	21,559	8,565	5,480	253	5,227
<b>Forest Hills</b>	5,015	2,443	2,421	265	2,156
<b>Great Northwest</b>	23,125	11,756	4,992	575	4,417
<b>Guerra</b>	4,732	4,219	3,529	439	3,090
<b>Igo</b>	39,359	17,483	10,379	676	9,703
<b>Interlibrary Loan</b>	1,311	0	0	0	0
<b>Johnston</b>	8,687	3,581	4,095	525	3,570
<b>Kampmann</b>	0	491	181	0	181
<b>Landa</b>	17,202	11,666	3,981	315	3,666
<b>Las Palmas</b>	311	74	304	0	304
<b>Maverick</b>	21,750	7,246	5,228	659	4,569
<b>McCreless</b>	6,648	3,183	5,861	1,207	4,654
<b>Memorial</b>	4,192	5,016	5,756	815	4,941
<b>Mission</b>	9,557	8,773	5,879	918	4,961
<b>Pan American</b>	3,462	2,779	2,132	398	1,734
<b>Parman</b>	32,079	15,083	6,436	163	6,273
<b>Potranco</b>	17,885	7,116	12,896	508	12,388
<b>Pruitt</b>	4,229	10,664	5,747	226	5,521
<b>San Pedro</b>	2,617	3,318	4,631	552	4,079
<b>Schaefer</b>	8,219	7,484	4,588	402	4,186
<b>Semmes</b>	25,107	4,995	7,361	1,034	6,327
<b>System</b>	33,392	0	0	0	0
<b>Thousand Oaks</b>	6,169	3,419	4,950	653	4,297
<b>Tobin</b>	16,349	6,665	4,354	739	3,615
<b>Westfall</b>	9,189	4,055	6,299	1,075	5,224
<b>Total</b>	<b>821,251</b>	<b>209,148</b>	<b>191,438</b>	<b>24,163</b>	<b>167,275</b>

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



# San Antonio Public Library Programs

## January 2024

Location	Early Literacy Programs (0-5)	School Age Programs (6-12)	Teen Programs (13-18)	Adult Programs (19+)	Older Adults Programs (60+)	General Interest Programs*	Total
Bazan	0	13	2	6	3	1	25
Brook Hollow	2	1	9	0	1	0	13
Carver	2	0	0	12	3	3	20
Central	12	4	64	12	1	4	97
Cody	10	11	20	6	1	0	48
Collins Garden	13	7	5	8	0	0	33
Cortez	3	6	0	11	0	0	20
Encino	13	4	9	3	7	1	37
Forest Hills	13	10	4	2	4	0	33
Great Northwest	5	4	5	3	1	5	23
Guerra	6	3	0	2	0	0	11
Igo	0	4	3	6	0	4	17
Johnston	4	11	3	3	0	0	21
Landa	35	7	7	1	1	0	51
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	16	0	7	9	0	0	32
Maverick	8	2	4	6	0	0	20
McCreless	4	11	5	14	5	0	39
Memorial	17	8	2	27	1	1	56
Mission	6	3	9	6	9	1	34
Pan American	5	5	2	3	1	1	17
Parman	22	9	5	10	9	0	55
Potranco	4	5	7	11	0	0	27
Pruitt	8	2	4	2	0	1	17
San Pedro	12	4	0	3	2	0	21
Schaefer	8	9	3	5	0	1	26
Semmes	13	8	6	8	2	4	41
System	0	2	22	9	0	1	34
Thousand Oaks	7	4	0	7	3	0	21
Tobin	7	10	5	9	5	3	39
Westfall	5	9	3	4	7	3	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>959</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

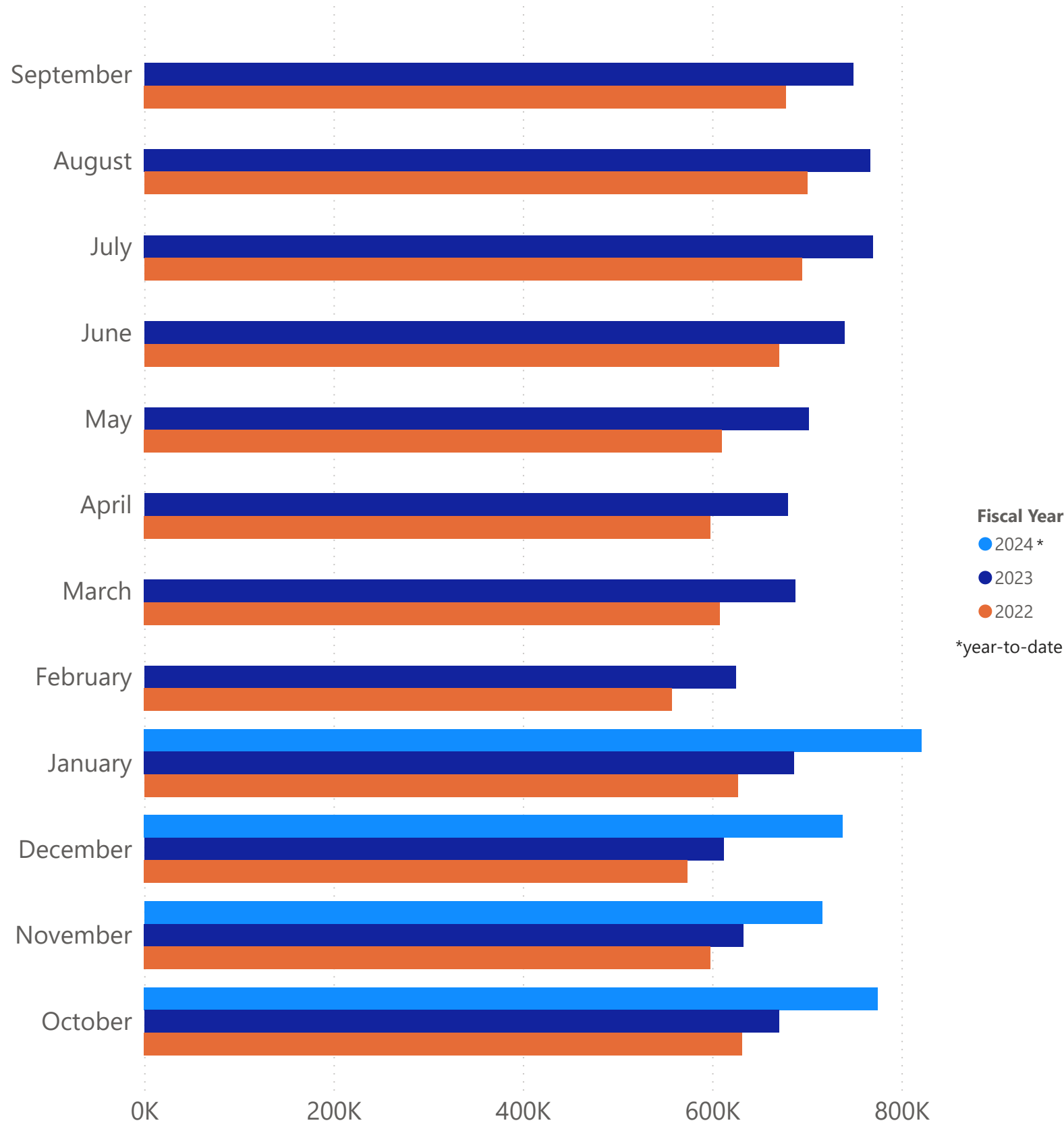
## January 2024

Location	Early Literacy Attendance (0-5)	School Age Attendance (6-12)	Teen Attendance (13-18)	Adult Attendance (19+)	Older Adults Attendance (60+)	General Interest Attendance*	Total
Bazan	0	50	6	40	16	9	121
Brook Hollow	47	23	27	0	5	0	102
Carver	61	0	0	89	107	91	348
Central	187	20	537	281	6	27	1,058
Cody	320	245	226	46	7	0	844
Collins Garden	288	31	11	55	0	0	385
Cortez	19	143	0	76	0	0	238
Encino	450	77	77	25	49	12	690
Forest Hills	88	40	16	4	12	0	160
Great Northwest	130	107	52	22	10	26	347
Guerra	156	13	0	4	0	0	173
Igo	0	51	8	47	0	29	135
Johnston	174	235	14	24	0	0	447
Landa	1,070	118	62	9	8	0	1,267
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	268	0	39	106	0	0	413
Maverick	271	62	39	45	0	0	417
McCreless	52	131	19	69	23	0	294
Memorial	333	76	18	142	2	3	574
Mission	93	28	29	57	102	25	334
Pan American	5	94	5	15	0	27	146
Parman	858	446	22	202	90	0	1,618
Potranco	106	20	138	72	0	0	336
Pruitt	132	98	57	11	0	12	310
San Pedro	194	31	0	6	13	0	244
Schaefer	166	177	13	38	0	2	396
Semmes	538	145	24	57	2	60	826
System	0	9	99	127	0	2	237
Thousand Oaks	71	35	0	56	13	0	175
Tobin	38	107	11	71	43	27	297
Westfall	16	69	11	11	39	12	158
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,131</b>	<b>2,681</b>	<b>1,560</b>	<b>1,807</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>13,090</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

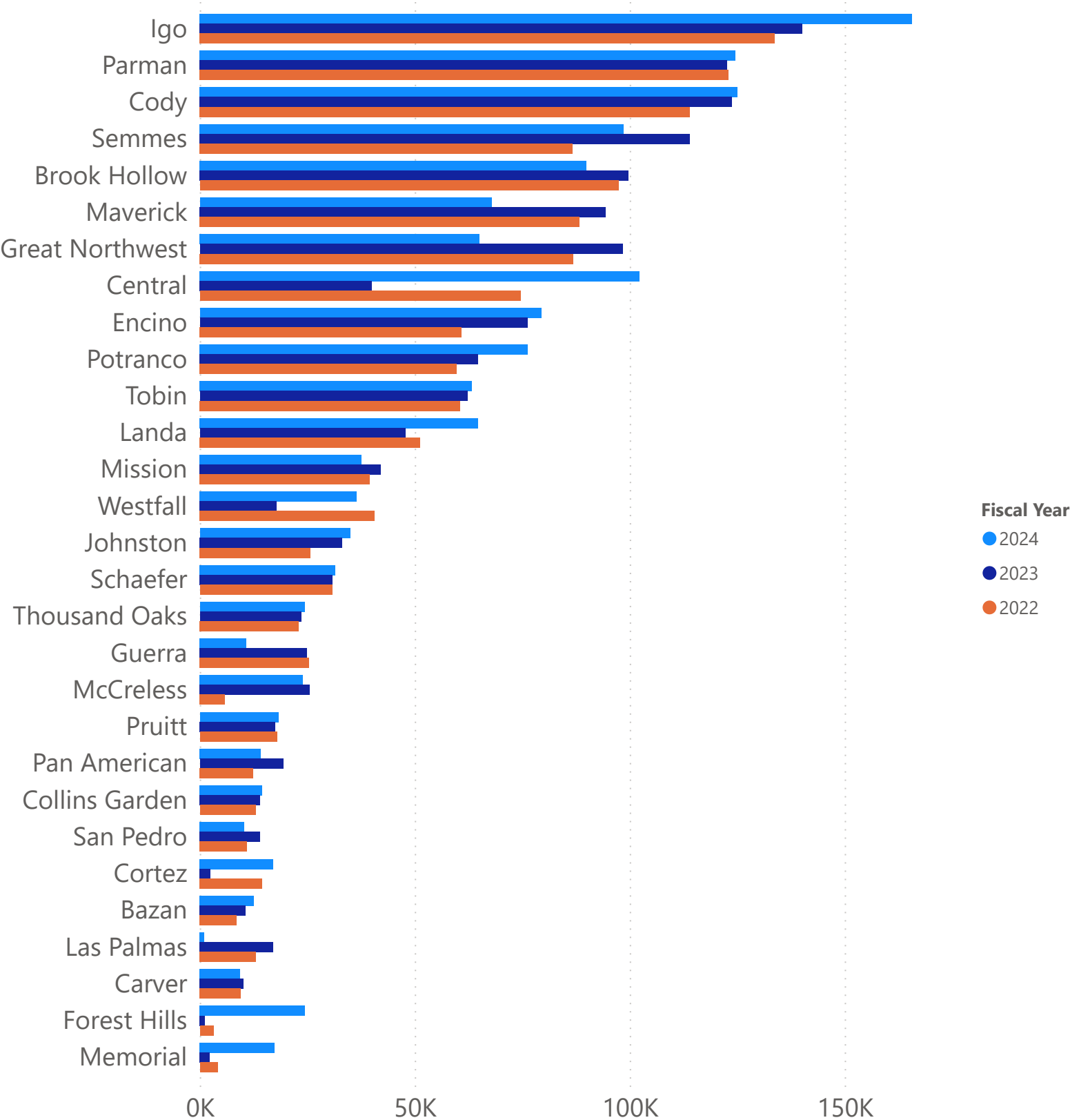


Location Closures:

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 - January 2024



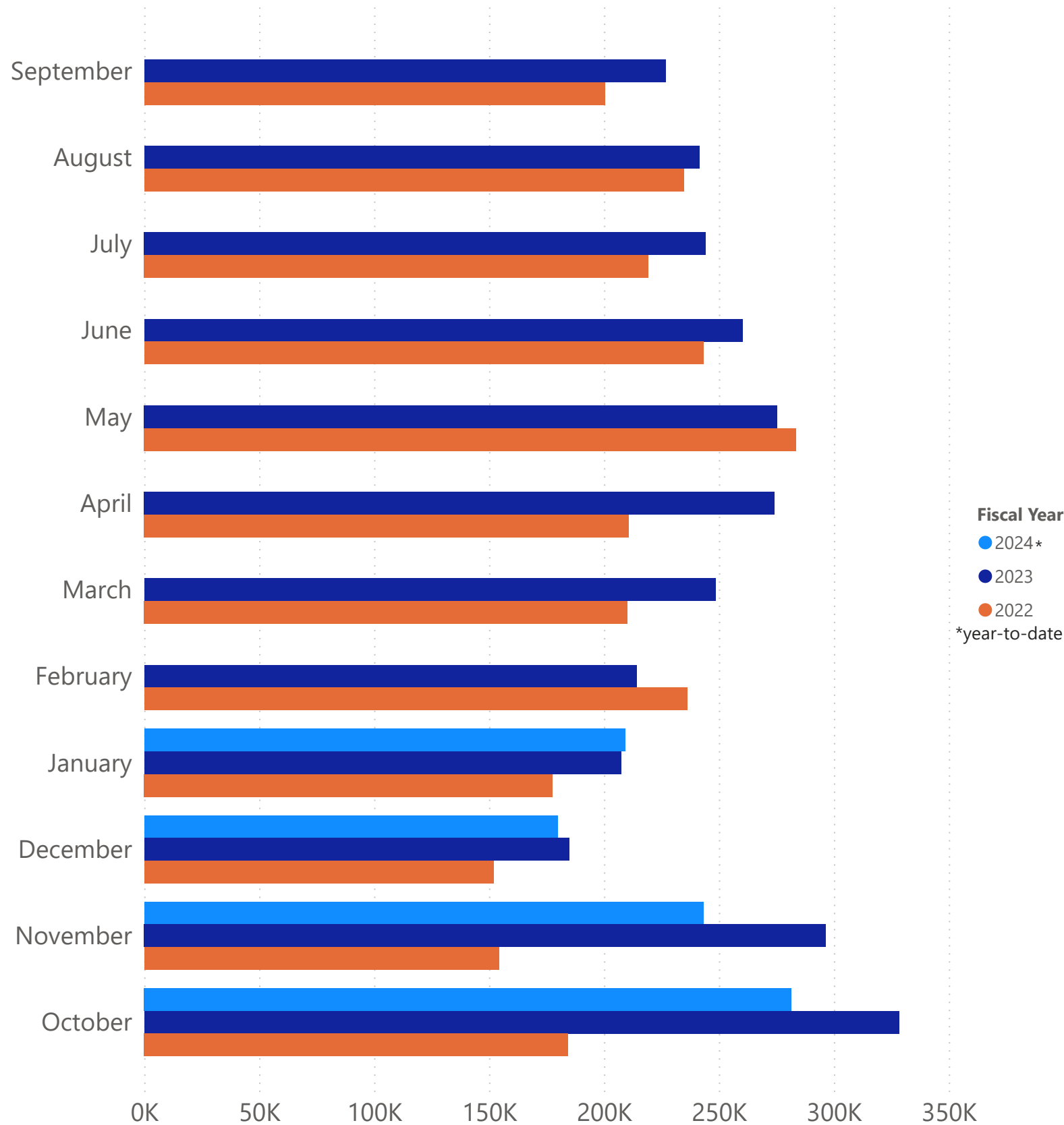
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# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits

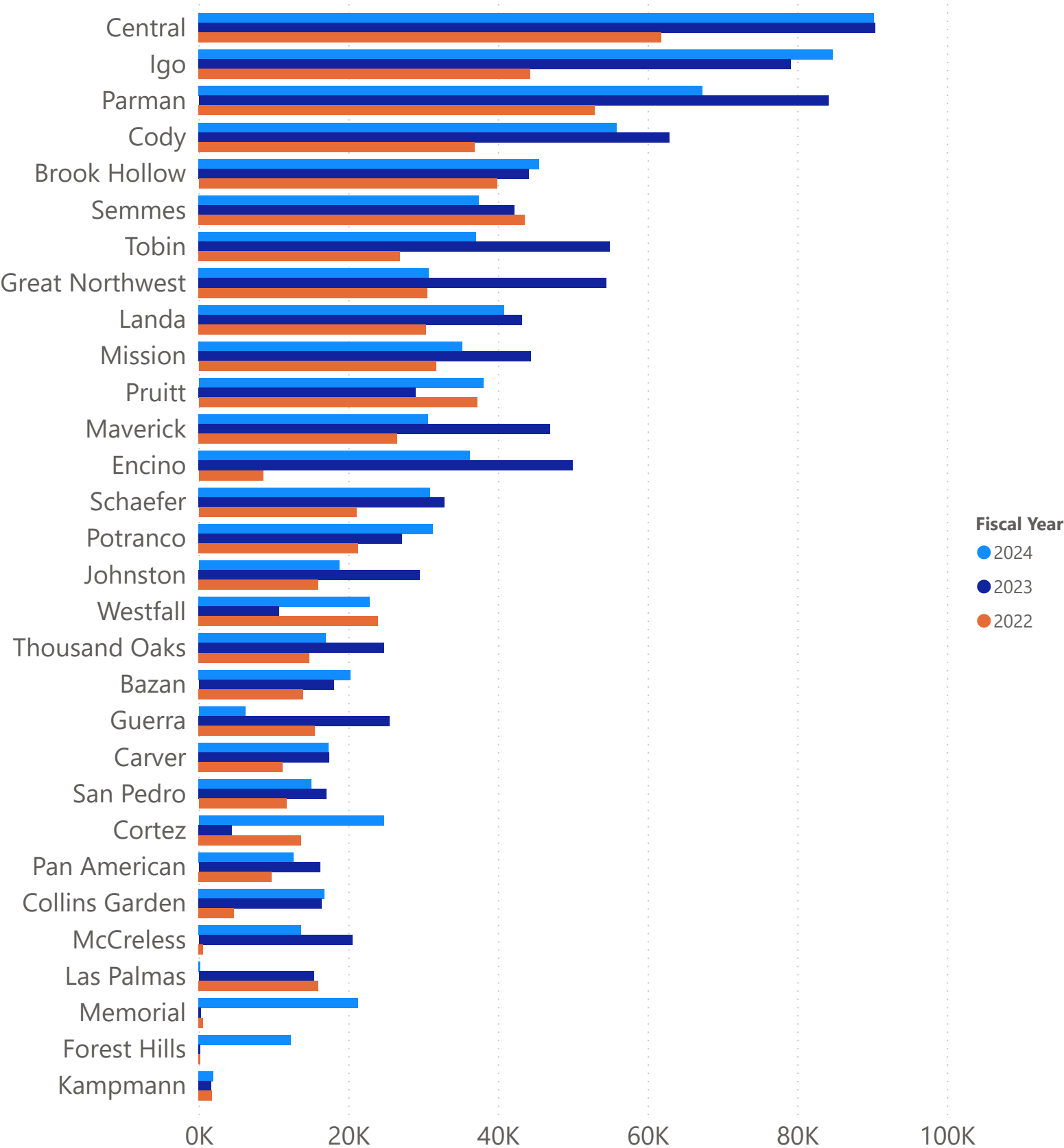


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San Antonio Public Library

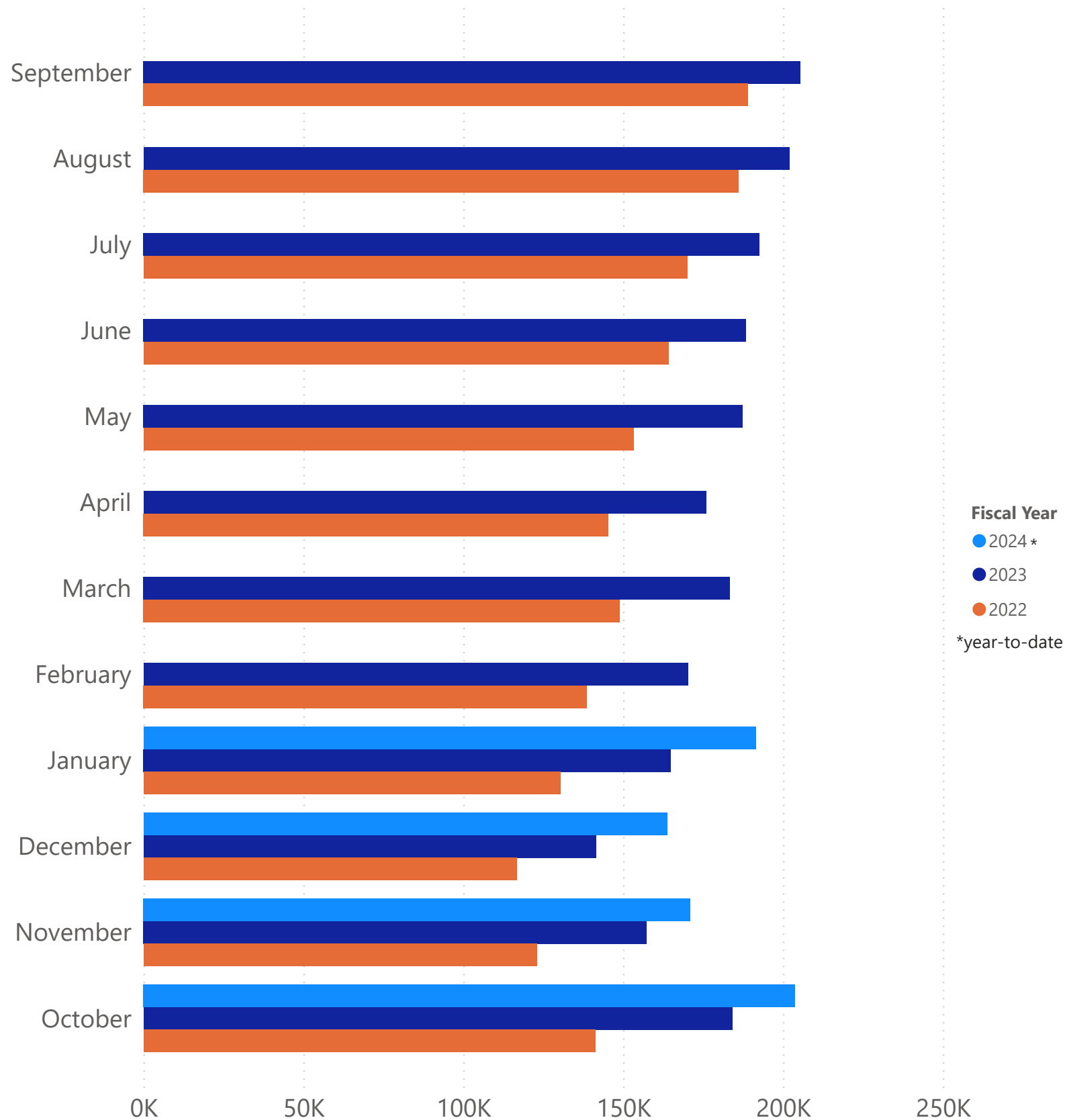
Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - January 2024



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 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  
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

# 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.