

San Antonio Public Library Director's Report

February 2024



Library Staff create friendship bracelets and other crafts during SAPL Staff Day on February 19.

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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The following is a summary of notable activities during the month of February 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 Board of Directors Monthly Meeting on February 2, 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 February 2, 2024

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended Las Palmas Branch Library Bond Project Community Update Meeting on February 12, 2024. District 5, San Antonio Public Library and Public Works Department held a meeting as an opportunity for community members to ask questions regarding the design changes for the Las Palmas Branch Library Bond project.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar met with the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library leadership on February 15, 2024.

Library Director attended Staff Day on February 19, 2024 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Executive Committee meeting on February 21, 2024

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar virtually attended the Institute of Museum and Library Science Board Meeting on February 29, 2024.

Graphics

The Graphics Team created publicity materials for a variety of programs and events during this reporting period, including Pop Madness, Women's History Month, the Nebulous Interpretations gallery exhibit at Central, the March 5 General Election, and Staff Day, as well as branch updates, social media, and other promotions for branch events.

DIGITAL SERVICES

On February 15, the Digital Services Team received training, from RFID vendor Bibliotheca, on the Mobile Inventory wands. These devices allow staff to scan the RFID tags of items on the self to check real time status, locate selected items, and perform inventory, enhancing the efficiency of managing the collection.

LATINO COLLECTION & RESOURCE CENTER

On February 3, in collaboration with UTSA, the LCRC hosted an opening reception in Central Library's gallery honoring the work of educator/professor emerita, Dr. Ellen Riojas-Clark. The exhibition was titled *Imaginate*, and featured works by Cruz Ortiz, Elizabeth Rodriguez, Kathy Sosa, Rolando Briseño, and several other artists who portrayed Ellen—an iconic Latina figure in the local San Antonio community—with their own envisioning and imagination processes. Their portraits, and Ellen's life story, emphasized the empowering message that anyone can become anything they imagine themselves to be.



On February 6, the LCRC hosted local author, political consultant and activist, Robert Vargas III. For 18 years, local activist Robert Vargas III has helped elect judges, our Sheriff, and several others here in San Antonio. He has taken his knowledge of how to run for local office and published *Democracy: A Contact Sport*. Robert engaged in a community plática, moderated by Alex Rodriguez of the San Antonio LGBT Chamber of Commerce, while offering a "grassroots guide to running for local office".



LITTLE READ WAGON

In February the Little Read Wagon finished up a run of child-led Let's Play! programs at Hamilton Community Center and the Berta Almaguer Dance Studio & Community Center. Over the last couple of months these programs continued to grow from week to week. The team also offered Let's Play! at the Cortez Library the first Saturday in February. It was a beautiful day, and the children and families enjoyed playing outside together. One of the highlights of the day was when several children worked together to build a fort.



Library Services Specialist Eva Banda visited several high schools to support teen parents. The parents were able to print pictures and make photo books to enjoy and share memories with their children. One teen father was so enthusiastic about the project that he asked Ms. Banda to stay a few minutes after school so he could finish the book for his daughter. Ms. Banda also offered several Bilingual Story Times at the Navarro Center for children of teen parents in the program. She brought a large rabbit puppet that made the children shriek in happiness. She used the puppet to teach children a little bit about rabbits and to go over the words for the rabbit's body parts in Spanish.

Megan Cruz, Library Services Specialist, visited several high schools as well. She talked with teen parents about early literacy practices and brought a photo frame project with her. The parents printed a picture of their child or of them and their child together, selected a quote about

early literacy or parenting from the ones Ms. Cruz had printed, and decorated the frames with permanent markers.

Julia Lazarin, Library Services Specialist, presented on Early Literacy Basics for an Infant and Toddler PreK4SA Child Development Associate (CDA) class. Ms. Lazarin, Melisa Hill, Library Services Specialist, and Kristin Yourdon, Librarian III, visited PreK4SA North Education Center to provide reading tents for the children and families on three different days. Children were able to select a reading kit, which included a board book, a flashlight, and a little toy that went along with the book. The children then selected a tent and spent some cozy time reading with their parents. Ms. Lazarin and Ms. Hill also offered parent workshops at a few different Head Start locations.

CHILDREN'S (SYSTEM-WIDE)

The Children's Services team met online February 14. The meeting was facilitated by Kate Simpson, Children's Library at Central manager, while Cresencia Huff, Coordinator of Children's Services, was on leave. Scott Williams (Communications) provided an overview of the strategy to promote Summer with San Antonio Public Library (SAPL). Morgan Yoshimura (Adult Services) shared information about activities related to the upcoming eclipse. The STEAM work group presented some new kits they have developed. The Summer with SAPL workgroup shared news related to books children will receive. Additional work groups also shared updates. Valerie Carrol (Semmes) received and distributed eclipse activity-related supplies for upcoming children's Get Eclipse Ready events via delivery.

Preparations for children's Summer with SAPL 2024 continued with an emphasis on selecting books to be given to children at the beginning of their summer reading adventure. Nohemi Lopez Rosdahl and Carrie Vance of the Collection Development team worked closely with Jasmin Salinas (Landa) and Leslie Elsasser (Schaefer), and Ms. Huff to select books to appeal to the wide range of interests and developmental needs of children birth – 12 years of age.

TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

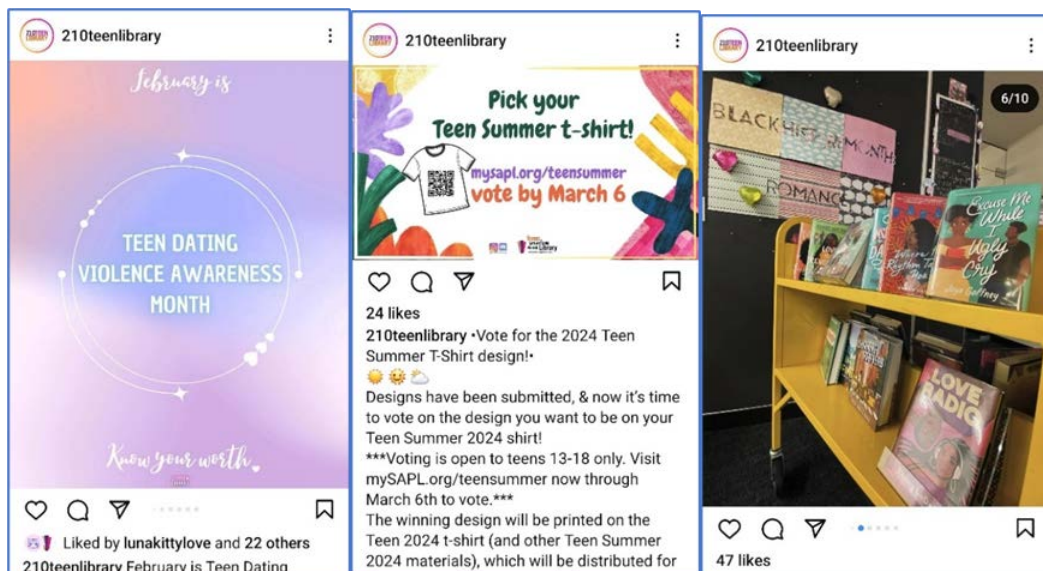
Virtual Teen Programs and Activities – The Virtual Teen Services workgroup—led by Matthew Loaiza (Teen Services Librarian II / Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) and consisting of Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons from around the system—continued to collaborate with virtual teen volunteers (“Teen Mods” and “Club Assistants”) to offer weekly virtual activities (“clubs”) on the 210teenlibrary Discord Server (“the server”). Teens made meaningful connections with their peers while chatting about a variety of topics, including the Teen Summer 2024 call for artwork, building LEGO sets, learning jazz guitar, birthday celebrations, and video game soundtracks. Teens also led and participated in different clubs throughout the month, which involved new adventures in their Dungeons & Dragons campaign, discussions about music and TV Shows, showcases of art and poetry, questions about their favorite emojis, and more.

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 including Minecraft-inspired potatoes, Young Adult romance books written by Black authors, the Teen Summer 2024 call for artwork, and information about Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Additional fun/informational daily celebrations were shared via Stories.

Summer Food Service Program – During the reporting period, Kathleen Fordyce (Manager, Teen Library) and Kate Simpson (Manager, Children's Library) met with San Antonio Food Bank (SAFB) staff to discuss the details of both Central units serving free snacks to children and teens this summer on the third floor. The program starts in June and will run through August. This will be the nineteenth year SAPL has participated in the program with the SAFB. Kathleen serves as the Library's liaison with the SAFB for Teen Services.

Professional Development – On February 5, Matthew Loaiza assisted with an interview panel for a Teen Services Librarian position. On February 8, Loaiza—along with Dacari Lambert (Teen Services Librarian I, Schaefer) and Shannan Prukop (Teen Services Librarian II /Assistant Manager, Forest Hills)—met with Lauren Rackovan (Youth Specialist, St. Louis Public Library) to discuss best practices for providing virtual library services for teens via Discord.

Pictures below: 210teenlibrary Instagram posts created by Teen Services staff and teen volunteers for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, the Teen Summer t-shirt design contest vote, and a Black History Month YA romance book display at the Teen Library @ Central:



ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Adult Services staff celebrated Black History Month with a variety of creative outlets including author readings, community poetry programs, and educational presentations. Dr. Reggie Scott Young read from his published fiction works at Carver Library, thanks to organization by Schaefer Librarian Dan Garcia, and Karla Braudus presented her poetry at Igo Library, coordinated by Librarian Gamini Haluwana. A poetry slam at Mission Library hosted by Queer Committee members Michael Dunbar-Rodney and Kaylee Avila honored the birthday and activism of Audre Lorde. Texana/Genealogy staff Kaylee Avila, Sylvia Reyna, and Andrew Crews brought historical perspectives to light with three documentary film screenings, a local jazz and desegregation connection with researcher Jadyn Evans, and an exploration into the first Black Texan to earn the Medal of Honor with presenter Patrick Coan.

Pokéfest 2024, led by Library Assistant Joseph Gonzales of McCreless Library, provided a full afternoon of Poké fun including games, trading, cards, and crafts. McCreless Library staff, plus staff from 8 other SAPL locations came to support the over 600 patrons of all ages in attendance.

Lunar New Year: Year of the Dragon programs were presented by Yaping Zhang at McCreless Library and Thousand Oaks Library. Participants learned about how the new year is observed in Chinese culture, including food, customs, and dragon dance.

The LCRC hosted Robert Vargas III to discuss best practices for running for local political office. His published book was discussed, followed by a community plática moderated by Alex Rodriguez of the LGBT San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

Learn at SAPL received 800 patron visits and assisted during over 1,000 hours of public computer use. Learn staff hosted nearly 50 programs across six operational service centers.

All Learn at SAPL staff members were given the opportunity to attend one day of the Texas Association for Literacy and Adult Education (TALAE) Conference held in downtown San Antonio. Attendees networked with local and state adult education organizations and participated in professional development sessions focused on digital education and technology, ESL, and career pathways for workforce development.



M. Rickman, L. Medellin, D. Gomez, F. Rodriguez, C. Flores, L. Mueller, C. Loera, M. Martinez Alavarez

Learn at SAPL staff attending TALAE conference in San Antonio, February 2024

Special events included the debut of “Second Saturdays: ASL Basics” presented by Language Equity Access, Advocacy & Advancement for the Deaf Enterprise (LEAD Enterprise). The initial session maxed out the meeting room at Cody Library with 30 participants. Signers of all abilities learned and practiced American Sign Language together, led by presenter Melissa Escamilla and interpreter Liana De La Cruz.



Signers practicing at Cody Library during Second Saturday: ASL Basics, February 2024

OLDER ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Older Adults were invited to digital literacy sessions at Cortez Library and Mission Library presented by Senior Planet / Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) from American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). Both sites hosted three sessions each, including Gmail, iPhones, Job Search, Canva, Privacy and Zoom.

ALL AGES (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Get Eclipse Ready: In preparation for another series of Get Eclipse Ready events, Cresencia Huff, Coordinator of Children's Services, facilitated a staff workshop on the use of Sunspotter projection telescopes and the solar telescopes provided by the Solar Eclipse Activities for Libraries (SEAL) project. Anne Adkins, a local solar eclipse ambassador, joined Ms. Huff and staff to provide more in-depth information about eclipses and share her own tips and tricks to safely set up the viewing tools. Ms. Huff and Morgan Yoshimura, Coordinator of Library Services to Adults, continued to meet with the Alamo STEM Ecosystem in preparation for the

eclipse viewing party for school groups to be held April 8 at Wolff Stadium. Ms. Huff hosted the Alamo STEM Ecosystem at Central Library for a volunteer training session on February 27.

Black History Month: Musical Bridges Around the World presented a series of all ages screenings of *The Quilt*, an African American music history documentary. The screenings at the McCreless, Johnston, and Westfall locations featured one ten-minute segment of the film with activities by screenwriter and lead actress Cynthia Freeman Gibbs, dancer and choreographer Tanesha Payne, and the San Antonio African American Quilt Circle. The full screening at Central Library added more activities with San Antonio Poet Laureate Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson.

CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Librarian Ashley Palacios created popular Tween Time programs for her devoted group of regulars. They engaged in many different activities such as creating salt dough ornaments, paper bag books, and testing the Pop Madness escape room. One week they were excited to watch the movie, *The Princess Bride*. The highlight of the month was having the first-ever outdoor Tween Time on the west terrace where they played with a jumbo bowling set, hula hoops and tossed wet sponges into buckets of water. They also decorated the terrace floor with chalk art!



Family Story Time continued to be a joint effort organized by Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin in collaboration with Ms. Palacios and Librarian Madeline Nezat. Each one took turns presenting different elements of the story time - reading books, singing songs, and facilitating play activities. They read *Shhh! The Baby's Asleep* for Black History Month. The kids enjoyed the book tremendously, as did the parents. Play included washing babies and putting them to sleep in the tent. "Shhh! The babies are sleeping," could be heard throughout the playtime! Valentine's Day play included sensory bins filled with colorful red and pink streamers as well as necklaces and foam hearts. Ocean-themed story time saw children "rescuing" plastic sea creatures from a block of ice. Families were thrilled by their outdoor terrace experience during which they played with hula hoops, chalk, and a tent full of puppets. They also painted ice in a sensory bin.



Ms. Nezat continued to explore different textures, materials, and themes in her Sensory Friendly Play Time. Playdough play invitations were a huge hit, not only with the children, but also with encouraging parent participation. Simple mediums like bubble foam, sand, and gelatin were incredibly effective with long durations of play, concentration, and problem-solving skills. Multiple parents took inspiration from the simplicity of the materials used, informing Ms. Nezat that seeing the sensory bins in action made the possibilities seem more approachable and gave adults the confidence in their own capabilities to set up similar bins at home.



Several community organizations visited the Children's Library at Central in February. Manager Kate Simpson coordinated with representatives from the City of San Antonio's Head Start program to facilitate an info table in the Central Library lobby where they shared resources with parents. Ms. Seglin led a large group of parents from PreK4SA West on a tour of the Central Library and they were impressed at all the Library had to offer. Ms. Simpson arranged a visit from San Antonio College Early Childhood Studies students who used the large picture book collection for their coursework.

Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernandez cohosted the Escape the Earth podcast with Tim Johnson (Igo) Elissa Vura (Brook Hollow), and JD Elizondo (Information Services at Central). The Escape the Earth crew explored Tamsyn Muir's debut novel *Gideon the Ninth*.

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. Nezat visited Madison Square Child Development Center while Ms. Seglin was unavailable. She shared stories and songs with two classes and delivered library books in support of their curriculum. Ms. Simpson delivered books for all 5 grades of children at Discovery School. Ms. Stubbs recorded a story for SAPL's Dial A Story service 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 also serves on the 2024 Teen Summer workgroup.

The Teen Library welcomed a new staff member, Michael Wicks (Library Assistant PT), to the team. Michael hit the ground running and has already begun developing positive relationships with the teens that visit the Teen Library and is working on new processes and maintenance of the music studio.

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

Ciana Flores (Library Assistant PT) continues to engage with teens both in the Teen Library and via the 210teenlibrary Instagram page. She is responsible for the 3D printing requests from

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. Pictures and videos from program times can be found on the @210teenlibrary Instagram page.

210teenlibrary

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Liked by mysapi and 28 others

210teenlibrary • Teen Tuesday: Pupusas &

During the month of February, Information Services hosted Standup for Kids on a weekly basis. This non-profit organization helps age ranges from 13-23 years old with groceries, clothes, housing, jobs, and additional resources.

Arland Schnacker held the last Winter Preparation program for the season on February 10. This program gave tips on preparing homes for winter and staying warm, and provided a list of items that one should have a bulk of in their home in case of freezes and power outages.

On February 12 and February 26, Christina Montero and L.C. Keefe held the Game On program where patrons could stop in to play a variety of board games with staff and other patrons. The program attracted both families and individuals.

On February 16, Pannaga Prasad and Patricia Perez hosted a virtual Chair Yoga program over the Library Zoom platform. The program was presented by Ashley Ludwick, a professional Yoga Instructor from the IdoYogasa organization. Ludwick taught chair yoga exercises, emphasized how to safely stretch, and shared breathing techniques.

On February 17, Kristin Gutierrez and Melissa Gomez hosted the first meeting of the adult Paranormal Book Club. Patrons participated in a lively discussion, played themed games, and engaged in community building.

On February 18, Michael Dunbar-Rodney and Kaylee Avila organized the Praise the Lorde Poetry Slam hosted at Mission Library in honor of Audre Lorde's birthday. Michael served as the MC and members of the community signed up to read their poems. Scores were given by members of the audience and the top three scores were able to select prizes.

LEARN AT CENTRAL

In the month of February, Training Officer Denise Cadena led four Tech Time classes. These drop-in classes offer patrons the opportunity to bring individualized questions regarding their mobile devices. Patrons then share their questions in front of one another and can learn from each other.

Training Officer Daniel González and Learn Library Assistant Brianna Glass taught four Bilingual Computers y Creative Learning classes for or the month of February in which they assisted 7 folks with their job applications, internet navigation, and mouse practice sessions such as double clicking. The class worked on some of the basic keyboarding that gets people through applications, emails, and rudimentary computer usage.

During drop-in hours at Learn at Central this month, a regular patron, Amparo, was so excited that Denise showed her how to download and use the Uber and Lyft apps on her phone that she filled out an Encore card for the team. She also asked other patrons to fill out cards for the team to let them know how well they are doing. Later that week, another regular patron came by and said that he ran into Amparo at Whataburger, and she told him to make sure and fill out an Encore card for them. Each Learn staff member has helped this patron at one time or another and she said that she loves that they teach her how to use the computer or her device and they do not just show her what to do.

There were several patrons returning to update resumes and tell staff about how their new jobs are going. Other patrons are working through GED classes, and one is undergoing a semester long coursework to obtain teaching certificates. They both need help navigating the online platforms and learning the norms of when, where, and how to communicate with their colleagues and teachers. A regular class patron returned to thank us for helping him navigate his job's human resource procedures. He was requesting unpaid time off to be with his daughter

during her medical procedure. Staff spent two days working on this with him. He was not granted the amount of time he needed, but he learned how to navigate the process and a little bit of institutional culture which has been a challenge for him to understand and appreciate previously.

TEXANA/ GENEALOGY

Librarian Andy Crews and Library Assistant Kaylee Avila participated in the Black History Month (BHM) initiative by coordinating a screening of the two-part documentary, *Walk on the River: A Black History of the Alamo City, Emancipation to Integration, 1865-1965*, at Central Library on February 9-10. The documentary delved into politics, religion, education, and community for African Americans living in San Antonio during that time.



In celebration of BHM, Librarian Sylvia Reyna invited researcher Jadyn Evans, to share the story of the Keyhole Club, an African American-owned jazz club that de-segregated San Antonio's Westside in the 1940s and 1950s. On February 10 Ms. Evans did a brief presentation on the club and a few of the famous musicians who performed there on what was known as the "Chitlin' Circuit." Men like Louie Armstrong, Nat King Cole, and Dizzy Gillespie all performed at the Keyhole. She then showed the short film, *Door Between Worlds: Don Albert's Keyhole Club*, which she produced.

In addition to the *Walk on the River* documentary screenings, Ms. Avila worked with the BHM program initiative on several events this month including a poetry slam event. On February 13 at the Schaefer Library, Ms. Avila showed the documentary *Founder Girls* about the country's first sleepaway camp for Black girls. Mission Library was host for *Praise the Lorde Poetry Slam*, in honor of Black, lesbian, feminist, activist and poet Audre Lorde's birthday.

Ms. Reyna and Special Collections Manager Heather Ferguson coordinated a site visit and tour of Central Library's service points for teachers from Great Hearts Academies on February 16. As part of their teacher in-service training, a small group of educators and administrators were particularly interested in learning about the collections and services offered by the Texana/Genealogy Department.

Mr. Crews collaborated with Cresencia Huff for the two-hour dance and multimedia presentation of "The Quilt" on February 17 in the auditorium by Musical Bridges Around the World. Mr. Crews also invited St. Mary's University student Patrick Coan to present his talk on Medal of Honor winner Milton Holland on February 21 in the auditorium. On February 3, he presented a Beginning Genealogy class at the Pruitt Branch Library.

Ms. Ferguson was invited to speak to the University Roundtable group during their February luncheon. The University Roundtable was organized in 1980 as a forum to explore creative, challenging, and controversial issues. The luncheon was held February 21 at the San Antonio Country Club. Ms. Ferguson shared with the group about the library's current Bond project for the Texana Resource Center in addition to Texana/Genealogy interim services at the Central Library.



Lucy Agado, Librarian I, held her first two Texana/Genealogy programs in the month of February. Both were Beginning Genealogy programs. The first was hosted at the Landa Branch on February 6. The second program was held on February 24 at the Johnston Branch.



On February 26, Ms. Reyna conducted *Preserving Your Family Documents* class at the Walker Ranch senior center. She noted the archival quality materials one should use in preserving those precious items and gave examples of what not to do.

BRANCH LOCATIONS

BAZAN



Children's librarian Hope Sonnen welcomed children and their caregivers to weekly programming which included *Lego Club*, *Come and Go Fun* and *Blocks and More*. Ms. Sonnen also continued to help plan *Summer at SAPL* programming for system-wide programming and *Get Eclipse Ready* programming for Bazan.

Assistant Manager and Teen librarian Cassie Garza facilitated the *210 Teen Library Discord Gaming Club*. Teens this month streamed several games that included a Roblox World War I fighter pilot game as well as a fan made Undertale game. The Undertale game extended the original story with a secret boss battle that lasted the entire Discord Gaming club.

Ms. Garza along with Library Aide Carlos Rodriguez assisted McCreless Library with Pokéfest. Ms. Garza and Carlos were manning the trading card area showing folks how to look up the value of their Pokémon cards and demonstrating how to play the Pokémon trading card game. Participants of all ages were also able to trade their own Pokémon cards with others.



The Learn Center at Bazan was busy assisting customers in February. 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. The works by these novices, yet very talented artists, were exhibited in the library for all to enjoy. *Coffee and a Movie for Senior* adults on the first Friday of the month and *Coloring for Adults* was offered every third Friday.

The *Bad Girls Romance Book Club*, hosted by Library Assistant Enedina Prater, met in February to read *The Hookup Plan* by Farrah Rochon, the third book in The Boyfriend Project romance series. The group read the previous two books in the series which take place in Austin, TX. New members joined this discussion and had a great time.

The *Ink Slayers Writers Group* at Bazan, facilitated by Ms. Prater, welcomed writers of all levels and styles in a relaxed and welcoming writing environment. The diverse group, which has been meeting since July of last year, has been steadily increasing in attendance. One new member who recently moved to San Antonio credited the group with providing a welcoming social space for writers new to the local scene.

Bazan held an all-day writing workshop entitled *Ink Madness*, an off shoot of the *Ink Slayers Writers Group*. Writing prompts were provided and attendees took part in writing sprints in the morning with breaks in between to enjoy refreshments. After lunch, the group reconvened and formed a writer's circle to provide feedback on each other's work. It was a fun and fulfilling event and the group looks forward to doing it again in the summer.

BROOK HOLLOW



BHL Branch Manager Jeannette Davies with Walker Ranch Senior Center (WRSC) Special Activities Coordinator Elizabeth Vega, left, Nutritionist Jessica Flores, right.

Brook Hollow Library (BHL) hosted Bexar County Election Department's Early Voting February 20 – March 1, 2024, and Election Day, Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Nearly 5,000 Bexar County Residents voted at BHL during the voting cycle. Bexar County Election Judge Marilyn Jowdy, who oversees voting at BHL complimented the BHL Team for “Excellent support to Elections team! Doors opened timely, Wonderful to work with Jeannette and her Team!”

BHL featured SAPL's Corazon Collection in February 2024 with fanfare including brochures and buttons for patrons who gravitated to the collection display near the library entrance and most of the collection is now checked out. BHL is in the process of “spring cleaning” at the branch and rearranging portions of the collection to allow easier access for patrons.

BHL Manager Jeannette Davies continues to record Libraries Transform Lives Podcasts for the Texas Library Association (TLA) as chairperson of the association's public relations committee. Listen to her conversation with Executive Director of the Literacy Coalition of the Permian Basin John Trischitti III, MLS, who discusses literacy and illiteracy in Texas. TLA Libraries Transform Texas Podcasts can be found on the TLA website under the Libraries Transform Texas tab. Davies continued senior outreach to the COSA's WRSC in February during BHL's monthly Library Hour and Davies pitched the Corazon Collection at the center's monthly birthday celebration where Davies chats with members about SAPL Services and offers a food demonstration. Oversized Hersey's Kisses were made to break open and chocolate covered pretzels were shared with seniors, along with SAPL Corazon brochures.

Adult Services Librarian Marco De Leon coordinated BHL's February book clubs including, The Mystery Book Club 2/1/24 with 9 attendees who read *All the Sinners Bleed* by S.A. Cosby. Tuesday Evening Book Club 2/13/24 with seven attendees who read *Paradise* by Abdulrazak Gunah. La Tertulia Book Club met 2/10/24 with 13 readers who read *Las Uvas de la Ira* by John Steinbeck and the Walker Ranch Book Club met at Walker Ranch Senior Center 2/21/24 with 24 attendees who read *Next Year in Havana* by Chanel Cleeton.

In February, BHL Children's Librarian Catherine Robbins continued BHL programs Let's Build for children ages 6-12 on Monday afternoons from 3-4pm; Family Story Times on Thursday mornings at 10:15am for families with children ages 0-5; and hosted the Read to a Dog program on Friday afternoons with trained therapy dogs and their handlers. Robbins geared up planning programs for March's NISD's Spring Break and shared SAPL summer reading program details with staff.

BHL Teen Librarian/Assistant Manager Grace Holt facilitated Teen Time on Tuesday evenings throughout February where teens engaged in activities, they chose like creating chocolate covered fruit, perler beads, and button making. BHL Teen volunteers helped prep for Teen Time each week. Teen volunteers also created new book displays each week, including a TikTok Recs and Valentine's Day book display. Library Assistant Elissa Vura continued hosting Teen Gaming Club on Thursdays, where teens engaged with board games as well as videogames. The Teen Area at Brook Hollow Library continues to make space available for teens to express themselves.

Beginning in February, Holt helped facilitate the weekly Dungeons and Dragons Club on the 210teenlibrary Discord server, where teens use their imagination, think strategically, and work together as a team during their Dungeons and Dragons campaign. Holt also worked with the Teen Summer Workgroup as submissions closed for the 2024 Teen Summer Art Contest and voting commenced.

BHL Library Assistant Elissa Vura along with Librarian Tim Johnson (Potranco Library), Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernandez (Central Library - Childrens), and J.D. Elizondo (Central – Adult Information Services) hosted the Escape the Earth podcast—a monthly sci-fi and fantasy book discussion. The February episode, featuring Tamsyn Muir's cult favorite *Gideon the Ninth*, has received 88 views and counting. The Escape the Earth podcast is available on Soundcloud under the San Antonio Public Library Podcast TunedIn Channel.

Teen Gaming @ BHL, a weekly program for teens ages 13-18 who are interested in all aspects of tabletop and video gaming, continues to see repeat and increasing attendance. The program,

facilitated by Vura, offers teens the opportunity for positive social interaction with their peers and exploration of their interests and hobbies. In February, along with video gaming, teens elected to create and share video game-related art and crafts, resulting in a submission to the SAPL Teen Summer Shirt Contest. Community is building among the attending teens who are forming relationships and making new connections. One teen commented she didn't know if she had more fun with her friend group at school or here.

CARVER

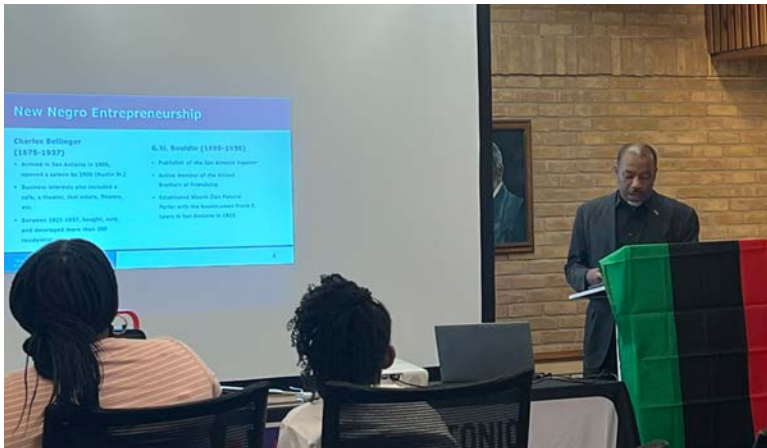
Notable poets visited the branch in February -- C. Prudence Arceneaux and Reggie Scott Young. Ms. Arceneaux, director of creative writing at Austin Community College, headlined the Prudence L. Curry Writers' series on Sunday, February 4 and read from her collection of verse. In 2018, she received the 2018 Pedrick Prize for writing. Reggie Scott Young, Ph.D., author of *Yardbirds Squawking at the Moon*, visited the branch on Sunday, February 25 and read from his manuscript about gritty life in Chicago. Young was recently nominated for a 2023 Pushcart Prize. In addition, he is a recent "recipient of an individual artist grant from the City of San Antonio's Department of Arts and Culture for a new poetry project titled *Searching for Robert Johnson at the Alamodome*, according to his website.



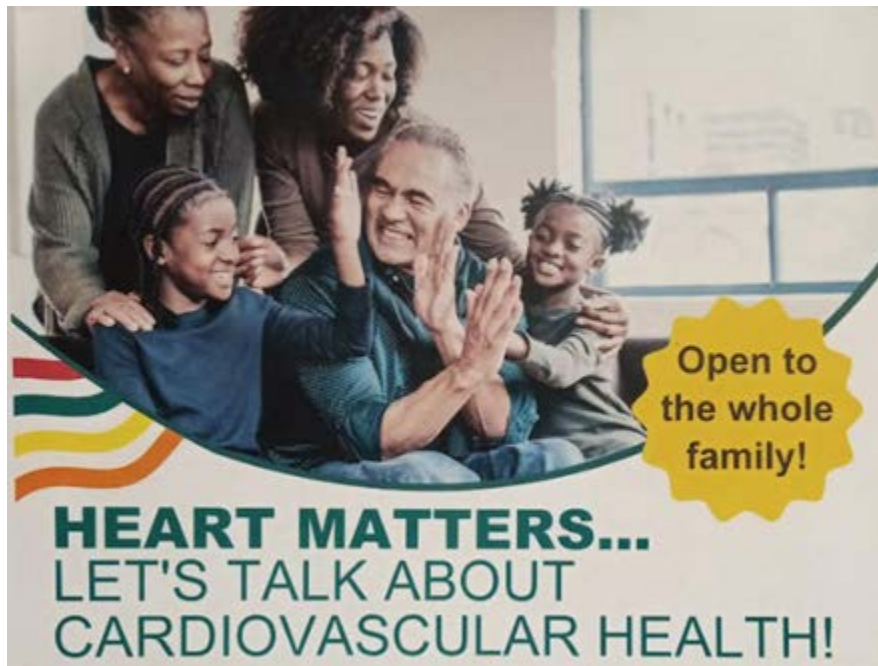
D.L. Grant visited Bowden Academy on Wednesday, February 7 for Career Day, where students and faculty celebrated Black History Month. Dr. Grant represented the branch last year, speaking to youngsters about careers in the information profession. He felt honored to be invited back to talk to people about San Antonio Public Library.



On Saturday, February 10 the branch and Carver Friends hosted the Black History Month Breakfast. Featured speaker was Charles Gentry, Ph.D., of the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation. Dr. Gentry's remarks focused on African American businesses that and flourished along Commerce Street and nearby neighborhoods, such as Ellis Alley, during the early to mid-20th Century. His presentation introduced the audience to such early African American business leaders as Pinkie Smith, Charles Bellinger, Homer Rogers, Eugene Sample and G.W. Bouldin. Evidence of their legacy is still to be found, he said.



The branch invited the African American Health Disparities Council (AAHD), a part of San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, to share information related to wellness. Organized as a Black History Month venue, *Heart Matters...Let's Talk About Cardiovascular Health!* was held on Wednesday, February 13 and open to all, attracting some 70 visitors. According to the AAHD, it's important throughout the lifespan for individuals to be able to identify and employ self-monitoring techniques and healthy habits to achieve blood pressure wellness. Free blood pressure monitors were provided by the office of City Council District 2.



African Glory, a documentary feature by Thierry Siegried Bugaud, was screened in a collaboration with the San Antonio Black International Film Festival (SABIFF) on Saturday, February 17. Asking the question what if the first African to reach the Americas arrived as a king rather than a slave, the film discusses the exploits of a 13th Century West African emperor, Abu Bakr II, who is believed to have crossed the Atlantic with an armada of 2,000 vessels – many years prior to Christopher Columbus.

An estimated crowd of 500 people attended KLRN's S.E.E Your Future Career Day for youngsters at St. Philip's College. The event was held on Saturday, February 24. Branch Manager D.L. Grant met with dozens of children and their families, sharing library promotional materials, and discussing SAPL services as well as career opportunities for prospective information professionals. A parent, Frank, reached out afterward, telling Dr. Grant: "It was great to meet over the weekend and enjoy the KLRN event! My son really enjoyed it, and it was great



to talk to topics important in our community

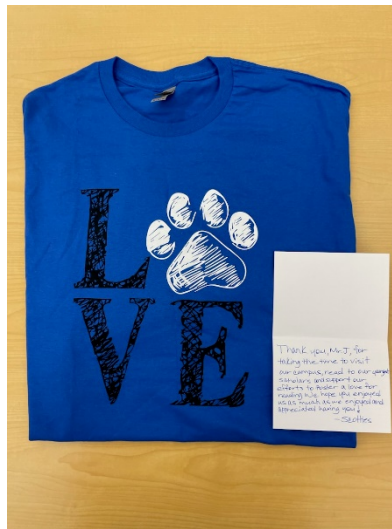


In last month's (January 2024) director's report, Mr. Jarzombek mentioned he had attended a Literacy Night event on December 7th and had set up a tentative date to do his first Story Time at Cameron Elementary on February 14th. He had been corresponding for months with his contact at the school to try to schedule a Story Time and was glad to find out a few days before February 14th the event had been confirmed.

When Mr. Jarzombek arrived at the school on the day of the event and talked to his contact, he found out that, instead of doing Story Time with one Pre-Kindergarten class in their classroom, he would be doing Story Time with four Pre-Kindergarten classes in the library! He mentioned to the contact that besides reading stories, he would be singing songs with the students while playing his guitar. The contact was happy he would be playing his guitar because as she explained to him, the music teacher at the school does not see the Pre-Kindergarten students for music, and this would be one of the few opportunities the Pre-Kindergarten students would experience this kind of music activity.

After reading a story and singing a few songs with the students, things seemed to be going well for Mr. Jarzombek when to his surprise, the principal of the school (Brandy Lewis) decided to come to the library to see how things were going with Story Time! Mr. Jarzombek got the impression the principal was enjoying the program, but he was worried for the rest of the program that perhaps she did not enjoy the program as much as he had thought.

While Mr. Jarzombek was walking down the hallway with his contact to exit the school after the program, he noticed the principal standing in front of him far down the hallway, just when he figured he was done with having to getting nervous around the principal! It turned out Mr. Jarzombek had nothing to worry about – when he walked close to where she was standing in the hallway, she gave him a school mascot T-shirt and a handwritten card expressing her gratitude for coming to the school to do the Story Time event. She also invited him to come back to the school to do another Story Time.



February marked the arrival of Marcel Martinez Alvarez, who assumed leadership of LEARN at Carver Branch. Mr. Alvarez previously served at the Westfall Branch. It was a hectic but rewarding period for Alvarez as he sought to acquaint himself with the customers to understand their needs and goals. Currently, he teaches Introduction to Computers as well as mobile device classes which continue to be popular with Learn users, along with the crochet club, which launched about a year ago. So far, notable interactions have included helping a patron get a job at the Frost Bank Center and working with others on building and refining their resumes. Mr. Alvarez attended the Texas Association for Literacy and Adult Education (TALAE) Conference in February in San Antonio. The theme was On a Mission to Transform Adult Education. Mr. Alvarez attended Memorial High School's early college program and graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio.



For the month of February, Teen Librarian Michael Harle collaborated with Collins Gardens Teen Librarian Daniella Toll, and more than 10 teens (a combination of employees and volunteers) to host the "Teens in the Library" training at Staff Development Day. This training aimed to demonstrate how to work with teens in SAPL spaces and relied heavily on staff interacting with teen participants who helped shape the training. Mr. Harle also attended LibraryPalooza! with former Carver intern and current Igo Teen Librarian, Esperanza Meekins, spending the day promoting SAPL and making buttons with over 800 predominantly teen attendees. At Carver, he began working with new teen volunteer, Paula Rios, who has started her Monday evenings working with Library Aide Sarah Garza to organize the branch's youth

supplies and materials. Ms. Rios is expected to assume hosting and responsibilities of Carver's Teen Time in March. While Mr. Harle's weekly podcasting outreach to Sam Houston High School was cancelled, he is working with SHHS Librarian Dina Branford to reschedule.



CODY

The Cody Library served as a polling location for early voting for the Primary election at the end of the month. Many staff members attended Staff Day on February 19, participating in karaoke, trivia, goat petting, crafting, yoga, art scavenger hunts, networking, and meeting SAPL staff.

The branch hosted ASL Basics on February 10, presented by staff from Language Equity Access, Advocacy & Advancement for the Deaf Enterprise. Students from Health Careers High School hosted a voter registration drive, complete with a sample voting machine, in conjunction with the League of Women Voters on February 17.

The Cody Fiber Club continues to meet on Monday evenings, hosted by library assistant Haly LeFlore. The group has been growing, with new folks joining the group to work on their projects, share tips, and even celebrate birthdays.

Participants in ABC Club (ages 2-4) celebrate the letters P, R, S and V (for valentines) through music, stations of crafts and learning games, and reading books together, with Children's Librarian Cari Raley and volunteers. Several families learned more about each other's culture and connected with new languages each week. Families have slowly developed friendships through this program and have been able to celebrate their cultures and traditions outside of the program, including holidays like lunar new year and several Tamil smaller holidays and festivals. Multiple families learned about the American tradition of Valentine's card exchange for the first time this month.

Storybook Club highlighted one book each week. Attendees get to practice reading comprehension as a group as they identify the main characters and a few new words from the featured story. During stations, kids get a chance to design bracelets, necklaces, and all kinds

Homeschool programs are called the Nature Club and World Makers. Both clubs focus on learning more about planet Earth. World Makers learned this month how to research current issues and problems for the planet. Students chose a country and researched the socioeconomical climate, political concerns, culture, environmental issues and the chosen country's relationship with its neighboring countries and allies using library resources. Then they participated in a variation of a model United Nations simulation, representing their country in a group debate on the topics of Clean Water and Access to Primary Education for all kids. Then they created posters of protest or support for the countries' point of view.

Kids' Time Art had a great time exploring paint sticks, oil pastels, watercolors, and crayons in their different creations. Several families have said that this is the highlight of their week. They never had the opportunity to use any of these tools before and were very excited about the chance.



As always, Cody has a huge after-school group of teens excited to craft, hang out, and volunteer at the library. This group has enjoyed making Perler bead crafts, bracelets, slime (a fan favorite), crochet, and more! Teens have taken ownership over their section of the library displaying their art, their achievements (with redacted names), and asking all community teens questions on the teen whiteboard that people all day and week answer allowing teens to make new connections with peers who may not share the space at the same time as them.



COLLINS GARDEN

For February, Adult Librarian Rosa Villa hosted an Adult Watercolor Painting on Sundays where patrons could relax and color at their own pace. Ms. Villa also hosted a Rock Painting for Adults craft on February 20. Patrons created exciting images on their rocks.



On February 21, Ms. Villa hosted the Collins Garden Book Club, where they discussed the novel *The Marriage Portrait* by Maggie O'Farrell.

In celebration of Black History Month, Ms. Villa hosted a screening of the movie *Big George Foreman* on February 11, coinciding with Collection Development's Black History display. She also mounted a Blind Date with Books and a Chocolate display for the patrons' enjoyment.



Daniella Toll, Collins Garden Teen Services Librarian facilitated activities for ages 13-18 at the Collins Garden Branch in February with the assistance of a teen volunteer. The volunteer helped organize and label the branch's button making supplies. A new teen came to the teen events, was welcomed by Teen Librarian Ami Sarabia, drew anime, and played a lively game of Monopoly Deal with the Collins Garden teen volunteer. Ms. Toll made a card making station in the teen area for Valentine's Day and continued to have the window decorating area available, as well as butcher paper on the tables.

Ms. Toll continued to supervise Off-site teen volunteers and assist Matthew Loaiza with the weekly Teen Club on the 210teenlibrary Discord server. In collaboration with Michael Harle and Kelli Pyles, Ms. Toll helped present a training session for library staff on February 19th at All Staff Day. For the event, teen volunteers came to the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention center to donate their time to help library staff understand teens and how to talk to them and work with them, in addition to six Zoom meetings to help plan the training session.



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Early Voting took much of the time and attention at Cortez Library in the month of February. On the 19th, seven members of Cortez staff attended Staff Day at the Convention Center downtown and had an excellent time. Three instances of *Name That Tune* on Monday evenings took place, hosted by Children's Librarian Linda Childs or Branch Manager Angela Morrow. Patrons listen to a few seconds of music and try to identify the song. Branch Manager Morrow also joined the Inter-Library Loan Transition workgroup to help identify possible issues with changing software latest this year. Finally, Morrow was accepted to be a part of the City of San Antonio's Innovation Academy, a ten-week program to learn about proposing and implementing a project for radical change for the City of San Antonio. She is excited to learn and make a proposal of her own at the end of Innovation Academy.

Adult Services Librarian Melissa Carroll hosted another *Nothing Fancy Book Club*. Several new patrons were in attendance along with returning members. For the season of romance, the group read *Like Water for Chocolate: A Novel in Monthly Installments, With Recipes, Romances, And Home Remedies* by Laura Esquivel. In honor of the book's food themes, a kind patron brought a delicious box of pan dulce. *Cortez Crochet Club* continues to grow with new members each week. Patrons enjoy learning new tips and techniques and seeing everyone's projects progress. Vince Escovedo with Metro Health's Healthy Neighborhoods led another delicious cooking class, showing patrons easy recipes that are also healthy. This month's recipe was a flavorful chimichurri sauce over salad! Ale Ochoa from Metro Health's Diabetes Prevention & Control Group offered three more Diabetes Prevention workshops (Prevent T2) for patrons with prediabetes or another chronic disease. Senior Planet and Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) from AARP offered two workshops this month: *Gmail Tips and Tricks* and *iPhones*. In addition, AARP hosted another technology class for patrons over 50, *Job Searching in the Digital Age*. Both partner organizations focus on helping older adults with technology. Nine in a half years later, Librarian Assistant Jo Ann Paredes' craft class *Getting Crafty* is still going strong. This month's crafts consisted of: Table runner, Rock Cactus Planter, Easter Egg pillow, and a Valentine brunch. *Crafty Teatime*, a newly revived program, seems to be a hit. Patrons enjoy coming in to taste different flavored teas and bring in whatever craft they want to work on.

February was heavy on the theme of food for children at the Cortez branch. The month started off with learning about New Orleans and experience a taste of the Crescent City with king cake, Saints football facts, and songs! Afterwards, Children's Librarian Linda Childs showed the families in attendance how to make their own "king cake" with a little help from cotton balls and glitter. The next week, kids talked about their favorite foods and made paper versions of them. Other story time events included magnet making and painting with shaving cream. *Tween Time* and *Lego Time* continued to be big hits for the branch. This month saw several children return week after week to continue working on one specific Lego project. Library staff saved their progress on the tops of the shelves, where visitors could clearly see the progress as the month went by. The tweens were less excited about February, as voting in the second half of the month meant that they could not use the meeting room. They did like making stress balls, however, and playing with the flour that went inside them.

ENCINO

Childrens

Encino children have had a busy month for our Story Time and Baby Story Time groups, which have both been growing continuously. Caregivers have really been creating a community with each other and are great at listening, encouraging, and advising each other on different issues as they care for their littles.

Both Encino kids and Encino tweens had fun creating different types of valentines for our crafts this month. Kids had fun exploring color and creating new colors as they created heart symmetry art paintings. Tweens painted seashells for their valentines.

We also had fun with our regular Read to a Dog, LEGOs and Sensory Play programs. It has been fun to watch kids create their own stories using shadow puppets during sensory play. We are looking forward to another busy month ahead in March!

Teen

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.

Teen Library Aides Kelli Pyles and Persephone Williams volunteered their time and experience for the Staff Day breakout session titled Teens in the Library. Kelli and Persephone met with the facilitators of the breakout session to coordinate the event and got several of the Teen Time Council members involved to work the tables at the session.

Adults

February started off with adult services librarian Ann Laird's monthly visit to Franklin Park Assisted Living on February 1. February's featured author was Janet Evanovich. Residents enjoyed a biographical sketch, watched a short interview with Ms. Evanovich, and watched the trailer for the movie *One for the Money* based on the first Stephanie Plum novel.

On Sunday, February 2, all ages enjoyed making Pompom bookmarks from various colors of yarn. Most participants had never made a pompom from scratch before, so it was a learning experience! It was also an opportunity for the youngest participants to practice their counting skills as they had to wrap the yarn around their hand 90 times.

Adult crafters got very creative at the Painted Tea Towels program on February 12. Participants were given blank tea towels, fabric paint, cookie cutters (to be used as stamps or stencils), and other painting supplies – and were set free to let their imaginations run wild! It was very interesting to see what creative direction each person took with their tea towel. Everyone made something different and unique!

Branch

Encino Library hosted early voting for the Primary runoffs from February 20-March 1. During the period of February 20-29, Encino had 4,129 voters visit the library. We were the second most popular destination in the city for voting behind Brook Hollow.

FOREST HILLS

Forest Hills welcomed the art of Kim Ballesteros exhibited in the display case at the entrance to the library. The exhibit is called Booking Now: A Trip Around the World! And are assemblages

based on places the artist has visited, using picture frames, boxes, and other objects to create capsule moments of joy and discovery.

Library Assistant Shy Axelrod continued the monthly Bring Your Own Book Club, with the prompt of reading a book about love or romance this month; readers brought a diverse mix of books to discuss and share. She also continued the monthly Gaymer Night tabletop gaming program, open to all LGBTQ+ adults who want to meet and enjoy board games together.

Children's Librarian Ana Menchaca was happy to visit A Place for Life, PCI, where she read a book to each of the four classes and sang a song with them and checked out books for each class. Ms. Menchaca was also invited to Villarreal Elementary School to read to students to celebrate "Read Out Loud Day." She read "Mother Bruce" to a 1st grade class. As she does every month, Ms. Menchaca wrote an entry for the children's blog; this month she wrote about the children's book "The Skull."

Wanting to increase attendance for programs and awareness of offerings, Ms. Menchaca went to nearby city parks and posted flyers advertising the children's programs at Forest Hills. As she does every month, Ms. Menchaca has had Storytime, Kids Time, Lego Time, Baby Time, and Bilingual Storytime. A special Kids Time celebrating "Leap Day" was a hit! Kids made lily pads and an origami frog. Kids had a lot of fun playing hopscotch and bigger kids taught some younger kids how to play on the hopscotch board she made with colorful tape. Ms. Menchaca has noticed that come and go crafts have been popular lately, with children and their caregivers enjoying drawing and creating freely.

Teen Librarian Shannan Prukop attended the second SET module on February 9th, continuing their efforts to work through the SET coursework. They also continued work to prepare for the upcoming Pop Madness event, making sure guests had all the information they needed, crafts were supplied, and the space was plotted out for the anime area and cosplay contest. Mx. Prukop continued weekly Teen Time at Forest Hills, with teens learning how to use the sewing machine to help facilitate future careers in the clothing and fashion industry and sharing in the joys of their favorite anime with their peers through Crunchyroll on the Nintendo Switch. Mx. Prukop also continued the weekly Dungeons & Dragons club on the 210teenlibrary Discord server, encouraging teens to develop creative problem solving and leadership skills through the framework of the game.

GREAT NORTHWEST

Children's Librarian Crystal Carter from Great Northwest attended the Multicultural literacy night at Knowlton Elementary on February 1 and passed out library resources and programming information to both children and parents and caregivers.



Baby Time at Great Northwest has been a big hit. Our second baby time program brought in an amazing 31 participants, who stayed after the program swapping information and making friends. Tuesday afternoon is Story Time at Great Northwest. Children and their grownups listen to stories and enjoy simple, shared activities. It was a time for families to have fun together while developing early literacy skills and fostering curiosity. On Wednesday mornings the library hosted Family Play Time for children ages 5 and younger. Families with young children visited the library to enjoy come-and-go style play time activities. Fridays were full of fun for kids. During Toddler Time children ages 18 months to 3 years old actively participated in stories, music, and movement to enhance their social, emotional, and language development. On Friday afternoon the library hosted the Let's Create Maker's Club for kids ages 6 to 12 years old. Kids expressed themselves with creative, self-directed art activities.

Teens planned and implemented all Teen events for the month of February at Great Northwest Library. Teens made felt pop tarts and Valentine's gifts out of fabric at their Sew What? Intro class to sewing club, they played board games and enjoyed making crafts and drawing on the white board in the teen space! Teens also celebrated February birthdays with cupcakes and fun snacks, and we also welcomed a teen who just turned 13 this month!



Hooked on Stories, the crochet club for all ages, met on February 5 and 12. The participants worked on crochet projects while discussing their crochet experiences. The Great Northwest Potpourri Book Club met on February 17. 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. On February 4 the library hosted the Lofi Stitchery where adults could bring their own string, thread, or yarn projects to the library. Participants could knit, crochet, sew, and embroider while listening to Lofi radio with chill relaxing vibes.

GUERRA

Guerra library served as an early voting site for the Democratic and Republican Primary Elections. The branch also continued to host The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program for qualified individuals.

On February 11, Children's Librarian, Linda Lopez represented SAPL on KENS5 Great Day SA! She promoted Children's Services and the Corazón Collection.



Ms. Lopez presented weekly Toddler Story Times, Lego, Clubs and Tween Time programs. Toddler Story Time was busy, and toddlers enjoyed dancing, rhyming, singing, reading, and playing. There is a steady group of attendees and both parents and children have built friendships while attending. Lego Club attendees enjoyed building unique creations and challenged each other with the challenge cards provided.

After a short hiatus, Tween Time welcomed new and smiling faces. Tweens enjoyed the company of their peers while they played games, created art, and hung out with each other. Ms. Lopez added a new program on Saturdays at Guerra: Let's Create. This open-ended process art program was well received and attended by children and families. Her outreach efforts took her to Galm Elementary on February 8, where she promoted library services and program offerings at Guerra.

Teen programming will resume in March after a short pause during the branch closure. The teen space is being redesigned to welcome teens into an engaging and interactive environment.

Adults and Seniors were kept engaged with self-directed activities: Jigsaw puzzles, crossword puzzles, word searches, adult coloring, and other puzzle activities.

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson, recorded *La verdad según Arturo* (*The truth according to Arthur*) by Tim Hopgood for Dial-a-Story in Spanish on February 2. He facilitated a weekly Spanish/English conversation program for intermediate speakers. They practiced common Mexican gestures, expressed past events in Spanish. The group talked about fruits and role-played buying fruits. On February 23, Mr. Jackson visited the Willie Cortez Senior Center where he facilitated a trivia game which focused on questions about rodeo and local restaurants. On February 29, he moderated a book discussion group, Club de Lectura, both face-to-face and via Zoom. They discussed *Por quien doblan las campanas* (*For whom the bell tolls*) by Ernest Hemingway.



IGO

Igo Entangled Life Book Club hosted a very successful program in collaboration with the Austin Bat Refuge. On Wednesday, February 14, 2024, from 2:30 to 4 PM, our library welcomed over 80 patrons and their children for a captivating live bat presentation.

The atmosphere was buzzing with enthusiasm as children and adults alike gathered to learn about the fascinating world of bats. The interactive presentation led by experts from the Austin Bat Refuge not only educated our audience about the crucial role bats play in our ecosystem but also dispelled common myths and misconceptions about these remarkable creatures.

This remarkable event was made possible through the dedication and hard work of our circulation attendant, Morghann Patterson. Their efforts ensured that everything ran smoothly, from coordinating with the Austin Bat Refuge to promoting the event and ensuring a welcoming environment for all attendees.

We are thrilled to have provided such an enriching experience for our community, thanks to Morghann's outstanding contributions. The positive feedback from attendees further reinforces our commitment to organizing engaging and educational programs that resonate with our patrons.

The Poetry Reading by Karla Broadus at Igo Library on February 24, 2024, was a captivating celebration of Black History Month. Karla Broadus, a former Senior Lecturer at UTSA, led the event with an enchanting display of poignant and inspiring poetry. The event aimed to weave together themes of heritage, resilience, and the African American experience through the power of words.

Seven individuals participated in the poetry reading event. The audience comprised a diverse range of individuals, including teens, adults, and older adults, showcasing the universal appeal of poetry and the significance of the themes explored.

Karla Broadus mesmerized the audience with her delivery, reading a total of four poems throughout the event. Her selection of poems resonated deeply with the attendees, eliciting

emotional responses, and fostering reflection on the rich cultural heritage and struggles of the African American community.

A notable highlight of the event was the lively conversations that ensued, facilitated by the engaging atmosphere created by Karla Broadus. Attendees actively engaged with each other, sharing insights and personal reflections inspired by the poetry readings. Professor Charles Gentry from UTSA also graced the event with his presence, further enriching the discussions with his perspective and expertise. This program was arranged by Gamini Haluwana, Adult Services Librarian at Igo Branch.

The Igo Library successfully maintained its children's programming by hosting a special family story time event titled "Hearts and Kisses" on February 15th. This event featured engaging story sessions followed by a creative craft activity. Additionally, we conducted two more family story times and two baby times in the final two weeks of February, catering to a diverse range of age groups and interests.

Towards the end of the month, we welcomed a 5th-grade class for a research session at the library, as they did not have access to their own library. This experience was invaluable for the students, as they learned about the library's resources and how to conduct research effectively within its walls. It was a rewarding opportunity for us to empower young learners with the knowledge and skills needed for academic success.

All these programs expertly arranged and executed by our new Children's Librarian Deborah Hinshelwood. Under Deborah's guidance and expertise, these programs were seamlessly coordinated, ensuring a delightful and educational experience for our young patrons. Her dedication to creating engaging and enriching activities for children and families has made a significant impact on our community, fostering a love for learning and exploration. Igo library is grateful for Deborah's contributions and looks forward to more wonderful programs under her leadership.

JOHNSTON

Johnston hosted the mobile market, "Mercado por tu Corazon", on February 13 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 February 27th, Texas Legal Rio Grande presented the event "Renter: Know Your Rights" sponsored by the Neighborhood and Housing Services. Johnston welcomed Training Officer Shauna Mendoza to Johnston. With Ms. Mendoza's arrival



Johnston's Learn Center resumes full services. Walk-in assistance is available Tuesday thru Saturday, 1:00pm to 6:00 pm.

Librarian Yamada conducted the Adult Craft Club on February 17th, patrons enjoyed making a note holder using corks and yarn. Ms. Yamada also coordinated with Librarian Lucia Agado from Texana to offer a Beginning Genealogy class on February 24th.



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 *Whose Feet?* by Sam Williams and *I like Myself* by Karen Beaumont. 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: bunny ear headpieces; recycled art necklaces; and paper plate dinosaurs. 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 February 6 and provided Story Time. She also visited Hidden Cove STEAM Academy on February 7 where she talked about the library to several classes and provided stories and songs to many of the children. She also visited Sky Harbour Elementary for their Literary Night on February 29.



Teen Librarian Ana Piña facilitated in-person Teen Time every Monday night of the month. Teens assisted in selecting and planning weekly activities throughout the month which included face painting, custom bracelet and keychain making, sharing musical interests, and various other board games. Ms. Piña also hosted the Johnston No-pressure Book Club on Sunday, February 18th where participants gathered to talk about the books they have been reading for the month of February. Notable titles were *Migrar* by José Manuel Mateo and *Letter from Birmingham Jail* by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

LANDA

Children's programming at Landa continued to be successful and well-attended. Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas presented at least eight programs each week for children ages 0-12. The programs with the highest attendance each week were Baby Time, Toddler Time, and Outdoor Story Time.

Teen Librarian Stephanie Thomas-Rosen and Landa Teens explored new ways to allow teens to use the outdoor space after the group expressed interest in going outdoors for activities. Librarian Stephanie purchased outdoor fitness equipment to enhance outdoor options for teens.

Librarian Stephanie applied for summer internship opportunities for teens to gain work experience in the library.

After interest was expressed by teens for college and intern positions, Librarian Stephanie explored different options to have displayed in the teen room to include college and career focused books, as well as a flyer of the current intern programs offered by the City of San Antonio and other partner organizations.

Librarian Stephanie continued to work with teens to create a welcoming atmosphere where they can implement teen-designed activities including arts, crafts, physical activities, and social interactions.

Readers Ink Book Club – A new member joined the group this month. She was warmly welcomed. The group read *Under the Banner of Heaven* by Jon Krakauer. There was a lot of great discussion about fundamentalists and the varying degrees of religion. The group was intrigued by the topic. Not many members had previous knowledge of Mormonism or Utah.

Mystery Book Club read *When No One Is Watching* by Alyssa Cole.

Adult Librarian Robin Alcorta hosted a charm necklace program this month. It was incredibly well-received. There were more than 50 adults in attendance, most of them in a younger demographic than the Branch has seen before!

LAS PALMAS

Las Palmas Branch Library is currently closed 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 service site hours of operation:

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



(San Antonio Public Library-Communications Department, 2023)

Las Palmas patrons received long awaited updates on the library's renovations at a community meeting held on February 12th at the Memorial Branch Library. Two days later, on February 14th, Las Palmas Assistant Manager, Nicole San Martin, and Senior Circulation Attendant marked Library Lover's Day by treating patrons at Our Lady of the Lake interim site to chocolate-covered strawberries and presenting many with brand-new library cards. Towards the end of the month, patrons were delightedly introduced to the Corazon Collection through a curated display.





On February 19th, numerous staff members from Las Palmas convened at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center for Staff Day. This event provided an excellent platform for staff to engage in professional development workshops, fun activities, and connect with colleagues from various departments and branches. Additionally, the introduction of Las Palmas' new Children's Librarian, Deborah Hinshelwood, sparked considerable excitement, marking the first official meeting between her and the staff.

(L-R: Nicole, Deborah, Elvia, Celicia, and Amisarahi)

MAVERICK

In February, Maverick hosted The Lady Mav's Book Club, Ladies Choice Book Club, and the Poetry Club for their monthly gathering. The Edge Writing Workshop hosted by Poet Dario Beniquez continued in February with its second meeting. The Mah Jongg Group also met in January. Ben Longoria, Adult Services Librarian II, continued weeding through non-fiction collection. Many of Maverick's staff participated in All Staff Day at the Henry B. Convention in February. It was a great opportunity for staff to participate in professional training programs and to see fellow colleagues from other departments. Maverick also welcomed the Bexar County Elections Department for the Early Voting Primaries in late February. The Reference Team collaborated to ensure the Election Judges had access to the building and remained until voting ended for the day. For instance, Ms. Roberts opened the branch for Early Voting three times in February.

During the February reporting period, Children's Librarian, Amy Roberts, worked on weeding the Juvenile Board Books, Juvenile Graphic Novels, and Juvenile Paperbacks for grubby items. She also weeded the Juvenile Easy area for duplicate items in good condition, to be sent to other libraries.

The children's librarian conducted 16 programs with 566 attendees during the reporting period. Ms. Roberts has Baby Time, Toddler Time, and Preschool Storytime every week, in addition to a popular after school Lego Time.

Ms. Roberts conducted LibChat on February 2 and February 16. In addition, she also attended a few meetings and training courses during the reporting period. On February 1, Ms. Roberts completed Climate Change training. On February 13, she completed the monthly Security Awareness training. Ms. Roberts attended the children's librarian's meeting on February 14 at the Tobin Library.

Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl assisted Maverick Teen Volunteers as they implemented their plans and spontaneous activities. Teens created paper crafts in February, and crayons

made a comeback; some chose to make Valentines on the 13th and laminating bookmarks was popular. One Teen chose to work on their submission for the Teen Summer T-shirt art contest. Those not as interested in crafting competed in Clue, Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza tabletop games and Beat Saber on the PS4.

Library Palooza ... In October Bleichwehl began coordinating with Brandeis High School Librarian, Sheryl Stoeck, for NISD's Library Palooza. Once Esperanza Meekins became the new Igo Teen Librarian I, Bleichwehl handed over coordination to her. On the day of the event, Bleichwehl transported the requested supplies from SAPL Teen Services and Communications to Brandeis High School. Attendees of the event were able to make a button and learned about SAPL services and events.

McCRELESS

Children's Librarian Paula Lenington led Family Story Time every Thursday in February. The kids sang songs, listened to a story, and had an engaging time playing and building.



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



The Center for Health Care Services visited the McCreless Library with a group of 11 adults with special needs. Librarian Paula Lenington had a story/craft time with them where she read stories and did some crafts. They really enjoyed the opportunity and will be back in March.



On February 14th 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.

On two Sundays in February, Amy came with her dog Seamus for the Read to a Dog program. Kids took turns reading to Seamus to increase their reading fluency.



Every Tuesday night from 5:30-7:30pm, Daniela Moreno, Teen Services Librarian at McCreless, facilitated weekly programs for teens aged 13 to 18 in the Teen Space. The teens decided the

activities they wanted to do for the following week. Some examples of these activities are playing with the Nintendo Switch, creating art with the materials provided, making buttons, etc.

In February Library Assistant Joseph Gonzales hosted and organized Pokéfest 2024 at McCreless Library with the help of staff from McCreless Library and staff from 8 other branches. Pokéfest had over 600 smiling and excited patrons attending this event. They were able to enjoy crafts, temporary tattoos, Pokémon card gaming/trading, Pokémon Go Battle tournaments, Pokémon button making, and a Pokémon Loteria game for all ages. On February 13th Mr. Gonzales also hosted a Family Movie Night at McCreless called Trolls Band Together. Visitors enjoyed refreshing beverages as well as popcorn with the movie. Library Assistant Gonzales also continued to use his tech savvy to solve some computer issues with the public and staff computers at McCreless Library.



McCreless held a Lunar New Year Celebration on February 6. Patrons of all ages enjoyed a presentation by Yaping Zhang who discussed the history of Lunar New Year. They were thrilled to take part in a dragon parade throughout the library.



Adult Services Librarian Vicky Villalobos 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". Vicky also held the monthly Queer Crafternoon program on February 18 where the selection was "Delilah Green Doesn't Care" by Ashley Herring Blake. And on February 23, Vicky joined Librarians Brook Mjolsness and Dan Garcia for SAPL Live Trivia.

On February the 5th, McCreless hosted an event in partnership with Musical Bridges Around the World, a local nonprofit arts organization, and producers of the educational documentary film "The Quilt: A Living History of African American Music", which explores the music genres born and formed by African American history and culture and how music of the past connects with that of the present, just like the layers of a quilt.

MEMORIAL

In March of 2020, Memorial Branch Library (along with the rest of San Antonio Public Library) closed its doors to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By the end of February 2021, SAPL was still mostly closed and the staff at Memorial had nearly finished packing the branch's collection and other belongings as they prepared to turn the building over to contractors to begin a renovation and remodeling project approved under the 2017 Bond. On February 25, 2023, the branch reopened after its extended closure in a massive celebration which included guest speakers and a specially commissioned poem from Dr. Carmen Tafolla, who read her work to a thrilled audience. After the ribbon was cut, the crowd surged into the building, serenaded by a group of mariachis in the brand-new lobby.

On February 27, 2024, the branch observed the first anniversary of this joyous occasion with cupcakes, hot chocolate, take-and-make crafts for all ages, and a slideshow of historic photos from the branch. Here are a few of the photos:



Memorial Branch Library's "Red Carpet Reads" is a combination book and film club, with a focus on books which have been turned into films which have subsequently been Oscar nominees for Best Picture by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. February's film was *From Here to Eternity*. The book selection was *12 Years a Slave*, by Solomon Northup. The book club participants engaged in a very thoughtful dialogue on race and commented that they were grateful to the public library for being a space where "such topics could be discussed maturely and without censure."

Several regular patrons of the Memorial Branch Library's Learn at SAPL earned certificates in Email Basics and MS Word Basics, respectively. Another patron credited the job search assistance provided by Training Officer Daniel Gomez with helping her obtain a job at NISD. The Learn Center continues to provide language classes in English and Spanish, as well as facilitating Spanish & English and German & English language exchanges.

Assistant Manager Freddy Hudson and Intern Lauryn Hyde led a well-attended family Valentine program where participants enjoyed microwave s'mores and made paper flower vases and cards. As part of the branch's Black History Month celebration, Freddy arranged for saxophonist Vincent (from Our Lady of the Lake University) and his friend Jose to perform in the lobby one afternoon.

MISSION

Mission was a designated early voting location for the joint Democratic-Republican primary election during the last 2 weeks of February and beginning of March.

Weekly Baby Time and Story Time continued as usual every Thursday morning in addition to LEGO Club happening bi-weekly on Mondays.

Teens at Mission Library participated in several arts and crafts activities throughout the reporting period. Activities such as jewelry making, card marbling, and using alcohol ink were all selected by teens for their Tuesday night program called Teen Crafternoon.

A gaming program that consists of chess, board games and video gaming also took place each Saturday afternoon in February. Teen volunteers facilitate this program called, Ready, Set, Game. A Teen KPop club, facilitated by Megan Feeley also saw teens turn out for KPop video watching and activities.

Teen Services Librarian, Cindy Cruz, also began a partnership with the Villa Coronado Resource Center. The center is run by COSA Metro Health and provides a variety of resources for the community that borders the Harlandale and Southside School Districts. Cindy will be providing a monthly arts and crafts program for teens in the area.

During the month of February, OATS from AARP and Mission partnered once again to bring technology presentations including Getting Started with Canva on February 5th and Intro to Managing Your Privacy on February 12.

On February 26th, Circulation Attendant Megan Feeley hosted an Alcohol Ink Art program.

Mission hosted a poetry program titled, Praise the Lorde Poetry Slam on February 18th. It celebrated the life of queer feminist poet and activist, Audre Lorde through spoken word art.

PAN AMERICAN

The Pan American Branch created a display for the new Corazon Collection to show how much the library loves its patrons. Circulation Attendant Monica Suarez and Library Assistant Linda Bauers created a display with hearts to promote the collection and to also celebrate Valentine's month. In addition, Ms. Bauers created a display for Black History month featuring not just books but also music such as CDs from Jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald.



Children at Pan American enjoyed the Valentines themed programing and displays. Children's Librarian Rachel Forbes created a Valentine's themed Come and Go craft in which children and their families' created valentines about what they loved about the library and the patrons put the Valentines on the wall to share with the community. Families could also pick up a quilt or sewing themed book in the Quilt display. In Tween Time Ms. Forbes had Tweens create fun creatures using Clothespins. In addition to Story Time, Tween Time, and Family Fun Time, Ms. Forbes conducted outreach at the Fun Run at Spicewood Park Elementary.



Gladys Nunez, Teen Librarian, facilitated opportunities for teens at the Branch to share their creativity. Teen volunteers created two YA displays (as well as flyers) for the month of February. One was titled "All About Love" focusing on romance books and the second one was titled "Fall in Love with Reading" which included books from different genres. Both displays proved to be popular with patrons.



During Teen Time in January, teens played video games on the PS5 and made various arts and crafts. One teen designed her own Valentine's Day bookmarks to give out to friends at school. Ms. Nunez also visited McCollum High School for an outreach visit during the school library's lunchtime courtyard event. The teens were able to make their own buttons and picked up some free pencils, stickers, and flyers.

PARMAN

Parman Library was again designated as an early voting site during the primaries and saw a great turnout. As usual, voting brings in a lot of newcomers to the library and gives staff the chance to talk about all the wonderful services of SAPL and sign-up people who don't generally visit the library on a regular basis. No day was as busy as the final voting day which saw lines out the parking lot.



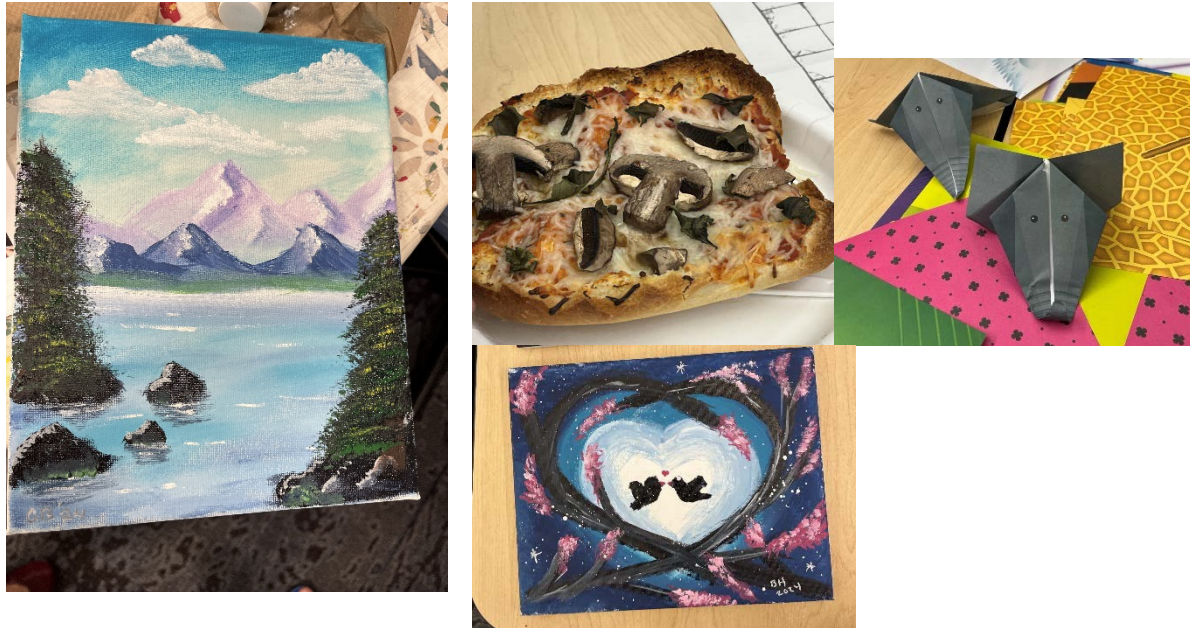
This February a new exhibit, "Masks (Xayak) - The Face of Our Traditions," was featured at the Parman Library Gallery. With its vibrant tapestry of cultural expressions, the display is an eclectic collection of traditional masks from Africa, South America and Asia collected and shared by Amalia Palacios and Jose Sordo. The exhibition is a testament to their dedication to preserving and sharing these unique cultural artifacts. Each mask tells a story, encapsulating the history, beliefs, and values of the communities that created them. Through intricate craftsmanship and artistic expression, the collection showcases the extraordinary diversity of shared humanity. It has been one of the most unique and deeply profound exhibits to grace the Parman Gallery walls and the staff was proud to host it.

This February at the Parman Library both love and shall we say "anti-love" was in the air with the branch's dueling book displays made by library aides Seva Hester, Angelica Chavez, and circulation attendant Nia Meissler! Hester and Chavez's display was aptly called "Anti-Valentines Day" and featured books that had a down-with-love theme. It was the antithesis to Ms. Meissler's "For the Love" display which of course was a celebration of all things love. The two displays were popular and became a talking point for patrons as the displays were located directly across from each other, giving everyone a good laugh.

The Friends of the Parman Library showed the branch's staff some love this February by holding a staff appreciation celebration on Valentine's Day! They decorated the break room and provided pizza, chips, and soda for staff along with lovely individual thank you notes to each staff member. Staff was truly touched by the celebration and spoke for days about the Friends' generosity. It was a wonderful way to thank the staff for all their hard work and dedication.

Parman Library's Indecisive Book Club has nearly doubled its size since its inception last June and the February meeting saw its highest numbers yet with 12 people in attendance. The club's

book selection, *Long Bight River* by Liz Moore, made for a lively discussion about the hard decisions women face as mothers, sisters, and daughters. Each meeting members show enthusiasm for the books read and express their opinions exuberantly. Library assistant Melissa Moser, the club's organizer, stated the club has been a great way to cultivate a space for members of the community to socialize over their love of reading and has been responsible for some newly found friendships.



This month, the Teens at Parman have been on a roll, whipping up new recipes, unleashing their inner artists, mastering the art of origami, and getting their game on! Despite some doubts about their artistic skills, they dove in, cheered each other on, and had a blast creating their own unique masterpieces. Valentine's Day saw Parman's teens dive into a mac 'n cheese extravaganza - because, let's face it, who can resist cheese? They bonded while creating group art, fostering bonds of friendship. And as our teen-led *Dungeons and Dragons* saga unfolds, we're all on the edge of our seats, eagerly awaiting the next twist in the game!

February was celebrated with lots of hearts! Over 350 young patrons were challenged to find all the hearts in the children's area which gave them the letters they needed for the secret Valentine message, "You're #1 in my book!" The front of the library was a vision in red and pink with Miss Teague's Valentine's Day gnome display. The Story Time and Cuentos y Canciones programs had many venues in February due to Early Voting. Aside from the meeting rooms early in the month, Miss Lisa and Miss Veronica hosted the story time families outside in the amphitheater and in the library. Creator Club enjoyed making Valentine's Day cards for their loved ones this month with a variety of red, pink, and purple materials. Kids especially loved the day they got to make sculptures out of pool noodles! During early voting, the creators moved outside for a messy play day with water beads and slime. A noisy, fun time was had by all!

Our tween group decided they wanted to focus on the environment this month. The kids made anti-littering posters with Miss Teague to share with the community and went on a trash hunt outside the library. They discussed endangered animals and have decided they want to do an endangered species display next.

POTRANCO

Potranco's Manager, Tim Johnson continued to cohost SAPL's Escape the Earth podcast with Elissa Vura (from Brook Hollow), Mary Elizabeth Fernandez (Children's Services), and J. D. Elizondo (Information Services). February's episode, titled "Dungeons and Dirty Comics" is a discussion on Tamsyn Muir's book *Gideon the Ninth*.

To kick off the new year, 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. We had two sessions in January, four sessions in February and the series will end on March 5th. There have been nine engaged patrons attending the weekly class.

Librarian Zeig hosted a well-attended program for Older Adults on February 7th called "Love Where You Live for Life". Partners from Successfully Aging and Living in San Antonio (SALSA), an initiative of the San Antonio Area Foundation, gave an interactive session addressing how to plan to stay comfortable, safe, socially connected, and mobile while aging. Several participants requested that another program be held again in the fall.

Librarian Zeig participated in an outreach to Woodlawn Pines Senior Apartment Community on Monday, February 26th along with Michelle Rickman, Program Manager of LEARN, and Training Officer Daniel Gomez, Memorial Library LEARN Center. Ms. Zeig, Ms. Rickman, and Mr. Gomez gave a presentation highlighting programs and services that are available to the community. There was an interest in eBook offerings through Libby and activities available through Craftsy, as well as interest in visiting the library to borrow physical books.

Ms. Zeig held an adult program in honor of the Lunar New Year on February 4th. Chinese Professor Yaping Zhang gave participants a lesson on Chinese calligraphy using calligraphy ink and rice paper. This program was graciously sponsored by the Friends of the Potranco Library. Participants learned how to draw numbers in Chinese along with animals, birds, and Chinese phrases.

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" part two.

Librarian Zeig held two book clubs this month. The morning and evening versions of Shelf Indulgence, on February 27th, discussed this month's book *Yellow Face* by Rebecca Kuang. Next month's selection is a memoir: *Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant* by Curtis Chin. 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 February 10th and 24th.



PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS

In February 2024, Pruitt's Children's Services embraced the end of the winter season with engaging love-themed Toddler Story Times and Sensory Play Times. The story sessions featured books that centered on themes of love and compassion. During Sensory Play Time, children enjoyed Valentine's Day-themed playdough mats and sensory bins with a Valentine's theme. This month, toddlers explored new pre-writing activities like salt tray drawing, heart shape cutting, and lacing.

Moreover, the branch kicked off its Children's Yoga program's Spring Session, led by teen volunteer Francisco and tween volunteer Adalae. The program focused on breaking down each aspect of a sun salutation, and each participant crafted a card for a loved one.

In total, Pruitt's Children's Services organized eight programs for children of early childhood and school age, with 140 members of the Pruitt community participating.



Adult Services welcomed Misty Belmontez who led Community Gardening Series at Pruitt! Parts one and two out of a planned eight. Patrons learned about planning for a healthy spring garden and seed sowing tips and tricks, and prepared and took home custom-mixed planting media. Archivist and librarian Andrew Crews visited the branch and discussed Beginning Genealogy with an enthusiastic audience. Special Needs Adult Programming participants read *Dragons Love Tacos* and crafted their own paper dragons.

In addition to Pruitt's weekly Chess Livestream, the branch hosted a Chess Simul Play event where Chess Master Alex Weinberg played 13 patrons at 13 chess boards at the same time.





SAN PEDRO

The San Pedro Branch Library provided a variety of programs and services in February. Programs for children, teen and adults were offered either weekly or once per month. In celebration of Black History Month, library staff curated a variety book displays for children, teens, and adults. Library Assistant, Jared Thompson also organized a screening of the documentary 'Living in my Skin' for Black History Month. Finally, the branch launched the SAPL Corazon Collection by featuring the selections in three different displays.

In February, senior adults at the Chandler Senior Living Community discussed "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls, facilitated by Librarian Karen Braeuler.

In February, 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!

Children's Librarian Karen Braeuler, continued Saturday morning Toddler Time and Baby Time. Attendance was strong and many families were appreciative of 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 visited the branch every Wednesday in February. 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

During the month of March, the Adult Services Librarian coordinated the on-going, weekly health and fitness program at Schaefer: “Cardio-Dance Class”, which features a moderate dance workout led by a Schaefer community member. On March 10, 2024, the Adult Services Librarian coordinated a pop-up vaccine clinic in partnership with Metro Health. On March 15, 2024, the Adult Services Librarian hosted a program presented by the San Antonio Food Bank promoting their CHEF program initiative to improve health and wellness in the San Antonio area.

In February, 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, a reoccurring fresh produce market for the community. 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 gain 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, and with the Trauma Informed Steering Committee, attending a quarterly meeting with The City of San Antonio's Metro Health Department, and the Ecumenical Center. Dacari continues to work with Teen Services committees: Virtual Teen Services, Teen Pride, and Professional Development. The Teen Pride group partnered with Fiesta Youth to host a Safe Zone Training for Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons.

Schaefer's children's librarian Leslie Elsasser offered many children's programs throughout February. Baby Story Time, Outdoor Family Story Time, and Story Time: Sing and Stroll with Us were offered for children younger than five. Robot Roundup, Video Games for Kids, Read to a Dog, Let's Build: Blocks & More and Let's Build: LEGO Time took place throughout the month for school-age kids. Leslie Elsasser also attended a literacy night outreach at Salado Elementary on February 15.

Library Assistant, BlancaSilvia Hernandez hosted an Adult Craft program, where patrons created pressed flower bookmarks and a Fabric Arts Social Hour for adult patrons to bring their current projects in to work on while relaxing and chatting with community members. She published a catalog list of popular titles for Schaefer's I ♥ Vinyl (Digital Edition) program. She worked with Librarian Dacari Lambert to create the "Pick a Pepper" book display where patrons could pick a romance book based on its spice level.

SEMMEs

Tuesday evening Teen Time continued into February. Perler beads are still the most popular activity for teens, though they're also interested in bringing personal projects to talk about with other participants.

ACE High School with NEISD visited on February 2nd. The seven students, ranging from Sophomores to Seniors, came to sign up for library cards and learn about all the different resources the library offers. They had insightful questions about how the library can remain as a resource even past their time in high school. Afterwards, the teens explored the library and looked for materials – most were excited about the vinyl record collection and discussed their opinions on different artists.

Tween Time on Wednesdays remains well attended. Tweens are pleased with the new games we have available, What Do You Meme Family Edition and Catan. They also had fun with the Meeper Bot and Artie 3000 robots.

Semmes Programming for School-Age children in February included one session of Let's Build LEGOs and More on Monday, February 5 attended by 9 children and 5 grownups. Monday afternoon Read to a Dog sessions were attended by 14 children and 10 grownups. Ms. Randi and Ms. Valerie's Wednesday morning Preschool Story Times were attended by 81 children and 64 grownups. Thursday morning Toddler Story Time sessions were attended by 150 children and 129 grownups. Thursday morning Baby Story Time sessions were attended by 88 babies and 91 grownups.

Semmes Adult Services had several gaming programs, including Chess Club, Adult Gaming, twice-weekly Table Tennis, and a new program, Puzzle Time, where patrons work to complete puzzles in a relaxed environment. Between Table Tennis and Tai Ji, Semmes also offers health-oriented programming. Books and crafting continue to be supported by the Shelf Obsessed Book Club, Cricut Crafternoons, and the Crochet group that met twice in February. More than a quarter of the month was dominated by voting; Semmes had 3676 voters during the month of February.

THOUSAND OAKS

Assistant Branch Manager Brooke Mjolsness hosted Tai Chi classes led by certified instructor Debra Cox on February 1, 8, 15 and 29. In celebration of the Chinese New Year, she hosted a Lunar New Year program presented by Yaping Zhang on February 7. She hosted two programs taught by instructors from Senior Planet – Google Workspace on February 7, and Google

Photos on February 21. Ms. Mjolsness co-hosted the virtual Red Carpet Movie Club program on February 13. Attendees watched an Oscar-winning movie and participated in a discussion. On February 23, she served as Master of Ceremonies for the virtual SAPL Live Trivia program.

Children's Librarian Cheryl Penick held Let's Create: Arts & Crafts Friday programs on February 2, 9, 16 and 23. She held Baby Time programs on February 6, 13 and 20. She held the Let's Move: Music & Movement program on February 29. Ms. Penick created a Black History Month display featuring children's books. She assembled themed book bundles highlighting the juvenile collection and systemwide initiatives.

Librarian Kimberly King held Teen Time programs on February 4, 11, 18 and 25. She held an All Booked Up Book Club program on February 11. Participants discussed *Followers* by Megan Angelo. She facilitated an outreach Senior Book Club program at the Northeast Senior Center on February 28. Participants discussed *Romantic Comedy* by Curtie Sittenfeld. She created a Black History Month book display featuring young adult titles.

Library Assistant Mari Carmen Castellano created two book displays – Biographies of American Political and Social Figures, and Love and Romance. On February 6, she held a Super Smash Bros Free Play video game program. She held a Fiber Arts Community program on February 13. Participants worked on their needlecraft projects with other like-minded community members. Ms. Castellano held an Adult Craft Time program on February 21 at which participants painted terra cotta pots. She created two lists for BiblioCommons, the online catalog: In an Introspective Mood, and Artificial Intelligence Fiction.

TOBIN LIBRARY AT OAKWELL

Tobin Library at Oakwell hosted Bexar County Elections for early voting and saw 3,462 voters in the month of February. Library visitors of all ages were invited to celebrate Valentine's Day and the new Corazon collection with engaging book displays, put together by Circulation Attendant Lauren Nyreen, Children's Librarian Kara Bailey, and Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse.

Children's Librarians Lisa Ramirez and Kara Bailey hosted weekly story times for toddlers and preschoolers, respectively. For Valentine's Day, children and families were treated to extra special story times that included red and pink decorations and paper flowers for all participants to take home. Ramirez continued offering popular LEGO programs and maintained the Read to A Dog partnership. Bailey hosted weekly After School Zone programming that was especially well-attended by Garner Middle School students. Some of the activities this month included button making, board games, and paper crafting.

Teen Librarian Connie Hejl continued hosting weekly teen programs at the branch and contributed weekly to the teen Discord programming. Additionally, Hejl represented the library at the annual LibraryPalooza event held at Brandeis High School.

Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse continued hosting weekly Tai Chi and Tea programming for older adults and maintained partnerships with local book clubs, the Tobin Writer's Circle, and San Antonio Poets Association to offer programming at the branch.

Circulation Attendant Sabrina Longoria and Library Assistant David Hazlett continued hosting their regular Dungeons & Dragons programming during February, and they also spent time researching how other libraries manage larger role-playing games because they have seen great increases in attendance recently.

WESTFALL

February was the final month for the Wall of Warmth. From October through February, Branch Manager Machaia McClenny maintained the Wall and over 250 items were donated and received by those who had need. Ms. McClenny also began a series of “The Oscars Best Picture Movie Showing” of three movies that have been nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture every Tuesday evening beginning February 20. She also continued the Wall of Warmth: Sit and Stitch program every Monday at 1PM and held a Wellness Program for staff.

As part of the Lunar New Year celebrations, Mr. Holcomb planned, arranged, and coordinated with a Lion Dance performance group to have them do a program at Westfall. Mr. Holcomb hosted and assisted the group, which did an elaborate lion dance with a drummer, along with an informative presentation. The program had a high attendance and received many compliments from those who attended. Based on test programs that were done in December and January, Mr. Holcomb began in February doing his Tai Chi program on a weekly basis. In this ongoing program, he continues to serve as the facilitator for patrons wanting to practice Tai Chi in a relaxed setting. The activities that are provided in this program focus on Tai Chi that is done at an easy level, and so it is ideal for older adults. 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 February 2024, Children's Librarian, Imelda Merino planned and presented four Preschool Story Times and four Family Story Times. On Thursdays at 4:00, Westfall hosts Crafts for Kids. All kinds of materials are made available, and children create whatever they would like. The Discovery School first graders visited the library twice in February. They listen to stories about

whatever topic they are currently studying and then they select and check out books for themselves. Ms. Merino visited three schools in February. She staffed a table that had library information and provided a simple craft. Will Rogers Elementary held their Literacy Night on February 7th, Northwoods Elementary held theirs on February 15th, and Jackson Keller had theirs on February 29th. A total of about 70 people came by to learn more about the library or to make a craft to take home. Also, Ms. Merino participated in two sessions of Art Club Online. She joined two other children's librarians as they led children in drawing games and other art activities. Creating a book list on Travel for kids to be presented during the summer was another project that Ms. Merino has been working on.

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.

During the month of February 2024, the Learn Center at Westfall continued to see an increase in walk-in patrons seeking service anywhere from computer training to resume building. We continue to welcome several senior patrons who are getting to know how to use the computer for the first time. Louis Medellin has gained a regular group that attends the Wednesday morning Smartphone and Smart Device class. Mr. Medellin also continues to offer other weekly technology classes on Friday mornings. These classes are created based on patron feedback to focus on skills in which patrons would like to grow including mobile apps, introduction to artificial intelligence apps, and other media apps that relate to their daily lives.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Circulation: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:
3,423,040



FY 2024 to date Items Borrowed



3,790,909
(+10.75%)
Circulation

Visits: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:
1,241,083



FY 2024 to date Library Visits



1,178,100
(-5.07%)
Visits

Digital Access: Goal

Fiscal Year to date goal:
881,885



FY 2024 to date Digital Access



116,633
Hours of Computer Use



819,185
Hours of Wi-Fi Use

935,818
(+6.12%)
Hours of Technology Use

San Antonio Public Library

February 2024 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use
Bazan	2,781	6,945	6,310	1,309	5,001
Brook Hollow	22,120	13,651	5,557	600	4,957
Carver	2,246	3,916	3,340	909	2,431
Central	25,170	20,229	44,786	6,635	38,151
Cody	29,621	14,639	11,129	1,080	10,049
Collins Garden	3,480	4,142	3,560	378	3,182
Cortez	4,236	6,124	2,935	429	2,506
Digital	349,622	0	0	0	0
Encino	19,444	11,419	5,724	222	5,502
Forest Hills	4,479	2,318	2,858	304	2,554
Great Northwest	22,757	14,201	5,558	510	5,048
Guerra	5,117	8,609	5,174	545	4,629
Igo	36,454	32,441	11,366	783	10,583
Interlibrary Loan	1,585	0	0	0	0
Johnston	7,766	3,671	3,951	560	3,391
Kampmann	0	546	145	0	145
Landa	16,232	16,240	4,864	317	4,547
Las Palmas	292	85	128	0	128
Maverick	21,583	11,762	5,466	651	4,815
McCreless	6,333	5,399	6,618	1,277	5,341
Memorial	3,777	6,787	6,523	987	5,536
Mission	8,256	10,690	6,099	934	5,165
Pan American	3,200	2,494	2,212	456	1,756
Parman	29,081	16,568	7,298	299	6,999
Potranco	16,885	6,976	14,393	636	13,757
Pruitt	4,024	9,901	5,474	229	5,245
San Pedro	2,524	3,222	4,255	469	3,786
Schaefer	8,075	4,842	5,147	404	4,743
Semmes	22,412	6,895	8,589	1,204	7,385
System	31,734	0	0	0	0
Thousand Oaks	5,816	5,368	5,172	809	4,363
Tobin	15,277	10,013	4,516	857	3,659
Westfall	8,702	4,287	6,738	1,136	5,602
Total	741,081	264,380	205,885	24,929	180,956

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

San Antonio Public Library Programs

February 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	10	0	3	3	0	16
Brook Hollow	4	5	8	0	1	0	18
Carver	2	7	0	1	2	3	15
Central	10	4	84	18	2	4	122
Cody	9	17	23	10	0	0	59
Collins Garden	17	6	3	6	0	0	32
Cortez	6	9	0	16	5	0	36
Encino	12	5	6	1	7	1	32
Forest Hills	13	14	4	1	2	0	34
Great Northwest	15	7	4	1	0	3	30
Guerra	5	12	0	5	1	0	23
Igo	5	3	1	7	0	5	21
Johnston	6	10	3	2	0	1	22
Landa	31	9	8	4	0	0	52
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	13	0	6	2	0	0	21
Maverick	11	5	4	4	0	0	24
McCreless	4	7	4	12	0	0	27
Memorial	4	6	0	26	1	3	40
Mission	10	2	9	15	11	1	48
Pan American	4	8	2	4	0	0	18
Parman	22	10	4	1	0	0	37
Potranco	4	9	4	12	1	0	30
Pruitt	7	1	2	4	0	5	19
San Pedro	12	7	0	5	3	0	27
Schaefer	9	12	3	4	0	2	30
Semmes	14	7	5	8	1	6	41
System	0	0	25	6	1	1	33
Thousand Oaks	4	4	0	8	3	1	20
Tobin	11	8	5	4	2	2	32
Westfall	4	11	2	6	8	5	36
Total	268	215	219	196	54	43	995

*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

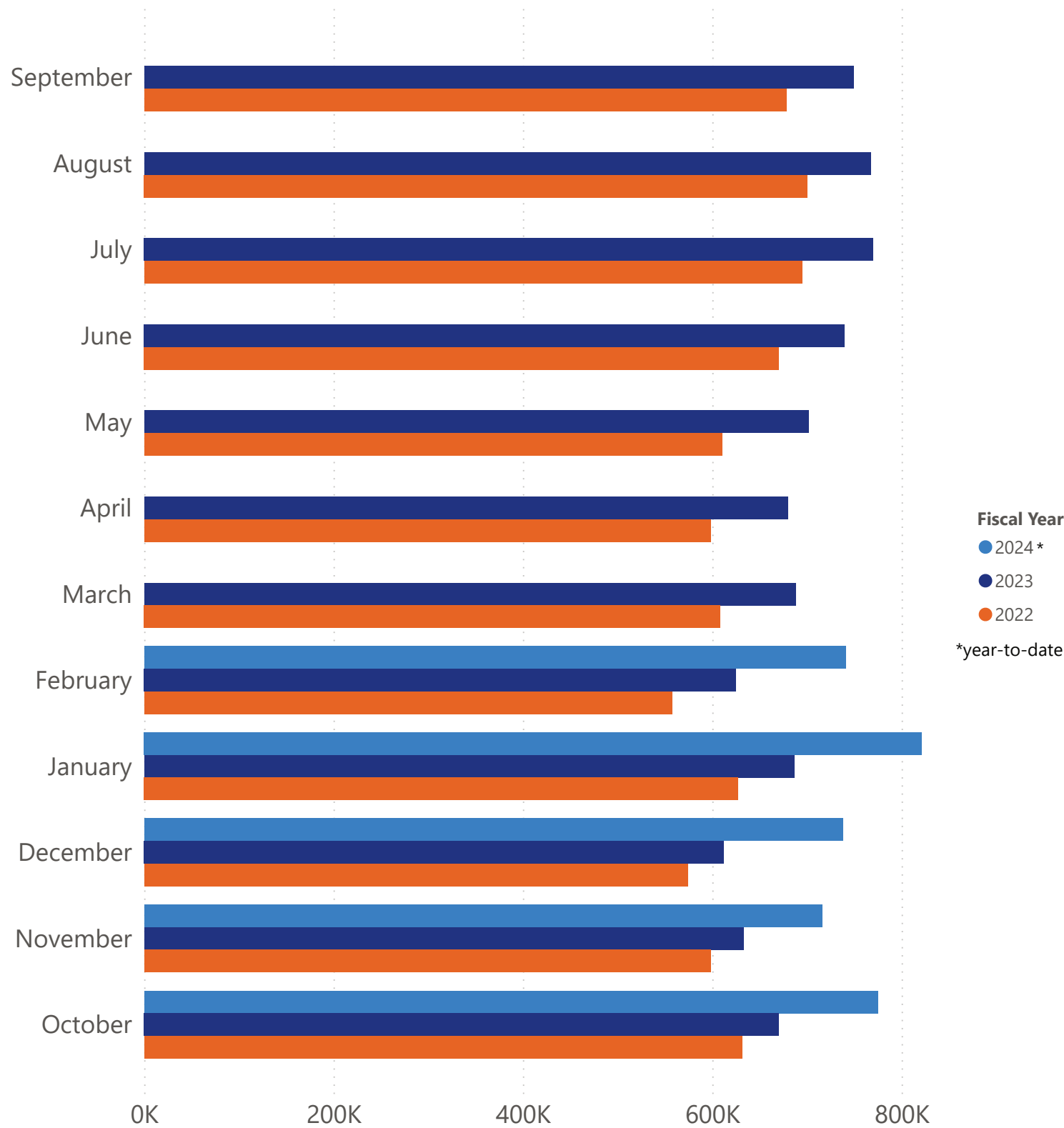
February 2024

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	16	0	19	15	0	50
Brook Hollow	42	82	42	0	200	0	366
Carver	54	2	0	1	22	32	111
Central	168	26	544	158	32	50	978
Cody	562	475	354	121	0	0	1,512
Collins Garden	329	38	4	27	0	0	398
Cortez	156	39	0	100	34	0	329
Encino	541	107	36	12	54	15	765
Forest Hills	122	156	21	3	5	0	307
Great Northwest	553	270	44	2	0	52	921
Guerra	202	85	0	15	19	0	321
Igo	99	50	3	68	0	119	339
Johnston	218	250	27	10	0	12	517
Landa	1,174	206	93	73	0	0	1,546
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	530	0	38	18	0	0	586
Maverick	433	133	41	35	0	0	642
McCreless	35	81	15	70	0	0	201
Memorial	40	59	0	164	3	100	366
Mission	150	13	30	137	93	20	443
Pan American	15	78	35	16	0	0	144
Parman	1,104	547	27	12	0	0	1,690
Potranco	173	192	17	88	18	0	488
Pruitt	132	8	21	20	0	48	229
San Pedro	186	101	0	6	29	0	322
Schaefer	174	212	24	15	0	41	466
Semmes	601	101	17	106	2	71	898
System	0	0	951	57	10	38	1,056
Thousand Oaks	21	34	0	61	17	8	141
Tobin	78	62	18	28	18	19	223
Westfall	26	134	8	30	54	52	304
Total	7,918	3,557	2,410	1,472	625	677	16,659

*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

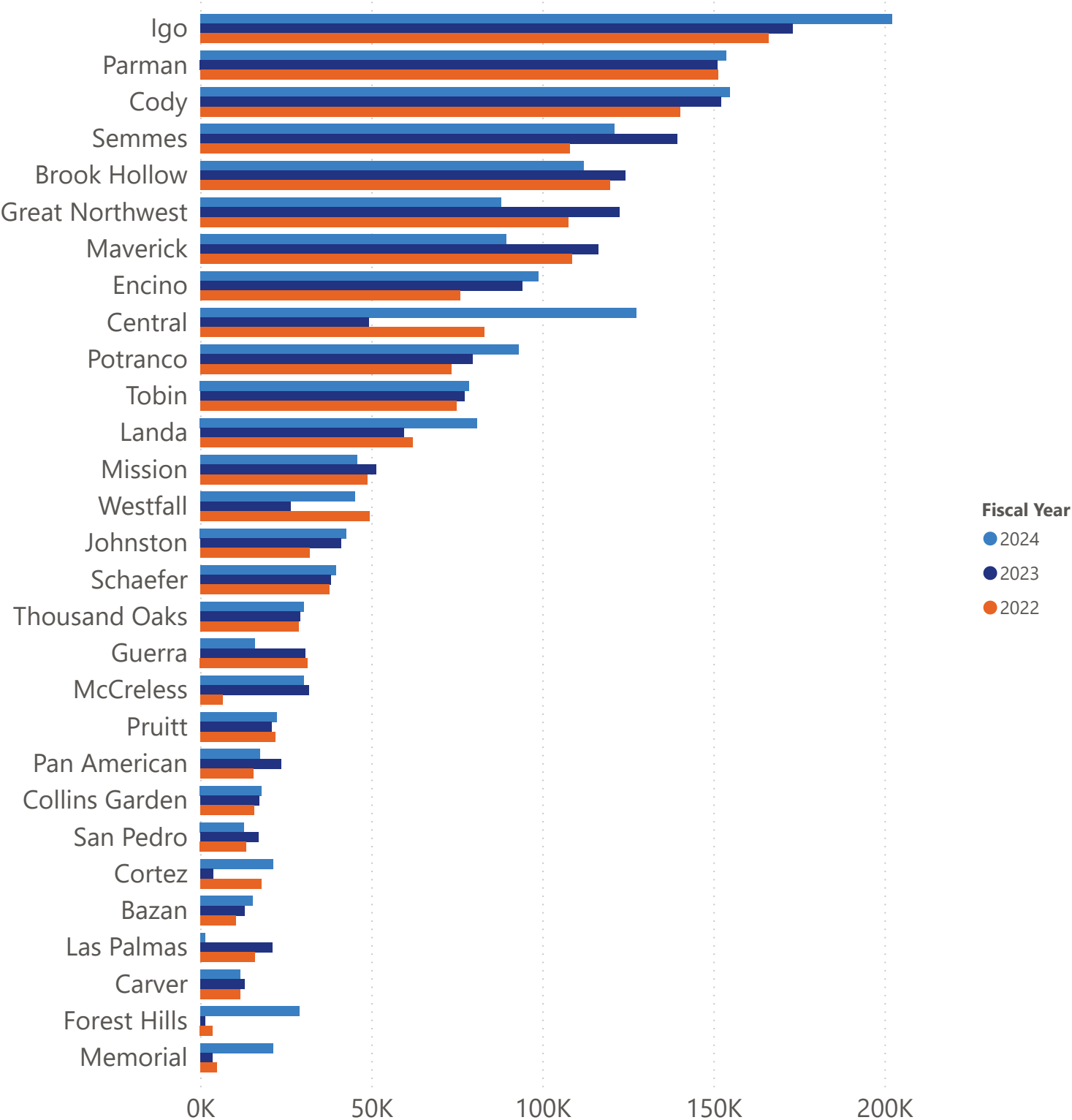


Location Closures:

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 - February 2024

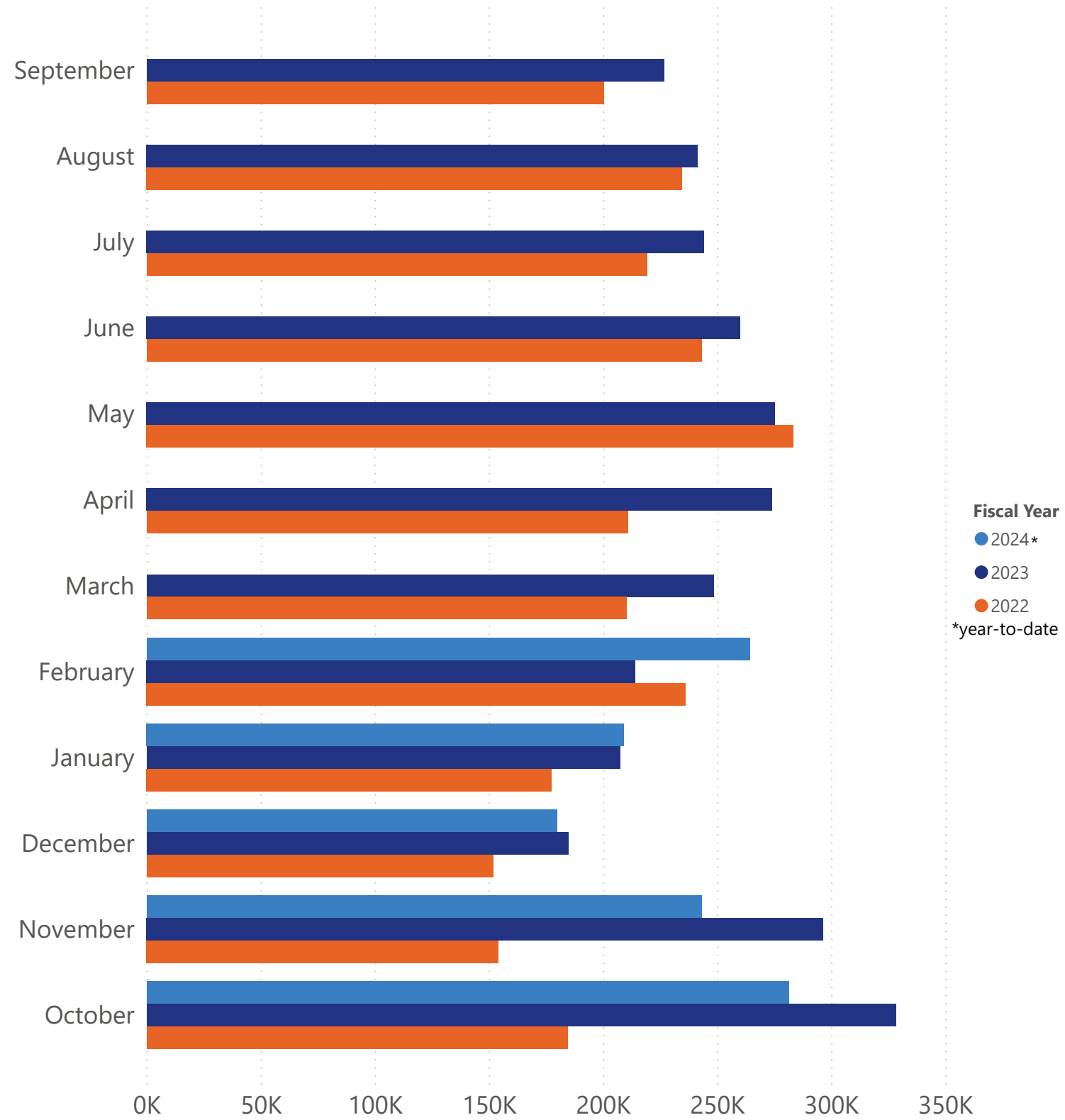


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San Antonio Public Library

Visits

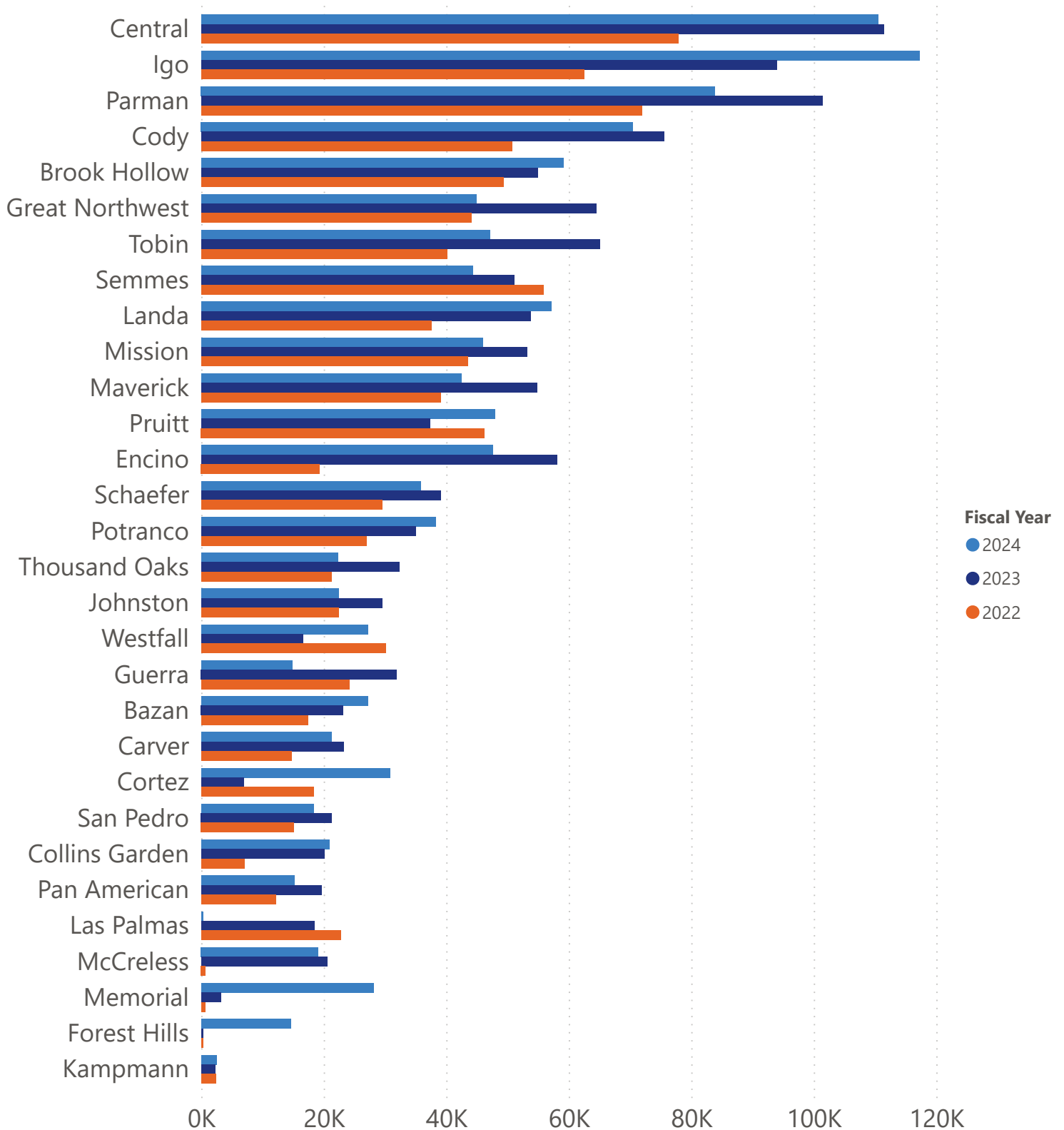


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San Antonio Public Library

Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - February 2024



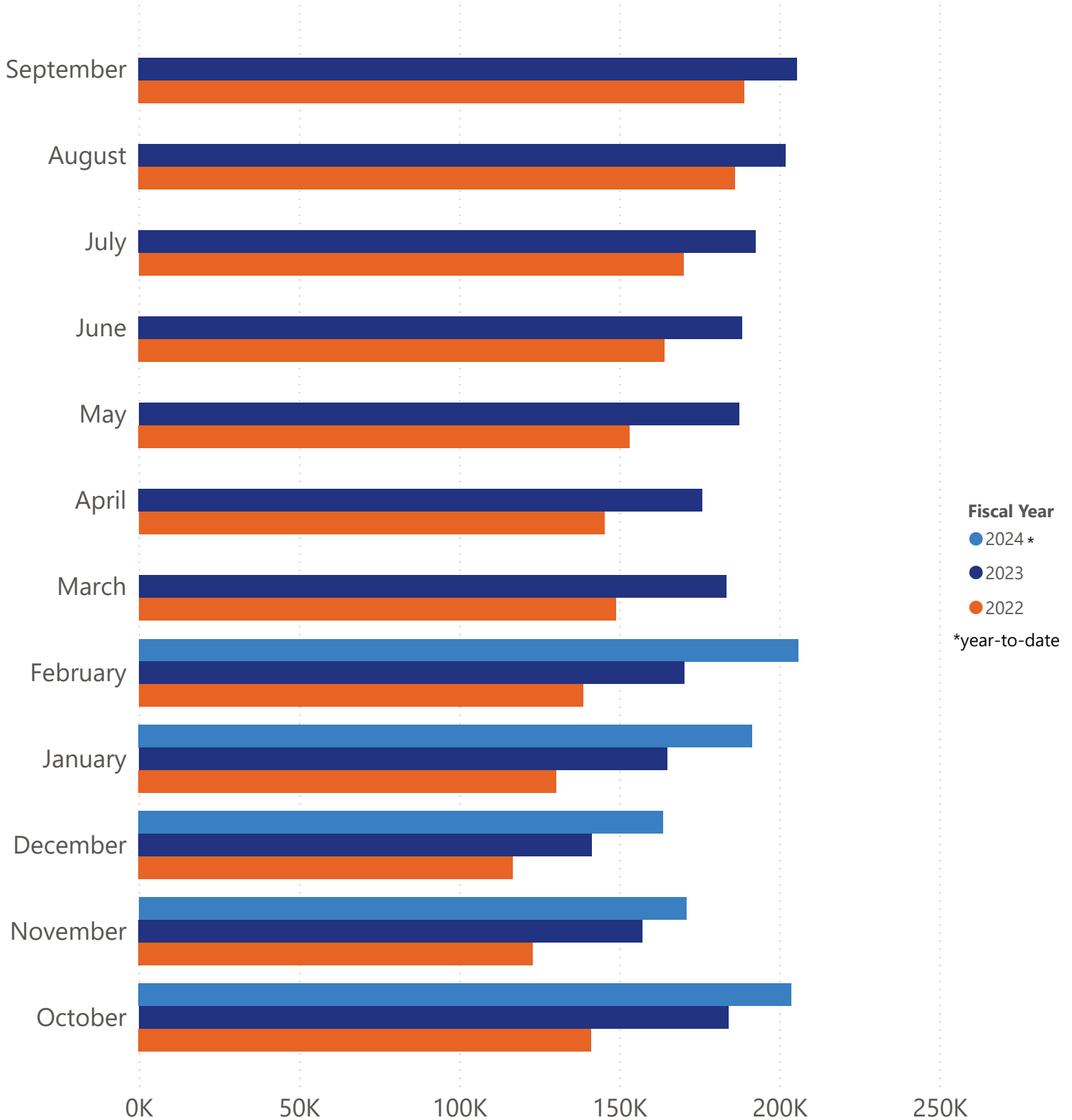
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San Antonio Public Library Hours of Computer & Wi-Fi Use



Location Closures:

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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
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APPENDIX

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STEAM - Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

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

Trumba – San Antonio Public Library's events calendar.

Webex – Videoconferencing application used by San Antonio Public Library.