

Mariachi's play at the Grand Reopening of Memorial Branch Library on February 25.

San Antonio Public Library Director's Report February 2023

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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 his engagement with San Antonio Public Library stakeholders.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar visited the Landa and Las Palmas Branch Libraries on February 2, 2023.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar met with San Antonio Public Library Foundation Executive Director Amy Hone on February 6, 2023.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar offered a "Sneak Peek" Tour of the Memorial Branch Library to the Council District 5 Office and key stakeholders on February 9, 2023.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended the Local Government Hispanic Network Central Texas Regional Chapter Board Meetings on February 14 and 28, 2023.

The San Antonio Public Library celebrated the Grand Reopen of the Memorial Branch Library on Saturday, February 25, 2023. District 5 Councilwoman Teri Castillo, State Senator Jose Menendez, State Representative Ray Lopez, District 5 Library Board of Trustee Norma Montalvo and Carmen Tafolla participated in the ribbon cutting program.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar virtually attended the Public Library Association Past PLA President's Gathering on February 28, 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS

Black History Month programming, the presence of the late Jesse Treviño's art at Central Library, and the reopening of Memorial Branch Library dominated media coverage and marketing initiatives for San Antonio Public Library in February. These stories garnered significant media attention and led to well-attended programs all month long. The Communications Team also began developing campaigns for location re-openings at Central Library, Forest Hills, and the closure of Las Palmas Branch Library.

Media Highlights

- January 27 KVUE television station in Austin briefly mentioned SAPL's The Holocaust Learn and Remember series in a segment on Holocaust Remembrance Day.
- January 31 TPR highlighted a San Antonio Storytellers program happening at Igo Branch Library in their community calendar.
- February 3 KENS 5 aired a feature story on the Digital Inclusion survey and included an interview with SAPL Teen Services Librarian Cynthia Cruz.
- February 7 The Express-News published an article regarding the Central Library renovation project. It includes an interview with SAPL Marketing Manager Scott Williams and information regarding the project was coordinated with Public Works.
- February 3 KENS 5 included SAPL Black History Month programming in an online article about how to honor the observance.
- February 10 KENS 5 shared a highlight preview of the Pokefest event at McCreless Branch.
- February 14 KENS 5's Great Day SA morning show featured SAPL's Blind Date with a Book campaign on their "Morning Jolt" segment.
- February 17 KENS 5 aired a feature story about Learn at SAPL. The segment includes interviews with Learn patrons and McCreless Learn Instructor Lodie Mueller. In addition to the on-air segment, KENS also posted the video online with an accompanying article.
- February 18 KSAT 12 highlighted SAPL's temporary opening of the Central Library foyer to the public for the viewing of Jesse Treviño's art within the Library. They also posted an online video.
- February 22 KSAT 12 aired a feature segment about the history of the Green Book and included a short interview with Carver Branch Manager DL Grant at Carver Branch Library.
- February 24 KENS 5 aired a feature segment on the Grand Reopening of Memorial Branch Library.
- February 22 KSAT 12 published an online feature about Memorial Branch Library's Grand Reopening ceremony.

Social Media metrics overview for February 2023:

- SAPL's social media generated **200,432** impressions
- SAPL's social media following base grew by 291 new fans
- Content shared across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram contributed to users engaging

with our posts 11,083 times.

Social Media growth for February 2023:

• Twitter: 20 followers

Facebook: 78 followers

Instagram: 193 followers

YouTube statistics for February 2023:

Subscribers: 12

• Impressions: **31,066**

Total Views: 2,558

Videos published: 1

Graphics

The Graphics Team created publicity materials for a variety of programs and events during this reporting period, including materials for the upcoming Summer Reading program, donor plaques, grand reopenings for Memorial and Forest Hills branch libraries, Women's History Month, and author presentations, as well as social media and other promotion for branch events.

DIGITAL SERVICES

On February 2, Digital Services Coordinator Adam Spana and Digital Library Services Supervisor Rolf Laun met with Public Services colleagues to detail efforts related to cleaning up residency data in patron records.

On February 9, Mr. Spana and Mr. Laun met with colleagues from ITSD to discuss the ILS network and connected systems architecture and how a potential replacement for the online renewal system would integrate with the ILS.

Digital Library Services Analyst Tricia Masterson attended one session of the Getting Ahead Strategic Plan workgroup.

Digital Library Services Assistant Christina Hess attended two sessions of the All Digital, All the Time Strategic Plan workgroup.

On February 28, Ms. Hess assisted LEARN at SAPL colleagues with presentations about SAPL's digital inclusion efforts at McCreless Branch Library for attendees of the Net Inclusion 2023 Conference.

LITTLE READ WAGON

Though February started with some cold and wintery weather that closed schools keeping the Little Read Wagon (LRW) team from presenting a few events, the rest of the month was busy. The team provided opportunities to play outside the Mission Branch on the first Saturday of the month, outside the Carver Branch in the evening of the second Wednesday of the month, and outside at Dellview Park on the third Wednesday morning of the month. Children and their grown-ups explored a wide range of open-ended materials through play.

Clair Larkin and Julia Lazarin were invited to speak to city Parks and Recreation staff on two dates about providing all families an opportunity to participate in child-led free play. The presentation focused on how LRW staffer's understanding of play has changed over time, how LRW staff currently offer families an opportunity to play, the importance of equity (both health and socio-economic), and ways to reduce stress (by considering dates, time, and food) in an effort to provide for joyful connections between caregivers and children. The presentations generated robust discussion and prompted insightful questions from Parks staff. LRW staff look forward to working together with Parks staff to expand free play opportunities for families across the community.

LRW staff visited campuses across the county. Megan Cruz visited teen parents at multiple San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) campuses, including Brackenridge, Sam Houston, and Edison. Ms. Cruz visited parents at LEE High School in the North East Independent School District and at Stevens High School, part of the Northside Independent School District. Eva Banda provided workshops for teens at SAISD's Cooper Academy at Navarro and at Southwest Independent School District's Southwest High School (SWHS). Ms. Banda also provided Story Times at both the Navarro Learning Center and Parent Child Incorporated located at the SWHS campus. These two centers serve the children of parents attending high school. Ms. Banda selects bilingual books, songs, and rhymes to practice early literacy skills with children and model reading aloud for early childhood teachers and parents.

Ms. Banda was selected to attend the Joint Council of Librarians of Color's annual conference in Florida. The conference was originally scheduled for October 2022, but was postponed to February in the wake of a hurricane. Ms. Banda learned about the library profession and briefed administration staff on her takeaways.

Ms. Lazarin visited elementary school campuses for bedtime routine chart workshops and reading tents, sometimes solo and sometimes with Melisa Hill or Jen Crier. Fernandez, Pershing, Mary Hull, Washington and Ott Elementary Schools were all visited in February as LRW staff make early literacy skills engaging and simple for overstretched families.

LRW staff support system-wide initiatives as well. Ms. Cruz, Ms. Banda and Ms. Lazarin are all participating in the Strategic Plan workgroups. Ms. Cruz and Ms. Lazarin are in a workgroup focused on services for young parents who believe that everything can be found on their devices. Ms. Banda is in a workgroup that focuses on services for children. All three are learning a great deal about how library staff think about library service models and either promote or squash innovation. Ms. Larkin is serving as part of the Trauma Informed Care guide team, the team coordinating with Metro Health's Center for Excellence, working to train library staff to become Level 1 certified. Trauma Informed Care is not providing emergency services, rather it is a shift of thinking more holistically about behaviors, both personal and of other individuals. Ms. Larkin also represented the library at the city's first Afghan Refugee Response Collaborative together with the Learn Center's Michelle Rickman and Denise Cadena. This is an effort to bring attention to, and hopefully mitigate, a potential looming crisis for the city's growing Afghan population.

LRW staff organized a highly successful clear the shelves event in the LRW workroom. LRW staff pulled items that were not being used and that had spent a long time on the shelves. Children's services staff attending a quarterly meeting at Central Library were invited to shop for the items. LRW staff are hopeful that these items get played with and explored by children instead of sitting on our shelves. Children's services staff were delighted by the variety of items available.

CHILDREN'S (SYSTEM-WIDE)

The second month of the San Antonio Philharmonic series included visits to the Landa and McCreless branch libraries. The series will continue through May with different locations and musicians each month.



The Children's Services Team met at Central Library on Wednesday, February 22. The children's summer work group presented an overview of plans for 2023. This summer will feature a wider variety of special guests and more ways to engage with children and families to make joyful connections with books.

Coordinator of Children's Services, Cresencia Huff, and Coordinator of Services to Adults, Morgan Yoshimura, traveled to Leakey for a day of training in preparation for the two upcoming solar eclipse events. Along with other library staff from the hill country region, Ms. Huff and Ms. Yoshimura expanded their general solar science knowledge and tried out some viewing equipment. The Alamo STEM Ecosystem also met this month to plan several collaborative events, including volunteer training.

TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Virtual Teen Programs and Activities – The 210teenlibrary Discord workgroup, led by Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) and consisting of Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons from around the system, worked with virtual teen volunteers ("Teen Mods") to host weekly virtual teen programs ("clubs") on Discord ("the server") along with additional activities and events. Throughout the reporting period, teens shared their favorite series, discussed new gaming content, streamed video games, listened to "old school" music, and demoed new art styles. Teens welcome a new Teen Mod to the server; this teen was nominated by several other Teen Mods and staff due to her positive

contributions to the server including the virtual secret gift exchange idea during December. Teens on the server also voted for their favorite teen-designed artwork to appear on this year's Teen Summer 2023 t-shirt, with 39 teens participating in the poll to decide the winning design.

Virtual Teen Content and Resources – The 210teenlibrary Instagram workgroup, led by Matthew Loaiza and consisting of Amisahari Sarabia (Teen Services Outreach Specialist, Teen Library @ Central), Ciana Flores (Teen Services Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central), and Regina Almanza (Teen Services Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central), shared information, resources, activities, and other content for teens on Instagram, created by teen volunteers and Teen Services staff. During the reporting period, teen volunteers participated in several food demos such as cloud bread, feta pasta, and chocolate-covered cookies; showcased a Wednesday Addams-themed book display, as well as another book display highlighting fiction and nonfiction titles for Black History Month; and celebrated winners from the 210teenlibrary Discord Server's Art Contest.

Professional Development – On February 2, Matthew Loaiza—along with Dacari Lambert (Teen Services Librarian I, Schaefer) and Jennifer Velasquez (Coordinator of Teen Services)—met with Emily Raymond (Teen Librarian, New Haven Free Public Library) at their request. To determine if Discord was a good fit for their teen community in New Haven, Raymond consulted with Loaiza, Lambert, and Velasquez about the successes and challenges of using Discord to provide virtual library services for teens. On February 22, Loaiza, Lambert, and Velasquez also met with Alison Eckes (Customer Experience Director, Pierce County Library System) for a similar consultation; with a Discord server already configured for teens in their community, Eckes consulted with Loaiza, Lambert, and Velasquez about best practices for providing virtual library services for teens via Discord. Both Raymond and Eckes mentioned using the Teen Services' Discord LibGuide as a beneficial tool during their research and utilization of Discord for teens in the library setting. In addition, Loaiza assisted with an interview panel for Teen Services Librarian I positions during the reporting period.

ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Throughout the month of February, San Antonio Public Library celebrated Black History Month. A total of eleven programs were offered throughout the month at four library locations as well as online. The highlight of the month was a series of three concerts presented by musician and photographer Allee Wallace centered around Negro Spirituals. Mr. Wallace has served as the official photographer for the San Antonio MLK March and San Antonio Juneteenth Coalition. In addition to his photography work, Mr. Wallace is well known throughout San Antonio and beyond for his music performances of spirituals

On February 11, PokeFest was held at McCreless Branch and was a celebration of all things Pokemon. This event, spearheaded by Library Assistant Joseph Gonzales, there were crafts, green screen photos, Pokémon card gaming and trading, a scavenger hunt, and Pokémon Go Battle tournament for families to participate in. Mr. Gonzales worked with librarians and employees from as many as 8 different branches to bring about this wonderful event. Pokefest 2023 had over 500 participants of all age ranges, with tons of smiling faces and compliments. The participants main question for McCreless Library was "when is the library going to have a fun event like this again?"

On February 25th, Parman Branch hosted an author event with retired NASA astronaut and United States Air Force colonel, Eileen Collins. Collins spoke about her book "Through the Glass Ceiling to the Stars: The Story of the first American Woman to Command a Space Mission." She spoke about the triumphs of

her life and how with perseverance and tenacity anything can be accomplished. Patrons were able to purchase a copy of her book before the event and have it personally signed by Colonel Collins after her presentation. The event expectedly, saw high numbers of attendants (more than 300) and Parman had a full house with people waiting to hear from the renowned astronaut. Due to the extraordinary guest and her willingness of sharing her time and experience with SAPL patrons, this event, organized and coordinated by the branch manager Barbara Kwiatkowski, was a rousing success and received many compliments and positive feedback from the community.

On February 28th, Coordinator of Services to Adults Morgan Yoshimura and Adult Education Program Manager Michelle Rickman facilitated a site tour of McCreless Library as part of the Net Inclusion Conference that was held in San Antonio. Ms. Rickman and Ms. Yoshimura were joined by Public Services Administrator Cheryl Sheehan and Digital Services Assistant Christina Hess. The four staff members gave conference attendees an overview of Digital Inclusion efforts within San Antonio Public Library and McCreless Branch specifically. Topics covered included Learn at SAPL, Wi-Fi access, access to computers, and the Device Lending Program for Older Adults.

OLDER ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

In February, the Library's Device Lending Program re-launched, coordinated by Adult Education Program Manager Michelle Rickman. This year, the program has been adjusted so that iPads are checked out from Library locations offering that were offering Learn services as of early February (Bazan, Carver, Central, McCreless, Johnston, and Westfall). The 180 iPads that were available when the program was re-launched were checked out within a week, and there are roughly 132 individuals on the waiting list. Library staff are working to make additional iPads available to distribute to those on the waiting list. Library locations offering Learn services are offering weekly classes to help folks that have checked out on iPad through the Device Lending Program learn to become more skilled and comfortable using the tablets.

In February, two locations launched ongoing fitness programs for older adults. Tobin at Oakwell now offers weekly Tai Chi classes on Wednesdays from 11 am to noon. Schaefer Library is offering a low intensity, standing fitness class on one Saturday a month from 10:30 am – 11:30 am. With the addition of these two locations, there are now ten San Antonio Public Library locations that offer health and fitness programming for older adults, and a chair yoga class continues to be offered online as well.

CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN @ CENTRAL

Children's Library staff assisted colleagues at branch libraries considerably this month. Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin partnered with Landa Branch Library Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas to present an outdoor Story Time. She also stepped in to present Story Time at the Collins Garden Branch Library in the absence of the Children's Librarian there. Librarian Melissa Fulmer assisted Carrie Vance, Children's Librarian at the Igo Branch Library, in presenting the Toddler Time and Baby Time programs

there. She also assisted Tiffany Durham, Children's Librarian at the Johnston branch library, in presenting Story Time and Maker Space there.

Ms. Seglin and Ms. Fulmer each contributed significantly to virtual programming for children. Ms. Seglin presented three Family Story Time Online programs as well as a session of the Proud to Be Me Online program. Ms. Fulmer participated in Baby Time Online every week in February and presented one Art Club Online program as well.

Ms. Seglin joined colleagues from around the San Antonio Public Library system to present a special Story Time at the Pride Center San Antonio. The program was very well received by those in attendance.

Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernandez cohosted the Escape the Earth podcast with Tim Johnson (Igo) and Elissa Vura (Brook Hollow). They dove deep into discussions about race and inequity, and the effects of gentrification in Tochi Onyebuchi's *Goliath*.

Central Children's staff continued to develop outreach connections with area childcare centers and schools. Ms. Seglin visited Bonham Elementary School and shared stories with two kindergarten classes. She presented two Story Time programs and delivered books in support of the curriculum at Madison Square Child Development Center. Ms. Fulmer delivered books to Central Christian Day School and shared stories and songs to three different classrooms. Manager Kate Simpson delivered books to two classrooms at the Discovery School as well.

TEEN LIBRARY

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

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

Rosalie Barrera (Librarian I) joins Cassie Garza (Teen Services Librarian I, Johnston) on Tuesdays to help to facilitate the weekly "Gaming Club" on Discord, in which teens enthusiastically stream, play, and discuss video games. She provides support as needed in other weekly clubs on the 210teenlibrary Discord server such as "Teen Time," to further her understanding of how teens activate and participate in their own virtual space. Rosalie continues to support and engage with teens as they explore and activate the Teen Library as their own space to serve their needs, such as studying, crafting, gaming, or gathering with friends. During the reporting period, Rosalie coordinated a class visit to the Teen Library with teenage students from San Antonio Preparatory School. The visiting teens were provided with the opportunities to register for new library cards, check out books, and explore the Teen Library.

Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): Afterschool on Tuesdays, teens know to expect there will be something to do. Typically, teens participate in events they suggested, based on social media videos seen or something new to try. Walking in, setting down backpacks, washing their hands, and getting started with some light cooking activities allows them the chance to pick up a new skill, taste a new food, or show their peers tips and tricks. Activities have highlighted super celebratory events and general teen interest. For this month, teens made a variety of cute foods and crafts, many of them Valentine's Day-

themed, including chocolate covered strawberries, love letter tarts, heart pizzas, jalapeño poppers, and heart garlands. Last year, teen "regular" Miguel mentioned having a "PALentine's" Day party the day before Valentine's Day for those who would rather celebrate the season with friends, with the motto of "Ditch your significant other and hang out with friends." Weeks before the event, Miguel and a friend planned treats and crafts to do for the night, and Miguel created a graphic for display in Teen Library. Teens participated in watching movies, making "You need S'mores friends" S'mores, creating friendly Palentines, and friendship. Teen Intern Kat recorded footage for a short demo for Instagram. To fulfill the San Antonio Food Bank nutrition lessons, teens suggested spiralized zucchini pasta and bringing back last year's favorite: making fruit-infused sparkling water. Pictures and videos from program times and demos can be found on the @210teenlibrary Instagram page.

Pictures below – Valentine's Night: heart-shaped pizzas; teens making fruit-infused waters; teen volunteer Angelina plating zucchini pasta.



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

Amisarahi Sarabia (SAPL's Teen Outreach Specialist / Library Assistant) assists in the Teen Library, in addition to the off-site delivery of library services she conducts in the community. Amisarahi hosts Music Mondays on the 210teenlibrary Discord server in which teens stream their favorite songs and artists while chatting with friends on the server.

Teens have access to the Studio, VR, and gaming equipment during and after weekly program times, as well as all day on Saturdays. Pictures and videos from program times and demos can be found on the Teen Services Instagram page: @210teenlibrary.

REFERENCE

Library Assistant Brianna Glass created two displays for February that received praise: Black History Month and a Zine display featuring 2022's Big Pride Zine and Big Read Zine. The Zine display was reposted to San Antonio Public Library's various Social Media platforms.



Arland Schnacker continues to update his veterans/visiting documents display at Connect.

On Feb 7 & 21 Raquel Reyes hosted a Coloring and Crafting to Calmness program for Adults. On Valentine's Day, Raquel Reyes and Bettina Hernandez hosted a popular "Love Me, Love Me Not" craft program where patrons made a miniature doll to signify their true love, heartache, or both.



Reference Staff hosted an information table for Roy Mass Youth Alternatives (RMYA) on February 15, which resulted in helping several teen patrons find housing and resources. RMYA is a non-profit organization that help young patrons off the streets and into homes, jobs, and other community programs.

On February 18th, JD Elizondo and Valerie Sauceda hosted the Creative Collective program, an open mic mixer for live arts.

Christina Montero and Brianna Glass created and hosted a DIY Dog Toy program on February 18. Staff demonstrated how to make free chew toys out of old t-shirts and household materials.



CPS Energy Casa Verde hosted an Connect information table on February 24 and informed people about their weatherization and free energy efficiency programs for residents.

On February 25, an online Chair Yoga Class was offered by Patricia Perez and Pannaga Prasad on Zoom. The class was presented by Ashley Ludwick, a professional Yoga Instructor. The instructor taught attendees chair yoga using seated postures and standing with chair support, and covered how to safely stretch, connect within, and find inner peace during breathing exercises.

LATINO COLLECTION & RESOURCE CENTER

The Latino Collection and Resource Center (LCRC) had a busy planning month in February preparing a slate of upcoming workshop series as well as programs to commemorate Cesar Chavez Day. Additionally, Program Manager Emily Flores worked in conjunction with Collection Development to expand the collection, ordering a large number of books, including many related to upcoming programs. Staff training was provided on the updated A/V equipment in the LCRC, with staff expressing how seamless and easy it is to cast from their personal devices to the new television. A formal partnership was formed with Gemini Ink, who will be partnering with the LCRC on a year-long bilingual storytelling workshop series.

TEXANA/ GENEALOGY



Librarian Matt De Waelsche coordinated four events to celebrate Black History Month. He invited musician and photographer Allee Wallace to perform three musical concerts for the library system centered around Negro Spirituals. The first concert was held on Sunday, February 5 at Second Baptist Church, followed by the second concert on February 11 at the Central Library. The third and final concert was hosted by the Pruitt Library on February 18. A total of 125 people attended these events. Mr. De Waelsche also invited Carolyn James to speak at the Carver Library on February 18 for a presentation remembering her mother, social activist Geraldine

Smedler.

Librarian Sylvia Reyna continued the Black History Month celebration by conducting three African American Genealogy classes at various locations throughout the city. Ms. Reyna guided the participants at these events through the beginning steps for investigating their African American roots. The first class was presented at the Carver Library on February 4. The other two classes were offered in conjunction with the Older Adults Initiative--one hosted by the Griffin Senior Center on February 8, and another hosted by the Walker Ranch Senior Center on February 22. Additionally, Ms. Reyna invited African American author Denise McVea to present a program on February 18 at the Carver Library. Ms. McVea discussed her book *Making Myth of Emily*, and shared about the historical research she conducted on Emily West De Zavala and the Yellow Rose of Texas Legend.



On Saturday, February 11 Special Collections Manager Heather Ferguson and Ms. Reyna attended the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority event *Shining Legacy: A Day of Community, History and Sisterhood* hosted by the Carver Library. Ms. Ferguson and Ms. Reyna engaged with sorority leadership, members and other attendees to continue fostering and building relationships between the Library and San Antonio's African American community organizations.

Librarian Andy Crews presented the online class "Finding and Researching Naturalization Records" on February 21. He demonstrated where to find and how to utilize these records in

genealogy research. Mr. Crews also presented an online "Beginning Genealogy" class on February 28 that provided tips for getting started in family history research.

On Saturday, February 25 Ms. Ferguson met with representatives from the Monte Vista Historical Association at their offices on the grounds of the Landa Library to discuss their collection of historical administrative files. The meeting was coordinated to advise their leadership on best practices for organizing and storing the neighborhood association's decades of documents.

As a member of the Libraries and Homelessness Committee, Ms. Ferguson coordinated the "Warm and Fuzzy Rack" at the Central Library with assistance from Reference and Texana staff team members. This effort was part of the system-wide "Wall of Warmth" community-helping initiative aimed at connecting those in need with donations of winter gear throughout the cold season. Over the four-month period, which began November 1 and ended on February 28, a total of 221 donated items were given away via the Central Library's display.

BRANCH LOCATIONS

BAZAN

Children's Librarian Hope Sonnen reported that children have very much enjoyed playing games on the children's AWE computer and being creative with the new magnetic blocks sets. Children also enjoyed expressing their artistic talents with *Let's Create: Come and Go Fun* self-directed program. The *Let's Build: LEGO CLUB* continued to be popular.

The Bazan branch hosted the Bexar County's Economic and Community Development Community Resource division on February 22. The team was onsite to process applications designed to prevent utility disconnections and to assist households control energy costs through education. Library computers and MFDs were available to applicants needing to print or photocopy documents needed to complete the application process.

The Roy Mass Youth Alternatives' outreach team visited the Bazan branch twice in February to speak with and assist prospective clients. Roy Mass provides resources to children in crisis by promoting individual success and healthy relationships. The team was able to connect with several individuals.

Bazan Learn Training Officer Carlos Loera started offering a *How to Use an iPad* class on Saturday mornings to support individuals who were recipients of an iPad through the library's iPad lending program. Bazan Learn continued to see lots of customers seeking one-to-one help sessions that covered computer skills, resume building, job search, completing job applications and help learning to use personal devices. Mr. Loera *presented English as a Second Language* classes every Tuesday and additionally presented *Painting Classes for Seniors* twice a month, an *Ault Coloring* class and hosted *Coffee and a Movie* for senior adults.

Bazan Library hosted a *Voces Cósmicas* writing poetry workshop in February. *Voces Cósmicas*, which meets regularly at the Bazan library, is a literary nonprofit established to share poetry and prose, generate ideas, promote literature, and encourage fledgling writers and artists.

BROOK HOLLOW



Friends of Brook Hollow Library (FOBHL) hosted a Brook Hollow Library (BHL) Staff Appreciation Dinner @ CASA Sol Restaurant Thursday, February 23, 2023. FOBHL Friends & long-time library supporters Pat, Becky and Neil Bjornson hosted the evening. COSA District Nine Councilman John Courage and Zada Courage, along with SAPL Board of Trustees Member Marcie Ince & husband, shared a meal with FOBHL members and BHL staff. BHL Manager Jeannette Davies; Children's Librarian Amanda Neace; Librarian 1 Marco De Leon; Circulation Attendants Teresa Smith & Ofelia Vallejo, with Mike Vallejo, attended the festive event with accolades for the staff and Friends. FOBHL are in the process of preparing for their spring book sale @ the BHL Saturday, March 11, from 10 – 4 pm.

BHL Children's Librarian Amanda Neace began offering Saturday Baby Time programs in February, which ranged in attendance up to 30 babies, siblings, and adults. In addition to regularly scheduled Read

to A Dog programs, Neace coordinated two after school art events in February re: St. Valentine's & Make a Mardi Gras Mask crafts. Neace also began working with the SAPL's Dynamic Spaces strategic planning group.

In February, BHL Librarian 1 Marco De Leon hosted BHL's Mystery Book Club, book read was *Force of Nature* by Jane Harper with 11 attendees. BHL's La Tertulia Book Club read *Violeta* by Isabel Allende with 14 patrons. The BHL Tuesday Evening Book Club's 13 attendees read and discussed *You* by Caroline Kepnes. BHL's ever-growing partnership/collaboration with COSA's Walker Ranch Senior Center Book Club's 25 attendees read *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate.

In response to requests by local teens, BHL Library Assistant Elissa Vura facilitated pop-up Teen Time programs on Friday afternoons during the month of February. Teens engaged primarily in video gaming, playing rounds of Super Smash Bros. collaboratively and competitively on the Nintendo Switch. Teens gained skills in responsibility by setting up and cleaning up before and after Teen Time and have been taking ownership of the program by selecting games and future activities.

Vura, along with Librarian Tim Johnson of the Igo Library and Mary Elizabeth Fernandez from the Central Library's Children's Department, hosted the SAPL Escape the Earth podcast and book group. The February discussion of *Goliath* by Tochi Onyebuchi featured a special guest: local high school English teacher Felicia McCullen. The episode has 98 listens and counting.

Vura also received recognition from a library patron for outstanding customer service. The patron brought in a card for Vura thanking her for her patience and kindness while engaging with her 11-year-old brother. She said, "my brother has ADHD and ADD so he will gladly and easily talk your ear off. Most people find it annoying and usually say things to shut him down, but you kept him talking! I loved hearing my brother talk about a book that he's so passionate about." Kudos to Elissa!

BHL Branch Manager Jeannette Davies & the BHL Team are gearing up for the Bexar County Election Department's Municipal Election, Saturday, May 6, 2023. Early Voting begins Monday, April 24-May 2, 2023. BHL served more than 10,000 voters in the November election cycle. SAPL plans to close the BHL for 6-12 weeks for HVAC work this spring, date to be determined. Public Services Administrator (PSA) Jake Odland and Davies will coordinate a pickup point of service for patrons to pick up the library materials they place on hold virtually.

Davies hosted Noon Time Helping of Cooking in SAPL's Virtual Kitchen in February with St. Valentine's Day Cooking. Davies and co-host Oscar Gonzales, manager of the Mission Library, offered easy treat recipes for the holiday. Feature programs include St. Patrick's Day; a Portuguese -themed program in April and a Mother's Day Bash in May. Noon Time Cooking includes cookbook talks, bibliographies of library resources and demos tested recipes etc. Patrons can register for the program on the library's website via Events and the date.

Davies received an ENCORE Card from a BHL patron who recognized her teamwork, professionalism, and integrity by stating, "You were so patient & kind to a patron using the pc. And even though you were interrupted by a VERY impolite and obtuse patron, you handled the situation with grace and composure. You delt with 2 human problems while the library was uncomfortably warm (an environmental issue) yet persevered. You led by example."

CARVER

Over the month of February, the branch proved itself a resource to San Antonio's media community, providing historical data to KENS-5 and KSAT-12 TV stations both of which aired news segments that celebrated Black History events in San Antonio, such as the integration of Woolworth lunch counters in 1960 and the legacy of Keyhole Hole Nightclub which once flourished here.



On Tuesday, February 21, the branch partnered with the Youth Center of Texas (YCT) to host the symposium, *No One is For Sale*, whose focus was to confront the menace of human trafficking. The event attracted law enforcement and community advocates, such as Adriana McKinnon of YCT, to discuss awareness and what citizens can do to strike back.

(Photo cutline: DL Grant welcomes seminar co-presenter Adriana McKinnon(r) to the branch).



(Cutline: Presenters share resources with the audience and discuss ways to report trafficking)

Gathering Our Stories Back, an event that recalled African American heritage in San Antonio, kicked off Black History Month 2023 at the branch. Accounts and experiences that were shared were included in the Office of Historic Preservations' African American Cultural Context effort the City's Cultural Historian Claudia Guerra began compiling last summer. The afternoon was capped off with a tutorial whose focus was helping African Americans to perform Genealogy. The event was offered by Sylvia Reyna of the Texana Genealogy Department at Central Library. Other Black History Month events followed later that month, including Shining Legacy: A Day of Community, History, and Sisterhood which celebrated the contributions of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and founding co-member, Myra Davis Hemmings formerly of San Antonio who, as a suffragette at Howard University, marched in the historic Women's March on Washington in 1913 that also included Ida B. Wells-Barnett.

Rounding out BHM at Carver Branch was the 4th Annual African American Book Festival which attracted nearly 50 authors from the San Antonio area as well as across the nation, including New Orleans native Clemonce Heard, who was the former Sala-Diaz writer-in-residence in San Antonio. Heard, a poetry fellow at the University of Wisconsin, returned to the branch the following day, Sunday, for a reading from his book, *Tragic City*, attracting such poets as Naomi Shihab Nye, Reggie Scott Young and Gerard Robledo.



(Cutline: Clemonce Heard, author of *Tragic City*. Photo courtesy of the poet)

The total amount of patrons who visited the Learn Center at Carver Branch during February was 150. The total amount of minutes spent with patrons was 15,750 minutes. The average stay at Learn remained at 105 minutes per visit.

Also during February, Learn Training Officer Shauna Mendoza attended outreach events at the Claude Black Community Center, the Youth Center of Texas, the Wheatley Senior Center, and the District 2 Senior Center. She volunteered at the Pokémon Expo at McCreless Branch.

Mrs. Mendoza continued offering weekly classes in Daily Computer Skills; Introduction to Computers; and Personal Devices, which includes iPad Essentials instruction and attracts robust attendance. Participation is high.



(Cutline: Shauna Mendoza (standing) leads a class on iPads basics at the Learn Center at Carver Branch)



(Cutline: Shauna Mendoza of Carver Learn Center attends outreach at the District 2 Senior Center)



Throughout the month of February, Ms. Ramirez, Children's Librarian supported children's activities with weekly after school Lego Time at Carver and Preschool focused Story Time every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. While Ms. Ramirez attended the Joint Conference of Librarians of Color (JCLC) from February 8th - February 12th, Leslie Elsasser from Schafer was able to fill in at Carver Story Time on February 16th.

As a participant of the JCLC Conference, Ms. Ramirez attended various sessions including Decloaking Wakanda: Creating Space for BIPOC Nerds (Bridge Building, Intersectionality, and Inclusion) and Braving our Blind Spots: Using a Virtual Book Discussion Group to Continue Conversations on Implicit Bias in Libraries (Bridge Building, Intersectionality, and Inclusion). This conference was a great reminder of how important Libraries are in the call to social justice.

On February 21st, Ms. Ramirez began helping McCreless Library facilitate their Lego Program until they are able to hire a new Children's Librarian and plans to support them this way weekly on Tuesdays. Lastly, on February 23rd, Ms. Ramirez visited Tynan Headstart for Story Time with SAPL. We sang songs and read stories together. In preparation of Women's History Month, Ms. Ramirez and Central Children's Librarian Melissa Fulmer began coordinating programs centered on quilting, incorporating the Carver Quilters group and other quilt related crafts and book displays and book lists.

CODY

The Friends of the Cody Library held a successful book sale the weekend of February 17. Patrons were happy to see the book sale return and have been bringing in donations for the next sale. Adults have their choice of activities to join at Cody, including a variety of book clubs, Fiber Club, Film Club, and gaming, too!

Story Times at the Cody Library remained lively during the month of February. Librarian Kristin Yourdon continued to plan Family Story Time programs based on requests from attendees. Themes included All About Me (a celebration of the wonderful and unique things about each person), love, bugs, and cars. Baby Time continued to meet every Friday morning. This month Yourdon taught caregivers some sign language to go along with a song they can sing while changing their baby's diaper. Toddler Dance Party has continued to be the most popular Story Time at Cody. Every Friday morning is a celebration as young tots dance, sing, and shake some shakers. During the program caregivers are also introduced to interactive books that are great for their young kids. Some favorite books this month were Tap the Magic Tree by Christie Matheson and Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell. Cody's Sensory Friendly Story Time was held on February 21st and participants sang, read, and learned all about trains.

Cody continued to offer a variety of afterschool programs. Every Wednesday afternoon the Cody branch offers Come & Go Crafts. Some favorite activities were making heart shaped wreaths and painting with watercolors. Every Thursday afternoon the branch offers Lego Club. Kids always have a free choice of what they would like to build during Lego Club, but this month many of the kids chose to build horse stables and creations based on Minecraft. Every Friday afternoon the branch offers a Kid's Afterschool Hangout program. During this program kids get to choose to create with art supplies, play games, or hang out and spend time with friends. During the last week of the month many of the kids were inspired to build a hot air balloon out of straws and connectors. There was a lot of opportunity for problem solving and troubleshooting during this difficult project, and the kids did a fantastic job!

Yourdon visited Locke Hill Elementary School on February 28th to read a book over the morning announcements as a part of the campus' Read Across America celebration. Yourdon read Crazy Hair Day by Barney Saltzberg, to kick off the crazy hair day celebration at the school.

This month the Teens at Cody have been making intricate Perler Beads designs that can take several days to build, some have even used up to six Perler Bead trays! Teens have been using the "projects in progress" shelf quite a bit, using it to store projects to work on the next time they visit.

COLLINS GARDEN





Adults and seniors continue to enjoy passive programming at the branch. They participate in the community jigsaw puzzle and weekly brain booster activities.

The Collins Garden Book Club met on February 15 and discussed the novel *This Time Tomorrow* by Emma Straub. The club was facilitated by Gina Brudi.

On February 11, Adult Librarian Rosa Villa screened the family movie Black Panther in celebration of Black History Month. On February 21, adults and seniors were invited to relax with music and coloring activities. The Collection Development curated Black History month book display was mounted at the branch and Ms. Villa installed a Blind Date with a Book display. This display was very popular and well received by patrons.

On February 24, Ms., Villa and Branch Manager Arlene Richardson met with Program Coordinator at Impacto Community Center and discussed outreach opportunities and promoted library programs and services.

The Friends of the Collins Garden Group was reactivated with the approval of the proposed Bylaws on February 11, 2023. The group is eager to begin providing support to the Collins Garden Library.

Teen Services Librarian Daniella Toll continued to host weekly Teen Vibe programs, where teens are invited to play video games, relax after school, make crafts or play board games. She created several interactive spaces for teens in the teen space and invited teens to engage with the activities- including glass door art, and art using various mediums. Ms. Toll continued to assist the 210teenlibrary Discord server workgroup with button and sticker requests for teens, and she assisted with weekly teen club on Fridays. On February 25, she assisted with Library Palooza and made keychains for teens and their families who had many patterns from various fandom universes to choose from. She also shared information about the 210teenlibrary Discord server. Ms. Toll supervised teen volunteers for the 210teenlibrary Instagram account.



Along with the Tiny Tots workgroup, Children's Librarian Gina Brudi delivered Family Story Time and Baby Time to families online. She continued her popular monthly visit to Knox Early Literacy Center on February 8, reading to over 125 children in 7 classrooms. She planned and presented 12 in-house programs for school aged children: four Lego Clubs, four Construction and More activities and four Preschool Story Time where children and their caregivers engaged in interactive play with age-appropriate toys and blocks following the stories. In celebration of National Pizza Day children made pizzas of every color and topping for inclusion on the white board using craft supplies provided in the children's area. On February 13th and 14th, construction paper and stickers were provided to add cards and hearts to the white board in celebration of Valentine's Day. Ms. Brudi mounted a juvenile display of books on presidents in celebration of President's Day.



CORTEZ

Cortez Library re-opened after its closure for HVAC repair on February 14th, 2023. The first 50 patrons to check in at the Circulation Desk this day received a special Valentine's Day treat; a silk bag with Conversation Hearts and a few San Antonio Public Library goodies provided by Communications. Many patrons dropped in to say how happy they were the library was open again and how much they appreciate the Cortez staff.

To celebrate February, passive crafts "I Can Make Myself Flowers" and "Choose Love 'Gnome' Matter What" were set up for Adults and Children to enjoy. Legos were placed in the Family Fun Zone for families to play together and board games were left for Adults to enjoy together. A 'Puss in Boots' scavenger hunt was placed around the Children's area for families to work on together and earn a sticker as a prize for completing. Circulation Attendants Madeline Vasquez, Jasmine Sanchez, and Ana Rodriguez, along with Branch Manager Angela Morrow, made a great team to create these opportunities for the Cortez community. The Cortez Circulation Attendants also teamed up to create multiple new

displays for the library; a gnome village, 'Egg-cellent' New Books, Reading Makes your Mind 'Bloom', new books, and action and sci-fi movies. Library Assistant from Central Library, Stacey Martinez, created an imaginative display of hair-braiding books to advertise an upcoming program which was complemented by many.

Due to opening half the month and limited staff, no formal programming took place at Cortez Library, but will resume in March..

ENCINO

On February 9 adult and children's services librarians collaborated to host a "Squishy Soap" program. At this program patrons of all ages got a chance to make a squishy dough type soap using cornstarch, castile soap, and food coloring. Kids and adults both enjoyed making soap to bring home!

Encino adults got to enjoy a couple of other special programs in February. On February 12 adults enjoyed making beautiful memory wire bracelets. Encino also had a group of adults enjoy the "Spice Up Your Life" program during which they got to make three different spice blends to bring home, received the recipes to make again at home, and received additional recipes to try at home as well! Everyone was excited to make Ranch mix, pizza seasoning, and copycat Red Robin seasoning.

February also marked the beginning of Tai Chi classes at Encino! Classes are being taught by a volunteer, James Clark - who is a certified Tai Chi instructor, and are offered weekly. Tai Chi has been an immediate success with the Encino community!

On February 27, Encino library held its second iteration of the Gothic Literature Book Club. This month the book club explored <u>The Castle of Otranto</u> by Horace Walpole, which is regarded as the first ever Gothic novel. Participants enjoyed an active discussion about general themes of Gothic literature and then applied those themes to the literature read. Participants then discussed what to look for and anticipate for next month's reading, <u>Wuthering Heights</u>, by Emily Bronte.

Childrens

Encino children have had a fun month of learning through books, play and music during Story Time and Baby Time. We have grown in numbers and added a 2nd Story Time on Fridays as a result. We were lucky enough to snag some new toys from Little Read Wagon that have allowed children to explore role play and symbolic play.

This month students learned about binary coding by making coded message bracelets using beads and pipe cleaners. They also learned the art of printmaking using foam sheets and alcohol ink. Both activities were a lot of fun and great ways for children to learn through play. Along with these more specialized programs, children also enjoyed their LEGO and Playdough programs. Each of these programs allow children to explore engineering and creativity as they experiment and build.

Our Tween makerspace program has been getting into lots of jewelry making and painting as students step outside their comfort zones and test out new mediums of creative expression. We are looking forward to learning and exploring more in March!

Encino children love to read to "Dorothy the dog"! The "Read to a Dog" program continues to be a success every second and fourth Tuesday. On Valentine's Day, Encino hosted a special photo

opportunity with Dorothy, complete with a Valentine's Day backdrop and plenty of Valentine's-themed board books and picture books to share with Dorothy. Dorothy came photo-ready as well, wearing a heart-themed bandana! Children enjoyed posing and reading with Dorothy while their parents snapped plenty of photos!

Catered to working parents, "Swing in for a Story" grows in success every Sunday morning as well. Children are read a story, participate in a song with a dance, and then go outside to the playground to play together. While outside, Librarian Krystal Owen also provides outdoor-friendly toys and/or a craft to make if desired. This month the children enjoyed making leaf "masks", playing hopscotch, decorating stones, jumping rope, and bubbles!

Teen Services

Teen librarians at Encino, facilitated passive and in person programming opportunities and showcased displays for teens aged 13 to 18 in the teen space.

Teens planned and implemented some exciting activities such as a decorating the Teen Room and creating an inviting atmosphere. In obsevance to Valentine's day, Teens created crafts and used them as decor for the Teen room.

Teens participated in the promotion of literacy through a "Blind Date" book display and had a display celebrating "Black History month".

Teen librarian, Ivan Martinez, and library aide Amari Russell, conducted a community outreach to share resources and also collaborate with the local high school, Haley Schmidt.

Teens are actively involved in budgeting the funds to have snacks and drinks available for teens. The Teen volunteer program is going strong, and its popularity is increasing. The Teen volunteers are active in library duties and in promoting Teen services to the community.

Teens participated in the weekly program, Teen Club @ Encino on Tuesday nights 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Teens were involved building relationships and participated in an array of activities, from playing card games, doing crafts, building puzzles to socializing and planning future Teen times.

Teen planned an Alice in Wonderland Tea party to celebrate February personal celebrations. Teens communicated during Teen time and outside of teen time, to coordinate outfits and supplies they were going to need for the Tea party. The library was able to provide the "tea", snacks, and a safe space.

The *friends of the library* have been very generous with our providing funds for our teens in the community. The *friend's* generosity enables our teens to come together and build relationships.

FOREST HILLS

Forest Hills staff continue to work together to get the branch ready for re-opening, between unboxing and shelving materials and getting workspaces organized, as well as setting up displays for patrons to browse. The team is excited for opening day!

Teen Librarian Shannan Prukop worked with Sul Ross Middle School for an outreach on February 3rd, where they made buttons and provided library information as well as Teen Services freebies to 150

students and made connections with the teachers and library staff at the school. With Teen Pride workgroup member Lauren Hime, they also organized an outreach at the Communication Arts High School, where teens colored in 3D printed keychains and made buttons as part of a continuing relationship with the Pride Club at this school. When not preparing Forest Hills for re-opening, Mx. Prukop continued the weekly Dungeons and Dragons club on the 210teenlibrary Discord server, with teens welcoming new players by helping them build characters and encouraging each other to build the story together.

In February, Children's Librarian Ana Menchaca recorded "Una Casa Para Un Conejito" for Telecuentos and has started to participate in virtual Family Story Time, which aims to be more inclusive, in that children's of any age can participate. Ms. Menchaca was happy to go help Maverick library with their Story Time, Baby Time, and Toddler Time, as well as helped to facilitate virtual Story Time. It is always a pleasure to interact with the cutest SAPL patrons. Together with Children's Librarians Ms. Vance, Ms. Salinas, Ms. Seglin, and Children's coordinator Cresencia Huff, Ms. Menchaca attended "National Day of Reading: Celebration of Stories Supporting Transgender & Non-Binary Youth Event!" hosted by the Pride Center where read stories, sang songs, and made a craft with participants. Best of all, they were able to make connections with other non-profits in the area. As preparation for the re-opening of Forest Hills, Ms. Menchaca attended periodicals training and worked with branch staff and Collection Development to get the children's area filled and ready for opening day.

GREAT NORTHWEST

Participants in Great Northwest Branch Library's *ABC Club* for ages 2-4 learned how to create letters of the week in group time and during the learning lab stations with Children's Library Cari Raley. Kids practiced shaping their letters using everyday objects like trucks, Legos, rulers and more. Several participants' guardians appreciated exploring the alphabet in the kinetic learning environment and planned to recreate one at home with their extended family.

Story Time Club's recent favorite story was Olivia. The attendees made Olivia puppets and face masks in the craft area which gives the families different ways of retelling of the stories. They also got a chance to be art critics with the Story Time Club art museum.

The 3-D Science Club for ages 5-9 is learning about different parts of the body. Recently they explored teeth, skin, and even touched on how the brain uses the five senses. Afterwards they made a detailed 3-D craft to reiterate what participants learned.

Tweens in *World Matters* learned about the importance of propaganda on a global perspective and how it can cause problems for everyone. A new topic was introduced which is found online often – plagiarism. Participants respectfully debated and explored this topic on a global perspective.

Maker Space Club discovered a new disaster each week and designed a physical item to learn how that item would withstand a natural disaster such as flooding and tornadoes.

The Great Northwest Branch Library teens planned and implemented all teen programs and events for February 2023, including a Valentine's Party which involved a cooking class led by teens where they taught each other how to make waffles. Teen Librarian Lisa provided a heart-shaped waffle maker for the event and a local baker donated Vintage/Tim Burton inspired heart-shaped cookies for the party. The teens also had a game night and a Onesie Dance Competition (which included hanging out in pajamas

and listening to music while playing a game of Uno and Hangman). The teen volunteers also meet once a month on Sunday from 11am to 2pm to plan events and work on book displays and other projects.





Library Assistant LC Keefe hosted the *Potpourri Book Club*'s discussion on Saturday, February 25. They had a lively discussion of the many themes in the novel *Lady in the Lake* by Laura Lippman. They also chose the next selection, the historical fiction novel *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate.

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

Library Assistant Jenn hosted the *Cut & Glue Collage Program* where 12 participants worked in their collage notebooks and experimented with new techniques. Everyone was given a collage bingo board that they can use throughout the year to spark inspiration.

GUERRA

Guerra continued to host the incredibly popular VITA service this month, bringing in community members from all over the city.

Teen Librarian, Bek Corley, facilitated Guerra's weekly Teen Club in collaboration with teen volunteers. The teens led film screening and art making nights, this month focused on painting with watercolors and creating graphic novels.

Children's Librarian, Linda Lopez, continued her Toddler Story Time every Wednesday morning. It is filled with lots of singing, dancing, rhyming, crafting, and stories. She also continued the well-attended Lego Club on Wednesday afternoons. Patrons of all ages enjoy building, creating, and challenging one another. Linda helped Lisa Leandro from Potranco with a Career Day at Mora Elementary School. They read *Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpre* by Alma Aldamuy Denise, and *Endlessly Ever After* by Laurel Snyder. Lisa also had small zines to give out to each student with library vocabulary. She attended the Solar Eclipse Committee meeting, and brainstormed ideas for programming, outreach, and advertisement of the upcoming solar eclipses in October 2023, and April 2024. Linda also attended a meeting for the Strategic Planning group she is with, "Mom Knows Best."

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson recorded *Mi amigo Libro* (*The jacket*) by Kirsten Hall, on February 3 for Dial-a-Story in Spanish. That same day he presented a trivia game to senior citizens at the Willie Cortez Senior Center. On February 23 he moderated the Spanish book club, Club de Lectura. They discussed the Yo seré la última: la historia de mi cautiverio y mi lucha contra el Estado Islámico (The last girl: my story of captivity and my fight against the Islamic State) by Nadia Murad. This book describes the Islamic State's practice of genocide against her religious and ethnic group the Yazidis in Iraq, her escape, and her efforts to make the world aware of the plight of her people. The next day, February 24, Stephen presented another trivia game at the Willie Cortez senior center.

IGO

Igo's Teen Time regulars continue to develop plans for future Teen Times with one another and the teen librarian, Annie Calonico. Their plans this month included making pancakes for Valentine's Day, which the teens organized and executed with great skill, going from feeding themselves to offering pancakes to staff members and becoming short-order cooks. Igo's teens also explored new board games that they had previously requested and continued to compete with one another in video games and other board games. Giving teens the power to do the planning and deciding for what is done during Teen Time increases their ownership and control over the time.

The teen librarian, Annie Calonico, helped to organize San Antonio Public Library's presence at Northside ISD's LibraryPalooza, an annual event that invites YA authors to talk to area teens and tweens. While making keychains with attending teens, our teen librarian also talked with the teens about library programs and services for teens.

Teen librarian, Annie Calonico, held a Valentine's Day meeting for the Better Read Than Dead book club to discuss *The Midnight Assassin: Panic, Scandal, and the Hunt for America's First Serial Killer*, by Skip

Hollandsworth. The turnout was great and the conversation and debate about the case covered in the book was lively and fun.

Igo Manager Tim Johnson hosted the Dollars and Sense Discussion Group which meets on the first Saturday of every month. In February, 7 members attended and discussed Napoleon Hill's Think and Grow Rich. Mr. Johnson also hosted the Igo Mystery Book Group which boasted 17 attendees in February. The Igo Chess club is another program hosted by Mr. Johnson, participants can come play and learn about chess. Six attended February's event. Along with Elissa Vura and Mary Elizabeth Fernandez, Mr. Johnson cohosts and edits SAPL's Escape the Earth podcast. February's selection discussed Goliath by Tochi Onyebuchi and received 97 plays.

Adult Services Librarian, Gamini Haluwana arranged a book discussion program in celebration of Black History Month. The book discussion was on "The Light We Carry" by Michelle Obama. Karla Broadus, Coordinator, Retired, African American Studies Race Ethnicity Gender Sexuality Studies (REGSS) led the discussion. 7 participants enjoyed the book discussion.

JOHNSTON

The branch hosted the market, Mercado por tu Corazon, on February 14th as part of the American Heart Association's partnership with the library to provide the opportunity to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables to residents.

Assistant Manager Cris Yamada hosted the Adult Craft Time program on February 11th. Six participants created Valentine's cards using the template from the book "Mollie Makes Papercraft."



Miss Tiffany hosted the early literacy program Family Fun Story Time weekly on Thursday mornings. The month was full of collaborative art, singing, dancing and favorite books. The school-aged programs included Let's Create: Maker's Club and Let's Build: Lego Club to much delight. Miss Tiffany worked as a co-lead for Tiny Tots and she coordinated the online program Family Story Time Online. In celebration of Black History Month there was a display of books *Little Legends*, *Little Leaders*, and *Little Dreamers* by Vashti Harrison.

Teen librarian Cassie Garza facilitated several in-person teen times at Johnston library. For the month of February teens learned how to create image transfer coasters, create and design their own keychains and played Nintendo switch video games. This month's highlight happened the day before Valentine's Day, in which several teens used crafts supplies to quickly create Valentines for their friends and family. Ms. Garza hosted the BTS crafts and book club group at Johnston library. Inspired by the Johnston teen crafts the BTS group wanted to try their hand at creating BTS themed image transfer coasters. The BTS group already had images on hand of their BTS bias's and used that to create ceramic coaster tiles. Ms.

Garza assisted with Pokefest held at McCreless library. She used her knowledge of the Pokemon trading card game to show participants how to play the card game and how to look up prices of their rare cards. Ms. Garza hosted the SAPL Esports meeting to finalize details for 2023 Mar10 Day events, the first year since 2020 to host in-person events. There will be a weeks' worth of events beginning March with a mix of virtual and in-person programs to celebrate Super Mario.

Library Assistant Ana Pina hosted the Johnston Nopressure Book Club on Sunday, February 19th where participants gathered to talk about the books they have been reading for the month of February. Some notable books mentioned were *The Lonely Stories* edited by Natalie Eve Garrett *and Becoming Duchess Goldblatt* by Anonymous. Ms. Pina and Part-Time Circulation Assistant Linda Childs created a Blind Date with a Book display for Johnston.



LEARN's Training Officer, Marcella McGowan provided the following programs: On February 1st, 15th and 22nd Ms. McGowan presented Prep for the Naturalization Test. She also had iPads Tips and Tricks on Sundays 5th, 19th and 26th. Marcella also attended the 4th annual National Joint Conference of Librarians of Color held February 8-12, at the Trade Winds Island Grand Resort in St. Pete Beach, Florida. She provided a summary of her trip to the library's administration. The Learn area had 30 patrons accessing the Center this month.

LANDA

Landa Library continued to offer weekly Outdoor Family Story Time and Baby Time, along with biweekly Let's Build Legos and Let's Create Process Art.

Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas and Teen Librarian Stephanie Thomas-Rosen began collaborating on a weekly Tween program for children nine to 12 years with their biggest audience gathering to make magazine collages.

This month, Landa Library hosted the M is for Musician program with bass player Zlatan Redzic performing. It was a very successful program with standing room only, as over 60 people joined us. Children's books written and illustrated by Black folks were on display in the Children's area.

Throughout the month of February, children and families were invited to participate in a "We Love You" self-portrait and/or a "Draw your Favorite Animal" art station.

Children's Librarian Salinas continued to visit three nearby schools to provide classrooms with Story Times and books. She also went with a team of Children's Librarians to the San Antonio Pride Center to celebrate the National Day of Reading: A Celebration of Stories Supporting Transgender and Non-Binary Youth. Children's Librarian Salinas continued to facilitate systemwide virtual program on Zoom by helping weekly with Baby Time Online, monthly with Art Club Online for school-age children, and Family Story Time Online.

Librarian Salinas helped support and promote Black History Month as she updated the Children's Services blog in February with a book recommendations for school-age children and created Black History month featured content on the Tiny Tots LibGuide, which showcased books by Black authors and illustrators.

Teen Librarian, Stephanie Rosen, facilitated both in-person and passive programming for teens this month. In-person activities included, Teen Time every Monday. A Saturday group was added based on feedback offered by teens. The event is hosted by a teen volunteer. Teen volunteers were instrumental in helping with program planning and creating the teen space décor and displays.

This month, board and card games were added to the Teen Space. The teens seemed to really like that new feature. The group continued to enjoy the new furniture as well, and it is used daily.

Questions and though-provoking comments were added to the whiteboard. Teens held many in-depth and wonderful conversations there. The "take what you need, leave what you can" board continued to be popular, with lots of interactions among teens.

OATS held two sessions in February catered to seniors using digital wearables and fitness apps. The programs were well received and Adult Services Librarian Robin Alcorta would like to continue the partnership in the future.

This month, Landa Library hosted Health Coach Jennifer Von Durcheim. She gave a presentation on how to set new fitness goals for the new year. Jennifer will present again in March.

Adult Service Librarian Robin Alcorta visited The Village at Incarnate Word. The book club read *The Maid* by Nita Prose and loved it! There were lively discussions about the characters. They are looking forward to it becoming a movie!

The Mystery Book Club discussed *Hemlock* by Susan Wittig Albert. Overall, club members liked the book, which is an installment in a series of botany-based mysteries. One member commented the author included a bit too much science for their taste. The author included a book within a book, a historical biography about Elizabeth Blackwell, a botanical illustrator. Many of the club members stated they liked this fictional book better than the main story. They all expressed interest in learning about Blackwell.

This month, Readers Ink Book Club read and discussed *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. The discussion was wide ranging and very thorough. Since the books was based on the idea that Jesus had a wife, there were very strong opinions one way or the other about the impact and reality of that concept.

LAS PALMAS

Senior Circulation Attendant, Celicia De Los Santos, created a Valentines "I SPY" Display. She decorated the display case and created small flyers for patrons to use to find the hidden objects- once completed the kids returned the flyer to staff for a prize (20+ kids participated). During the month of February, Las Palmas Branch continued with Tech Tuesday, a program that provides personal assistance with basic technology needs. The branch also featured displays for Valentine's Day/Library Lover's Month and Black History Month. In honor of Valentine's Day, Las Palmas teens did a variety of papercrafts including

making boxes, origami hearts and heart baskets. Las Palmas staff continued providing Story Time, Family Fun and Lego Time for the kids in our community.





MAVERICK

In February, Maverick hosted a few programs geared for adults. For example, Mr. Joseph Menchey presented a basic financial program on February 11. Maverick's Mah Jong group met in February. The Lady Mav's Book Club and the Ladies Choice Book Club also met for their monthly meeting. The Poetry Group also gathered during the reporting period. On February 27, Maverick welcomed the San Antonio Neighborhood and Housing Services Department with one of its sessions of a series of Property Tax Help. There was a tremendous response from the community from this helpful event by assisting property owners to file for a homestead exemption and/or to submit appeals to the Bexar County Appraisal District. Adult Services Librarian, Ben Longoria, continued weeding though the nonfiction collection throughout February.

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

Ms. Roberts also took part in committee work. She evaluated an eclipse viewer for kids in anticipation of the Annular Eclipse on October 14, 2023 and the Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024 for the Eclipse committee. On February 9, she created a curated Story Time for the Tiny Tots Committee; "Mouse's First Valentine" by Lauren Thompson. Ms. Roberts read the book "Penelope and Penguin" by Salina Yoon for Dial-A-Story on February 10.

The children's librarian conducted 16 programs with 472 attendees during the reporting period. Ms. Roberts has Baby Time, Toddler Time and Preschool Story Time every week, in addition to a popular after school Lego Time.

Ms. Roberts attended a few meetings and trainings during the reporting period. On February 13, she completed the monthly Security Awareness training. On February 20, she attended a webinar for a new

Gale database, Miss Humblebee's Academy. She attended the children's librarian's meeting on February 22 at the Central Library. Ms. Roberts ordered hundreds of prize books from Scholastic to distribute to children when they sign up for summer reading in June.

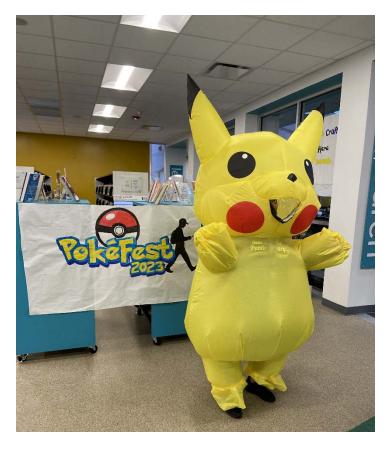
Library Assistant Bleichwehl, assisted by Circulation Attendant Taylur Loera, facilitated Teen Time at Maverick. Teens chose to play Mario Party, Beat Saber and Thumper on the PlayStation Virtual Reality, and the board game Cranium. Two Teens used the branch's Collaborate Room to record freestyle rap and attendees took turns connecting their phones to a Bluetooth speaker and sharing favorite artists. The Teens voted to have an anti-Valentines Day theme on the 14th, so the week before, Teen Volunteers cut out paper hearts onto which Teens wrote bad poetry. Throughout the month Maverick Teens made themselves grilled cheese sandwiches, pancakes – with strawberries and/or chocolate chips – and potstickers. Several Teens like to spend their time drawing and one week a Teen volunteer looked through the craft supplies and recalled making little lizards out of pony beads. Bleichwehl found a pattern on the internet, and the Teen Volunteer taught interested attendees how to make them.

McCRELESS

Library Assistant Joseph Gonzales organized and spearheaded Pokefest 2023 at McCreless Library. There were crafts, green screen photos, Pokémon card gaming and trading, a scavenger hunt, and Pokémon Go Battle tournament for families to participate in. Mr. Gonzales worked with librarians and employees from as many as 8 different branches to bring about this wonderful event. Pokefest 2023 had over 500 participants of all age ranges, with tons of smiling faces and compliments. The participants main question for McCreless Library was "when is the library going to have a fun event like this again?"







Library Assistant Gonzales also hosted a Valentines Movie night showing "Just Go With It" with about 15 in attendance. Mr. Gonzales also hosted a successful SAISD Library card sign up event, with over 28 library cards issued.

Several exciting things happened at McCreless Adult Learn Center in February. We were honored to be SAPL's host location for a site tour which was part of the national Net Inclusion Conference here in San Antonio, focused on Digital Inclusion. Four groups of 20 came to the Learn classroom area and had a first-hand experience of what Learn at SAPL is all about. Michelle Rickman, SAPL's Adult Education Program Manager, gave a presentation explaining our Learn program while Training Officers Lodie Mueller and Christina Flores simultaneously demonstrated the program by working one-on-one with Learn patrons in both Spanish and English. Lodie had a marvelously rewarding experience when a patron came by to say thank you in person because she got a job she loves after receiving help with her resume last November. Headquartered here at McCreless as our new part-time Training Officer, Christina has seamlessly become an integral part of our terrific team, wholeheartedly jumping into the job with both feet to do outstanding work with our patrons. We are all delighted!

On February 25 we hosted a presentation by San Antonio Philharmonic musician Angela Caporale, who spoke to adults and children about the violin, along with musical examples and hands-on experience.



On February 23, Adult Services Librarian Vicky Villalobos hosted Alicia Labrador as she presented "US Postal Service Black Heritage Stamp Series" which celebrates the contributions, achievements, and influences of African-Americans. This featured event for Black History Month was generously supported by the Friends of the McCreless Branch Library.

MEMORIAL

The staff of Memorial Branch Library spent the month of February unpacking, sorting, and finding homes for the branch's belongings which had been in storage for nearly two years. Staff also configured a new arrangement for the circulating collection on shelving units which had been shifted from their former placement due to the renovation and remodeling of the building. Every effort was made to highlight the new and improved features of the branch, including the lobby, the printing center, and the new Teen and Children's rooms. In the midst of all this activity, Adult Services Librarian Freddy Hudson created a list for Bibliocommons which highlighted Young Adult books honoring Black History Month. Library Assistant Rene Leija continued providing curbside pickup service at the branch's off-site service location at the National Archive of the Marianist Province of the United States on the campus of St. Mary's University.

Children's Librarian Christine Deffendall worked with Branch Manager Maria Gonzales to coordinate the final preparations for reopening the branch after its three-year closure due to COVID and construction.





MISSION

Children's Librarian, Jane Miller has begun to offer Family Game Time regularly on Sundays. Families are invited to come play board games, checkers, chess and more. On February 23, Ms. Miller attended Literacy Night at Riverside Park Elementary School. Children and family members visited with Jane, gathering information on library monthly events, how to get a library card and more and picked up cool library swag.

Little Read Wagon (LRW) continues to have the Let's Play event on the first Saturday of the month at Mission Library. It takes advantage of Mission's spacious outdoor areas including the grassy areas and gated courtyard. Inside, LRW sets up small reading tents for any little ones who may be shy to read while others could be watching. This monthly event never fails to attract a healthy number of families.

Teen Services at Mission included a crochet program, a Valentine's Day celebration, a Teen cooking class, and movie night. Teen volunteers planned many of these programs and organized the activities. Teen Services Librarian, Cindy Cruz, also hosted the Teen Services Meeting in February. She also assisted other library staff at Librarypalooza, a large-scale event that celebrates Young Adult books and authors.

MTTTC Table Tennis continues to be one of the longest, well-attended adult programs at Mission. Many of the core group of attendees have been coming to the program for many years. Newcomers are always made to feel welcomed and can jump right in and play.

Easy Tai Chi for Seniors continues to be offered by an outside presenter each Friday morning. It is another long-standing and well-attended program that has been at Mission for over three years.

The dual meeting rooms at Mission Branch Library continue to be a highly sought-after asset offering ample and pleasant spaces for a variety of numerous groups. Local home owners' associations and neighborhood associations, as well as many city departments, youth groups like a Robotics Club and a Girl Scouts group make use of the rooms. Additionally, groups that have strong community ties to the area like the Canary Islanders and Mission Decedents all make regular use of Mission's dual meeting room spaces.

PAN AMERICAN

The Pan American Branch continues to offer a weekly Meditation Class. Classes are held every Saturday from 10:15am to 11:15am in the Pan American Meeting Room. Classes are free and open to beginners. Current participants love these meditation sessions and are very appreciative that we continue to offer these sessions.

Adult Services Librarian, Adrian Leal, continues to offer a bi-monthly "Puzzle Time." This program caters towards adults and offers them a array of puzzles that they can try to solve or put together. The program is meant as a social and fun opportunity for community members. Puzzles are free but are first come, first serve.

Librarian Leal participated in an outreach held at Southside Lions Senior Center. He assisted with getting members of the senior center registered for their library card and promoting the many services that SAPL has to offer.

The Pan American children's librarian held Let's Build: Lego Time every Wednesday at 4pm for school age children. Throughout the month of February, children were given challenges and created unique and amazing creations with their peers. Challenges tackled included building a replica of your house, building a bridge, and spelling out their name with Legos.





In addition, the children's librarian held Family Story Time on Mondays at 1pm where she sang songs, did fun rhymes, and told stories to children and families. Included within the program was a craft that children could do with their families and peers. One craft was making their own valentine card for someone special.





Along with other children's librarians in the system, the children's librarian participated in both Art Club ONLINE and Family Story Time ONLINE. For Family Story Time Online she did closing songs and sang

things like Alice the Camel and B-I-N-G-O, and she also did intro and opening on another. For Art Club ONLINE, she taught children what contour/continuous drawing was. She made a game out of time by giving challenges to kids to continue drawing things like a tiger or a bee without lifting their pencil. Children were given the chance to select things for the group to draw with this concept in mind.

Finally, the children's librarian did her monthly outreach at La Petite Academy on Wurzbach where she sang and told stories to children at the daycare. She taught songs, along with read two books for those in attendance.

PARMAN







This

February, Parman library was honored to host an author event with retired NASA astronaut and United States Air Force colonel, Eileen Collins. Collins spoke about her book "Through the Glass Ceiling to the Stars: The Story of the first American Woman to Command a Space Mission." She spoke about the triumphs of her life and how with perseverance and tenacity anything can be accomplished. Patrons were able to purchase a copy of her book before the event and have it personally signed by Colonel Collins after her presentation. The event expectedly, saw high numbers of attendants (more than 300) and Parman had a full house with people waiting to hear from the renowned astronaut. Due to the extraordinary guest and her willingness of sharing her time and experience with SAPL patrons, this event, organized and coordinated by the branch manager Barbara Kwiatkowski, was a rousing success and received many compliments and positive feedback from the community.



Parman library took a collective stretch towards wellness this month by featuring a five-week series of Yoga and Meditation classes with well-known to Parman community yoga and wellness instructor Ms. Maggie Grueskin. This time the series featured several classes introducing varies styles of Yoga. The idea behind it was to give the community a chance to find what type of yoga works best for

them. The classes ran on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays each week throughout February. It created a serene environment for people to take time for themselves and learn about the importance of daily meditation. The series, organized and coordinated by the branch manager Barbara Kwiatkowski, has been very popular at Parman and patrons have been coming back week after week to attend the wide variety of classes. In February over 90 people attendant Ms. Grueskin classes.









Circulation Attendant Corie Taylor created a wonderful display to celebrate black history month at the Parman library. It featured full photographs of influential African Americans spanning from Maya Angelou, Amanda Gorman, Nina Simone to Barack Obama. Each photograph featured a specialized QR code that sent people to a biography page that described the person's life. These photographs were placed along the self-checkout stations. Many patrons stopped to scan the codes and commented how beautifully the display was done. This is just one of many of Ms. Taylor's remarkable displays she does to make Parman library a more enriching and creative place to visit. Month after month her book displays are delightful and nuanced. Ms. Taylor goes above and beyond with her creativity and innovation and the branch is proud to have such a dedicated employee.



February is always a fun month for the Parman library as it allows employees to create delightful displays about love. One such display, created by library aide Ms. Kristie Rosado-Rivera, was entitled "Tell Me You're a Rom Com Without Telling Me You're a Rom Com." The display featured a plethora of romantic fiction titles all with similar colorful book covers. The sign featured large bright yellow, pink, purple, and red hearts and was bright bit of happiness right in the middle of the library. It was perfect for Valentines Day and a clear celebration of romance



Parman Branch manager organized and coordinated the Chinese New Year's Festival. Local Chinese Club presented the famous lion dance that symbolize good fortune and new beginnings to all. Colorful and eye-catching lion was supported by drums that brought the dance to life. Several different crafts, Chinese calligraphy and food sampling made this one-hour event visited by over 90 people, another successful addition to Parman regular programs.

Monty Holcomb hosted his first Mystery Book Club at Parman and he will continue to meet with mystery books enthusiasts monthly.

In February, Teen Services Librarian Zachary Woolston facilitated a variety of Teen Time programs, including one set on Valentine's Day. Teen volunteers assisted in planning a valentine's party with a "Pizza is My Valentine" theme, where teen patrons enjoyed pizza and games. Teen volunteers were also encouraged to help create new art stations, including a well-received prompt to "draw a frog".

Spanish language Story Time is growing very fast. Ms. Veronica creates a feel of community and her professional approach builds the connection that comes from sharing books and singing silly songs together. During Parman's Cuentos y Canciones, the most popular songs are ones with movement and clapping. Attendees reported that their children are singing the songs from the Spanish Story Time at

home. Even the Non-Spanish speakers are learning the Spanish language songs Miss Veronica Yau and her assistant Angelica Chavez sing. Using various props, like scarves, also helps children learn the words to the songs as well as builds vocabulary.

The babies at Parman were adventurous this month. Miss Lisa brought in a parachute for a new sensory experience. Well known nursery rhymes and songs like "Itsy Bitsy Spider" and "Let's Go Riding in an Elevator" accompanied the up and down motions of the parachute. Most babies sat in their adult's lap and watched the colors and felt the breeze. A few brave ones ventured under the parachute to explore.

The meeting room was an explosion of pink, red, and sparkles when Miss Teague provided materials for Creator Club to make Valentine's Day cards in early February. Another week brought with it an eruption of color when kids mixed vinegar and colored baking soda paint to see what happened.

To celebrate the month of love, Parman's children's librarians decorated with Conversation Hearts and had a Heart Scavenger Hunt, that children could do when visiting the library. As the children found the 10 hearts, they recorded the letters on the heart to find a secret message, "U R A Page Turner." Over 200 children participated.

This month, Tweens had a blast hanging out together and enjoying each other's company. Games were very popular with this group, but a special request to melt crayons was answered with a melting-crayons art experiment. The results were mixed but everyone enjoyed the mess and the art made. Miss Teague loves seeing the friendships forming among this group of kids!

POTRANCO

Librarian Leandro went to visit Mora Elementary and Meadow Village Elementary for Career day and Literacy Night, respectively. For Mora Elementary's Career day Librarian Leandro and fellow Guerra Branch Children's Librarian Linda Lopez presented to 4 classes of about 40 kids ages 3-6 about being a librarian and all the wonderful things the library has to offer. Literacy Night at Meadow Village Elementary had Librarian Leandro presenting alongside San Antonio Fire Department's Sparky the Fire Dog on the importance of reading and the amazing resources the library has to offer. Librarian Leandro and Sparky got a chance to meet with over 25 kids and 20 parents.

Family Story Time and Lego Time have been going strong with attendance 33 kids!

Bilingual Story Time (which is the last Tuesday of the month) has been well received by Potranco patrons with 14 kids and 8 parents joining in songs, dance and play presented in English and Spanish. With vocal support from the parents for more bilingual programing and appreciation for the inclusion of such a program to the Potranco lineup.

Our seven-week diabetes prevention program series, in conjunction with Metro Health, wrapped up on February 21st. The dedicated weekly participants enjoyed receiving \$20 HEB gift cards from Metro Health almost as much as they enjoyed the program. Melissa Gonzales and Librarian Zeig will run another seven-week series beginning in June.

On February 21st, Dr. David Mullican from WellMed at Westover Hills gave a well-attended talk about heart health. He discussed how the heart functions and what steps participants should take to keep their hearts in good shape. Dr. Mullican was accompanied by two WellMed partners to help participants with Medicare questions and to discuss services that WellMed can provide for older adults.

Librarian Zeig held three book clubs this month. The morning version of Shelf Indulgence did not have any attendees; however, the evening one had a robust turnout. Participants requested a hybrid format of in-person meetings coupled with Zoom. Librarian Zeig's Sunday cookbook club had a wonderful turnout and will meet again next month where participants will share a dessert. Librarian Zeig has continued to support and assist circulation attendant Miranda Reyes with her Dreaded Threads program and has assumed responsibility for it in Ms. Reyes's absence. Ms. Reyes is taking time off to care for her new baby.

Librarian Zeig attended the City of San Antonio webinar training Effective Delegation to aide in advancing her supervisor skills. Librarian Zeig is participating in the "Not from Here" workgroup as part of the 2023 strategic plan. So far, the group has met twice with the goal of crafting a new narrative for their customer story.

The Potranco branch participated in Collection Development's Black History Month and Blind Date with a Book displays. Librarian Zeig received positive feedback from several patrons about their fondness for the Blind Date with a Book display.

Circulation Attendant Pascal Booker continued to host the Potranco Writer's Group. They meet on the second and fourth Saturday of the month and share their work. Constructive and positive feedback is shared.

PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS

Pruitt's Children's Services continued *Toddler Story Time*, *Let's Build*, *Children's Yoga*, and *Tween Yoga* weekly programs for a total of 14 programs with 135 participants. Children and their parents enjoyed lovethemed songs, rhymes, movement, and books. Toddlers especially relished an end-of-program bubble party. Yoga participants practiced partner yoga and celebrated Valentine's Day by writing love notes to birds, covering the notes in peanut butter and bird seed and tying them off with twine.



The teen anime club president devised a craft day where teens watched anime and went "Cardboard Crazy" with cardboard and hot glue creations. Pruitt teens also stepped up as leaders and recruiters with a new Dungeons and Dragons campaign *Indie DnD* that is run entirely by teens. As the school year winds down, Pruitt Teen staff will encourage more teens to develop and implement programming, continuing the trend of teen ownership and agency. Teen Services Librarian Lauren Hime also joined fellow SAPL Teen

librarian Shannan Prukop in an outreach to support the Pride Club at Communication Arts High School where participants made buttons and decorated resin-printed key chains.







Special Needs Adult Programming patrons met with Adult Services Librarian Paula Opiela and Roosevelt High School's Family Specialist, Melissa Mendiola, to read <u>How to Catch a Leprechaun</u> and express their creative expression by crafting pots of gold and shamrock bouquets. At *Adult Craft Time*, patrons created quilled paper rose hangings in celebration of Valentine's Day.





Pruitt library hosted Mr. Allee Wallace's final performance of *A Musical Presentation of Negro Spirituals*. Mr. Wallace engaged the audience with story and song. He remained afterwards to shake hands with each audience member and hand out free copies of his latest single.



Patrons attended *Chess Lesson Livestream* and *Family Chess* on Tuesday evenings, engaging in friendly games among themselves before and after the lesson provided by Chess Master Alex Weinberg.

SAN PEDRO

The San Pedro Branch continued to be bustling with computer usage, Wi-Fi access, and patrons from closed branches visiting to pick up holds or browse the collection. Additionally, the branch saw a steady stream of park visitors who were curious about the branch and it's history in San Antonio.

San Pedro Children's Services began a new partnership with Respite Care of San Antonio, a non profit agency which provides residential housing and daycare services for children. Twice a month, toddler aged children from the Davidson house visited with caregivers for an active time of story, song and play in the library. The group is provided with board books which are checked out and returned at the next visit. Starting next month, Children's Librarian Karen Braeuler will also visit the daycare campus twice a month and present Story Times to those children.

The branch continued service to Chandler Estates Senior Living residents with a monthly book club that is growing. The group of 8 residents had a lively discussion on The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

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 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!

Adult Services Librarian, Diana Starrett, continued to the Wheatley Senior Center. During her once monthly visits, Ms. Starrett teaches residents how to knit and crochet. Attendees focused on their current project and shared ideas for future ones. Diana reports the residents are very interested in learning and always have an enjoyable time working together.

San Pedro Branch Library Assistant Jared Thompson began working on the SAPL Pop Culture Committee. The group is working on plans for pop culture-themed programs and activities across SAPL throughout the year. Jared also worked on Black History month displays and flyers as well as the monthly San Pedro programming calendar. Finally, Jared showed off his professional performance experience as Smarty for the reopening of the Memorial Branch Library in February.

SCHAEFER

Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser and Teen Librarian Dacari Lambert attended two outreach events during February. On Feb. 9, they attended Pecan Valley Elementary's STEAM Night and brought the straw rocket launcher for kids to try, as well as library handouts to share with families. They also went to Hirsch Elementary's Literacy Night on Feb. 16 to sign up families for online library cards and share library information and handouts.

To celebrate the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, Leslie presented a rodeo-themed Story Time on Feb. 22, but to make the program more special, all of Schaefer's staff dressed up! The staff also shared a cowboy breakfast together before opening to the public that day.

A variety of programs for all ages of children were offered in February: Outdoor Family Story Time, LEGO Time, Let's Build, Read to a Dog and Come & Go Art were all well attended by enthusiastic kids and their families.

Summer with SAPL is quickly approaching and the children's librarians are getting ready! At the Feb. 22 children's librarian meeting, Leslie and the Summer with SAPL committee presented the summer plans to all of the children's librarians.

Library Assistant Blanca Silvia Hernandez hosted Schaefer's Coloring program where patrons spent a relaxing afternoon listening to soft jazz LPs while coloring zentangle and Valentine's Day themed coloring pages. They also colored Valentine's day themed bookmarks.

Blanca assisted Librarian Leslie Elsasser with weekly Children's programs. She published a catalog list of Romantic Titles for Valentine's Day and a catalog list of popular titles for Schaefer's I ♥ Vinyl (Digital Edition) monthly program. Blanca also created books displays for the National Day of Unplugging, President's Day, Chicken Soup for the Soul, Love Poems and a Have you REaD a good book themed display.

On February 9th, the adult services librarian hosted the SA Food Bank's monthly "Cooking Around the World" program which was attended by six members of the Schaefer community.

On February 21st, the Schaefer Skimmers Book Club met, and six members of the club were in attendance for a lively discussion of Kristin Hannah's *The Great Alone*.

On February 25th, the Schaefer branch library held an inaugural Senior Fitness Class which was attended by six participants.

In February, Dacari Lambert, Teen Services Librarian at Schaefer Branch Library facilitated weekly Teen Time alongside two teen volunteers. Dacari actively participated in the following teen services workgroups: Professional Development, Teen Pride, and Discord. Systemwide, Dacari participated in the Leadership Training workgroup, alongside the Organizational Health Unit, the San Antonio Public Library's Pride Committee, and SAPL's Trauma Informed Care Committee, in which she attended a MetroHealth Trauma Informed Care Mentor training.

Dacari partnered with Children's Services Librarian Leslie Elsasser to do two outreach events for the month at Pecan Valley Elementary and Hirsch Elementary. Dacari presented a final part to an ongoing training series for her Teen Services colleagues, about building meaningful relationships with teens. Additionally, Dacari partnered with Matthew Loaiza to provide guidance to New Haven Free Public Library and Pierce County Library about starting a teen services Discord Server.

At Schaefer branch, Dacari assisted with a variety of branch wide programs including: Mercado por tu Corazon, Board Game Social, and MetroHealth STD/STI mobile testing clinic. Dacari continues to work with East Central High School to display rotating teen art on the gallery walls in the teen space.

SEMMES

On Wednesday mornings in February, Ms. Randi and Ms. Valerie shared stories, songs, rhymes and other early literacy activities with 111 preschoolers and 79 grownups. On Thursdays mornings at 10 a.m., Ms. Randi shared stories, songs, rhymes and other early literacy activities with 65 toddlers and 43 grownups. On Thursday mornings at 11 a.m., Ms. Randi shared bouncing and lifting rhymes and a story with 33 babies and 39 grownups. All children's programs concluded with a child-lead free play session. This session gives children and grownups an opportunity to get to know each other and visit together.

On Mondays at 4 PM, Semmes continues programming for school age children with Let's Build: LEGOs and More (2 sessions for 15 children and 10 grownups) and Read to a Dog (2 sessions for 18 children and 15 grownups).

Ms. Randi assisted with 2 sessions of Family Story Time Online. On February 8, she admitted participants and monitored the chat. On February 22, she presented the closing announcement and did the count. She also recorded stories on the Dial-a-Story line on February 21 and 24.

On February 25, Ms. Randi was joined by two teachers from the International School of San Antonio for a very fun and informative Bilingual Family Story Time in English and Chinese. (6 children, 11 adults)

The Teen Time program on Tuesdays continues to draw in teens. Those who attend are still mostly interested in playing board games, card games, and video games together, but they do also enjoy creating with clay or paint on occasion. The Semmes Teen Area is also decorated with little sketches and notes that teens create on their own time and leave behind.

Tween Time is ongoing on Wednesday evenings, and tweens have enjoyed decorating tote bags and making bracelets. Regular attendees also really love sharing their favorite board games with new friends.

Semmes Adult Services programming has remained strong, with weekly chess and table tennis programs, and a twice-monthly crochet group. These are well-attended and well-received, with the crochet group having been created at a patron's request, and on their initiative. Additionally, Semmes had two movies in the month of February; showing the original Japanese of Gojira early in the month, and Barbershop as the month ended.

THOUSAND OAKS

Assistant Branch Manager Brooke Mjolsness hosted in-person Yoga Class programs led by instructors from the Parks and Recreation Department on February 7, 14, 21 and 28. She partnered with WellMed to host a Rock Painting for Seniors program on February 8. Ms. Mjolsness served as co-host and chat moderator for the virtual Film Noir Movie Club program on February 14. After the movie screening, attendees participate in a lively discussion using questions provided by the host. On February 24, she served as Master of Ceremonies for the virtual SAPL Live Trivia program. On February 28, she held the in-person Classic Movie Showing program. Attendees watched *Strangers on a Train*. Light refreshments were provided courtesy of the Friends of the Thousand Oaks Library.

Children's Librarian Cheryl Penick served as co-host for the virtual Baby Time programs on February 3, 10, 17 and 24. She held the in-person Arts & Crafts Friday programs on February 3, 10, 17 and 24. Ms. Penick held in-person Bedtime Stories programs on February 7 and 14. She served as co-host for a virtual Toddler Time program on February 15. She created a book display in celebration of Black History Month and assembled themed book bundles for families to check-out.

Librarian Kimberly King held in-person Teen Time programs on February 6, 13, 20 and 27. She held an in-person Thursday Book Club program on February 9. Participants discussed *The Shining Girls* by Lauren Beukes. She facilitated an outreach book group at the Northeast Senior Center on February 22. Attendees discussed *Things You Save in a Fire* by Katherine Center. Ms. King created a "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" book display highlighting young adult titles involving the angst of teenage breakups and the highs of teenage make ups. She created an interactive activity which encouraged teens to share responses to the question - "What is your favorite Valentine candy?"

Library Assistant Mari Carmen Castellano held an Adult Craft Time program on February 15. Attendees made mini paper roses. She held a virtual Animal Crossing Party program on February 22. Attendees played mini games and visited each other's islands. She created four book displays this month - Black History Month, Mardi Gras, Pizza and Chocolate.

TOBIN LIBRARY AT OAKWELL

Assistant Manager, Rhonda Woolhouse, helps plan and periodically hosts the new Easy Tai Chi program held weekly on Wednesday's at 11:00am. The class is geared for older adults with simple movements for stretching and relaxation and includes a meditation portion.

Teen Librarian, Melissa Carroll, assisted with hosting Library Palooza held on February 25 at Brandeis High School. This event features authors for teens in Northside Independent School District but was open and free to the public.

Ms. Carroll's and Librarian Kara Bailey's Anime Club on Friday's remains popular with teens especially a scavenger hunt. Teens kept busy looking for multiple Pokémon and Anime figures hid in the meeting room. Due to multiple requests, a second hunt was devised for After School Zone to include pre-teens with enthusiastic hunting throughout the entire branch.

On February 21, Children's Librarians, Barbaraella Frazier and Kara Bailey, hosted a table at Northeast Independent School District's Resource Fair, as part of the District's Family Engagement Training. The two librarians were able to share information and promote library's services and programs to nearly 100 folks. Weekly and bi-weekly juvenile programs of Toddler and Pre-School Story Time, along with Read to a Dog and weekend Come-and-Go crafts, continue with solid attendance, including a rodeo horse for the first February craft.



WESTFALL

Machaia, the Adult Services Librarian at Westfall, created a display and program series around the works written and inspired by Jane Austen. She held a weekly viewing of Jane Austen movies throughout the month of February. Machaia also completed her work the Wall of Warmth initiative by hosting fiber arts meet ups and ending with a total of approximately 80 items donated to the Wall of Warmth in the months of January and February. Furthermore, she participated in an outreach event at the Southside Lions Senior Center and interacted with approximately 60 older adults. This month she also restarted monthly wellness meetings at Westfall by sharing with staff the importance of indoor plants and gave staff their own spider plants to take home.

Heather, the Teen Librarian at Westfall, did outreach at Memorial High School's job fair to promote library services related to job seeking and the reopening of Memorial Library. The weekly Teen Time program continues to grow and have a positive impact on the teens' library experiences. The teen volunteer who leads the program has been promoting it to her friends and classmates and fosters a welcoming, inclusive environment that makes others feel comfortable joining in.

In February, Children's Librarian Imelda Merino planned and presented four Preschool Story Times with a total attendance of 22 children and 15 adults. She also planned and presented four Family Story Times with a total attendance of 17 children and 22 adults. The Discovery School first graders walk over to the Westfall Library for a visit every two weeks, so, Ms. Merino shared a story about our Fifty States on two different occasions, with a total attendance of 27 children and 6 adults. After listening to the story or stories, the children select their own books and check them out. Castle Hills Elementary hosted a Literacy Night on February 7th, and Ms. Merino brought library information and a simple craft for the children and their families. The Pre-K Academy at West Avenue also hosted a Literacy Night on February 23rd. Ms. Merino again provided library information and a simple craft for the families. The children's librarian also participated in an Art Club Online program on February 21st, presenting a craft that involved cutting out designs from folded paper. Ms. Merino has also been actively working on preparing Summer Reading booklists on five different topics.



In the month of February, the Learn Center at Westfall continued to thrive with new and former patrons alike. Along with various one-on-one appointments and walk in sessions, the new iPad lending program gained a rapid interest resulting in all devices being checked out within the first five days after the initial rollout. The 'iPad Tips and Tricks' class on Wednesday mornings continues to draw a core of patrons who return on a weekly basis to familiarize themselves with the device in a group environment.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY KEY INDICATORS

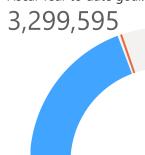
COVID-19 has greatly affected overall Library service usage in FY 2020 and FY 2021. Performance goals for FY 2022 and FY 2023 were adjusted accordingly.

February 2023 FY 2023

Circulation: Goal

FY 2023 to date Items Borrowed

Fiscal Year to date goal:



3,227,367

8,372,907

Visits: Goal

FY 2023 to date Library Visits

Fiscal Year to date goal:





1,220,330
(+19.06%)
Visits

2,562,592

1,983,921

Digital Access: Goal

FY 2023 to date Digital Access



98,054
Hours of Computer Use

Fiscal Year to date goal:





719,855

Hours of WI-FI Use

817,908

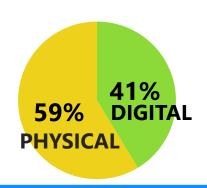
(+3.13%) Wi-Fi Hours

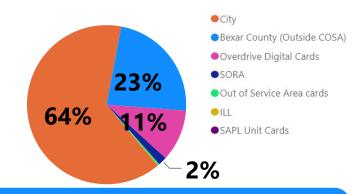
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS February 2023 (CONTINUED)

USE OF COLLECTION: FISCAL YEAR 2023

CIRCULATION BY TYPE

CIRCULATION BY SERVICE AREA





VIRTUAL: FISCAL YEAR 2023



641,497 **MYSAPL.ORG VISITS**

9,181 APP DOWNLOADS

304,444 **OVERDRIVE SITE VISITS**

1,099,049 **SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS**

PROGRAMS & ATTENDANCE: FISCAL YEAR 2023

Total Teens (13-18) Early Literacy School Age Older Adults General Adults (19+) (0-5)(6-12)(60+)Interest*

3,961 programs

66,550 attendance

1,091 programs

26,088

attendance

programs

attendance

programs 10,517

1,094

873

programs

9,196 attendance

107 programs programs

attendance attendance

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

PROGRAM VIDEOS UPLOADED

11,529 PROGRAM VIDEO VIEWS

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS FORMER ASTRONAUT & RETIRED U.S. AIR FORCE COLONEL Save the Date! Memorial Branch Library **Grand Reopening** aturday, February 25 **BRANCH** LIBRARY SAN ANTONIO Public **Library**

San Antonio Public Library February 2023 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Technology Actuals	Computer Hours	Wi-Fi Hours of Use	
Bazan	2,254	5,132	5,077	1,084	3,993	
Brook Hollow	24,376	10,812	5,025	767	4,258	
Carver	2,781	5,818	3,541	823	2,719	
Central	9,249	21,055	24,130	5,728	18,402	
Cody	28,477	12,649	10,980	1,268	9,712	
Collins Garden	3,112	3,615	3,209	421	2,788	
Cortez	1,332	2,491	1,072	115	957	
Digital	261,432	0	0	0	0	
Encino	17,909	8,066	5,620	183	5,437	
Forest Hills	168	45	783	0	783	
Great Northwest	24,243	9,975	6,173	585	5,589	
Guerra	5,731	6,431	4,386	601	3,786	
lgo	32,992	14,791	10,272	521	9,752	
Interlibrary Loan	1,171	0	0	0	0	
Johnston	8,002	0	3,485	428	3,057	
Kampmann	0	580	236	0	236	
Landa	11,704	10,557	3,780	337	3,443	
Las Palmas	4,028	3,033	4,060	847	3,213	
Maverick	21,945	7,816	6,157	584	5,574	
McCreless	6,123	0	4,949	928	4,021	
Memorial	1,277	2,909	1,714	46	1,669	
Mission	9,267	8,724	4,654	669	3,985	
Pan American	4,196	3,439	3,137	370	2,767	
Parman	28,593	17,292	6,850	319	6,531	
Potranco	14,937	7,822	13,322	548	12,775	
Pruitt	3,410	4,201	4,499	183	4,316	
San Pedro	2,946	4,273	5,142	556	4,585	
Schaefer	7,357	6,233	4,727	394	4,333	
Semmes	25,265	8,860	7,432	956	6,476	
System	31,775	0	0	0	0	
Thousand Oaks	5,643	7,470	5,418	736	4,682	
Tobin	14,912	10,147	4,621	754	3,866	
Westfall	8,442	5,814	5,787	1,131	4,656	
Total	625,049	210,045	170,241	21,883	148,358	

San Antonio Public Library Programs February 2023

Location	Early Literacy Programs (0-5)	School Age Programs (6-12)	Teen Programs (13-18)	Adult Programs (19+)	Older Adults Programs (60+)	General Interest Programs*	Total
Bazan	0	12	1	5	2	0	20
Brook Hollow	11	6	4	4	0	0	25
Carver	5	5	0	11	2	1	24
Central	5	1	73	2	3	4	88
Cody	13	12	15	11	0	0	51
Collins Garden	3	7	1	7	0	0	18
Cortez	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Encino	13	10	5	8	5	1	42
Forest Hills	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Great Northwest	7	9	7	2	1	0	26
Guerra	5	4	4	1	2	2	18
lgo	20	6	5	10	0	2	43
Johnston	1	3	4	9	0	0	17
Landa	21	8	6	0	1	0	36
Las Palmas	4	2	4	1	3	3	17
Little Read	14	0	5	4	0	0	23
Wagon	10						0.0
Maverick	10	4	4	4	0	0	22
McCreless	0	0	1	13	0	0	14
Memorial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mission	8	5	5	13	0	2	33
Pan American	4	3	4	5	1	0	17
Parman	14	9	5	17	10	1	56
Potranco Pruitt	4	11	0 10	9	1 0	0 5	16 32
San Pedro	4	6	0	3	1	0	14
Schaefer	4	13	3	2	1	5	28
Semmes	14	8	4	1	0	3	30
System	8	2	22	8	0	1	41
Thousand Oaks	2	4	3	7	2	0	18
Tobin	10	14	10	11	0	0	45
Westfall	7	5	5	3	6	0	26
Total	216	172	212	173	41	30	844

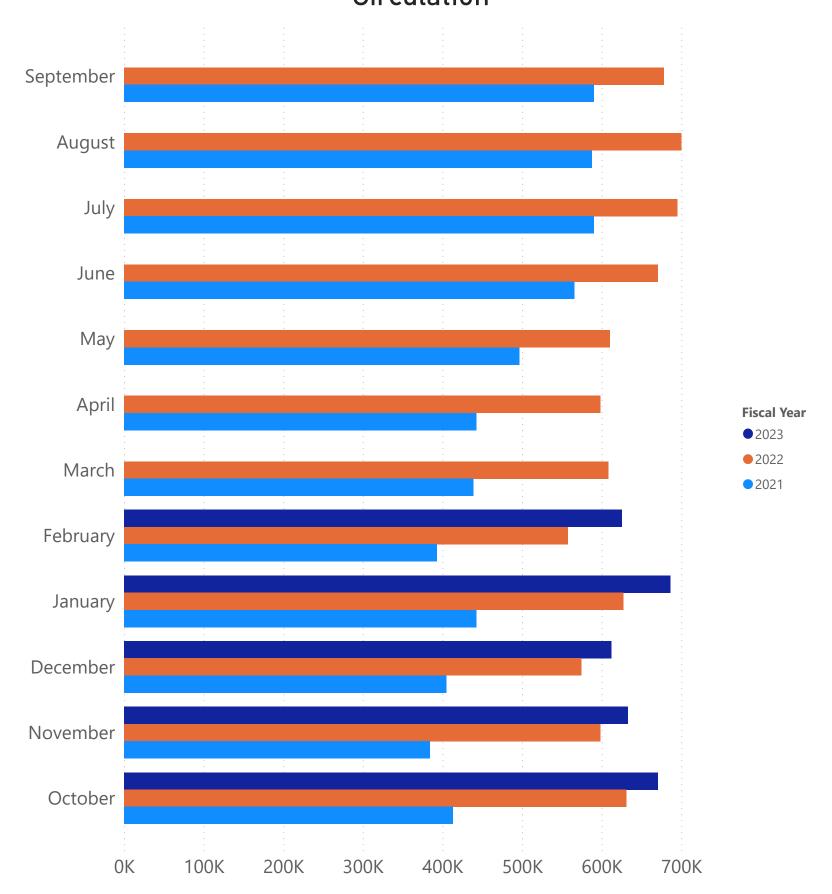
^{*}General Interest Programs are not targeted to one age group and/or are targeted for two are more age groups

San Antonio Public Library Program Attendance February 2023

Location	Early Literacy Attendance (0-5)	School Age Attendance (6-12)	Teen Attendance (13-18)	Adult Attendance (19+)	Older Adults Attendance (60+)	General Interest Attendance*	Total
Bazan	0	39	2	26	10	0	77
Brook Hollow	314	169	18	63	0	0	564
Carver	41	10	0	111	48	17	227
Central	75	28	477	20	20	109	729
Cody	295	778	156	80	0	0	1,309
Collins Garden	12	13	1	57	0	0	83
Cortez	30	60	0	0	0	0	90
Encino	456	191	220	80	25	33	1,005
Forest Hills	0	0	300	0	0	0	300
Great Northwest	530	306	51	18	7	0	912
Guerra	55	9	9	3	40	24	140
lgo	1,009	87	561	110	0	231	1,998
Johnston	43	38	53	32	0	0	166
Landa	727	191	20	0	9	0	947
Las Palmas	6	10	9	8	4	30	67
Little Read Wagon	435	0	40	76	0	0	551
Maverick	346	126	41	15	0	0	528
McCreless	0	0	3	51	0	0	54
Memorial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mission	64	49	22	111	0	6	252
Pan American	45	46	9	18	5	0	123
Parman	549	374	29	443	80	92	1,567
Potranco	78	33	0	47	10	0	168
Pruitt	34	156	102	19	0	67	378
San Pedro	20	27	0	10	8	0	65
Schaefer	78	232	14	13	6	103	446
Semmes	643	79	24	5	0	19	770
System	76	17	110	81	0	1	285
Thousand Oaks	6	42	4	39	8	0	99
Tobin	105	316	131	69	0	0	621
Westfall	73	86	129	9	15	0	312
Total	6,145	3,512	2,535	1,614	295	732	14,833

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

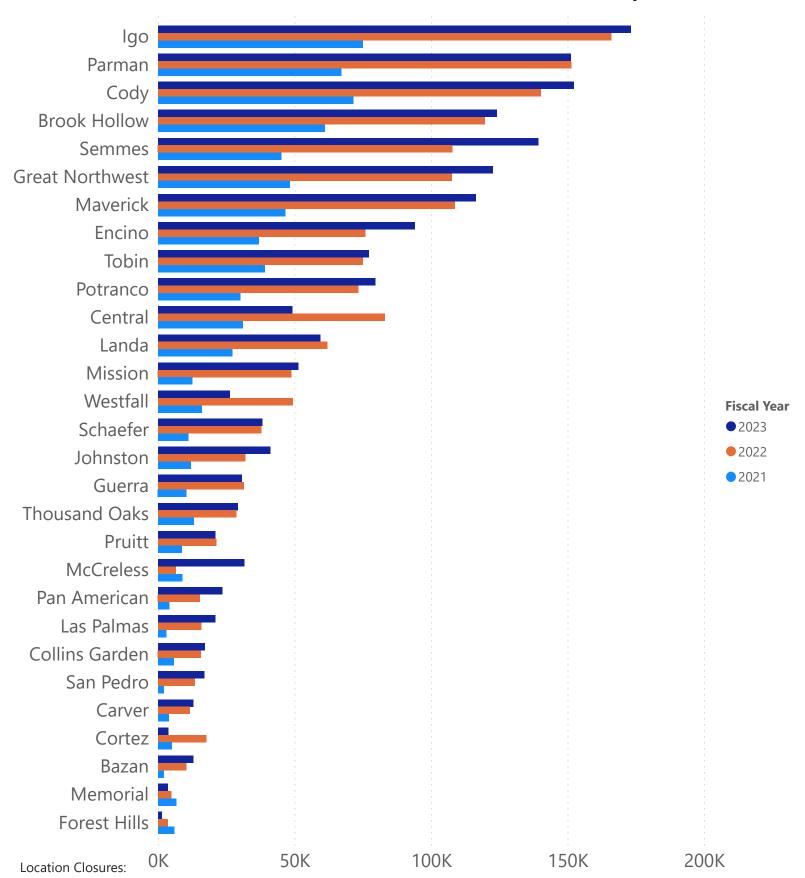
San Antonio Public Library Circulation



Location Closures:

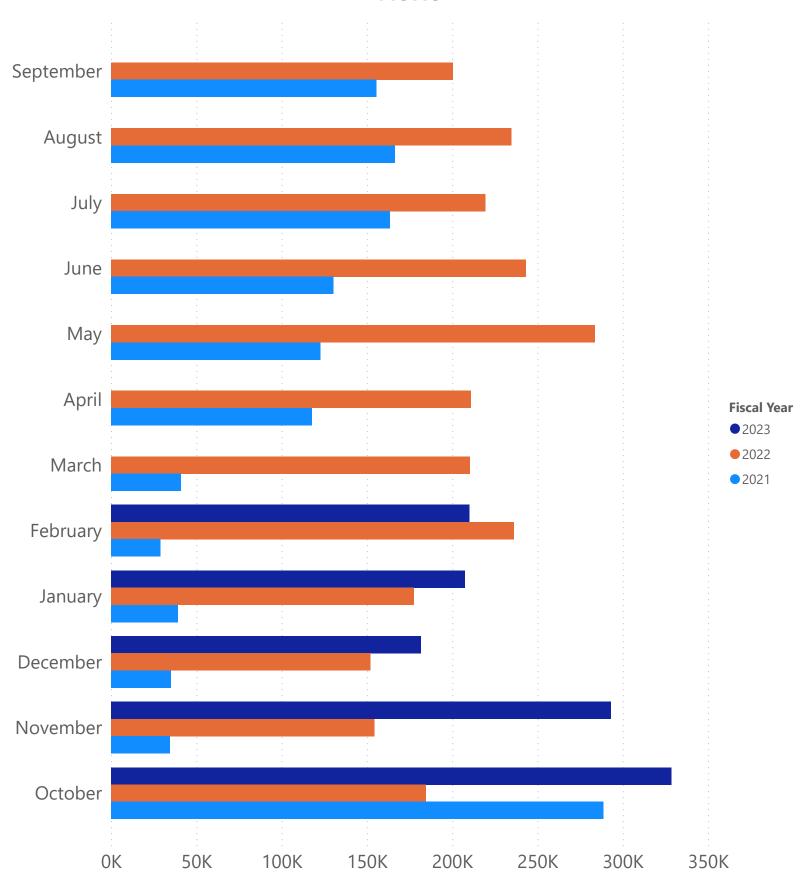
San Antonio Public Library

Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - February 2023



San Antonio Public Library

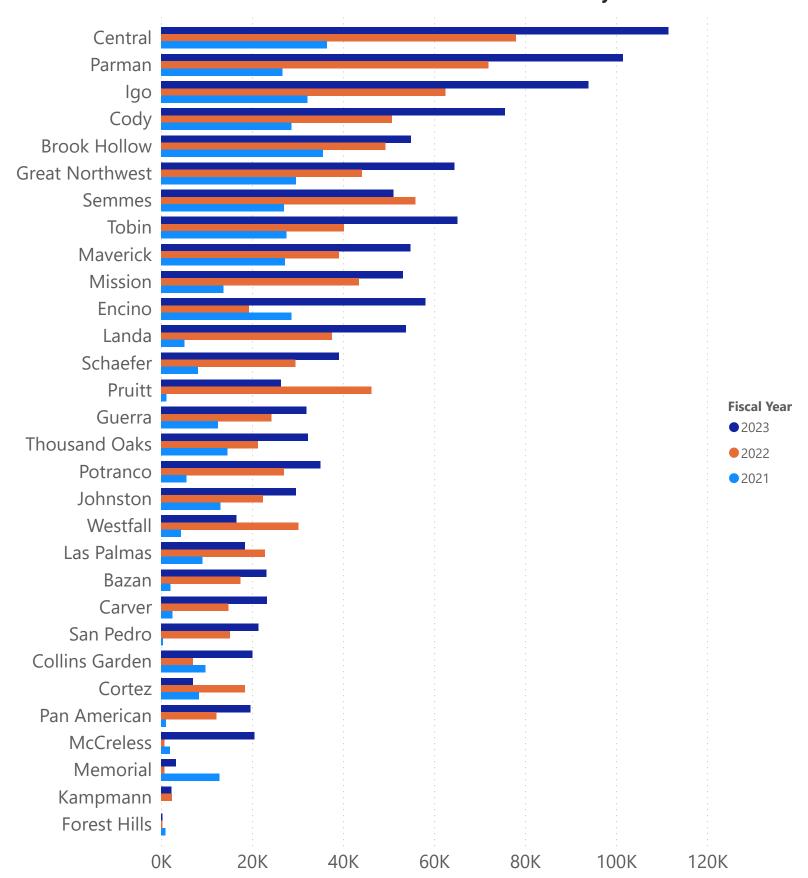




Location Closures:

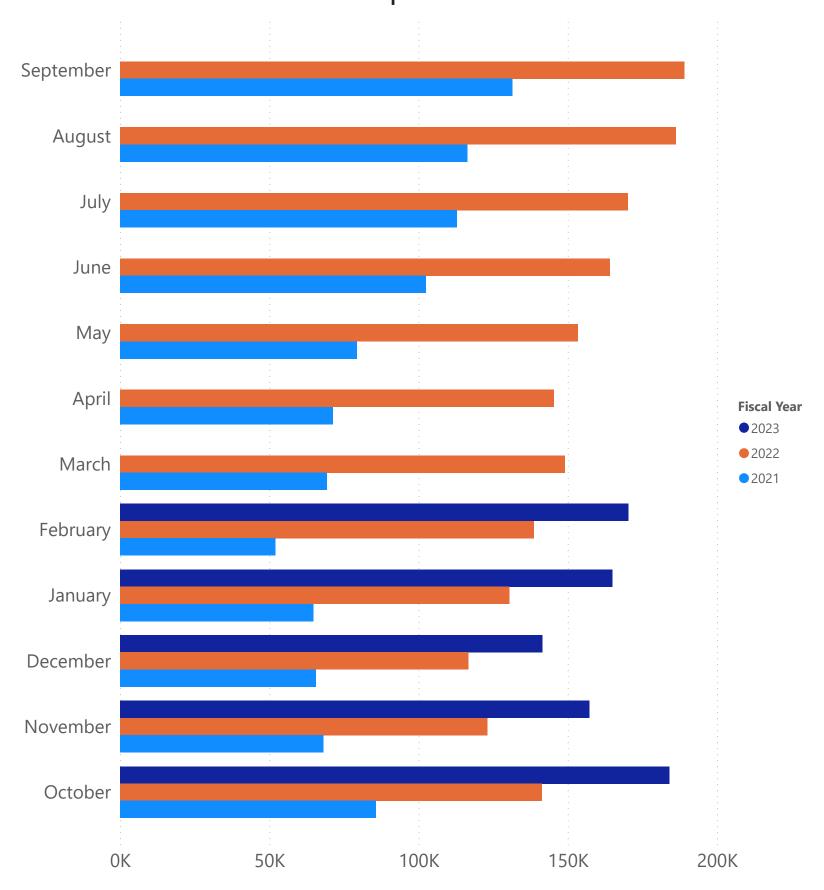
San Antonio Public Library

Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - February 2023



Location Closures:

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



Location Closures:

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.