



## San Antonio Public Library Director's Report March 2016

Little Free Library "Build-Up" Event at the central Library Auditorium

# DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



Ramiro Salazar and the Library Team met with Mike Etienne and the East Point team to discuss possible partnerships. Both parties agreed to jointly pursue an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLA) grant to support adult literacy and student education. The Library mentioned the partnership with the Texas State Library and the launch of four Little Free Libraries on March 7, 2016. As a result, the Library discussed with the Mayor's Office the possibility of placing one of the four Little Free Libraries in the East Point Community and she agreed. The initiated kicked off on



On March 10, 2016 San Antonio City Council authorized a five-year agreement with the Monte Vista Historical Association for use of space adjacent to the main building of the Landa Branch Library. The new agreement articulates more clearly the roles and responsibilities of the Library and the Monte Vista Historical Association and better aligns with the Library's mission. This ordinance also accepts a one-time financial gift to the San Antonio Public Library of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and subsequent annual financial gifts of seven thousand two hundred dollars (\$7,200) for the Landa Branch Library to be paid at the rate of six hundred dollars (\$600) per month dedicated for the maintenance and preservation of the Landa Branch Library. The San Antonio Public Library Board of Trustees accepted the agreement on January 27, 2017.



On March 15, 2016, Councilman Warrick, Assistant Library Director Dale McNeill, President of the Carver Branch Friends of the Library. Shirley Coleman, President of the Carver Branch Library Friends of the Library and others gathered to dedicate the shade structure at the Carver Branch Library. The San Antonio Public Library Foundation successfully fundraised for the installation of a shade structure for the playground at the Carver Branch Library. The Friends of the Carver Branch Library organized an event to celebrate this new amenity and extended an invitation to Councilman Warrick. The event was well attended with much excitement about the new amenity.

The donors included: Frost Bank, Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation and District 2 City Councilman Alan E. Warrick, II, District 1 City Councilman Roberto C. Treviño, District 4 City Councilman Rey Saldaña and District 10 City Councilman Mike Gallagher through the CCFP initiative.

In 2013, the Library Department partnered with the Parks Department to bring a KaBOOM! Playground build to the Carver Branch Library.

## REFERENCE



Reference Manager, Ashlee Chavez, attended a Texas eResources Strategic Planning Discussion in Austin on March 7. The discussion was hosted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The discussion centered on identifying emerging trends and issues and then determining statewide priorities, goals and strategies for handling the identified issues.



Staff presented three different database orientation sessions for Wayland Baptist University which included helping students use the catalog and search for articles via databases.



The Sci-fi and Fantasy book group met on March 9 to discuss *Native Star*.



The Reference Department participated in the City of San Antonio's New Employee Experience Part II at the Phil Hardberger Ecology Center where over 100 COSA employees asked questions about SAPL, ranging from hours of operation to receiving homework help.



Reference Librarian Cristine Mitchamore created a small memorial wall for Harper Lee after her death. The wall encouraged people to write down their memories associated with Harper Lee. One favorite memory written stated "My aunt became a lawyer because she admired Atticus Finch."



Central Cinema on Sundays continues to be a successful programming endeavor. Two movies were shown during this reporting period with over 50 attendees.



Reference Librarians Pannaga Prasad and Deedee Lu presented a program entitled "Henna/Mehndi: Experience Unique Art on Your Hand." Forty-seven attendees enjoyed having Henna/Mehndi put on their hand while watching the henna videos of various designs and sipping complimentary hot tea.



A new weekly program entitled "Brain Power: Exercise Your Mind" has been offered in the Central Library's Chihuly area during this reporting period. The attendees enjoyed solving math and word games, cross word puzzles, and Heuristics.



Staff also presented a program entitled "Explore Vegetarian Recipes: Veggie Curry." The demonstration showed attendees how to make veggie curry using potatoes and onions. Attendees enjoyed the presentation. One commented they would make the recipe that night and another shared that they were a cook a restaurant and had taken inspiration from the program.

## MARKETING



The Marketing Department continues its efforts to increase public awareness of the Library and build brand affinity within the community and with key stakeholders. During this period, the team planned the production of events and programs including a closing reception for artist Long-Bin Chen on Thursday, February 18; an opening ceremony for the Buffalo Solider Exhibit at the Kampmann Library Portal at the Briscoe Western Art Museum on Thursday, February 25; and the Little Free Library Build on Monday, March 7. In addition there has been a dynamic period of gearing up for several branch anniversary events throughout the year to include Parman, Mission, Cortez, Johnston, Memorial and McCreless branch libraries.

The department has actively engaged creative campaigns to promote the *Mayor's Book Club Spring 2016 edition*, *The San Antonio Book Festival*, *The Words & Arts Festival* and the *Mini Maker Faire*. The Department is also working on materials for the new logo and website launches as well as a variety of other special projects as they arise.

### Graphic Design



Graphic designers Giselle Weyte and Ana Farr continued their work on materials for Mayor's Book Club spring program promotion, Little Free Library Build, *San Antonio Book Festival* promotion and have started the work on materials for *Summer Reading Program*. They continue to work on materials for Texas Women of Influence, *San Antonio Mini Maker Faire*, Latino Americans, Little Read

Wagon van wrap, Spurs partnership library card, National Poetry Month, Celebrate Cesar Chavez and signage at Carver, Mission, and Las Palmas.

### Public Relations



Public Information Officer Marcie Hernandez secured and facilitated a live interview on KSAT 12's program SA Live to promote mini-maker faire on Wednesday, February 17. She also secured and facilitated a radio interview for Learn at SAPL staff to promote Learn at SAPL job fairs on KTSA AM Radio on Thursday, March 10. Overall, SAPL received **101** media mentions during the reporting period. Also, the total value of broadcast coverage equal \$ **\$33,906**.



In her continuous media communications work, Hernandez produced and distributed press releases to promote Black History Month, Meet the Artist: Long-Bin Chen, Voter Registration at SAPL, Mayor's Book Club Spring Edition, Contemporary Art Month at SAPL, Crochet Coral Reef Exhibit, Learn at SAPL Job Fairs, Shade Canopy dedication at Carver Branch Library. Additionally, Hernandez produced and distributed press releases for branch programs Central, Forest Hills, and Memorial.



### Social Media

The social media efforts during the reporting period have yielded the following results:

1. Facebook: 10,695 page likes
2. Twitter: 3,236 followers
3. Pinterest: 47 followers
4. Instagram: 822 followers
5. Youtube: 128 subscribers

## DIGITAL SERVICES

Nothing to report.

## CHILDREN'S (SYSTEM-WIDE)



March programming kicked off with Family Science Time events at the Mission and San Pedro Branches. Developed by the newly established Children's STEM Committee, the events will move on to ten additional branches throughout the spring. The committee created interactive opportunities for children and their grown-ups to explore length, weight, mass and volume that emphasized both standard and non-standard measurements. The program allows attendees to develop hypotheses, gather and record data and draw conclusions based on their experiences – just like real scientists! Members of the STEM Committee, Betsy Dalton, Cresencia Huff, Jane Miller and Carrie Vance, did an outstanding job of designing this program and presenting it to their peers at the February Children's Meeting.



Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash continues to be an active and contributing member of several community groups that serve children.

- United Way Kids' Festival Planning Committee (February 26)
- HEB Statewide Literacy Coalition (February 29)
- Friends of Alamo Reach Out and Read (March 1)

In addition to these meetings, she enjoyed the monthly lunch-time gathering of the school library media coordinators on February 17 and joined members of the San Antonio Association for the Education of Young Children on February 26 for a valuable professional development session on art and creativity. She also participated in *Read Across America Day* at Bonham Academy on March 2 and attended Harlandale ISD's Family Literacy Night on March 9.

## TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

### Partnerships



#### Mini Maker Faire

Caroline Mossing (Librarian I, Teen Library @ Central) continued to lead the planning committee for the second annual San Antonio Mini Maker Faire; collaborating with community partners and library staff to develop a space layout, reach out to local makers, and coordinate activities for a bigger and better Faire in March.



#### Technology Programming

Caroline Mossing has been developing a partnership with local youth technology nonprofit SA Youth Code Jam to bring pilot coding clubs to the Teen Library @ Central and (initially) one library branch, as well as future teen technology program initiatives.



#### Project WORTH

On February 23, Kathleen Fordyce (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) met with a representative from Project WORTH to discuss plans for the upcoming program for teens to promote the National Month to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. The Central Library has partnered with Project WORTH for this promotion for numerous years.



#### Inspire U

Staff involved in the Inspire U Workplace Mentoring Program (part of SA2020) met with their "littles" for their regularly scheduled meeting in the Teen Library @ Central on February 22. Bigs and Littles had lunch together and enjoyed catching up with each other.



#### San Antonio Food Bank

As a requirement of the Kids Café afterschool snack program, a Teen Library staff member must attend a monthly nutrition lesson at the Food Bank and provide at least one nutrition lesson for the teens per month. Kathleen Fordyce attended the lesson in March.

### Professional Development



#### Workgroup Meeting

The Teen Services Librarian meeting was held at the Thousand Oaks Library on March 9.



#### Webinars



On March 10, Kathleen Fordyce participated in a Webinar for the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Kathleen was a panelist for “Lunch at the Library: the USDA Summer Food Service Program.” She presented a PowerPoint and spoke about the Library’s longtime partnership with the SA Food Bank and how the Summer Food Service Program works at SAPL. Kathleen will give her presentation at TLA in Houston in April.

On February 18, the Teen Library @ Central hosted a live viewing of YALSA’s Webinar, “Making the Leap from Summer Reading to Summer Learning to Increase Impact.” Several Teen Services Librarians were present, as well as other staff members interested in the information provided.

### Program Promotion



Caroline Mossing made an appearance on SA Live on February 17 to promote Teen Tech Week, which is happening throughout the system, and the second annual San Antonio Mini Maker Faire, which will be happening at Central. She highlighted some of the activities available to participants in both events and spoke about last year’s Mini Maker Faire.

## CENTRAL LIBRARY TEENS

### Weekly Programs



**Mondays with JD Elizondo (Library Assistant):** JD continued with Eclectic Electric programming during the reporting period. The ever-popular recording studio in the Teen Library is attracting more new teens, each with different musical styles. To accommodate this influx, JD is segmenting the recording time on Mondays so that everyone will have a chance to perform and record. In addition, JD and a few of the teens are dividing the studio into virtual and performance sides so that bands that want to rehearse can do so at the same time the studio is being used for recording.



**Tuesdays with Caroline Mossing (Librarian I):** During the reporting period, Caroline hosted Science & Tech Tuesdays. As always, 3D printing was a popular activity, with some teens designing personalized items to print and others modifying existing models to suit their needs. Teens also explored freehand 3D design using the Teen Library’s 3Doodler pens. When one pen malfunctioned, teens used informational materials and critical thinking skills to identify the precise problem and explore possible repairs. Another teen continued work on an advanced LED and microcontroller project. As part of Teen Tech Week, teens at Central learned the basics of HTML and CSS at a program presented by Best Buy’s Geek Squad through a partnership with the Young Adult Library Services Association.



**Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II):** On Wednesdays, teens pick their favorite video or board game and engage in friendly competition with their peers. During the reporting period, teens have enjoyed playing the WiiU games, as well as board games like Chess, Jenga and Apples to Apples. This month’s nutritional lesson, as required by the San Antonio Food Bank and facilitated by Regina Almanza, centered around chickpeas. Teens learned they are also called garbanzos, and many had never tasted them. An initial taste test had teens taste them directly from the can, then afterwards when they had been covered with spices and baked.



**Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant):** Teens engaged in activities that allowed them to express themselves creatively. Encouraged by staff, teens suggest and plan activities they wish

to do at their library. They suggest ideas that play up their strengths or their interest in a certain craft or things they might have seen made online. In a Teen Library mash-up between Tech Tuesday and Teen Thursday, one Tuesday night a teen 3D printed some Zelda-style cookie cutters. On Thursday night teens made cutout cookie dough and used the 3D printed cookie cutters, then decorated them with an array of colored frostings. A recent food craze teens wanted to try was making cookie cups for milk. Teens made a chocolate chip cookie dough, using a mini cupcake tin to mold their dough, lined it with parchment paper and used dried beans to weight it down. When baked and cooled, teens used melted chocolate to “paint” the inside, let it cool, then filled it with milk, thus having their cookies and milk all in one bite. Teens had the opportunity to learn a simple sewing project, cutting a letter out of fabric, using the machine to sew it and then stuff it for a small alphabet pillow. Afterwards, they made chocolate bark with pretzels and trail mix. The following week, teens attempted a simple bow tie sewing project. For a quick and easy snack, teens covered grapes with Jell-O mix, then let chill for some sour patch grapes. One Thursday night activity occurred on a Sunday afternoon. Teens learned some sugar science by boiling sugar and an invert sugar (like corn syrup) with water, carefully adding food coloring, and extracts and quickly pouring the hot mixture into prepared lollipop molds. Some teens experimented by letting the mixture cool a bit and molded it around lollipops sticks, observing how it hardened as it cooled. Pictures from Thursday programs as well as other Teen Library and system-wide programs can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary>. Some nights, photos and mini-videos are also posted to Teen Library’s Instagram account: <https://instagram.com/210teenlibrary>, encouraging socialization.

## Tours and Groups



A group of teachers and librarians from Fort Sam Houston High School visited the Teen Library on February 18 and spoke with Jennifer Velasquez, Coordinator of Teen Services, about a lasting partnership between the school and the Library. A larger group of teachers and administrators from the same school visited on February 23 to see what the Teen Library can offer their students. On March 10, a group of students from Sunnybrook Christian School w

## Off-Site Service



On January 25, Kathleen Fordyce (Assistant Manager, Teen Library at Central) and Karen Barton (Teen Services Librarian, Tobin Library) spoke to students in the AVID program at MacArthur High School about the services and resources the Library offers for teens. The students also signed up for library cards.

## Partnerships

### Job Shadow Day



The Teen Library, Organizational Health and Marketing units of the San Antonio Public Library were pleased to participate in organizing and implementing *Job Shadow Day* at the Central Library. Through this initiative of Junior Achievement and San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, 25 students from Brackenridge High School toured the Central library, met staff members, discussed career opportunities, and engaged in activities with staff from the Marketing Department, Teen Library, Human Resources and Organizational Health. Students and staff had an opportunity to speak informally at a luncheon that followed the library tour and activities.

### Mini Maker Faire



Caroline Mossing (Librarian I, Teen Library at Central) continues to lead the planning committee for the second *annual San Antonio Mini Maker Faire*, collaborating with community partners

and library staff to develop a space layout, reach out to local makers, and coordinate activities for a bigger and better Faire in March.

#### Technology Programming



Caroline Mossing has been developing a partnership with local youth technology nonprofit SA Youth Code Jam to bring *pilot coding clubs* to the Central Teen Library and (initially) one library branch, as well as future teen technology program initiatives.

#### Inspire U



Staff involved in the *Inspire U Workplace Mentoring Program* (part of SA2020), met with their “littles” for their regularly scheduled meeting in the Teen Library at Central on January 25. Bigs and Littles had lunch together and enjoyed catching up with each other.

#### San Antonio Food Bank



As a requirement of the Kids Café afterschool snack program, a Teen Library staff member must attend a monthly nutrition lesson at the Food Bank and provide at least one nutritional lesson for the teens per month. Regina Almanza (Teen Services Library Assistant, Central) attended the lesson in February.

#### **Programming**



Caroline Mossing brought a sampling of tech tools to the *Collins Garden Grand Reopening* for teens to use, including the LittleBits Korg Synth kit, the Makey Makey invention kit, and line-following Ozobot robots. Teens and other library patrons made music with LittleBits, played the Makey Makey banana piano, and created custom tracks for Ozobots using the color-coded Ozobot language.



JD Elizondo (Library Assistant, Teen Library at Central) partnered with the Children's Department at the Central Library by playing guitar for children in a music-themed Story Time and Play and Learn program on January 19 and 20.

#### **Committee Work**



Caroline Mossing has been helping to develop the second series in the *11.5 Cosas technology initiative* for library staff.

#### **Professional Development**



The Teen Services Librarian meeting was held at the Tobin Library on January 13.



The regularly scheduled Teen Services Librarian/Teen Liaison meeting was held in the Teen Library at Central on February 10.

#### **Recognition**





Kathleen Fordyce was recognized in the EnCORE Values Recognition Program, along with Andrea Silva, for Leadership and Teamwork. Kathleen and Andrea planned and hosted the 2015 Staff Holiday Party.

## CHILDREN'S



### Early Literacy Programming:

Toddlers, infants and preschoolers enjoyed dynamic learning experiences this month. Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin led programming efforts in Toddler Time and Play & Learn, assisted by Librarians Robin Alcorta and Julia Pouliot. During the dinosaur-themed story times, children played with dinosaur puppets, ground coffee play dough, and "dinosaur eggs." Families took a trip into outer space one week with astronaut dramatic play, complete with a homemade cardboard box rocket ship and black glittery play dough. The space theme was such a crowd pleaser that all of the books on display were checked out! Spring was ushered in with insect story times, in which children enjoyed playing in the caterpillar tunnel, the bug sensory bin, and examining acrylic specimens with magnifying glasses. In another series of story times, little ones explored their five senses and learned about the body with stories and activities such as an "x-ray" Q-tips craft, baby doll baths, a doctor's office imaginative play station, and a large foam skeleton puzzle.



### Family Fun Programming:

Thursday afternoon LEGO Clubs continued to be a success and have developed into a collaboration between Ms. Seglin and Ms. Pouliot, who now share the programming duties. Both made meaningful connections with the families in attendance as they built LEGO masterpieces together.

Ms. Alcorta led Saturday Family Fun programs this month. Children delighted in her hot air balloon program that included fun stories and an impressive, colorful balloon craft. During the bug-themed program, children's imaginations ran wild as they designed wacky, fantastical bugs from a variety of craft materials; highlighting each child's unique creative style. Ms. Pouliot presented her last Family Fun program this month, as each Librarian shifted to their new programming responsibilities for spring. For her Family Fun send off, she shared frog stories after which the families made paper bag frog puppets and played with gooey green slime.

Ms. Pouliot led the first installment of a new programming endeavor for the Central Children's Department – a STEAM-based Family Fun on Sundays. The inaugural program focused on the properties of water and the water cycle. Families participated in a variety of water experiments, while they developed their own hypotheses and calculated their results.



### Team Building:

The Central Children's team worked together to decorate the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor for spring. Smiling ladybugs, frogs and butterflies now adorn the bulletin board and display areas, enhancing the bright and cheerful experience for families visiting the Children's Department.

Central Children's Department staff took turns attending the mehndi program presented by the Reference Department, where they each had their hands decorated with beautiful henna art. For days afterward, patrons commented on the staff's pretty hand "tattoos," and were assured they were only temporary. The fun experience brought a greater sense to camaraderie to the already close-knit group.



### Special Programming:

The Central Children's Department celebrated Mayor Ivy Taylor's announcement that several area parks will soon be housing Little Free Libraries with a special park-themed Come & Go Craft.

Symphony @ SAPL Violist Marisa Bushman visited the Family Fun group and played a series of Bach pieces with an emphasis on emotion and how music makes us feel. She also talked about the work of the symphony, her own training, and why music written in the 1600s still resonates today with people of all ages and backgrounds. She was a great representative of the talent of the San Antonio Symphony and even awarded a pair of tickets to a lucky program-goer!



### **Committee Participation & Professional Development:**

Ms. Pouliot, with the Spring Play & Learn Committee, presented her work on the *How Does Your Garden Grow? Play & Learn* system-wide program to the Children's Librarians in attendance at their March meeting.

Children's Department Manager Kate Simpson attended The Atlantic's Next America Early Childhood Forum that focused on San Antonio's PreK4SA program. There was much learned there from the PreK4SA model that will enhance programming and parent involvement at the Central Children's Department.



### **Tours & Outreach:**

Ms. Simpson introduced parents from Collier and Schulze Elementary Schools to the resources and art on display at the Central Library. The enthusiastic group enjoyed the experience and promised to return with their families to partake in children's programs. Ms. Simpson and Ms. Pouliot led a group of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Hidden Cove Elementary on a fun-filled tour of the Central Library as a reward for their work in reading clubs at school.

Central Children's Department staff continued to develop outreach relationships with area childcare centers. Madison Square Child Development Center was served by Ms. Seglin, Central Christian Church Childcare Center by Ms. Pouliot, Green Acres Child Care Center by Ms. Alcorta and the San Antonio College Early Childhood Center and Center for New Communities by Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernandez.



### **Volunteers:**

Kyndra Cross provided the Children's Department with a great amount of help with collection maintenance projects and Come & Go craft programming. Her positive attitude and helpful nature have been an asset to the department this month.

## **LITTLE READ WAGON**

### **Every Child Ready to Read Workshops for Parents**



The Little Read Wagon team presented one-time early literacy workshops at the following elementary schools with Head Start or Pre-K programs: Kate Schenck, Sky Harbour, Driggers, Linton, Rayburn, Foster, Smith, Bob Hope and Hirsch. Workshops were also offered at KinderCare Nacogdoches and Evelyn King PCI Head Start center. Julia Lazarin presented to a new group of incarcerated fathers at the Bexar County Jail. The dads were part of the Men Making Changes program.

A series of Every Child Ready to Read workshops were presented at Pre-K 4 SA West, Pre-K 4 SA South and Pre-K 4 SA East. A series at Pre-K 4 SA North is scheduled for April. Ms. Lazarin received some encouraging and surprising feedback from a parent at Pre-K 4 SA South. As the group of parents reviewed how they have been using the early literacy activities, one mom shared that her son told her "Mom, you're fun to play with now!" The parent expressed sadness that she had not been engaging with her son in a way that he found enjoyable, but was happy to report that their interactions have become more frequent and fun.

## Every Child Ready to Read Workshops for Teen Parents



Corinne Sanchez and Clair Larkin were busy presenting workshops to teen parents at the following high schools: Kennedy, Edison, Brackenridge, Highlands, Harlandale, Taft and McCollum. Ms. Larkin was very pleased with the level of engagement she has seen as teen parents complete the different make-and-take activities. In particular, students at Brackenridge High School were so busy making sensory bottles to share with their infants that the room was absolutely quiet for an extended period of time.

Elizabeth Huber and Ms. Sanchez continued to offer story time and workshops for young mothers at Seton Home.



## Workshops for Early Childhood Teachers

On February 20, Ms. Huber, Ms. Sanchez, and Cresencia Huff presented “Smart Arts: Enhancing early literacy through creativity” to twenty early childhood teachers at the Central Library. Detours due to two 5K events in the area made it difficult for participants to access the library, but most of them were able to arrive on time. Teachers earned a certificate for three training hours to be applied to their annual training requirements.



Ms. Larkin and Mrs. Huff presented a session at the February 27 annual conference of the San Antonio Association for the Education of Young Children. The conference was held at the San Antonio Museum of Art, giving early childhood teachers the opportunity to experience the museum as part of their professional development. Ms. Larkin and Mrs. Huff adapted their session to the unique venue and made several adjustments on the fly as noise levels impacted the ability to make a more traditional presentation. Ultimately, session participants left with new tools and strategies to support early literacy development.

## Play & Learn



The Play & Learn series at Woodlawn Lake Park concluded February 25 with a change in venue. The final program was held at the Woodlawn Island House near the tennis courts, pavilion and large play scape. Families enjoyed the proximity to the play scape and the unique indoor space. Parent and child activities were offered at Big Country Elementary, Center 4 New Communities, and as part of the cowboy breakfast festivities at Fenwick Elementary.

## Community Events



Little Read Wagon represented the Library at Head Start recruitment fairs at Carroll, Tynan, Knox and Carvajal Early Childhood Centers. The recruitment fairs were held to encourage parents to register their children for Head Start and Early Head Start. Other agencies represented included MetroHealth nutrition and dental services.



Mrs. Huff was interviewed by Kristyn Leon of WOAI News 4 regarding Library partnerships with school districts. Mrs. Huff also attended Early Childhood Education: The San Antonio Experience, an Atlantic Next America Forum along with Viki Ash and Kate Simpson. The forum featured local, state and national leaders and featured the success of Pre-K 4 SA.

# BRANCH LOCATIONS

## BAZAN



Children's Librarian Esperanza Sonnen continued weekly programming and book clubs at several local elementary schools. On March 2, Ms. Sonnen went to the Avance Morales Center and read Dr. Seuss books to the kids which they greatly enjoyed. Ms. Sonnen visited with students, parents and teachers at Ogden Elementary's literacy night on March 10. She shared information about library services and programs and discussed with school staff hosting a new book club at Ogden in the near future.



On February 23, Bazan welcomed an intern, Isabel Salazar, from the Alamo Colleges work-study program. Ms. Salazar assisted staff in the Learn at SAPL Center, and with Children and Teen programming. Library Assistant Jennifer Martinez served as her immediate supervisor for the duration of her internship.



Bazan Training Officer Emily Sauer Flores met with the Barrio Network community members on February 24 to promote the services offered by the Learn Center, particularly computer instruction and ESL sessions. The gathering was also an opportunity to keep abreast of community services so as to refer patrons in need to relevant organizations.

Mrs. Sauer Flores participated in the US Citizenship and Immigration Services "Implementing Quality Citizenship Instruction" webinar on February 23 and gained an understanding of the characteristics of successful citizenship instruction programs with the long-term objective of being able to support Learn patrons with the naturalization process.



A new book club for adults formed at the Bazan branch. The "BrainLift" book club's inaugural meeting was held on February 26 to discuss *Food Rules* by Michael Pollan. The group will be meeting the last Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. to discuss mind-stimulating fiction and nonfiction books.

## BROOK HOLLOW



Book groups continue to be the most popular adult program at Brook Hollow. Five groups met this month, and discussed titles that included *Emma: a Modern Retelling* by Alexander McCall Smith, *Empire of the Summer Moon* by S.C. Gwynne, *When Books Went to War* by Molly Guphill Manning, *The Dark Vineyard* by Martin Walker, and *Una Misma Noche* by Leopoldo Brizuela. Along with the wide selection of traditional book groups, Brook Hollow hosts a monthly Meetup group called Book Lovers. Attendees bring books to swap and discuss.



Brook Hollow was a very popular site for early voting from February 16 – 26, remaining the number one early voting location in the City. The branch observed a spike in new library card registrations and checkouts during this time, as voters came in to the library and took advantage of library services before and after voting.



The branch had a popular display in honor of Black History Month that featured books written or illustrated for children by black authors and illustrators.



In March, the children's section celebrated Women's History Month by displaying picture book biographies of important, influential women.



The children's room got a fresh look with a new bulletin board display for spring. The cheerful scene depicts flowers and grass, bunnies, and a kite flying through the air.



Children's librarian Rachael Barrera went to an outreach visit to the KinderCare near the branch on March 1. She read books and sang songs with 2 preschool classes. On Wednesday, March 2, she went to the Rhapsody Center Head Start in honor of Dr. Seuss's Birthday. She sang songs, presented stories, and read Dr. Seuss books to all five classes. The center expressed interest to continue an outreach relationship with Brook Hollow and more visits are planned.

## CARVER



Carver Branch children's librarian Jodi Miller represented the branch at a principal's coffee held at Herman Hirsch Elementary School on February 19 to promote programs and services at Carver Library. She continues to do an internal story time as well as regular outreach.



The branch hosted the monthly meeting of the San Antonio Public Library Board of Trustees on Wednesday, Feb. 24. Refreshments were provided by the Friends of Carver Branch. Manager DL Grant welcomed the trustees and SAPL administrators and delivered a report highlighting activities and events taking place at the branch.



Black History Month drew to a close with a visit by five individuals who participated in the historic Freedom Rides of 1961. They met with children in the library, as well as selected schools in the area, to discuss the importance of taking a stand for social justice. This year marks the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the massive campaign that sought to end Jim Crow laws in the South with regard to public transportation.



On March 8, the Learn at SAPL center at Carver sponsored its second annual job fair, attracting such employers as VIA transportation as well as the Bexar County Sheriff and San Antonio Police departments. Some job seekers were hired on the spot. Approximately 70 people met with interviewers.



Programs such as weekly tai chi and the monthly meetings of the Carver Page Turners book group continue to draw substantial participation.

## CODY



Country Home Daycare visited Cody Library for special story times with Children's Librarian Sheila Acosta on February 17 and 24. They also visited on March 2 and March 9.





The *Middle Readers Book Club* met on February 17. The children book-talked their most recent reads, and shared their likes and dislikes about various series. Sheila introduced some new series and some historical-based fiction for those who requested the genre.



Approximately 50 patrons attended the special *Rodeo Arts and Crafts* program on February 18. Children created cowboy hats, and made sheriffs' badges to wear on their cowboy bandanas. Sheila said all the children were excited about posing in their western attire.



On February 19, Sheila was invited to speak to the third grade class at Torah Academy for Black History Month. Sheila reported that the class enjoyed her visit and the teacher was receptive to future visits to establish a new collaboration.



Tweens created and decorated dragonflies to celebrate springtime programming on February 21. In addition, they challenged each other to classic board games and Sheila provided iPads for the Minecraft enthusiasts.



The monthly meeting of the *Lego Club* was held on February 23. Lego builders were challenged to build scenes from books they had read.



*Tween Book Club* met on February 24. Members discussed the selection *The Puzzling World of Winston Breen* by Eric Berlin.



Boone Elementary kinder and first grade classes were visited by Sheila on February 25 in celebration of *Read Across America Day*. Sheila read several Dr. Seuss stories to the young readers and invited them all to attend Cody Library's celebration the following week.



The Northside Pre-K4SA coordinated a visit to the Cody Library with Sheila on March 1. Children enjoyed a brief story time and parents were taken on a tour of the library. Sheila provided information on the resources and services accessible to them as library card holders. Several parents applied for library cards to check out materials for their children. Parents also learned of the many programs available for them and their families at the library.



Sheila also visited the Northside Pre-K4SA on March 9 for Dr. Seuss Day. Sheila joined nine other adults from various agencies to visit various classes to read for *Read Across America Day*.



Minecraft gamers were on hand on March 9. Sheila provided iPads to those children who wanted to play but did not have a device.



Over 30 people attended the *Dr. Seuss Story Time & Family Fun* event on March 3. In addition to the stories, the children had a choice of a variety of activities and crafts. Every child had an opportunity to vote for their favorite Dr. Seuss story. Sheila posted the winning titles in the children's area.



Toddlers and preschoolers enjoyed *Duplo Day* on March 4. There were many play centers to choose from, including soft blocks, Duplos, and floor puzzles. Everyone had a fun visiting all of the different activity centers.



On March 7 tweens enjoyed playing charades and didn't want to break out for other activities. The tweens divided into two teams and challenged each other to guessing movie titles for the entire program.



The *Beginning Readers Club* met on March 9, excited to read their new books. Each young reader shared a book they had read. They then paired up to do work together on their first crossword puzzle. Everyone also enjoyed the reading craft afterwards.



Cody's teens completed several creative and educational craft projects. Teens made dream catchers and learned about their Native American origins. Teens also made paracord bracelets. They also learned that an unraveled paracord bracelet can be used in wilderness survival situations, such as fishing, fashioning a splint or tourniquet, and marking a trail. Teens brainstormed other ways that a paracord bracelet may be helpful in their daily life. In celebrating TeenTech Week, teens made 3-D objects with the 3Doodler pens.



The teens also had a game day where they wrote several "What If" questions and answers. The teens worked hard to be creative in their questions and answers so that when they were shuffled together they would be funny. This activity proved to be a great writing exercise. Afterwards, teens played *Pictionary* and charades. Teens also worked together to plan future programming.



Cody was also busy with Primary Elections early voting and VITA. Navigator Stephen Baird from Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio has also been available at Cody on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The VITA site coordinator commented that having the Navigator available has been beneficial because he has helped several VITA customers in resolving tax issues related to health care.

## COLLINS



On the heels of Collins Garden Library's grand reopening last month, SAPL's Central Library Children's department developed a successful weekly Family Fun program with a weekly attendance of 8-10 children and parents.



The Teen program, hosted by Carlos Loera, restarted last month with an average of 10 teens. Teens enjoyed crafts, played video games and raved about the new teen and maker spaces. The teen program is gaining momentum with several events that have taken place in the teen area.



Tween programming started last month with an average attendance of 11 tweens. Activities included crafts and video games.



Collins Garden Library's partnership with UTHSCSA started on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> and will continue through the end of the year. The goal of the UT Safety Patient Project is to conduct research that generates knowledge about how to improve the quality and safety of healthcare.



Memorial Branch Manager Jeannette Davies has been overseeing daily library operations at Memorial and Collins Garden Libraries.

## CORTEZ



The Cortez Branch Library welcomed Children's Librarian Kathy Armbruster to the team in the month of March. Ms. Armbruster brings to the branch a wealth of knowledge and experience that spans six countries and five U.S. States. The branch continued to hold weekly activities for children and families that included Story Time, Tween Time, Family Fun, and Teen Time.



On February 20, the Cortez Film Club celebrated Black History Month with a presentation and discussion of the 2013 Sundance Film Festival award winner *Muscle Shoals*. This documentary focused on the “Muscle Shoals sound” that was integral to a number of iconic musicians and bands from the 1960s and 1970s, from Aretha Franklin, Percy Sledge, Wilson Pickett to the Rolling Stones. Four dedicated members of the club were on hand to view the film and discuss how the film impacted modern music as well as the discussion of race relations in the film.



On March 8, the Cortez Branch Library welcomed the installation of the Contemporary Art Month 2016 photography exhibit *Frontiers* by Sunday Ballew. The branch also hosted an intimate reception for the artist. Twelve patrons were in attendance to discuss Ms. Ballew’s process and hear her stories about the photos.



The Cortez Monster Meet group welcomed San Antonio’s own Ghost Hunter George for a program about haunted San Antonio landmarks on March 12. Fifteen enthusiastic community members were in attendance for this event.



The Learn at SAPL staff at the Cortez Branch Library continued to provide patrons with educational resources and services. Programs included conversational English, Job Readiness 101, computer Basics 101, and GED test preparation. Patrons also had access to services provided by the Department of Human Services.

## ENCINO



The Encino Branch Library hosted numerous community events during the reporting period. Constable Mark Vojvodich utilized the meeting room for several sessions of an Active Shooter Preparation course. Attendees received a certificate of attendance and information for their homes and businesses, and Constable Vojvodich presented Encino with a certificate of appreciation. On February 16, Encino hosted the Asian American Alliance of San Antonio for their monthly gathering, which featured a board meeting followed by a visit from the chief of staff to District 26 Senator Jose Menendez. This meeting benefited from the flexible spaces of the branch as the flexible meeting room was used for the board meeting and the lounge transformed for the larger meeting that followed. Councilman Joe Krier held his monthly meeting with community leaders at Encino on February 23. Many attendees took advantage of the meeting location and received individual Overdrive tutoring sessions before leaving. Early voting took place in one half of Encino’s flexible meeting room from February 16-26, bringing close to 2,700 voters to the library and filling the spacious parking lot.

The bustle of activity at Encino resulted in few spaces for visitors to congregate, read, and study. This led to the strategic adaptation of the Create space to a quiet room when other spaces are in use. A table and 6 chairs were arranged in Create to accommodate visitors seeking a quieter area, and the adaptation has received numerous compliments from patrons.



Encino’s Create University, hosted by Barbara Kwiatkowski, Aileen Chavez, and Rebekah Corley during the reporting period, continues to bring successful DIY and craft programs to the community. Each program is limited to 20 participants for space and supply restraints, and projects have included nail and string art, henna, and handmade greeting cards. March programs are registered to capacity, and regular patrons are contributing their own ideas (and often supplies) for additional projects.



Children’s programming continues on a successful path at Encino. Children’s Librarian Nicki Weaver has seen rapid growth and participation in Baby, Toddler, and Story Times; and many of the attendees are regulars each week. Tween Time and Kids Time attendance has grown each week, and the Read to a Dog program is proving successful for participants. Parents reported increased literacy and confidence

levels among their children who visit the registered therapy dogs each week. Encino welcomed a new part time Children's Librarian, Ashley Stubbs, on March 5, and her contributions to children's programming are highly anticipated.



Teen Librarian Matthew Loaiza assisted with Librarypalooza on February 27, where he spoke with over 30 attendees. Matthew has increased Teen programming in both attendance and number of programs offered. Teen Gaming was previously scheduled twice each month, but increasing attendance and demands from teens led to hosting Teen Gaming every Saturday. Encino's Teen Leadership Council is actively gaining volunteers and planning projects. One such project is a Smash Brothers Gaming Tournament planned during #Encino Tech Week. The Teen Anime Club held its first Anime Games competition on February 29. Teens "sponsored" an anime character to send into the games on their behalf, and then went through 4 different rounds to see who would win!



To showcase Encino's embedded technology and SAPL's digital offerings, Librarian Matthew Loaiza designed a plethora of programs, tutoring, and classes during #EncinoTech Week. Programs started on March 12 and will run through March 19. Topics include basic Overdrive tutoring, Internet Basics, Intro to Microsoft Word, and a demonstration of 3Doodlers. The opening weekend of events was successful in assisting patrons with utilizing SAPL's digital library and introducing the Internet to older adults.



Encino's first adult book club met on February 22 with 8 attendees. Library Aide Ellen Leland and Circulation Attendant Rebekah Corley led the vibrant discussion, and participants expressed their appreciation for the new program to the branch manager. Ellen distributed a brief survey to discover the interests of all attendees, and book selections for upcoming months were discussed. Future meetings have been changed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month so attendees will be free to attend Create University on Monday evenings.



The Friends of Encino held their quarterly meeting on March 7, with all officers and FOSAPL president Karen Matson in attendance. Branch Manager Keri Moczygemba presented an overview of Encino's accomplishments as well as examples from the branch wish list. The attendees held in-depth discussions on how they could support future endeavors. The officers agreed to start book cart sales with optional wish list donations featured.



Adult Librarian Barbara Kwiatkowski has established regular outreach visits with both the Emerald Oaks Retirement Resort and the Franklin Park Retirement Community. During the meetings at the memory care clinic, she reviews SAPL's recent acquisitions and then gives a book talk. While the residents are sharing their thoughts about the books, they often recall thoughts of happy moments in their life and fond memories of youth, personal interests, children and history in general. This greatly inspires the conversation with the presenter. Each book talk is tailored to the specific conditions of the residents. At Emerald Oaks, Barbara provides technical support and presentations on the digital library. At each visit, the number of seniors using portable readers has increased along with their comfort levels with the technology. Several new cards were created with each visit, and participation at each facility has tripled.

## FOREST HILLS

### Adult Services



Branch Manager Mary Naylor visited the Dorris Griffin Senior Center and the Bob Ross Senior Center in February to provide digital library training. The seniors in both centers are very appreciative of this training as they begin to navigate use of their digital devices and accessing library collections from

home or at the center. Each center provides free WIFI which is one way many of the seniors are able to access the digital collection. Both centers also have the SAPL digital cling which advertises the collection and provides QR code access. The seniors received training on using QR scanning apps to utilize the cling.

The NPR Book Club met on February 17 to discuss *God's Hotel*. The author will be speaking at the UT Health Science Center Briscoe Library on March 17.

Forest Hills Library participated in Contemporary Art Month 2016 by hosting the exhibit, "Sip, Sop, Drip, Drop" by Alyssa Danna, a recent grad of UTSA. Contemporary darkness meets vintage vibe! The interesting pieces were the subject of much discussion during the opening reception on March 9. The exhibit will be on display until mid-May.

### Teen Services



In the spirit of the City Core Value of Innovation the Forest Hills staff has focused on developing the Teen Lounge space. Staff worked together to design a space that is more inviting and conducive to teen-centered activities while being mindful for their needs to access technology. There is a new Maker Space feature which provides come-and-go access to art materials for teens to create on an independent level. The space currently features complex coloring pages. The theme will change according to a rotation so that there will be something new to create each week.

### Children's Services

Four Story Times and two bilingual story times were presented during this time period. Children listened to stories and rhymes, sang, danced and created projects. They also had the opportunity to play together with a variety of building materials and puzzles.



The Bilingual Story Time is a new program to the usual Forest Hills' lineup. This pilot program has garnered a large amount of attention. Children's Librarian Kathleen Brown has collaborated with a Texas Women's University practicum student to develop and deliver this unique program. Plans are underway to incorporate this theme into future programming as it has proven to be a popular selection.

Four Family Fun programs were held, including a paper plane flying challenge, a birthday party for Dr. Seuss and a Spring Bingo game. Families also celebrated National Gumdrops Day by building with gumdrops and toothpicks, straws and connectors, LEGOs and other types of construction sets.

A Come-and-Go craft activity gave children the opportunity to create a tissue paper fish.



Children's Librarian Kathleen Brown visited two day care centers to share stories, rhymes, songs and books with the children and teachers. Mrs. Brown also visited Esparza Elementary School to present to classes during their Career Day.

## GREAT NORTHWEST



The Great Northwest Branch Library bid farewell to manager Roberto Zapata as he begins his new position as Assistant Director of the McAllen Public Library. Cate Prazak of Cortez Branch Library will serve as interim manager.



Great Northwest Teen Services Librarian Stephanie Vazquez visited the school library at Brennan High School on February 24 to provide a teen program to the students during their lunch period. The



monthly program drew 200 participants. This popular event is in collaboration with the Brennan High School Librarian Hugues Caby and is a way for the branch to reach out to teens in their environment.



The Great Northwest Library hosted a Super Smash Bros Mini Tournament on February 27 in which teens competed for first and second places. Teens used Challonge.com to register players for a double elimination tournament and tracked their progress using the website's online bracket system. A teen volunteer created the game rules and stage list for players and officiated the event.



During March, the Teen Maker Space held a St. Patrick's Day Craft Night where teens could use perler beads to make different St. Patrick's Day crafts. The Teen Maker Space provides a variety of crafts where teens can pick and choose what they want to create.



Great Northwest Library hosted a Teen Robotics workshop February 28 and a Kids Robotics workshop on March 10. The workshops provided kids and teens hands-on experience with robotics and technology.



Computer Tutoring is held at the Great Northwest Library every other Monday evening. The branch has a very knowledgeable volunteer tutor Jacob who provides basic computer instructions and answers computer and technology-related questions.



On February 15, the Great Northwest Teen Writer's Guild held their first meeting. Teens with an interest in writing meet once a month to create and share their work with other teen writers.



Great Northwest Library had a homeschool program for grades 4-8 on February 18. There were 51 attendees at the Pharaoh Challenge. The participants divided into nine teams and each team created a kid-sized mummy to display. The children's wing had nine mummies on display for the rest of the month, just in time for the "Dress like an Egyptian" program for the elementary school kids on February 25. There were 47 in attendance. The kids enjoyed a marketplace type environment where they made Egyptian jewelry and pharaoh hats, played an Ancient Egyptian game found in King Tut's tomb, and participated in other activities.



The Toddler 2 program was well attended this month with an average of 83 per program. The ABC Club Storytimes averaged 78 in each program.



Great Northwest Adult Services Librarian Cindy Moreno scheduled the Bexar County Master Gardeners to do a presentation on growing herbs on February 24 and vegetable gardening on March 2. Both programs were a hit with the community.



Deer Oaks facilitator Calleen Fridel presented PLANNING FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH to a total of 12 library staff employees on March 9. This seminar is designed to help participants define individual meanings for success and values, resulting in a personal mission statement.

## GUERRA



Guerra Branch Library was an Election Day site on March 1. The branch also hosted the VITA Program six hours daily--Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Volunteers provided filing assistance to between 45 and 50 members of the community each day.



Guerra Branch Manager Dexter Katzman continued his Wednesday literature and music outreach programs to the Careplex Senior Center on February 17 and 24, and March 2 and 9. He spent March 6 at Great Northwest providing LIC coverage. He presented three computer classes to community

members, one in Spanish (February 17) and two in English (February 29). He provided training to Library Assistant Edward Mayberry on February 22 (Access) and Mary Lou Bleichwehl on March 1 (Outlook reporting features).



Assistant Branch Manager Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard hosted a Classic Movies in the Library screening of the 1959 movie “Some Like It Hot” on March 8. The Clube do Livro (Book Club in Portuguese) discussed the book *Max e os Felinos* (*Max and the Cats*) by Moacyr Scliar on March 12.



Children’s Librarian Arlene Richardson planned and presented 18 in-house programs—four Toddler Times, four Story Times, eight Lego Club sessions, and two Come & Go Crafts. On March 5, the Come & Go Craft program celebrated *Read Across America Day* with “Cat in the Hat” crafts. Children read to therapy dog Foxie on February 18 and March 3. Arlene visited Marbach Christian Church Daycare on February 19 and presented story times to three classes. On March 2, Arlene attended a *Read Across America* event at J B Passmore Elementary School, promoting library resources and programs. On March 4 she was invited to read Dr. Seuss stories to toddlers and preschoolers at Greatest Gifts Daycare. She read to three classes. Arlene installed a Juvenile Women’s History Month display.



Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson moderated the Spanish language book club, Club de Lectura, whose members discussed *Fidel y Raul mis hermanos* (*Fidel and Raul my brothers*) by Juanita Castro on February 25. Steve recorded *Viva la nieve* (*Hooray for Snow*) by Iwamura Kazuo for dial-a-story in Spanish on March 7.



Edward Mayberry, Teen Liaison, held Game-Ra sessions on February 18, February 25 and March 3. He participated in an outreach to Brennan High School with Stephanie Vazquez, Teen Librarian/Great Northwest, on February 24. The program included a Teen Services video, information about upcoming workshops for college preparation, and the opportunity for the students to play video games; over 150 students participated. He had an outreach at John Jay High School on March 9 and was joined by Megan Stanley, Teen Liaison/Johnston. They promoted SAPL programs and Teen Tech Week during Spring Break. The teens watched movies on March 10; the Guerra Friends of the Library supplied snacks for movie night.



Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl and Library Aide Iris Bobren created a Bilingual Staff Picks display. Mary Lou installed a Black History Month display, focusing on the Harlem Renaissance.

## IGO



The Igo Branch children’s department continues to draw large numbers of young families to its early literacy story times. Undeterred by parking challenges during the recent rigorous early voting session, all story time programs for this reporting period reached maximum capacity. Children’s librarian Nancy Rodriguez currently presents five weekly story times. This includes a Toddler, Two story time for two and three-year olds, two weekly Toddler Time story times for children 18-24 months, story time for preschoolers from three to five-years old, and Baby Time infant lapsit story time for children birth to 18 months and their caregivers. Guests visiting the branch on Tuesday and Thursday mornings cannot help but be delighted to witness the joyful enthusiasm for books and library programs that get these youngsters off to a great start to literacy. The Igo team is to be commended for their commitment and support in providing excellent customer service by promoting children’s programs, creating themed Book Bundles for busy parents and caregivers, and helping with artwork and displays throughout the branch to make the library a welcoming atmosphere for patrons of all ages.



Tween Time is once again finding an audience on the second Tuesday of the month at Igo. Mrs. Rodriguez continues to promote this afterschool program at area campuses, as well as reaching out

to area homeschoolers with the assistance of a couple of extremely supportive tween parents. During the session on March 8, regular attendees met a few new faces to discuss books, play games, share snacks, and to create a stitch-your-own felt hand puppet craft. Plans were made to include outdoor games at next month's meeting and to explore plans for a summer Tween puppet theater program to be presented during the branch's annual summer reading club Kids Time program.



Between February 15 and March 14, the Igo Branch is providing meeting space and support for KLRN's Play and Learn early literacy outreach for area families. Many of the library's story time families are joining this local community partner's early literacy team for high quality, interactive learning experiences on Friday mornings throughout the month. This annual offering continues to demonstrate a strong partnership between San Antonio Public Library and KLRN in their commitment to providing enriching early childhood learning experience to the community.



For this reporting period, the children's services staff presented 30 programs serving children and their caregivers.

### Teen Services



Teen Librarian Marco De Leon worked diligently with the most supportive team of library aides to create Igo's first teen-dedicated space. The new teen space had a "soft opening" on March 9 and will be open for all to use and see. A competition will be held in the near future giving all teens the opportunity to create a name for the newly created teen space by casting a ballot in the teen space ballot box. At the end of March, the Igo Teen Library Leadership Council will be gathering up the ballots and voting for the best name. The teen whose name gets chosen will win a prize and the proud rights to having named the new teen space at Igo.



The new teen space provide an optimal environment for teens to visit and socialize, work collaboratively in groups, or simply have a space for individual study. While the space offers full functionality for teen needs, it also serves as an area to host teen programming.



Mr. De Leon also organized a team of librarians to represent SAPL at this year's Librarypalooza held at Brandeis High School. Over 300 patrons attended and were provided with valuable information on SAPL's services.

### Adult Services



The Igo Elderberries offered an additional five classes in its "Tai Chi with Garrie" series, with several being held outside under the Big Oak in the Woller Outpost area. All of the evaluations received were positive, with multiple requests to continue the series. One participant replied, "Perfect as is. The only thing I would change is to make it forever!"



In lieu of the scheduled March Elderberries program on drones, which was unfortunately cancelled due to drone pilot illness, the Elderberries held a roundtable general discussion about future program ideas and senior issues. Plans are underway to reschedule the presentation on drones later in the summer.



Adult Services Librarian Ramona Lucius hosted genealogist Allene Mandry on February 16 to provide an engaging presentation to the Genealogy Club offering tips for "Finding Lost Ancestors."



Igo's three book clubs continued to meet throughout the reporting period. The Afternoon Book Club enjoyed a lively conversation regarding *Roses* by Leila Meachum. The Romance Readers Club discussed *Waterbound* by Christine Feehan and the Mystery Club read P. D. James' *Death Comes to Pemberley*.

# JOHNSTON



From Feb 16 thru 26, Johnston Branch Library was an early voting site. Just over 1,900 citizens took advantage of the site and voted early at Johnston.

## Children's



Story Time themes at Johnston included teddy bears, airplanes, Texas and automobiles. Family Fun time participants painted tote bags, played with Snap Electronic Circuits and listened to stories about Texas



On March 3, Children's Librarian Beverly Wrigglesworth delivered books to the PCI at Southwest High School. On March 4, she participated in Career Day at Valley Hi Elementary school by reading dragon stories to three kindergarten classes.



Beverly Wrigglesworth submitted a DVD and music CD reviews to School Library Journal. She also submitted a blog post for the Kids SAPL page, and recorded Mother Goose's Pajama Party for Dial-a-Story

## Teens



Anime Club is still going strong, and the teens are trying to decide whether to change the name of the group. This month the group has focused on Japanese Pop Culture.



Due to early voting, the teens had a few teen times out in the library. This gave other patrons the chance to see how much fun the teens have. The branch had a checkers match and a Super Smash Bros. Showdown. There has also been a request for a gaming club for the hardcore video gamers at Johnston, and it will start sometime mid-March.

## Adult



Adult Services Librarian Monica Bustillo hosted several Adult Coloring events every Thursday. In April, the event will move to once per month.



On February 23, Monica presented information and outreach to the Springvale and Meadow Village Neighborhood Associations. She reached about 120 residents from the two neighborhoods.



Monica facilitated the Athena Readers Book Club discussion of Lauren Groff's *Fates and Furies* on February 17.



Monica presented two Oscar-nominated films in a series that ran the entire month. *Inside Out* was shown on February 19 and *Cinderella* ended the series on February 26.

# LANDA



## Children's

Landa program attendees have begun to fill up the story room with lots of wiggles, jumping, and dancing on Thursday mornings for Story Time; a program led by Librarian Jasmin Salinas. On World Book Day, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, a preschool class of 10 from University Presbyterian Church Child Center joined the story time for some added fun as Ms. Salinas read some silly stories about green animals.

Baby Time also continues to thrive with parents and their infants participating in bounces, rhymes, and stories that are focused on babies! The babies love exploring and always gather to enjoy the bubble machine at the end of every story time.

In February, Librarian Karen Sebesta performed two Toddler Times for parents and children. She brought out her piano and the kids sang "Old MacDonald" and "Days of the Week" with a great deal of enthusiasm. In March, Ms. Salinas came back to present Toddler Time; focusing on water and animal themes. The continued favorite song for all of our toddlers at Landa remains the "Sleeping Bunny Song" that encourages the children to pretend to sleep and then wake up to hop like a bunny.

The Little Explorers S.T.E.A.M. Story Time at Landa created and led by Ms. Salinas continues to be a parent favorite. Every week the parents and kids that have registered (and some that have not!) come to talk, sing, and read books about science and participate in some play experiences that focus on science and art. In February, the participants wrapped up the session on "the body" with the children learning about their body parts, bones, heart, lungs, and stomachs through stories, songs, and flannels. One parent told Ms. Salinas that her son that month would go home and then entertain their guests with talk about his skull, lungs, and heart! In March, participants began a new unit that focuses on size and measurement. The kids have loved pretending to be an itty bitsy spider and a great big giant spider. They also really love any flannel board story that involves counting and size. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, the program focused on *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and art. The kids loved using cotton balls pinched between clothespins to paint their very own large hungry caterpillar. Parents were thrilled with the art experience and excited to repeat them at home. The feedback from the S.T.E.A.M. Story Time remains positive with many parents expressing an interest to see it at more libraries.

Lego Club led by Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas has been highly successful as a new bi-monthly program; with attendance remaining high and families returning each week for building fun. The addition of a block zone for younger kids has allowed more families to come and build together. Each week as the children build their creations, they agonize over which characters to add that will complete their story. Every child gets the opportunity to tell Ms. Salinas about their build, creating fantastic stories about epic space battles, robots, intergalactic space ships, and superheroes fighting villains. Then, they fill out a card with their name and title of their works of art to be displayed in the children's area. Many of the kids return during the month to see their build and show their parents, grandparents, and friends.

The Minecraft Builders Club, led by Ms. Salinas, has also continued to be a regularly attended program for school aged children. Every other week, children come with their own devices, though a few occasionally borrow one of the handful of library iPads on hand, to face a Minecraft building challenge. The kids love to talk to their peers about Minecraft, showing off what they know and learning new tips and tricks from each other. The March Minecraft program challenged kids to build a two bedroom house with a secret entrance and a secret passage. The children loved it! Many had already constructed houses in their virtual world, but they proceeded to alter them to add entrances, traps, and secret tunnels. Then, each child describes his or her world, their creation, and all sorts of Minecraft secrets. The biggest challenge Ms. Salinas faces with the Minecraft Builders Club is trying to figure out how to listen to 4 or 5 very excited and proud children talk to her at one time about their builds. This is a great program that has really increased the attendance of school aged children participating in programs at the Landa Branch. Many of the children return regularly to each program, eagerly anticipating a chance to just play one of their favorite games.

Ms. Salinas has also continued her monthly visits to the Presbyterian Church Child Center. The children love to listen to stories. The oldest preschool classroom of 4 and 5 year olds really enjoy the silliest stories, and actually requested a second reading of a story during her visit. Also, the afternoon after her visit, one of the children from the outreach classroom brought her parent to the library asking to borrow



the books that Ms. Salinas had read to the class. She was thrilled to have them and couldn't stop talking about them with her dad. Ms. Salinas also received a thank-you card from the 3 year old classroom, expressing how much fun they had during their story time visit.



### Teen Services

Teen Liaison Melissa Carroll welcomed the new teen liaison Destiny Byrd. Destiny was previously at the McCreless Branch for 12 years. The Landa Teens participated in a variety of activities including a popular new card game and making bubble magnets. The young adults welcomed two new teens during this reporting period and enjoyed spending time socializing. Teens were very grateful for the snacks provided by money from the Friends of the Landa Library.



### Adult Services

The adult book groups at Landa are continuing to attract both new and returning members. In late February, the Landa Mystery Book Club read *Dance of the Bones* by the immensely popular J. A. Jance. The book is a complex thriller set both in Arizona and in Seattle. Reader's Ink members enjoyed Bill Bryson's *I'm a Stranger Here Myself*, which is a humorous recounting of the author's return to the United States after spending two decades in England.

On February 22, in observance of Black History Month, Landa hosted a book discussion on *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, the classic by Zora Neale Hurston. Professor Janice Clayton (retired, Alamo Colleges) led the discussion. Her knowledge and skill at encouraging conversation and dialogue made for a lively and informative evening.

Shirley Morrison returned (by popular demand!) for a Beginning Crochet event in early March. She had a big group who took advantage of the expertise of members of the Alamo Rows Crochet Guild who were present to assist.

Landa Volunteer Coordinator Karen Sebesta reports that three new volunteers have been added to the volunteer roster this month. They are teens Blake and Allegra who volunteer three hours, two times a week and Jarrod who is a pharmacy student at the University of the Incarnate Word who donates his Saturday morning to assist.

Landa's neighbors, the San Antonio Public Library Foundation, used the Landa meeting room for their monthly Great Books Seminar. March's presentation featured writings from Islam. A healthy-sized crowd attended.

Karen is starting a new book club outreach with The Village at Incarnate Word. She met with Debbie Gonzalez, the Activities Director, and several potential group members to make plans for their first book discussion in April.

## LAS PALMAS

### Children



Children's Librarian Gina Brudi provided early literacy services to the community with her monthly programs of stories, rhymes, songs and books. She hosted 23 programs at six early literacy sites reaching 235 children and teachers at Good Samaritan, Madonna and Avance.



Interest in the LegoClub continues to grow with Lego books being used by the participants to spark ideas for the kids' creations. The Family Fun Valentine celebration of stories and songs about love, a valentine craft, and sweet tarts candies- courtesy of the Las Palmas Friends of the Library- was a success.



Posters from the Association of Library Services for Children called "Babies Need Words Every Day" in English and Spanish were placed above the changing tables in the public restrooms to promote speaking and singing nursery rhymes to babies.



Samantha Gordano, Assistant Manager, has begun to assist the local Friends organization with library programming, including the recent children's symphony program. She is working with them to offer programs geared towards younger patrons during spring break beginning the week of March 13th.

## Teens



Teen Librarian, Connie Hejl, continued to promote the weekly Teen Time program, involving gaming, crafts and Wii activities.

## Adults



Various groups used the library Meeting Room for programs or staff training, including Metro Health's Healthy Start program.



The Library hosted Early Elections in the Meeting Room from February 16-26 and March 1 on Election Day. The judges appeared satisfied with the library's timeliness and efforts to ensure everything went smoothly.



The library monitored campaign volunteers for compliance during Early Elections, but took the opportunity to also inform volunteers about library services and resources. Many were excited to hear about the library's free digital resources, including music downloads. Staff also handed out SA Tomorrow surveys; encouraging volunteers to give their opinion toward future city development efforts.



Library Assistant Anne Schuette held weekly sessions of 'Computer Help Thursdays' helping students with a variety of 'how to' trainings. A local musician enjoyed being taught how to use ear buds to listen to himself and other jazz musicians/friends playing live concerts. In another instance, a lady was excited to learn how to insert charts into an MSWord document in order to copy/paste data from a church directory.



In partnership with Academia America, the library continued spring semester Citizenship classes in Spanish and English, and is in the process of promoting the second spring semester (April 15 – June 18).



A newly formed SAPL adult services committee asked Anne for advice on how to design city-wide Citizenship classes, due to the Las Palmas Library's long established and successful program.



Anne continued to host the Adult Book Club, which was held in the library due to Early Elections. The book *The Anatomist's Wife: A Lady Darby Novel* by Anna Lee Huber was chosen by a long-term club member.



Manager Mary Kay Rathke handed out over 500 Freegal “MUSIC” cards to people riding the bus as part of community outreach, introducing riders to free music downloads and other digital resources. People were pleasantly surprised; the most common reactions were “Awesome,” “Really? That’s cool,” and “Thank you!” This created a positive impression of the library with the community, allowing them to ask other questions (Does the library have GED exams in Spanish? I owe fines – can I still download? (payment plan); My son needs help with math, how can the library help? (free online homework help)). The cards are an effective design from Marketing – a convenient size with an attractive graphic.



Mary Kay attended a reception for Agave apartment residents at the Plaza Club, introduced as ‘the librarian’ by the host. When appropriate, she talked with guests individually about library digital resources, handing out Freegal cards, which guests were excited to receive. She mentioned services and volunteer opportunities, with the library or through Friend, to consider sharing their expertise through programming. She also connected Marketing with the Agave manager, who wanted to add the cards and other handouts to their welcome bags for new tenants.



Mary Kay attended and conducted outreach efforts at ‘Science Fiesta’ on March 5<sup>th</sup>, networking with members of universities and non-profit organizations, who were enthusiastic to work on joint community STEM programs at the Las Palmas Branch Library. She also made contact with a Texas Public Radio journalist, who is willing to report on programs once approved by TPR and SAPL.

### Other



Gina Brudi and Mary Kay Rathke participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual City Manager’s 5K on February 27, which provided a great opportunity for fun and fitness.



Las Palmas Branch’s monthly circulation statistics reached 110% of its Goal! This is due to promotion of the Express Collection, thematic book displays, publicizing materials to users, outreach, and Vital Records activities that bring new users into the library. In addition, hosting Early Elections brought voters into the library.

## MAVERICK



The Maverick Branch was inundated with voters during the primary election season! Thank you to the staff that opened early, and to those who stayed late during Early Voting and Election Day. Many of the voters came into the library and applied for library cards!



All the Maverick Librarians attended Reasonable Suspicion and new City Administrative Directives Training in the month of February. The rest of the Maverick staff attended the A.D. Training at the Maverick Branch. Branch Manager Jef Martin trained the staff on Active Shooter and Open Carry policies. In addition, Children’s Librarian Amy Roberts attended Advanced Overdrive Training at Guerra on February 23 and Lib Guides 2 Training at Central on March 2.



Programs have been well attended during this time period! The growing and popular Lego Club, conducted by Ms. Roberts, averaged 35 kids/parents. Maverick’s display case is filled with Lego creations each week! The Ladies Choice Book Club on February 27 had 20 attendees. In honor of Black History Month, Assistant Manager Ben Longoria booked a presentation about Hair Care Basics, with 36 patrons in attendance! The first adult coloring program was on Saturday, March 12. Library Assistant Cynthia Huntimer and Librarian I Pat King organized the program.

# McCRELESS



Story time themes included owls, bunnies and flowers. The children also learned some new songs and created animal dioramas using foam cut animals such as dinosaurs, sheep and snakes.



Family Fun involved lots and lots of play dough. This repeated itself for multiple weeks as the kids requested “let’s do that again!” They made animal shapes, pizza shapes, squares and house shapes. They got to pick what color to add to the play dough, and the most popular colors were green, orange and blue.



Displays are proving popular, especially rodeo displays and gardening displays. Easter books are starting to get checked out as well.



A patron donated a very large new teddy bear as well as half a dozen smaller bears to the Children’s area. They will be hugged and loved for years to come.



During early voting for the Primary Elections we saw a number of people who came to vote also come in to get library cards while they were here.



Two staff members celebrated anniversaries. Tina Hudec reached two years as Librarian II and Linda Ruiz reached ten years of dedicated service to SAPL.



The Adult Book Club discussed *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison on February 20 and *The Secret Life of Bees* on March 12.



The branch had 15 people in attendance for Saturday Movie Time on February 27. On February 28, McCreless hosted the St. Phillips Youth Wind Ensemble who played a moving selection of songs related to Black History Month.



McCreless Library hosted a “Blind Date with a Book” display in the young adult fiction area to celebrate Valentine’s Day. The display offered patrons the opportunity to take a chance at checking out an unknown title based on the written descriptions found on the wrapped book. Shortly after, the display changed to exhibit young adult fiction books that have been made into movies titled “Don’t Judge a Book by its Movie”.



In addition, Teen Time continues to host video games and board games on a weekly basis. It is a great opportunity to showcase the teens’ competitive skills and create friendships through gaming. There is great diversity amongst the teens and providing games brings them closer together to help them acknowledge similarities with their peers and build relationships.



Teen Tech week programming began the second week of March at McCreless. The branch hosted a program titled “Fun with Conductive Art”, which gave the teens the opportunity to create functioning circuits using batteries, copper wire, conductive paint, and LED lights. The teen librarian encouraged the teenagers to showcase teamwork and creativity with their projects. The total number of programs hosted at McCreless Library is four with an attendance of 31.

# MEMORIAL



In partnership with the Bexar County Elections office, Memorial Branch Library sponsored early voting from February 16-26th. Early voting at the library brought in neighborhood people who said they had not been to the library in a while; and Memorial Staff welcomed all new visitors with library information and signed them up for library cards. In addition, residents waiting in line to vote shopped from the Amigos Used Books cart.



Customer Appreciation Month continued throughout February at Memorial Branch Library. Adult patrons who checked out library materials received a heart-shaped note taped to their books thanking them for visiting the library, while children who visited the library received a free book, from donated books in good condition. This is a part of Memorial's on-going program "Catch You Reading." This has been a great program to let children know that we are paying attention to them and to encourage them to continue reading. Whenever staff sees a child reading in the library, they are presented with a free book and encouraged to keep reading.



Memorial Branch Library is hosting an annual UTSA student photo art exhibit from March 1-April 24<sup>th</sup>. Students from intermediate to advanced classes have eclectic artwork and photography on display. Photos are posted on the Library's Flickr site. Memorial Library hosts bi-monthly art exhibits that usually feature local artists or fellow non-profit groups.

## Children's



Children and their families enjoyed Kids Time, Story Time and Come and Go Crafts at Memorial Branch Library by listening to stories, performing action rhymes, and singing songs celebrating St. Valentine's Day. They also enjoyed springtime crafts, kites, gardening and other springtime themes. Memorial's Children's Librarian Trina Smith chaired the children's Play and Learn Committee to promote early literacy for the spring titled, *How Does Your Garden Grow?* Smith presented a variety of activities at the monthly children's meeting at Johnston Library and is assisting with Kids Time activities at Collins Garden Library until the children's librarian position is filled.



Memorial Branch Manager Jeannette Davies has been overseeing daily library operations at Memorial and Collins Garden Libraries. The entire Memorial Branch Library team has been busy spring cleaning the branch and revamping the meeting room and circulation area. They are also in the process of relocating the Large Print Books to the front of the library in an area with better lightening and in order to expand the Teen area. Teen programming resumes this week following early voting.

# MISSION



A Coloring for Adults program debuted at Mission on Sunday, March 13. Participants were provided coloring pages, color pencils, and soft music. The program received favorable reviews.



The Texas Ukrainian Society of Texas had a Music and Poetry program at Mission Branch on March 12.



Ongoing adult programs at Mission Library include Table Tennis for Adults, the Chess Club, and Fitness in the Park which provides yoga and cycle circuit classes. Trivia Game Night was reinstated for the first Thursday of the month. Participants enjoyed the challenge.





Dedicated community members continue to care for Mission's Demonstration Garden. A variety of healthy plants and herbs can be seen growing in the raised beds.



Mission Teens gave back to the new Community Garden by creating craft stick place markers for vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Teens painted and decorated the place markers that will help everyone identify what's growing in the garden. Teens also participated in a digital scavenger hunt where they discovered and photographed specific items in the library for a prize. Teen Librarian Cynthia Cruz visited with 12 teens at the Bexar County Juvenile Detention Center. Ms. Cruz and Karen Barton, Teen Librarian from Tobin, provided an art activity as well as a small collection of donated books for the residents to read. Ms. Cruz also assisted Teen Librarian Marco Deleon at Librarypalooza, a teen author event held at Brandeis High School.



Mission was pleased to host two special groups of parents, children, and teachers from PreK4SA. On a Tuesday and Thursday, the groups had a library tour and gained information on library resources. A special Dr. Seuss story time and craft were provided in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Gilbert Elementary and Stonewall Flanders Elementary also visited this month for a tour to learn about what the library has to offer.



A special STEM program for children and their parents was well attended and appreciated. The families experimented and interacted with six different measurement activities. There was a lot of weighing, balancing, and measuring by kids from two to nine years old and it was a lot of fun.



Branch Managers Elma Nieto-Rodriguez and Nathaniel Laubner provided outreach at a CentroMed facility for families with young children on March 2. A book page craft along with library resource information were also provided.



On March 3, Librarian Oscar Gonzales began mentoring a colleague. The goal of the professional development sessions is to help focus work habits, to increase work performance and to learn what to expect from an Assistant Manager position.

## PAN AMERICAN



In partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department, the Pan American Branch continued to host weekly Fitness in the Park exercise programs such as Tai Chi Easy and Gentle Stretch Yoga. To foster a more family-friendly environment at the branch, adult coloring was held to coincide with Lego Club on Monday evenings. Parents got the chance to de-stress while their children were creative and socialized with others.



Children's Librarian Gladis Martinez continued to hold weekly activities for children and families such as Lego Club, Come and Go Crafts, and Bilingual Story Time. On February 19, the branch hosted a Girl Scouts sign up event where families could learn more about scouting and partake in a fun craft. Ms. Martinez also visited local area daycare centers, Head Starts, and elementary schools to share the joy of reading to youth in the community.



To engage with the local community, Adult Services Librarian Cindy Pope continued to visit the Normoyle Community Center and held various activities such as coloring and book clubs. Plans are

currently in the works to have a trivia game event at the center as well. Branch Manager Nathaniel Laubner along with the Branch Manager from the Mission Library attended a Healthy Living Fair at the Centro Med Clinic on March 2. Information about the San Antonio Public Library was distributed to attendees and a book-themed craft was available.



On March 9, the Pan American Branch hosted SAPD Officer Summerville from the San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) unit to talk to branch staff. Officer Summerville gave staff tips on how to better handle difficult situations with the public. Additionally, staff took the opportunity to ask questions about the new Texas Open Carry law.



In an effort to provide professional development opportunities to San Antonio Public Library employees, the Pan American Branch facilitated a workshop titled "Stress Management: Balancing Work and Life". The training session was presented by Deer Oaks, the employee assistance program provider for the City of San Antonio. The program helped attendees identify ways to achieve balance with personal, family, and work responsibilities. The seminar highlighted strategies that allowed participants to be more effective and more satisfied with both their home and work lives.

## PARMAN



The San Antonio Book Festival announced the winners of its third annual fiction writing contest. The theme was "Not all heroes wear capes". First place winner for the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> grade division is one of Parman's teen volunteers, Niraja Surendran, for her entry, *Bear* ([http://www.sapl.org/images/uploads/Niraja\\_Surendran-Bear.pdf](http://www.sapl.org/images/uploads/Niraja_Surendran-Bear.pdf)). Niraja is in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade at Ronald Reagan High School. She has been volunteering at the Parman branch since December 2014. In addition to regular volunteer tasks, Niraja has submitted over 25 book reviews for the teen blog and has created several book displays for the teen area. Parman staff are very proud of Niraja's accomplishments and encourage her love of reading and writing.



A member of Paws for Service recently approached Parman staff about bringing Read to a Dog as a weekly program. Children's Librarian Carrie Vance worked with the group to schedule weekly registered times for children to read to a dog as well as time for children to visit with the dog. This program was very popular in the past and staff expect the slots to fill quickly once patrons find out it has resumed.



In order to become an Eagle Scout, Parman patron Camden Barnes built a small patio and picnic table behind the library. The table provides additional seating in a shady spot for patrons as well as staff.



Senior Circulation Attendant Cara Garcia set up a Women's Basic Self Defense class through the local Gracie Barra Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Twelve women took part in the class. The instructor has already inquired about future classes, and participants asked if we would offer it again.



For Contemporary Art Month, the Parman Gallery is featuring the Enigmatic Ms Jones. Her exhibit *Methods & Madness* is now on display and an opening reception was held on March 12.



Spring DIY U continued with three more classes. Branch Manager Haley Holmes taught participants how to make hypertufa pots and fairy garden furniture. The students got messy outside with concrete, perlite, and peat moss to make their pots in molds made from recycled materials. The fairy garden furniture was made from sticks found outside. Parman patron Elaine Stephens taught a class on simple needlepoint creating coasters made from recycled plastic bags. Circulation Attendant Carmen Zarate and Library Aide Evelyn Cabrera presented a two- part class where students made piñatas from scratch. All of the classes have filled this semester.

## PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS



Children's Services recognized Black History Month during Kids' Time with a look back at the history of voting rights. After listening to the book *Lillian's Right to Vote*, children and parents took part in the discussion and were very interested in finding out more about voting rights and the Civil Rights Movement. Afterwards, kids took part in their own election of their favorite storybook character. The overwhelming winner was the popular *Pete the Cat*. Another exciting event was the annual celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Kids and parents listened to the popular title *Green Eggs and Ham* and had fun constructing their own bingo game complete with "green eggs" and "criss cross bacon strips" for playing pieces.



For the second year, the two Science SPARK events continue to be a popular draw for children. Many parents have expressed their delight in seeing their children so excited about science. The events are taught by Roosevelt High School science teachers, and a group of high school teen volunteers assist children with the various experiments. Recently, children learned about DNA and made DNA bracelets from pipe cleaners and colorful beads. During the tween event, children learned about the different parts of the brain and listened to the book *Take a Deep Breathe* by Sue Graves. SPARK continues to be a successful collaboration between Roosevelt High School and the Molly Pruitt Library.



Children's Librarian Cynthia Saenz attended outreach at the Walzem WIC Center where she spoke to a number of expectant mothers about the important role of parents in early literacy. Parents were excited to receive their baby's first book. They were also provided with information detailing library programs, specifically Baby Time and Toddler Times at various SAPL branches. Librarian Rachael Downen also attended an outreach event during Career Day at Walzem Elementary where she spoke to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students about a career as a librarian.



On March 6, Pruitt Library hosted a bi-annual Mag-7 Chess Tournament in which many students from the Roosevelt-area schools competed. Community members, parents, coaches and all library patrons could watch the tournament live via streaming telecast in the main part of the library. We are thankful for the chess program's great sponsors Rackspace and Domino's Pizza. They enable the Pruitt Library and the area schools to continue to offer chess classes and tournaments throughout the year.



Children visiting Pruitt are looking forward to the third annual *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* Party during the upcoming Spring Break.



The teen librarian made outreach connections with four schools; White Middle School, Krueger Middle School, Premier High School, and South West Preparatory. Outreach establishes relationships with the new librarians at the middle schools, and new relationships with the charter schools.



The Pruitt teens took a field trip to Northside ISD's annual *LibraryPalooza* event on February 27, where the students attended author sessions and signings. The field trip fostered the love of reading and garnered new enthusiasm for book and author festivals. One teen described the day as "the best day of my life."



On the 2nd Wednesday of the month, the teens learn about the 3D printer and use the free software from TinkerCad123D. The teen librarian had to make a major change to the class structure because the ability levels are so varied. There is no one teacher because the students and the librarian learn from each other. The best part is that some of the students have interned with design companies, so the learning is truly collaborative.



While short, February was a busy time for regular adult services programming at Pruitt! The branch continues to offer weekly and monthly adult services programming such as Zumba Exercise, ESL, Technology Training, Health Care signup, and SNAP. These programs are the core of adult programming for the branch.



In honor of Black History Month, Pruitt hosted weekly Black History Month Movie Matinees including movies such as *Selma*, *42: The Jackie Robinson Story*, *Akeelah and the Bee*, and *Driving Miss Daisy*.



The branch's formal technology training grew in both numbers attending and scope. February's classes included "Using Microsoft Templates" and "Writing Resumes using MS Word". These adult classes have a focus on not only increasing technology skills, but also providing skills for the 21st Century workforce.



On March 12, the branch will be hosting Make San Antonio who will lead adult patrons in creating beautiful one-of-a-kind Fiesta medals.

## SAN PEDRO



Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton continues to present monthly story times to children at Educare Child Care Center, Study Hall Learning Center (two classes), Monte Vista Montessori (two classes) and Laurel Heights Weekday School. She also presented a monthly story time to two groups of children (each group was a combination of two classes) at Respite Care, a childcare facility for developmentally disabled children.



In house programming includes Baby Time on Monday mornings, the popular Mine craft Monday Club, and Kids Time on Wednesdays. Kids Time programming includes LEGO club on the first Wednesday of the month, STEM activities on two Wednesdays, and an outdoor activity on one of the Wednesdays. During this period, the children experienced an outdoor scavenger hunt. They also explored science and art by using different mediums on different surfaces and discussing the results. LEGO club occurred on one of the Wednesdays and the children enjoyed constructing various vehicles. As an interesting sidelight, two of the children who attended last month's after hours sensory program for children on the autism spectrum and their families came to LEGO club! Following LEGO club they

received library cards and checked out four books apiece! Ms. Dalton was very happy to see the children so soon! Having the family return and get library cards was definitely a goal for the special program!



Ms. Dalton facilitates ongoing monthly book clubs at Hawthorne Academy (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade clubs) Elementary School.



On February 18, Ms. Dalton attended Career Day at Hawthorne Academy and spoke to a delightful 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class about the joys of being a children's librarian.



On March 6, Ms. Dalton facilitated a Family Science Time about measurement. The children measured how far they could jump, weighed various items using a soda bottle spring scale, and explored capacity.

Ms. Dalton has been meeting regularly with the other members of the STEAM Committee to design a Fall Family Science Time about gravity.

Staff at the Branch is very happy to welcome new Library Circulation Attendant Robert Briseno to the team. He returns to the library system after several years away.

The Friends of San Pedro Branch had a meeting in February. They are very pleased with the proceeds from the ongoing book sale. They also have plans to develop a Friends of the Library "Logo" contest, as well as other fund raisers.

## SEMMES



The Semmes Branch Library served as an Early Voting site for the March primaries. Early Voting ran from February 16 through February 26. Semmes was one of the busier locations, usually in the top five busiest locations. Although the first week of Early Voting showed a steady turnout, the last week was very busy, especially the last two days. So many people turned out to vote on Friday, the line snaked all through the branch. There were over 100 people in line at times. It was great to see such great voter turnout.



Kirsten Lorenzen, Children's Librarian I, started at the branch in late December. After a month of observing Randi Jones' story times, Ms. Lorenzen took over the two Baby Time programs. This is in addition to her weekly Tween Time programs. She is enjoying interacting with the babies and sharing early literacy information with their parents. Ms. Jones continues to do the Preschool, Toddler and Family Fun story times for the branch.



The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla #74 has been holding their monthly meetings at the Semmes Branch Library. Their meetings are open to anyone interested in the Coast Guard or who wants to learn more about watercraft and watercraft safety.



The monthly *Growing Up Wild, Exploring Nature* program, presented by Randi Jones, continues to grow in attendance. This month, the children and their grown-ups were invited to go outside, into Comanche Lookout Park, and explore the world of ants. The children were able to see ants working and conducted an experiment to see which type of food the ants preferred. Back in the meeting room, participants heard stories about ants and did an ant craft.

## THOUSAND OAKS





Children's programs for the reporting period included Lego Time, Come and Go Crafts, Toddler Time and Story Time. In Story Time, the kids participate in a craft or an activity after listening to stories. Highlights included an ocean animal theme and the kids painted die cut fish with Styrofoam peanuts. On jungle day, the kids had a blast playing in a swamp sensory bin, which was made with green Jell-O and plastic bugs and snakes. Toddler Time participants build with foam blocks after the program ends, and they enjoy knocking down their creations as much as building them! Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser presented three programs about ocean animals during her monthly outreach at a local daycare.

On March 2, students and parents from Pre-K 4 SA East came to Thousand Oaks for a family program. Usually the family programs take place at the campus, but this was the first time they had the event at another location. More than 30 kids and family members listened to stories and many received their library cards.

Thousand Oaks served as a polling site on March 1. Election Day brought in many people excited to see democracy in action.

Library Assistant, Tina Reid hosted a very successful Tween Time in March. She coordinated a STEM/kitchen science activity in which Tweens made lava lamps from plastic bottles, water, vegetable oil, fizzy tablets, food coloring and glitter. Tweens learned about acids and bases and CO<sub>2</sub>.

Mrs. Reid, Terry Verner from Tobin Library at Oakwell, and Cindy Pope from Pan American, hosted Trivia Time at the Northeast Senior Center. The program was well received and featured questions about *Downton Abbey*, Valentine's Day, history, and the 1950s-1970s.

Teens at Thousand Oaks have been having fun making brownies in a mug, watching movies, and playing board and electronic games. Part-time Circulation Attendant Jasmine Gonzalez and Teen Liaison Steven Barrera had the teens "strung up" while creating string art. The teens created a design using nails and then string to create their own artwork. They had a bang up good time.



Thousand Oaks' computer classes have been successfully conducted by Branch Manager Troy Lawrence. For each of the classes, there has been an average of four attendees. Jorge Chavez continues to conduct Conversational English classes. Adult Coloring happens each Wednesday at 6 p.m..



*Inside the O'Briens* by Lisa Genova was the Thousand Oaks Book Club selection for the month of February. Many of the participants knew very little about Huntington's disease, and a discussion ensued about the ramifications one would face as a result of being diagnosed with such a dreaded illness. Although the book seemed a rather dire selection for the group, many commented that the information gathered was quite enlightening. Light refreshments were served.

## TOBIN AT OAKWELL



Early Voting from February 16 – 26 was a primary focus at Tobin Library at Oakwell as turnout was quite heavy with large crowds compared to years past. The same held true on Election Day March 1. On February 25, an awesome highlight was when Librarian T. Knouse asked a lady who had finished voting how long she had to wait. She responded she didn't have to wait due to her age. She was 102 years old and drove herself to vote that day. This was announced to the entire library and she received a well-deserved standing ovation.



In honor of Black History Month, children learned about the Voting Rights Act and could participate by voting for their favorite picture book character – Pete the Cat or Curious George. Weekly votes were tallied and posted and in the end Curious George won with 381 votes over Pete's 314 votes.

Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse continues with clever programming ideas for adults. Adult Play encompasses crafts and presentations on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. Then on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, adults color while relaxing with music and refreshments. This group has grown to consistently over 20 people as folks delight in the detailed art work they make.



Children's programming this period included a Play and Learn with a rainbow color theme created and hosted by Library Assistant Elvia Ramos on March 4. Colors are encompassed into various sensory, motor, art and math play stations. Sensory bottles with rice, counting foam blocks, stamping Play-Doh and matching colored small plastic fruit are a few examples children ages 5 and under enjoyed with their caregivers.



A come and go craft was held all day on March 2 in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday. Kids could make a truffula tree bookmark similar to the trees in Seuss' book, *The Lorax*. Patrons generously contributed donated books to help fill a box for SA for Youth Literacy Book Buddies project during this period also.



Outreach is active at the branch involving a number of staff. Library Assistant Terry Verner attended Northeast Senior Center with Tina O'Reid from Thousand Oaks on February 15. Together the two entertained seniors with fun and educational questions utilizing a trivia wheel. Manager T. Knouse hosted a table at NEISD's Adult Career Fair with Carver Library's Learn Officer Jeanne Johnson on February 26. The pair shared information on library and Learn Center services with adults job hunting and looking to further their education. Teen Librarian Karen Barton conducts outreach at Bexar County's Juvenile Detention Center along with Librarian C. Cruz from Mission Library. Ms. Barton visits MacArthur High School monthly as well. On February 25, Ms. Knouse and Troy Lawrence, Thousand Oaks Manager, delivered 166 packets of branch calendars with SAPL brochures that will be distributed to all residents at San Antonio Housing Authority's three locations – Rutledge, Cross Creek and Beldon.



Tobin Library said goodbye to Children's Librarian Elvia Sanchez Kissner with mixed emotions. Ms. Sanchez Kissner accepted a promotion with the City of San Antonio as its archivist in February. Fortunately, Gladis Martinez from Pan American has graciously filled in for Toddler and Story Time for 3 weeks to help the branch. Branch personnel have taken over all other children's programming including Baby and Tween Time, Lego Club, Play and Learn and Come and Go Crafts each week. Library Aide Soudabeh Arvin and Selrico Custodian Terrie O'Campo received recognition with movie tickets for going above and beyond to help the team. Patron Jackie Dixon verbally complimented employees on March 2, remarking "all staff at Tobin is always so wonderful and helpful" after an address and phone number in Florida was located for her.

## TEXANA/GENEALOGY



Texana/Genealogy was approached with a unique problem. A patron told the story of a D-Day survivor, 95 years of age, who was now in a nursing home having lost his wife ten years ago. He was not regularly visited and had little around him from his previous life. The patron said that she had heard that he was especially saddened by the lack of photographs of his wife. The patron had no idea if such a thing were even possible, but asked if staff might be able to help. After ascertaining that contacting living relatives would not be an option, staff gathered enough information to locate various sources via Ancestry.com, including his marriage license and several yearbook photos of his wife just prior to their marriage. This patron had no personal interest in Texana/Genealogy or any background with research prior to contacting us. She expressed her amazement and thrill at the "genius" of Texana/Genealogy staff to satisfy her wish and hopefully bring some happiness to a deserving veteran.



For African American Heritage month, Sylvia Reyna (Texana/Genealogy division) presented a class on African American Genealogy on February 25. She illustrated what databases, books and additional resources are available to help uncover African American family history.



Ms. Reyna also met with Kathleen Petty and Jenn Hair from San Antonio Magazine for an interview and photo shoot featuring the Fiesta Medal collection donated to SAPL in 2014 by Randy Bear. Part of the collection will be put on display in the Texana room in celebration of our City's "Party with a purpose". The article will be featured in the April edition of SA Magazine.



Matt De Waelsche conducted a class on Ancestry Library Edition in the Internet Training Room on March 1.



On March 11, over 700 San Antonio African-American funeral programs returned to Texana/Genealogy from the University of North Texas in Denton after being scanned for the Portal to Texas History website.



On February 25, Texana/Genealogy lost one of its most devoted and enthusiastic patrons, Mary Esther Zahradnick. Ms. Zahradnick began researching her family history shortly after she retired, and she spent much of the last 15 years pouring over our books, microfilm and all the genealogy databases available in an effort to find her ancestors. She was able to trace her father's family back 10 generations to 1725. She spent the better part of 10 years searching for what happened to her grandmother and finally uncovered the fact that she died in the same hospital where she had been born. Ms. Zahradnick loved helping people, and she was able to reunite families lost to one another for decades through her research efforts. She touched many lives, using her skills and the materials here in Texana to find answers to their questions and make them feel connected to their past. She will be sorely missed.

## WESTFALL



This is the second year Westfall Branch has been a VITA site and word has spread. The branch has seen a far greater number of people stopping by to get their taxes prepared for free. Volunteers are at Westfall five days a week and on those days people begin lining up outside an hour or two prior to opening. Westfall was also a busy polling place during the March 1 Primary. Precincts 2058 and 2085 both vote at Westfall. This year, 446 voters turned out compared to the March 2014 Primary when only 241 voters turned out.



Learn at SAPL Training Officer Michelle Dangler and Cody Branch Librarian II Adam Spana worked the Low Vision Fair at Colonial Hills United Methodist Church. This marks the third year Westfall and Cody have teamed up to work the Low Vision Fair. Michelle and Adam spoke with approximately 160 people that day. Michelle also helped out with the Job Fair at Carver Branch Library. Job Fairs are scheduled at all four Learn Center branches. Westfall's Job Fair is set for April 27.



February was a month of training for all staff. Branch Manager Sherrie Hardin trained Westfall staff on the Open Carry Law. The branch's librarians and library assistant attended training on Reasonable Suspicion and all other staff members were updated on a number of new Administrative Directives. The Westfall manager also viewed a Homeland Security webinar on the importance of developing an emergency response plan and the need to train employees on how to respond if confronted with an active shooter.



Children's Librarian Imelda Merino hosted students from the Discovery School. The students walk over to the library to hear a story from Miss Imelda and to check out books. Imelda also conducted outreach events at Wilson Elementary School and Jackson Keller Elementary School.



Assistant Branch Manager Jernell Williams has been helping out at Collins Garden Branch Library by serving as Librarian in Charge on select days.



Sherrie also concluded a six-week adult coloring program called Color Me Calm at Granados Adult and Senior Center. Sherrie also completed a three-part webinar called Patron Privacy: What Texas Library Staff Should Know.

San Antonio Public Library  
Fiscal Year-to-Date Comparisons  
Feb 2016 (41.7% of FY Completed)

Performance Measures	FYTD 16	FYTD 15	% Chg	FY 16 Goal	% of Goal Achieved	FY 16 Status
Total Circulation	2,934,223	2,856,653	2.7%	7,455,000	39.4%	✓
- Physical Circulation	2,482,901	2,507,970	-1.0%	6,395,065	38.8%	✓
- Digital Circulation	451,322	348,683	29.4%	1,059,935	42.6%	✓
Visits	2,151,655	2,150,026	0.1%	5,493,000	39.2%	✓
Program Attendance	134,579	121,970	10.3%	350,890	38.4%	✓
- Adult's Program Attendance	28,289	17,926	57.8%	57,000	49.6%	✓
- Teen's Program Attendance	16,307	21,486	-24.1%	43,890	37.2%	⬜
- Children's Program Attendance	89,983	82,558	9.0%	250,000	36.0%	✓
Hours of Computer/Wi-Fi Use	954,599	953,395	0.1%	2,410,000	39.6%	✓
Website and App Visits	1,338,212	1,338,113	0.0%	3,658,000	36.6%	✓
Bexar County (Outside the City of San Antonio)			Customer Satisfaction*			
% of Circulation	FYTD 16	FYTD 15	2014	2012		
Total Circulation	20.3%	19.1%				
- Physical Circulation	19.1%	18.3%	96%	94%		
- Digital Circulation	27.0%	25.2%				

Goal Status   ✓ = On Target   ⬜ = Monitor   ⛔ = Not on Target

FY 16 Renovations/Closures: Collins Garden Oct 1 - Jan 10

FY 15 Renovations/Closures: Central May 15, Collins Garden Jun 22 - Sep 30

FY 15 Openings: Encino opened April 30

\* From the Biennial City of San Antonio Community Survey



# San Antonio Public Library

## February 2016 Usage

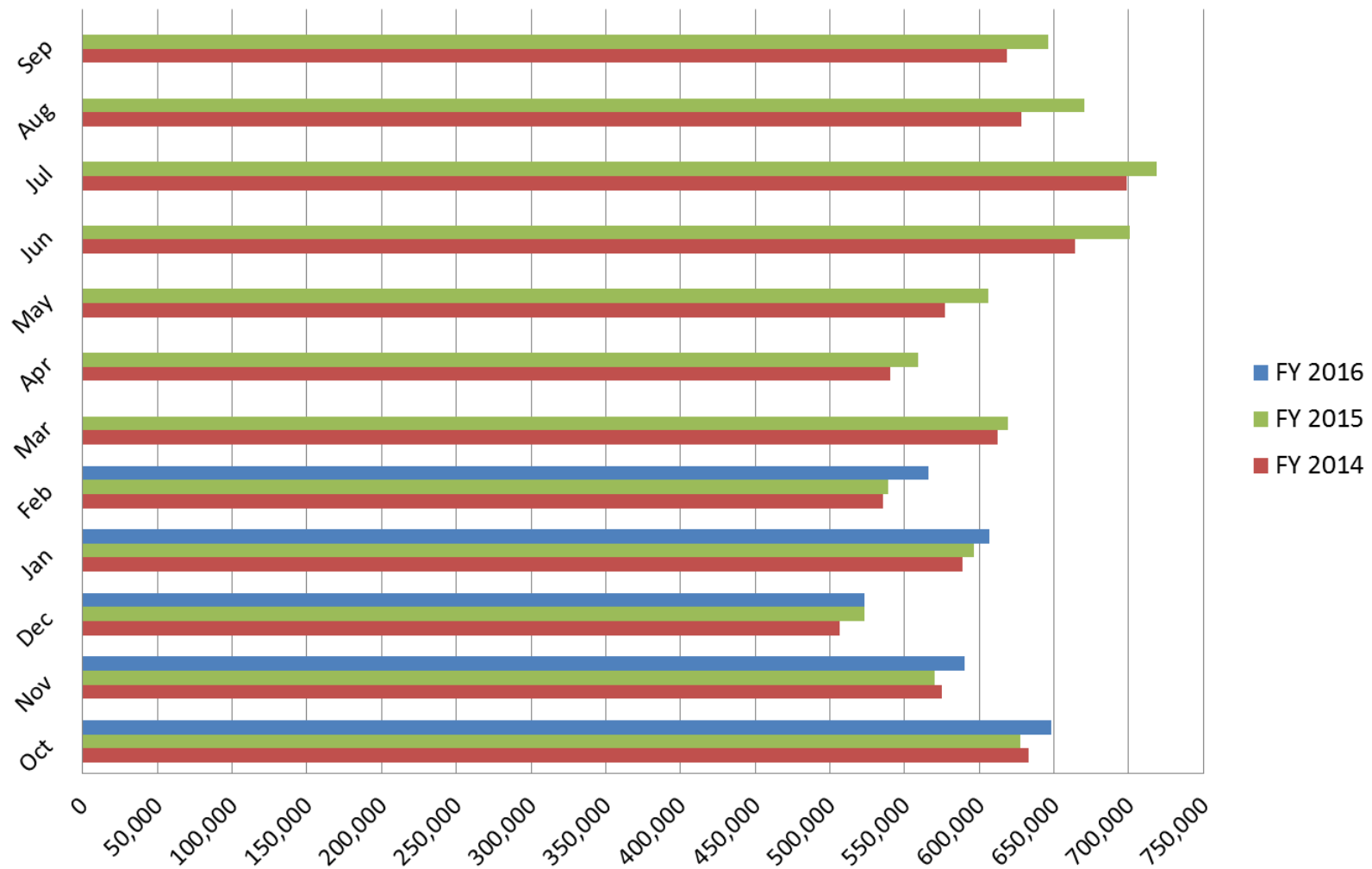
Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Total Programs	Number of Programs			Total Program Attendance	Attendance			Hours of Computer / Wi-Fi Use*	Computers - Hours of Use*	Wi-Fi - Hours of Use
				Adult	Teen	Children's		Adult Programs	Teen Programs	Children's Programs			
Bazan	5,417	12,072	43	18	4	21	235	79	5	151	6,543	1,820	4,723
Brook Hollow	25,004	29,073	39	10	0	29	788	67	0	721	5,709	1,466	4,242
Carver	4,287	9,861	49	19	3	27	707	244	10	453	4,886	2,024	2,862
Central	27,689	60,769	207	47	55	105	3,925	953	488	2,484	43,869	13,899	29,970
Cody	35,511	30,536	58	6	5	47	1,803	76	68	1,659	7,310	1,644	5,666
Collins Garden	6,289	10,616	12	1	3	8	106	5	22	79	6,418	1,484	4,934
Cortez	6,079	10,370	91	75	4	12	271	173	48	50	4,424	1,746	2,678
Encino	18,951	16,430	95	36	11	48	2,016	583	143	1,290	4,079	400	3,680
Forest Hills	7,717	10,627	42	16	3	23	486	98	1	387	4,769	1,324	3,444
Great Northwest	29,057	21,977	43	21	6	16	1,667	340	131	1,196	6,383	2,020	4,363
Guerra	12,525	16,468	44	13	5	26	880	160	185	535	7,691	2,247	5,444
Igo	25,584	27,957	64	14	18	32	2,908	122	151	2,635	5,593	1,477	4,116
Johnston	10,836	14,821	39	13	8	18	607	237	146	224	5,642	1,438	4,204
Landa	10,502	11,332	33	4	4	25	869	31	13	825	2,389	855	1,535
Las Palmas	6,185	11,676	55	14	6	35	511	157	11	343	4,989	1,851	3,139
Maverick	23,343	18,608	36	5	5	26	1,117	103	64	950	6,101	2,229	3,873
McCreless	11,472	16,693	19	5	5	9	183	48	37	98	6,199	1,920	4,279
Memorial	6,232	12,207	52	2	3	47	316	41	16	259	6,237	1,839	4,398
Mission	11,547	22,733	55	17	15	23	970	193	366	411	9,761	2,642	7,119
Pan American	7,610	9,752	63	15	6	42	696	165	13	518	5,181	2,097	3,084
Parman	27,563	27,048	101	30	4	67	1,552	258	37	1,257	5,070	913	4,156
Pruitt	5,601	11,227	92	28	29	35	1,293	207	455	631	5,641	1,422	4,219
San Pedro	3,993	7,002	33	2	0	31	328	0	0	328	2,429	670	1,759
Semmes	23,675	24,745	48	4	7	37	982	15	39	928	6,845	2,451	4,394
Thousand Oaks	10,814	15,454	34	13	5	16	396	46	45	305	5,980	1,328	4,651
Tobin	18,538	23,131	67	22	10	36	1,331	162	171	998	5,578	1,747	3,831
Westfall	16,651	17,213	43	27	0	16	305	77	0	228	8,002	2,309	5,694
Kampmann Library Portal	N/A	1,596	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	1,011	N/A	1,011
Interlibrary Loan Lending	1,027	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Online/Phone Renewal	76,073	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Digital	89,995	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>565,767</b>	<b>501,994</b>	<b>1,557</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>27,248</b>	<b>4,640</b>	<b>2,665</b>	<b>19,943</b>	<b>194,730</b>	<b>57,263</b>	<b>137,466</b>

Circulation includes Digital (Freegal, OneClick, Overdrive) and NEISD materials to SAPL patrons at Pruitt

\* Library introduced new print management system. Hours of Computer Use partially estimated during transition (Oct 15-Feb 16)

# San Antonio Public Library

## Circulation



### Location Closures

FY 16: Collins Garden Oct 1-Jan 12

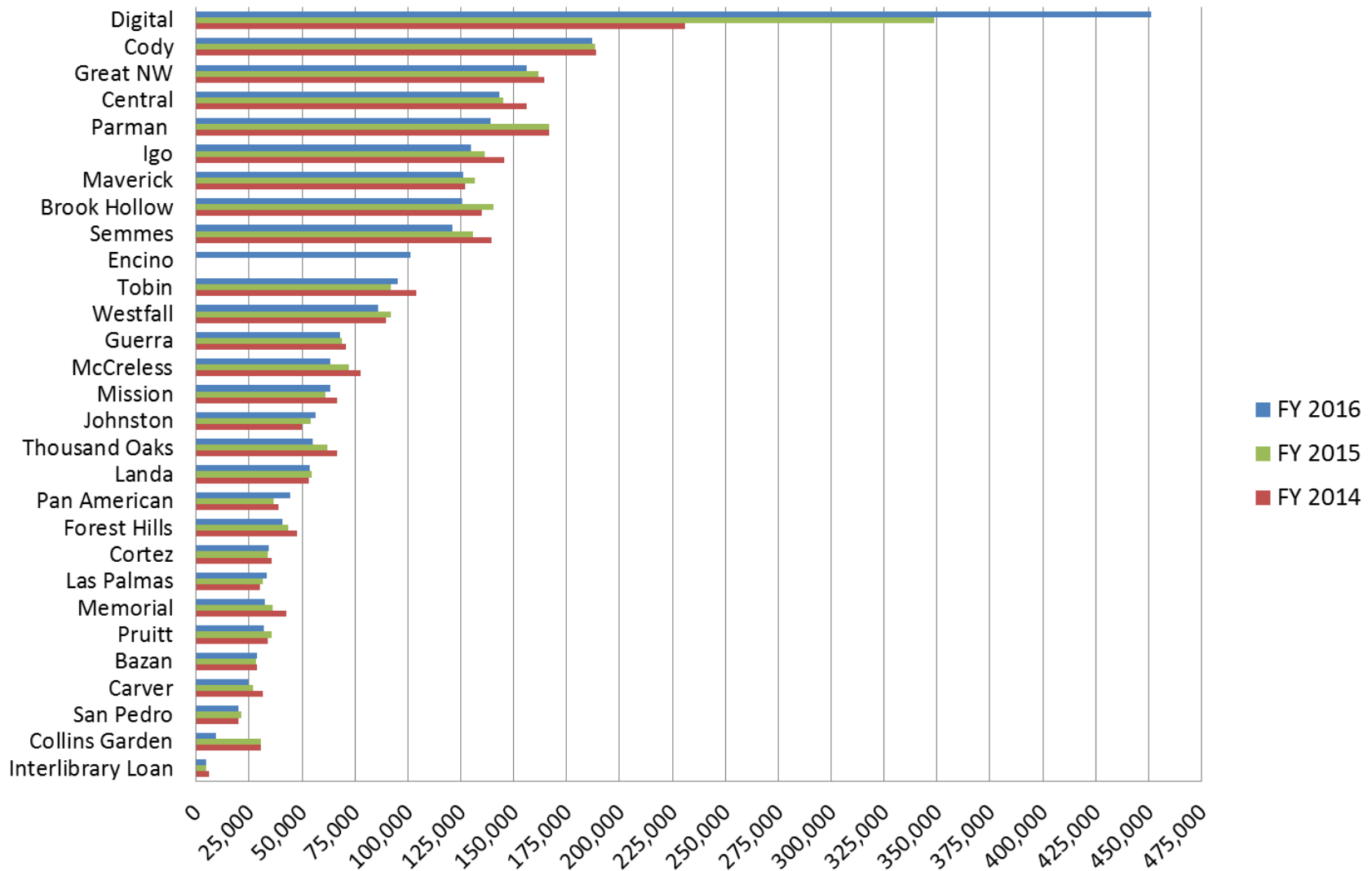
FY 15: Central May 15, Collins Garden Jun 22-Sep 30, \* Opening: Encino April 30

FY 14: Cortez Jun 9-29, Westfall Jul 28-Aug 3, Tobin Aug 4-Aug 31, Carver Sep 9-28

03/16/2016

# San Antonio Public Library

## Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - Feb



Location Closures

FY 16: Collins Garden Oct 1-Jan 12

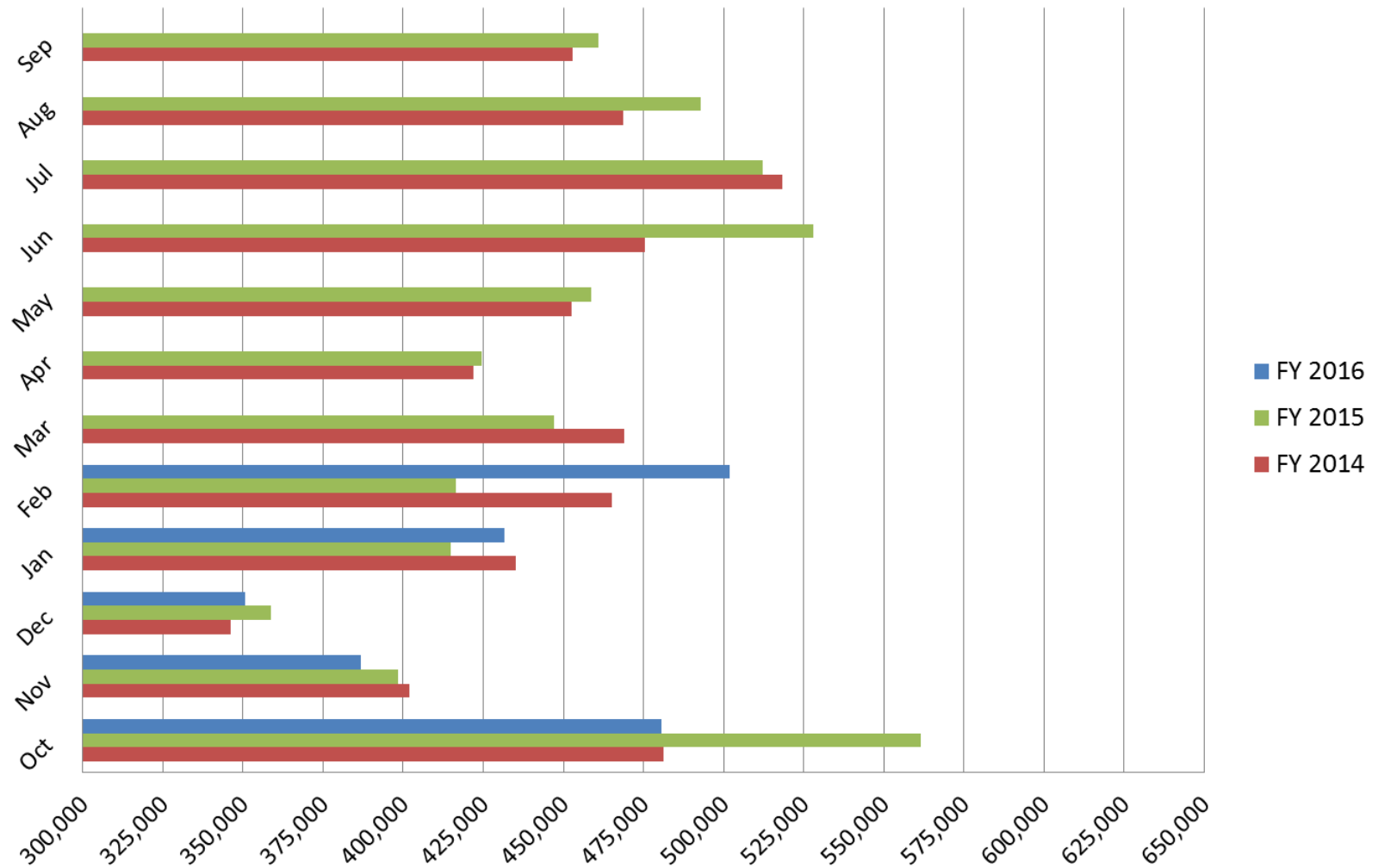
FY 15: Central May 15, Collins Garden Jun 22-Sep 30, \* Opening: Encino April 30

FY 14: Cortez Jun 9-29, Westfall Jul 28-Aug 3, Tobin Aug 4-Aug 31, Carver Sep 9-28

03/16/2016

# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits



### Location Closures

FY 16: Collins Garden Oct 1-Jan 12

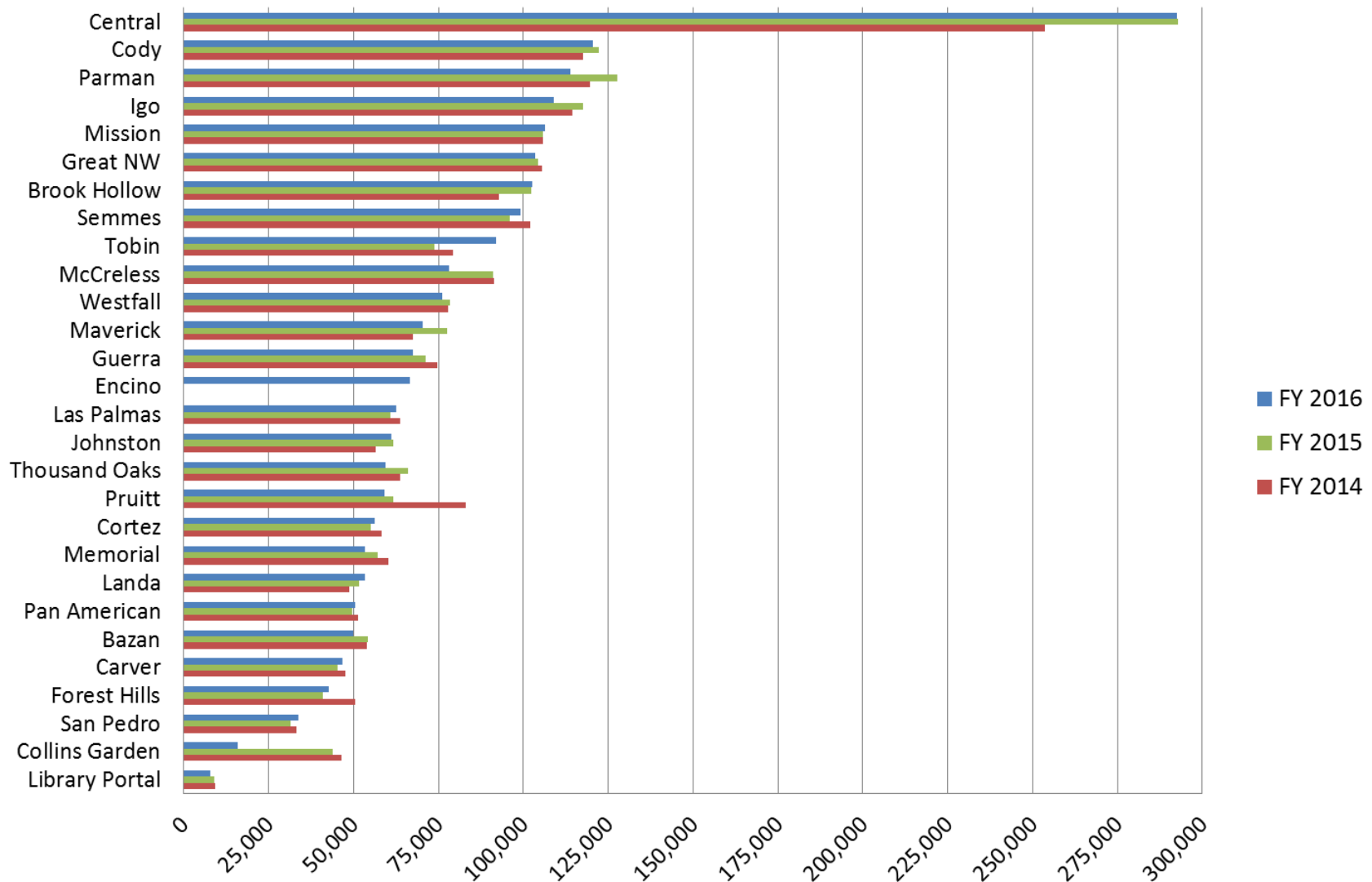
FY 15: Central May 15, Collins Garden Jun 22-Sep 30, \* Opening: Encino April 30

FY 14: Cortez Jun 9-29, Westfall Jul 28-Aug 3, Tobin Aug 4-Aug 31, Carver Sep 9-28

03/16/2016

# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - Feb



Location Closures

FY 16: Collins Garden Oct 1-Jan 12

FY 15: Central May 15, Collins Garden Jun 22-Sep 30, \* Opening: Encino April 30

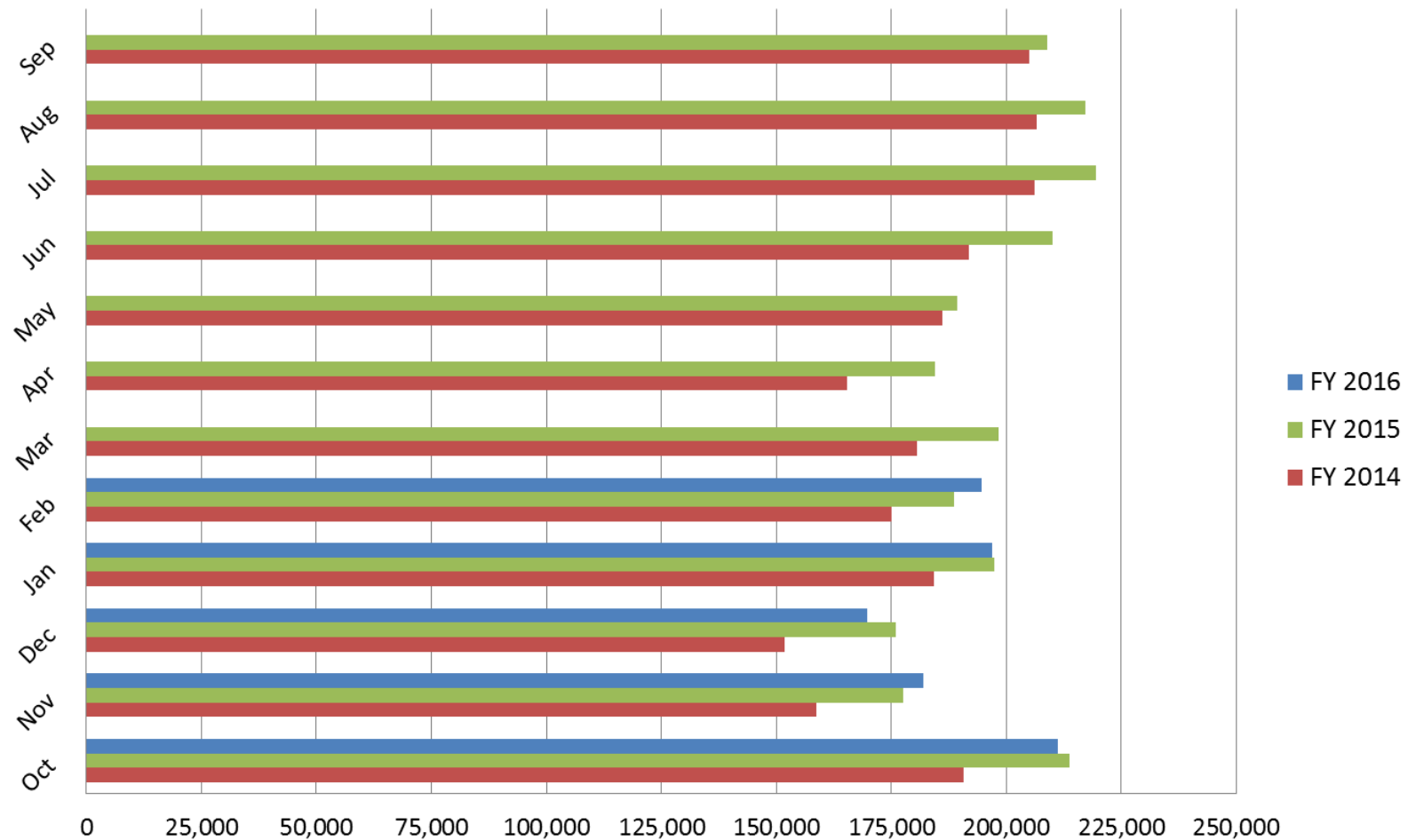
FY 14: Cortez Jun 9-29, Westfall Jul 28-Aug 3, Tobin Aug 4-Aug 31, Carver Sep 9-28

03/16/2016



# San Antonio Public Library

## Hours of Computer/Wi-Fi Use



\*Combined measure of Public Computers Hours of Use and Wi-Fi Hours of Use

### Location Closures

FY 16: Collins Garden Oct 1-Jan 12

FY 15: Central May 15, Collins Garden Jun 22-Sep 30, \* Opening: Encino April 30

FY 14: Cortez Jun 9-29, Westfall Jul 28-Aug 3, Tobin Aug 4-Aug 31, Carver Sep 9-28

03/16/2016