



San Antonio Public Library  
Director's Report  
February 2018

Staff Transformation Day – February 19, 2018

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# DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



Sixteen (16) San Antonio Public Library Branch Libraries will serve as an Early Voting site for the March 6, 2018 Joint Primary Election. Early voting begins on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 through Friday, March 2, 2018. The Cody Branch Library (D8), Brook Hollow Branch Library (D9) and the Mission Branch Library (D3) will concurrently serve as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. The Library anticipates at-capacity usage of the Cody Branch Library and its parking lot during Early Voting due to being the top Library Early Voting site in the County, a popular VITA site, and construction on Vance Jackson Street. The Library is taking necessary measures to handle an anticipated large volume of Library visitors.

The San Antonio Public Library organized an all-day Staff Development Day on Monday, February 19, 2018. Over 550 Library staff participated in the training which included a welcome from City Manager Sheryl Sculley, general sessions, break-out sessions and a group closing session with remarks from Assistant City Manager Lori Houston. Library staff expressed positive feedback regarding the training day.



The first rotation for the new and reinvented Mayor's Book Club will be sponsored by District 1. Councilman Roberto Trevino has selected 'airplanes' for February's month long Book Club theme. The kickoff for the District 1 iteration of the Mayor's Book Club took place on Saturday, February 10, 2018 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Landa Branch Library and was hosted by Councilman Trevino. All Libraries will promote the theme of 'airplanes' for the month of February with book recommendations and programs for all ages.



The San Antonio Public Library received notice of winning the 2018 Historic Preservation Award from the San Antonio Conservation Society for continued historic maintenance of the Landa Branch Library (D1). The Library will accept the award during the Historic Preservation Awards Dinner and Gala on March 28, 2018. The Landa Branch Library underwent external and internal improvements during the summer of 2017.



Beginning Monday, February 5, the Central Library served as the hosting site for the two week-long visit of the StoryCorps Airstream recording studio. A kick-off event was held Monday, February 5, 4:00 p.m. in the Central Library Auditorium. The focus of StoryCorps visit to San Antonio is the stories of military veterans and their families. However, all were welcomed to participate. Participants receive a CD recording and the option to have a copy preserved in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. StoryCorps is an independent nonprofit whose mission is to provide people of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of their lives.



In an article on Safer Internet Day on February 6, 2018, IFLA featured the partnership between the Teen Services at the San Antonio Public Library and grass-roots journalism organization NowCastSA. The article spoke about the important skills developed by young adults who are consumers of online information. IFLA is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession.

# MARKETING



Top media hits for the past month include: the opening of the 6th annual Holocaust Learn and Remember program on Monday, January 8 at the Holocaust Memorial Museum was featured in La Prensa; Our Family Reads: The Mayor's Book Club kick off was featured on KENS 5; Librarian Marco DeLeon and Senior Public Information Officer Marcie Hernandez appeared live on News 4 WOAI's 6:30 p.m. evening news on Wednesday, January 24 to promote the Library's Mission Film Festival; •Scott Huddleston's tricentennial feature story about Texana/Genealogy appeared in the Express-News on Sunday, January 28; Senior Public Information Officer Marcie Hernandez recorded an interview with San Antonio Solutions radio show on KTSA AM radio on Thursday, January 25; Alma Hernandez with FOLO Media visited Learn at SAPL at Bazan Branch Library during an ESL class on Saturday, February 3; The Mayor's Book Club event at Landa Branch Library on Saturday, February 10th received coverage from KENS 5; and Carver Branch Library's Black History Month events were featured on Fox 29 and News 4 WOAI.



The Marketing team supported efforts to organize, publicize, and staff several events during the reporting period including: Our Family Reads – The Mayor's Book Club at Landa Branch Library and Staff Transformation Day.



The design team has created materials to prepare for several programs, events and other design support as needed: March newsletter, collaterals for SAPLF funding request, Schaefer end caps, Summer Reading materials, Our Family Reads materials, Mission City Film Fest materials, Pop Con materials, Mini Maker Faire materials, Women's History Month materials, Coleen Grissom author visit materials, Engaged Spaces materials, Contemporary Art Month, the 2018 Fiesta Medal, and meeting room plaques for Parman and Mission Branch Libraries.



The team is currently planning for Pop Con, Our Family Reads- District 2, Mini Maker Faire, and San Antonio Book Festival.

## **Social Media fun facts for the reporting period:**

San Antonio Public Library received 472 likes on Instagram

#mysapl was used 461 times on Instagram during the reporting period.

San Antonio Public Library's Facebook page was looked at 303,065 times during the reporting period.

Facebook videos were viewed 1.6 K times during the reporting period.

## **Social Media statistics for the month:**

1. Facebook: 15,071 page likes
2. Twitter: 4,192 followers

3. Instagram: 2,273 followers
4. Snapchat: 115 followers

## DIGITAL SERVICES



Digital Services Analyst Tricia Masterson and Digital Library Assistant Andrea Silva participated in the final public input phase of the Library's IT Roadmap Project. The staff themed *Organizational Strategy* focus group, which was facilitated by Gartner, Inc., on Tuesday, January 30 involved service line staff members from many SAPL locations. The session was especially productive in providing the consultants with an in-depth look at internal SAPL practices, communication and culture.



Digital Services Supervisor Rolf Laun and Department Coordinator Ron Suszek finished interviewing for the open Digital Services Specialist position.



Digital Services staff, in conjunction with the City's ITSD department, has been working with BiblioCommons, producer of the MySAPL app, to address recent connectivity issues. The app is being monitored closely by the team and a temporary solution is in place as the issue is investigated further.



Digital Services Assistants Christina Hess and Ms. Silva helped coordinate and host a mini-workshop of the San Antonio Calligraphers' Guild at the Kampmann Portal on February 6. The workshop was in conjunction with the Briscoe Museum's Pony Express Love Letters event. The SACG members demonstrated hand-lettering techniques and helped Portal visitors with hands-on crafts. Ms. Hess also created a display of poetry and calligraphy books in support of the event.

## LITTLE READ WAGON



Early literacy workshops for parents were presented at the following elementary schools and Head Start centers: Rayburn, Schenck, Valley Hi, Adams, Cable, Fenley, Gillette, Passmore, Gilbert, Serna, Bellaire, Ball, Fenwick, Hopkins, Tynan, Carillo, Allen, and Linton.

Julia Lazarin presented an early literacy workshop for a group of parents and their children who are refugees from several countries. The group meets regularly to receive a variety of resettlement services at House of Prayer Lutheran Church.

Cresencia Huff presented a one-hour session at Parent Child Incorporated's (PCI) annual parent training on January 27. Parents spent the morning at the PCI headquarters and participated in several informative sessions.



Early literacy workshops were presented to teen parents at the following high school campuses: Churchill, Holmes, Highlands, Navarro (two visits), San Antonio Independent School District Homebound at Cooper, Taft (three visits), Tejada, McCollum, Harlandale, Stevens, Lanier, Roosevelt, and Kennedy. Clair Larkin and Megan Cruz introduced a new make-and-take activity based on the song “Los pollitos” or “the baby chicks.”



Story time programs were offered in classrooms at these early childhood centers: Nurturing Hearts, Center for New Communities (C4NC) at Stafford, Tynan, C4NC at Tynan, Navarro, and St. Philip's. A new outreach effort was introduced at Nite Owl Early Learning Center. This new effort includes three story time visits, either weekly or monthly, with a focus on newer children's book titles and songs.



The reading village was set up for four days at the Fenley Head Start Center, five days at Nelson Early Childhood Center, and two days at the smaller Gonzalez Early Childhood Center. At Gonzalez there were only four families who participated on the first day. However, school staff sent more reminders and personally encouraged parents to join in the next day, which resulted in 31 participants!



The Little Read Wagon team is looking forward to starting a new Play & Learn series at Woodlawn Lake on February 22. Ms. Lazarin has been busy making plans and preparing new activities.



Elizabeth Huber presented two breakout sessions and represented the Library at an information table at the Voices for Children Early Childhood Training and Resource Fair, held January 20 at Palo Alto College. Little Read Wagon also had another large group of teachers at the February 10 “Diversity in the Classroom: Building your library with mirrors and windows” training at Central Library.



Ms. Huff, Ms. Larkin, Ms. Huber, and Ms. Cruz all attended the February 8 Children's Services meeting. The team introduced the “Heartbeat” song as a timely addition to the group song repertoire. Ms. Larkin and Ms. Huff also assisted with the February 17 *All Around Us* book party, celebrating the publication of work by former team mate Xelena Gonzalez.



Ms. Lazarin and Ms. Huff attended training at the Bexar County Adult Detention Center (BCAD) in fulfillment of a requirement for all BCAD staff and volunteers. The Prison Rape Elimination Act training is presented annually to ensure everyone entering the facility is aware of safety concerns and reporting procedures.

Ms. Huff participated in the COSA Early Learning Summit held February 2 at Hardberger Urban Ecology Center. The training emphasized the importance of intentional language use and building on children's existing language. Every participant received a copy of *Thirty Million words: Building a child's brain*.

Ms. Lazarin received an ENCORE award for an exemplary demonstration of professionalism and teamwork at a Play & Learn event.



Ms. Huff and new employee Mary Grace Moreno met with Daniela Salinas of the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Students Raising Children organization. Ms. Salinas has led a group of UTSA students in making child care available for parents attending evening classes at UTSA's downtown



campus. Ms. Salinas is looking for ways to enrich the experience for children while they are in care, and offer much needed support to parents who are busy with school and work.

Ms. Huff presented an overview of Library and Little Read Wagon services to a group of nineteen Family Service Associates employed by Education Service Center 20 to support families at several Head Start centers in Bexar County. Among the centers represented were four sites Little Read Wagon has not visited within recent years, if ever. Ms. Huff will follow-up with representatives from those campuses and hopes to schedule visits before the end of the current school year.

## CHILDREN'S (SYSTEM-WIDE)



In conjunction with the release of the movie *Peter Rabbit*, 14 library locations hosted Peter Rabbit parties in late January and early February. The library parties included readings of Beatrix Potter's classic story along with a variety of other activities including planting carrot and spinach seeds, painting/printing with celery and other vegetables, and creating thumbprint carrots. The marketing arm of Sony pictures provided the seeds along with bookmarks and movie posters for those attending.

Children's Services is celebrating Black History month this February with preschool dance parties featuring "The Motown Sound." Music for these events includes Motown favorites such as *ABC* (The Jackson Five), *Please Mr. Postman* (The Marvelettes), *My Girl* (The Temptations) and *Stop! In the Name of Love* (The Supremes).

And of course, February always includes some Valentine's Day festivities for families. SAPL promoted these events with a variation on a well-known Valentine verse: Roses are red. Violets are blue. We're hosting a Valentine Party – just for you!

Looking ahead, the San Antonio Symphony will be returning in the spring to present "Symphony at SAPL" programs at 21 locations. Due to the precarious nature of Symphony funding, they were not able to commit to this programming until mid-January. Unfortunately, this delay in planning led to an abbreviated schedule that does not include every library location. However, SAPL is delighted to be able to continue to welcome the Symphony musicians and to expose children and their grown-ups to a little taste of classical music.



The Young Pegasus judges began reviewing the 2205 poems submitted to this year's competition in early January. Following their "first reading" 307 of the poems were moved on for additional reading, review and discussion. The judging panel expects to complete their work on February 22. At that point the selected poems will be checked for plagiarism and the poets will be notified of the pending publication of their work. The 2018 Young Pegasus Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 6 at the Guadalupe Theatre.



Children's Coordinator Viki Ash attended San Antonio Youth Literacy's (SAYL) workshop "Beyond Sounding It Out: Building Strategic Readers." SAYL is one of two agencies actively involved in the volunteer tutoring of students reading below grade level. The workshop session provided a tool kit of strategies for assisting struggling readers when they encounter words that defy phonetic analysis. Viki has worked with SAYL for several years both as a Reading Buddy volunteer and as a guest reader at their summer camp programs.

Viki participated in the COSA Early Learning Summit held at Hardberger Park's Urban Ecology Center. Designed primarily for administrative personnel of early childhood centers, the training emphasized language development and offered useful models for engaging with children displaying low/limited language abilities who are often overlooked in a group that includes one or two highly verbal children. The training was sponsored by COSA Head Start and Pre K 4 SA, agencies that interact frequently and effectively with SAPL's early literacy initiatives.

UTSA's Center for Inquiry of Transformative Literacies held a workshop of diversity in children's literature, a topic of considerable interest in the national conversation about children's books. Along with several of SAPL's children's librarians, Viki attended this event which featured Naomi Shihab Nye as the keynote speaker. The primary value of this three hour training was to better understand how teachers/schools approach diverse literary texts and how libraries/librarians can enhance student access and exposure to these books.

Viki also attended the American Library Association Midwinter Conference in Denver. She worked with other members of the 2018 Wilder Award Committee to select author Jacqueline Woodson as the recipient of this prestigious, national award. The Wilder, presented annually, is given in recognition of an author/illustrator whose books have made, over a period of years, a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children. Additional highlights of ALA Midwinter included a valuable session led by library directors who had successfully eliminated library fines for juvenile materials and a lively debate on libraries, equity, neutrality, and social justice.

## TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)



Teen Outreach Specialist Adam Tutor and Megan Coker (Teen Services Librarian I, Tobin) have begun a partnership with Premier High School of San Antonio, a charter school that gives non-traditional students an alternative approach to the conventional public school education systems. The faculty spends their days supporting students that are working to prepare for their GED and college application. The Library's role in the partnership is to give the students a break from their diligent work efforts, and lead a story time. Adam and Megan spend 30-45 minutes with three classes reading a book of their choice, which has to this point been Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*. The students have fully engaged with the reading and a strong relationship has been developed with an institution that is often overlooked in the education system of San Antonio.

Adam Tutor visited several high schools during the reporting period. Adam connected with Jefferson High School students at an after-school career fair and shared information about SAPL's Teen Services. He visited Harlandale High School and Harlandale Middle School on two separate dates for an after-school STEM fair that featured students' innovations. Adam shared information about the STEM opportunities available at the Teen Library at Central.

Adam supported Emily Young (Teen Services Librarian I, Mission Library) in a partnership with IDEA South Flores, sharing resources on the mysapl.org website, as well as showing the Teen Library outreach video and getting students signed up for library cards.



Thirty students from Cast Tech High School were treated to breakfast at the Central Library and then learned about different library jobs/careers as they visited several departments in the library. They got to see the "behind the scenes" aspects of library work. The students then divided up for



breakout sessions: the students received a business presentation by Lily Perez (Librarian I, Central Reference), a marketing presentation by Marcie Hernandez (Public Information Officer), Karla Vasquez (Marketing Specialist), and Giselle Weyte (Graphics Designer), and a presentation on resume tips and standing out when searching for jobs by Laura Villanueva (Training Officer, Organizational Health). At the end of the day, the students enjoyed lunch boxes from Jason's Deli and hanging out in the Teen Library.



On February 17, Metro Health/Project WORTH – in collaboration with Blonde Creative – filmed some videos at the Central Library to promote the DreamSA app for teens. Teen ambassadors were featured in the videos, and several videos were shot in the Teen Library.



On February 14, Teen Services Librarians and Teen Liaisons from around the SAPL system met in the Teen Library @ Central for their regularly scheduled meeting. Marcie Hernandez and Giselle Weyte in Marketing presented a training session for the group.



J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central) assisted the marketing department and Operation Transformation team by recording Marcie Hernandez in the Teen Library Studio. In the recording, Marcie introduces the new library mascot Smarty for Staff Transformation Day.

## ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)



The sixth annual Holocaust Learn and Remember series of events ended with a presentation at the Central Library by Dr. Edward Westermann, Texas A&M University professor. The talk, Art and the Holocaust: Artistic Representations Through the Eyes of Survivors, focused on art that was created in the camps and by survivors. The Gallery Exhibit for Holocaust Learn and Remember included art created after the liberation and had over 2,000 visitors.



Coordinator of Services for Adults Haley Holmes attended a livestreamed event created by Urban 15 at their studio. For the Tricentennial, Urban 15 is producing a live show each month called Hidden Histories. Each episode has a theme related to the history of San Antonio. The Library will be livestreaming episodes for the public at various locations in the coming months.



The first PopCon at the San Antonio Public Library will be on March 3 at the Central Library. A group of staff from throughout the system led by Tobin Assistant Manager Rhonda Woolhouse has been planning a day filled with activities based on popular culture. Panels with artists, authors, and experts will occur throughout the day. Other activities include a cosplay contest, art contest, gaming, crafts, and exhibitions. Mayor Ron Nirenberg will kick off the event which is for all ages.



The San Antonio Public Library is hosting the first Mission City Film Festival. Manager of Central Reference Marco De Leon and Thousand Oaks Assistant Manager Steven Barrera have organized the competition which is open to Bexar County residents of any age. The festival includes five categories, and prizes will be awarded at a ceremony on April 11 at the Santikos Silverado.



Coordinator of Services for Adults Haley Holmes co-chaired the Staff Transformation Day planning committee. Ms. Holmes also met with representatives from Haven for Hope to discuss how library services can be extended to their residents. Training Officers from Learn will participate in the upcoming Haven for Hope Resource Fair.

## CENTRAL LIBRARY

### CHILDREN'S



The Central Children's Department was thrilled to participate in the book release event for *All Around Us*, a picture book written by Xelena Gonzalez, a former colleague and good friend to many in the Central Children's Department. The book was recently awarded a Pura Belpré Honor! Librarian Lea Ann McDonald assisted with prep and facilitation of activities during the event, which took place in the Latino Collection and Resource Center.



Texas Woman's University MLS student Jacqueline Gonzales began her Practicum with the Central Children's Department this month. Her interest in Children's Services drew her to seek out the experience shadowing librarians during programs and increasing her knowledge of children's literature by participating in collection maintenance projects. Ms. Gonzales' enthusiasm and helpful demeanor has been an asset to the department.



The Children's Department's early literacy programs, *Play & Learn* and *Toddler Time*, were presented by Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin this month. Children enjoyed an imaginative play experience centered on cats and dogs, as they donned child-sized lab coats and used an array of toy medical tools to play veterinarian and tend to injured dog and cat puppets, a task they took very seriously! Afterward, they delighted in the sensory experience of making "dog biscuits" from oatmeal play dough. The imaginative play continued when Ms. Seglin created an extensive play house from oversized cardboard boxes, complete with cut out windows and doors. After sharing stories and songs about homes, the group tended to their household chores by doing laundry with the cardboard box dryer, cooking meals with the cardboard stovetop and oven, and using a pantry full of fake food. Finally, they cared for baby dolls and tucked them in bed. The highlight for toddlers this month was Ms. Seglin's elaborate Winter Olympics program. Stories about winter sports concluded with a toddler "Parade of Nations," with each child waving a tiny flag from a different country. Then the games began with an imaginative play ice skating rink and ski jump! Children experienced the sensory wonder of "snow" made from common household materials, and a tub full of ramen noodles in a nod to the Olympics' host city. Every child went home with a gold medal too! Families celebrated Valentine's Day together at programs that featured heart-shaped "cookie" making with red sparkle play dough, craft activities such as a hat decorated with hearts, and imaginative play with the "ice cream shop" storefront made from cardboard, complete with a working cash register.



Ms. McDonald developed enriching learning experiences with her *Family Fun* programs. In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, families created a unity banner decorated with their handprints made by shaking hands with others whose hands were painted in different colors. The color mixing activity was a symbolic act of friendship. They also wrote ideas about how to create peace in their homes and community, and created salt painting mandalas. The families enjoyed learning about the Tibetan singing

bowl and discovering more about how other cultures practice peace. Ms. McDonald later focused on different types of homes all over the world. Families then created imaginative homes from recycled materials, which included treehouses, log cabins, and castles. *Family Fun* took a fine art slant when the group learned about artist Vincent Van Gogh. After sharing books and images of his work, Ms. McDonald led the group in working together to make a recreation of Van Gogh's *Starry Night* with oil pastels and paper. Children and their parents then used the famous series of still life paintings *Sunflowers* as inspiration for their own mixed media works using paint and tissue paper. Ms. McDonald got her group of *Family Fun* regulars in the mood for spring with a program all about caterpillars and butterflies. Children engaged in scientific study of butterfly specimens, played a butterfly identification game, and conducted a measurement activity with three sizes of die cut caterpillars. The group then created a "butterfly garden" collaborative collage together.



*Bilingual Family Fun* programs presented by Librarian Nicole Cubillas continued to thrill families who have been eager for bilingual programming at Central Library. Ms. Cubillas sparked children's creativity with stories about art in many forms – painting, poetry, and more! Afterwards, children engaged in the unusual medium of salt painting and then made modernist collages from magazine clippings. Families enjoyed stories and songs about animals in Spanish and English and then crafted animal masks to take home using paper plates. Ms. Cubillas led the group in talking about travels and modes of transportation when she shared songs and books about taking trips. Families then made two crafts: an airplane made from Popsicle sticks and clothespins and a paper train that spelled out the children's names. Library Assistant Ana Sandoval presented two Bilingual Family Fun programs this month, featuring garden and insect themes, in which children enjoyed interactive stories and artistic activities.



Ms. McDonald finished her stint of presenting *Toddler Time* at the Igo Branch Library while that location was between Children's Librarians with a bear-themed program. The families that came to know her expressed their appreciation for her engaging approach to programming and will no doubt miss her cheerful energy.



Ms. McDonald hosted a group of kindergarteners from the Suburban School at the Central Library. The children enjoyed a special story time and a large, collaborative farm collage in which children created their own farm with die cut animals and scenery. She also led them through an exploration of the picture book collection.



The highlight of the many outreach visits conducted this month was Ms. Seglin's and Ms. McDonald's visit to Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children. They interacted with families and promoted library services at the school's Fine Arts Night with a table that included informative literature as well as a collaborative poster to which families and children could add their favorite book title.



Because the Carver Branch Library has been without a Children's Librarian recently, Ms. McDonald visited two Eastside San Antonio schools for special story times. At Bowden Elementary School, she shared stories and songs with two large groups of preschool students. She presented similar programs to two groups of preschool students at Dorie Miller Elementary School as well.



Ms. Seglin presented story times to students at Madison Square Child Development Center, where she read books to two classes and delivered bags of books in support of the school's curriculum

this month. Ms. Cubillas selected books for Central Christian Childcare Center based on their monthly themes as well. Ms. McDonald continued her monthly visits to Green Acres Childcare where she shared stories and songs with the preschoolers there. Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernandez visited the San Antonio College Early Childhood Center for a monthly outreach visit conducted outside in the school's playground. She also provided them with thematic book selections for use in the classroom.



Ms. Fernandez created a display of non-fiction books concerning life cycles. Her clever display sign invited patrons to consider the age old conundrum of which came first, the chicken or the egg? Library Assistant Judith Slaughter collected a selection of interesting non-fiction titles for display under a banner highlighting SAPL's motto of information, imagination, and ideas. Ms. McDonald featured picture book fairy tales and folk tales using her eye-catching, hand painted display sign that evoked these old-world stories.



Ms. McDonald attended a conference with the theme of "Transforming Lives through Multicultural Children's and Young Adult Books" along with Viki Ash, the Coordinator of Children's Services. She was inspired by the words of keynote speaker Naomi Shihab Nye and attended two breakout sessions.



Ms. Seglin presented the *Dinosaur Play & Learn* kit on behalf of the committee she chaired at the February Children's Librarians meeting. Under her direction, the group of Children's Librarians developed a large amount of activities that foster early childhood literacy for use at branch libraries. The presentation was very well received by the librarians in attendance and Shannon was commended for her leadership by Ms. Ash.

## TEENS



Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant): J.D. continued to facilitate Eclectic Electric music programming in the Teen Library's recording studio. Teens are invited to play instruments for fun and/or for school practice and record their music if they wish. On February 13, J.D. facilitated a "You Da Bomb" Valentine craft, utilizing Rollo candy, construction paper, and pipe cleaners.



Wednesdays with Ciana Flores (Library Assistant PT): Every Wednesday evening, Ciana opens up the lab in the Teen Library to assist teens with designing 3D models to print and finding printed models online. She also facilitates use of the Oculus Rift, a Virtual Reality headset loaded with games for teens.



Wednesdays with Adam Tutor (Library Services Specialist): Adam, the system's Teen Outreach Specialist, continued "Adam's Arts Industry," a new program in the Teen Library that utilizes his knowledge and skills as a musician, as well as his connections to community arts organizations. Adam is utilizing the recording studio to enhance community engagement and provide a space for professional musicians to connect with aspiring teen musicians. During the reporting period, programming featured a special "Live @ Teen Central" performance by respected singer songwriter George Garza, Jr., who shared with teens the value of dedication, planning, and courage in pursuing your musical dreams.



Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): This reporting period found teens involved in programs to express themselves creatively, to learn some new craft and culinary techniques, and to

celebrate a favorite holiday. Two teens set the lineup for the February Thursdays. With a nod to winter, teens used edible modeling clay to create snowflakes and items to set atop cupcakes. Having made gelatin domes the night before in a hilariously disastrous fashion (involving vegetable oil, a warm gelatin mixture, popped balloons, and a cooled gelatin mixture that teens likened to mucus), teens let them dry overnight, attempting to remove them carefully from the balloon. Though not all the domes were perfect, the teens placed misshapen gelatin “glass” domes atop the cupcakes and snowflakes to create a snow globe cupcake, complete with coconut as snow.

Using beeswax pellets and oils as their bases, teens added ingredients to make lip balms flavored by Kool-Aid, butterbeer (a little *Harry Potter* inspiration), and mint. Lip balm was a request by a teen who claimed the cold weather necessitated that they learn how to make it themselves.

Another request, French fries, found teens learning how to peel a potato, some having never used a peeler before. They also practiced great patience as they waited their turn to cook their fries. Afterwards, teens used photo gel filters to cut into shapes pieced together with washi tape to create a colorful mosaic heart. To prep for the upcoming Valentine’s Day, teens used red and heart print papers to create lanterns and garlands. For a snack, teens took a refrigerated biscuit dough piece, shaped it, filled it with a lemony cream cheese filling, and baked mini pies. Topped with fresh fruits and powdered sugar, the treats were unbelievably picture perfect. Teens took the upcoming Valentine’s holiday to heart, as they created DIY Valentines with quilling and scrapbook papers. They also fulfilled one of their wishes by making easy-peasy chocolate covered strawberries.

With the upcoming Chinese New Year holiday approaching, teens decided on making some yummy ramen noodles to cook with vegetables and broth, made paper Chinese lanterns, and watched movies. They also read along to an article highlighting the “do’s and don’ts” regarding the holiday. The favorite: “don’t use negative words.” Pictures from Thursday night programs as well as fantastic branch programs can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary>. Photos and videos are also posted at <http://www.instagram.com/210teenlibrary>.



Several community centers brought groups of teens to the Teen Library to use computers and participate in teen library programming. Groups of teens from the George Gervin Center and the Juvenile Detention Center made regular visits during the reporting period.

Classes from the Henry Ford Academy made regular visits to the Teen Library to use the computers and hang out in the space during the reporting period. In addition, a large class from Providence High School visited the Teen Library to utilize the space during the reporting period.

## REFERENCE



Reference staff members hosted varied programs in honor of this year’s The Holocaust: Learn & Remember series. Cynthia de Leon hosted a showing of the film *The Monuments Men* on January 22. During World War II the Nazis plundered Europe, stealing art and other cultural artifacts from wealthy Jews, museums, and other institutions. The movie portrays one team of men whose mission is to retrieve and rescue as many of the stolen masterpieces as possible; in a race against time, the men risk their lives to protect some of mankind’s greatest achievements.





On February 3, Victoria Villalobos presented the film *The Pianist*. The film is based on a memoir by the Polish-Jewish pianist and composer Wladyslaw Szpilman; during World War II he struggled to survive the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto.



Pannaga Prasad planned a February 11 program in observance of The Holocaust: Learn & Remember series called “Refugees in San Antonio”. The program was presented by San Antonio’s Center for Refugee Services. Attendees learned about the many refugees who have made a home here in San Antonio.



On January 30, Ms. De Leon and Martha Loewen provided an introduction to the library’s science resources for a group of students from Dr. Kristy Treviño’s General Applied Science class at the Southwest School of Art. Students were asked to create an art project based on their chosen scientist. The bibliographic presentation taught students how to use the catalog and databases to research their assigned project.



Cristine Mitchamore’s Book Group met on February 14 to discuss *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler. The group wondered why – in the middle of the breakdown of society – anyone would bother making a drug that encouraged people to burn everything down. It seemed counter-productive to the drug maker’s long-term survival.

## TEXANA/GENEALOGY



Librarian Sylvia Reyna once again spear-headed and organized SAPL’s participation in this year’s Martin Luther King, Jr. march, showing great teamwork in organizing and encouraging others across the City to participate. Other staff and citizens walking with the SAPL team included Cresencia Huff and family, Carye Bye, Johnnie Mae Adams, Joseph Gonzales and his granddaughter.



On January 17, Assistant Manager Matt De Waelsche shipped off 93 area high school yearbooks to Oklahoma to be digitized. The yearbooks in the Texana collection are utilized by family history researchers, so the completion of this project will one day facilitate digital access for users.



Ms. Reyna conducted a tour of Texana’s resources for a Texas A&M – San Antonio history class with Professor Francis Galan on Saturday, January 20. The tour focused on the unique items held by the library and how they can be used by researchers to reconstruct the past.



Texana’s African American Funeral Program collection, which has largely been digitized and made accessible through the “Portal to Texas History” website, experienced its third best month ever with over 13,350 views. The site, maintained by the University of North Texas, launched the library’s funeral program collection in 2012. Currently, nearly 4,000 funeral programs have been digitized through this partnership.

# LATINO COLLECTION & RESOURCE CENTER



The LCRC partnered with Kalpulli Ameyaltónal Tejatztlan to host its first Náhuatl Study Group on Saturday February 3. The program drew over 20 attendees of all ages to practice their Náhuatl in a welcoming and safe environment.



The LCRC hosted the *All Around Us* Book Party on Saturday, February 17. Over 100 attendees joined author Xelena Gonzalez and illustrator Adriana Garcia for a trilingual (English, Spanish, and Chinese) reading of their acclaimed children's book. The Latino Collection and Resource Center partnered with the Central Children's Unit and Little Read Wagon to facilitate Tai Chi storytelling, circle book making, rainbow group collage, and family guessing game. The publisher sold their entire inventory of the title and requests were made for more purchases and further family events in LCRC. This book is available in both the circulating and Latino Collection of SAPL.

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## BRANCH LOCATIONS

### BAZAN



The Bazan Branch was a host site for VITA, the free tax preparation service for individuals and families, starting in January. The program runs through April 16.



Teen programs continued to be a success at Bazan. On February 17 Bazan hosted a new teen writing workshop led by Jim LaVilla-Havelin and Erica DeLaRosa who are veterans of writing instruction to the youth of San Antonio.



During weekly Teen Time, a range of board games such as Monopoly, Apples to Apples, and Bananagrams were played. These games have kept teens on their toes and the players been very keen to complete the game with a high score. Teens have also enjoyed teaching Teen Librarian Georgina Salinas how to play the Yu-Gi-Uh! card game, and they have insisted that she get her own deck to play against them. Other fun activities at *Teen Time* have included impromptu perler bead crafting which resulted in the creation of a plethora of designs that were displayed on the 210Teen Flickr account.



Training Officer Emily Flores attended training on February 15 led by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at ESC Region 20. The seminar provided adult educators and program administrators with ideas and best practices for citizenship and English as a Second Language education. It was a unique opportunity to learn from local USCIS representatives and receive free educational resources.



Children's Librarian Hope Sonnen resumed book clubs at four local elementary schools in January. The children enjoyed the new book tiles and were happy to once again have the opportunity for group discussion.



The American Sunrise organization, which provides after school tutoring for at risk school children, teamed up with Bazan to bring their group to Family Fun each week where they attended story time and enjoyed a number of crafts.



Ms. Sonnen attended the SAISD Head Start Health Community Resources Fair held at the Nelson EC Center on January 16 where she shared information about library programs and resources with parents.

## BROOK HOLLOW



On Tuesday, February 6, Children's Librarian Rachael Barrera presented *Play and Learn: Valentine's Day* where children and their caregivers learned while being given opportunities to engage in the five early literacy practices of talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing. In February, the children were able to experiment with ice painting and frozen vinegar hearts sprinkled with baking soda, play in a Kool-Aid dyed rice sensory bin, add items to a heart "sticky wall," and much more.



On Monday, February 12, Ms. Barrera conducted an off-site *Play and Learn* at Wetmore Elementary in collaboration with the school's librarian, Danielle Ramirez. The idea behind the concept came from the school's desire to engage the preschoolers whose older siblings attend Wetmore so that they will feel welcome and part of the school's community when they become students themselves. San Antonio Public Library also becomes a part of their young lives, whether they have visited a branch or not.

On Tuesday, February 13, the branch hosted a Valentine's Day party for preschoolers. One hundred and twenty people attended for a special story time and craft. Snacks and decorations were provided by the Friends of the Brook Hollow Library.



During the reporting period, teens at Brook Hollow played games, created blackout poetry using recycled books, and crafted bubble magnets among other activities.



George Losoya from the Alamo Area Council of Governments Aging and Disability Resource Center gave a presentation, "Aging in Place," on January 20. Mr. Losoya answered questions about ways to ensure safety in the home as you age. He also addressed difficulties with transportation and provided solutions to combat these issues. Community problems and how the community can help the aging were also discussed. The program, organized by Library Circulation Attendant Kimberly King, was well attended.



On January 27, Brook Hollow hosted *Hiding in the Spotlight*, performed by The Extended Run Players, as part of the Holocaust Learn and Remember program series. Based on true events, the play focuses on Zhanna who uses her musical ability to survive during the Holocaust. There were 21 attendees who thoroughly enjoyed the performance.



Brook Hollow Library continues to host five book groups. One of the members of the Mystery Book Group shared that they really enjoyed meeting each month. They enjoy the sense of community and love bonding with other mystery lovers.

## CARVER



In January, students from Project Search, an independent living skills program aimed at developmentally delayed young adults, visited the Carver Learn Center to work on job-finding techniques. They applied for entry level positions with major employers in San Antonio. They worked with Training Officer Jeanne Johnson. Johnson said she would continue to work with Project Search offering interview skills next.



In February, in honor of Black History Month, Carver Branch hosted nine events celebrating African American achievement and culture, drawing positive comments from the community. A special brochure was created and shared with customers interested in supporting programs that ranged from film screenings and panel discussions to a display of authentic African mud cloths. The highest attended event was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Black History Story Festival and book giveaway which drew about 80 guests. Strong audiences were also reported for the Black Panther movie launch party, where graphic novels featuring the Marvel superhero practically flew off their display, and a showing of the documentary *Sighted Eyes/Feeling heart*, a KLRN partnership with the branch, focusing on the life and career of the late African American playwright Lorraine Hansberry.



Carver Branch sent congratulations to community partner Sam Houston High School upon learning its 2018 Academic Decathlon team had placed first in the Regional IV Competition as well as in the Team Super Quiz. During the recent winter break, the branch provided a meeting space for the youths to prep for the events while their school was closed for the holidays. On February 19, News 4 San Antonio announced the team now advances to state competition.

## CODY



On January 15, Adult Services Librarian Adam Spana attended the monthly meeting of the book club at Adalante Senior Living, where the group discussed *I, Ripper* by Stephen Hunter.



On February 13, Manager Samantha Gordano hosted an outreach on the benefits of adult coloring for the twenty-five members of Mission Trail Rotary Club. She is working with one of the members to help coordinate adult coloring outreach around the city for senior rehabilitation centers.



Librarian Yourdon started a partnership with the Country Home Learning Center to offer three story times in January and two story times in February. During these story times preschoolers learned about the library and that they can check books out and take them home if they have a library card. They also got a sampling of the wide variety of books available at the library.



On January 18, families gathered to celebrate the Mayor's Our Family Reads Book Club. To celebrate January's theme of unity, children and parents painted with watercolors on squares of paper. After the artwork was finished it was pasted into a quilt pattern in our children's section.



On January 22, tweens learned how to bake cake pops from scratch. Tweens read and followed the directions, measured the ingredients, and decorated them to look like aquariums.



During Kid's Time on January 24, kids had a chance to continue working on their craft stick bridges.



The Tween STEM Club met twice in January for programs about paper circuits. On January 26, tweens learned all about the properties of electricity and how to create an electrical circuit. Tweens then used this knowledge to make glowing light sabers. During the next program on January 29, tweens learned how to create parallel circuits. They then created their own original board games that lit up when a player won the game.



Librarian Yourdon visited the Gan Gani Preschool on January 30 to read stories to four classrooms of students.



The Tweens celebrated Black History Month by watching *The Princess and the Frog* which features the first African-American Disney princess. While watching the movie, tweens learned how to make oven-baked beignets. Baking this homemade treat introduced a lot of new culinary techniques to the tweens, such as working with yeast, kneading dough, and rolling out dough.



Librarian Yourdon visited the Locke Hill Elementary school for another Writing Wizards meeting on February 6. Yourdon has been leading this writing club at the elementary school on a monthly basis since October. The students spent the club time writing work to submit to a Cody Kid's Zine which will be printed in March and available for checkout at the library.



The branch hosted a Peter Rabbit Party on February 7 for toddlers and preschoolers. This well-attended program featured a read-a-loud of Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and many games and crafts that emphasized pre-reading skills. For example in one game, children had to pick a paper carrot out of a bucket. Each carrot was labeled with a letter of the alphabet. Children then had to place the carrot into a flower pot labeled with the same letter.



The Cody Library celebrated Valentine's Day all week long with Baby Times, Toddler Times, Story Times, Tween Times, and Kid's Times all themed around the holiday. During Tween Time on February 12, tweens learned how to make marshmallow launchers and then had a competition to see if they could hit the center of a heart target with their mini marshmallows. Tweens also made rice krispie hearts.



Children celebrated Valentine's Day during Kid's Time on February 14 with crafts and treats. For the craft project, the children drew hearts on paper, cut them out, and then sprinkled them with baking powder. Then the children mixed food coloring with vinegar and used pipettes to squirt little bits of the



vinegar over the baking soda. The chemical reaction of the baking soda and the vinegar thrilled the kids and they made multiple hearts! During this program the kids who made craft stick bridges had an opportunity to see which was the strongest. The strongest bridge held up under 17 encyclopedias and a 10 pound bag of sand! Great job, guys!



To celebrate the Mayor's Our Family Reads club for February, children learned how to make origami airplanes and then tested them out in the children's section. After their tests, kids thought up ways that they might be able to make the paper planes go faster and farther and then tested their theories.



Teen Services Librarian Amy Rae Weaver worked with area teens to come up with Teen Time programs for the Cody Library.



Chef Justin Sparkman and his intern Courtney returned to Cody Library's Teen Time one last time to take teens on a whirlwind tour of France! Teens learned to use a new cell phone app, then chopped vegetables for a delicious quick ratatouille, topping it all off with a sparkling cherry drink. Thank you to Chef Justin and the San Antonio Food Bank for this wonderful series!



Teens had the choice of making s'mores (the plan we had to cancel due to our snow day!) or pancakes (our original plan) for the January 30 Teen Time. They voted overwhelmingly to make pancake s'mores—and *Pancake S'mores Day* was born! In addition to using chocolate, marshmallow, and graham cracker to stuff pancakes, teens played video games and colored.



Cody teens' appetite for cooking continues with *Ramen Day*, a celebration of a favorite snack! Teens doctored their beef ramen up with water chestnuts, baby corn, and soy sauce, then watched a superhero movie and did word finds.



Finally, when Teen Time fell on the day before Valentine's Day, teens hosted a *V-Day Eve* celebration, where the main event was homemade gummi bears! To accompany their sweet treats, they played video games and taught each other card games.



Cody Library's *Chess Club* continues to be a popular afterschool destination for children, tweens, teens, and their parents. It's been such a successful program that attendees and Teen Librarian Amy Rae Weaver agreed that it should become a weekly program! Now, players of all ages can come to the Cody Library every Thursday at 4 p.m. for a mix of strategy and game-playing.

## COLLINS GARDEN



Children's Librarian Gina Brudi presented five Family Fun programs during this reporting period, which included Peter Rabbit and Valentine's Day parties.



Brudi hosted five Lego Club programs with an attendance of 50. Lego creations are displayed on the shelves in the reference area for customers to view.



Brudi presented 18 outreach story times at Kelly Field Education and Knox Early Literacy Centers. On February 7 she hosted a Play and Learn Motown Dance Party with dancing and musical instruments to the sound of Motown classics.



January 30 Brudi attended the Knox Early Literacy Night and presented a story time to 100 children and their parents.



On February 8, Brudi and Assistant Manager Sophie Smith attended Kelly Elementary Linking Communities and Family Night and spoke to 60 adults and children about SAPL services.



The weekly Teen program, hosted by Library Assistant Carlos Loera, is averaging 6-8 teens a week. During this reporting period teens made Valentine's Day crafts, played video games, and learned how to make a banana dessert.



Assistant Manager Sophie Smith continued weekly drop-in technology help to the community.



Artist Rosemary Niño presented one class on beading with 18 participants who all made choker necklaces.



Coffee and a Movie is increasingly popular program presented by Library Assistant Carlos Loera, in which citizens enjoy a featured movie once a month from the Golden Age of Mexican Cinema from serious dramas to slapstick comedy. There were four attendees during this reporting period.



Photographer Jaime Garcia hosted an Introduction to Photography class on flowers and macro photography. Ten people were in attendance.



The branch hosted a screening of *The Pianist* during the Holocaust: Learn and Remember Month with five attendees.



Library Assistant Carlos Loera orchestrated a successful St. Valentine's Day themed poetry event with the Collins Garden Library poetry group Voces Cósmicas. There were 70 people in attendance.



Assistant Manager Sophie Smith held a Valentine inspired program on Coloring for Adults with three adults in attendance.



Two chess sets in the library's public areas are occupied with patrons of all ages strategizing their moves, with an average of 10 players daily.



Collins Garden Library is continuing weekly Family Game Night this winter with various board games for all ages, averaging eight participants a week.



Collins Garden Library welcomed Volunteer Thalia Revilla who will be helping out on a weekly basis.



On January 27, Collins Garden Library Children's Librarian Gina Brudi attended the CTLT Conference about diversity in children's literature.



Collins Garden Library Branch Manager Jeannette Davies attended a spirited Friends of Collins Garden Library Meeting; Slick Talkers Toast Masters event; pitched a DoBrary demonstration idea to the Guppy Tank for Staff Transformation Day; and met with Dora Galvan, office manager for District 5 Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales.

## CORTEZ



The Branch had the opportunity to host three different events working with the District 4 Council Office during this reporting period. Most notably, on January 18, Councilman Saldaña spoke to an appreciative audience about Civic Engagement. He traced his own path in local government and stressed the importance of voting to make your voice heard.



Branch Manager Cammie Brantley continued her efforts to get the community interested in a book club. The fledgling club met on February 2 and 3 to discuss *After the Crash* by Michel Bussi as a tie-in with the February Our Family Reads theme of airplanes.



Two staff members, Gustavo Nevarez and Kathy Armbruster, were honored at a breakfast sponsored by the Director's Office on February 8 to honor employees who were recognized for making a difference in 2017. Manager Brantley was also in attendance on this special occasion.



On February 8, the staff had their own "Cowboy Breakfast" to observe the start of the Stock Show and Rodeo season. Everyone brought brunch items to share and the majority wore boots and jeans to get in the spirit.



**Bilingual Baby Time** (Kathy Armbruster and Esmeralda Staudt) - Bilingual Baby Time is beginning to catch on at Cortez. In its first month as a bilingual offering, Kathy and Esmy presented a series of songs, rhymes, and fingerplays in both English and Spanish.



**Toddler Time** (Kathy Armbruster) - Toddlers enjoy a brief story time with songs and circle games and finish their library time with interactive play. Blocks, puzzles, sensory play and large motor activities are available in the meeting room.



**Family Fun** (Kathy Armbruster and Raquel Rodriguez) - Family Fun sessions were held on Mondays at 4 p.m. Lego play, a family yoga session, and a Peter Rabbit Party were held during this reporting period.



**Tween Time** (Kathy Armbruster) - Tweens are always welcome to play Wii and PS2 games, but sometimes they are willing to have an unplugged session of board games, food challenges (this month was a peanut butter crackers in a “Minute to Win It” format!) and open-ended drawing and craft activities.



**Read to a Dog** (Alan Schuminsky and Sunny) - A new volunteer, Alan Schuminsky, brings his therapy dog to Cortez once each month. Sunny draws quite a crowd!



**Teen Time** (JoAnn Paredes) - It’s wonderful to have teens eager to come back for teen time. Knowing that they have a place to keep them warm and off the streets, where they can just hang out with their friends and have fun playing video games. Attendance is steady and word of mouth is helping to bring in new teens. Coming up in March is Teen Tech week. Cortez Branch will be working with plastic bottles to try and make speakers out of them.



**COAST – Cortez Older Adult Social Time** (Brooke Mjolsness, Madeline Vasquez) - January 23 was National Pie Day and attendees were encouraged to bring pies for the group and celebrate the holiday. Everyone enjoyed pecan or banana cream pie while playing games, doing puzzles, coloring and chatting.



**Getting Crafty Program** (JoAnn Paredes) - Crafting class is still steady and strong and the crafters have been working on projects that needed their finishing touches. With the flu season going on, attendance has been a bit low, but the crafters are in touch and requesting the projects so that they can work on while they are away.



**Monster Meet** (Madeline Vasquez) - On February 10, horror fans got together to see the Alfred Hitchcock classic *The Birds*. Monster Meet is a program developed and coordinated by Circulation attendant Madeline Vasquez who brings her love of the horror genre to the community at Cortez. Madeline prepares interesting fun facts about each film and serves some tasty treats to those attending.



**Essential Oils 102: Toxin Free Home** (Brooke Mjolsness and Mary Ann Schott) - Mary Ann Schott taught attendees about the dangers of toxins and parabens in household cleaning products and other common household items. She explained how they pollute your home’s air and can make you and your family sick. Mary Ann then discussed how essential oils can replace the toxic cleaning products to make your home a healthier environment. Attendees made two samples of essential oil cleaning products, a carpet freshener and a multi-surface cleaner spray. Mary Ann and attendees had a lively discussion and patrons also had a wealth of questions for her. All attendees expressed their gratitude and said they were happy with the program.



**Healthy Valentine’s Dinner Cooking Class** (Brooke Mjolsness and Vicente Escobedo) - Vicente Escobedo returned for another healthy cooking class. He taught attendees how to make a whole-grain bowl with fresh spinach, sautéed ground beef, bell peppers, onions, carrots, mushrooms and garlic inside a whole-grain tostada bowl. He provided another recipe booklet and this time got patrons involved in preparing the food. Everyone contributed by dicing up or sautéing ingredients. Everyone was excited to participate with helping and stories rotated throughout the room while everyone enjoyed their meal.



**Holocaust Learn and Remember Movie Showing** (Brooke Mjolsness) - Cortez Library showed *The Pianist* for The Holocaust: Learn & Remember. Showings were done at multiple branches throughout January and February; unfortunately, no attendees were present at Cortez's showing. This is believed to be due to the date and time of the showing. Future movie showings will not be held Friday afternoons in an effort to increase attendance numbers.



**Cortez Chess Club** (David Pacheco) - David Pacheco continues to lead our weekly chess club. He enthusiastically teaches attendees of all ages about chess. Our attendance numbers continue to grow, particularly with younger players who want to learn how to play.

## ENCINO



The Friends of Encino held a meeting on January 28 with much of their discussion focused on the upcoming March 24 book sale and craft fair. Friends President Carla Pomager and Friends member Liana Benavides have several craft vendors lined up to take part in the craft fair and there is also talk of food trucks taking part as well.



Encino Adult Services Librarian Michelle Ricondo reached out to Chinatsu Oku, the Japan Outreach Initiative Coordinator for UTSA's East Asia Institute, to host a January 24 program that focused on Chinese Calligraphy and Japanese Name Writing. Eight people attended the program, and Ms. Oku instructed the attendees in the art of Chinese calligraphy with traditional ink and paper used for the final creation. Ms. Oku also wrote each attendee's name in Japanese characters for them to enjoy.



In addition to regularly scheduled programming, Encino's children librarians Nicki Weaver and Ashley Stubbs presented two successful special events during the month of February. Ms. Stubbs rocked the house with her Motown Sound program celebrating African American heritage. Children and adults alike moved and grooved to a curated selection of great music. On Saturday, February 17, Miss Bexar County's Outstanding Teen Elaina Mccoulskey enchanted 19 children and their parents at Encino's Let's Have a Tea Party event hosted by Ms. Weaver. Ms. Mccoulskey read stories about empowered princesses and then joined us for juice and cookies. It was a magical event!



The teen room at Encino was full of fun and games and featured lots of crafts this month. Some of the highlights from our crafty *Teen Clubs* were bookmarks made from upcycled books, mini canvases with motivational messages, and old cd's made into new works of art. Teens and Teen Librarian Julia Pouliot celebrated Valentine's Day with holiday themed perler bead and felt crafts plus chocolate and cookies. *Anime Club* saw its highest numbers of teens yet this year as we watched episodes from seven different animes throughout the reporting period.



Encino Teens and Ms. Pouliot welcomed Chinatsu Oku from the East Asia Institute at The University of Texas at San Antonio for a special program on the art of Japanese sushi making entitled *Experience Japan @ Encino: Sushi Making and Pop Culture* in January. Teens enjoyed a presentation on Japanese food culture and then tried their hand at rolling their own sushi. Ms. Oku was impressed by their efforts and all of the teens had a great time expanding their culinary horizons. We hope to have Ms. Oku back for more programs in the future.





Encino's Collaborate space was used by outside groups 24 times during the reporting period. Use of Collaborate included governmental agency security clearance interviews, STEM tutoring via Skype, game play therapy for an autistic student, SAPL committee meetings, and tutoring/study groups. The Mondopads in Collaborate are used about 30% of the time, and most users of the space utilize their own devices connected to the library's WiFi. Encino's WiFi-enabled patio space continues to serve as a supplemental study and meeting space for the community, both during and outside business hours. Examples of patio use include Girl Scout groups holding meetings and group study sessions.

## FOREST HILLS



On January 17, Branch Manager Mary Naylor visited the Dorris Griffin Senior Center for the monthly book club. The group will be reading books aligned with the Our Family Reads Mayor's Book Club for 2018. The first book they will be reading will be *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin which fits the airplanes theme for February.



Mrs. Naylor attended the District 7 Town Hall meeting at Jefferson High School on January 30. City Councilwoman Ana Sandoval provided an update on projects on slate for the neighborhoods in District 7. A number of city departments were on hand to assist residents with any issues they have experienced in their neighborhoods. Mrs. Naylor received many compliments of the library system from the residents of District 7.



The Ladies Book Club met on January 30. The book club had taken a hiatus due to member's schedules, but will now be meeting on a new day and time to accommodate those needs. The group will now meet on the last Tuesday of the month. Members share titles they have recently read and are introduced to new titles purchased by the library.



The Contrarian Book Club met on February 10 to discuss *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Slout to celebrate Black History Month.



The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program opened its doors on January 17. For some visitors, this is their first introduction or reintroduction to the library. While many are present solely to benefit from the service, many have rekindled their awareness of the library and have signed on for new accounts. During this time the staff has made an effort to increase marketing for upcoming events and sharing information about programs that would be of interest.



Children's Librarian Ana Menchaca hosted a special Story Time to celebrate *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter. Ms. Menchaca read the story and talked about how naughtiness landed Peter Rabbit in trouble. The children were also able to paint with celery and potato stamps. Additionally, they planted carrot and lettuce seeds in egg cartons. Ms. Menchaca explained how vegetables come from tiny seeds and what needs to happen to ensure that seeds grow. The children were fascinated and more were excited to take their seeds home.



Ms. Menchaca hosted a Valentine's Story time / party. Children were able to make their own Valentine's Day Cards and used tempera paint to make heart paintings. Ms. Menchaca used this

opportunity to share children's books that she loves. She read *The Bad Seed* by Jory John and *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt among others. Several of the children who participate in Story Time on a regular basis exchanged valentines. Ms. Menchaca was given cards, a rose pen, and a lot of hugs for Valentine's Day.



During one Kids Time, Ms. Menchaca made Kool-Aid play dough, which was a huge hit. The kids were able to help Ms. Menchaca read and interpret the recipe and had a lot of fun with the sensory experience that the play dough offered, both with the color and odor.



Ms. Menchaca attended the Woodlawn Hills Elementary Literacy Night. She was able to talk with students and parents about the resources that SAPL offers. She had a wonderful time speaking with students. She especially likes to see kids' reaction when she tells them that they can check out fifty books at a time from the library.



Ms. Menchaca hosted several *Come and Go Crafts* for President's Day. She encouraged kids to make their own Abraham Lincoln log cabin out of Popsicle sticks. At another session, she left paper and art materials so that children could be as creative as possible and draw whatever they wanted.



Lego Builders continues to attract more and more children. Ms. Menchaca has had to procure another table to accommodate the group. She has Legos for older children and Duplos for younger children. She is continually amazed at the creations that are produced during Lego Builders.



Teen Volunteer Isaiah assisted in setting up the video gaming equipment which will be used in upcoming program. He is very excited to assist in the program and make suggestions for video games to be played.

## GREAT NORTHWEST



Great Northwest Library's children's programming has had an eventful month. The toddler program *Stories and Shapes* completed the shape identification unit. Families reported that their children are now able to identify all the shapes in every day life. One mom shared that her son is now actively identifying the shapes during their daily drives through town. He noticed obvious ones such as circles and squares, but toward the end of the program he was able to identify shapes in road signs as well. It was an exciting moment for their family and because he has attended the previous toddler programs, he is also able to identify the colors of the signs as well.



The preschoolers participate in a ABC early literacy and reading program called *ABC Club*. Several families are happy to report that their children can read and write their full names now, with still a few more letters to go before graduation in May.



Great Northwest has been a steady hub for families to gather and connect. A new program for tweens, *Choose Your Own Adventure*, specializes in developing problem-solving and research skills. The tweens' goal for the program is to identify a problem in the community in an area that interests them and begin researching it. This process has required them to learn about using sources and citation, which is a

great skill for older elementary and tweens. Their goal was to take these tools they've learned from the library program and actively problem-solve in their community. This has proved to be a fruitful adventure for these individuals but also for the community. Some of the issues the tweens have tackled include traffic, inclusivity, animal rights, deforestation, and more. One student identified a problem: her new friend and neighbor, a refugee who recently moved here from Turkey, was being ostracized by the other neighbors. She came up with the idea to host a party for the neighborhood with Turkish dancing, food, and fun facts about the culture so that the other kids in the neighborhood could meet and learn about the new family in their community.



Great Northwest Library hosted a program from an American Heritage: Girls Troop earning their leadership badges. The troop presented the story of the Frog Prince and created play stations with crafts, water bead play, and fine motor skills games for families to enjoy after the story.



Teen Services Librarian Stephanie Vazquez worked together with teens in the community to plan and create teen programs for Great Northwest Library. Great Northwest Teens held *Craft and Movie Nights* on Monday evenings. In January, teens watched *Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 1 & 2* and made themed bubble magnet and bottle cap magnet crafts and enjoyed making some tasty galaxy donuts. In February, teens watched the movie *Clueless* and made D.I.Y. decorative feather topped pencils.



Teens meet monthly for *Anime Night* to engage in a variety of activities and interact with other teens who share their interest in Anime and Manga culture. On February 12, teens had a Valentine edition Anime Night and made stuffed chocolate cupcakes.



Great Northwest teen gamers meet every Wednesday afternoon for a *Teen Video Game & Crafts* program. Ms. Vazquez worked with teen video gamers to provide a space for them to compete against other teens who share a common interest in gaming. Teens also have the opportunity to make a variety of crafts and art to display in the teen space of the library or to take home. In January and February teens experimented with different watercolor and acrylic painting techniques to create art.



Great Northwest Teen Services Librarian Stephanie Vazquez visited the school library at Brennan High School on January 24 and February 7 for outreach events where teens had the opportunity to sign-up for library cards, make button crafts, and compete in a video game competition.



Ms. Vazquez was asked to be a professional mentor to an NISD student enrolled in Independent Study Mentorship at Communication Arts High School. Ms. Vazquez meets with her mentee once a month to answer questions and provide the mentee with hands-on experience while he shadows her in the workplace.



The Great Northwest Library hosted a college intern through a partnership with the Alamo College Work Study Program. While at Great Northwest Library, Mr. Contreras has gained work experience and learned about library services with hands on experience serving the public.



Volunteers from the community work together with Great Northwest Library in a variety of ways to ensure the best service is provided to the community. Volunteers help staff with daily library tasks and assist library staff with programs, including puppet shows, story time, and teen programs.



The Bexar Master Gardener Karen Gardner presented the program *Vegetable Gardening* to 15 attendees at Great Northwest Library on the evening of January 31. Customers were pleased with her presentation and stayed after the program to ask questions. The presentation was funded by the Friends of the Great Northwest Library. Three more classes will follow in February.



Cindy Moreno, Adult Services Librarian, moderated the *Alicia Trevino Book and Movie Group* discussion on Monday, February 12. Twelve attendees discussed *Austenland* by Shannon Hale and then watched the movie. The attendees spoke about society's expectations on the genders, romance, and other topics.



Library Assistant Christina Martinez began a *Music Appreciation* program on Sunday, February 18. Attendees can learn about the history of music through while listening to different types of music in this program.

## GUERRA



VITA started on January 20, observing the same schedule as in past years—Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers provided assistance to approximately 30 members of the community each day. Jernell Williams, Librarian II, continued her temporary assignment at Johnston. The branch is also working with a Part Time Library Assistant vacancy. The Guerra Chess Club met on January 19 and 26 and on February 2 and 9. Community volunteer Ruben Lozano provided training and also some history of the game.



Branch Manager Dexter Katzman attended a New Employee Experience session on February 2 where he shared information about the Employee Management Committee (EMC) with about 35 COSA staff. He provided literature and music outreach to the Careplex Adult Daycare Center on January 17, 24, and 31 and February 7 and 14. As part of the branch observation and recognition of DreamWeek, he screened and led a brief discussion of the movie *Invictus* on January 20; refreshments were provided by the Guerra Friends group. He presented a computer class on February 13.



Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson planned and presented four toddler times, four story times, four Lego Clubs, one Kids Time and one Art Club. Arlene hosted one Family Fun event where children and their grownups created a Unity Mural in celebration of the Mayor's Book Club's January theme—Unity. Families participated in three Come & Go craft activities: Peter Rabbit, Valentine's Day, and Rodeo. On January 17, Arlene presented an orientation session to eight students from Sunny Brooke Academy, speaking and answering questions about library hours, services, and programs. On February 16, she visited Angelic Smiles Childcare and presented story times to two groups - toddlers and pre-K. In celebration of Black History Month, Arlene mounted a book display highlighting influential black Americans of the past and present and their contributions and achievements that have helped shape history.



Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson recorded *La oveja que incubó un huevo (The Sheep that Hatched an Egg)* by Gemma Merino on January 22. He moderated Club de Lectura, (Spanish book club)

on January 25. Participants discussed *Misión olvido (The Heart Has its Reasons)* by María Dueñas. On February 9, Stephen presented a trivia game at the Willie Cortez Senior Center emphasizing Valentine's Day.



Library Assistant/Teen Liaison Edward Mayberry held Game-Ra sessions on January 18 and 25 and February 1 and 8. The teens watched *Ninjago* on February 15; refreshments were provided by the Guerra Friends group. Edward assisted Stephanie Vasquez, Teen Librarian/Great Northwest, with an outreach at Brennan High School on February 7, speaking with and presenting activities for about 100 students during the lunch period. Edward was invited by the Bexar County 4-H Council to have an outreach during the school tours day February 10 at the Stock Show and Rodeo. He spoke with about 150 people.

## IGO



Lego Club continues to be a success, well attended by school aged kids. Children's Librarian Carrie Vance joined the Igo Library team on January 28 and hit the ground running, taking over the early literacy programming at the branch. Ms. Vance has facilitated 12 toddler and story times, and so far the families seem to be happy with the transition.



In conjunction with the Friends of the Library Book Sale on February 10, the library hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Rodeo Roundup. Over 500 people came out to enjoy four hours of rodeo-themed fun: western-themed photo stands, rodeo stories read by library staff, creating cowboy and cowgirl neckties, decorating hats and sheriff badges, rope and ride the rocking horse pony, and games of horseshoes. The highlight of the day was the petting farm from Fiesta Farms, paid for by the Igo Friends. Children of all ages enjoyed petting rabbits, chickens, goats, alpacas, a llama, and a four-month-old miniature pig. The event was planned and executed by the entire Igo staff.



Children's story times now have a revised schedule: Toddler Time is at 10:15 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays; Toddler Two is at 11:15 a.m. on Tuesdays; and Story Time is at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesdays. The children and parents were delighted to meet Children's Librarian Carrie Vance, welcoming her with several rounds of applause.



Teen Club continued to meet every Wednesday in January, participating in a variety of activities and eating delicious snacks. Discussions about new possible programs were held with the teens in attendance, as well as the possibility of growing the Teen Space inside of the branch.



The Writers Block writing club met every Sunday during this period to discuss their creative projects.



PoeTree, a club for readers and writers of poetry, met on January 22 and February 5.



On January 22, Igo commemorated the Holocaust with a showing of the movie *The Pianist*.



Brad Huckabee of Physicians Mutual presented "Understanding Medicare" on February 2.





The Mystery Club met on February 7 to discuss Iris Johansen's *Hide Away*.



Beginning Hatha Yoga classes continued on Friday mornings with new people joining the established group.



On February 1, the Elderberries' program in honor of San Antonio's Tricentennial featured Betsy Kiker who gave a presentation about the nine generations of her family history in San Antonio.

## JOHNSTON



Johnston Library provided several opportunities for patrons to gain technology skills during the reporting period with a Library Digital & eReader Help session facilitated by Children's Librarian Beverly Wrigglesworth and an Introduction to Computers class facilitated by Branch Manager Monica Bustillo both on January 25. Johnston Library continues to welcome many neighborhood organizations including the Stablewood Homeowners Association on January 22, the Kriewald Homeowners Association on January 29, and the Hallie Heights Homeowners Association on February 5. The performance group Teatro Audaz presented "Life is Full of Drama" on February 17.



Ms. Wrigglesworth was formally recognized for 20 years of service at a Staff Recognition Breakfast on February 7.



Ms. Bustillo organized several Friday Films including a screening of *Dunkirk* on January 19, *My Little Pony: the Movie* on January 26 and several Oscar nominated films such as *Get Out* on February 2, *The Big Sick* on February 9 and *Baby Driver* on February 16. Ms. Bustillo facilitated the Athena Readers Book Club discussion of Hazel Gayor's *The Cottingley Secret* on January 17. Ms. Bustillo promoted library services and updated the Springvale Neighborhood Association on library events on January 30. Ms. Bustillo created a Blind Date with a Book display for the week of Valentine's Day. Books were covered with plain brown paper with teaser descriptions and encouragement to "check out" a book without knowing the title.



Story Time themes during this period included "Mermaids," "Unicorns," "Peter Rabbit," and "Valentine's Day." Family Fun activities included "Mermaids," "Unicorns," "LEGOs and other building activities," and "Valentine's Day." On January 21, Therapy Dog Sunny came to Johnston and listened while seven children read to him and loved on him. On January 27, Ms. Wrigglesworth attended the Parent Symposium at Somerset High School. There she was able to promote library programs to 63 attendees. On February 1, Ms. Wrigglesworth took books and read stories to toddlers and pre-school children at the Southwest High School PCI. Come and Go Crafts were a big hit with 34 library patrons on February 4. They were able to create their own pictures with construction paper, scrap paper, and magazine cut-outs.



On January 24, Teen Liaison/Library Assistant Eva Banda hosted her first successful teen night with the assistance of Library Aide Cynthia Blancas. Teens learned how to decorate plaster clay key chains using a molding set of Mario Brothers. Teens decorated the key chains using brightly colored markers. Ms. Banda asked the teens for their input and ideas for what they would like to see during teen time.



On February 7, Ms. Banda worked with teens to make heart shaped Valentine's wreaths with coffee filters. Teens dyed their coffee filters and used a screwdriver to make holes into their cardboard heart shapes to insert their coffee filters in once they were done. Teens worked together to create many beautiful valentine wreaths.



On February 14, teens became bakers and decorators for the night. Each teen had an opportunity to put their kitchen skills to the test by mixing the ingredients, placing cookies in the oven, or decorating their valentine cookies. Teens decorated a valentine card for someone special using cutout heart foam stickers, ribbons, cardstock, and markers. Teens and Ms. Banda had an enjoyable night getting to know each other.



Library Assistant Elsy Jackson serves as a regular contributor to Telecuentos (Dial-a-Story in Spanish) and she recorded a children's book on January 15. The title of the book is: *La Estrella de Lea* by Claude K. Dubois. Ms. Jackson presented the Conversational Spanish for Beginners program every Monday including January 22 January 29, and February 12 and featured the themes: "Introductions" (Presentaciones), "Daily Activities"(Actividades del Día), and "Love Phrases"(Frases de Amor), respectively. Mrs. Jackson also moderated the Club de Lectura "Café con Libro", a book club in Spanish, on February 12. The participants discussed *Dilema (Dilemma)* by Alberto Cutié.

## LANDA



Baby Time, Toddler Time, and Story Time continue weekly with families braving cold, icy weather to join us for songs, rhymes, and books at Landa Library. At the end of Story Time, Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas has added a process art component to the play time that parents are really enjoying. So far, families have chalked it up with a collaborative art project and also made paper hats.



In addition to these weekly programs, for the winter programming session Ms. Salinas added a drop-in play program titled "Let's Play" on Wednesday afternoons for families. For the last two weeks of January, the weather cooperated and families enjoyed outside playtime with small obstacle courses for children ages zero to five one week and a fun filled hour of playing with parachutes of various sizes the next. In February, the Let's Play program moved back inside due to weather constraints, but the fun continued with a play time all about animals and then one all about music.



To celebrate the first selection of the Mayor's Family Book Club, Landa Library had a Come & Go craft program to celebrate unity. Children were encouraged to add their handprint to a collage. The program began on a Friday, but Ms. Salinas encouraged all the families that attended weekly programs to add their handprint to the collage.



One Saturday in January, Landa Library hosted a *Frozen* Movie Sing Along for children. Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas brought out the rhythm sticks, shaker eggs, scarves, and bells so that kids could sing along, dance, and groove to the movie. Straws and connectors and Magnet Tiles were set out so children could create their own ice castles. Also, a small process art project was put out for families to create together as they watched the movie. The teens that participate in Landa Library's Teen Night also made slime for the children to take home as a parting gift.



February began with a Peter Rabbit Party for families. Using Libby and Overdrive, Ms. Salinas projected the ebook on the wall and children got to listen to the e-audiobook as they played at various activity stations. The children worked on adding vegetables to the art collaborative garden drawing in roots and the sun with chalk. Then they painted with Q-tips to create rabbits, carrots, and their own interpretations of gardens. At the green play dough area, children created carrots and rabbit sculptures. The promotional materials sent to the library included carrot and lettuce seeds, so children were able to decorate a pot and plant their own seeds to take home. At the end of the program, the messiest station that indicated that children enjoyed it thoroughly was the sensory bin filled with green and red lentils.



At the end of January, Library Assistant Rebekah Corely and Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas offered a special Slime Tween Time. Seventeen tweens showed up to make slime; a record attendance number for the Tween Time program. Ms. Corely walked everyone through the steps to make "fluffy" slime. This slime though had a special twist because the tweens were able to add glow in the dark paint! The Tweens loved making slime, and they are already asking for another slime date. Tween Time once again run by Ms. Corely was also popular in February as tweens got to indulge their sugar cravings by making Candy Sushi and playing Pictionary.



During the first week of February as Landa prepared to host the Our Family Reads celebration, Ms. Salinas prepared an airplane themed element for Baby Time, Toddler Time, and Story Time to highlight the upcoming event. On February 10, Landa Library hosted the Mayor's Family Reads kickoff party where Councilman Robert Treviño revealed his theme choice: airplanes! Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas worked with the United States Air Force Military Education School Liaison Office to arrange for local pilots come out to Landa to do a story time on the day of the event. Not just one pilot came, but rather three: Captain Julie Rainwaters, Major Lincoln Olsen, and Lt. Col. Christopher Hickock. To add to the program, Councilman Treviño also read a story to the children that attended. After the story, on the terrace, there were various crafts and activities for the families to enjoy. The children loved making paper airplanes and then testing them in our "flight test", a board with various targets to test their skills. They also could design their own aircraft out of Legos, paint clouds with cotton balls, or create an airplane stick puppet to take home. Robin Alcorta, the Children's Librarian of Potranco Library, also helped Ms. Salinas make two really great selfie photo props for families to use to commemorate the day. To add to the décor for the special event, Ms. Salinas also had over thirty children's airplane books on display for families.



In addition, Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta invited the Alamo Squadron of the International Plastic Model Modelers' Society to bring a display of model airplanes. Four members of the organization manned tables in the Landa foyer featuring aircraft from all eras and representing World Wars I and II, the Korean War and Vietnam Wars, and contemporary aircraft models. They also displayed children's books on the subject of both fixed and rotary wing devices. The members of the organization posed for photos with Mayor Nirenberg and Councilman Treviño.



While the children were busy with multiple stations of crafts and activities, adults had the opportunity to hear a presentation by Ken Paynter, the chief docent at the Texas Air Museum located at Stinson Municipal Airport. He pointed out the importance of the Stinson family in bringing aviation to San Antonio, particularly 21-year-old barnstormer Katherine Stinson. The particular significance of the Stinsons is their vision of the importance of the future of aviation. Their pioneer work in aeronautics training and Katherine's skill at performing dangerous airplane stunts came at the birth of the era of aviation—prior to World War I. This presentation, or a visit to the Stinson museum location, is well worth the time.



Five members of the Nightwatch Ensemble, part of the Air Force Band of the West, played a concert as people were gathering for the official opening of the event. Their repertoire included familiar patriotic American selections. The ensemble concluded with the National Anthem which brought the animated and excited crowd to a quiet moment just before the program began.



In February, Ms. Jasmin Salinas also arranged a special Toddler Time to celebrate feelings and Valentine's Day. The story read focused on feelings with all the children enjoying a rousing rendition of "If you're happy and you know it" with shaker eggs. Afterwards instead of the usual toys, Ms. Salinas put out two Valentine themed crafts, red play dough, a sensory bin, and a "tunnel of love" for the children to enjoy. The playtime after the Toddler Time was so popular that it ran thirty minutes over the usual program time. Additionally, Ms. Salinas received many thank you messages from parents that really enjoyed the extra special activities.



The Preschool Dance Party was very successful with children and their parents enjoying the hits of Motown. The dancing and stories were enjoyed by all the attendees.



Landa teens, alongside Teen Liaison Rebekah Corley, and with guidance by Assistant Manager Karen Sebesta, ecstatically launched their new Saturday Drop-In Volunteer program this month! This recurring opportunity is by request of community teens needing short-notice and highly flexible volunteer schedules to help them meet their many responsibilities and commitments, while still having a chance to support their community (and earn those service hours, too).



Several of these volunteers supported our Mayor's Our Family Reads event held at Landa in February by facilitating children's crafts and taking event photos. The regular teen club group also gave time to the children's programming, preparing slime and providing AV set up for a sing-a-long event. Lastly, all celebrated themselves and each other with a Valentine's themed Teen Club, making inspirational collages and learning how to make delicate chocolate treats. (Piping was a challenge, but so worth it!)



Landa adult programming was honored to welcome Eric Sundby, President and CEO of The Holocaust Remembrance and Restitution Foundation, an organization dedicated to restoring stolen antiquities, working to stop the illegal antiquities market, and educating the public on Holocaust, World War II, communist crime and history, and fighting anti-Semitism. His program attracted a large audience of those interested in all aspects of Holocaust remembrance.



Karen also hosted a special observance of the Mardi Gras season with a program on the tradition of the King Cake. The delightful Elizabeth Pearson, local food writer and recipe developer, was the special guest. She talked about the history of the King Cake and its various manifestations around the world. Ms. Pearson brought several completed King Cakes with her, along with all of the confectioner's sugar, sprinkles and decorations needed to complete the cakes. She also let participants get their hands really messy with ingredients to start the cake dough from scratch, which allowed them to take the dough home to bake. The event was so well-received that Ms. Pearson was invited to return with another cooking program in the future.



Landa's on-site book clubs continue to grow, with the Reader's Ink club adding a new member this month. The group discussed the book *The 100-Foot Journey* by Richard Morais. This club was started over a decade ago by retired librarian Randolph Blake. Evelyn Salinas is the one original member who is still with the group. Reader's Ink and the Mystery Book Club have a large cross-over membership. This month the Mystery Book Club read *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware. This group, too, has grown since it was formed four years ago, now with approximately 15 members who come regularly.



Karen's Book Club at the Village at the Incarnate Word enjoyed the best seller *The Kite Runner* by Kahled Hosseini. This group, too, is attracting new members.

## LAS PALMAS



On January 18, Children's Librarian Barbaraella Frazier participated in the Parent Meeting with Health Start to promote library programs for early literacy. In addition to talking about the programs at Las Palmas and different library services, Ms. Frazier talked about new books available for parents through the San Antonio Public Library.



On January 22, children participated in process based learning during Family Fun. Children's Librarian Barbaraella Frazier helped children learn building techniques with Legos, Tinker Toys, Crystal Climbers, blocks, and play dough.



On January 29 during Family Fun, Library Aid Elvia Ramos helped children experiment with colors using dyed shaving cream and filter paper. Likewise, the children did color games using Legos.



On February 1, Children's Librarian Barbaraella Frazier participated in National Read Aloud Day at Las Palmas Elementary. Ms. Frazier read to several classes.



On February 2, the Las Palmas Branch celebrated Groundhog Day with a Come & Go Craft. Children made groundhogs using craft sticks and construction paper and used their groundhog to experiment with shadows.



On Monday, February 5, Las Palmas honored Beatrice Potter and had a Family Fun event featuring Peter Rabbit. Children's Librarian Barbaraella Frazier read three different versions of the tales of Peter Rabbit and discussed the Peter Rabbit characters. The children made Peter Rabbit collages using cut outs of Peter Rabbit characters, cotton balls for "tails", and used different items dipped in paint to create "stamps". In addition to taking home their crafts, the children took home bookmarks and posters.



On Tuesday, February 13, Children's Librarian Barbaraella Frazier participated in Pre-K for SA's Literacy Night. Ms. Frazier met with dozens of children and their adults. In addition to promoting library services and upcoming library events, Ms. Frazier did multiple story-time readings.





The Las Palmas Branch celebrated Valentine's Day with month long displays and different Valentine's themed activities. On Monday, February 12, the branch hosted a Valentine's Day Family Fun Night. Children's Librarian Barbaraella Frazier and Circulation Attendant Patricia Perez read monster themed Valentine's Book such as *Love Monster* by Rachel Bright, *Zombie In Love* by Kelly DiPucchio, and *Valensteins : (A Love Story)* by Ethan Long. Ms. Frazier and Ms. Perez helped the children create crafts such as animals made from only heart shapes, heart flowers, and a heart basket to hold crafts and Valentines. In addition, on February 14, Lego Time featured a heart making contest.



On Friday, February 16, the Las Palmas Branch celebrated Chinese New Year. The Chinese symbol for 2018 is the dog and children made puppy puppets. In addition, information about Chinese New Year's was shown.

## MAVERICK



The Ladies' Choice Book Club met on Saturday January 27 and the Lady Mav's Book Club met on Tuesday, February 13.



Maverick's meeting room has been under renovation. Along with the recent paint job, new carpet and new ceiling tiles have enhanced the room and a large 75" television has been mounted on the wall. The new tables, chairs, and cabinet console also contribute a bright new ambiance to the meeting room.



The Maverick Chess Club met on Mondays, January 22, 29 and February 12.



On January 23, Children's Librarian Amy Roberts represented Maverick Library at Councilwoman Ana Sandoval's District 7 Town Hall Meeting at Braun Station Elementary. Also, on January 23, Ms. Roberts completed a little over two months of subbing for three different story times on Tuesdays at Igo Branch Library.



While Maverick's meeting room continues to get its new makeover, all children's programs have been in the main area of the library in January and February. During this time, the Lego Club has grown by leaps and bounds! Ms. Roberts continues to display the kids' creations every week, thus giving the children pride in their work when they see their Lego creation in the display case!



Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl coordinated five "Teen Time" programs and welcomed another new TLLC volunteer during the reporting period. Maverick Teens enjoyed the snacks and beverages provided by the Friends; hot chocolate, grilled cheese sandwiches (on Texas Toast of course), nachos and pizza. The teens chose to play Uno, Jenga and other board games as well as perfecting their tile coasters and making bookmarks for themselves and each other. It is a privilege and a pleasure to watch the Teens take ownership of their program. On two separate evenings, two different regular attendees welcomed new, shy girls and engaged them in conversation and activities.



Circulation Attendant Celicia De Los Santos facilitated the February 13 Teen Time @ Maverick, during which the teens played Life and noshed on Papa John's Pizza, courtesy of the Maverick Friends of the Library.

## McCRELESS



Tween Time, led by Librarian Marisa DeBow, has a small but loyal group. They have enjoyed visiting with each other during Tween Time while making a variety of crafts or playing games. Tweens learned about the art of book-folding and created their own creatures from old paperbacks and felt. DeBow's sample was a hedgehog and it was neat to see the Tweens turn theirs into mice by adding ears and a tail.



The branch continues weekly Lego Time, Baby Time, and Toddler Time programs. Lego Time, led by Library Assistant Joseph Gonzales continues to draw regular attendance with new themes each week. With the assistance of Library Services Specialist Carolyn Bradley, young visitors to the library receive one-on-one enthusiastic attention when attending Toddler and Baby Time.



At the beginning of February, the branch's dramatic play area was transformed from a cookie shop into a pizzeria. Young and young-at-heart patrons are enjoying creating felt and cardboard pizzas with various felt toppings, baking them in a brick oven, selling their creations at a cash register, and enjoying their creations at tables with plates and silverware.



Teen Time, led by Librarian I Marisa DeBow, was well-attended by a small, loyal group. Teens had the chance to enjoy making buttons, bubble magnets, pom poms & ice-cream-in-a-bag. In addition, teens had fun playing old-fashioned games such as Pictionary, Apples to Apples and Uno.



On February 5, Library Assistant Al Chavez presented a workshop on decorative origami boxes. Participants learned to fold beautiful decorative origami boxes that can be used for small Valentine's Day gifts and treats.



The branch's monthly book club met on February 10 and discussed *Little Deaths* by Emma Flint. Participants deemed the title a work of literary crime fiction, and were impressed by its character development.

## MEMORIAL



Children's Librarian Christine Deffendall narrated the Dial-a-Story for the week of January 29. Her selection was *Thunder boy Junior*, by Sherman Alexie, illustrated by Yuyi Morales.



Mrs. Deffendall visited Loma Park Elementary School, where she spoke to the school's second grade students about SAPL materials. She read *Library Lion*, by Michelle Knudsen, to all 120 second grade students.



Christine attended training for posting to the Children's Services Blog on mysapl.org



Memorial hosted both a Preschool Motown Sound Dance Party and a Chinese New Year Celebration.



Mrs. Deffendall hosted bilingual second and third grade students with their families from Madison E.S. School on Saturday February 17. Mrs. Deffendall read *The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet* by Carmen Agra Deedy. A craft activity followed.



Teen Liaison Rene Leija hosted an impromptu session with a group of teens. The group requested the Uno game. Mr. Leija scheduled and set up the Playstation 4 for teens to enjoy. Mr. Leija screened the movie *Iron Man* for teens to enjoy.



In honor of Holocaust Remembrance, Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Davila organized a presentation by Dr. Edward Westermann at Central Library. Along with many academic credentials, including books and published articles, Dr. Westermann speaks fluent German. He teaches a course on the Holocaust at Texas A & M University, San Antonio. Thirty-two patrons attended his event. Part of this presentation included showing clips of historic Nazi propaganda films featuring Jewish internment camps. His talk focused on Terezin, which was considered the "model ghetto" camp.



To address the needs of the community, Ms Davila partnered with several community service organizations by providing information tables for local non-profits to promote their programs to the public. DePelchin Children's Center, which offers foster care services, and Community First also visited the branch to increase awareness of their programs. Also providing information services were the Martinez Street Women's Center and UT Health, Cancer division.



The branch also provided ACA, Medicaid and CHIP signup in the meeting room to accommodate several people interested in their resources. In partnership with the Daughters of Charity of San Antonio, enrollment assistance was provided for the public.



As on-going programs, Memorial features adult coloring on various themes, e.g. Black History Month and Valentine's Day.



To curb the stray cat population, on a regular basis the branch sponsors the SA Cat Coalition. They conduct workshops on how to catch cats for spay/neuter surgeries. The surgeries are affordable and the workshops are informative with realistic scenarios on catching cats.



Memorial has two exhibits up for January and February. The wall exhibit features watercolor illustrations by Madeline Hernandez, an art major at Baylor University. The other exhibit is from Brian Zampier, a Marianist Brother at St. Mary's University. His art pieces, displayed in a glass exhibit case, are needle felt shapes to form the alphabet. He designs, colors, and forms the shapes with clever images that correlate the letter, e.g. the letter "Z" is a zebra with black and white felt pieces. The images of the exhibits will be posted on Flickr shortly.



The branch offered Adult Coloring with the Black History theme and the Valentine's Day theme to ease stress and just enjoy the coloring process. Patrons enjoy sitting in the open area and contribute to the pages already on display by coloring them and either taking them home or leaving them for display purposes. Patrons eagerly ask for additional coloring pages when the supply runs out.



The branch screened *The Pianist* in observance of The Holocaust: Learn and Remember. The film is a biographical memoir by pianist and composer Wladyslaw Szpilman. The film earned awards at the Cannes Film Festival and the Academy Awards. It was a co-production between France, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Poland. Enjoying the movie were adults of all ages, who also enjoyed the popcorn.



The branch hosted the four I Cycle workshops sponsored by Community First HealthCare. The workshop consisted of training and repairing of bicycles. Each patron that completed the workshop was provided with a certificate of completion as well as a complimentary gift.



The branch hosted the Memorial Heights Neighborhood Association. COSA Planning Department presented and addressed citizen concerns on developments for the West side of San Antonio. Library Manager Maria Gonzales was invited to speak on any developments for the reconstruction of the Memorial Library. Mrs. Gonzales addressed the group and encouraged them to continue using the library's resources and to be patient as plans are still in the developing phase. The group asked if public hearings would be held before construction begins and Mrs. Gonzales assured them that open public hearings would be held sometime in the near future.

## MISSION



VITA free tax preparation assistance program started the last week of January at Mission library and it's always a very popular program for the community.



In February, Brackenridge High school students presented an art exhibit at Mission Library called *The Family Tree/ The Tree of Life*. NEA National Heritage Fellow and third generation clay artist Veronica Castillo influenced the art in the exhibit by Brackenridge students. Ms. Castillo created the composition for the mural, the students decided on the color scheme and style of the mural.



Ms. Castillo also worked with ceramic students to create Arboles de la Vida that is currently displayed at Mission branch.



Teen Services Librarian Emily Young taught all eighth, ninth, and tenth grade students at IDEA South Flores how to use the library catalog and databases. Ms. Young also assisted those students in signing up for a library card so they would have access to these resources for their studies. Due to the outreach done at IDEA South Flores, Mission Library saw an increase of 56% of teen attendance at programs during this four week period as compared to the previous four weeks.



Teens participated in a Valentine themed party to celebrate the holiday, including cooking a holiday themed meal and making Valentine cards for loved ones. The teens that attended our Anime Club also made chocolates to celebrate the holiday.



Attendance figures for children's programming are picking up after a quiet holiday season. Many new families have started coming to Baby Time and Toddler Time and are becoming regular attendees.



The children's area decorations are transitioning from winter penguins to spring décor to welcome the new season. The children's librarian received a lovely compliment this week after Toddler Time. A grandmother remarked that they love to come to Mission and that the children's librarian is wonderful with the very active little ones.



The children's librarian was invited to a Literacy night at Frank L. Madla *Accelerated* Collegiate Academy as a special guest. The families were very welcoming and enthusiastic about the many programs and events offered by Mission Branch Library.

## PAN AMERICAN



Toddler Time and Family Fun continue to bring in children to the library. Legos, come and go crafts and puzzles were featured activities along with books to inspire the children. Peter Rabbit kept up interests as he raced through the garden and ate vegetables. Children made seed sprouting pouches to grow lettuce and carrots. Children's Librarian Valerie Shelley participated in several Harlandale ISD STEM Nights for elementary and middle school students. They built a variety of shapes, buildings, animals and untitled pieces. Ms. Valerie also enjoys seeing children out in the community who recognize her as being from the library.



Two long-time programs continue to be popular at the branch. Qigong, similar to tai chi, has been offered every Friday morning for a good while, and yoga classes are held each Sunday morning. During the reporting period approximately 70 people participated in these two offerings.



Knights of the Square Table, which gives adults an opportunity to play chess, is held every Monday evening. The adult coloring program continues on the second Tuesday of each month. Sunny, a mixed breed therapy dog, is at Pan American one Saturday a month to allow children to practice reading. Sunny is the successor to Foxie, who retired several months ago after many years of service. Pan American showed a movie as part of SAPL's Learn and Remember commemoration of the Holocaust.



A new face has joined the Pan American team. Full-time Library Assistant Nicole Garza recently transferred from Johnston and will serve as Pan American's teen liaison. In January, Ms. Garza hosted two movie nights. She also assisted with an outreach event at Brennan High School. More than 300 students heard what services the library has to offer. The Pokémon Champions group successfully moved from Johnston Branch Library to Pan American Branch Library. Participants traded Pokémon cards and watched episodes of the original Pokémon television series.





In February, Ms. Garza assisted with another outreach event at Brennan High School. Teens made two buttons and several students designed their own buttons. Other teen library visitors played Super Smash Brothers on the Wii U. Ms. Garza conducted an art demonstration with the teens that included how to create plaster key chains. Several of the teens had not worked with plaster before. Teens also decorated the key chains using permanent markers. The Pokémon Champions group met to share information on the new Pokémon deck release earlier this month. The group practiced how to play the Pokémon card game with a different style. On Valentine's Day, Ms. Garza and the Pan American teen group made brownie waffles.

## PARMAN



In January, the Parman Library Team welcomed Mr. Brian Douglass from Semmes as our temporary Children's Librarian and Ms. Caroline Mossing from Brook Hollow. Welcome, Brian and Caroline!



Mr. Douglass brings with him a fresh perspective on Children's Programming and is taking over Baby Time, Toddler Time, and Wednesday's Toddler Two, while Ms. Katie Robinson continues to do Story Time. Mr. Douglass visited and observed programs presented by other fellow Children's Librarians.



The Parman teens have worked with Caroline Mossing (Librarian II) to plan several successful teen programs at the branch since she joined the staff on January 20. Attendance at teen programs had been in a bit of a slump since last August, when almost all active Parman teens graduated, but has been increasing steadily in last few weeks. Teens have played several enthusiastic games of Uno and Sushi Go!, learned how to make a fancy fruit salad, and made chocolate covered strawberries and pretzels in celebration of Valentine's Day.



Adults, in addition to regular, monthly, programs were presented with another Do It Yourself class. Class was prepared and presented by staff member Lynda and her husband Jonathan. Participants learned how to make three very easy, no-bake desserts just in time for Valentine's Day.



Thanks to Michael Howdyshell and Laura Villanueva, Parman branch was hosting the four-hour Basic CPI Course and the Adjusting and Correcting Fines and Fees Class. It was a great opportunity for not only the Parman team, but also others from this part of the city to attend the training.



In observance of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Parman Branch prepared the book display and interactive Transformation Station inspired by the United Nation's "The Butterfly Project: Remembering the Children of the Holocaust".



Parman team building projects were prepared and implemented by library aide Nia Meissler. Ms. Meissler began using a bulletin board in a break room as a team building focal point. It started with a "Fur Babies" display, where employees who wanted to bring in photos of their pets could frame them and post them on the board. These cute furry faces brought instant smiles to anyone entering the break room, and were an easy ice breaker when getting to know new staff or co-workers one might not usually work with. The displays have varied from group exercise to sharing treats and have steadily gained participants. The break room has reflected this change with the addition of a flourishing green plant, an extra table that often hosts snacks to share, and an overall warm and welcoming feel.

The last theme was “You are Magical”, complete with rainbow and unicorn themed background and a pug-i-corn calendar. Each staff member was asked to fill out a “unicorn horn” with what they wanted to be when they grew up, and to fill their name in on the back. The wonderful aspect of this board in particular was that it was easy to involve Caroline and Brian in the fun, and a great way for them to get to know us. We learned some of us wanted to be an Egyptologists, and others, Zorro.

Staff enjoyed an impromptu Mardi Gras feast of fried pastries and a surprise visit with the President, Vice President, and Treasurer of the Friends of the Parman Library. There was an immense amount of pride and an even greater sense of community to be had that day. Still greater was our sense of Parman as a family that cares about one another.

## POTRANCO



Talk about Teamwork! The team spirit at Potranco isn't limited to its own community. Children's Librarian Robin Alcorta helped Landa with the Mayor's Our Family Reads event. Alcorta contributed flight testing games and floating photo ops.



On February 2, Children's Librarian Robin Alcorta hosted a *Peter Rabbit Party* as many as 50 community members showed up to hear the original story of Peter Rabbit; so many of the children are excited to hear about the story's movie release. After the story, children spent the rest of the time exploring different stations. There was a sensory bin filled with peas and carrots, counting carrots game, pretend play garden, paint a rabbit craft and other activities. Alcorta also devised a “vote for your favorite vegetable” graph. The majority of Potranco kids chose carrots. So, stock up on your next trip to the market!



Newly implemented *STEAM Time* was held on February 3. The Children watched a NASA video about engineering and architecture. Attendees discussed blue prints and the children made their own blue prints with paint and crayons. Working together, the children built an inhabitable house of newspapers and tape.



On February 9, Children's Librarian Robin Alcorta hosted a special version of story time for Valentine's Day. Children celebrated love, hugs, and kisses with their parents for a special valentine theme story time. After the story activities included a box arcade, felt story, play dough, and pompom sensory bin that they children enjoyed. Lastly the children made their own sweet valentines to take home.



Potranco invited Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) coordinator Chinatsu Oku back since the school age children enjoyed her previous program so much. On January 17, Oku demonstrated and taught tweens how to make traditional Japanese Rice Balls. Chinatsu also did a presentation on other varieties of traditional Japanese foods. This program served to expose children to another culture by way of food.



On February 7, Librarian Kassandra Vela-Laosa entertained tweens with Origami Airplanes. In addition to it being just “plane” fun, this activity served as a STEAM activity by encouraging 3-dimensional thinking in the creation of the paper airplanes, and art through the decorating of the airplanes. At the end of the day, Potranco staffers must have collected half a dozen paper airplanes from the oddest places! Community kids think of Potranco as a really fun place to be and play.

## PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS



The Newbery award-winning title *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly, was a popular selection during a recent meeting of the Family Circle Book Club. Children and parents expressed their interest in finding out about what life was like growing up as a young girl in Texas in 1899. The main character Calpurnia did not wish to learn about cooking and sewing but instead wanted to attend college and pursue a career in science.



Families attending the Peter Rabbit party had a fabulous time. They enjoyed listening to a reading of the original *Tale of Peter Rabbit* followed by a discussion of various vegetables one might find in a garden. Which do you think grow above ground and which grow underground? The children's librarian provided some background information about the life of Beatrix Potter. The children did an amazing job of painting their own "Fingerprint Carrot Gardens". They were excited to receive a movie poster and seeds.



Children's Librarian Cynthia Saenz attended Career Day at Camelot Elementary. The children learned about the rewarding career of working as a librarian. The students were eager to learn about the educational requirements and various duties librarians perform. The children were thrilled to receive free bookmarks and Valentine pencils for being great listeners.



In January, Teen Librarian Rae Downen joined the Roosevelt High School Library's Diversity Book Club facilitated by Librarian Lynnette Perez. The Diversity Book Club introduces the Roosevelt High School students to books that represent characters from different lifestyles, backgrounds, and upbringings. *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika Sánchez was discussed. In February, the book club will read and discuss all three graphic novels in the *March* Trilogy by Congressman John Lewis.



On February 7, Teen Time provided teen patrons a chance to do community service by prepping for upcoming teen programs. Teens on the Roosevelt campus are always looking for service hours, so they are excited to volunteer at the library. Helping develop programs gave the teens who have not gone through volunteer orientation or training a chance to perform some service hours. The programs they prepped for were Mindful Monday and Valentine's Day Teen Time.



On Mindful Monday, Ms. Edmond, who is certified to teach students the practice of mindfulness, led the teens in a guided meditation, with an emphasis on love. Ms. Edmond worked to move the teens' thoughts away from loving someone else to loving themselves and taking care of both their outward appearance and their inner selves. Teens made tubes of homemade lip balm after selecting the colors and flavors that appealed most to them.



Valentine's Day is an important day on a high school campus. Teen Librarian Rae Downen always has a lunchtime activity for students who are unable to attend the after school Teen Time program. Over 100 teens flocked to a table in the Roosevelt cafeteria to make and decorate a Valentine gift box with two Hershey Kisses and a note inside.



The Luscious Library Lip Balm Teen Time workshop had a class size of 25, but Ms. Downen always builds in extra space because it is hard for her to say "no" to any teens who are interested in participating. The lip balm workshop was both fun and educational. Patrons had to weigh the ingredients,

read and follow directions, and pay careful attention so the ingredients would not harden before being put into the lip balm tubes. Each participant walked away with two tubes of lip balm to which they got to add a color (pink, red, coral, or merlot), a flavor (mint, strawberry, cherry, vanilla, orange, papaya), and sparkle-- lots and lots of sparkle!



In January, adult patrons learned to knit beautiful, practical hats using circle looms, a knitting pick, and yarn. Patrons enjoyed this hands-on session that involved learning a new skill while interacting with other adults. Patrons who did not finish the hat during the class were able to come back to the library to check out a loom to complete their creation. The class filled up quickly, so it is being offered again in the coming weeks.



The TGIF Book Group enjoyed reading and discussing another novel by Fredrik Backman in January. Having read and enjoyed *A Man Called Ove* in 2017, the group's first reading selection of 2018 was *Beartown*. This book, set in Sweden during the winter, turned out to be the perfect selection to read during January's blustery days.

## SAN PEDRO



Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton presented monthly story times to children at Monte Vista Montessori (two classes) and Laurel Heights Weekday School (two classes). Fifteen to twenty books were also delivered to each child care/preschool class for their use during the month. Monte Vista and Laurel Heights request thematic books for topics they will be discussing in their respective classes and the teachers are very appreciative of this enrichment to their curriculum.



Ms. Dalton hosted three Family Fun events during this period: a Peter Rabbit Party; Valentine's Day Party; and a Motown Dance Party in celebration of Black History Month. The first two drew large crowds and the participants of the Motown Party were enthusiastic dancers to the Motown beat!



Minecraft Monday continues and Kids Time on Wednesdays has been converted to a weekly LEGO® Club. Attendance at both programs has increased.



Toddler Time continued during this reporting time with a small but very loyal group. A few new children have joined our group.



Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton and Manager Diane Backhus represented the library at the February 7 Rogers AC Family Literacy Night promoting SAPL and providing a fun craft for the children.



Ms. Dalton hosted nine book clubs in the aggregate for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. These schools include Monte Vista Montessori, Kipp Poder, St. Anthony's School, and two SAISD schools: Hawthorne Academy and Beacon Hill Elementary. Ms. Dalton added a new 5<sup>th</sup> grade book club from Cotton ES, an SAISD school. She also assists the facilitator of the book club at the Advanced Learning Academy by helping her select and obtain appropriate books.



Betsy serves on the Committee of Thinkers subcommittee, the iPad subcommittee and the Summer Reading Committee. She also represents San Pedro on the Wellness Committee.



San Pedro Branch Library was a movie set on Friday, February 16! The movie, *History of the San Antonio Lie-Berry*, is a comedy about four prostitutes in the Old West who are put to work as librarians by their concerned town. The film is being submitted as an entry for the Mission City Film Festival. The cast and crew were on site for several hours. The rest of the movie was filmed at the Old West set in Blanco, Texas. San Pedro was selected since it is the oldest Library in the system. This event was coordinated through Karla Vasquez in the Library's Marketing Department.

## SCHAEFER



Weekly winter programming continued for kids with Story Time, Toddler Time and LEGO Time. The Toddler Time and Story Time participants read stories and sang songs about penguins, winter, rodeo and Valentine's Day. For the rodeo programs, kids wore boots and hats and had the opportunity to sit on a real saddle and play horseshoes! For the Valentine's Day Story Time party, the kids made a heart-shaped craft, tried out their aim at a heart-shaped bean bag toss, and became scientists with a science experiment using baking soda, vinegar, and a heart-shaped muffin tin. LEGO Time participants continue to build, build, build! The kids really enjoy displaying their creations in the kid's area of the library.



To celebrate Valentine's Day on February 14, a special Come & Go Craft was offered. Kids could make a Valentine's Day card using a variety of supplies.



Schaefer celebrated Our Family Reads on February 17 with a Come & Go Craft. Kids made paper gliders with strips of paper, tape and straws. Then they put their aim to the test by throwing the gliders at a flight test board. Staff heard from many kids and parents that they enjoyed the activity.



Children's librarian Leslie Elsasser participated in a few outreach opportunities during the reporting period. She went to each of her monthly child care centers on January 24 and February 7 and presented story time programs on bears and penguins. She also attended a book club at Salado Intermediate School on February 15. This was her first time at the school, and she and the school librarian plan to continue working together in the future.



Leslie and Library Assistant Sara Ramirez have been creating book bundles using picture books and board books to increase circulation. Each bundle has three to five books on a theme, and then they wrap them with yarn and put a name tag on them. The bundles are becoming quite popular with patrons.



Library Assistant Sara Ramirez facilitated two Science Time programs during the reporting period. On January 25, children learned about the science of sound through a series of interactive activities including playing with rhythm sticks as a group, making a kazoo, playing a sound matching game, making music with different volumes of water, and playing homemade drums made from various containers and balloons. The children enjoyed a flute demonstration by a Schaefer teen volunteer who plays in the band at Heritage Middle School.





On February 8, the branch had a special Valentine Science Time and explored the color red. The meeting room was separated into stations with red-themed activities. Children painted red hearts onto rocks using their thumbs and drew silly faces with permanent markers. They also made cloud dough with red kool-aid packets as an added ingredient to give their dough a red tinge and fruity scent. Other “red” activities included red vinegar and baking soda chemical reactions, reading a book about red animals, and decorating cookies with red icing.



On February 3, Schaefer Library celebrated Take Your Child to the Library Day with a come and go craft. Children were welcome to create their own work of art using pictures clipped from magazines and old children’s books.



Schaefer teens chose for their activities a slime making program, a pizza/movie night, and a milkshake program. They also worked together to organize and implement a Valentine’s Day program. Cards, Karaoke, and cupcakes were on the agenda for the program. A teen volunteer also brought his flute and played for the other teens in attendance.



Chinatsu Oku from UTSA’s East Asia Institute taught teens how to write in Japanese calligraphy style. She also brought information on Japanese culture, school life, and the role of calligraphy in education. Teens were excited to try this new art form and wrote their names in Kanji.



Teen Services Librarian Cindy Cruz continues visiting STEM Early College High School’s afterschool program and presented to 35 teens in January. Students from STEM H.S. made perler bead crafts during their monthly program.



Schaefer Library was proud to partner with East Central ISD at their annual Family Engagement Symposium this past January. Library Assistant Sheridan Richardson handed out branch calendars and informational brochures promoting the GED program and Learn Centers, in addition to encouraging patrons to attend Schaefer’s popular Teen and Children programs.



The Skimmers Book Club met the last Monday of January to discuss *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. The club has grown considerably since its inception last April, and the members enjoy connecting their personal experiences with the selected texts. The club is excited to move forward in 2018 with a new meeting day and time, and feels confident that membership will only continue to grow.

## SEMMES



The Peter Rabbit Party was a grand hit at the Semmes Branch Library. Twenty-four children and twenty-three adults attended. Everyone first enjoyed a reading of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* with all the nutrition talking points followed by games and crafts. Attendees played a “Frozen Veggies” game and the “Spin the Carrot Trivia Game”. The “Rabbit Ears” craft at the end was most popular and allowed children to put their own touch into making rabbit ears to wear.



The Semmes Sunday Stitchers group has picked up this month! The group welcomed a variety of stitchers working on cross-stitch, crochet, and knitting. Some of the programs were held out in the library rather than the meeting room and has attracted attention from other patrons who have expressed interest in joining.



Tuesday Teen Time is attracting all patrons this month with delicious popcorn smells. In addition to making and eating popcorn, the teens have been extremely competitive during board game and video game challenges. Meanwhile, the tweens have been making slime, crafting, and playing games while keeping Library Assistant Melody Smith on her toes with their antics.



The outreach book club led by Library Assistant Melody Smith had a record attendance and lively discussion with their latest book club selection, *The Art Forger*.



Every Saturday morning Library Assistant Julie Ernst and Librarian Megan Stanley have led a Saturday Morning Walk. Although the weather has been a bit rainy and dreary, the program is picking up steam and has even attracted fellow co-workers who have the day off to join.



The Semmes Friends of the Library Book Sale was a big hit and was nearly sold out by noon! The Friends had several volunteers help with the set-up and tear down and gained a few new members at the sale.



Children's librarian Randi Jones has had over 30 children for every story time this month and children and adults in attendance were thoroughly entertained by Randi's engaging storytelling and songs.

## THOUSAND OAKS



Wacky Wednesdays has continued to be a popular Kids' Time program at Thousand Oaks. Kids have recently made washer necklaces, crafty snacks, slime, Valentine's crafts, and Chinese New Year crafts. On January 25, "National Opposite Day" was celebrated at story time by sharing stories that were about opposites. The kids also made a paper craft of a gumball machine, and used paint dot markers to show an empty machine and a full machine! In January, the Children's department received a donation of a play house structure. The children have enjoyed playing and reading in this new structure on a daily basis.



Thousand Oaks hosted their weekly Teen Time programs. The Teens enjoyed a night of Just Dance 2018 on the Nintendo Wii. They danced while enjoying a variety of snacks. Thousand Oaks hosted a t-shirt painting night for the teens. They used fabric paint to express their creativity. Thousand Oaks continues to provide a safe, fun space for the teens to express themselves.



Members of the Northeast Senior Center book club met on January 23 to discuss the latest selection *Glass Houses* by Louise Penny. Hosted by librarian Theresa Ybarra, readers discussed the writing techniques used and were split about whether or not the large cast of characters added to the

story or not. While most enjoyed the setting of the book, readers decided there were just too many characters and side stories for the book to be enjoyable. Members enjoyed the December meeting and spent some more time talking about books they have enjoyed outside of the book club.



The Thursday book group met on January 18 to discuss Carol Burnett's book *This Time Together*. Ms. Burnett tells about her career from the beginning to today. It was a fascinating book about a very beloved actress. Her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary television special aired prior to this book group meeting.



The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance began on January 19. The first few days were slow as many customers had not received their W-2 forms. As time progressed more and more customers have been inquiring about their services. Now the service reaches capacity quickly.

## TOBIN LIBRARY AT OAKWELL



Children's Librarians Karen Braeuler and Circulation Attendant Carmen Zarate have received raving reviews from attendees at their once a month bilingual story times. The pilot program will continue on a permanent basis based on this feedback. Ms. Braeuler is attending twice weekly classes with Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico San Antonio to learn and increase her Spanish during the program as well.



Ms. Braeuler and Library Assistant Terry Verner planned and hosted a special Valentine Dance for toddlers and pre-school kids on February 14. Kids also decorated their own cookies to eat.



Children's Librarian Kimberly Wygant continues hosting the Read to a Dog Program twice monthly with Angel the therapy dog. This opportunity for kids to read to Angel continues to be embraced by parents, caregivers, and children of several ages. Ms. Wygant hosted a large group of kids cooking afterschool on January 23 where they learned to make, cook, and of course eat their own quesadillas with different toppings.



Teen Librarian Megan Coker partnered with Karen Barton, Outreach Librarian from UT Health Science Center, to help teens learn how to measure out ingredients and cook pancakes with some healthy toppings. Some teens had never cooked pancakes before and one girl tasted blueberries for the first time. Teens also gave input on recipes they liked best for an upcoming book that Ms. Barton hopes to publish as part of a summer lunch program this summer.



Ms. Coker has helped facilitate a small group of teens in a role playing game, Pathfinders, who meet weekly after school.



Tobin's Writers Group continues with great attendance and success with published authors. Other monthly adult programs include Joss Whedon Fan Club, COSPLAY Group, Voices De Luna poetry crowd and the Interesting Book Club.



San Antonio Narration and Voice Acting Workshop has begun meeting monthly at Tobin at Oakwell. Participants practice narrating, discuss voice acting, and listen to experts in the field. Attendance has doubled since the initial meeting so its popularity is growing.



Another new adult program that's being offered at Tobin is Meditation Hour that meets on Sundays several times a month. Meditation has been found to assist with health, emotional balance, mental clarity, inner awareness, and a deeper connection to self and higher consciousness. The group explores incorporating mindfulness into a daily practice for more balanced living and wellbeing.



Visitors of all ages traced and cut out their hand shapes from recycled magazines and books to create a Unity Mural. The mural now hangs in the meeting room for all to enjoy. The mural was part of The Mayor's Book Club and the monthly theme of unity for January.



Friends of the Tobin at Oakwell Library held their annual meeting on February 13. Branch Manager Tracey Knouse gave a presentation showing new and continued programs and services offered during the last year. Ms. Knouse discussed the impact Friends funding has provided towards innovative programs and increased activities being offered at the location.



Thanks to generous funding from the Bieke Estate, a 65" Digital TV was purchased and installed. All who enter the branch can visibly see program and special events happening at Tobin as well as other branches and system wide SAPL appearances.

## WESTFALL



During February, the Westfall Branch Library provided a variety of programs and services to the community. Many programs were holiday themed and offered to all ages. In addition to many events hosted at the branch, the staff was also able to offer off site services as well as outreach.



Children's Librarian Imelda Merino planned and held a variety of children's programs during the reporting period. Ms. Merion held weekly story time, toddler time, and family fun. Additionally, Ms. Merino visited the Kinder Care Learning Center and brought the children a variety of books to read. On Saturday, January 27, the branch celebrated Peter Rabbit's 125<sup>th</sup> birthday with a party that included a reading of the original story by Beatrix Potter, a coffee filter bunny craft, and refreshments. Ten children and 8 adults were attendance



Teen Librarian Daniella Toll held weekly teen time on Wednesday where young adults had the opportunity to hang out and do some fun activities. Ms. Toll has been working to make the teen area at Westfall more inviting and has gotten some new furniture we hope the teens will like.



The Westfall Branch Library continued to host the "Stranger than Fiction" and "Third Thursday" book clubs. Books read this month included *Eleanor and Hick* by Susan Quin and *Forest Dark* by Nicole Krauss. Both book clubs draw small but dedicated groups that enjoy discussing the topics raised in the books as well as other issues of the day.



Beginning in January, the branch hosted the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a free tax assistance service available to residents with incomes of \$60,000 or less. The service continued to be a much sought after program, with many people waiting in line prior to the branch opening.



The Westfall LEARN @ SAPL Center continued to be busy throughout the year. Over 200 people have stopped by the center for assistance with résumé writing, online job applications, and educational support. The English as a Second Language (ESL) class held every Saturday afternoon continued to be popular with the community and well attended. In January and February, LEARN @ SAPL offered a variety of computer classes that included: Microsoft Word, Excel, online searching, and email basics.



Westfall Branch manager Nathaniel Laubner continued to visit the Madonna SAHA apartments to deliver and pick up books for the residents. Mr. Laubner brought books in English, Spanish, and Russian. The Russian residents are the most avid readers and are always asking for new materials. We hope to one day have more foreign language titles in the collection, but until then we continued to search for other items. In addition to books, the facility manager and Mr. Laubner had crossword and word search games available to residents. Also, paperback books and more information about the library system were left for the seniors.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES



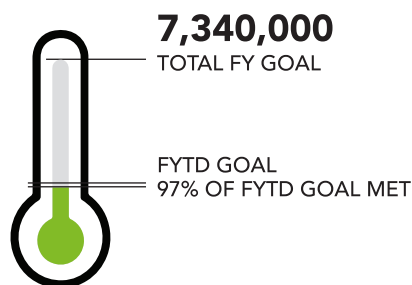
## SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY KEY INDICATORS

# JANUARY 2018

FY 2018

Presented below are key indicators that align with the Library's Strategic Plan, with a comparison to FY 2017.

### CIRCULATION: GOAL

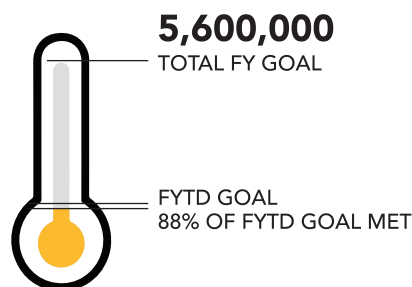


### CIRCULATION: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE



**2,274,543** ↓ **3%**  
ITEMS  
BORROWED

### LIBRARY VISITS: GOAL



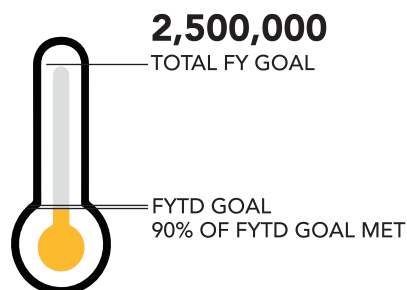
### LIBRARY VISITS: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE



**1,559,124** ↓ **19%\***  
VISITS

*\* As anticipated, visits are down compared to last year due to the presidential election*

### DIGITAL ACCESS: GOAL



### DIGITAL ACCESS: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE



**185,166**  
COMPUTER  
HOURS



**543,927**  
HOURS OF  
WI-FI USE

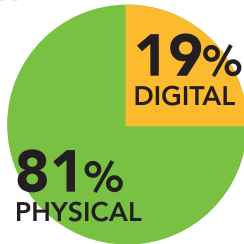
**543,074** ↓ **12%**  
TOTAL HOURS OF  
COMPUTER & WI-FI USE

# SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS

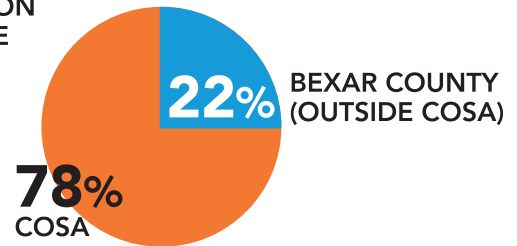
## JANUARY 2018 *(continued)*

### USE OF COLLECTION: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

CIRCULATION  
BY TYPE



CIRCULATION  
BY SERVICE  
AREA



### VIRTUAL VISITS: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE



**835,036**

MYSAPL.ORG  
VISITS

**285,930**

MYSAPL  
APP SESSIONS

**579,255**

SANANTONIO.OVERDRIVE.COM  
VISITS

### PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE



**109,114**

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

**23,483**

ADULT PROGRAMS

**16,780**

TEEN PROGRAMS

**68,851**

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

### MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

#### JANUARY 2018: PAX SOUTH



# San Antonio Public Library

## January 2018 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Computer & Wi-Fi Use	Computers - Hours of Use	Wi-Fi - Hours of Use
Bazan	4,755	8,761	5,991	1,620	4,371
Brook Hollow	25,356	17,312	5,368	1,021	4,347
Carver	4,522	7,481	3,767	1,403	2,364
Central	24,423	49,072	42,882	11,502	31,380
Cody	33,555	18,960	5,957	1,297	4,660
Collins Garden	6,415	7,697	4,852	1,651	3,200
Cortez	6,160	9,577	3,802	1,226	2,576
Encino	17,987	11,155	3,190	403	2,787
Forest Hills	7,414	7,672	3,676	1,150	2,526
Great Northwest	22,935	14,258	5,659	1,491	4,169
Guerra	10,734	10,416	5,786	1,651	4,135
Igo	26,825	20,406	6,475	957	5,518
Johnston	10,649	10,294	4,947	1,358	3,589
Landa	11,758	10,304	2,307	738	1,569
Las Palmas	4,772	10,383	4,298	1,730	2,568
Maverick	22,329	10,974	5,242	1,512	3,729
McCreless	10,530	12,672	4,835	1,548	3,288
Memorial	6,704	7,849	4,312	1,089	3,222
Mission	12,186	25,269	7,032	2,164	4,868
Pan American	6,486	7,746	3,604	1,507	2,097
Parman	26,081	21,240	5,553	694	4,859
Potranco	18,354	14,632	13,221	964	12,257
Pruitt	6,374	14,666	3,324	1,041	2,284
San Pedro	4,030	5,670	2,136	643	1,493
Schaefer	9,005	9,237	4,919	834	4,085
Semmes	23,552	16,723	6,036	1,618	4,419
Thousand Oaks	10,146	8,582	4,286	1,086	3,200
Tobin	17,576	14,865	4,747	1,436	3,311
Westfall	15,434	13,524	7,482	2,409	5,073
Kampmann Library Portal	N/A	1,155	333	N/A	333
Interlibrary Loan Lending	1,062	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Online/Phone Renewal	70,094	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Digital	116,536	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>594,739</b>	<b>398,552</b>	<b>186,020</b>	<b>47,743</b>	<b>138,277</b>

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

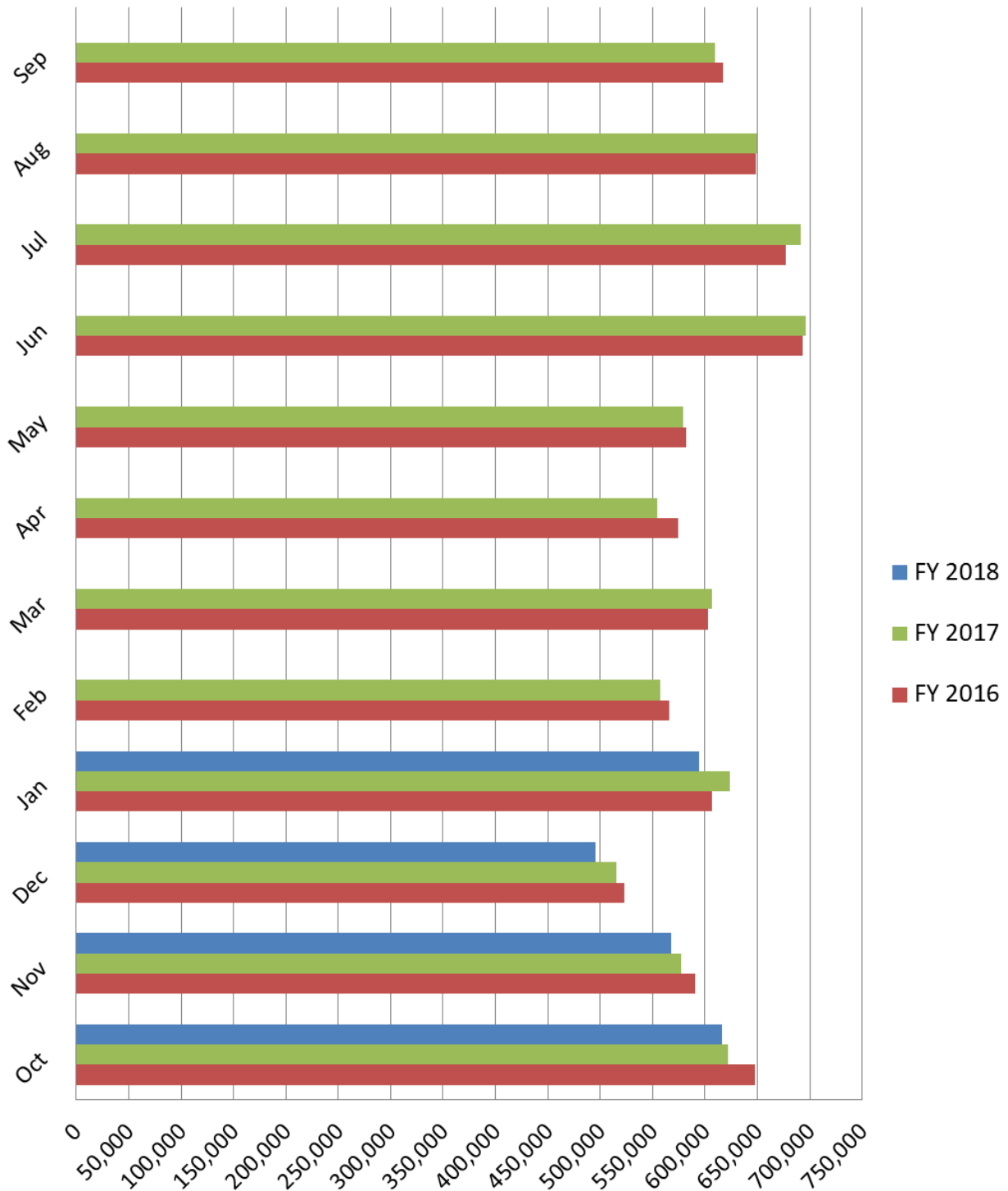
# San Antonio Public Library

## January 2018 Programs and Attendance

Location	Total Programs	Number of Programs			Total Program Attendance	Adult Program Attendance	Teen Program Attendance	Children's Program Attendance
		Adult	Teen	Children's				
Bazan	41	22	4	15	805	162	552	91
Brook Hollow	43	7	5	31	619	88	12	519
Carver	26	20	5	1	467	393	54	20
Central	124	11	80	33	1,995	122	706	1,167
Cody	35	6	5	24	786	59	66	661
Collins Garden	42	9	3	30	597	42	16	539
Cortez	104	80	3	21	357	212	11	134
Encino	46	12	8	26	742	94	49	599
Forest Hills	29	9	4	16	258	102	2	154
Great Northwest	36	9	9	18	1,654	634	134	886
Guerra	43	13	8	22	2,032	212	1,443	377
Igo	32	15	5	12	1,040	158	459	423
Johnston	32	11	6	15	345	69	62	214
Landa	50	5	6	39	1,128	82	18	1,028
Las Palmas	35	12	5	18	301	92	12	197
Maverick	27	5	4	18	643	36	37	570
McCreless	26	5	5	16	166	15	28	123
Memorial	35	13	0	22	312	123	0	189
Mission	59	28	17	14	880	352	356	172
Pan American	31	13	3	15	195	95	12	88
Parman	82	30	4	48	1,361	434	11	916
Potranco	16	3	0	13	429	16	0	413
Pruitt	48	10	16	22	805	102	281	422
San Pedro	22	0	0	22	220	0	0	220
Schaefer	50	9	14	27	647	87	116	444
Semmes	35	5	7	23	623	21	63	539
Thousand Oaks	23	2	5	16	749	558	60	131
Tobin	58	8	7	43	1,414	69	595	750
Westfall	34	11	5	18	191	61	10	120
Kampmann Library Portal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Little Read Wagon	60	0	0	60	1,070	0	0	1,070
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>22,831</b>	<b>4,490</b>	<b>5,165</b>	<b>13,176</b>

# San Antonio Public Library

## Circulation



Location Closures

FY 18: Central Oct 28 at 3pm, SAPL System Jan 16

FY 17: Landa Jun 5 – Sep 20, SAPL System Aug 26-27, Cortez Sep 16 \* Openings: Potranco Nov 4, Schaefer Mar 25

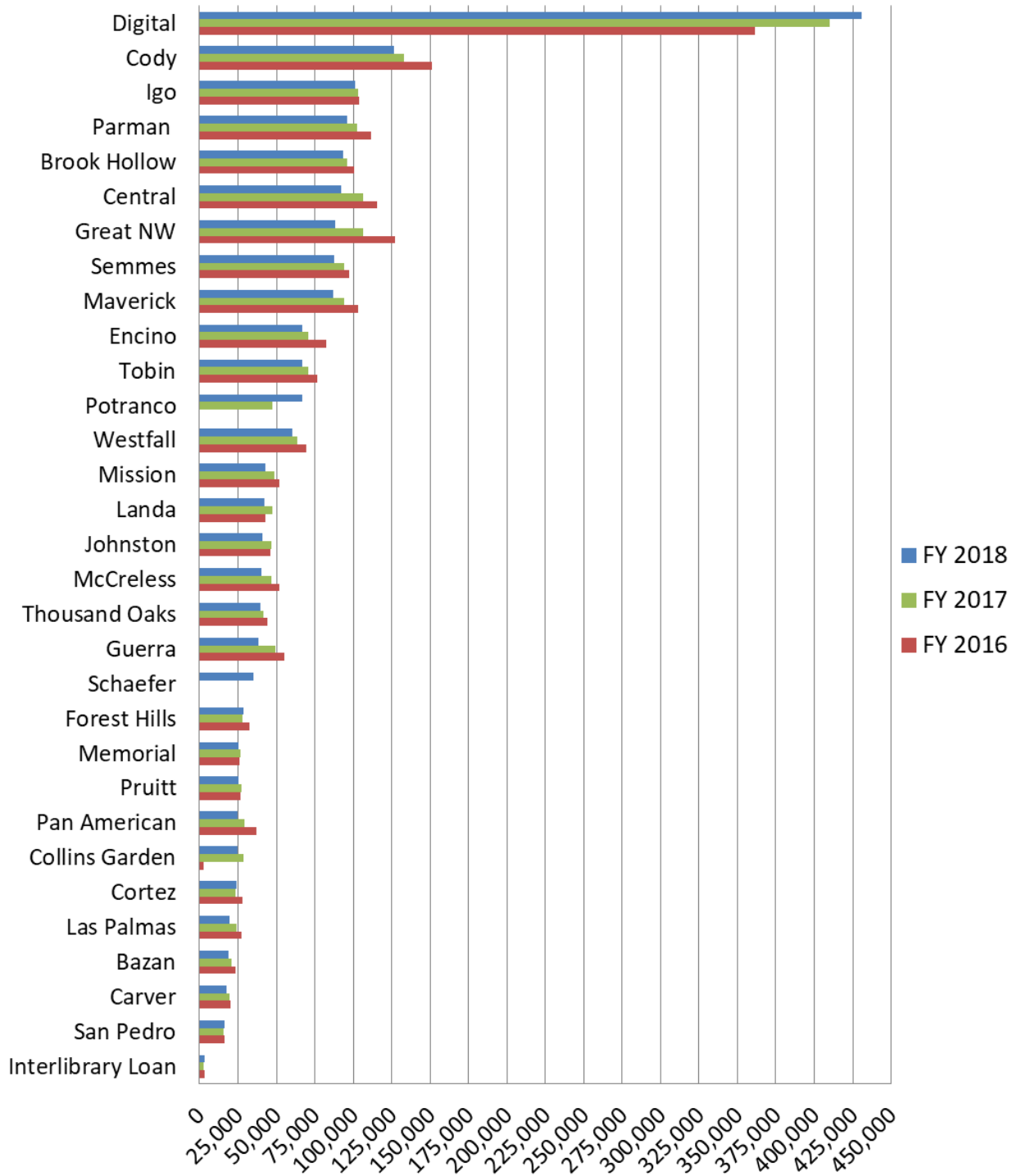
FY 16: Collins Garden Oct 1 - Jan 12

02/08/2018



# San Antonio Public Library

## Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - Jan 2018



Location Closures

02/08/2018

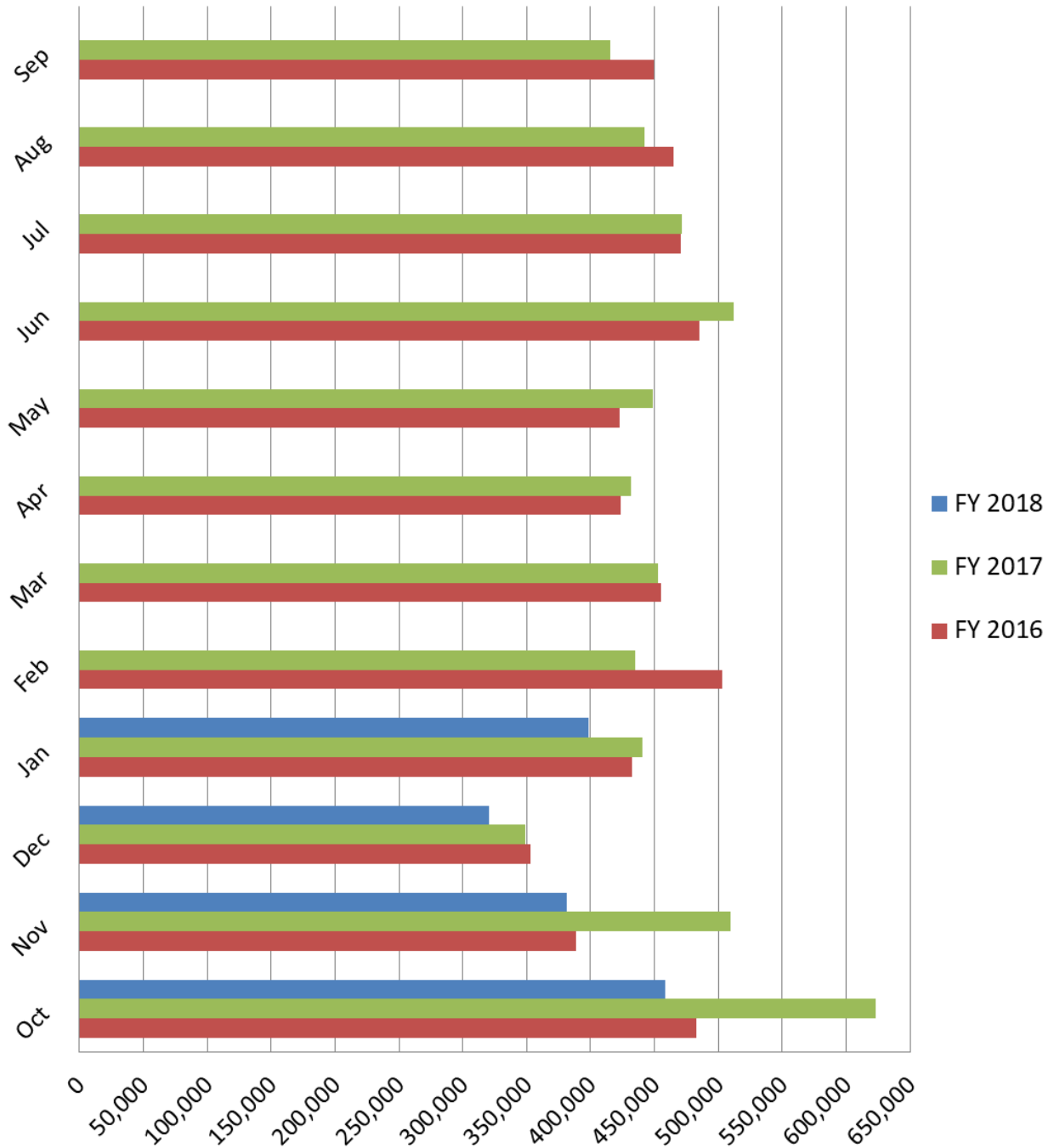
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# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits



Location Closures

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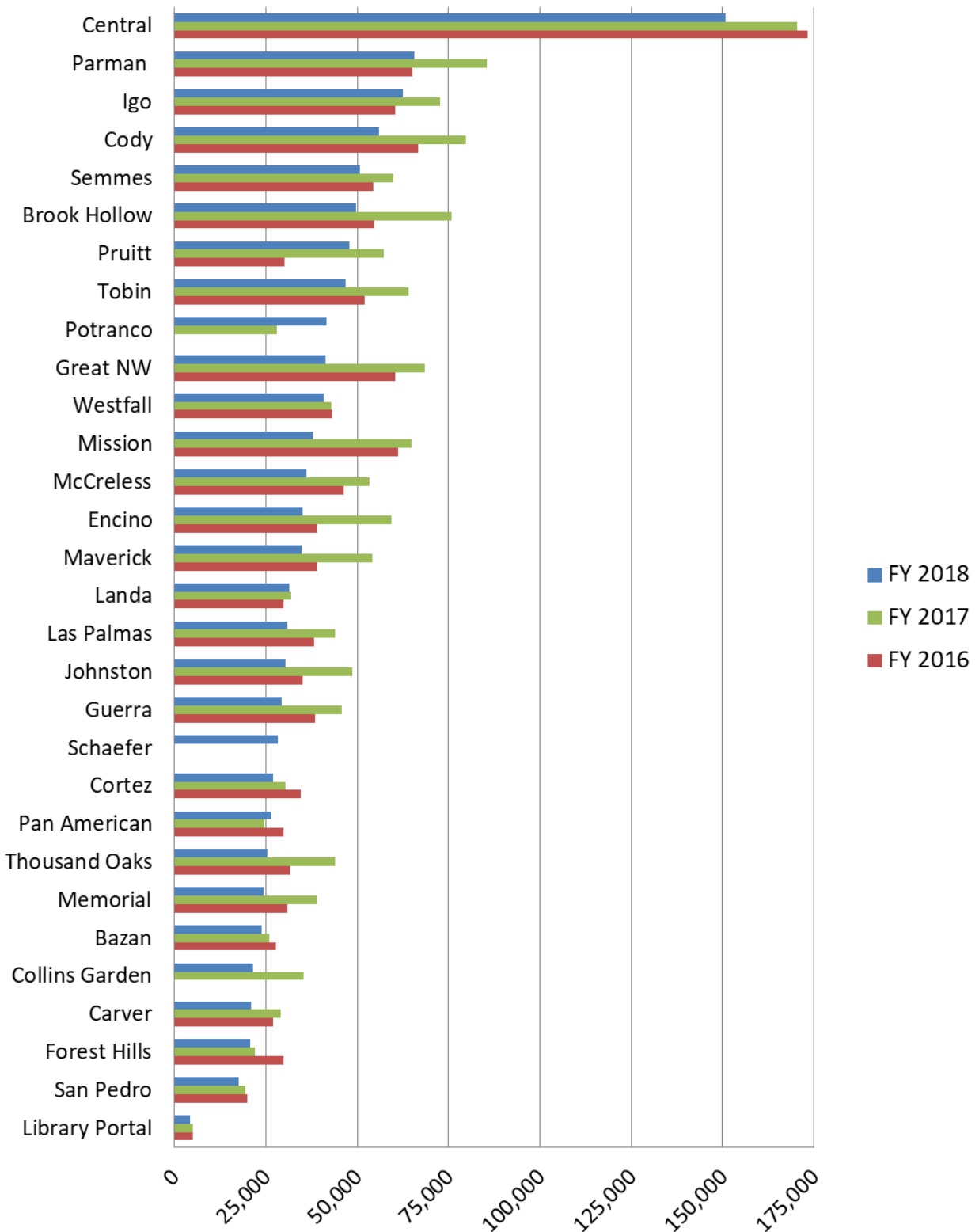
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## Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - Jan 2018



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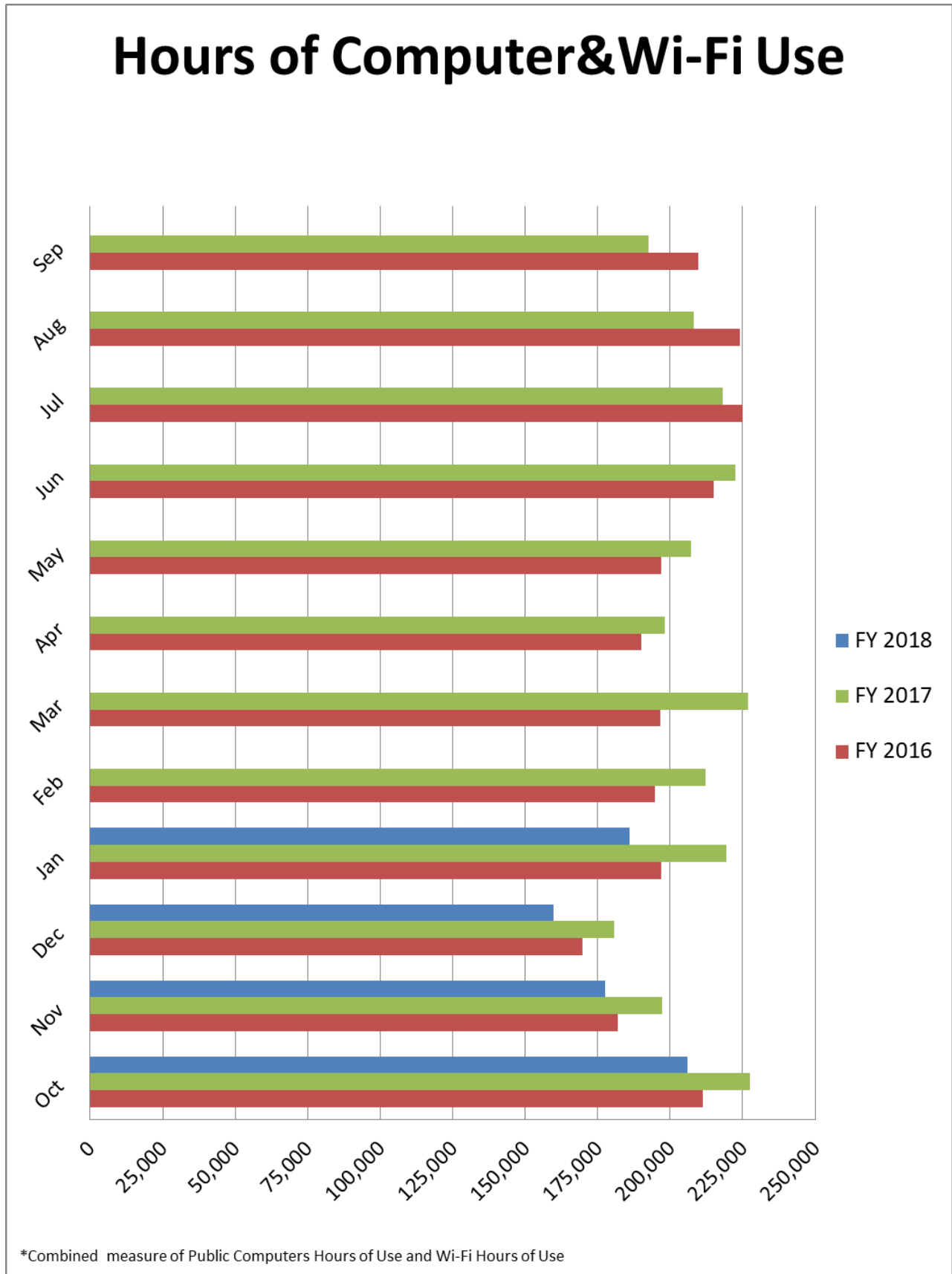
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