

## San Antonio Public Library Director's Report April 2018

Our Family Reads: The Mayor's Book Club District 3

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# DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



Library Director Ramiro Salazar has been elected President-Elect for the Public Library Association. The term of office is three years which includes President-elect (2018-2019), President (2019-2020) and Past-President (2020-2021). The Public Library Association (PLA) is the largest association dedicated to supporting the unique and evolving needs of public library professionals. Founded in 1944, PLA serves nearly 9,000 members in public libraries large and small in communities across the United States and Canada, with a growing presence around the world.



The week of April 9 - 13, the San Antonio Public Library joined libraries nationwide in celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Library Week, an annual celebration of the life-changing work of libraries, librarians and library workers. This year's theme is Libraries Lead and library systems across the country are highlighting the many ways libraries lead their communities through the transformative services, programs and expertise they offer. San Antonio Public Library is asking community members to share their stories on social media with tags to the Library and to visit one of the 290 programs happening this week across 30 library locations. First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April.



The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual San Antonio Book Festival was held on April 7, 2018 on the campuses of the Central Library and the Southwest School of Art. The all-day festival included over sixty (60) sessions open to the public. Authors participating include former Mayor Henry Cisneros, Ph.D., Sandra Cisneros and Jorge Ramos.



The next rotation for the new Mayor's Book Club was sponsored by District 3. Councilwoman Viagran has selected 'folk tales' for April's month long Book Club theme. The kickoff for the District 3 iteration of the Mayor's Book Club was on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at McCreless Branch Library. Mayor Nirenberg, Councilwoman Viagran, U.S. Representative Hurd and Library Director Salazar participated and delivered remarks. All Libraries are promoting the theme of 'folk tales' for the month of March with book recommendations and programs for all ages.



SA Metro Health District's Healthy Start program coordinated with the Las Palmas Branch Library to host an unveiling of a student-created art piece. The Healthy Start Program recently held an art contest in conjunction with the Edgewood Fine Arts Academy. A winning piece was selected and unveiled during an event at the Las Palmas Branch Library on April 11, 2018. Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales, State Representative Justin Rodriguez and Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended delivered remarks as part of the program. The art piece will be located inside the Las Palmas Branch Library. The student created piece will also travel to the Bazan Branch Library and the McCreless Branch Library for display in 2018.



On April 5, 2018, the Southwest School of Art announced accreditation for the Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree would be delayed and likely not resolved until 2020. The Southwest School of Art is suspending accreditation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The School will pursue accreditation through the National Association of Schools of Arts and Design. The San Antonio Public Library serves as the Library of Records for the Southwest School of Art's Bachelor of Fine Arts degree through the Marie Swartz Art Resource Center, located in the Central Library. The School is scheduled to graduate 11 students with Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in the coming weeks.



On Friday, April 6, 2018, Mayor Nirenberg and Judge Wolff participated in a media event to present events and activities planned for Tricentennial Commemorative Week (May 1 -6, 2018). The Library attended the media event to demonstrate *Elephant Toothpaste*, one of the child-friendly activities the Library will offer during Commemorative Week in all Library locations.



The Library accepted an invitation to setup an informational table at Councilman Brockhouse's Spring Festival on April 21, 2018. The event will take place at Nelson Wolff Stadium. The Library will share information about the library services, locations and resources.



Congressman Joaquin Castro reserved the Central Library Auditorium on Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 11 a.m. to noon to host an artistic discovery contest reception for children and their families who have submitted artwork for the contest. The Artistic Discovery Contest is a nation-wide high school arts competition is sponsored by the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Artistic Discovery Contest is an opportunity to recognize and encourage the artistic talent in the nation, as well as in our congressional district.



The McCreless Branch Library served as the venue for the April 14, 2018 San Antonio Youth Commission Meeting. District 3 is hosting the meeting in April and Councilwoman Viagran suggested a Library for the meeting venue.



The Library setup a table at the Maverick Neighborhood Association during their meeting on April 18, 2018. An invitation to setup an information table was extended by the District 7 Office. The Library will share information about Library services and events.



On May 3, 2018, the Cody Branch Library, located in City Council District 8, will close to undergo improvements and is expected to reopen to the public on May 14, 2018. Funds were provided in Fiscal Year 2018 to undertake certain improvements of the Cody Branch Library. Improvements to this library building will focus on interior which includes complete replacement of carpet throughout the building, replacement of furniture for public computers and the replacement of reading tables and lounge furniture. In preparation for this temporary closure and the planned improvements for the branch library, the Library has developed a comprehensive Communications Plan to inform the community and other stakeholders of the closure.



Repair to the parking lot at the Forest Hills Branch Library (D7) is part of the 2019 Deferred Maintenance projects and includes removing the majority of the existing asphalt, replacing with new asphalt and restriping. All Library locations are open seven days a week and in order to minimize impact to Library patrons, the Library will undertake this project in three phases. Phase I will commence on April 16, 2018 and includes removing and replacing the asphalt in one portion of the lot. Phase II is scheduled to begin on April 23 with repair on a different parking lot section and Phase III is scheduled to be completed the evening of April 26, after the library closes. Timing of the phases was strategically developed to allow maximum accessibility and minimize inconvenience to patrons. The Library is utilizing the San Jacinto holiday as part of the final phase of the project to allow the sealcoat to cure and be ready when the library opens Saturday morning.

The Forest Hills Branch Library serves as a VITA site and the project was planned to not impact VITA services. Additionally, the Library will post appropriate signage at the Branch informing the public of the upcoming project. There will be brief periods where the book drop will not be accessible due to the position in the parking lot; however, Library Staff will work with patrons directly should any issues arise.

# MARKETING



Top media hits for the past month include: Library Services Administrator Candelaria Mendoza was interviewed by Texas Public Radio as part of a story about the Digital Inclusion Alliance; Mini Maker Faire at Central Library was featured in San Antonio Magazine's "10 Things to do this weekend" column; San Antonio Sherpa, a local blog, mentioned a visit to the San Antonio Public Library in the post "Your Guide to Spring Fun"; Library Director Ramiro Salazar was interviewed for a feature article in *San Antonio Magazine's* April issue; Library Director Ramiro Salazar was featured in Lainey Berkus' *Express News* bag column; as a founding partner of the 6th annual San Antonio Book Festival, the library received a large amount of coverage in print, online, and broadcast; Library Director Ramiro Salazar was elected president of the Public Library Association and an announcement was shared on the PLA website; Senior Public Information Officer Marcie Hernandez was interviewed on "In the Loop" on AM 630; Children's Librarian Kristin Yourdon appeared on SA Live on KSAT 12 on Thursday, April 5th to promote Fiesta children's crafts and books; National Library Week received a large amount of coverage, including an Op Ed by San Antonio Public Library Board Chair Paul Stahl in the *Express News*.



The design team has created materials to prepare for several programs, events and other design support as needed: Texana Video Libguide, Texana Brochure, Summer Reading, Human Library, van wraps, part-time staff pins, Tricentennial magazine ads, Engaged Spaces, Artful Aging, Meet the Author: Kate Dawson, Chihuly bookmarks, Cody Library closure, Young Pegasus anthology, May newsletter, Tricentennial History and Education Day, Our Family Reads – District 4, and Bidi Bidi Birthday Bash.



The team is currently planning for May the 4<sup>th</sup>, Our Family Reads- District 4, Summer Reading Kick-Off, The Great American Read Kick-Off, the ELLA (Excellence in Library Leadership and Advocacy) Awards, the Cody Library closure, and several high profile events scheduled for May and June, including the ELLA Awards and Southern Fried Poetry Slam.

## Social Media fun facts for the reporting period:

#mysapl was used 288 times on Instagram

#sabookfest was used 138 times on Instagram

The Marketing Team posts an average of 5 times a day on Facebook

Facebook videos were viewed 465 times

SAPL's National Library Week tweets were viewed 7,422 times

SAPL's social media channels receive an average of 18,000 views a day

## Social Media statistics for the month:

1. Facebook: 15,349 page likes
2. Twitter: 4,359 followers
3. Instagram: 2,430 followers



4. Snapchat: 117 followers

## DIGITAL SERVICES



Digital Services coordinator Ron Suszek provided an overview of the Library's OverDrive app Libby to San Antonio Library Foundation members at the March board meeting.



Digital Services Analyst Tricia Masterson developed a survey for measuring and evaluating usage of iPads system-wide as programming and instructional assets. The response rate has been high and preliminary results indicate a successful integration of the technology throughout the Library's diverse and multifaceted programming and outreach agenda.



On April 9, Digital Library Services Assistant Andrea Silva, Ms. Masterson and OHU collaborated to support National Library Workers Day (and Unicorn Day) by providing treats for the Central Support Services staff.

## LITTLE READ WAGON



Little Read Wagon presented Every Child Ready to Read Workshops to six groups of Avance parenting program students, three in English and three in Spanish. Little Read Wagon makes presentations to these groups every year towards the end of their nine month program. This year the team was also invited to present to the Avance Fatherhood program. Those presentations took place in early March. Workshops were also presented at: Sun Valley Elementary, Olmos Elementary, Gonzales Elementary, J.T. Brackenridge Elementary, George Gervin Academy, Pre-K 4SA West, Carvajal Early Childhood Center, and Brauchle Elementary.



Workshops for teen parents were presented at Kennedy, Roosevelt, Stevens, Churchill, Memorial, Lee, Jefferson, Taft, and Healy Murphy high schools. The group from Lee High School gave Clair Larkin a lovely thank you note at the conclusion of her series of presentations. Frequently the teachers, social workers, and counselors of the school-age parents comment that the students ask when the Library or Little Read Wagon will return. At community events students often approach Little Read Wagon team members to say what they made in class and how they enjoy the workshops. A few quotes from the card: "Thank you for showing us cute, amazing toys and ideas for our babies. It was fun." "Thank you for coming and giving us ideas with our little kids. Can't wait to make more stuff for my son." "Thank you for encouraging me to want to teach my baby so many things."



Routine outreach story time programs were presented at Center for New Communities at Stafford Early Childhood Center and Tynan Early Childhood Center. Two visits are necessary to serve all the classrooms at the very large Tynan Early Childhood Center. Ms. Huber visits the English classrooms on one day and the bilingual classrooms on another. The new three-visit story time programs were presented at Summerlin Child and Learning Center, Discovery World (Downtown, Prue Road, and Fountainwood locations), Tiny Treasures, SOA Child Learning Center, Nite Owl, and Poppy's Kiddie Kampus. This format has made it possible for Little Read Wagon staff to serve more centers and learn more about the wide range of needs in early childhood education.



The Carvajal Early Childhood Center hosted the Reading Village for four afternoons. More events at other locations are planned for late April and May. A one-time Reading Village activity was offered at Blessed Sacrament Academy as part of their Literacy Week.



The Play & Learn series at Woodlawn Lake Park concluded on March 22. The Little Read Wagon team is publicizing and preparing for the next two Play & Learn series to begin in May.



The Little Read Wagon team is preparing for the final presentations of “Diversity in the Classroom: Building Your Library with Mirrors and Windows.” The team is also working on plans for the 2018-19 school year workshops for teachers.



At the April Children’s Services meeting, Ms. Huff, Ms. Larkin, and Megan Cruz demonstrated “Frog in the Pond.” This fun song that helps children build confidence, social skills, and learn the letters in their names. Ms. Huff, Ms. Larkin, and Ms. Moreno provided assistance at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual San Antonio Book Festival. Other team members attended the Festival on their own time and thoroughly enjoyed the speakers and activities.



Julia Lazarin attended the Start Seeing Diversity Conference. The annual conference is hosted by the Jewish Community Center and includes speakers on a variety of topics related to inclusivity and anti-bias education.



Ms. Huff had an information table at the Nurse Family Partnership’s Spring Retreat. On April 6, Elvia Franco and Ms. Huff set up art activities at Pearsall Park. Many families were enjoying the splash pad and playground. They also were delighted to spend some time in the shade exploring water color paints, play dough, and bubbles. On April 12, a larger team including Ms. Lazarin, Ms. Franco, Ms. Moreno and Ms. Huff set up the Reading Village at Hardberger Park. April 12 is “Drop Everything And Read” day, so the team chose to put extra emphasis on reading activities along with more painting and play dough. The park was very busy with families using the playground as well as an exercise group for moms and a water-saving plants education program for middle school children. Ms. Huber and Ms. Moreno assisted Viki Ash at KLRN Education’s annual Kids’ Day in the Park.

## CHILDREN’S (SYSTEM-WIDE)



Dinosaur Day Play & Learn sessions began in March and continue through May at branches across the system with positive reviews from customers and staff alike. To date, over 450 children and care providers have attended 15 sessions with ten sessions still to go. SAPL is celebrating El Dia de los Ninos / El Dia de los Libros with another round of Preschool Dance Parties. The Dia sessions, scheduled between April 16 and May 12, will feature music with Latin rhythms, including songs by children’s musicians Uno, Dos, Tres Andres, Baby Loves Salsa, and Tish Hinojosa. The Summer Reading Tween Time Committee previewed their recommended programs during the monthly Children’s Librarians meeting on April 12. This is the first year the children’s librarians have formulated system-wide plans for Tween summer programming. Like the Kids Time programs previewed in March, the Tween events also feature a strong San Antonio or STEAM theme in conjunction with city’s tricentennial.



The 2018 Young Pegasus Anthology is at the printer with invitations to the Awards Ceremony scheduled for delivery the week of April 16. The ceremony is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 6 at the Guadalupe Theatre. All Library Board members are cordially invited to attend.



Children's Coordinator Viki Ash met with members of the Middle East Outreach Council (MEOC) on April 22 at the Mission Branch. The MEOC is planning a teacher workshop at Mission in the fall along with an announcement of the 2018 Middle East Book Award, which is presented annually in three categories: picture book, juvenile fiction and juvenile non-fiction. Viki agreed to assist in promoting this award, which is not well-known in the library community by creating a guide that includes previous Middle East Book Award winners. On April 7, Viki had the privilege of hosting Naomi Shihab Nye's session at the San Antonio Book Festival. Ms. Nye is an internationally recognized poet whose latest work is *Voices in the Air: Poems for Listeners*. Looking back a bit further, however, both the 1969 and 1970 editions of the *Young Pegasus Anthology* featured poems she wrote while attending Lee High School.

## 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 storytime. 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.



On March 28, several teen librarians gathered in the Teen Library @ Central to participate in a webinar presented by the Search Institute about adolescent social and emotional learning.



On April 11, Teen Services librarians and liaisons from around the SAPL system met at the Teen Library @ Central for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Kathleen Fordyce, manager of the Teen Library, made the happy announcement that Matthew Loaiza began working as the new assistant manager in the Teen Library.



The annual Mini Maker Faire took place at the Central Library on March 24. Caroline Mossing, the teen services librarian II at Brook Hollow Library, developed, planned and presented the event. It was another successful year, with 1,500 people in attendance. Makers came from various academic concentrations, from arts to engineering to music, and even soap-making. Megan Coker (Tobin @ Oakwell) and Emily Young (Mission Library), both teen services librarians, prepared screen prints that attendees had a fun time using. Adam Tutor, Teen Services' teen outreach specialist, helped to share information about Teen Services with teens and families at the Mini Maker Faire.

## ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)



Coordinator of Services for Adults Haley Holmes organized staff to host two San Antonio Public Library tents at the Book Festival this year. Staff from Central, several branches, and Marketing had activities available for attendees of all ages for the duration of the event. Marketing gave away prizes including Fiesta medals, branded pencils, and notebooks. Attendees could also participate in making



speech bubbles about their love of the library for National Library Week. Crafts included pinwheels and origami butterflies made from recycled book pages and coloring sheets drawn by SAPL staff. The pinwheels were perfect for the windy day!



Coordinator of Services for Adults Haley Holmes attended both the Public Library Conference in Philadelphia and the Texas Library Conference in Dallas. At PLA, Ms. Holmes was chosen to participate in the Spark Talks event where each presenter had five minutes to give an inspiring presentation. Her topic, SAPL's first staff Shark Tank at Staff Transformation Day, was well received. She also served as moderator for Library Services Administrator Candelaria Mendoza's panel presentation on Digital Inclusion in San Antonio. At TLA, Ms. Holmes was part of a panel titled "Serving Diverse Communities in Texas". Along with librarians from Houston, Austin, and Plano, she spoke about what SAPL is doing to serve immigrants and refugees specifically through the Learn locations.



The first Mission City Film Festival award ceremony and screening was held on April 11 in a packed theater donated by the Santikos Silverado. Sixty entries were judged and prizes were given out for best in each category as well as best actress, actor, director, and overall film. The top twenty films were given the distinction of official Mission City Film Festival Selections which means they can display the laurel on their films. The San Antonio Public Library Foundation supported the purchase of trophies, t-shirts, and swag bags for the winners as well as popcorn and drinks for the audience. The winners enjoyed taking photos with their trophies at the end of the night on the red carpet in front of the Library's step and repeat with the logo. Some of the feature length films will be screened at branch library locations in the future.

## CENTRAL LIBRARY CHILDREN'S



The Central Children's Department was thrilled to host violist Allyson Dawkins as part of the *Symphony at SAPL* series. Ms. Dawkins delighted families with her beautiful performance and informative discussion.



Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin developed engaging *Play & Learn* and *Toddler Time* programs for young children. Children learned about gardens and insects through imaginative play with a cardboard vegetable garden, water sensory play with silk flowers and watering cans, a garden scene mixed media collaborative art project, and a sensory bin full of dyed green rice and plastic bugs. Ms. Seglin presented programs with a "Getting Ready for Bed" theme in which children gave plastic baby dolls a bath in warm, soapy water, played in a sensory bin full of blue rice and rubber ducks, developed their gross motor skills by hopping onto star-shaped matts, played with sheep puppets and tucked stuffed animals into bed. Ms. Seglin also unveiled the *Dinosaur Day Play & Learn* kit at Central, created by the Early Literacy Committee, which she led. Toddlers delighted in playing with the large inflatable dinosaurs and in the "prehistoric cave" full of large plastic eggs, dinosaur puppets and topped by a cardboard volcano! They also had fun getting messy by digging in the "dirt" (play dough made from coffee grounds). The highlight of the month was the collaborative unicorn-themed program series developed by Ms. Seglin and Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernandez. They both read books about unicorns and other mythical creatures while dressed up as unicorns themselves! The families in attendance and passing Central Library staff members enjoyed seeing them in costume. Activities they presented included a "pin the horn on the unicorn" game, sensory play with sparkly play dough, imaginative play in a rainbow-decorated area with mythical animal puppets and a treasure chest full of "jewels."



Due to the *San Antonio Book Festival* and additional special events, as well as the Easter holiday closure, there were fewer weekend programs this month. Ms. McDonald presented the Saturday *Family Fun* program for her following of devoted regular patrons. Families experienced jazz with an interactive slide show featuring jazz artists and their music. Children sat on the floor with tables turned on their sides as easels, and drew to the music. Adam Tutor, Teen Library Services Specialist and jazz saxophonist, performed for the children and talked about the elements of jazz—improvisation, scatting, and call and response. Children and families also created their own pop up cards with a jazz theme and learned about fine artists inspired by jazz. Ms. Cubillas led *Bilingual Family Fun* programming this month with a spring theme. Families made caterpillars from pom poms and paper flowers after listening to stories about the arrival of spring.



Ms. Seglin presented story times to students at Madison Square Child Development Center where she read books and sang songs with two classes and delivered bags of books.



Ms. Cubillas selected books and delivered them to Central Christian Childcare Center in support of their curriculum this month.



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 and provided them with thematic book selections for use in the classroom.



Manager Kate Simpson represented SAPL at the SAISD Special Education Resource Fair, held at Fox Tech High School. She shared information about the library and the Low Vision Reading Room at the Central Children's Department.



Ms. Cubillas presented her work as part of the Summer Tween Programming Committee to peers at the April Children's Librarians Meeting. Her innovative STEM-based program plans were very well received by the group.

## 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.



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.



**Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant):** Thursday nights at Teen Library find teens engaging in programs, often set or suggested by them, that encourage peer-to-peer learning, independent processes, and artistic and culinary capabilities. Having a Marvel Movie night had teens watching a lineup of Marvel movies which inspired crafts and snacks. Teens used cutouts of their favorite superheroes and villains to glue into bottlecaps, punched a hole, added jump rings, beads and a keychain. They also dyed vanilla pudding green to pour into clear plastic cups on which they drew the Hulk's face, then crushed chocolate graham crackers to place on top to create the illusion of the Hulk's hair. To fulfill the nutritional lesson required by the Food Bank, teens made energy bites using a variety of high fiber and protein-filled ingredients, such as nuts, while adding a touch of sweetness like coconut, cranberries or raisins. Though some were doubtful at first that they would even like it, their minds were settled with the first bite. Following teen volunteer Athena's lead and guidance, teens made plush bunnies using only one sock, pillow stuffing and buttons. Teens also used some sugar science to create a layered red, white and blue drink that went nicely with a marathon of Captain America movies.

Busting away from superhero land, teens went a more classic fantasy route by celebrating dragons. Teens used thumbtacks to pierce on Styrofoam eggs, painting them with nail polish in a variety of dragon-like colors for a shiny and scaled dragon's egg. They also used the nail polish to create a dragon's eye using large glass gems. And while the challenge to make dragon pizzas with traditional pizza supplies proved to be too abstract, teens made pizzas in interesting shapes and styles. One teen used a heart cookie cutter to cut out heart pepperonis, another teen attempted to make the Superman logo, and it would've worked perfectly if he hadn't run out of cheese.

Attempting a new craft led to a great, new, weird process. Teens melted marshmallows, added water and corn syrup, stirred until all melted, divided up into mini cups and added food colorings to create vibrant marshmallow paint. Leaving a texture resembling puffy paint, teens painted graham crackers and cookies, some just using the paint as a coating, others painting faces, and some using toothpicks to create swirls. Supplies were also set out for teens to get crafting, making mini top hats. Afterwards, teens often request the use of the WiiU, where they engage in some friendly competition. Pictures and short videos from Thursday nights, as well as other system-wide programs, can be found at <http://www.instagram.com/210library> and <http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary>.



On March 23, a large class from the Montessori School of San Antonio visited the Teen Library to utilize the space to conduct research and claim it as a "home base" while researching on other floors of the library. On April 5, students from the Spanish Club at TMI Episcopal School visited the Library for a tour of the building, with a focus on the art. On April 11, a large group of students from Cornerstone Christian School received a tour of the building and the Teen Library. 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, Roy Maas, 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.

## REFERENCE



Several Reference staff contributed time, talent and creativity to the successful Sixth Annual San Antonio Book Festival. Maria Adams and Victoria Villalobos created a display in the lobby with featured

titles from the Festival. Ms. Adams and Ms. Villalobos decorated the display with paper pinwheels and book butterflies inspired by Festival graphics. Cristine Mitchamore assisted with final assembly and finishing touches. Patrons and staff response to the display was very positive with many compliments for the creators. On the day of the event, April 7, Sally Bauer and Ms. Mitchamore worked different shifts at the SAPL Booth. Ms. Mitchamore encouraged attendees to tag the Library when posting on social media and helped children, teens, and adults make pinwheels and origami butterflies. Ms. Bauer handed out prizes: a bag, a notebook, or a pen to patrons who spun a wheel; according to Ms. Bauer, the bag was extremely popular.



On March 20, in honor of Women's History Month, Ms. Bauer presented the film *Suffragette* to an appreciative audience. The film depicts the beginnings of the Women's Suffrage Movement in Great Britain.



Ms. Villalobos created and presented a "Computer Basics" class on March 28. Patrons practiced using the mouse and learned the basics of navigating on their PC's and on the Internet. Ms. Villalobos reached out to the Granada Apartments, Commanders House, and to Haven for Hope to alert residents to this new class.



Ms. Mitchamore held her regular book group on April 11. This month the group discussed *Ashes of the Earth* by Eliot Pattison. The mystery, set in a post-apocalyptic setting, was too complicated and convoluted for the group's taste.



On April 13, Ms. Adams and Ms. Villalobos collaborated with Emma Hernandez to create a display in the Latino Collection and Resource Center (LCRC) for the upcoming "Bidi Bidi Birthday Bash" to celebrate Selena's birthday and her contribution to Tejano music. Featured titles also tell the stories of other women in the Tejano movement of the 90's.

## TEXANA/GENEALOGY



On March 19, newly hired Special Collections Manager Heather Ferguson joined the Texana/Genealogy Department and was warmly welcomed by Central Library staff.



On March 21, Librarian Sylvia Reyna presented a program on beginning genealogy for Boy Scout Troop 358 at the Epworth United Methodist Church. Ms. Reyna's presentation enabled the troop to begin the process for obtaining their Genealogy Merit badge.



Assistant Manager Deborah Countess led the March 25 program *Climbing the Branches of Your Family Tree* held at the Central Library. Participants learned how to begin researching their family history and the types of resources available online and here at the library that can help them uncover their past. On April 10, Ms. Countess was invited to speak on the same topic to members of The Overlook at Menger Springs, a retirement community in Boerne, Texas.



On March 26, Heather Ferguson and Sylvia Reyna provided a preview tour highlighting Texana Treasures for members of the San Antonio Library Foundation.



Ms. Reyna was invited to speak on April 7 at the ninth annual *Paseo por el Westside* at the Rinconcito de Esperanza building. She presented the session *Tracing your Family Roots Using Library Resources*.



In preparation for Fiesta 2018, Ms. Reyna curated a Fiesta Medal display in Texana's main display case showing off select medals from the *Randy Bear Fiesta Medal Collection*.



Visitors from Florida researching the Dewees ranching family of South Texas were able to locate family graves in Alamo Masonic and City Cemetery #6 due primarily to Ms. Reyna's extensive cemetery knowledge. Ms. Countess was able to locate several sources on ranching that were important to their research as well as land and deed information on the family. The couple left with a huge note of thanks and gratitude at the help and information they received.

## LATINO COLLECTION & RESOURCE CENTER



The Latino Collection and Resource Center hosted "El Camino: An Afternoon of Poetry and Hope" on Saturday, March 31. The event was led by Tejana poet Carolina Hinojosa-Cisneros, whose work can be found in *The Rumpus*, *The Acentos Review*, and *The Lookout Magazine*. The event drew 35 attendees and included live music, open mic, and readings by local poets Viktoria Valenzuela, Cyndi Piña, and Yvette Chairez.



The Latino Collection and Resource Center screened "Resistencia: The Fight for the Aguan Valley", winner of "Best Feature Film" at the 2015 Social Justice Film Festival, on Thursday, April 5. The film drew 10 attendees and was followed by a panel discussion that included local San Antonio residents who emigrated from Honduras due to corruption and violence.

## BRANCH LOCATIONS

### BAZAN



Children from The American Sunrise after school program enjoyed visiting the Bazan branch for Family Fun every Monday where they listened to stories and had fun making a craft. Children's Librarian Hope Sonnen's continued book clubs at several elementary schools and did outreach to the Avance Early Childhood Centers.



The Coloring for Grown Up's program took place on Wednesday, March 28 with nearly a dozen people in attendance and an influx of new customers who enjoyed light refreshments and relaxing music. A newly engaged couple who attended lit up while talking about their wedding plans and others provided



lots of advice on vendors and shops that might help them with their wedding plans. It was a great time and great discussion.



The Bad Girls Romance Book Club met on Saturday March 31 and discussed the book *Nauti Temptress* by Lori Leigh. Book club members talked about future reads and agreed to tackle a trilogy series for the summer and decided on a book to discuss for Pride Month.



Teen Librarian Georgina Salinas continued to offer weekly teen programs. Teens visited after school on Mondays and Wednesdays to play board games, make buttons, and create felt crafts. Most often teens were engaged in making Perler bead designs, a craft that has increased in popularity. Teenagers also enjoy the company of their teen librarian, discussing school work and several topics that pique their interests. Ms. Salinas hosted Mr. Jim La-Villa for *Teen Open Writing Workshop*, offering teens an opportunity to explore their creativity through writing.



Ms. Salinas and a group of teen librarians (Edward Mayberry from Guerra, Emily Young from Mission, and Eva Banda from Johnston) visited John Jay High School to deliver in-class presentations on teen services and to promote reading by offering several book talks. Georgina took the lead in introducing the high school students to graphic novels and transitioned over to promoting the use of library databases such as Overdrive, Homework Help and the LearningExpress Library. Several students expressed interest in the book talks and spoke to the teen librarian group to write down the titles of the books discussed. In addition, Georgina assisted teen librarian Stephanie Vasquez, providing programming at Brennan High School during lunch hour. The students enjoyed a few hours at the school library making buttons and playing video games.

## BROOK HOLLOW



Brook Hollow Branch Library patrons enjoyed celebrating National Library Week (April 8 to 14) during their visits to branch. Many visitors provided testimonials for a chance to win a SAPL t-shirt. One of Brook Hollow's regular patrons mentioned in their testimonial their appreciation for the library's "fantastic support and help". In addition to the system-wide campaign for National Library Week, Librarian Jenny Borrero and Library Assistant Elissa Vura designed a *Brook Hollow I Spy* activity to encourage patrons to explore the branch. Patrons had fun searching the library to find different features listed on the *Brook Hollow I Spy* checklist. Over 60 patrons participated in the activity. Patrons who completed the checklist received a small prize provided by the SAPL Marketing Department.



On Tuesday, March 20, Children's Librarian Rachael Barrera conducted the branch's monthly STEM Story Time. In addition to the regular story time activities, the children listened to stories and learned all about building bridges and towers. The families that attended were given opportunities to conduct their own experiments in building bridges at the end of the program.



On Tuesday, April 3, Ms. Barrera presented *Play and Learn: Dinosaur Days* where children and their caregivers learn while being given opportunities to engage in the five early literacy practices of talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing.



During the reporting period, Brook Hollow teens finished up their perler bead creations from the week before and in the following weeks played a rousing Game of Life! Fame Edition board game and a few games of Super Smash Bros. on the WiiU where the Teen Liaison was thoroughly trounced!



On March 31, Brook Hollow hosted a Diamond Design Craft. Attendees learned how to fold a discarded book into a diamond design. One table of individuals talked about altered book art and were inspired to find some information on it in the library.



Brook Hollow's book groups continue to grow in attendance. At the Wednesday Evening Book Group on March 21, nine attendees discussed the book *The Train to Crystal City* by Jan Jarboe Russell. One of the participants lived near Crystal City and had relatives that lived during the time in which the internment camp was active. It was a very engaging discussion.

## CARVER



In observance of Mayor Nirenberg's Our Family Reads book club initiative, which boasted a social justice focus for District 2, Carver Branch Library offered a two-part government workshop that attracted Precinct 4 Commissioner Tommy Calvert Jr. and other community leaders, urging residents to have a greater share in local politics. Topics included civics and voter education. In addition, the branch screened bio-pic *Marshall*, which starred Chadwick Boseman of *Black Panther* fame and detailed the early career of the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.



Capitalizing on the popularity of *Black Panther*, as well as responding to demands from customers to offer a forum on its impact on African American communities, the branch invited Our Lady of the Lake University film professor Antoinette Winstead to discuss its message and merits. Winstead, who holds an MFA from Columbia University, highlighted a century of contributions to the motion picture industry by African-American movie makers, identified multiple cinematic themes, and invited audience members to support more films that feature strong African American characters and portrayals.



Carver Learn Center Training Officer Jeanne Johnson reported a milestone for the second high school completion program cohort. In April, the students reached the half-way mark in their studies and are poised to receive their diplomas soon.



Branch Manager DL Grant, Jr. was one of three panelists invited by SAY Si art school on March 19 to discuss the contributions of marginalized communities in San Antonio. The discussion was part of the school's exhibition, *Stories Seldom Told: Omitted Histories*. Grant, whose research interests include the cultural heritage of the East Side of San Antonio and community archives, shared accounts of African Americans in the Alamo City who blazed trails but whose influence is not well known. Grant was also a delegate to the Texas Library Association annual conference held April 3-6 in Dallas. A past officer in the Black Caucus Roundtable of the Texas Library Association, he was honored this year to meet and introduce comedian Patricia "Ms. Pat" Williams, author of the gritty, yet poignant *Rabbit: The Autobiography of Ms. Pat*, at the organization's annual brunch fundraiser.



Carver Branch Library has established a partnership with the San Antonio African American Community Archive and Museum (SAAACAM). Its board invited DL Grant, Jr. to represent SAPL at SAAACAM's April 7 block party and open house, where he spoke on the importance of establishing and maintaining African American neighborhood archives and oral history collections.



On April 9, the branch welcomed Braulia Carrillo as its new children's librarian. Ms. Carrillo is a veteran school teacher and administrator from Judson School District. A native of San Antonio, she received her Master of Library and Information Science from Texas Woman's University. Ms. Carrillo attended Career Day at Herman Hirsch Elementary, jumping at the chance to meet teachers and students and begin hyping SAPL's upcoming Summer Reading Program. Branch Manager DL Grant, Jr. wishes to thank the SAPL children's department for supporting Carver Branch Library while a replacement for the previous children's librarian could be secured.

## CODY



Country Home Learning Center visited the Cody Library on March 21 and April 11 for special story times. The topics for these story times included spring and transportation.



During *Kid's Time* on March 14, kids learned how to make green sparkly slime and popping bubble art. Popping bubble art is a process art where kids mix food coloring with bubble solution and then blow bubbles at their paper. When the bubbles pop on the paper it leaves a colorful outline of the bubble.



Children continued to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 15 during a *Come & Go Crafts* program. Children decorated rainbows and shamrocks by gluing salt to them and then painted the salt with watercolors.



The Torah Academy of San Antonio visited the Cody Library for an introduction to the library on March 22. Children's Librarian Kristin Yourdon gave the group a tour and then broke them up into groups to compete in a scavenger hunt designed to reinforce their knowledge of the library.



During the *Tween STEM Club* on March 26, tweens worked in groups to create their own marble runs. Tweens planned out and constructed their marble runs using all recycled materials.



Librarian Yourdon visited the Gan Gani Preschool on March 27 to read stories to the daycare students.



March 28 happened to be the perfect day for a rain-themed *Kid's Time* program. While it was pouring rain outside, the children learned how rain clouds form during a rain in a jar demonstration. Then children had the chance to create their own rain sticks and make melted shaved crayon rain drops that they could hang up in their windows.



On March 29, Librarian Yourdon visited the Lifeshine Homeschool Coop's Literary Faire to serve as a co-judge for the students' projects.



During *Tween Time* on April 2, tweens celebrated April Fool's Day one day late by learning how to make dessert imposters. The project for the day was to make cookies that looked like cheeseburgers.



Librarian Yourdon visited the set of SA Live on April 5 to share some Fiesta-themed books and crafts. Among the crafts were paper flowers, papel picado, air dry clay fiesta medals, and string art.



During *Tween Time* on April 9, tweens celebrated National Unicorn Day by learning how to make unicorn parfaits. After they ate their treats, the tweens learned how to make fluffy unicorn slime.



During a Fiesta-themed *Kid's Time* on April 11, children learned how to make paper flowers and fiesta medals out of air dry clay.



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



Cody teens made the most of *Sushi Day* when they created their own mango-cucumber-avocado and spicy (cooked!) tuna maki rolls. They sliced up their own fruits and vegetables, mixed their own tuna filling, and happily ate the results while playing video games.



*Cupcake Day* gave teens the opportunity to decorate their own cupcakes to look like cute cats while watching a movie!



Cody teens have been asking for new video games, and on *New Video Game Day*, they had the opportunity to sample a variety of new games while enjoying a healthy snack of mandarin oranges.



When have you had enough cupcakes? Trick question—the answer is never! Cody teens celebrated *Cupcake Day, Part II* with *even more* cupcake goodness, along with process art and a video game that combines play with performance.



*Cody Chess Club* is a continuing hit! In the last few weeks, players have learned about developing pieces and different types of checkmates, and have used their skills in quick games.



Teen Librarian Amy Rae Weaver joined Encino's Teen Librarian Julia Pouliot at the San Antonio Book Festival on Saturday, April 7. As the co-chairs of Geektown, they ensured that everything ran smoothly for the YA authors, vendors, and attendees celebrating great literature!



Cody celebrated National Poetry Month on Saturday, April 14 with an open blackout poetry event. Customers were invited to take sheets from discarded books and turn them into creative poetry by blacking out the words that weren't a part of the poem.



The Cody Branch Library celebrated National Library Week from April 8 - 14. The Friends of the Cody Branch provided staff with a two-day luncheon. A box inviting people to tell us what they loved about the library was available all week.

## COLLINS GARDEN



Children's Librarian Gina Brudi presented four Family Fun programs for the reporting period which included a Cesar Chavez craft and World Unicorn Day story time.



During the reporting period, Children's Librarian Gina Brudi hosted five Lego Club programs. Lego creations are displayed on the shelves in the reference area for customers to view.



Children's Librarian Gina Brudi presented 28 outreach story times during the reporting period at Knox Early Literacy Center. On her visit on April 10, the teachers and children gave her a corsage, homemade books, and pictures that they created in celebration of National Library Week.



The weekly Teen Program, hosted by Library Assistant Carlos Loera, averages 6-8 teens a week. Teens decorated the teen area for Fiesta.



Assistant Manager Sophie Smith and Library Assistant Carlos Loera continued weekly drop-in technology help to the community covering topics from accessing court documents to using the new Libby app.



On April 15, artist and programming volunteer Rosemary Perez hosted a "Just Bead It" class to celebrate Earth Month 2018. Attendees revamped bottles with beaded wire wraps to create earthy vases with ivy or rosemary! There were seven attendees.



Coffee and a Movie, hosted this month by Children's Librarian Gina Brudi, had six attendees during this reporting period.



Assistant Manager Sophie Smith continued the Walk and Talk Book Club where participants meet at the library to walk around Collins Garden Park while discussing books and media they've read and enjoyed. This program is cross-listed with the Parks and Recreation Department's Fitness in the Park series.



Assistant Manager Sophie Smith hosted an adult coloring program with six participants coloring pages celebrating Women's History Month.



Library Assistant Carlos Loera hosted a successful Cesar Chavez event on Saturday, March 31. In the spirit of the Cesar Chavez celebration, the film *Resistencia: The Fight for the Aguan Valley* was screened with an attendance of 20. At 2 p.m., the musical guitar duo Jorge and Nicole serenaded the audience while members of Voces Cómicas read original poetry honoring the struggle of farm workers. Special thanks to Circulation Attendant Jessica Salas for volunteering her personal time to serve refreshments. There were 50 attendees.



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 Branch Library is continuing weekly Family Game Night this spring with various board games for all ages.





Branch Manager Jeannette Davies participated in the San Antonio Book Festival weekend, attending The Moth Radio Hour on Friday, and volunteering at the Book Festival on Saturday by assisting in making pinwheels with children. She also volunteered for Texas Public Radio and attended the volunteer after-party. Davies also participated in H-E-B's annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Nogalitos location across from the library and networked with H-E-B employees. In addition, she is in the process of developing a partnership with the San Antonio Green Alliance to utilize the community garden in the city park behind the library for programming purposes.

## CORTEZ



On Friday, March 30, Branch Manager Cammie Brantley attended the CAMMIE Awards for Contemporary Art Month. Photographer Josh Huskin, who is displaying his photography at Cortez, won an award. Cammie ended up representing SAPL and getting a token of appreciation (a mini piñata). The sponsors mentioned how much they appreciated the support of the library system during the month of March, and the fact that so many locations hosted displays.



During the month of April, the branch is displaying photos of Fiesta gowns as part of an Adult Programming Initiative. Ms. Brantley's mother-in-law, Terry Brantley, was a head seamstress for the Order of the Alamo for over 40 years and loaned some of her photos and artifacts for display at Cortez, Great Northwest, and Pan American branches.



On April 3, the branch participated in the Edible Book Festival with financial help from the Adult Programming Committee. The event was a huge success with over 30 people of all ages creating cakes in the image of book covers with assistance from a professional decorator, courtesy of H-E-B.



On April 6 and 7, Ms. Brantley met with her Book Club to discuss *The Dry* by Jane Harper.



The Cortez staff enjoys participating in holidays both major and marginal. In this reporting period they enjoyed celebrating National Rainbow Day April 3 by dressing in rainbow colors and National Grilled Cheese Day on April 12 with a soup and sandwich potluck.



**Bilingual Baby Time** (Kathy Armbruster and Esmeralda Staudt) - Bilingual Baby Time still shows a glimmer of hope in catching on. Kathy and Esmy tag-team and present a series of songs, rhymes, and finger-plays 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) - Family Fun sessions are held on Mondays at 4 p.m. Rainbow Day and Unicorn Day were two of the special programs held during Family Fun in early April. Lego play and a family-friendly yoga session were also offered to families in the Cortez service area.



**Tween Time** (Kathy Armbruster) - Tweens are always welcome to play Wii and PS2 video games. Board games, chilling out with coloring, and the mind-challenging Spirograph are also available. Open-ended art activities with a variety of materials have been popular as well.



**Teen Time** (JoAnn Paredes) - Cortez has one or two devoted teens that keep coming back week after week. They enjoy the alone time from all the craziness of school and they get to do what they like best...play video games!



**COAST – Cortez Older Adult Social Time** (Brooke Mjolsness, Madeline Vasquez) - Cortez adults get together once a week to enjoy stress-reducing coloring, play games, chat, and to enjoy each other's company. This program has a steady following and those participating are always ready to share their time.



**Getting Crafty Program** (JoAnn Paredes) - During this time frame, the crafters sewed eye masks for relaxation with scented oils. They also made lighthouses out of clay pots. There isn't anything this talented group cannot do.



**Monster Meet** (Madeline Vasquez)- On April 10, 15 Monster Meet attendees viewed the film *Twilight Zone* and enjoyed sharing their personal memories of the *Twilight Zone* TV show. Ms. Vasquez also prepared and shared fun facts about both the film and show.



**Monthly Healthy Cooking Class** (Vicente Escobedo) - On March 22, Mr. Escobedo returned for another healthy cooking class and taught patrons how to make fresh fruit ceviche and fruit pizza. Patrons enjoyed helping create and prepare the food and then serving themselves a delicious snack. Recipe booklets for other meals were provided.



**Suffragette Movie Showing** (Brooke Mjolsness) - To celebrate Women's History Month, Cortez offered a movie showing of the film *Suffragette* on March 24. *Suffragette* is about a young working mother who is galvanized into radical political activism supporting the right for women to vote.



**Decades of Dresses: Forty Years of Fiesta Photo Exhibit – April 1 – April 30** - To celebrate Fiesta, the Cortez, Pan American, and Great Northwest branches are displaying photo exhibits of Fiesta dress trains from the past 40 years. Each professionally-framed portrait is displayed with facts about Fiesta dresses explaining how much work and time go into these wonderful works of art. For example, four dress trains take one year to complete and each dress is sewn entirely by hand.



**Edible Book Festival** (Brooke Mjolsness) - On Tuesday, April 3, Cortez hosted its first ever Edible Book Festival program! The Edible Book Festival is an international event held each year around the beginning of April. With the support of the Adult Programming Committee and HEB, patrons were provided with an individual round cake, multiple colors of icing, and a variety of cookies, candies and snacks. Each participant or team had one hour to decorate a cake to look like a book cover or to make a design inspired by a story. Cortez staff provided a book display table and a slideshow of edible book festival cakes to provide inspiration. A cake decorator from H-E-B bakery was also in attendance to teach patrons simple decorating techniques. A judging panel consisting of Cortez Friends President Annie Flores, SAPD SAFTE Officer Christina Garcia, and SAPL Board member Andrea Sanchez chose the top three cake designs and awarded prizes. Patrons and staff alike had a great time. There were designs from several children's picture book classics and an adult title as well. Patrons had lively discussions and

left expressing thanks for offering the program. Many said they want it to return next year. With over 30 people in attendance, it was a very successful program.



**Job Search Workshop with AARP (Cheryl Hobbs, AARP)** - On April 13, Cheryl Hobbs from AARP led a workshop to show tips and tricks for performing job searches in the digital age. Networking and interviewing skills were also shared. Light refreshments were served.



**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.



**CAM - Contemporary Art Month** (Brooke Mjolsness and Josh Huskin) March – May 2018 - Local photographer Josh Huskin agreed to work with SAPL for Contemporary Art Month and chose to display 11 photographs from a collection called *Dad Jokes*, which shows people's first reaction to funny/silly jokes. His works were inspired by his recently becoming a father. Patrons are encouraged to vote for their favorite joke with a small balloting box near one of the displays.

## ENCINO



Spring time fun was abundant during Encino's *Story Time*, *Toddler Time* and *Baby Time*. Children's Librarian Nicki Weaver introduced spring-themed finger play and songs to all groups. Toddlers learned about plant growth by pantomiming how our gardens grow. Children welcomed "John the Rabbit" during story time and learned some music basics using rhythm sticks to sing and chase that pesky rabbit out of our garden. Mrs. Weaver continued her outreach at two local daycare centers.



Teen Librarian Julia Pouliot and the Encino Teens had a productive and competitive start to their spring in the Encino Teen Room. *Teen Club* was full of new kinds of crafting with teens painting corkboard strips, melting shrink disk key chains, and creating black out poetry with our supply of upcycled books for National Poetry Month. Teens who came out to our *Teen Screen* program were treated to a viewing of the Academy Award winning *Coco*, while *Teen Anime* remained a hit with weekly watching of multiple series and lots of manga drawing to fill our new teen art cork board.



Ms. Pouliot attended the San Antonio Book Festival as a co-chair of the Geektown area for teens. She oversaw the volunteers at both the book signing and book sales tents, helped out the organizations and businesses presenting in her area, and made sure the authors and moderators presenting in the Geektown headquarters tent had what they needed.



The Friends of Encino Branch Library held a Book Sale and Craft Fair on Saturday, March 24 and it was the first of its kind for the branch. Twenty-eight craft vendors, two food trucks, and several tables of books created a lively, inviting environment and new users came in to visit the branch. It was so successful that the Friends have decided to use this model for each spring book sale going forward.



Encino Library partnered with the Parks and Recreation Department beginning April 5 to offer Fitness in the Park exercises classes to the Encino Community. Every Thursday, instructor Cindy Lawson

conducts Low Impact Circuit Training and Yoga in the meeting room and has seen a small but growing increase in the number of attendees of the classes.



The Professional Development Seminar Series with local career coach James Beeman was well-received by the community. Mr. Beeman offered seminars on Job Targeting and how to create a powerful LinkedIn profile and winning résumé.



The Art Journaling 101 day change to Tuesday afternoons has led to a 50% increase in attendance.



Encino's Collaborate space was used by outside groups 53 times during the reporting period. Use of Collaborate included job interviews, STEM tutoring via Skype, book clubs, theory club meetings, video recordings, podcast recordings, video conferences, leadership training, government agency interviews, and tutoring/study groups. The Mondopads in Collaborate are used about 50% 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: Girls Scout meetings, knitting circle groups and study groups.

## FOREST HILLS



The Parks and Recreation Department hosted a live tree adoption event at Forest Hills on April 7. A total of 50 trees were adopted at this event.



VITA services came to a close on Saturday, April 14. The program was a very popular offering as always. Many patrons visited the library during this time and were very complimentary of the branch. Many commented "This is such a beautiful library!"



Branch Manager Mary Naylor visited the Dorris Griffin Senior center to discuss the book *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin. The title was selected to coincide with the Mayor's Book Club theme of airplanes, selected by District 1 Councilman Roberto Treviño. The group will be discussing James Patterson's *Alex Crosses Trial* for the March theme of social justice at the upcoming meeting mid-April.



Children's Librarian Ana Menchaca hosted a Dinosaur Play and Learn. The children that attended had a lot of fun playing with a large inflatable dinosaur and pretending to be an archeologist who recently discovered dinosaur bones. Children were also delighted to play with the dirt-like play-dough that Ms. Menchaca made and had a very good time burying plastic dinosaurs in the "dirt."



National Unicorn Day was celebrated at Forest Hills with a lot of enthusiasm by patrons and Ms. Menchaca. Children were delighted to play with puff paint, sing songs, and read stories about unicorns. Ms. Menchaca had the children make the puff paint so that they could make see how it was made and make it at home later. The puff paint was made with shaving cream and the children had a great time getting the shaving cream out of the canister.



Ms. Menchaca attended a community outreach event at the Woodland Ridge Apartments. Ms. Menchaca was able to speak to residents about the services that SPAL offers. Additionally, she handed out library maps to show how many libraries are available to them throughout the city. Ms. Menchaca emphasized that all of the services that the library offers are free and made sure and handed out LEARN center brochures to all adults that approached the table.



The San Antonio Symphony had Oboist Paul Leuders visit Forest Hills and share his passion for music. He played his oboe for patrons who were delighted in his musical demonstration. Leuders was awesome; he was engaging and personable with the audience. His beautiful music was heard throughout the library and he put a smile on the faces of many patrons.



Hora de Cuentas (Spanish Story Time) has been added to the Children's Programming lineup. The program will be held on the first Friday of every month at 11 a.m.



Branch Manager Mary Naylor visited with the librarians at both Jefferson High School and Holmes High School to make connections with the teens in the surrounding areas. Ideas for how to generate more teen traffic in the library were generated. Mrs. Naylor returned to Holmes High School and hosted a National Poetry Month activity where teens were invited to create "blackout poetry" using the pages of discarded books.

## GREAT NORTHWEST



Great Northwest Branch Library hosted an egg hunt on March 29 for over 150 children and adults. Volunteers hid eggs throughout the library and when the bell rang, the egg hunters were searching all corners of the library. Many shared that it was their first time to hunt eggs and were very excited. Some of the first-timers were young ones and others have come from other countries. It was a happy event for all involved.



Club 7 has made its journey around the world and across all seven of the continents. The children enjoyed learning about the kids and cultures that were a little new to them. They had a great time building windmills and Eiffel Towers, creating decorated bowls and hats, and more, based on the different countries around the world.



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 planned *Totally 80's Teen Craft and Movie Nights* for the month of March. On March 19, teens watched *The Princess Bride* and made snow globes. On March 26, teens watched *Goonies* and had an ice cream party. In April, teens celebrated Fiesta by making different crafts. On April 2, teens watched *Wonder Woman* and made fusion bead sprites and paper flowers to decorate the teen space. On April 9, teens held a cooking class and learned how to make fried rice and made *papel picado* to decorate the teen space for Fiesta.



Great Northwest Teen Services Librarian Stephanie Vazquez visited the school library at Taft High School on March 21 and Brennan High School on April 4 for outreach events where teens had the opportunity to sign-up for library cards, make button crafts, and compete in a video game competition.





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.



*Alicia Trevino Senior Book & Movie* met on Monday, March 19 to discuss the book *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race* by Margot Lee Shetterly. After a lively book discussion, participants watched the movie *Hidden Figures*. Adult Services Librarian Cindy Moreno moderated the discussion and passed out books for the next meeting.



During the month of March, Library Assistant Christina Martinez and Cindy Moreno collaborated to create a Women's History Book Display. Ms. Moreno displayed both juvenile and adult materials and Ms. Martinez made an interactive display. Patrons and staff brought in pictures of important women they wanted to honor for Women's History month. Ms. Moreno created a board with quotes from notable women in history above the popular educational children's computers for both parents and children to view and learn.



Great Northwest Library is one of the branches hosting the *Decades of Dresses: Forty Years of Fiesta* art exhibit. Christina Martinez created colorful Fiesta decorations to frame the professional photographs of intricate and ornate Fiesta dresses. The display also contains examples of hand-sewn work and sequins from the collection of Mrs. Terry Brantley, the talented and dedicated seamstress of forty years who donated the pictures and art for display.



Great Northwest Library asked patrons what they love about the library during National Library Week April 8-14. Branch staff were happy to hear that patrons love the programs, resources, books, and staff help!



Great Northwest Library welcomes Kathleen Marascio as a part-time library assistant. Ms. Marascio previously worked as an aide at Cody Library.

## GUERRA



VITA provided tax preparation assistance on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays. Roxanne Menchaca accepted the offer of a promotion from Library Aide to Part Time Library Assistant.



Branch Manager Dexter Katzman presented music and literature outreach at the Careplex Adult Daycare Center on March 21 and 28 and April 11. Community Volunteer Ruben Lozano hosted his chess club March 23 and 30. On March 4, he hosted a planning meeting attended by SAPL Friends President Nancy Gandara, Guerra Friends President Delores Huber, and Guerra Friends Vice-President Virginia Salmons.



Assistant Branch Manager Jernell Williams continued her temporary assignment at Johnston. She facilitated an outreach book group at the Virginia Gill Community Center on April 6. Participants discussed *Aleph* by Paulo Coelho.



Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson planned and presented three toddler times, three story times, four Lego Clubs, and two Art Clubs. On March 28, Arlene hosted a Spring Play and Learn program--Dinosaurs--for young children and their caregivers. Families participated in a full day Come and Go Craft on March 11, 12 and 13 in celebration of National Library Week. On March 21, Arlene participated in the webinar Early Childhood Investigations: Play Therapy Techniques in Early Childhood Settings. In celebration of National Poetry Month, she created a display highlighting poetry for children. On April 3, Arlene participated in a Library Aide interview panel with Cate Prazak, Branch Manager/Great Northwest and Mary Naylor, Branch Manager/Forest Hills. On March 23, she conducted outreach at Lil Dragon Den Daycare where she presented two story times to toddlers. On April 13, she conducted outreach at Angelic Smiles Daycare where she presented story times to two groups of toddlers.



Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson moderated his Club de Lectura, (Spanish book club) on March 29. Participants discussed *La esquina del infierno (Hell's Corner)*, by David Baldacci. On April 13, Stephen presented a trivia game at the Willie Cortez Senior Center. Questions for this game emphasized the topics of Easter and Fiesta San Antonio.



Library Assistant and Teen Liaison Edward Mayberry held movie night on March 22 (*Justice League*) and 29 (*Thor: Ragnarok*). Game-Ra sessions were held on April 5 and 12. Edward joined Stephanie Vasquez, Teen Librarian/Great Northwest, for an outreach at Taft High School (March 22) and Brennan High School (April 4). Edward conducted outreach at John Jay High School on April 6 and was assisted by Georgina Salinas, Librarian II/Bazan, Emily Young, Librarian I/Mission, and Eva Banda, Library Assistant/Johnston. He welcomed four new volunteers during the reporting period. Edward was selected for a two-month temporary assignment at the Neighborhood & Housing Services Department.



Circulation Attendant Allison Fink participated in the Mini-maker Faire at Central. She assisted with volunteer coordination, helped facilitate activities, directed patrons, answered questions, and arrived early for set-up and stayed late for tear-down. Circulation Attendant Abella Lazalde-Jimenez continued the Weekly Wellness Step Challenge for staff. She also emailed staff about upcoming wellness events for the month of May.

## IGO



Teen Services Librarian Matthew Loaiza has departed Igo for his new position at Central Library. He will be greatly missed.



Weekly story times continued as scheduled and will do so through September and October.



Lego Club continues to be a success and is well attended by school-aged kids.



Teen Time events took place every Wednesday evening.



On March 19 and April 2, PoeTree, a club for novice and experienced poets, met to share their work.



On March 20, the Afternoon Book Club, under the guidance of their new leader Liz Garza, discussed *The Prisoner*. Meanwhile, the Irish Cultural Society gave guidance to the Genealogy Club about researching ancestors from Ireland.



On March 24, Ramona Lucius held an informational meeting with seniors who had expressed interest in participating in the Human Libraries Project. In recognition of Older Americans Month, the human libraries will be held from 2 – 4 p.m. at Igo (May 5), Johnston (May 12), and Tobin (May 26) branch libraries. The “books” will be seniors with interesting life stories to tell. The Johnston event will focus on childrearing in honor of Mother’s Day. The Tobin event will focus on military veterans in honor of Memorial Day. Ramona is still seeking volunteers to serve as “books.” Seniors with multiple stories to share may serve as “books” in more than one event. Among the “books” so far recruited are a former military dental assistant, a husband and wife team with an expertise in birding, and a cancer survivor.



On March 25, the Knitting Club met with their new leader Carrie Vance.



On March 31, in recognition of Cesar Chavez Day, the movie *Cesar Chavez* was shown.



On April 4, the Mystery Club discussed *Crowned and Dangerous*.



The Writers’ Block creative writing group met each Sunday afternoon at Igo to discuss their writing projects.



Beginning Hatha Yoga classes continue on Friday mornings with constant additional enrollees.



The Elderberries held their monthly program meeting on April 5. In commemoration of Tricentennial, Elise Urrutia, Great-Granddaughter of Dr. Aureliano Urrutia, a renowned Physician who came to San Antonio from Mexico in 1914, gave a presentation on Dr. Urrutia’s Lost Garden on Hildebrand. Her book about this will be published in 2018 by Wings Press.

## JOHNSTON



Johnston Branch Library continues to serve as a meeting place for local community groups as Library Village Homeowners Association met in the meeting room March 26. During National Library Week April 8-14, Johnston staff encouraged entries for a library T-shirt, a Fiesta Medal, and a Fiesta mouse pad (the last two items donated by Branch Manager Monica Bustillo). The Friends of the Johnston Library met on April 8 and purchased a new clock, a ladder, and a waffle maker.



Ms. Bustillo organized a Friday Film showing of *Thor* on March 23 and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* on April 13. Ms. Bustillo facilitated the Athena Readers Book Club discussion of Lisa Jewell's *I Found You* on March 21. On April 14, Ms. Bustillo coordinated the Fiesta @ Johnston program making cascarones and paper flowers with a special Folklorico dance performance.



Story Time themes during this period included "Mystery," "Easter," "Royalty," and "Dinosaur Play & Learn." Family Fun activities included "Mystery," "Easter," "Royalty," and "LEGOs and other building activities." On April 5, Children's Librarian Beverly Wrigglesworth took books and read stories to toddlers and pre-school children at the Southwest High School PCI. On April 8, the Come & Go crafts featured a variety of art materials, such as construction paper, scrap paper, and magazine cut-outs, for families to make their own pictures.



On March 21, Teens decorated and filled up cascarones using different techniques.



On March 28, Teen Liaison/Library Assistant Eva Banda worked with Library Aide Cynthia Blancas to make Yarn Bunnies with the teens.



On April 4, Liaison/Library Assistant Eva Banda and Ms. Blancas demonstrated how to make Pizza Waffles using the new waffle maker purchased by the Johnston Friends group. Teens enjoyed learning how easy it was to make this special treat. On April 11, teens were invited to tie-dye a white shirt using the 16 assorted tie-dye colors in the kit. Teens loved this craft so much that they started to ask if they could dye their own personal shirts.



Library Assistant Elsy Jackson moderated the Club de Lectura "Café con Libro", a book club in Spanish, on March 19 and April 9. The participants discussed a fiction book: *Violetas de Marzo* (The Violets of March) by Sarah Jio and *El caso Neruda* (The Neruda Case) by Roberto Ampuero, respectively. Ms. Jackson conducted a weekly Monday class, Conversational Spanish for Beginners. On March 9, March 26, April 2 and April 9, members learned interactive lessons about interrogative words, singing poems, sayings, and the future tense, followed by sing-along Spanish songs. Ms. Jackson serves as a regular contributor to *Telecuentos (Dial-a-Story)*, and she recorded a children's book for the week of April 9. The title of the book was: *Domingo en el mercado* by Jose Sanabria

## LANDA



In February, Landa Branch started a monthly Kids Cook program for kids ages 5 and up. The program is presented by recipe tester and cookbook reviewer Elizabeth Pearson and Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas. In February, the kids got to make strawberry lemonade, guacamole, and a raisin/carrot/apple salad. In March, families came for a chance to taste a variety of flavors: sweet, sour, bitter, and savory. They even had to eat a plate entirely of green food!



At Landa Branch Library in February, the branch started a Wednesday play program. In March and April, the Wednesday program continued as a Family Story Time with books, songs, finger plays, and craft activities for kids to do with their grownup. Many of the same families come every week to this program for a chance to have a very quiet, intimate story time experience.



March started the spring program cycle at the Landa Branch Library. Baby Time, Toddler Time, and Story Time all continued weekly. Landa branch also continued with Lego Time and Minecraft Time and Come & Go Crafts bimonthly, though the songs and rhymes changed to reflect spring and STEM concepts.



In addition to those regular programs, Landa also hosted special activities for Spring Break. The most successful was a drop-in Lego and More program that had Legos, Straws & Connectors, Magnet Tiles, and Brain Flakes set up on tables in the meeting room. Families could come and build together for as long as they wanted to. The program was originally only scheduled for two hours, but families continued to enjoy the program without a lull to allow for clean up so the building items were kept out until closing. An extra Tween Time for Spring Break was held that focused on the Landa Community Gardens and the grounds. Students had an outdoor balloon building contest and then the grounds were searched for small outdoor objects that could be used for a craft project. Additionally, Landa offered an extra Come & Go craft program and play-dough Family Fun for families to enjoy together.



In April, Landa offered a few special activities for National Library Week in addition to the usual seven programs offered weekly for a variety of ages. For example, instead of the usual playtime after Toddler programs, Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas offered crafts and other sensory-based activities for the children and caregivers to do together. Also, for the Family Story Time and regular Story Time, Ms. Salinas presented a special Unicorn Day story time complete with a puffy paint activity for the children to enjoy and an opportunity to make their own unicorn puppet out of a paper bag. On Friday, Ms. Salinas also set up a process art Come & Go Craft that involved watercolor paints.



Also in April, Ms. Salinas continued her outreach to the University Presbyterian Childcare Center and Landa hosted its first school visit for the spring. Acorn school's pre-k afternoon class came to Landa to enjoy silly stories and make two crafts before going outside for snacks and time to play on the playground. Ms. Salinas also journeyed to Sul Ross Middle School for a Health Resource Fair and Family day outreach event to provide information about the San Antonio Public Library to grandparents that are raising their grandchildren.



Children's Librarian Salinas also chaired a committee for the San Antonio Book Festival; coordinating volunteers and working to check in school groups that came on the day of the event.



Landa Teen Club welcomed several new teens to the group who visited exclusively for Cooking Club this month! The teen-led program taught the group quick, healthy, and vegan alternative smoothie recipes for any time or type of craving. With assistance of Teen Liaison Rebekah Corley, teen volunteers led other programs including movie night and DIY jewelry. Saturday Drop-In Volunteering maintained a strong attendance, with new inquiries every week! The flexibility of scheduling received positive feedback from teens and parents alike.



Ms. Corley also assisted in an outreach at Lee High School with Westfall Teen Librarian Daniella Toll. Speaking to almost 400 students, the two shared SAPL's life-long learning resources to seniors who were about to graduate. Information about Learn Centers, Financial Counseling, and the Libby app were most popular!





Landa's Reader's Ink Book Club read *Making Rounds With Oscar* by Dr. David Dosa, a book about the uncanny ability of a cat living in a memory-care unit to predict the death of patients. It is a true story based on the physician's experience with the cat. Several of the attendees shared their own personal experience with Alzheimer's patients, which was a learning experience.

The Mystery Book Club read *A Great Reckoning* by Louise Penny—always a favorite author. Although this book is well along in her Inspector Gamache series, several of the participants not previously familiar with Penny expressed their desire to go back and read the series from the beginning. The Book Club at The Village at the Incarnate Word read Jacqueline Winspear's *A Dangerous Place*, set in Gibraltar just before the start of World War II. This, too, is part of a series that members expressed a desire to read in order.



The Kenwood Senior Outreach participants had a choice this month: they could do an Easter adult coloring page or an Easter craft, or both. As always, most chose to do both!



Landa adult programs included a presentation and book-signing by Trinity Professor Kelly Grey Carlisle, Ph.D., author of the memoir *We Are All Shipwrecks*. Dr. Carlisle's story is one of success in spite of a dramatically tragic childhood. She is highly recommended as a presenter.



Jim and Maggie Fox paid a return visit as part of their "St. Patrick's Month" series of programming at different venues around town. Jim is a treasure-trove of information about Celtic music and its American counterpart. He played no fewer than three instruments during the course of the program and his lovely wife Maggie didn't miss a beat on her trusty guitar. They will definitely come back for a return engagement.



When Barbara Bowden came to rent the Landa meeting room for a poetry event, Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta had an offer for Barbara that she couldn't resist. If the library could partner with her, there would be no charge for the room and she'd get great publicity. This wonderful program is "This City is a Poem," a writing prompt publicized ahead of time encouraging creative juices to flow in the veins of all budding poets. The idea was a resounding success with a packed house. An appreciative audience applauded as each poet presented.



Karen is assisting Igo Librarian Ramona Lucius with a Human Library event at three locations, encouraging seniors to get out and tell their story in May during Older Americans Month. During April, Karen hosted an orientation for seniors interested in taking part in this event at any of the three participating libraries. Some of the programs put forth at this preliminary meeting include "The Heroes of Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery" and "Sport and Recreation for Women in Prison."

## LAS PALMAS



On Monday, March 19, Family Fun was a Game Night for children and their families. Families played games together such as *Jumanji*, *Candy Land*, and *Sorry*. Additionally, children built structures with different building supplies such as LEGOS and Crystal Climbers.



Children's Librarian Barbaraella Frazier went to multiple parent meetings in March to promote the Las Palmas Library and library services. On Wednesday, March 21, Ms. Frazier participated in the parent meeting at *Avance Early Head Start*, and on Thursday, March 29, she visited Blessed Sacrament Academy. Ms. Frazier discussed new books available for parents through the San Antonio Public Library as well as upcoming events for children and their grown-ups.



On Monday, March 27, Family Fun was a dinosaur-themed Play and Learn. Children's Librarian Barbaraella Frazier read to the children dinosaur-themed books such as Bryon Barton's *Bones*, *Bones*, *Dinosaur Bones* and Bob Barner's *Dinosaur Bones*. There were activities for infants up through tweens; children were able to participate in many shared activities such as digging in a sensory bin for "fossils", creating dinosaur footprints with play dough, dinosaur themed color/type matching games, a bean bag toss, and a game comparing dinosaur footprints. For infants and toddlers there was a play mat that included dinosaur and sensory-themed toys. There was a 5-foot model dinosaur and life size dinosaur nests, and children created dinosaur landscapes and colored dinosaur coloring pages. The collaborative dinosaur art project included a compliment for Las Palmas that simply stated "Las Palmas Librarians Rock!!!"



On Monday, April 2, Family Fun was a very colorful rainbow theme. Children's Librarian Barbaraella Frazier had hands-on learning experiments such as making rainbows with water and prisms. In addition, children did an experiment with milk, food coloring, and dish soap which demonstrated the hydrophilic and hydrophobic properties of different liquids. The colors of the rainbow were discussed using colored play dough and a craft using tissue paper, glue, and water.



On Tuesday, April 3, Children's Librarian Barbaraella Frazier did outreach at Jubilee Lakeview University Prep. Ms. Frazier performed story time for five different classes with children in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade. Children were learning about animals and books that included animal themes such as *The Octopuppy* by Martin McKenna and *The Three Little Pigs and the Somewhat Bad Wolf* by Mark Teague. Ms. Frazier read to nearly 100 children.



On Friday, April 6, Children's Librarian Barbaraella Frazier had a processed-based craft for the Come & Go Craft. Children created a collage either on construction paper or as a collaborative art project in the children's area.



For Family Fun on Monday, April 9, Las Palmas celebrated Unicorn Day. Children's Librarian Barbaraella Frazier read *A Unicorn Named Sparkle* written and illustrated by Amy Young. Children made their own "puffy paint" with shaving cream, glue, and tempera paint or food coloring. They also created their own puffy paint art work and made "Unicorn Snot" (slime.) Although the children learned about the science behind polymers and very large chains of molecules, they just loved playing with the slime.



On March 17, the branch held a class called *Citizenship for Citizens*. Coordinated by Adult Librarian Fernando Vasquez and taught by Joseph Nazroff, it is designed to instruct attendees on how our local government works. The class contains an overview of American history to current time, the three

branches of government, American democracy and the role of government, political parties, the legal system, and civic and political engagement. Ten people were in attendance.



On March 19, the film *Suffragette* was shown at Las Palmas as part of Women's History Month. This film depicts the growing suffragette movement during early 20th-century Britain.

## MAVERICK



The Ladies' Choice Book Club met on Saturday, March 31 and the Lady Mav's Book Club met on Tuesday, April 10. On April 14, Maverick hosted an art exhibit by artist Mary Campos Lopez and her art students.



The Maverick Chess Club met on Monday, March 19, 26 and April 2 and 9. The Maverick Friend's Group held its Spring Book Sale on March 24 and 25.



The Oaks of French Creek Homeowners Association met on Thursday, March 29.



Children's Librarian Amy Roberts attended the Texas Library Association Conference in Dallas, Texas April 2 - 6. She is a member of the Children's Round Table 2x2 Committee and booktalked with the committee during the "2x2 Showcase" on April 5. It was a huge room and filled to the gills! She attended many workshops including ones about "Young Adult Diverse Books", "Serving Homeschoolers" and "After School Programs in the Public Library".



Ms. Roberts has continued weeding the Juvenile paperbacks, the Juvenile 650's-699, and the Juvenile 743-745.5. She continues to order books in a timely manner for Maverick's two active book clubs.



Ms. Roberts read an ALSC award-winning book for the children's librarians meeting on April 12. She already has three school visits booked in May to promote the summer reading program.



Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl created a display titled "Feeling Crafty?" and then switched it over to Texas Wildflowers on April 2. Photos used to enhance the display were taken by Children's Librarian Amy Roberts.



Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl coordinated four Teen Time programs and one new teen joined the Teen Library Leadership Council. Maverick teens continue to express their individuality by personalizing accessories for themselves or their friends, i.e. light switch plates, tile coasters and Perler bead creations. However, the crafts are quickly pushed to the side when someone suggests a game of Uno, clearly demonstrating their preference to interact and socialize.

Teens requested use of the Karaoke equipment for two of the programs, and the bravest among them performed. Several teens joined in quietly without a microphone to the theme song from Sonic the Hedgehog video game and the signature tune from the TV series Caillou.

Teens requested a Movie Night and really enjoyed *Thor: Ragnarock* on Maverick's new 75" big screen! While some had seen it in the theater, others hadn't seen it – or weren't into – the Marvel movie at all. Nevertheless, the teens were captivated. When a new boy came in during the movie, Ms. Bleichwehl greeted him and introduced him to a few of the kids who were dishing out snacks for themselves near the door. The new boy took a seat at the fringes of a small group. Mary Lou was so pleased to see one of the regular girls get up, walk past her two friends and introduce herself and her friends, demonstrating her social competency and the expectations the group has to support and welcome newcomers.

## McCRELESS



Librarian I Marisa DeBow continued to facilitate programming for the McCreless tweens. The tweens made worry dolls, created pom pom creatures, and sculpted with Model Magic. In addition, the Wii gaming system was brought out and tweens enjoyed competing in Olympic events.



On March 24, the branch hosted Symphony at SAPL. Families had a chance to participate in a lively afternoon with San Antonio Symphony violinist Karen Stiles as she shared her talents and her love of music with children of all ages.



On March 27, the branch hosted a class visit from Jubilee Academy. Library Services Specialist Carolyn Bradley taught the group about caring for books, the difference between fiction and non-fiction, and gave them a tour of the children's area. The students also had a chance to browse some of the branch's picture books and books about rainforests. In all, 65 first grade students and five adults participated in the program.



Librarian I Marisa DeBow also continued to facilitate programming for teens at McCreless. During this reporting period, the teens enjoyed making refrigerated dough doughnuts, as well as playing board games and learning how to shuffle a deck of cards.



On March 19, the branch hosted a second computer class. Library Assistants Joseph Gonzales and Al Chavez facilitated a session on computer basics. Participants became familiar with basic computer terminology, hardware, software, input (mouse and keyboard) and output (document) devices, as well as the Microsoft Windows file structure.



In April, Library Assistant Al Chavez started a new program at McCreless. The McCreless Walking Club is designed to help participants meet their fitness goals while viewing plants and wildlife in the Southside Lions Park trails. They are enjoying simple walks along nature trails suitable for beginners. The program will be offered on the first and third Mondays in April, May, and June.



Sam Sanchez and Joe DeCristoforo from Alamo H.O.O.T (Harmonica Organization of Texas) presented a program on the Harmonica on Monday, April 9. They discussed the history of the harmonica as well as the different types of harmonicas. They then gave basic instruction on how to play the harmonica as well as demonstrations. Several of the attendees expressed interest in having them return for hands-on classes.



On April 14, McCreless hosted the monthly Our Family Reads program for District 3. Mayor Ron Nirenberg and his family, Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran, and U.S. Representative Will Hurd were on hand to introduce April's theme of folk tales. Local author Xavier Garza delighted the audience with his

telling of folk tales such as *La Llorona Meets the Donkey Lady*. Attendees were offered a number of family-friendly activities including an owl puppet craft, worry dolls, metal tooling craft, and green screen photos. The branch also had the opportunity to display art from Metro Health's Healthy Start program, which was a depiction of La Llorona created by an Edgewood Academy of Fine Arts. It was an afternoon of many activities enjoyed by all who participated.

## MEMORIAL



Children's librarian Christine Deffendall narrated the Dial-a-Story for the week of March 26. Her selection was *The Library Boo*, by Tom Chapin and Michael Mark, illustrated by Chuck Groenink.



Mrs. Deffendall volunteered at the San Antonio Book Festival, helping to check in student groups, directing visitors to their destinations, and handing out free books from the Friends of the Library.



Mrs. Deffendall participated in a Family Day outreach April 14 at Sul Ross Middle School. The event was presented by the YWCA and Child Protective Services.



Teen liaison Rene Leija set up PS4 gaming for Teen Time in the Teen area to draw teens into the library.



Mr. Leija attended a Barrio Network meeting to represent the branch and bring back program ideas and suggestions for this event.



Mr. Leija attended a professional development webinar at Central Library.



Adult Services librarian Rhonda Davila partnered with the Texas Partners Resource Network, a nonprofit educational group, to host a youth leadership workshop. The workshop focused on transitioning from high school to the world of work or college. The event also addressed issues such as academic struggles and learning disabilities, e.g. ADHD, dyslexia, and autism



Ms. Davila conducted a learning program with iCivics. ICivics is an online free interactive game suite. Established by retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and currently promoted by Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the non-profit based online game is designed to teach anyone interested about our legal system. ICivics is comprised of many games. Ms. Davila chose "Do I have a Right?" which covered how the Bill of Rights is used in real-life scenarios. Playing the game is not only fun, but educational in developing an understanding of how our laws affect us. Ms. Davila designed the program for adult learners, especially immigrants.



Adult services librarian Rhonda Davila hosted a harmonica class for adults. The event drew in patrons who were immersed in learning about how to play the musical instrument. Joe DeCristoforo, an administrator at UTSA, gave the class along with his colleague Sam Sanchez. The class included a PowerPoint presentation, musical recordings from different genres, and a free plastic harmonica. Adults appeared to be excited about learning how to play the harmonica, and had an enjoyable time in the class.





Ms. Davila arranged for the League of Women Voters to set up a display in the library's open area to encourage and register patrons to vote.



Ms. Davila also assisted for a display table from the UT Health San Antonio Cancer Division who came to visit the library and shared their information with customers.



The Bexar County Dispute Resolution Center came to the branch at the request of Ms. Davila to increase awareness of their free services. The center offers mediation at no charge for individuals and businesses in Bexar County.



To celebrate Earth Day, Ms. Davila screened *An Inconvenient Truth* on Sunday, April 15. Al Gore's documentary film revealed the state of our environment. The compelling film takes you on Al Gore's lecture tour where he shows the impacts of pollution, waste, and water issues throughout the world.



To address the need for affordable healthcare, on a regular basis, the branch offers Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP enrollment assistance. The partnership is with the Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio.



On a monthly basis, the branch continues with adult coloring. Each month features different prints based on themes of the month, such as Fiesta or National Library Week. Patrons enjoys coloring at their leisure.



In the interest of curbing the stray pet population, the branch hosted the Feral Cat Coalition. Several patrons always attend their workshops. Many find them beneficial in learning how to humanely catch cats and have them sprayed or neutered.



The branch hosted the Urban Soccer Leadership Academy. Former Mayor Ed Garza and several soccer coaches conducted the event. The Leadership Academy was divided into several sessions separated by age groups. The Academy was an all-day event that drew students interested in or currently playing soccer. Branch Manager Maria Gonzales welcomed the group and provided a presentation detailing branch services available to the public and inviting the group to sign up for library cards.



The branch hosted the TCI-Capital Improvements group.



The branch hosted the quarterly meeting of the Friends Amigos group. Branch manager Maria Gonzales presented the group with the policy on gift cards that had been presented at the monthly Branch Managers meeting earlier in the week. Mrs. Gonzales also requested the approval of purchasing two items the branch needs for programs and information purposes.



The branch hosted a monthly meeting of Memorial Heights Neighborhood Association. The group had several speakers presenting programs ranging from crime statistics in the area presented by SAPD, public housing processes presented by SAHA, and public assistance services offered by the office of State Representative Justin Rodriguez. Branch Manager Maria Gonzales welcomed the group and

informed them of services available to the public and answered questions related to future construction related to the 2017 Bond package.

## MISSION



For Contemporary Art Month, Mission library had two art workshops for families that were very well attended. The branch helped celebrate the 70th year of the Mission Drive-In by having a booth at the event and also at the Mission Marquee Plaza during their Farmers and Artisan Market and their Annual *Viva Poesia* festival. Manager Oscar Gonzalez participated at the Coffee & Conversation with the Councilwoman that took place at the San Antonio Police Academy. On April 2, Mission Library hosted a screening of Urban-15's Mega Corazon, a live streaming of South Texas-based poetry performers and a discussion of the impact of San Antonio's poetic history. A myriad of styles of poetry were performed, including slam, classical, and street.



This month, as part of the folklore-themed month in the Our Family Reads initiative, teens have been encouraged to write down their own ghost experiences on our ghost story wall, highlighting the times they have seen La Llorona and La Lechuza. Teens rocked out to karaoke this month, with over 50% of the all-ages Karaoke Night being made up of teenagers. Teens also participated in an additional karaoke night during Teen Time. During Cooking Class this month, teens showed off their skills by preparing breakfast tacos with ingredients they selected themselves. Teen Librarian Emily Young promoted the library at McCollum High School Family Night and John Jay High School, and volunteered at Central Library for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Festival.



The Children's department had a good month transitioning from winter to spring. Children of all ages enjoyed a spring time come and go craft. The children's area was decorated with giant frogs providing some great photo opportunities. Baby Time and Toddler time continue to see new faces and the children were very enthused to do the weekly story time craft.

## PAN AMERICAN



In celebration of National Library Week, patrons have written nice things on hearts that are displayed around the library. Each day, one Pan American patron wins a library T-shirt. As part of SAPL's celebration, patrons can post their thoughts about the library on social media and be entered to win a Fiesta medal. Library Assistant Christian Aldana developed a few pop-up programs to celebrate the week. A pop-up program is not advertised, but is announced as happening within a few minutes. Christian showed patrons how to make watercolor bookmarks and blackout poetry using discarded books.



Book Wars also kicked off during National Library Week. Christian organized the friendly, in-house competition between staff members. Each week two staffers were selected to go head-to-head to see which one's display generated the most checkouts. At the end of the rounds, the ultimate winner earns bragging rights.



Christian joined Teen liaison and Library Assistant Nicole Garza at the Harlandale Cultural Arts Festival, an almost 50-year-old tradition with Harlandale Independent School District. At the fair, which was held at Harlandale Memorial Stadium, Nicole and Christian distributed SAPL information and helped people make Fiesta flowers.



Nicole, Assistant Manager Romeo Rosales, and Children's Librarian Valerie Shelley worked together to develop a *Ready Player One* program to coincide with the release of the movie. Participants got to experience virtual reality, take green screen pictures, make 8-bit characters, watch *The Iron Giant*, enjoy snacks reminiscent of the 1980s, play *Ready Player One* online arcade and 1980s computer games, and a hunt for keys.



Valerie hosted Play and Learn – Dinosaur Days, which is designed for children 5 and under. Children made dinosaur crafts and listened to stories about dinosaurs. Attendance at Toddler Time has been increasing, thanks to Valerie's efforts. In recent weeks Pan American has gone from zero participation to as many as eight or nine children and their parents. The Children's Department on Tuesday mornings is a busy place.



As always, Pan American's "regular" programs are still going strong. Each week patrons can learn to play chess, learn to quilt, hone their Pokémon skills, practice qigong and yoga, and play with LEGOs. Pan American partnered with the Martinez Street Women's Center to offer free breast health screenings and with Metro Health to provide free sexual health screenings. Branch Manager Sherrie Hardin has continued to offer adult coloring sessions and was invited to offer the program at the Elvira Cisneros Senior Community Center.



Pan American entered the Mission City Film Festival. Nicole created a time-lapse film of patrons completing a 1,000-piece puzzle. The library often has a community puzzle available for patrons to work on while waiting. Romeo assisted with the screening of the winning films at Santikos Silverado.



To cap off a busy spring, most of the staff took in a Missions game, which sadly turned into a goodbye celebration for two staff members. Romeo is transferring to McCreless Branch Library to serve as assistant manager there, and Christian has accepted a full-time position with the Ozuna Library and Learn Center at Palo Alto College.

## PARMAN



Tween Time at Parman, presented by Caroline Mossing, has experienced a surge in popularity, with a consistent group of 9-12 year old attendees enjoying hands-on arts & crafts activities, games, and Lego building.



Caroline Mossing led the annual San Antonio Mini Maker Faire, prepared and presented by Central Teen Services. The event took place on Saturday, March 24, at the Central Library where attendees explored more than 30 exhibits, staffed by almost one hundred individuals, showcasing projects ranging from robotics to filmmaking to quilting to bat conservation.



Circulation Attendants Melissa Moser and Allie Villarreal created two popular children's displays this month. Melissa made a display featuring biographies and other "true stories" under the title "True Story Bro". A growing number of children have a fascination and love of biographies and other historical narratives which were featured in this display. They flew off the shelf and had to be constantly filled, thus helping to boost our non-fiction circulation. For National Poetry Month, Allie then created a children's

poetry display to get children of varying reading levels interested in reading and writing their own poetry. Parman has a strong poetry collection that we are excited to finally show off and share!



The San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department brought Mobile Fit to Parman. The Mobile Fit San Antonio unit offers free fitness classes and a health kiosk and helps patrons be aware of indicators commonly linked to general health and the risk of developing a health-related condition. The Mobile Fit health kiosk offered the community screenings such as blood pressure and Body Mass Index (BMI).



After six weeks, the popular Yoga and Pilates classes presented by Cindy are back at Parman. Both classes are official parts of the Troops for Fitness series and are taught by skilled military veterans.



Brian Douglass attended the Operations Team Meeting Monday as a part of the LAD project team.

## POTRANCO



The Potranco Branch Library hosted a Book Club on Thursday, March 1 and featured Trevor Noah's auto biography: *Born a Crime - Stories From a South African Childhood*.



To get into the spirit of the Oscars, the Potranco Branch Library held a movie viewing of *Coco*. Families were invited to bring blankets to the viewing. Free popcorn was available to attendees.



The Potranco Branch Library held Chess Time on Thursday, March 15. The program is an opportunity for those interested in learning chess or for individuals interested in sharpening their chess skills. All skill levels are welcome.



On Thursday, April 5, the Teen at the Potranco Branch Library participated in a Fiesta Bottle Cap Medal craft.

## PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS



Children attending Kids' Time at Pruitt Library enjoyed a fun-filled, bird-themed event. The reading of Toni Yuly's popular title *The Jelly Bean Tree* was a big hit. Kids and parents discussed important character traits such as being considerate, patient, and thoughtful as evidenced in the book selection. Children and parents then had a fabulous time painting wooden birdhouses and decorating them with colorful stickers.



Children's Librarian Cynthia Saenz collaborated with the school librarian at Montgomery Elementary as they held a meeting of Club Read-a-Lot with a group of very engaged fourth graders. The children enjoyed the selection, *Bunnicula: A Rabbit-Tale Mystery*, and the discussion was filled with laughter while they talked about the antics of Chester and Harold, the family pets. The school librarian expressed that it was a great time to discuss this selection as the kids are currently studying

personification in their classes. At the end of the meeting, the kids enjoyed chocolate bunnies – the perfect treat right before the Easter holiday. The group is looking forward to its final meeting of the school year with a discussion of the award-winning selection *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia.



Lately, Mindful Monday for Teens has been the star of the show for the teens at Pruitt Library. With upcoming standardized testing, the mindfulness techniques teens have learned from Counselor Carrie Edmond will be indispensable. They have made a few hands-on tools to help focus and calm them if they experience anxiety or stress before, during, or after testing. The first tool is a set of harmony beads for counting their breaths and the second item is stress putty. The putty can be unscented or scented with lavender, eucalyptus, or peppermint. Lavender reduces mental stress and anxiety, eucalyptus increases student performance, and peppermint helps to wake up the mind, focus the senses, and improve memory. The stress putty was popular at Mindful Monday, so this activity was repeated for Teen Time.



Pruitt Branch held three adult computer classes in March—Internet Basics & Cyber Safety, Introduction to Microsoft Word, and Introduction to Microsoft Excel. Participants spent the first hour and a half of each class on lessons designed by the Texas State Library & Archives Commission, and the last half hour was open-ended, allowing time for individual questions, projects, and exploration.



The TGIF Book Group for Adults enjoyed reading *A Great Reckoning* by Canadian author Louise Penny. Participants enjoyed the book so much they have asked to read Penny's latest novel, *Glass Houses*, as soon as enough copies are available.

## SAN PEDRO



Ms. 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 requested 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 a Family Fun event during this period. National Unicorn Day was celebrated April 15 by children and their caregivers making unicorn hand puppets and painting with homemade puffy unicorn paint.



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



The Toddler Time program continued during this reporting time with a small but very loyal group. A few new children have joined our group. A very well-attended Dinosaur Play and Learn was held April 8. There were many different stations ranging from using tongs to find small dinosaur figures hidden in a box of pinto beans, making a dinosaur habitat, listening to dinosaur stories, and other fun activities.



Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton represented the library at the April 6 Principal's Coffee at Cotton Elementary School. She promoted both the library and the Summer Reading Program.





Ms. Dalton hosted nine book clubs in the service area 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 three SAISD schools: Hawthorne Academy, Cotton Elementary School and Beacon Hill Elementary School. In addition to bringing thematic books requested by the teachers for the three preschools she visits monthly, Ms. Dalton also brings thematic books to a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at the Advanced Learning Academy.



Adult Services Librarian Wilson Plunkett, Library Assistant Carmen Roja, and Library Aide Nick Salenga made another visit to Parkview Apartments on April 6 to restock book shelves with more donated books, bringing magazines and genres requested by residents. Many of the books were taken since the previous visit. The residents love it. The second San Pedro Library Family Coloring Club meeting was well-attended by seven adults and two children.



Branch Manager Diane Backhus coordinated a program with the Alamo Association Poets of Texas on April 13 for National Poetry Month. Members read poems from their anthology, and other original works. The group was very happy with the venue at the library, and hopes to return. And, just a few hours later, a beautiful spring bouquet arrived as an appreciation to the library!

## SCHAEFER



Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser visited two childcare centers during the reporting period to read and sing songs with kids. On March 21, she read and sang songs about spring to preschool students at the Evelyn King childcare center, and she presented three story time programs about bunnies on March 28 at the Little Engine Learning Center.



Story Time and Toddler Time programs are offered each Tuesday morning. During the reporting period, program themes included spring, birds, bunnies, and ocean animals. Toddlers play and build with blocks after the program concludes, and story time participants have a variety of activities they can do that relate to the theme. For instance, they made pinecone bird feeders for the bird program. For spring, they made handprint flowers by covering their hands with paint and placing it on a poster board. This creation is currently on display in the children's area. For bunnies, they had a bunny bean bag toss, bunny puzzles, and sensory bins. For ocean animals, the group went outside to sidewalk chalk the playground area and played with plastic ocean animals in water.



LEGO Time is offered each Wednesday for school-aged kids. They can build with LEGOs or DUPLOS, read LEGO books or magazines, or play a memory matching game with LEGO minifigures. At the end of the program, kids can display their creations in the children's area of the library. The kids really enjoy seeing what they built up in the library.



Our Family Reads: The Mayor's Book Club – Explore Social Justice with Councilman Cruz Shaw took place on March 24. A variety of activities about social justice were offered. Mayor Ron Nirenberg, Councilman Cruz Shaw, and Assistant Director Dale McNeill all spoke at the event. Children who attended made Peace Plates and Multicultural Paper Dolls and listened to a story read by Councilman Cruz Shaw's wife, Michelle. Participants could also make buttons with social justice heroes and quotes. A

Random Acts of Kindness jar encouraged people to spread kindness throughout the community. A professor gave a speech on social justice heroes.



The Schaefer Branch Library celebrated its first anniversary with the public on March 31. There were a variety of activities for all ages including green screen photos, gaming, a ring toss game where participants tossed the ring onto a birthday cake made out of cardboard boxes, and a collaborative art activity that is now displayed at the circulation desk. The Schaefer Friends group generously purchased cupcakes for the party guests. A slideshow of photos of activities from the first year played in the meeting room for guests to watch while eating the cupcakes. A demonstration of Schaefer's 3D printer took place during the party as well. The printer created a birthday cake with one candle! Members of Schaefer's Friends group also sold Friends of Schaefer Fiesta medals during the party. The patrons also enjoyed a visit from Smarty, our new mascot.



Library Assistant Sara Ramirez facilitated two Science Time programs during the reporting period. On March 22, kids enjoyed a competitive game of robot soccer. Participants utilized Ollies, an app controlled robot, in order to push a toy soccer ball into the opponent's goal. On April 5, Science Time celebrated National Unicorn Day! Children learned about the real-life unicorns of the sea - narwhals! Children enjoyed a reading of *Not Quite Narwhal*, made unicorn puffy paint, enjoyed some tasty unicorn trail mix, and played a target game to win a 3D printed narwhal or unicorn.



Teen volunteers assisted with two large scale events during the reporting period. Schaefer teens helped patrons create buttons for the Mayor's Book Club event. To coincide with the theme of social justice, teens made buttons with images of Cesar Chavez and Martin Luther King Jr. along with quotes on peace and unity. Teens also assisted with the Schaefer 1 year anniversary celebration by helping with green screen photos at the event. Party goers had the choice of using several birthday backgrounds to take their photos.



Teen Services Librarian Cindy Cruz visited the STEM High School with an art activity and also a science activity for the afterschool program.



Teen Time activities included making rainbow pancakes, sushi magnets, and unicorn parfaits for Unicorn Day. East Central Vocational Ed students also visited the library and assisted with shredding and shelving in the Teen Space.



Monday evenings at Schaefer, patrons gather for Chess Club. Children and adults play friendly games of chess in Schaefer's Community Flex Space. Patrons solve chess puzzles, observe historic chess matches, and learn the basics of strategy with Library Assistant Mason Matthews. Tournament Style Chess Sets were provided by a generous donation from our friends at Dollar General.



Once each fortnight, on Thursday afternoon, Schaefer hosts the Kid's Gaming Program. School-age children gather in the Mays Family Community Flex Space to play Wii U and Nintendo Switch games in an environment which promotes teamwork, friendly competition, and social interaction. Library Assistant Mason Matthews offers instruction and mediation to the gathered patrons.



Monday and Wednesday evenings, and Thursday and Friday mornings at Schaefer Branch Library, patrons can attend GED prep classes. ESC-20 (Region-20) provides instruction and materials for local adults in ten week increments. Classes take place in the H-E-B Collaborate Space.



On March 25 at 2 p.m., patrons gathered at Schaefer Library's Community Flex Space to participate in a cooperative storytelling experience. For two hours, patrons picked characters and participated in a fantasy roleplaying game led by Seth Farra.



The Skimmers Book Club was excited to once again meet. They discussed Fredrik Backman's *A Man Called Ove*. After watching a short clip from the movie and a lively discussion, it was decided *Ove* was unanimously loved by all members. (The ending was the club's favorite part.) The club is also excited to celebrate their one-year anniversary next month, and plan on marking the occasion with light refreshments and a review of their past books.



The Saturday Movie program presented *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*. The audience laughed the entire time and enjoyed bringing personal snacks to nosh on. The results for the Vinyl Record Survey came in! Over 100 patrons voted, and two lucky winners walked away with SAPL t-shirts. Schaefer Branch Library also did an outreach with the Lakeside Improvement Association by attending their BBQ fundraiser and handing out branch calendars. The attendees enjoyed playing with Schaefer's new Sphero Minis and expressed interest at attending Schaefer's Bidi Bidi Birthday Bash in honor of Selena Quintanilla the following Monday.

## SEMMES



Seventeen children and fifteen grownups enjoyed Semmes Branch Library's celebration of National Unicorn Day on Saturday, April 14. This attendance is the most we've ever had at our Saturday Family Fun story time! Children enjoyed songs and stories about unicorns and then made unicorn masks to wear home.



Children's Librarian Randi Jones had a whopping 37 kids for Story Time this past week. Everyone greatly enjoyed Ms. Randi's guitar strumming and vocals in addition to the stories.



Tween Time and Teen Time, led by Library Assistant Melody Smith, was dominated by a plethora of board games this month. They most recently learned how to play Carcassonne, a medieval landscape strategy game.



Minecraft Monday has been led by Library Aide Conor Watts, and the kids have enjoyed building houses and blowing up mines with TNT to gather materials and resources.



Families and individuals, led by Library Assistant Julie Ernst, went for a 1.2 mile walk through Comanche Lookout Park every Saturday. The Saturday morning walking group had an egg hunt on the Comanche Lookout Trail and found items ranging from Zotz candy to buttons and a statue of liberty the

size of your fingernail! At the end of the walk, attendees discovered that many of them had never tried Zotz, so everyone tried out a different flavor and experienced the oddly fizzy candy together.



The Semmes Sunday Stitchers are still working on items ranging from crocheted figures, to a cross-stitch of Yoda!



Interim Branch Manager Megan Stanley attended the Texas Library Association's annual conference in Dallas from April 3 - 6. She co-hosted a session which consisted of a panel of authors for the Lariat Reading List Committee. The authors that attended this meeting and provided signed copies of their award winning novels included Benjamin Ludwig with *Ginny Moon*, Lisa Wingate with *Before We Were Yours*, and Matt Goldman with *Gone to Dust*.



Children's Librarian Randi Jones and Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse volunteered their time at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual San Antonio Book Festival on April 7.

## THOUSAND OAKS



This month, Thousand Oaks introduced a bilingual story time. There was a need in our community for this service and it has caught on quickly. One of our circulation attendants Aileen Chavez is performing the bilingual story time under the supervision of children's librarian Ann Laird. Thousand Oaks has been hosting Come & Go craft times every weekend. We have especially been offering this service during tax season to help keep the kids entertained while their caregivers are getting their taxes done with the VITA tax service. The Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt was a huge success at Thousand Oaks with 118 kids participating over the month. It culminated with an Easter craft program on March 28. Wacky Wednesdays is a steadily popular program – this month we have featured retro gaming (board games such as Connect 4, Chutes and Ladders, Candy Land, and Operation were played), garden-related crafts, and space crafts to celebrate Spring Astronomy Week.



Thousand Oaks celebrated National Library Week by asking patrons to comment about what they love about their library on a display wall. Items mentioned most include books and courteous, helpful staff members.



Members of the North East Senior Center book group enjoyed a lively discussion of book #5 in the Kendra Michaels series by Iris Johansen, *Look Behind You*. Readers, for the most part, enjoyed the story of the FBI consultant as she tracked down a not-so-grisly serial killer. Some readers felt law enforcement was portrayed disrespectfully and one member related stories of his time as a 911 dispatcher. Many readers praised Johansen's writing, especially the several red herrings that kept them all guessing. The group welcomed two new members this month who were excited to start the next book and join the discussion.

## TOBIN LIBRARY AT OAKWELL



Children's Librarian Karen Braeuler and Circulation Attendant Carmen Zapata have seen their attendance at the once a month Bilingual Story Time grow to a significant crowd. The theme in March

was “numeros” with songs, interactive rhymes, and stories about counting numbers. The majority of attendees is non-Spanish speakers but is very receptive to the bilingual presentation.



Ms. Braeuler and Librarian Kimberly Wygant celebrated all things dinosaur with a special Play and Learn and Toddler and Story Time on March 28. Despite the thunderous rain storm that morning, some kids and parents practiced sensory, motor, critical thinking and math play activities. Dinosaur fossils were searched for in bunches of beans along with counting and stamping dinosaurs in play mud for some of the creative play.



Harpist Rachel Ferris played at the branch on March 24 as part of the Symphony at SAPL Performance Series for children. Patrons of all ages thoroughly enjoyed Ms. Ferris' music as well as her informative talk about the harp, and how they are made and played similarly to the piano.



Ms. Wygant's Explorer Time on March 20 was titled Minute to Win It. Kids competed with one minute sessions applying math and basic engineering concepts. Some clever races consisted of stacking paper cups and stringing pasta noodles onto spaghetti held in their mouth with their teeth with no hands. On April 3, the 9-12 year art and craft club made tissue paper Fiesta flowers to decorate the library.



Teen Librarian Megan Coker has established a new partnership with the San Antonio Gamers. One of their Dungeon Masters hosts a weekly Young Adventurers' Guild with the classic Dungeon and Dragon game with kids of all ages. Initially only a couple kids attended, but in less than a month, word is getting out and attendance has quadrupled. Youngsters are enthusiastic about the creativity and storytelling aspects of this role playing game.



Some teen activities this period include painting wooden Eggs-ellent art, board games, magnetic poetry, perler bead designing and a creative art zone. The Otaku group made badges out of clay, solved Pokémon puzzles, and devised paper crafts related to anime and manga themes.



Ms. Megan Coker assisted with the many visitors to SAPL's Mini Maker Faire at Central Library on March 24. In addition, Ms. Coker chauffeured author Holly Black around the city to speak to students at several high schools. Ms. Black was one of the many authors participating in the San Antonio Book Festival and is most famous for helping to create *The Spiderwick Chronicles*. She also shared information on her newest young adult title, *The Spider Prince*.



Debbie Reid from The Aquifer Alliance shared ideas on March 28 about how to create a rain garden. By doing so, participants can increase butterfly and hummingbird visits and increase pollination.



Library Assistant Auriel Pinales created a popular Easter Egg Hunt to search for laminated paper eggs hidden in the Español collection. Ms. Pinales has shifted and weeded the genre and wanted to highlight materials for check-out to branch visitors of all ages. Finding an “egg” earned a piece of candy from March 26 - 31.



The Friends of the Tobin Library at Oakwell held a very successful book sale March 23 – 25. Adding a third day for the sale, along with utilizing the square for credit cards, helped increase profits over the past couple book sales.



# WESTFALL



During April, the Westfall Branch Library provided a variety of programs and services to the community. There were weekly programs for all ages and a wide range of topics. 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. Merino 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 April 11, students for the Discovery School visited Westfall to learn more about Pioneer Life in America. The children listened to some stories on this month's theme and were given the opportunity to check out books on the topic as well.



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. On April 6, Ms. Toll visited Lee High School for the day to talk to students about SAPL and programs at Westfall.



The Westfall Branch Library continued to host the "Stranger than Fiction" and "Third Thursday" book clubs. Books read this month included *Rising Tide: The Great Mississippi of 1927 and How it Changed America* by John Barry and *A Man Named Ove* by Fredrik Backman. Both book clubs draw small but dedicated groups that enjoy discussing the themes of the books as well as other issues of the day.



In April, the branch continued to host 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 February and March, LEARN @ SAPL offered a variety of computer classes and one-one-one coaching 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

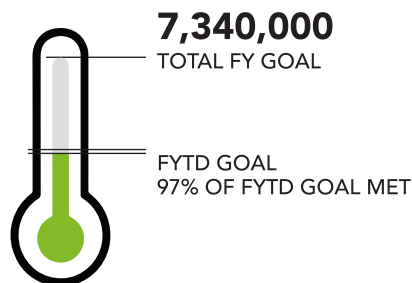
## SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY KEY INDICATORS

# MARCH 2018

FY 2018

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

### CIRCULATION: GOAL

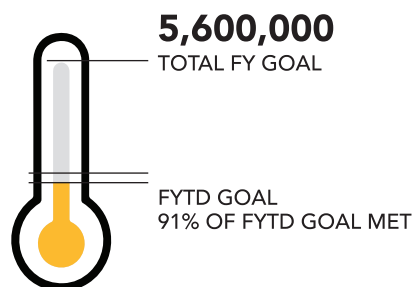


### CIRCULATION: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE



**3,403,334** ↓ **3%**  
ITEMS  
BORROWED

### LIBRARY VISITS: GOAL



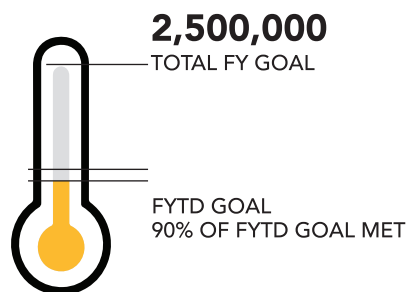
### LIBRARY VISITS: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE



**2,443,332** ↓ **13%\***  
VISITS

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

### DIGITAL ACCESS: GOAL



### DIGITAL ACCESS: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE



**276,082**  
COMPUTER  
HOURS



**834,044**  
HOURS OF  
WI-FI USE

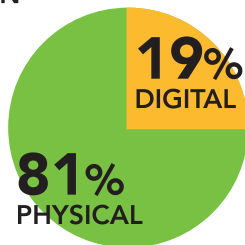
**1,110,126** ↓ **12%**  
TOTAL HOURS OF  
COMPUTER & WI-FI USE

# SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS

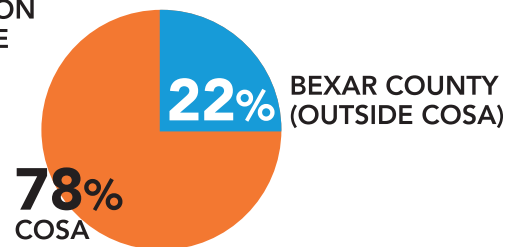
**MARCH 2018** (continued)

## USE OF COLLECTION: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE

CIRCULATION  
BY TYPE



CIRCULATION  
BY SERVICE  
AREA



## VIRTUAL VISITS: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE



**1,257,721**

MYSAPL.ORG  
VISITS

**430,081**

MYSAPL  
APP SESSIONS

**870,987**

SANANTONIO.OVERDRIVE.COM  
VISITS

## PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: FISCAL YEAR TO DATE



**160,281**

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

**33,513**

ADULT PROGRAMS

**24,270**

TEEN PROGRAMS

**102,498**

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

## MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

**MARCH 2018**



# San Antonio Public Library

## March 2018 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Computer & Wi-Fi Use	Computers - Hours of Use	Wi-Fi - Hours of Use
Bazan	4,495	10,888	6,210	1,595	4,615
Brook Hollow	25,176	21,745	5,781	1,098	4,683
Carver	4,236	7,596	3,500	1,350	2,149
Central	22,763	54,120	44,020	10,772	33,248
Cody	32,225	23,437	6,451	1,306	5,145
Collins Garden	5,839	8,531	4,657	1,594	3,063
Cortez	5,830	9,248	4,418	1,155	3,263
Encino	18,115	13,879	3,576	426	3,150
Forest Hills	6,167	8,985	4,366	1,004	3,363
Great Northwest	23,648	16,278	6,223	1,490	4,733
Guerra	9,943	12,823	5,772	1,619	4,153
Igo	28,018	27,194	7,654	951	6,703
Johnston	9,720	10,727	4,351	1,244	3,108
Landa	11,740	12,519	2,165	642	1,523
Las Palmas	4,254	10,771	4,534	1,606	2,928
Maverick	23,528	14,836	6,307	1,496	4,811
McCreless	9,353	13,753	4,700	1,487	3,213
Memorial	5,976	9,029	4,381	1,261	3,120
Mission	11,140	21,325	7,772	2,269	5,503
Pan American	5,804	7,437	3,234	1,351	1,883
Parman	26,381	24,702	4,905	538	4,368
Potranco	18,299	16,250	13,316	996	12,319
Pruitt	5,914	14,630	4,070	1,166	2,904
San Pedro	4,125	5,225	2,354	670	1,684
Schaefer	9,142	11,912	4,826	796	4,031
Semmes	23,371	18,621	6,187	1,597	4,590
Thousand Oaks	9,649	11,391	5,548	1,158	4,390
Tobin	16,981	18,271	4,899	1,628	3,271
Westfall	15,240	16,422	7,898	2,455	5,442
Kampmann Library Portal	N/A	1,433	607	N/A	607
Interlibrary Loan Lending	1,082	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Online/Phone Renewal	78,610	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Digital	117,967	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>594,731</b>	<b>453,978</b>	<b>194,682</b>	<b>46,719</b>	<b>147,963</b>

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

# San Antonio Public Library

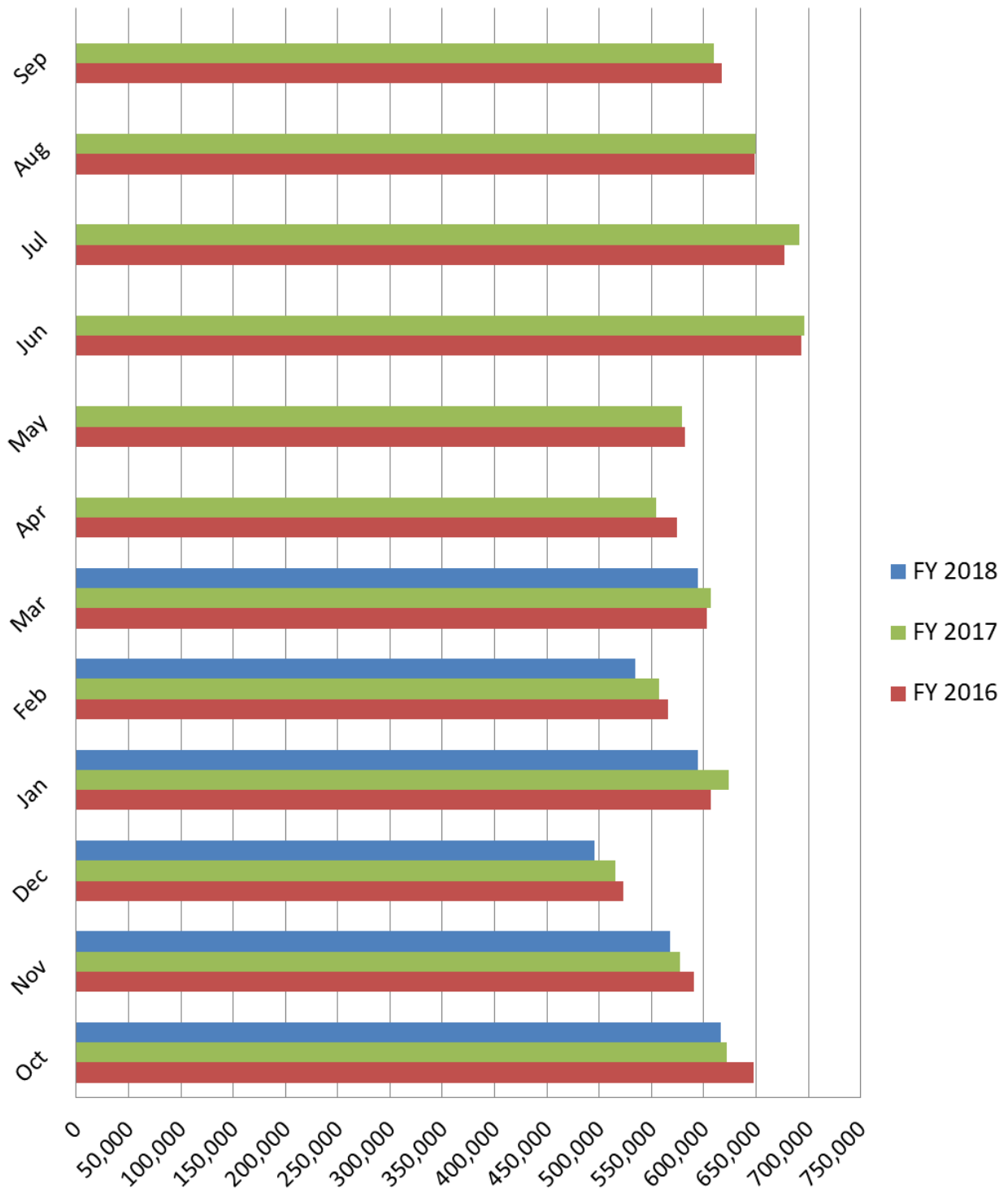
## March 2018 Programs and Attendance

Location	Total Programs	Number of Programs			Total Program Attendance	Adult Program Attendance	Teen Program Attendance	Children's Program Attendance
		Adult	Teen	Children's				
Bazan	52	24	10	18	505	194	136	175
Brook Hollow	38	8	4	26	816	70	7	739
Carver	37	29	6	2	480	421	28	31
Central	138	9	89	40	5,779	2,296	2,301	1,182
Cody	44	6	9	29	867	66	156	645
Collins Garden	48	15	4	29	759	155	24	580
Cortez	98	64	5	29	567	187	10	370
Encino	58	18	8	32	1,272	364	60	848
Forest Hills	33	11	3	19	280	66	8	206
Great Northwest	44	10	10	24	1,580	79	229	1,272
Guerra	40	13	7	20	921	234	223	464
Igo	47	15	8	24	1,155	129	22	1,004
Johnston	34	11	5	18	422	120	21	281
Landa	60	8	10	42	1,317	74	39	1,204
Las Palmas	46	18	6	22	663	128	19	516
Maverick	31	6	4	21	851	53	46	752
McCreless	26	3	4	19	232	15	22	195
Memorial	49	18	3	28	351	118	2	231
Mission	67	38	14	15	982	569	135	278
Pan American	36	16	7	13	315	97	120	98
Parman	73	30	4	39	1,080	301	9	770
Potranco	20	2	4	14	567	10	17	540
Pruitt	56	13	14	29	990	151	282	557
San Pedro	31	3	0	28	452	33	0	419
Schaefer	55	20	8	26	963	230	182	551
Semmes	52	11	6	35	950	51	41	858
Thousand Oaks	35	1	4	30	371	10	59	302
Tobin	60	11	13	35	963	187	103	673
Westfall	35	9	5	21	336	158	23	155
Kampmann Library Portal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Little Read Wagon	108	0	0	108	2,261	0	0	2,261
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>29,047</b>	<b>6,566</b>	<b>4,324</b>	<b>18,157</b>



# San Antonio Public Library

## Circulation



Location Closures

04/17/2018

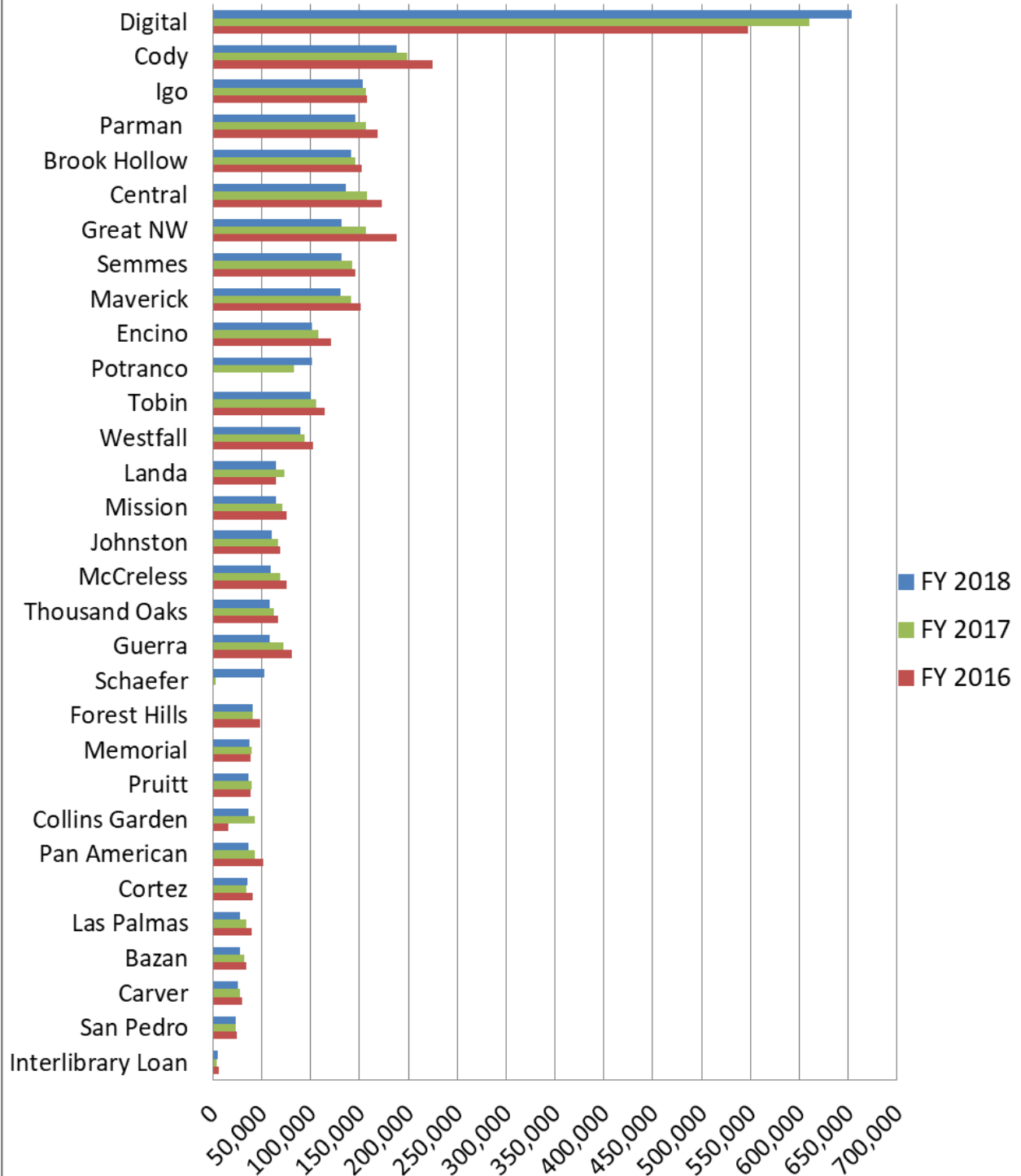
FY 18: Central Oct 28 at 3pm, SAPL System Jan 16-Weather Feb 19-Staff Transformation Day

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

# San Antonio Public Library

## Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - Mar 2018



Location Closures

04/17/2018

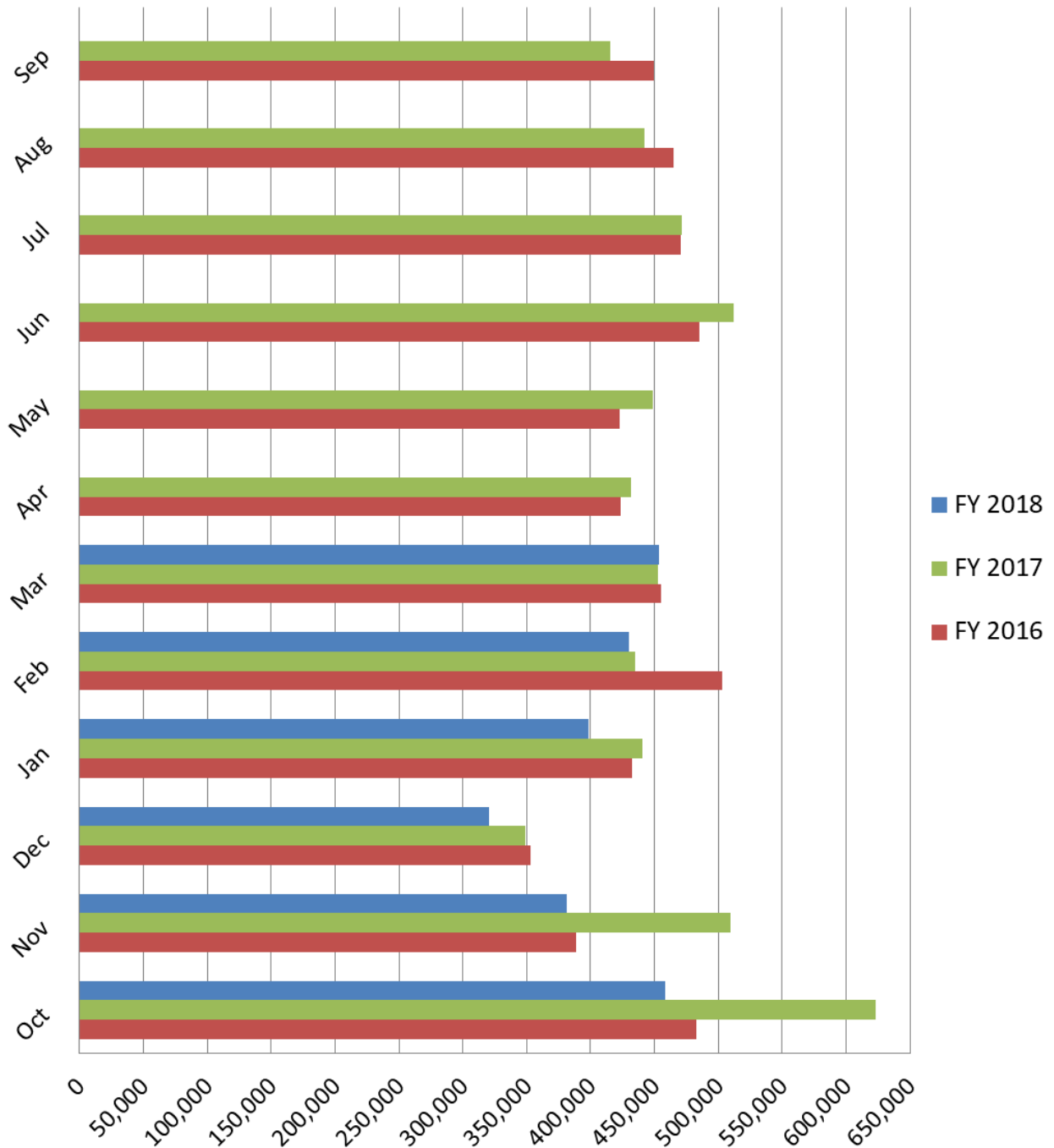
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# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits



Location Closures

04/17/2018

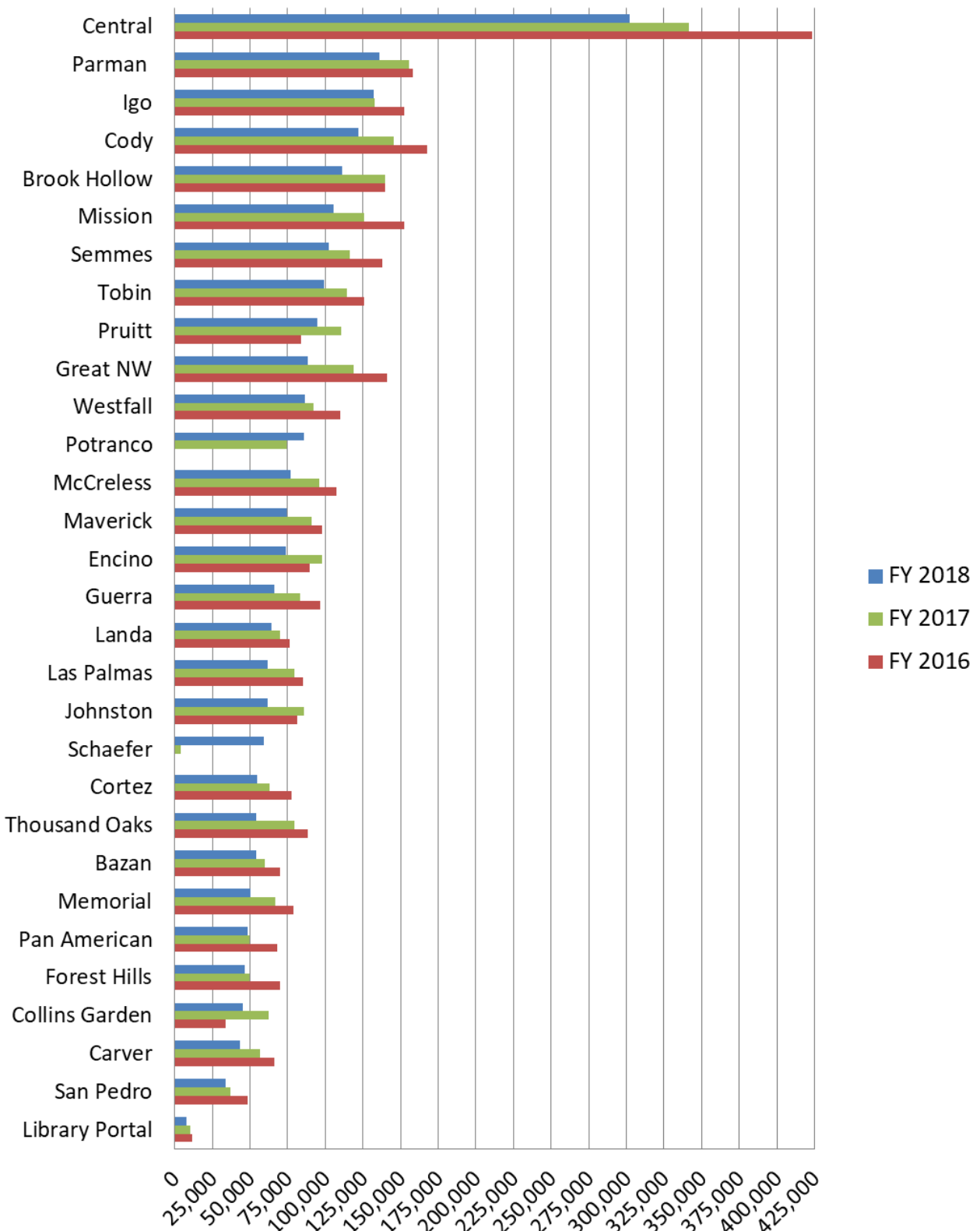
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# San Antonio Public Library

## Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - Mar 2018



Location Closures

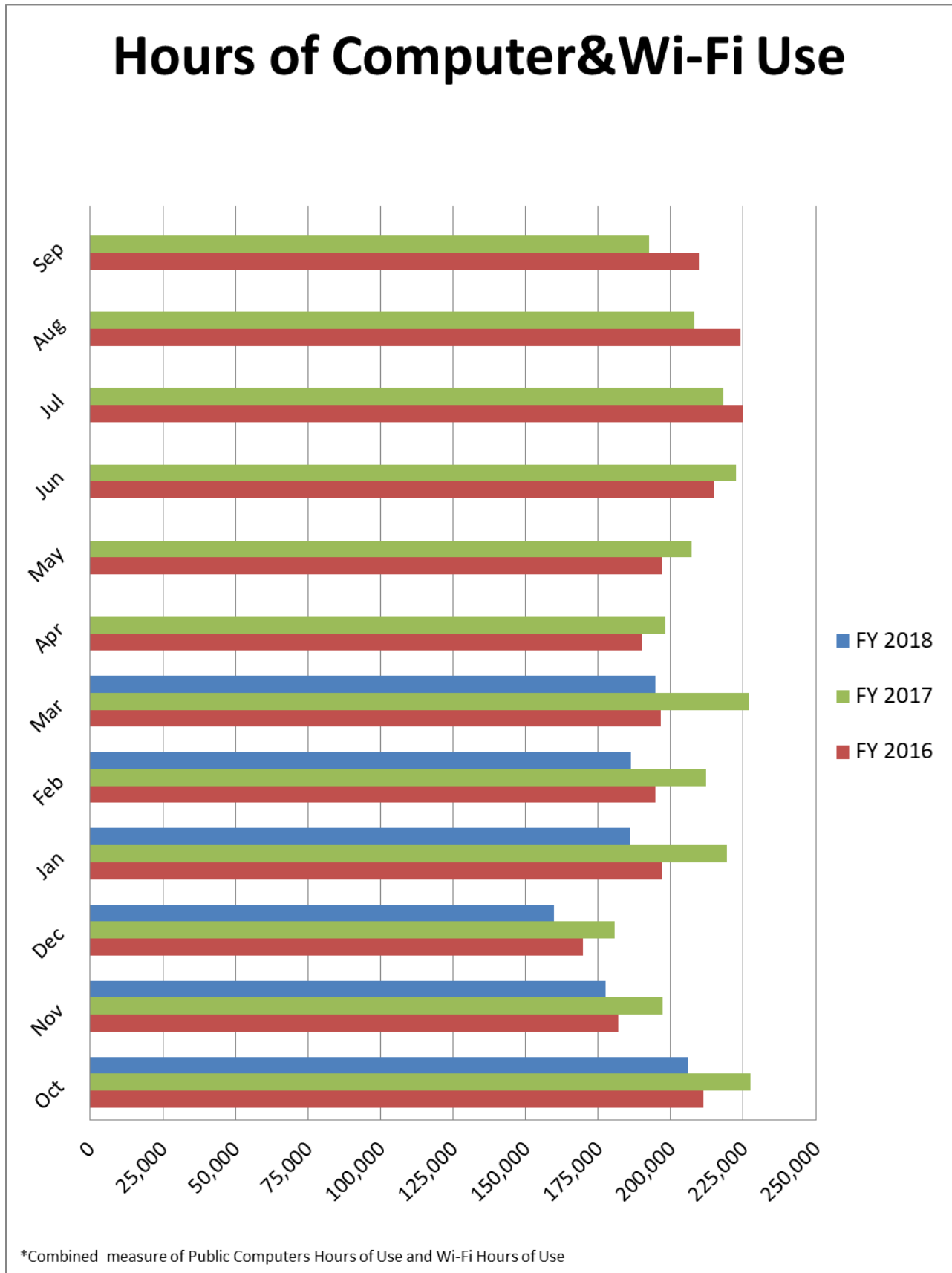
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