



San Antonio Public Library Director's Report February 2019

Participants take part in a Cosplay Contest at the San Antonio Public Library's 2019 PopCon on Saturday, February 16. Over 2,400 people attended the event.

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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



On February 8, 2019, the San Antonio Public Library launched a live chat feature available on the Library's website, mysapl.org. Library patrons visiting the Library's website will be able to ask general questions about library services and programs through this new customer-focused feature. Live-chat will be available beyond the Library's normal operating schedule: Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. The live chat service is a project identified through IT Roadmap, an IT strategic planning initiative undertaken by the library with assistance from ITSD.



Eight Library locations will serve as Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites for the 2019 tax season. The eight library locations are: Bazan Branch Library (D5); Brook Hollow Branch Library (D9); Cody Branch Library (D8); Forest Hills Branch Library (D7); Guerra Branch Library (D6); Mission Branch Library (D3); Thousand Oaks Branch Library (10) and Westfall Branch Library (D1). The VITA program provides free income tax return preparation to taxpayers earning up to \$60,000 annually.



On Wednesday, February 13, 2019, the Ramiro S. Salazar, Library Director, and Razi Hosseini, Interim Director of the Transportation and Capital Improvement Department, met with members of the Westside Neighborhood Association Coalition to discuss the planned improvements to the Las Palmas Branch Library and the Memorial Branch Library as part of the 2017 Bond Program. The meeting was schedule to discuss feedback provided by members of the Coalition regarding the schedule and timeline for the planned closure of library locations during the construction phase of the building improvements. The 2017 Bond Program includes \$1.7 million for the Las Palmas Branch Library and the \$3.3 million for the Memorial Branch Library.



Assistant City Manager Lori Houston and Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar met with Councilman Art Hall on Wednesday, January 30, 2019 to discuss branch libraries in City Council District 2 (Carver Branch, Schaefer Branch and Pruitt Library at Roosevelt High School). Additionally, the recent resignation of District 2 Library Trustee Gloria Malone was discussed and as well as a possible appointment.



As Public Library Association President-Elect, Ramiro S. Salazar accepted an invitation to join the American Library Association's Legislative Fly-in initiative schedule for February 25 and 26, 2019. The Fly-in initiative is an opportunity for leaders in the Library Community to advocate for Library funding and promote libraries. The focus for the meetings with congressional leaders include:

- Funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) at the reauthorized amount of \$232 million
- Sign the LSTA appropriations letter when the letter is developed by the American Library Association
- Encourage Congressional leaders to visit a library in their district and learn about the services provided to their constituents

The schedule includes meeting with Senator Ted Cruz, Senator John Cornyn, Representative Eddie Johnson, Representative Will Hurd and Representative Kay Granger.

MARKETING



Top media hits for the past month:

- Pop Con was a great success in both attendance and media interaction. Rhonda Woolhouse, representing the San Antonio Public Library was featured on News 4 and Fox Midday News to talk about this year's Pop Con and what to expect. Pop Con was also highlighted on two MySA news articles, SA Current and Texas Public Radio.
- LEARN – Citizenship Preparation Classes were featured throughout multiple Telemundo news segments. This included live segments and two recorded segments featuring SAPL staff, Emily Flores and Claudia Balarin. This program received an overwhelming amount of public participation, with over 100 patrons interested in attending the Citizenship Preparation classes.
- The “Becoming” book discussion throughout SAPL branch locations was featured on Texas Public Radio, as they transformed their Live show “The Source” into a books discussion. Marcella McGowna (SAPL Librarian II) represented SAPL and was accompanied by UTSA Professor Karla Broadus (UTSA Sr. lecturer and Director, African American Studies Program), and Lauren Mims (Former Assistant Director, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans, Obama Administration).



The design team created materials to prepare for several programs, events and other design support: Valentine campaign (usage stats, social media graphics); March newsletter; Dick Buckles author event; Las Palmas bond meeting; SA Black International Film Festival at Carver; Live Chat; SA Pop Con; Mini-Maker Faire; Holocaust Learn and Remember: Resistance materials; Play & Learn: Zoo Animals materials; Book discussion, Becoming by Michele Obama; Ballet San Antonio, Galileo and the Wonders of the Telescope; CAM Artist Month; Women's History Month; DIY U; Las Palmas 50 Anniversary; Summer Reading Program; ECC –Every Child Ready to Read; Latino Collection; Meet the Author Materials-Erika Nuremberg, Anel Flores, and Monica Hernandez.



The Team is currently planning for the Las Palmas and Pan American 50th Anniversary events.

Social Media fun facts for the reporting period:

- SAPL Marketing created a “Digital Experience” series on Instagram stories. A new SAPL digital initiative that will highlight exhibits at the Central Library Gallery. Its goal is to provide our digital audience a #MySAPL experience for those who cannot visit Central on a regular basis. Our first campaign featured the Holocaust Learn & Remember Shoah and BESA exhibits. It received 422 “visits” and over 40% of that audience stayed through the +20 page digital experience.
- In efforts to support Public Participation in Bond meetings, Facebook Live recordings were implemented at community input events. These Facebook Live recordings allow us to reach over twice as many patrons during input meetings, providing our community the ability to share their feedback through digital channels and be part of SAPL community communications

Social Media statistics for the month:

1. Facebook: 16,976

2. Twitter: 4,608
3. Instagram: 3,307

DIGITAL SERVICES



The new instance of the public catalog interface, BiblioCore, will be on public preview beginning February 25. BiblioCore features user centric enhancements such as grouped search results, a social network of library staff and patrons, integrated eBook checkout and more. Staff training is nearly complete and Digital Library Services Specialist, Mr. Spana, has been receiving feedback to provide final adjustments to the service. Staff response has been overwhelmingly positive regarding this upcoming service enhancement. Full implementation of BiblioCore as the Library's main public catalog experience is set for March 25. The Marketing Department is developing a comprehensive awareness campaign to introduce the product during the preview period.



Digital Library Services Coordinator Ron Suszek, organized and helped conduct interviews with libraries/cities utilizing the systems and services related to the received responses from our Integrated Library Stem Request for Competitive Sealed Proposal. The solicited feedback was shared with all members of the selection committee to provide independent analysis and enhance our due diligence efforts. The process was very constructive and aided in the overall decision making process.



Digital Library Services Assistant Michael Sheehan designed and released the Idea Incubator web site (part of the SAPL staff web). The SAPL Idea Incubator, a pilot project to help staff implement new ideas, now has an online component that allows staff members to submit, view, and follow suggestions for improving services at SAPL.



Digital Library Services Analyst Tricia Masterson and Digital Library Services Assistant Christina Hess worked with the City's ITSD department to implement a new system for tracking and maintaining the iPads used by the Library. The new system will help ensure that the iPads stay up to date and allows new apps to be added on a system-wide basis.



Digital Library Services Supervisor Rolf Laun, Ms. Masterson and Librarian II (Teen Services) Matthew Loaiza began interviewing prospective applicants for the open Digital Library Services Assistant position.



Ms. Hess created a book display at the Kampmann Portal, centered on the Pony Express. The display was in support of the annual Pony Express Love Letters event at the Briscoe Western Art Museum.

LITTLE READ WAGON



Every Child Ready to Read Workshops for Parents—Early literacy workshops were presented at the following schools: Gilbert, Sky Harbour, Rayburn, Vestal, Gillette, Head Start at Allen Elementary, Elm Creek, Wright, Kriewald Road, Adams, Walzem, Regency Place, Arnold, Pre-K 4SA South, Pre-K 4SA North, and Medio Creek. Head Start and Pre-K registration is taking place at Southwest Independent School District campuses. In an effort to reach more families before their children begin school, Little Read Wagon staff is visiting each campus for a couple hours during registration. Parents waiting to register their children are given library and early literacy information along with the opportunity to make a bedtime routine chart or another activity to use at home.



Services to Pregnant and Parenting Teens—During this reporting period Little Read Wagon staff visited these high school campuses: Jay (two workshops), Jefferson, Healy Murphy (two workshops for two class periods), O'Connor, MacArthur, Holmes, Excel Academy, and Stevens.



Outreach Story Time Programs—Youth outreach story time programs were presented at Navarro Learning Center, Naomi Child Care Center, and Northside Independent School District (NISD) Community Center. The NISD Community Center story time was for teen parents and their children, a rare opportunity to serve both groups simultaneously.



Play & Learn—The Play & Learn series at Harlandale Community Center was very successful! A Facebook poll was used to determine what time to have the program. The late afternoon events drew families from the neighborhood with children ranging from newborn to early elementary grades. Access to the indoor space was appreciated as the weather ranged from warm and humid to bone-chilling cold.



Reading Village—The Reading Village was set up for one-time events at Montgomery Elementary and Sun Valley Elementary. At Montgomery the event was scheduled mid-day, allowing families from either the morning or afternoon Pre-K sessions to participate. At Sun Valley the event was at the end of the school day. Pre-K 4SA South hosted the Reading Village for four days in a row.



Workshops for Professionals—Cresencia Huff, with assistance from Mary Grace Moreno, presented on books that foster empathy and compassion at the January 19 VOICES for Children Early Childhood Training day at Palo Alto College. Julia Lazarin presented another Early Literacy Basics workshop on February 2 in the Latino Collection and Resource Center. Megan Cruz, Clair Larkin, and Cresencia Huff presented the second-to-last “Why? Using non-fiction books in early childhood settings” workshop on February 9 in the Central Library Auditorium. The Little Read Wagon team is already discussing workshop topics for the 2019-20 school year.



System wide support—At the invitation of Julia Lazarin and Arlene Richardson (Guerra), Dr. Berenice de la Cruz, of the Autism Community Network, presented an Autism awareness workshop for children’s services staff. Ms. Lazarin and Ms. Richardson hope to host an Autism Accessible Browsing Hour based on what they learned from Dr. De La Cruz.

Ms. Lazarin took the lead on a re-organization of Little Read Wagon materials. Items that were worn out or damaged were discarded. Items that were not being used regularly in Little Read Wagon programs were offered to children’s services staff at other locations. Ultimately, the items that are more frequently used were stored in a way that made them more accessible and easy to transport.



Building Connections—Megan Cruz and Braulia Carrillo (Carver) represented the library at the January 23 Healthy Start Community Resource Fair at Barbara Jordan Community Center. Cresencia Huff accompanied Elsy Jackson (Johnston) at Southwest Elementary School’s bilingual literacy night. Ms. Jackson made a presentation in Spanish about Library resources. Ms. Lazarin staffed a literacy night information table at Huppertz Elementary when Memorial, the closest branch library, was already committed to another event.

Ms. Huff spoke about her career path to a group of students from Clark High School as part of Job Shadow Day. The students are all interested in working with children. On February 15 Ms. Huff attended a Ready Kid SA meeting with Viki Ash.

CHILDREN’S (SYSTEM-WIDE)



Spring Play & Learn: Zoo Animals—A committee of children's librarians has been hard at work with plans and preparations for the Spring 2019 Play & Learn programs. The committee has created two kits which will rotate among the branches in March, April and May providing young children and their caregivers opportunities to talk, sing, read, write and play with zoo animals. The kits include art activities, story retellings, math concepts and construction play. Carrie Vance (Igo) and Jane Miller (Mission) served as co-chairs of the Spring Play & Learn Committee.



Summer Reading 2019: Over the Moon—Plans are well underway for the 2019 Summer Reading program. This summer's theme, **Over the Moon**, celebrates the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 and the lunar landing. At the monthly children's meeting on February 14, the Summer Kids Time Committee previewed the weekly program options for the summer which include Rockets, Robots, and Lunar Rovers along with eleven additional choices. June and July promise to be packed with programs centered on science and problem-solving.



Parks & Recreation Partnership: Children in Nature—The COSA Parks and Recreation Department has received a \$75,000 grant from the League of Cities to expand and enhance the relationship between children and nature, with particular emphasis on children within the urban core. As part of the grant, Parks and Rec is proposing a partnership with SAPL to pilot a Nature Smart Libraries initiative at one or two branches in the coming 18 months. Children's Coordinator Viki Ash and Public Service Administrator Jake Odland met with the Children and Nature Working Group on January 16 and again on Jan. 22 to consider possibilities. The final plan for grant activities, and SAPL's participation, should be finalized by the end of February.

TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)



Fiesta Youth Partnership—After months of planning and discussion, Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) and Erica Alcocer (Youth Facilitator, Fiesta Youth) were able to secure a date for Alcocer to lead a sensitivity training for the Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons group. On February 13, Alcocer led this training to help Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons understand how to create a more comfortable and inclusive LGBTQ+ environment at our libraries that represents all communities and offers a greater understanding of the LGBTQ+ Youth experience. Loaiza also met with Alcocer to continue planning several outreach initiatives for the remainder of the year as well as plan other potential partnership programming opportunities.



Teen Pride Initiative—In order to increase Teen Services' support for the LGBTQ Youth community in San Antonio, Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) has started meeting with other LGBTQ Youth-serving organizations and initiatives to identify ways that the San Antonio Public Library can collaborate with larger efforts within the city. On January 16, Loaiza met with Maria Camacho (Outreach Manager, Thrive Youth Center) to discuss which library services would be useful for Thrive's current operations as well as their future plans. On January 18, Loaiza met with Sister Dottie Bair (Founder, Just One Night) to discuss how Teen Services can support the Just One Night campaign that directly benefits Thrive Youth Center and Stand Up for Kids.



Pride 2019—On February 8, Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) met with Melissa Gohlke (Assistant Archivist, UTSA Special Collections) to discuss the logistics of hosting another Pride exhibit at Central during the months of June and July. This year's exhibit will focus on the

origins of Pride celebrations which are grounded in the Stonewall riots in New York in 1969, as 2019 is the 50th anniversary of this watershed event in the gay liberation movement.



Job Shadow Day—Teen Services hosted students for Job Shadow Day again this year. Students from Clark High School with an interest in pursuing a career in Education shadowed library staff at the Central Library on February 5 and had the opportunity to observe what it was like to work with children at the library. Jennifer Velasquez (Coordinator of Teen Services) and Amisarahi Sarabia (Library Assistant/Teen Outreach Specialist, Central Library) planned and facilitated the day's events. Shannon Seglin (Interim Manager, Children's Department) and Cresencia Huff (Library Services Lead, Little Read Wagon) presented to the students.



Teen Arts Fest Partnerships—During the reporting period, J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central) visited directors at the San Antonio Museum of Art, Southwest School of Art, and the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center to discuss partnership opportunities with Teen Services for Teen Arts Fest 2019.



Off-Site Service—On January 31, Teen Services hosted the annual Engineering Day for a group of John Jay High School students at Guerra library. Engineer professionals worked with students throughout the day and answered questions about their careers and future endeavors. The students worked in groups to develop ideas on how to promote STEM programs to future high school students. Group presentations were given through the end of the day and each group presented and discussed their ideas. Jennifer Velasquez (Coordinator of Teen Services), Amisarahi Sarabia (Library Assistant/Teen Services Outreach Specialist), and Edward Maberry (Teen Services Liaison, Guerra Library) planned and facilitated the event.



ALA Literacy Night—On January 31, Amisarahi Sarabia (Library Assistant/Teen Services Outreach Specialist) conducted an outreach at the Advanced Learning Academy for the school's Literacy Night. Parents and their children and teens visited booths in the school library, and Amisarahi provided them with information about the SAPL, along with goodies to take home.



Amisarahi Sarabia (Library Assistant/Teen Services Outreach Specialist) attended SAISD's Edgar Allan Poe Literacy Night at Poe Middle School on February 13. Amisarahi engaged in conversation with the students and provided information about the Library's services and resources, as well as upcoming SAPL events. She also spoke with teachers and parents about volunteer opportunities for teens at the SAPL.



Professional Development—Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons met on February 13 in the Teen Library @ Central for their regularly scheduled meeting. Daniella Toll (Teen Services Librarian I, Westfall Library) provided a training session on how to find out when teens are in your branch location, using Decision Center. Erica Alcocer from Fiesta Youth provided the group with a LGBTQ+ sensitivity training.

During the reporting period, Kathleen Fordyce (Manager, Teen Library @ Central) attended the BiblioCore training, and then provided a BiblioCore orientation to Teen Library staff during their February staff meeting.

Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) attended the BiblioCore Reader's Advisory Training. Loaiza also served on an interview panel for a Digital Library Services Assistant position.



System-wide Support—On February 16, Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) worked with Brandon Nelson (Founder, Bits to Bytes Gaming and Computer History Museum) to host a Retro Game Museum at the San Antonio Public Library's second Pop Con event. Loaiza also worked with Angelus Delacroix (CEO/Founder, Hebi Studios) to host several independent gaming studios at Pop Con.

During the reporting period, Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) worked with Tricia Masterson (Digital Library Services Analyst) to help create a walkthrough for staff on how to implement the new AirWatch mobile device management tool on iPads.

ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)



Coordinator of Services to Adults Haley Holmes participated in an episode of The Source on TPR with David Martin Davies to promote The Holocaust Learn and Remember programming. She was joined by Holocaust Museum of San Antonio Director Ellen Ollervidez and second generation Holocaust survivor Varda Ratner. Programming was well attended in 2019, and there were several new elements. UTSA's Opera on the Run presented Brudibar at the Holzman Auditorium of the Jewish Community Center. Soprano Kristina Bachrach and pianist Daniel Anastasio presented Recovered Voices at the Central Library which highlighted composers silenced by the Holocaust. The presentation was followed by a reception in the Gallery where Besa and Shoah exhibits highlighted elements of the Holocaust.



Librarians Brooke Mjolsness (Cortez), Jenny Borrero (Brook Hollow), and Maria Adams (Schaefer) worked with Ms. Holmes to present the Library's first Li-beery Trivia Night offsite program at the Freetail Brewing Company. Two hundred people attended the event and enjoyed the trivia competition complete with MC Dan Garcia (Central) and prizes for the winning teams. The committee created the trivia questions and used an online system Kahoot which allowed participants to answer using smart phones. The District 10 members from the Texas Library Association used the event as their monthly social. Two of their teams placed in the competition. The committee plans to host the event again in the near future.



The 2nd annual Pop Con was held at the Central Library on February 16. Approximately 2400 people of all ages attended the event held on the first three floors of the library. Guests of honor included author Michael Moorcock, artist Greg Manchess, and anime voice actress Teri Doty. Activities included retro video gaming, Steampunk escape room, crafts and experiments for kids, panel discussions, tabletop gaming, cosplay room, anime room, role playing games and more. A cosplay contest was held at the end of the day with MC Irene Cruz, WOAI co-anchor. The San Antonio Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library have made Pop Con possible through their generous support. The staff committee has 15 members from across the system and is led by Tobin Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse. Another highlight of the day included the more than 40 library staff who worked the event from across the system!



Coordinator of Services to Adult Haley Holmes attended a Toastmasters Leadership Institute as the President of the City of San Antonio Toastmasters club. The club is only open to City of San Antonio employees and takes members by application every six months. Ms. Holmes also attended a grant writing workshop at the San Antonio Area Foundation.

CENTRAL LIBRARY

CHILDREN'S



The Central Children's Department was the scene of geeky family fun during SAPL's Pop Con event. Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernandez and Librarian Nicole Cubillas took the lead in developing and preparing a variety of children's activities for the day's celebrations. Over the course of several months, they explored options and honed in on specific activities that suited a festival environment and highlighted popular children's books. Their thoughtful planning and preparation made the children's portion of Pop Con a huge hit with families and garnered extensive praise. Professor Kinsey delighted families with magical live creatures. Other highlights included a Herbology class, Minecraft, Pokémon, Studio Ghibli crafts, a magic potion demonstration, and a super hero training obstacle course. Over 300 children of all ages, and adults as well, delighted in the array of activities and the special experience of spending time on the terraces. Ms. Fernandez was instrumental in keeping the activity stations running, the volunteers trained, and the visitors oriented to the day's offerings. The entire Children's Department team was on hand to assist families during the fun-filled day and spent many hours preparing the activities in the weeks leading up to the event.



The Central Children's department hosted over 50 families from PreK4SA centers across the city, in partnership with PreK4SA family engagement leaders. Librarians Shannon Seglin and Lea Ann McDonald shared a variety of activities meant to introduce families to the library in fun ways. In addition to two story times presented by Ms. Seglin and Ms. McDonald, families enjoyed creating a camping collage, engaging in imaginative play with reading tents and forest puppets, contributing to a collaborative forest scene collage, hunting for hidden shapes in the cow sculpture, and reading together in the cozy tents outside the story room. The visit was shared on social media with family selfies taken under the Chihuly Fiesta Tower.



Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin presented engaging *Toddler Time* programs this month. Children enjoyed listening to stories about hair, and had a blast brushing the hair of puppets. Cooked noodles provided a pretend wet hair slimy mess experience. Ms. Seglin led an interactive reading of *In the Small, Small Pond* by Denise Fleming. This created a perfect setting for the pretend pond with fish and magnetic fishing rods. Children were delighted as they tried their best to reel in the catch of the day. Ms. Seglin donned a unicorn costume and enchanted toddlers with stories about unicorns and dragons. Children enjoyed dramatic play in a rainbow castle with capes, masks, and ribbon bands. Valentine's Day was celebrated with the book *Love the World* by Todd Parr, homemade Valentine's, red sparkle play dough, and sensory fun with red macaroni. Librarian Angela Bilbe presented her first Play & Learn about flowers. Watering, planting, and a pretend flower shop were a bit hit.



The Central Children's department hosted harpist Rachel Ferris as part of the Symphony at SAPL series. Over 90 children and adults enjoyed listening to Ms. Ferris play magical music on her harp.



Ms. Seglin participated in a Job Shadow day set up by the Teen Department for Clark High juniors and seniors interested in the education field. Students listened to Ms. Seglin talk about her career path and what it is like to be a Children's Librarian. Ms. Seglin highlighted the importance of

incorporating Every Child Ready to Read (singing, reading, playing, talking, writing) into early literacy programs by demonstrating a pretend Toddler Time.



Ms. Seglin and Kathleen Fordyce from the Teen Department welcomed a tour of prospective teachers from a UIW Disciplinary Literacy class. Students toured the third floor and were provided an informational handout on book awards, lists, and other library resources.



Central Children's department staff continued their monthly outreach visits. Ms. Seglin shared stories and songs with students in two classes at Madison Square Child Development Center, where she delivered several bags of books with seasonal themes in support of the school's curriculum. She also dropped off bags of books to SA Youth for children to read afterschool, and to The Discovery School relating to their current lesson plans. Ms. McDonald visited Green Acres Child Care Center where she shared stories and songs with the children. Library Assistant Mary Elizabeth Fernandez visited the San Antonio College Early Childhood Center for a monthly outreach visit conducted outside in the school's playground. She also provided them with thematic book selections for use in the classroom.



Ms. Seglin presented her work developing Kids Time program plans for the Mayor's Summer Reading Program at the February Children's Librarians Meeting, along with 4 other children's librarians, and Children's Services Coordinator Viki Ash. Diverse activities and crafts featuring the summer reading theme "Over the Moon" were presented by members the committee. Ms. Seglin shared her programs: *Food as Round as the Moon* and *Astronauts in Training* at the meeting.



Ms. Seglin presented a special "Celebrating Our Differences" story time for families as part of the Holocaust: Learn and Remember program. Books about tolerance and refugees were shared and families created a kindness chain, added a leaf to our family tree of differences, and made their own city out of paper bags.

TEENS

TEEN LIBRARY @ CENTRAL



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. In addition, J.D. worked with a teen in the Girl Scouts to complete her Gold Star Award project and plan the installation of the exhibit in the library.



Tuesdays with Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager): "Super Smash Bros. Ultimate" continues its streak of popularity as teens become more proficient in the newest edition of this game. To incorporate the variety of skill levels, teens constantly change up the gameplay modes to ensure that all players are able to enjoy the game. Teens have also diligently worked together on the "World of Light" mode to unlock as many collectibles as possible for the game. The popular mobile game Pokémon Go has also resurfaced as an interest for teens, and teens spend time catching Pokémon near the Teen Library as well as planning raids at nearby gyms and, of course, trading Pokémon. With the recent addition of a battle system in Pokémon Go, teens also enjoy testing out their Pokémon's abilities against one another.



Wednesdays with Ciana Flores (Library Assistant PT): Every Wednesday evening, Ciana facilitates technology programming in 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.



Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): Thursday nights at Teen Library offer teens the time to explore creative interests in light cooking, arts, crafts, and games. Some activities highlight an upcoming holiday, some a particular skill, and most all in the general sense of using their Library time in an environment of curiosity, peer-to-peer support, fun, encouragement from staff, and happenings.

Assembling favorite pics for printing out, teens attempted an image transfer craft using an artist's gel medium and a canvas. Throughout the month, teens used water and a sponge to rub the paper off the paper leaving only the toner on the canvas for a distressed effect. While trying to make a cocoa mug-shaped cookie, but encountering a cookie dough that produced a square cookie cup shape, teens turned their negative into a positive and made a pudding parfait with an edible cup, no spoons required.

To fulfill the nutritional requirement as set by the San Antonio Food Bank, teens used peanut butter, oatmeal, honey, chocolate chips and nuts to make an easy energy bite.

To ring in the Year of the Pig for Chinese New Year, teens made pig-shaped dumplings, cooking a mushroom filling, stuffing a dough, and then steaming them in a bamboo steamer. One teen had a stroke of genius when after the filling ran out, asked what he could use with the leftover dough, finding a pineapple jam in the fridge and attempting a dessert dumpling. He enjoyed it immensely, prompting other teens to try.

For a cool and colorful treat, teens dipped damp grapes into flavored gelatin powders of their choice, thus creating a sour grape. Afterwards, teens asked for a variety of craft items, some crafting while listening to music on a laptop, with glue guns in hand, creating their own happiness.

As Valentine's Day landed on a Thursday this year, teens suggested making heart-shaped cookies and a unicorn lemonade drink. With the overload of chocolate and candies already in their system, the decision was made to keep the cookies unfrosted, a decision staff was thankful for. The unicorn lemonade involved teens dipping a corn-syrup lined rim in colorful sugars, filling it with a dyed ice, lemon juice and ginger ale. It was met well.

After most Thursday night food and craft times, teens request a gaming system, where they engage in some friendly competition. Pictures of Thursday night programs at Teen Library (photos by staff as well as teen participants), as well as other fantastic system-wide teen programs, can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary> and also <http://www.instagram.com/210teenlibrary>.

A Thursday on a Saturday

Wanting to explore more advanced cooking options, teens suggested beginning a cooking club where they could try their hands at making a more rounded approach to cooking. Setting on making chicken and waffles, teens had to assess cooking times and fully comprehend recipes. One such step involved folding egg whites into the waffle batter. Having never done it, teens reviewed an online video and withstood coaching from staff to successfully incorporate the egg whites into the batter, creating light and fluffy waffles. Teens are examining other options to challenge themselves next month.

Pop Con Saturday

With all the amazing POPCON madness occurring around them, teens were able to take a break at Teen Library as needed to enjoy a Justice League movie marathon, some POPCOrN, and a simple pop culture craft.



Henry Ford Academy Internship—Hailey and Felicia, the Teen Library's two student interns from the Henry Ford Academy, completed their internship during the reporting period. Under guidance by Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) and Regina Almanza (Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central), the interns were able to accomplish an organizational project for the craft supplies closet/areas in the Teen Library. Hailey and Felicia did a phenomenal job in reorganizing the supplies in a way that allows staff and teens to easily and effectively find items, while also tending to other volunteer duties throughout the Teen Library. They will be greatly missed!



Teen Library Internship—A Library and Information Science student from TWU, Chris Castillo, began working in the Teen Library at Central as an intern. Chris is completing his practicum and will gain valuable skills and knowledge in the area of Teen Services while working on the public service desk in the Teen Library and facilitating teen programming in the space.

Tours and Groups

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 Texas Juvenile Justice Department, George Gervin Center, and Roy Maas made regular visits during the reporting period.

Classes from the Henry Ford Academy made regular visits to the Teen Library to use the computers for research.

On January 17, 50 students from the Montessori School of SA visited the Teen Library for a tour and to conduct research for homework assignments.

In collaboration with the Children's Department, Kathleen Fordyce (Manager, Teen Library @ Central) provided a tour of the Teen Library to a group of University of Incarnate Word students on February 12. The students are studying to become teachers and visited the library with their professor to learn about the resources available at the library for teachers.

REFERENCE



In January, Reference staff hosted a program called *Sushi Session: Taste of Japanese* in association with DreamWeek. DreamWeek is an annual event that promotes diversity, tolerance, and conversations on issues affecting the community. *Sushi Session* was presented by Chinatsu Oku from the East Asia Institute of UTSA. Program attendees were introduced to Maki Sushi, learning how to prepare and eat the delicacy. Information on pronunciation and the difference between Japanese and American sushi was also shared.



Reference staff hosted *Elderquest: Crossing the Chasm from Older to Elder* in February. The presenter, Dr. Dick Buckles, is a San Antonio business psychologist. Dr. Buckles spoke of the journey to

retirement and aging through a rite-of-passage he calls the *Elderquest*. Attendees engaged in the discussion and appreciated exploring how to find health, happiness and fulfillment in the later part of life.



At the end of January, Librarian Vicky Villalobos held two Computer Classes for patrons. In the *Computer Basics Class* patrons explored the different parts of a computer; attendees learned how to navigate the Desktop and how to access the Internet. Patrons also spent time practicing their mouse skills and becoming more familiar with a PC keyboard. Saving their completion certificate on a new San Antonio Public Library flash drive gave patrons a thrill of accomplishment. In response to patron requests, Ms. Villalobos also provided a supplemental class, *Email for Beginners*. The class was designed to teach patrons how to create an email account and the basics of composing and sending emails.



For the ongoing and popular Central Cinema program, staff presented the surprise blockbuster movie, *The Meg* to an appreciative audience. The high action thriller kept attendees engaged and entertained due to the mayhem created by the movie's titular creature, a massive prehistoric shark. Cheers and clapping celebrated the exciting climax of the movie. *Venom* was a February presentation for Central Cinema. The film stars Tom Hardy and is based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name. The anti-hero antics and non-stop action engendered a lot of laughter and enthusiastic clapping. Many audience members remained for the post-credits scene, a Marvel's staple and, continued discussing the movie as they exited the auditorium.

LATINO COLLECTION & RESOURCE CENTER



On Thursday, January 17, the Latino Collection and Resource Center was venue to Texana/Genealogy's program "Journey to America: A DACA Story" as part of DreamWeek programs. The event drew 16 adult attendees.



On Saturday, February 2, the Latino Collection and Resource Center kicked off its first bilingual book club Rincon Literario which meets every Saturday in February to discuss Laura Esquivel's *Like Water for Chocolate*. The group has grown to 15 members in its first 3 sessions.



On Saturday, February 9, the Latino Collection and Resource Center hosted a tasting of recipes from Laura Esquivel's *Like Water for Chocolate* to provide an immersive learning experience for fans of the book. 20 attendees enjoy food, music and making Mexican Revolution inspired crafts.



On Saturday, February 16, the Latino Collection and Resource Center hosted a NYT Bestselling author Shea Serrano as a guest lecturer for San Antonio Pop Con. Serrano was interviewed by local illustrator Isabel Ann Castro and drew about 50 attendees.

TEXANA/ GENEALOGY



In support of Dream Week San Antonio, Librarians Sylvia Reyna and Debbie Countess hosted the program *Journey to America: A DACA Story* on January 17. DACA recipient Jessica Azua was invited to discuss her life experiences and work with the Texas Organizing Project. Hosted in the LCRC, attendees also shared their personal concerns and stories of immigration during the program's Q & A session.



Sylvia Reyna was invited to speak on family history research at a Kappa Kappa Iota luncheon meeting at Paesanos Restaurant in Lincoln Heights on January 19. The majority of the members were educators, including a few Friends of the Library. There were approximately 50 attendees, many of whom had questions about Library services.



On January 20, Assistant Manager Deborah Countess led a class on using the free genealogy website "FamilySearch.org" in the Connect Training Room. Participants were introduced to the types of digitized records available and the different strategies that can be used when searching collections without an index.



Sylvia Reyna and Special Collections Manager Heather Ferguson participated in the annual MLK March on January 21, helping to carry library signs and the SAPL banner along with other SAPL attendees: Johnnie Mae Adams and her grandson, Carye Bye and her husband, Cresencia Huff, Steve Jackson and his son, Clair Larkin and her children, Raquel Reyes and her son.



Heather Ferguson was invited by the local chapter of P.E.O. International (Philanthropic Educational Organization) to speak at their February 14 meeting on the topic of HemisFair'68. The presentation focused on the 50th anniversary of HemisFair'68 and highlighted a 2018 exhibition Heather curated for the McNay Art Museum titled *HemisFair'68: San Antonio's World's Fair*.



Librarian II Matt DeWaelsche presented *Intro to SAPL Genealogy Databases* on February 17, which informed patrons about available SAPL database resources that can help with family history research.

BRANCH LOCATIONS

BAZAN



Training Officer Emily Flores was recently awarded a 2019 Digital Inclusion Fellow through the Non-Profit Technology Enterprise Network (NTEN) and participated in a video call along with other award recipients. During the presentation, fellows introduced themselves and the logistics of the fellowship were briefly discussed.



On Wednesday, January 30, Mrs. Flores was interviewed by the local Telemundo television affiliate and spoke about Bazan's upcoming citizenship classes. There was a tremendous community response to the interview and the phone was ringing off the hook with people interested in enrolling in the class!



Mrs. Flores attended SAPL Immigration Committee second meeting on February 2. The mission of the recently formed group is to identify relevant immigration services and refer those seeking help to agencies and organizations in the San Antonio community. The committee will offer programs on immigration issues, and training to those interested in support and resources.



Children's Librarian Hope Sonnen was invited to Rodriguez Elementary for Career Day on January 25 where she talked to 86 students and 8 adults about librarianship as a career. She also read the group a story which they all enjoyed.



Ms. Sonnen had a great turnout for Family Fun when the nearby after school program American Sunrise brought over sixteen students and several children in the library joined in for a Valentine craft and story.



Ms. Sonnen continued presenting book clubs at three neighborhood elementary schools. The kids enjoy her coming each month to discuss and receive a new book to read.



Teen librarian Georgina Salinas offered passive programming during off peak hours to accommodate teenagers who frequented the Bazan teen space. The effort allowed her to bridge the gap between teens, the community and the library and start to build a strong relationship between all three. Teens were seen playing card games and board games fostering friendly competition amongst each other. Ms. Salinas changed the pace with these teens and brought out the Oculus Rift VR headset early February for a fun impromptu program.

Evening programming attracted new teenagers who enjoyed hanging out with the teen librarian and the regular evening teens. Some of these teenagers were introduced to teen programming through the San Antonio Food Bank snack program hosted every Monday and Wednesday at Bazan.



Gemini Ink continued offering *Teen Writing Workshops* at Bazan every third Saturday of the month. Ms. Erica De La Rosa hosted February's workshop giving teens around the community an opportunity to enhance their creative writing skills.



Bazan hosted the *Religion and Culture in Japan* presented by Ms. Chinastu of The East Asia Institute at UTSA. Ms. Chinastu explained the custom and tradition of ema boards that are placed at temples with wishes written on them. In addition to the presentation, Chinastu guided customers in making ema boards out of origami paper and encouraged the audience to write their own wishes. It was a fun and informative program.



Alamo BrownCoats, a local sci-fi fandom group, had a successful meet-n-geek in February. They group enjoyed refreshments, a fun group activity and chatted about sci-fi and fandom topics. Group leader Melissa Gonzalez expressed excitement to continue meeting at the branch throughout the year.



The Bad Girls Romance Book Club saw attendance increase with new members in January and February. This month the group read *Savage Prince* by Meghan March and it was a hit with the group. The book is the first of a *Steaming Trilogy* series and was so popular that several members finished the

series before the book discussion date. Several members mentioned that they were utilizing Libby and Overdrive apps for their eBook and audiobook needs.



With the meeting room occupied by VITA tax service, Bazan began offering Pop-Up programming facilitated by returning work-study students Miranda and Sabrina. Pop-up program have included coloring, games, and crafts and were a big success. The work study students have been creative in finding ways to present the program and have also taken the initiative to promote other upcoming branch program to customers.

BROOK HOLLOW



Play is one of the key early literacy practices of Every Child Ready to Read, and in January the pretend play market for the Children's area purchased by the Brook Hollow Friends of the Library was set up for families to start enjoying. Brook Hollow staff brought in empty boxes to fill the shelves of the "store", and the branch's first pretend grocery store opened for business. With some book shifting and furniture rearrangement, the Brook Hollow children's area created a space for families to enjoy free open-ended play. Family responses have been really positive and encouraging of the new space.



Brook Hollow branch continued with their winter early literacy programming centered around: *Baby Time*, *Toddler Two*, *Toddler Time*, and *Story Time* for ages zero to five years. Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas implemented a second *Baby Time* session on Friday mornings, and the program continues to gain popularity with families. The new day and time has brought new families to the program and has offered the chance for a quieter and more intimate Baby Time experience than the large Thursday program.



Additionally, the split of the toddler programs into an older level *Toddler Two* and a younger level, *Toddler Time* has allowed both programs to take on distinctly different attributes to appeal to more families. The more energetic toddlers love getting the chance to move, dance, and be very active at the *Toddler Two* program on Thursday mornings. However, several families have also commented that the *Toddler Time* program added on Fridays has been a very good fit for their younger, quieter, and shyer toddlers. The *Toddler Time* on Fridays was geared towards those children learning to walk and focuses on building up their confidence and participation as well as early literacy principles found in Every Child Read to Read. The addition of a second toddler program has allowed each program to become more intimate as Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas gets to interact in more one-on-one situations with the children; reinforcing colors, shapes, numbers, and words through singing, puppets, rhymes, and books.



Story Time also continues to be a favorite program with very large attendance numbers in January and February. In January, to complement one of Ms. Salinas's story times, The San Antonio Public Library Foundation's Literacy Caravan came to visit Brook Hollow Library. Families were able to visit the bus before and after *Story Time* to play and receive a free book. Fifty-one children and thirty adults visited the caravan, and many of the families also came to story time that day. Additionally, in February, Ms. Salinas hosted a *Play and Learn* program in lieu of story time with a Valentine's Day focus. Over a hundred people attended the program and engaged with the various stations set up around the Valentine's Day theme.



In January, Brook Hollow branch hosted the *Symphony at SAPL* program with violinist Renia Shternberg. Almost forty people attended the special Saturday afternoon program. One parent thanked Ms. Salinas the following week for hosting such a wonderful program. She said that her granddaughter loved attending the program and hearing the violinist play.



Afternoon programming for school age children also continued with weekly offerings of *Tween Time*, *Lego Time*, *Come & Go Crafts*, and *Read to a Dog*. The *Tween Time* attendance continues to grow as the kids tell their friends to come by the program.



Read to a Dog also continues to be a favorite community program. In mid-January, two more therapy dogs joined the team that visits the Brook Hollow branch library. Bart, a lovable Great Dane, and River, a yellow Labrador, joined veterans Sunny and Emmy as part of the *Read to a Dog* team, and they have attracted lots of attention from the families that visit. In one instance, on Bart's first visit, Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas noticed a young girl looking at books at a nearby table. When she went to invite the young girl to read to one of the dogs visiting, the girl asked if Bart would eat one of the books. After being reassured that the books were safe, the young girl and Ms. Salinas sat down with Bart and began to read a book together. Ms. Salinas did most of the initial reading because the young girl said she did not know how to read, but the girl quickly started to chime in with words that were repeated in the story. Halfway through the book, the girl took over and began to read the book almost completely on her own. At the end, the young girl was thrilled with the story and could not stop petting the big dog that had listened to her read.



Brook Hollow Library's Monday afternoon *Dungeons & Dragons* program continues to attract new participants. Older children continued the quest to conquer the Curse of Strahd, newcomers created characters with the help of more experienced players, and the group proved so popular that players had to split into two groups, those that were on the original quest and another contingent, who embarked on a new quest of their own. Participants engaged in creative role play, explored their characters' personalities, and learned how their characters' choices shaped their adventure. The *Dungeons & Dragons* program is supervised by Assistant Manager Caroline Mossing who also steps in to lead the quest as needed.



Ms. Salinas continues to go out into the community with two outreach programs. Kindercare on Heimer has five classrooms from ages one year to five years that enthusiastically greet her each month for stories and songs. Rhapsody Headstart recently changed directors and restricted its classes, but Ms. Salinas continues to visit the now three classrooms; including one classroom with bilingual students. Each month, Ms. Salinas takes library books to both locations.



Overall in January, Brook Hollow offered fifty-one children's programs with 1404 people attending. That number is an increase over last year when the branch offered thirty-one programs and 519 people attended. Families continue to actively use the branch, and many families express their thanks for quality, free children's programming in their community.



During the reporting period, a number of new faces joined the regular attendees at Brook Hollow's *Teen Time*. Teens sampled strange sodas, snacked, and sportingly engaged in friendly competition using the branch's WiiU. Teens created characters to compete in a melee battle using Super Smash Bros,

completed minigames in Mario Party, and continued the quest to save Peach and defeat Bowser in Super Mario Bros U.



On January 23, Brook Hollow hosted *Against Orders: Diplomatic Rescue during the Holocaust* in as part of the *Holocaust Learn and Remember program* series. Amber Garcia, program coordinator for the Holocaust Memorial San Antonio Holocaust Museum, gave a lecture that attracted 28 people. Attendees found the lecture to be very informative and interesting.



On January 26, patrons at the Brook Hollow branch got to try their hand at the art of pyrography. Each participant used a library-provided wood burning kit to create original designs on birch and basswood panels. This program was facilitated by Library Assistant Elissa Vura.



On February 2, Library Assistant Jennifer Olivarez taught a quilling class as part of the Brook Hollow Winter Crafting series. She taught patrons how to roll paper to create a dog and a heart in preparation for Valentine's Day. Patrons thoroughly enjoyed it.



Library Aide Jillian Kimak led a crochet class on February 13. She instructed patrons to crochet a coffee cozy with a heart for their coffee cups. The patrons found it challenging, but were grateful for the learning experience.

CARVER



Black History Month programs at Carver Branch got underway on February 2, 2019 with the quilt exhibit, *Her Story Too*, which featured the work of the African American Quilt Circle of San Antonio (AAQCSA). The designs were sheer genius, pushing past the notion of the tradition folk technique, but by no means ignoring that format. Some 100 enthusiasts were drawn to the event. Other BHM events included HBCU Appreciation Day, on Feb. 16, in which the community and the branch celebrated the legacy of those institutions who opened their doors to educate African Americans when others were closed to them. Special guests included Nolan Anderson of the United Negro College Fund who discussed the importance of supporting HBCUs with funding. Oba T. Woodyard visited from Virginia State University, an HBCU in Petersburg, Va. He discussed the history and relevance of the institutions.



Native San Antonian Outspoken Bean, a spoken word artist, educator and actor, visited Carver Branch as part of a residency at the Carver Community Cultural Center. He worked with youths, teaching them the technique of writing poetry. The event was the result of a partnership between Carver Community Cultural Center and the Branch.

CODY



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



Teen Gaming is a popular destination after school on Tuesdays to socialize over card, board, and video games!



Teen Time, Cody's evening programming for teens, draws dedicated attendees interested in creating delicious food, playing games, and doing light crafts and art projects. Recent highlights include pancakes, pasta alfredo, chocolate chip cookies, pizza roll-ups, and ravioli.



The *Cody Chess Club* continues to bring players and observers of all ages into the library each Thursday for games and chess puzzles.



The Adante Senior Living book group continues to have heated debates over books of all types on a monthly basis.



Dr. Winn Murnin, the local elementary school namesake and former assistant superintendent for NISD, has partnered with the Cody library to run her own book club on a monthly basis.



Sunday's adult movie hour continues at our branch with films that recognized Holocaust and Black History month. On January 20th we showed the Pianist. We showed Belle on February 3rd and February 10th was Introducing Dorothy Dandridge in our quiet room.



Adult Services Librarian, Marcella McGowan, was honored to host the following event at Cody. January 14th, Ms. Evelyn Green from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension (Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program) came by to sign-up patrons for a two-week "Basic Nutrition Class" which will be held in May.



January 19th, over 30 patrons took part in hearing Mr. Beytullah Cholak from Raindrop Turkish House discussion on Human Rights in Turkey.



Ms. Rosie Villarreal Garcia and her staff presented a financial literacy workshop on January 22.



On January 31, Ms. Ellen Ollervidez, Director of the Holocaust Memorial Museum of SA discussed the student-led, non-violent, intellectual resistance group, The White Rose to over 30+ patrons.



The following STEM classes were led by Adult Services Librarian, Marcella McGowan on various topics:

January 16th, 23rd & 30th, Job Searching
 January 18th, Introduction to Google Docs
 January 25th, Introduction to MS Word
 February 4th, Interviewing Techniques
 February 8th, Gale Legal Forms
 February 13th, Universal Class



Librarian McGowan continued her outreach with the 12 member Madison Book Club in which the group selected "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time".



Cody branch was excited to host the first ever, National Chocolate Cake day. It was a great turn-out in which 27 patrons came for a slice of cake.



On February 11th, Adult Services Librarian, Marcella McGowan, was part of panel book discussion on the Texas Public Radio for *Becoming* by Michelle Obama. Also on the panel was Karla Broadus (UTSA, Senior Lecturer & Director, African American Studies Program) and Lauren Mims

COLLINS GARDEN

Adults



CGL Adult Coloring has a following of six patrons who enjoy meeting at the library, relaxing and coloring various patterns. Coffee and a Movie featuring Mexican classic and recent cinema releases remains popular among a core group of about ten neighborhood seniors citizens. Adult Beading hosted by library volunteer Rosemary Nino has grown with nearly 20 people in attendance during this reporting period. CGL began a photography series for adults in February that will continue into spring 2019. The Kidney Foundation meets at the CGL on a monthly basis. CGL Assistant Manager Tasha Martinez hosted a Cupcake Decorating program a week before St. Valentine's Day.

Children



LegoClub continues to be a popular program. Nearly seventy-five participants attended five Lego programs. Children's Lego creations are displayed for public enjoyment in the reference area. Children's Librarian, Gina Brudi hosted five in-house Family Fun programs. Brudi continues successful early literacy outreach services to Knox Early Childhood Education Center, reading stories to 14 classrooms and delivers 20 classroom book collections. In January Collins Garden Library started hosting a local Girl Scout Troop that meets at the library twice a month. The library and the troop are partnering and planning future badge-earning programs. Additionally, CGL Manager Jeannette Davies is scheduled to attend a Junior Gardening Program offered by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and will share the information with CGL Staff and plan future programming with the Green Alliance and the Girl Scout Troop.



CGL Children's Librarian conducted outreach via Literacy Nights for students and teachers at Collins Garden and Brisco Elementary Schools and attended two literacy nights.

Teens



Weekly Teen program, hosted by Library Assistant Carlos Loera, averages 10 teens a week. Teens play Ping Pong, video games and do crafts.

Other



Collins Garden Library continues weekly Family Game Night with various board games and Ping Pong for all ages.



Outreach—CGL Manager Davies attended Friends of San Antonio Public Library's annual meeting in January. Manager involved with COSA Toastmasters. CGL hosted the SAPL Children's Meeting in January and SAPL Branch Manager's Meeting in February. Davies assisted the Ride for Reading, San Antonio bicycle club deliver books to Linton Elementary School Friday, February 15, 2019.

Ride of Reading, San Antonio members collect donated books and deliver them to title one schools in San Antonio. Davies is working with this club to enhance library participation.

CORTEZ



Branch Staff participated in their second annual Cowboy Breakfast with an array of goodies and the comfort of their boots and jeans to get in the Stock Show and Rodeo mood.



On February 10 the staff welcomed Children's Librarian II Nicole Cubillas as a permanent staff member.



The Branch began faxing and scanning services for the public on January 31. This additional public service seems to be going well and to have encountered very few problems with implementation.

Children's Programs



Toddler Time (Nicole Cubillas, Ana Menchaca)—Toddlers decorated paper plate fans and pig die cuts in honor of the Chinese New Year; made paper snakes and played with zoo animal headbands and tails; and enjoyed digging through sensory bins, making music with soft rattles, putting together puzzles, and building with foam blocks.



Family Fun (Nicole Cubillas, Madeline Vasquez)—Cortez families participated in hands-on activities like decorating die cut pigs and paper lanterns in honor of the Chinese New Year; celebrating Australia Day with cardboard rain sticks; and competing in races to transport marshmallows with chopsticks, and "fishing" to feed their koalas the most eucalyptus leaves.

Teen Program



Teen Time (JoAnn Paredes)—Sadly, attendance has been at its lowest in the past seven years. There are Thursdays when no one comes. With South San District considering re-opening Kazen Middle School there is a chance that our participation in programs for tweens and teens might someday increase again.

Adult Programs



COAST – Cortez Older Adult Social Time (Madeline Vasquez)—Every Tuesday, staff member Madeline Vasquez leads Adult Coloring. This weekly community program features advanced coloring for adults, board games, puzzles and light refreshments.



LiBeery Night at Freetail (Brooke Mjolsness)—Brooke was one of the key organizers of a library outreach event for adults at the Freetail Brewery on January 25. An enthusiastic crowd of approximately 200 people enjoyed a competitive trivia challenge.



Getting Crafty Program (JoAnn Paredes)—The Cortez crafters did an awesome job making cookbooks from scratch. They let out their creativity and did wonders at decorating their books. For the month of February, they are learning to make quilts. It will be exciting to see the finished product.



Monster Meet (Madeline Vasquez)—A good-sized crowd was treated to the zombie love story “Warm Bodies” on February 9. This popular monthly movie showing brings regulars as well as new attendees who enjoy anything spooky, scary, or mysterious.



Art Therapy (Madeline Vasquez)—On February 7, staff member Ms. Vasquez taught patrons to create a simple, beautiful craft using basic supplies. February’s program featured Valentine pop-up cards. There was a lot of interest for this program as there were 21 attendees. Light refreshments were served.



Healthy Cooking Class (Vince Escobedo, Metro Health)—On January 24, Mr. Escobedo led the group in making picadillo tacos with lettuce wraps. Patrons helped prepare all the ingredients. After, Mr. Escobedo made the recipes and passed out free samples to all attendees.



Yoga Meditation (Stephanie Alvarado)—Ms. Alvarado led a calming beginner’s yoga session on January 17. Relaxing music was played while patrons performed gentle stretches. Mats were provided for attendees.



A Cry to the World (Julie Tzucker-Nikolas)—Ms. Tzucker-Nikolas led a presentation on January 28 discussing the Holocaust documents archived by Dr. Ringelblum. The documents were written and hidden in secrecy and detailed the truth about the Holocaust. This program helped celebrate the Holocaust Learn & Remember initiative.

Community Programs



Harry Potter Escape Room (Brooke Mjolsness, Madeline Vasquez)—On January 31, Cortez hosted its first ever Escape Room. Teams had 30 minutes to solve Harry Potter themed clues, find the lost Hogwarts Express train ticket and ‘escape’ the room. Props were provided for group photos and activities such as coloring, board games, and a craft were provided for waiting teams



Cortez Chess Club—David Pacheco continues to lead our weekly chess club. He enthusiastically teaches attendees of all ages about chess.



LEARN Center Activities—The LEARN Center is currently without a Training Officer after the departure of Melody Ayala on January 17. The Cortez staff is helping customers as much as they can and are looking forward to interviewing for the vacancy in February.

ENCINO



Encino children had a busy month! A new program has started for tweens called Tweens Create! Tweens Create is meeting bi-weekly and making a different craft at each session. So far they have made painted tiles, washer necklaces, and 8 bit creations (perler beads). This program is going so successfully that it may be expanded to be a weekly program. The Encino Branch also hosted two special craft

programs this month, Chinese New Year Crafts on February 5 in honor of the Lunar New Year and Year of the Pig, and Valentine Family Fun on February 13.



Encino Sunday Matinees are taking place every Sunday at 3pm. There is a different theme each month. February is featuring movies that John Hughes wrote, produced, or directed. *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* was shown on February 3, and *The Great Outdoors* was shown February 10.



Encino Teens took sanctuary from this chilly January and February in the Encino Teen Room with regulars and newbies alike participating in our teen programming. Monday's *Teen Anime Club* continues to provide anime lovers a place to view their favorites and to discover new ones. In this month's *Teen Club* programs, participants channeled their artistic sides with painting and felt crafts; while *Teen Board Gaming* on the first Wednesday of February saw the Teens' competitive streaks come out with a battle against raging werewolves and monsters.



Teen Librarian Julia Pouliot visited Johnson High School on the last Tuesday of January for the schools' lunch period. Posted up in the Library, she greeted teens with a button making activity and lots of information about SAPL's upcoming events and the weekly programming for teens at the Encino Branch. Ms. Pouliot hopes to establish this visit as a monthly occurrence in the future.



Encino's Adult Services continues to have a busy and wonderful January, exceeding our circulation targets while hosting some wonderful programs. Our weekly Hand Bee, Chess Club, and exercise classes have a steady following, and guest speakers, such as local author Michael Taylor, offer insight into topics of interest to the community. On Saturdays, our meeting space is packed with students preparing for classes, and our collection has improved due to a schedule of weeding and management. On-demand computer classes have helped to drive local technical proficiency.



Of special note is the Holocaust Learn and Remember lecture, featuring Varda Ratner of the Holocaust Memorial Museum. After a forty minute talk, there was a Q&A, with participants across the age spectrum; children, young adults, and adults, and a brief reception. This followed on our book club, featuring the Holocaust-era story, the Elsinore Sewing Club, and a powerful discussion of its life-inspired tale.



Adult Services Librarian, Mark Hall, began outreach to local apartment complexes; while our continued partnership with local home-owners associations provides ongoing awareness of library programs in those communities, it is hoped that reaching out to the apartment complexes will encourage more citizens to become patrons of the library.



The Encino Collaborate Space remains a popular area for the community for group meetings, staff presentations, study groups, federal interviews, tutoring, role play game groups and HOA board meetings.

FOREST HILLS



The community was invited to provide input regarding the upcoming 2017 Bond improvements on January 19. The meeting led by District 7 Councilwoman Ana Sandoval and facilitated by the architects garnered input from a variety of patrons. The input will be used in the development of the plan for upcoming improvements at Forest Hills.



To commemorate Holocaust Learn and Remember the movie Casablanca was shown on January 26. On February 2 a lecture titled Stand Up: German Resistance to Nazism was presented. This lecture investigated the main cases of resistance within Germany to the Nazi regime. Moreover, it looked at important factors to help understand the level of resistance in the Third Reich. Jason Johnson, Ph.D., is a professor of Modern European history at Trinity University, teaching courses such as the Holocaust, World War II, European borders, dictatorships, and the Cold War. He is currently serving as the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio's Distinguished Scholar in Residence.



Also on February 2, Adult Librarian Sandra Griffin led patrons in a handicraft project as they celebrated the upcoming Valentine's Day by creating their own valentine art with vintage stamps, scrapbook paper and white picture frames. The individual projects were unique and beautiful.



A program for all ages was offered by the Needle Work Guild on February 5. Patrons were invited to make a cross stitch heart. The project was easiest enough for young patrons to complete with a little assistance.



VITA services began at Forest Hills on February 6. In the first days of service the library welcomed large crowds of individuals who were ready to take advantage of the free service. Library staff welcomed the new faces and encouraged them to utilize the library services available while they wait.



Ms. Menchaca continues to host her regular programs. This past period she hosted Story Time, Kids Time, Lego Builders, Come and Go Crafts, and Bilingual Story Time. Ms. Menchaca received positive feedback from her Story Time parents in regards to having a bilingual Story Time once a month, therefore the time slot will remain as is.



During Kids Time Ms. Menchaca and her patrons celebrated Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year. The Chinese New Year celebrations were a success; children made their own red lanterns and then decorated the lanterns with Chinese characters.



Ms. Menchaca also incorporated STEM activities into her Kids Time, she made dinosaurs out of clay and then covered them in sand; children had a blast "discovering" dinosaur bones. Children also made 3-D sculptures of hot air balloons out construction paper, they discussed how and why hot air balloons work.



A construction story time was very successful. During the play portion of the story time Ms. Menchaca brought out the MEGA Lego Building Blocks. The children in attendance had a wonderful time

trying to make a tower that would reach the ceiling of the library. Ms. Menchaca also hosted a Mo Willems Pigeon Story Time. The highlight of that story time was the use of the sensory bin filled with soap and water to give some laminated pigeons a bath. Ms. Menchaca laminated some images of the pigeon and then had the children use dry erase markers to get the pigeon dirty. Once the pigeons were really dirty then the pigeons were given a bath. The kids that participated in this had a lot of fun.



Ms. Menchaca continues to visit PCI Head Start. She read “Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus” – it was a big hit. Ms. Menchaca made a sign that said “NO” so that kids could yell “NO” every time the Pigeon ask to drive the bus. It was such a hit, that the children asked her to read another pigeon book on her next visit. Ms. Menchaca is happy to comply.



Ms. Menchaca enrolled in a course offered through the Texas State Library called Supercharge Story Time. The curriculum is based on Every Child Ready to Read, which is what SAPL uses. Ms. Menchaca is learning a lot about early literacy and is passing along the knowledge to the parents who come to story time.



As we all celebrate Black History Month, Ms. Menchaca thought it was fitting to have the bulletin board in the children’s area celebrating Black History Month and Valentine’s Day. Therefore she cut out pictures of famous African Americans and put their picture and a short biography on hearts. The title of the bulletin board is “We Love Black History Month.”



Ms. Menchaca successfully contacted Clare Acosta Matos, Director of Civic Engagement for St. Mary’s University, in regards to getting students from St. Mary’s University to volunteer at Forest Hills. Ms. Acosta happily asked Ms. Menchaca to register Forest Hills as a volunteer destination; Ms. Acosta said that the database that Forest Hills is listed in is also available to students from other universities.

GREAT NORTHWEST



Families in the Story Time program *Camp Library* continue to learn about elements that make up a story. During the program the group identified the characters, setting, and problem of each book read aloud. One of the favorite titles this month was “*Don’t let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*” in which the kids had to think about the pigeon’s reasoning for staying up late. Following group time, families have 10 stations to choose from to participate in learning more about a specific element of the story. Later, a parent shared that her son went home and told his dad that he was going to have get more creative with his reasons for staying up late or just go to bed early because putting that pigeon to sleep was just too tiring.



The Toddler Time program *ABC Club* is up to the letter *Rr*. They have begun learning about rhythm and music during the program. There is an even mix of learning activities and open-ended pretend play time to allow them to practice what they learned during the program. Parents have shared that the mix of “harder” and imagination learning has helped create memorable learning conversations between them and their kids.



During the Tween Time program *Who’s Who of History* the older kids are studying important people of history. During January and February the group has been focusing on slavery and the history of civil rights. Each week a new person is introduced to the kids and afterward they interact with an activity related to that person. Most of the activities connect to something more personal that the famous person

enjoyed. For example, last week the kids studied George Washington Carver and learned that later in his life he discovered a joy for growing herbs in his free time, so the kids planted and took home their own herb garden to grow at home.



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 *Teen Craft and Movie Nights* for the winter. In January teens made perler bead crafts and marble art. In February teens celebrated Valentine's Day with candy cane crafts and s'mores.



Great Northwest teens meet every Wednesday afternoon in January for *Teen Video Gaming and Chess*. Ms. Vazquez worked with teen gamers to provide a space for them to compete against other teens who share a common interest in gaming.



Great Northwest Teen Services Librarian Stephanie Vazquez visited the school library at Brennan High School on January 23 for an outreach event where she provided teens the opportunity to sign-up for library cards and make button crafts.



The Great Northwest Branch Library is hosting two new programs in partnership with the *Fitness in the Park* program from the San Antonio Parks and Recreation department. During *Mindfulness with Families* on Tuesdays at 10 am families can listen to a story, practice breathing techniques and talk about their emotions with volunteer Cam Brooks. On Wednesday evenings at 7 pm, Certified Health Coach and Group Exercise Instructor Stacey Coleman teaches the *Tabata Workout* program. This program is a low-high HIIT (high intensity interval training) for ages 13 and older.



On the second Sunday of every month at 2 pm, join the San Antonio Heartwarmers as they make blankets for rescue dogs. Any skill level is welcome and donations of materials are appreciated.



Volunteers from the community work together with Great Northwest Library in a variety of ways to ensure the best service is provided to the community. Volunteers help staff with daily library tasks and assist library staff with programs, including puppet shows, story time, and teen programs. The Great Northwest Library is hosting a college intern through a partnership with the Alamo College Work Study Program. While at Great Northwest Library Mr. Covarrubias has gained work experience and learned about library services with hands on experience serving the public.

GUERRA



The Guerra Chess Club met on Fridays--January 18 and 25 and February 1, 8, and 15. A branch staff meeting was held on February 7.



Branch Manager Dexter Katzman provided literature and music outreach at the Careplex Adult Daycare Center on January 23 and February 6 and 13. On January 29, spoke to about 75 new COSA staff members about the Employee Management Committee; the event was held at the Stinson Airport.



Assistant Branch Manager Jernell Williams held an adult coloring program on January 26. She held an outreach book group at the Virginia Gill Community Center on February 1. Participants discussed *Apprentice in Death* by J. D. Robb.



Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson planned and presented five toddler times, five story times, five Lego Clubs, five Little Builders Duplo Clubs, five Art Clubs and two Bilingual story times. On February 1, she conducted outreach at Angelic Smiles Childcare, reprising the program on February 1 (Greatest Gifts Childcare) and February 15 (Lil Dragon Den Childcare). On February 2 and 3 families enjoyed Valentine Come and Go Crafts at the branch. On February 13, children participated in a Black History month program designed by Arlene where they learned about two contemporary African American sculptors and then created some 3D art of their own. On January 28, she attended training on "Understanding Autism" facilitated by Berenice de la Cruz, Chief Operating Officer of the Autism Community Network. On January 31, she met with Julia Lazarin, Library Services Specialist/Little Read Wagon to begin planning programming for children on the autism spectrum. Arlene attended the monthly children's meeting on February 14 at the Central Library. Library Aide Sabrina Cirilo assisted with Lego Club and Library Aide Yamilex Rosales, with Bilingual Story Time.



Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson recorded *José el chévere (Groovy Joe)* by Eric Litwin on January 14. He presented a trivia game at the Willie Cortez Senior Center on January 25 emphasizing Martin Luther King Day and Elvis Presley. He moderated the Club de Lectura on January 31. This group discussed *Había una vez una quinceañera (Once Upon a Time There Was a Quinceanera)* by Julia Alvarez. The participants enjoyed discussing this cultural event and its social and economic ramifications in the lives of those who host it and those who are being celebrated. On February 8, Stephen presented another trivia game at the same at the Willie Cortez Senior Center emphasizing Valentine's Day. He recorded another book, *Las vacaciones de Roberta (Roberta's vacations)* by Silvia Francia for Dial-a-Story in Spanish on February 11.



Teen Liaison Edward Mayberry Guerra held a movie night on January 31; the group watched *Venom* and refreshments were provided by the Guerra Friends. The 2nd Annual Engineering Day was held on January 31. Twenty students from the John Jay Science and Engineering High School attended the event. Edward provided outreach services and marketing at the Stock Show and Rodeo "School Day." He presented an arts and crafts even on February 14.



Library Assistant Roxanne Menchaca continued to work on patron contested returns. She presented a Knit and Crochet program on January 15 and 29 and February 12.

IGO

Children's Services



Weekly story times continued as scheduled. With the enormous assistance of the entire Igo Library staff, Children's Librarian Carrie Vance made some big changes to the annual rodeo event that is run concurrently with the February Friends' Book Sale, moving away from the petting zoo and focusing instead on imagination and creativity. The name has been changed to The Igo Stick Pony Rodeo, and of course features a miniaturized, kid and cruelty-free version of real rodeo events. Due to the cold weather and book sale, the event was held in the library itself. As visitors arrived, they were given fabric horse heads with instructions for creating their stick pony and invited to participate in two of four events: flag race, barrel race, pole bending, or bronc riding. Cowboy balladeer Buck Shannon entertained the crowd while they worked on their ponies. Children also enjoyed the Nerf Gun Shooting Gallery in the Teen Area and tried their hand at Calf Roping in the Children's Area. The rodeo started with a Grand Entry Parade with contestants riding in to the Book Sale and around the library while being cheered on by parents and onlookers. 26 children signed up to compete in the events. Some did change their minds, but all who competed received whoops of praise and ribbons for their efforts. In addition, families were invited to



create sunset silhouette paintings and rubber band banjos, and paper cowboy boots. Families also enjoyed the green screen photos, although many children were too excited about their new ponies to stand still for photos. Considering the weather, attendance was good; 120 people attended the event. The library received many positive comments regarding this event, and staff is already planning for next year.

Teen Services



On February 13 the branch hosted a Teen Cupcake Extravaganza. The teens could take an unfrosted cupcake and decorate it with a wide selection of frostings and toppings ranging from marshmallows, Skittles to Bacon Bits. Some of them gave their cupcakes a s'mores theme, an ocean theme and even a monster eating candy. They also had the option to enter the cupcake into a contest and the teens could vote for their favorite using the two categories: Most Beautiful and Most Original. The teens who won each category were able to pick a prize. There were 18 teens who attended the program and many of them were able to make multiple cupcakes.

Teen Time has continued to meet on Wednesdays and more art and music have been introduced. The teens can play with ukuleles and had the opportunity to create their own galaxy paintings with the help of library aide Antoinette Rosalez. They used black construction paper and blended reds, blues, purples and white paint to make a galaxy scene.

Adult Services



Branch Manager Tim Johnson's economics book club, Dollars and Sense, was slated to have a double meeting on February 2nd. The first half of the meeting was to feature a presentation by Express News columnist Michael Taylor and during the second hour the group was to discuss China's economy. The 15 attendees were so involved in Mr. Taylor's discussion of risky investing and his discussion took over the entire two hours, pushing any discussion on China into the next month.



On February 16 I go branch hosted a book discussion for general public. Director of African American Studies of UTSA, Professor Karla Broadus led the discussion. This book discussion was on the book "Becoming" authored by Michelle Obama. 9 people attended this lively and interactive discussion.

Senior Services



Level I Hatha Yoga continues to meet every Friday, when the meeting rooms are available.

JOHNSTON



Johnston Branch Library welcomed two new staff members: Teen Services Librarian D. Raishell Williams and Children's Librarian Tiffany Durham. Ms. Williams joined the Johnston Branch Library on February 2 and Ms. Durham completed her orientation at Central Library and started at the Johnston Branch Library on February 11.



Branch Manager Monica Bustillo facilitated the Athena Readers Book Club discussion of the Great American Read winner: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Ms. Bustillo organized the ongoing Zumba class for the 2nd and 4th Saturdays: January 26 and February 9.



Adult Services Librarian/Assistant Manager Cristine Mitchamore attended two Circulation classes: New Library Cards and Adjusting Fines and Fees to improve her ability to assist patrons. Ms. Mitchamore joined a Reader's Advisory team to implement Bibliocore as the improved library catalog. Ms. Mitchamore hosted two Black History Month book discussions for Michelle Obama's *Becoming*: Johnston Branch Library on February 11 and Maverick Branch Library on February 14.



Great Northwest Children's Librarian Cari Raley hosted five toddler times and five story times based on the theme Let's Pretend using books, songs and play centers to explore places "all around town." Library Aide Victoria Liendo hosted five LEGO Club events building, playing and creating unique LEGO masterpieces. Children's Librarian Tiffany Durham attended Library Employee Orientation, Cash Handling Training and Defensive Driving Class as part of her Onboarding Training.



Teen Librarian Ms. Williams and Library Aide Cynthia Blancas hosted two teen programs: February "Brownie Waffle Sundae" and February 13 "Pizza POP and Perler Beads." Ms. Williams and Tobin at Oakwell Teen Librarian Karah Garcia attended NEISD's Family Engagement and Training Event on February 8. Ms. Williams and Branch Manager Monica Bustillo visited South San Antonio High School for a community outreach opportunity during their semi-annual Book Fair on February 12.



Library Assistant Elsy Jackson organized a weekly Conversational Spanish class on Mondays: February 4 and February 11, 2019 members learned interactive lessons *Presentaciones y Las fiestas pasadas* (Introductions and The Past Holidays), and *Creatividad* (Creativity) respectively. Ms. Jackson attended the Bilingual Literacy Night event at Southwest Elementary School on January 23 where she presented library services and programs to the parents, children and teachers in Spanish. Ms. Jackson contributed to *Telecuentos* (Dial-a-Story in English), she recorded a children's book on February 4, 2019 *Viva la nieve!* (Hooray for Snow!) by Kazuo Iwamura.

LANDA

Children



During STEAM Time, children experimented with making invisible ink using lemon juice, cranberry juice, and baking soda. They tried their hand at forensic fingerprinting by first creating a fingerprint, and then studying the prints with a magnifying glass. In a separate STEAM time, the kids learned about polymers with a magic plastic bag and wooden skewers experiment. They also explored surface tension with tie-dyed milk.



The Tween Graphic Novel book club had its second meeting this reporting period. The tweens read *The Bad Guys* by Aaron Blabey and created their own Bad Guys character. They played games on the Scholastic website related to the book and enjoyed cupcakes, just like the Bad Guys.



On Thursday, February 14, story time kids at Landa had a special treat! The families enjoyed a Valentine's Day party with a pizza my heart twist. Children made pizza with playdough that smelled like actual pizza dough! They cooked pasta in a sensory bin. They stamped bell pepper prints with various shades of green paint. They made crowns or hats (depending on who was asked) with hearts and sentence strips. The kids also made pizza box valentines to share with their loved ones.

Teen



Landa Teens spent the start of their new year hanging out in their teen space with Teen Liaison, Rebekah Corley, brainstorming décor ideas, making buttons and lots of gaming. Ms. Corley, who collaborated on the creation of the recently launched TSSR (Teen Services Shared Resource project), introduced the site to the teen group who used it to borrow games from other locations and get ideas for the future - the group agreed the new site was “super cool and helpful!”



Teen Study Spot continued to provide a dedicated space for teens to study and socialize afterschool while Drop-In Volunteering had teens building book displays and collaborating on an experimental art project – DIY cloud lanterns for their teen space – soon to be finished.



In addition, Ms. Corley assisted with SAPL’s 2nd annual Pop Con where she helped sell the first batch of Pop Con t-shirts to patrons – they were quite the hit!

Adult



Parks and Recreation has recently added a weekly “Yoga in the Park” program to Landa’s adult offerings. Vergel is the volunteer instructor to this Saturday morning event.



Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta continues Landa’s outreach programs at two different locations, the Village at the Incarnate Word, an independent living community, where she has a monthly book club. About eight regular attendees come to discuss the month’s book. This past month was *Spider Woman’s Daughter* by Anne Hillerman, daughter of the late New Mexico author, Tony Hillerman. Her series branches off from her father’s incorporating the same setting and flavor of his popular mysteries.



Karen’s other outreach is at the Kenwood Senior Center. This past month a group of about thirteen senior citizens made Valentine cards and completed some adult coloring pages with a Valentine theme.



Book Clubs—Reader’s Ink and the Mystery Book Club continue to attract a faithful (and growing!) audience. The discussions are lively. This month the Reader’s Ink book club read *Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates*, an account of one of the foreign affairs controversies during that President’s administration. The Mystery Book Club read *The Dante Club*, a mystery set in the Civil War era, featuring real-life literary names of the time such as Oliver Wendell Holmes, William Henry Longfellow and James Russell Lowell. It is actually a very gritty and vivid description of a series of murders based on events in *Dante’s Inferno*.



Landa is a popular venue for authors. On January 20, local author Gil Dominguez came to discuss his recent publication *It Happened in San Antonio*, an account of little known stories related to the city’s history. He signed copies afterward and judging from the circulation of the library’s copies, it is a popular read.

LAS PALMAS



In January, the Children celebrated Dreamweek by using different construction kits. During Family Fun on January 14, children used Play dough, Duplos, LEGOS and Straw/Connector kits to construct something from their imagination.



While Early Voting was in progress, children and their grown-ups had Family Fun activities in the children's area of the library. On Monday, January 28, children created puzzles using craft sticks. The craft sticks were taped together so that children could create an image using water color paint, markers, crayons, colored pencils, or glued on sequins.



On Monday, February 4, Family Fun had children celebrate characters from *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister and *Elmer* by David McKee. In addition to reading the books and their many sequels, children created collages of the Rainbow Fish and of Elmer the Elephant. They used glitter and sequins to capture their rendition of the Rainbow Fish. Using tissue paper, children could create the patchwork pattern of Elmer.



The Las Palmas Branch celebrated Valentine's Day during Family Fun on Monday, February 11. Children's Librarian Barbaraella Frazier had children and their families create valentines crafts as well as construct items from play dough and LEGOS. The play dough was dyed red for Valentine's Day and the children had the challenge of creating something from only red, pink or white LEGOS.



To celebrate Dream Week on January 19, the Las Palmas Branch Library hosted Anna Vasquez, one of the "San Antonio Four". She, along with three other LGBT Latinas, was convicted of gross child molestation and spent almost 13 years behind bars. The story of the San Antonio Four made national news and people continue to be drawn by the story. With funding assistance from the Foundation, the library screened the documentary, *Southwest of Salem: The Story of the San Antonio Four* (2016) which was based on the legal case and their ordeal. Along with Ms. Vasquez's commentary to preface the film, she held a question and answer session after the screening. Patrons were moved by her journey to freedom and appreciated her integrity for discussing wrongful convictions, false accusations, "junk science" and related legal subjects. Ms. Vasquez now works for the Innocence Project of Texas, which seeks to free incarcerated persons based on erroneous convictions. The attendance drew in 72 patrons, at the closing of the event; patrons took photos with Ms. Vasquez and personally thanked her. The Friends of Las Palmas funded the reception following the program. The entire event was truly moving. Librarian II and Assistant Manager Rhonda Davila planned and coordinated the event and the entire staff at Las Palmas helped make this event a success.



As part of *Holocaust Learn and Remember*, Las Palmas screened the *Grey Zone* (2001) on January 23. The film was inspired by real life events from prison camps and crematoriums at Auschwitz. The film drew 5 patrons.



On January 30, Treise McDaniel, a Crime Scene Investigator (CSI) and instructor from the San Antonio Police Department, conducted a presentation on CSI investigations. Along with visuals, Ms. McDaniel discussed aspects of crime investigation, homicide cases and forensic pathology. The presentation was well attended (17 total patrons).



Throughout February, Las Palmas will be offering adult coloring. Coloring has many benefits, such as stress relief and achieving a sense of accomplishment. As a come-n-go basis, coloring is available on

Tuesdays. Las Palmas has an array of appealing designs and themes, such as Valentine's Day for adults.

MAVERICK



The Ladies Choice Book Club met on January 26 and Lady Mavs Book Club met February 12. The South Texas Role Playing Games Group continued meeting on Sundays in January and February. The fairly new Maverick Writer's Group gathered on February 9. Maverick Library held its first casual conversation class to help Spanish speakers learn to speak English. Maverick, one of 4 library sites, was an Early Voting and Election Day site for the Special State Representative District 125. Maverick staff coordinated together making sure opening and closing schedules were met for the election judges.



Braun Hollow Homeowners' Association met on January 26 and Parklands Homeowners' Association met on February 7. In remembrance of the Holocaust, Maverick hosted a book discussion on Wednesday January 23. To celebrate Black History Month, Maverick also held a book discussion on the new book release, *Becoming* by Michelle Obama lead by Christine Mitchamore of Johnston Library. The ever growing Maverick Chess Club met on January and February.



On January 26, San Antonio Symphony Bassist, Nicholas Browne visited Maverick Library. He played several types of songs and the audience of 33 people thoroughly enjoyed the experience! On January 31, Children's Librarian, Amy Roberts traveled to Brauchle Elementary Head Start to talk about the library and Early Literacy with parents. She knew a few of the parents already because they visit Maverick Library regularly!



All children's programs were out in the main area during the election period. Ms. Roberts acquired several new families that attended her programs because of this! On February 11, her two preschool story-times were filled with Valentine stories, treats, and a fun Valentine craft.



Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl facilitated five Teen Time programs during the reporting period, assisted by Library Aide Sarina Hackworth. The Maverick Teens really got into making "plushies" (stuffed, felt objects or characters that they cut and sew themselves); most plushies require more than one evening to complete, so this has been an ongoing activity in January. Teens have also played Uno and Loaded Questions, watched a movie, played video games and even worked on homework. Each week they choose snacks, crafts and/or games for the following week. On February 12th they planned an Anti-Valentine's Day Party – a party in which they celebrated fun and friendship as opposed to romance.



Maverick Teens come from Brandies, Marshall, Taft and charter High Schools, Stevenson Middle School and several home schooled students. Age and school differences have not hindered them in forming relationships with each other or the staff. One shy and quiet teen started attending in mid-December. Her church now has a youth meeting on Tuesdays at 7:00, but she still pops in for a few minutes before she goes over to her church each week. Our quietest teen has turned 14 and has decided to become a volunteer here at Maverick as well!



Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl substituted for Librarian Stephanie Vasquez (GNW) and held an Outreach at Taft High School. Bleichwehl had the button maker from Great Northwest Branch set up in the Library at Taft. 60 teens were eager to make their own buttons; some used the graphics provided and

others created their own designs on library computers or by hand. Bleichwehl created SAPL accounts for 2 teens that day, after the High School Librarian verified the addresses of the students.

McCRELESS

Children



Rozanna Bennett, Children's Librarian, has been doing a weekly Toddler's Time program. Each week hosts a different theme, and includes stories, songs and crafts. On Valentine's Day there was a special Toddler's Time. There was a skunk Valentine craft, Valentine stories, and a Valentine sensory bin and matching game.



The Branch also introduced a new imaginative play area. It's a giant castle, equipped with blocks, and recyclables so children can build their own castles.



A member of the San Antonio Symphony came and played the trumpet for a wonderful family program.



Librarian Bennett also hosts a weekly tween time. It has been increasing in attendance which is wonderful! Each week there is a different activity, craft or game.



Library Assistant Joseph Gonzales continues to host weekly Lego Club. School age children and their families are encouraged to be creative in formulating structures with Lego bricks. This program continues to be regularly well attended.

Teens



Librarian DeBow continues to host a weekly Teen Time program. Teens can expect to have fun at either one! Teen Time activities included gaming, decorating tin boxes (Altoid & Sucrets tins), water coloring, smoothie-making, and drawing.



Librarian DeBow also continues to host a monthly Anime Club. At the Anime Club, teens learned to play a Japanese trivia card game called Karuta. The group welcomed a new teen who was excited to meet other teens with the same passion for anime and manga. Teens discussed and planned activities and crafts for the next 4 months for the Anime Club.



Teens were also given an opportunity to share their vision for their new teen space as part of the renovations set to start in early 2020. From comfy furniture, computers and a gaming system to a kitchen area and a basketball court, all ideas were passed along to branch manager, Morgan Yoshimura.

Adults



On January 26th, the branch hosted a program presented by local author June Chapko. Ms. Chapko gave a presentation on attending estate sales as a shopper. Ms. Chapko gave participants information about what to expect at estate sales, how to approach them, do's and don'ts of shopping estate sales, and much more. Ms. Chapko also presented information on her book *The Estate Sale* and was available to sign copies.



The ongoing Scrapbooking and Art Journaling Classes at McCreless, facilitated by Library Assistant Al Chavez and Circulation Attendent Krys Hernandez, are proving to be a popular program for our patrons. The monthly class is proving to be a popular program with McCreless area patrons and will be extended through Spring 2019 as a featured D.I.Y. program for adults. Classes are on the first Saturday of each month.

MEMORIAL

Children's Services



Children's librarian Christine Deffendall was invited and attended L.B. Johnson Elementary School to their Math Night, Thursday, January 24. She spoke with 25 children and adults. Mrs. Deffendall promoted the branch's services to children and their parents. Parents asked questions about library cards, number of items that can be checked out and faxing and printing services.



Mrs. Deffendall expanded her children's programs by offering a Saturday Story Time. Parents appreciate and welcome the change as they bring in their children to enjoy Story Time.



Saturday Family Cinema was also started by children's librarian Christine Deffendall. A drink and snack are provided to enjoy the movie.



February 13, Christine held a Family Valentine Party, with crafts and STEM activities. The event was attended by 15 children and adults.



Mrs. Deffendall began her second semester taking Spanish classes at UNAM, courtesy of COSA's scholarship program.

Teen Services



Teen liaison Michelangelo Sosa attended the Teen Library meeting and learned about some new resources on the Staff Web, the full catalog of programming resources at my disposal, a service area map for outreach and teen specific directory. Also the meeting included sensitivity training that taught me to handle LGBTQ+ matters with the delicacy that is required.



Programs have been taking a positive attendance trend with a record of 14 attendees for our Teen Time – Video Gaming night.



The TolTech group has been steady in their progress to create a video game that displays the main point of redacting of sensitive information. The 21st of March, the team will meet with the project initiators (San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Youth Code Jam Mentors & TolTech Academy Teachers) at the Memorial Branch, their industry partners at Rectify (a local San Antonio Company) to present their work and sell their project as a product.



Library assistant Rene Leija hosted Lego Club for children's librarian Christine Deffendall.



Mr. Leija also screened the movie "42" for Black History Month.

Adult Services



The branch hosted an exhibition from local artist **Kendall Darien**. It was in the glass display case next to reference desk. The artist enjoyed art as a child, but it wasn't until later in life that he really discovered his passion for art. He had a medical problem and, during the surgery, had a religious experience. It was that experience that influenced his artwork, which is focused on religious themes.



The library showed the movie *Defiance* on January 24. The film supported SAPL programming for "Holocaust: Learn and Remember."



Adult services librarian Freddy Hudson attended the "New Employee Experience II" training on January 29. It allowed him to network with COSA employees and learn more about the city.



The branch began its February celebration of Library Lovers Month. Patrons are invited to post a heart on the wall next to the meeting room that proclaims what they love about the library. Staffs are excited to see what patrons say about the branch.



To celebrate Valentine's Day, the library had a Hershey's Kisses Guessing Game. Patrons could guess how many kisses were in a canister. The person who came closest without going over won the canister. Additionally, the branch hosted a truffle making class on February 12. Patrons made truffles for themselves or their special someone.



Memorial honored Black History Month by offering patrons a word search. The game featured facts about thirteen famous people from black history, whose last name was hidden in the word search. It combined fun with learning.



In support of Dream Week, the initiative that empowers individuals and celebrates tolerance, equality and tolerance, the branch hosted VOCA, a Safe Services program. VOCA is funded under the Office of the Attorney General. Safe Services and it provides Free case management and professional counseling to Bexar County residents identified as survivors of any type of crime. The program assists with housing, legal. Medical, benefits and court assistance as well as the Crime Victims Compensation Application.

Branch Services



The branch served as a polling place for Bexar County elections and Election Day voting site. This was a special election held to fill the legislative seat formerly held by Rep. Justin Rodriguez. Mr. Rodriguez vacated this position to fill the Bexar County Commissioners Court seat held by long time Commissioner Paul Elizondo who passed away suddenly shortly after being re-elected to his commissioner's post.



Circulation attendants Adam Capelo, Michelangelo Sosa and branch manager Maria Gonzales attended Bibliocore training. A new version of the SAPL catalog will be forthcoming soon. Training allowed staff the opportunity to become more familiar with the new features in the catalog and allow patrons the opportunity to explore and utilize the different aspects of the catalog and they perform searches for items they need.



Basic crochet class and jewelry making continue to attract different ages and gender. Classes are held on the same day morning and afternoon once a month.



Friends of the Memorial branch library held their quarterly meeting in the meeting room of the branch.

MISSION



VITA free tax preparation assistance program started the first week of February at Mission library.



On February 15th, Mission Library Aide, Brianna Rangel, hosted a Pokémon Club where participants could play various versions of Pokémon games including on a Switch, Nintendo DS, Pokémon Go app, and game cards.

Adults



As part of the system-wide Holocaust Learn & Remember initiative, Mission screened the movie Defiance.

Teens



As a special Valentine's treat, teens this month enjoyed making Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo during Mission Branch's Teen Cooking Class this month. Teens during our Teen K-Pop and Anime Club also enjoyed making their own chocolate for the Valentine's holiday.



Teens from St. P.J.s came to visit Mission Branch for a tour led by Teen Librarian, Emily Young, of the facilities. Many of these teens are planning on moving to different states in the near future and were excited to learn about the places they would be moving as they have recently immigrated from other countries and have not as of yet learned information about the United States outside of Texas.

Children's



Story times are seeing many new families as the new year begins and numbers are increasing.



The Children's Librarian, Jane Miller, had the opportunity to attend two STEAM nights in Harlandale schools. Both events at Gilbert Elementary and Schulze Elementary Schools were a lot of fun. The children enjoyed an engineering activity building towers and other structures with s with straws and connectors.



Branch Manager, Oscar Gonzalez, participated in an outreach event at nearby elementary school, Highland Forest for their STREAM Night.

PAN AMERICAN



The Pan American Branch hosted a presentation by SAPD Crime Scene Investigation officer Triese McDaniel. Officer McDaniel provided a behind the scenes look at the investigation process. Officer McDaniel showed off the technology used by SAPD and at the end of it, provided those in attendance with actual crime scene photos and let the audience “solve the crime”.



January brought in programs regarding cold weather and penguins. Children enjoyed the activities especially the play time included at the end of the stories. Adults were reminded how important play is as a pre-reading skill. Imagination is needed to understand what is read.



February was a month of using good manners and being kind. Art supplies were provided in the children's area so children could make projects for the Chinese New Year, Valentines, or anything they could imagine.



STEAM Nights with Harlandale ISD have been completed. Students used their creativity to engineer projects of their design using Straws and Connectors. It was fun to see the creativity of these elementary and middle school students.



On January 16, library assistant and teen liaison Cassie Garza facilitated teen time's first every board game night. One teen insisted on showing the group how to play the card game COUP. The group also played games on the Nintendo switch like Just Dance and Mario kart.



On January 23, Ms. Garza helped the teen group how to make dessert rice balls out of sushi rice, Nutella and fresh fruit. It was a hit but one of our batches was a miss. We added salt instead of sugar to the recipe and it tasted disgusting. After that we corrected our mistake and made several batches of deliciously sweet rice balls.



On February 6, Ms. Garza showed the teen group how to create coasters out of ceramic tiles, felt and sharpies. The teens designed their own tiles and helped each other out with design ideas. One teen volunteer JJ replicated Lady Gaga on one of her tiles which turned out amazing.



On February 13, Ms. Garza and a team of teen volunteers worked together to help make cake pops for teens and their valentines. The branch had several new teen visiting for this program specifically. The group made and decorated 50+ cake pops. The group also was able to finish up their sharpie coasters from last teen time during this time.



On January 27, Ms. Garza challenged the best Pokémon champion in our Pokémon group to a showdown. The challenge was that if Ms. Garza won the duel that the Pokémon champion group would have to use on decks with cards from the Sun & Moon set to current playable set. If Ms. Garza lost the group could extend their decks using cards from Pokémon black and white sets to current playable sets.

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It was a close battle and in the end Ms. Garza won the challenge. The current group's playable card decks will have to conform to standard play instead of extended.



Pan American Branch continues to hold 3D printing demonstrations. On average, 10-15 patrons per day stop to watch and inquire about the 3D printer. Small key chains are printed to show the how the printer works and for patrons to have a small trinket to take home with them.



Adult Services Librarian Adrian Leal hosted an adult coloring program at the Elvira Cisneros Senior Center. Those in attendance were provided coloring sheets, some continued their coloring pages from previous visits. Light New Age music was played to create a calming and relaxing atmosphere.



Pan American Branch continues to serve as a hosting site for two wellness programs presented by the Parks and Recreation department. On Fridays, a trainer comes to do QiGong with those that wish to sit and stretch. This low impact exercise class reduces stress and helps to increase mobility. On Sundays, the branch hosts low impact Yoga.

PARMAN



In February Parman Gallery presents the Calligraphy artwork "Winter Exhibit" created by members of SA Calligraphers' Guild. During the opening reception artists shared information on the art of the calligraphy. Patrons visiting the gallery can enjoy the beautiful art form using the lettering for artistic expression from historic manuscripts to contemporary pieces



Parman kicked off the New Year with a series of yoga classes to inspire health and self-care in the community. Certified Chopra Health Instructor, Lifestyle & Wellness Consultant, Maggie G. led the 6 week series "Yoga FUNdamentals" that taught patrons the basic building blocks of yoga, including alignment, breath, sequencing and how to set up their own mini-home practice. The health class was one of Parman's most well attended programs in at nearly 40 attendees per class. Due to the program popularity the presenter has decided to continue the program. Library staff and the community are very excited the program will be extended past the original 6 week series.



In January, branch manager; Barbara Kwiatkowski brought to Parman free introductory language classes Spanish, French and Arabic. Classes were presented by the professionals and were possible through the partnering with the local language school. This partnership was a great success. Three classes: introduction to Spanish, introduction to French and introduction to Arabic were presented every Sunday for 5 weeks and brought total of 455 children and adults, eager to learn a new language or just checking out if this is what they would like to pursue in the near future. Attendees enjoyed professionalism of the presenters, learned foundational information about each language and several basic conversational phrases. In last 5 weeks books from the language display set up by the children's librarians have been checking out like hotcakes.



Children's Librarian, Kathy Thonen hosted a tour for a local preschool and had four 4th grade classes in for story time.



Hardy Oak Elementary school PTA's, impressed with Parman's Multicultural Winter Festival created similar event at their school and invited Parman Library staff to join them. Barbara Kwiatkowski and Katie Thonen represented Parman Library at this well attended program. Katie talked to the students about our services while Barbara Kwiatkowski focused on creating new operational and strategic networks.



The Parman Library staff had the privilege of sharing their love of poetry with the residents of the Landing at Stone Oak just in time for Valentine's Day. Edgar Allen Poe, E.E. Cummings, Walt Whitman, Shakespeare, and many more poets were read along with drawings following the readings. The poetry was used to inspire creative self-expression, reduce social isolation, and provide social and intellectual stimulation in participants. Several residents enjoyed repeating the lines with the presenters (Barbara Kwiatkowski and Melissa Moser) and recognizing some of the classics from their youth.



In observance of the "Holocaust: Learn and Remember" week Barbara Kwiatkowski delivered a presentation on Dr. Marek Edelman, the last leader of the Ghetto Uprising. During the program the readings from his book "Ghetto Fights" allowed the public to get an inside view of this time in a Warsaw Ghetto. Through anecdotes and reflections from another book ("Shielding the Flame: An Intimate Conversation with Dr. Marek Edelman, the Last Surviving Leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising" by Hanna Krall) the audience could explore the memory of the events and engage in the discussion of the Holocaust and the life of the last leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.



On February 16, Parman Library hosted another (14th) Pokémon GO - Community Day. Parman Branch was the first library in SAPL to engage the community of the Pokémon GO players, gathered monthly around the library, but never visiting the library. By inviting all the players on the Community day and adjusting programming to reflect community interests Parman gained 150 -250 visitors monthly. At some point each player stops to relax in the cool meeting room and many of them keeps wandering deeper and deeper into the library, discovering our services.

POTRANCO



Twisted Stitches is a sew, knit, crochet, anything fiber related group that meets weekly on Tuesday evenings for ages 9 and up. The moderator is Miranda O'Neill, Circulation Attendant, who teaches and moderates the group. Participants have found that knitting/crocheting is relaxing and can't wait to attend the weekly program.



Potranco Book Club is a monthly book discussion moderated by Circulation Attendant Paschal Booker. They discussed on February 17 *Places Left Unfinished at the Time of Creation* by John Phillip Santos.



Read to A Dog on Tuesdays with Elizabeth and Nero. Nero is a certified therapy dog and he loves to be read to! Nero will happily sit patiently as children read books to him!



During the reporting period January 14, 2019 – February 17, 2019, Potranco continued our Sunday morning I Heart Vinyl series, curated and deejayed by Paschal Booker, with the continuing assistance

40

and suggestions from the entire Potranco staff, as well as our patrons themselves. Audio lineups during this review period focused on highlighting the careers of such luminaries as Miles Davis, The Beatles, Bob Dylan, and Bob Marley.

With the assistance of Cindy Pope, we were able this month to upgrade the quality of our sound, utilizing once again the Wi-Fi speaker system that improves the sound of our selections immeasurably. Furthermore, we were blessed this past month with a healthy infusion of new albums to the Potranco collection; the new arrivals included classic jazz and pop selections, as well as a hefty sampling of contemporary selections. We continue to see an active use of the collection by our Potranco patrons, delving into classics and contemporary selections alike. Our new infusion of albums comes via the able and generous curation of Troy Hoyles.



After several months of curating the Sunday I Heart Vinyl Series, with numerous themes and highlighted artists, we plan this next month to complete an inventory of the entire Potranco collection, in the hope of developing new themes and expanding the breadth of our collection, to better respond to the tastes of our patrons.



Cindy Moreno, Librarian II, moderated the Alicia Trevino Senior Center book group in February. The group discussed the novel *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan, which is timely for the month of love. The lively group spoke about family traditions, wealth and race.

There have been several changes of Potranco staff. Angela Bible, the beloved Children's Librarian, is temporarily at Central library. Currently Potranco has Kristin Yourdon, Cody Children's Librarian, presenting the Tuesday Story times. Priscilla Medina and Daniella Toll from Westfall have helped at Potranco as well as April Martinez from Mission Library. Oscar Gonzalez is the Interim Branch Manager. Potranco staff is grateful for the added assistance.

PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS

Children



Children and parents attending Kids' Time on Groundhog Day enjoyed singing songs and listening to a reading of author Robb Pearlman's *Groundhog's Day Off*. Participants found the tale interesting and amusing as the groundhog decided to quit his job due to feeling unappreciated. Afterwards, the children prepared an amazing groundhog craft and took it home to show off to family and friends.



The monthly SPARK science event continues to be a big hit with families. This month children had an opportunity to explore and experiment with levers with the use of brooms, yardsticks, rulers. Kids formed their own predictions about levers involving the use of various amounts of weight. Parents commented how great it is to see children having fun while learning an important concept.



The library hosted a special children's Valentine Party. The program began with a reading of the popular story *Love, Splat* by Rob Scotton. Kids received a delicious treat of cupcakes followed by a chance to play Musical Valentines and Valentine Bingo. Craft time was up next. Kids and parents made some amazing and unique valentine cards using all types of materials.

Teens



In recognition of the MLK Holiday, Pruitt Teens used either library-provided ipads or their own personal devices to test their knowledge of Martin Luther King, Jr. trivia, using the on-line gaming app Kahoot. They really enjoyed the competition. Additionally, participants went on virtual museum tours through several “exhibits” depicting events, landmarks, or tributes to Dr. King that could be accessed with QR Code readers provided by the library.



Teen leaders attending events completed surveys providing feedback for the program they attended along with suggestions for future teen programs and events. February’s teen programming events were direct suggestions from our teens.



February outreach started on a positive note. Pruitt Teen Services provided Friendship Friday crafting, an activity where students created finger-knitted friendship bracelets as a mode for winding down after a long week of benchmark testing - to students at Roosevelt High School. Those who participated appreciated the break from academics and were pleased with seeing their finished creations.



Pruitt Teen Services partnered with Rough Rider Inn, the Culinary Arts School at Roosevelt High School to offer the Valentine’s Day cookies. Student volunteers helped make icing, assisted participants with using decorator piping, and other skills to make this event not only educational but also fun. Getting to eat the creations was an added bonus to this event.

Adults



The adults at the Pruitt Branch have been busy with a variety of activities. On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, patrons watched *The Last Days*, a documentary by Steven Spielberg. After the movie, patrons discussed the Holocaust through today’s lens.

Pruitt Library staff is planning and looking forward to some special events for the coming month.

SAN PEDRO



Outreach Story Time Programs—Betsy Dalton presented monthly story times to children at Respite Care. Due to an injury, she was unable to present her usual story times at Laurel Heights Methodist Weekday School, Will Smith Zoo School, and Monte Vista Montessori.



Family Fun—Ms. Dalton hosted two Family Fun events during this period: a Valentine’s Day Party, and a sculpting program in recognition of Black sculptors and in celebration of Black History Month. Manager Diane Backhus hosted a lovely presentation by a member of the San Antonio Symphony to a small but appreciative crowd.



Kids Time Programs—Minecraft Monday continues and Kids Time on Wednesdays has been converted to a weekly LEGO® Club.



Toddler Time Programs—This program continued during this reporting time with a small but very loyal group.



Outreach School Age Book Club Facilitation—Ms. Dalton hosted book clubs in the aggregate for middle graders. During this period, she facilitated the two clubs at St Anthony's Catholic School. Due to an injury, she was unable to facilitate her usual book clubs at Monte Vista Montessori and 2 SAISD schools: Hawthorne Academy and Twain Dual Language Academy. She also provides two middle grade teachers at the Advanced Learning Academy by supplying them with books on requested topics on a monthly basis.



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



San Pedro Library staff Diana Starrett, Carmen Roja and Nick Salenga went to Park View Apartments and replenished the reading room with donations.



San Antonio's office of Sustainability handed out brochures and informed patrons about energy efficiency and San Antonio's vision for a sustainable future.



The Trafficked teen cut out is on display in the branch to publicize this difficult issue and the accompanying Take Action post cards are being picked up by patrons.

SCHAEFER



A variety of Valentine's Day activities for kids took place at Schaefer. Two Valentine's Come & Go Crafts took place – on Feb. 9 the kids made love bugs out of construction paper and other materials, and on Feb. 14. kids made a hat with hearts and other festive materials. During Toddler Time on Feb. 12, the kids heard stories about hugs and kisses and sang songs. During the Valentine's Day party in Story Time, the kids heard stories about love and then participated in fun activities – they played with a heart-shaped bean bag toss, red playdough and a sensory bin with plastic hearts; they painted hearts with tubes shaped like hearts and also learned about science with vinegar and baking soda experiment in a heart-shaped baking dish. During an outreach event on Feb. 14 children's librarian Leslie Elsasser read love-themed stories to two groups of Pre-K students.



To celebrate the start of the rodeo, Toddler Time and Story Time on Feb. 5 were horse themed. After the stories and songs, the kids could sit on a real saddle and dress up in cowboy hats and kid-sized chaps. Other themes for Toddler Time and Story Time during the reporting period included penguins, winter and ocean animals.



Baby Time continues to draw a consistent number of babies and their grown-ups each week. They group sings songs, reads stories and then the babies have time to play with toys and each other during

the program. LEGO Time kids are having great time building and making friends each week. The kids are proud to see their creations displayed in the library.



Library Assistant Sara Ramirez hosted two Science Time programs during the reporting period. On January 22, children were able to operate 3D printers in a hands on demonstration. Children learned about the different uses of 3D printing from the real life example of Grecia the toucan, who received a replacement beak crafted from a 3D printer. Children also had fun with Sphero robot racing to find the hidden fruit, a toucans favorite treat. On February 5, Science Time investigated the science of cute. We read about cute animals and what specific features make them “cute.” Children also created puffy paint and terrariums as a take home science experiment.



Librarians, Cindy Cruz and Maria Adams visited with parents, students, and faculty at East Central ISDs Family Engagement Symposium. The event held at Legacy Middle School provided an opportunity to meet the local community and tell them about the programs available at the branch. Cindy and Maria spoke with 100 individuals about Schaefer Library’s resources. In addition, they brought an educational robot called the Ollie for the public to try out.



Teens participated in cooking, STEM, and art activities during Teen Time. Teens made pizza sauce, ice cream sundaes, and decorated cupcakes. They also navigated droids and robots throughout the Teen Space and created Valentine’s Day cards for kids in hospitals. Teens also created their own 3D designs during the 3D Print Lab and then printed them out.



The second Saturday Movie for January was “Smallfoot”, and patrons enjoyed playing giant “yeti-sized” board games before the movie. Schaefer provided giant Jenga, Connect 4, Kerplunk, and Tic-Tac-Toe.



Library Assistant Sheridan Richardson took the giant board games to Oak Crest Elementary School to participate in their annual Literacy Night on January 23rd. Attendees loved hearing about Schaefer’s programs and challenging each other to a few friendly games.



The Skimmers met in January to discuss “The Death of Mrs. Westaway” by Ruth Ware. Everyone agreed they enjoyed the book, and then spent time discussing what else they were currently reading.



The first Saturday Movie for February was the love story “Dog Days” and the second was the true story of America’s most decorated military dog, “Sgt. Stubby”. Patrons enjoyed free popcorn and candy during the movie. Schaefer was also excited to learn that the “Saturday Movie” program was featured on WOAI’s “Play in SA” news segment on February 1st and 15th.



February 17th 2019, patrons gathered at Schaefer Library’s H-E-B Collaborate Room to participate in a cooperative storytelling experience. For three hours, patrons roll dice and participated in a fantasy roleplaying adventure led by Library Assistant Mason Matthews.



Saturdays twice a month at Schaefer Branch Library, Patrons gather for Zumba! The Zumba instructor leads an hour long session of enthusiastic dancercise to a lively soundtrack. Patrons shed stress and calories in the air conditioned comfort of the Mays Family Community Flex Space.



Every other 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.



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 current chess tournaments, and learn the basics of strategy with Library Assistant Mason Matthews. Tournament Style Chess Sets provided by a generous donation from our friends at Dollar General.



Schaefer Library's Fortnite Sunday program, facilitated by Circulation Attendant Reuben Duron, continues to be a popular program for kids/teens! We've had this program for seven months now and we still maintain a solid group of attendees with new patrons coming in every so often! Fortnite Sundays gives families a chance to do something different at the library and have fun while doing it!

SEMMES



Children's Librarian Randi Jones hosted a very successful Valentine's Day Tea Party on February 7. Children and their grown-ups enjoyed tasty treats, fun stories, and Valentine's Day themed crafts and activities.



Regular story times continue to have a good turnout at the branch. Randi Jones and Brian Douglass are providing 6-8 programs each week for families to enjoy.



On January 15, Semmes resident artist, Priscilla Boatwright, presented a Comics and Manga workshop for teens and adults. The program was very well received, so future workshops are in the planning stages now.



The Friends of the Semmes Branch Library held a book sale on Friday, February 1 and Saturday, February 2. The sale went very well and made about \$1600.00 for the branch. The Friends also elected new officers at their January and February meetings. The group now has a new President, Vice President and Secretary. The Treasurer was reelected to his position.



Circulation Attendant, Mary Pena, presented a fun craft program for adults on Valentine's Day. "Valentine's Day, Schamalandine's Day" was a super successful craft program. Participants enjoyed making fun crafts while enjoying some snacks and entertaining conversation.

THOUSAND OAKS



Semmes Children's Librarian Randi Jones has stepped in to assist Thousand Oaks with Toddler Time and Story Time. She has been a delight. The children have enjoyed learning about rhythm, singing songs, participating in finger plays, and listening to fun stories. The branch has extended their

thanks to the Semmes team for lending Ms. Jones during this time. Lea Ann McDonald joined the Thousand Oaks team on February 12 just in time to provide Valentine's Day fun.



Thousand Oaks teens had an eventful month! They played board games, listened to music, watched YouTube videos, played Super Smash Bros, made jewelry, and baked fresh cookies that they topped with ice cream. The branch also hosted its Valentine's party on February 13, which featured many Hershey's Kisses and other various types of chocolate.



The Thursday Book Group met to discuss Celeste Ng's *Little Fires Everywhere*. The group enjoyed the dichotomy between the main mother characters. One mother enjoyed her planned out life where as the other mother was quite hap hazard and spontaneous. The story explores each family's dynamic and choices the children make. The discussion was lively and the refreshments were delicious.



Thousand Oaks hosted Dr. Roger Barnes for Holocaust Learn & Remember on Jan 14. Dr. Barnes, professor at the University of the Incarnate Word, spoke about the uprising in 1943 by Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto.



The Sunday Crafternoon program for adults continues to grow and explore new crafts and creations. In January, the group, led by librarian Theresa Garza, created natural cleaners for their homes using simple ingredients such as hydrogen peroxide and essential oils. In February, the group created personalized key chains and bracelets made of washers and stamps.



A second crafting class, offered by library assistant Lucy Villa, has taught several patrons to crochet. Ms. Villa provided yarn, hooks, and patterns to teach beginners how to crochet.



Thousand Oaks reference staff continued to offer one on one computer classes throughout January. The Thursday afternoon class allowed patrons to drop in for their technology related questions and for instruction on their devices.



Thousand Oaks commemorated Black History Month with a series of movies throughout the month of February. The Saturday afternoon showings included Selma, Southside with You, Fences, and Black Panther. The new Sunday Cinema program offers patrons a chance to see Oscar nominated movies at the library, on the second Sunday of the month.



The Northeast Senior Center Book Club's January selection was Force of Nature, by Jane Harper. The discussion, facilitated by librarian Theresa Garza, found that while readers enjoyed the many red herrings in the story, the victim was not a particularly sympathetic character. Many were interested in reading the first book in the series, to find out more about the lead detective.

TOBIN LIBRARY AT OAKWELL



Adult Librarian and Assistant Manager, Rhonda Woolhouse, is impressively the lead geek for SAPL's Pop Con held at Central Library on February 16. Ms. Woolhouse works on coordinating departments and guest appearances for over a year in advance for this unique popular culture extravaganza with authors, artists, Anime, games and crafts. Ms. Woolhouse was interviewed twice by a local television channel as well as for the *CURRENT* magazine to publicize this event. Tobin's Library Aide, Adam Hawkins and Teen Librarian, Karah Garcia, enthusiastically assisted with the program all day in various capacities.



The branch hosted two events as part of SAPL's The Holocaust: Learn and Remember series. On January 18, Dr. Jason Johnson, professor at Trinity University, lectured on cases of resistance within Germany's Nazi regime. Dr. Johnson currently serves as the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio's Distinguished Scholar in Residence.

Kristen Hernandez, the Collections and Programs Manager for the local Holocaust Memorial Museum, shared basic preservation information in her program titled Rescuing the Future: Preserving Personal Heirlooms. Ms. Hernandez demonstrated how to care for personal objects like photos, textiles and documents on February 5.



The Interesting Book Club discusses a title on the first Wednesday of each month. February's selection, *Swing Time*, by Zadie Smith is the story of two young childhood girlfriends growing up and pursuing their dance and music careers. Travels take them from London to West Africa as Smith delves into the inequality they each encounter.



The Joss Whedon Fan Club continues to meet once monthly to watch or discuss Whedon's many directorial ventures. On February 10, the group started watching the *Avenger* series of movies. The *Avengers: Age of Ultron* and *Avengers: Infinity Wars* will be screened in future meetings in anticipation of the new film *Avengers: Endgame* that is due to be released in April.



The Symphony came to the branch on February 9, with San Antonio Symphony bassist, Zlatan Redzic. Mr. Redzic shared his talents and love of music with children and adults with his interactive bass performance.



Children's Librarian, Karen Braeuler, continues to plan, host and oversee an impressive 40 programs each month. Ms. Braeuler has partnered with a home school group to create and teach weekly classes named Library Explorers in February. The sessions are geared for elementary age kids to help them learn how to navigate the library with tasks like searching for items in the catalog or finding materials in the library collection. In addition, on-line resources are being shared for digital literacy.



Ms. Braeuler and Ms. Garcia hosted a Black History Program titled Visionary Sculptors: African Artists in 3D. Kids learned about sculptors Radcliff Bailey and Chakaia Booker then teamed up to create some 3D art of their own on an early release day from school on February 7.



Ms. Garcia visited The Inn at Los Patios for their event, Raise Your Hand, on January 30. This event is geared to spurring residents to volunteering. Ms. Garcia spoke to residents about volunteering at San Antonio Public Libraries as well as shared information on library services and programs.



Ms. Garcia partnered with Teen Librarian, D. Raishell Williams, from Johnston on February 8. The two staffed a table at Northeast Independent School District's Family Engagement Training at their

Community Learning Center. Both librarians spoke to a sizeable group of folks about the many programs and resources San Antonio Public Libraries have to offer.



Friends of the Tobin Library at Oakwell Branch held their annual meeting on February 7. John Costello was elected as the new President and Alethea Bugg is now Vice-President. Branch Manager, Tracey Knouse, and Ms. Garcia presented highlights of the past year with photos and examples of programs where STEAM, (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) have been incorporated at all age levels.



In January, Gabriella Manzanares began working as a Circulation Attendant at Tobin at Oakwell. Ms. Manzanares has extensive retail experience and is very enthusiastic to have joined Tobin's and SAPL's teams.



Public Services Administrator, Cheryl Sheehan, held her first *Chat with Cheryl* at the branch on February 8. Over a two hour period, Ms. Sheehan met and talked with all staff working that day as part of Ms. Sheehan's and SAPL's Administration's efforts to increase communication and get to know branch personnel better.

WESTFALL



During the winter months, 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.



Starting on February 4th, the Westfall Branch hosted the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The program offers free tax preparation services for income of \$55,000 or less to residents in San Antonio. Tax returns are prepared by trained and certified volunteers. VITA volunteers received 20 hours of training and must pass an IRS approved exam in order to prepare and submit tax returns for the public.



During the reporting period, Children's Librarian, Imelda Merino, visited daycares in the service areas and brought the children a variety of books to read. Additionally, Ms. Merino held weekly children's programs such as story time, kids and toddler times. The programs consisted of some stories and fun activities to wrap up the day.



On Saturday, January 19th, the Westfall Branch Library presented a special Family Fun program about Martin Luther King. A picture book biography was shared and, families made wreaths using handprints to symbolize the brotherhood that Martin Luther King envisioned. Small bells were added to the wreaths to recall the lines from the famous "I Have a Dream Speech" – "Let freedom ring . . ." – that comprise the powerful ending.



On Fridays, the Westfall Branch continued to host students from the One for Autism Academy located in the neighborhood. The students visited the branch to check out library books as well as participate in an activity. Teen Librarian, Daniella Toll has been working with the students since the beginning of the school year.



Teen Librarian, Daniella Toll continued to host math tutoring on Saturdays from 1-3pm at Westfall. Three 10th and 11th grade volunteers from Health Careers help mostly middle school students with math up to algebra II. Additionally, the branch has Teen Time every Wednesday from 5-7pm, where young adults participated in fun activities and games.



The Westfall Branch Library continued to host the “Stranger than Fiction” and “Third Thursday” book clubs. Books read this month included “Cutting for Stone” by Abraham Verghese and “I’ll Be Gone in the Dark” by Michele McNamara. 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 January the Westfall LEARN @ SAPL center hosted some wonderful volunteer instructors for the “Learn a New Language” Series. Westfall Library Assistant Heather Swindell taught Esperanto, a universal language. The second week featured an introduction to computer Coding with CodeUp graduate and app designer Anna Morton-Rivera. During the final week, students were treated to a bilingual Poetry workshop with published poet Carolina Hinojosa-Cisneros. Each class was unique in its content and style, and was a great way to start the New Year.



Starting in February, Teen Librarian, Daniella Toll will be assisting at the Potranco Branch Library. Ms. Toll previously worked at the branch as a part-time librarian. Circulation attendant, Priscilla Medina also helped at Potranco for two weeks in February. Thanks for the commitment to the COSA core value of teamwork!

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

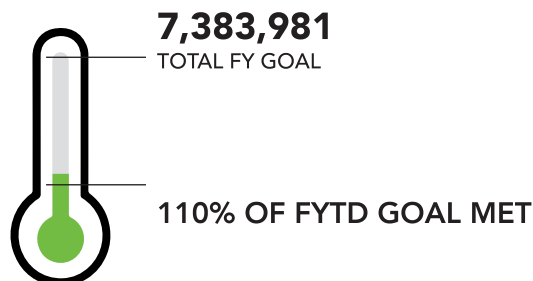
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY KEY INDICATORS

Presented below are key indicators that align with the Library's Strategic Plan.

JANUARY 2019

FY 2019

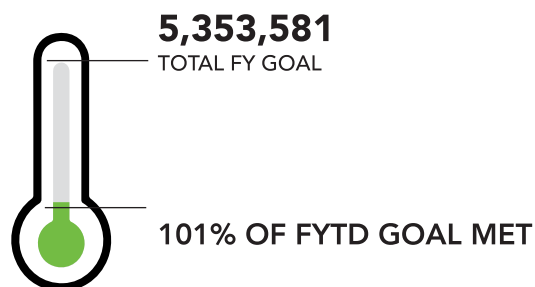
CIRCULATION: GOAL



CIRCULATION: FISCAL YEAR 2019



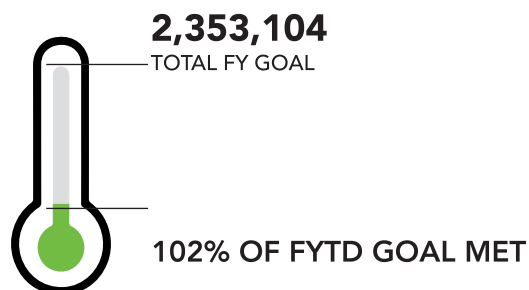
LIBRARY VISITS: GOAL



LIBRARY VISITS: FISCAL YEAR 2019



DIGITAL ACCESS: GOAL



DIGITAL ACCESS: FISCAL YEAR 2019



753,031

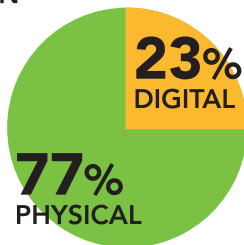
TOTAL HOURS OF
COMPUTER & WI-FI USE

SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS

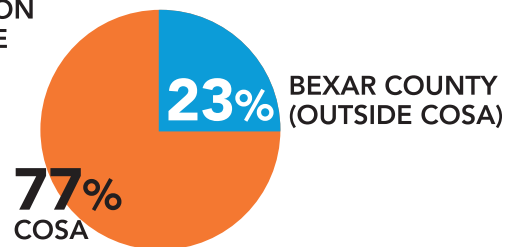
JANUARY 2019 *(continued)*

USE OF COLLECTION: FISCAL YEAR 2019

CIRCULATION
BY TYPE



CIRCULATION
BY SERVICE
AREA



VIRTUAL VISITS: FISCAL YEAR 2019



809,560

MYSAPL.ORG
VISITS

335,703

MYSAPL
APP SESSIONS

521,113

SANANTONIO.
OVERDRIVE.COM
VISITS

478,388

FACEBOOK
REACH

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: FISCAL YEAR 2019



117,156

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

26,878

ADULT PROGRAMS

21,427

TEEN PROGRAMS

68,851

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

JANUARY MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



San Antonio Public Library

Jan 2019 Key Indicators

Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Hours of Computer & Wi-Fi Use	Computers - Hours of Use	Wi-Fi - Hours of Use
Bazan	4,801	8,119	6,559	1,760	4,799
Brook Hollow	28,140	17,250	6,179	1,231	4,949
Carver	4,335	7,034	4,004	1,500	2,504
Central	27,615	51,009	44,577	11,945	32,632
Cody	34,627	20,181	7,705	1,545	6,161
Collins Garden	6,250	6,024	5,863	1,530	4,333
Cortez	6,925	8,867	4,414	1,226	3,189
Encino	18,042	11,465	4,315	446	3,869
Forest Hills	7,009	6,859	3,387	938	2,449
Great Northwest	24,279	14,977	5,815	1,521	4,294
Guerra	9,834	8,738	5,588	1,556	4,032
Igo	30,794	23,657	8,239	1,182	7,056
Johnston	10,276	9,076	3,895	1,309	2,586
Landa	12,879	12,292	2,344	623	1,721
Las Palmas	5,626	10,648	4,987	1,687	3,300
Maverick	23,463	11,782	5,095	1,550	3,545
McCreless	10,986	12,180	5,292	1,758	3,534
Memorial	7,249	8,687	4,234	1,174	3,060
Mission	12,582	17,667	8,290	2,248	6,042
Pan American	5,577	6,289	3,172	1,208	1,965
Parman	28,838	24,973	5,319	655	4,664
Potranco	18,106	14,505	15,799	994	14,805
Pruitt	6,339	14,942	2,583	843	1,740
San Pedro	4,061	5,520	2,485	625	1,861
Schaefer	9,350	9,702	6,164	1,109	5,054
Semmes	24,318	17,520	7,081	1,836	5,246
Thousand Oaks	9,680	9,268	4,980	1,046	3,934
Tobin	18,206	15,394	4,906	1,489	3,418
Westfall	16,555	12,599	7,865	2,441	5,424
Kampmann Library Portal	N/A	1,244	312	N/A	312
Interlibrary Loan Lending	1,054	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Online/Phone Renewal	102,062	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Digital	158,671	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	688,529	398,468	201,452	48,974	152,478

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

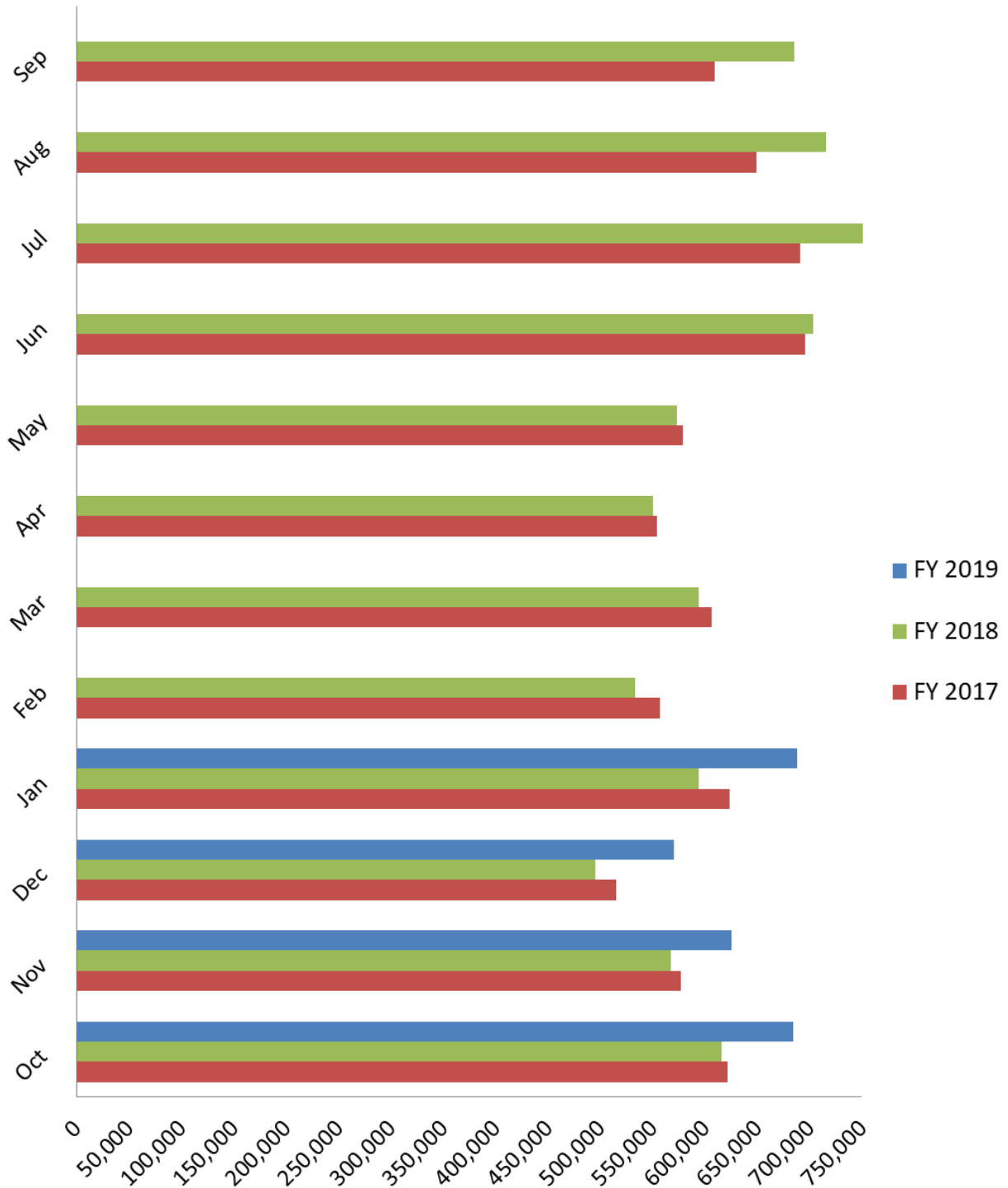
San Antonio Public Library

Jan 2019 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	56	25	8	23	423	143	39	241
Brook Hollow	66	11	4	51	1,586	172	10	1,404
Carver	52	28	10	14	754	483	76	195
Central	102	7	71	24	1,316	100	659	557
Cody	73	23	13	37	1,330	283	209	838
Collins Garden	34	5	3	26	497	22	27	448
Cortez	33	19	4	10	337	252	1	84
Encino	67	23	10	34	979	152	120	707
Forest Hills	29	9	2	18	200	68	0	132
Great Northwest	31	6	10	15	884	50	92	742
Guerra	43	14	5	24	763	273	38	452
Igo	54	20	9	25	1,536	245	143	1,148
Johnston	19	2	4	13	183	14	10	159
Landa	56	7	16	33	795	63	31	701
Las Palmas	25	11	5	9	266	190	6	70
Maverick	36	11	6	19	709	58	135	516
McCreless	24	6	6	12	227	62	39	126
Memorial	47	14	10	23	251	88	80	83
Mission	69	36	15	18	838	441	97	300
Pan American	36	16	7	13	505	291	66	148
Parman	98	36	8	54	2,197	438	15	1,744
Potranco	16	1	1	14	360	10	9	341
Pruitt	45	16	5	24	1,085	132	109	844
San Pedro	20	1	0	19	165	6	0	159
Schaefer	55	8	17	30	847	135	150	562
Semmes	63	20	6	37	872	92	54	726
Thousand Oaks	26	11	5	10	164	55	29	80
Tobin	61	9	12	41	1,455	84	427	944
Westfall	39	10	9	20	359	111	35	213
Kampmann Library Portal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	45	N/A	N/A	45	1,126	N/A	N/A	1,126
TOTAL	1,420	406	281	734	23,009	4,513	2,706	15,790

San Antonio Public Library

Circulation



Location Closures

FY 19: Central Oct 27 at 2pm

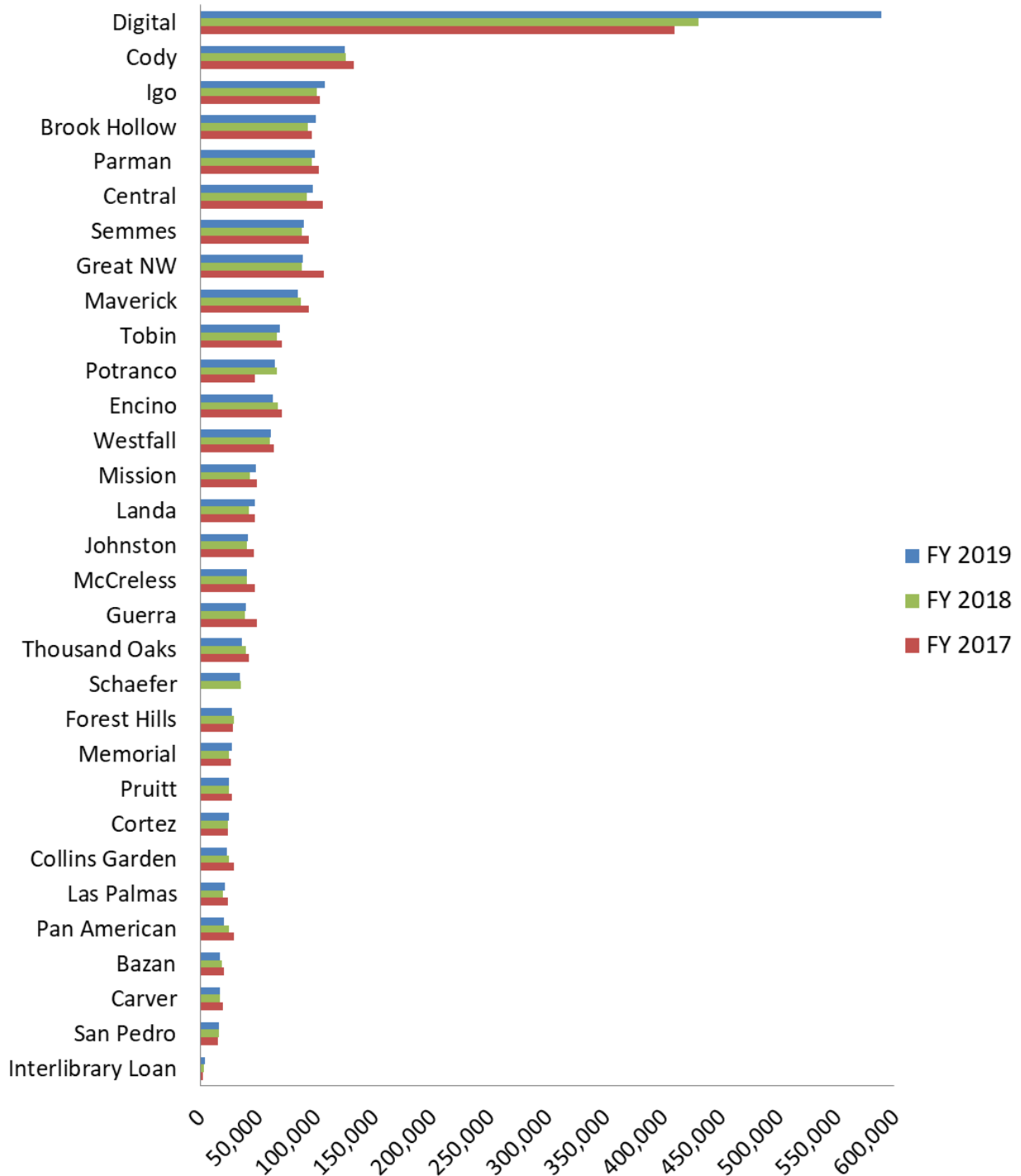
FY 18: Central Oct 28 at 3pm, SAPL System Jan 16-Weather, Staff Transformation Day-Feb 19, Cody May 3-13, Pan American Jun 18-Jul 3 & Sep 24-30, Thousand Oaks Jun 25-Jul 5

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

2019/02/20

San Antonio Public Library

Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - Jan 2019



Location Closures

FY 19: Central Oct 27 at 2pm

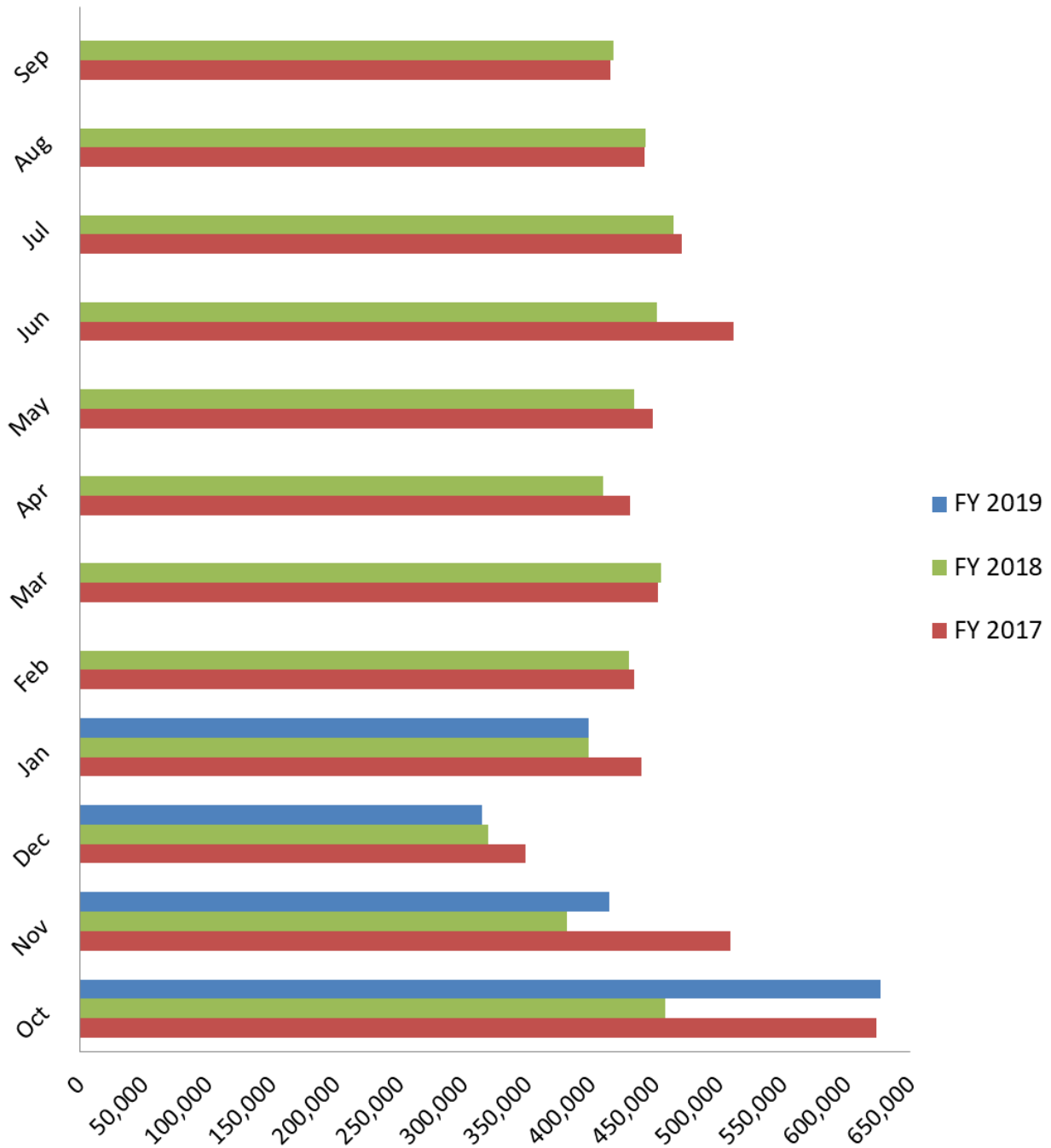
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2019/02/20

San Antonio Public Library

Visits



Location Closures

FY 19: Central Oct 27 at 2pm

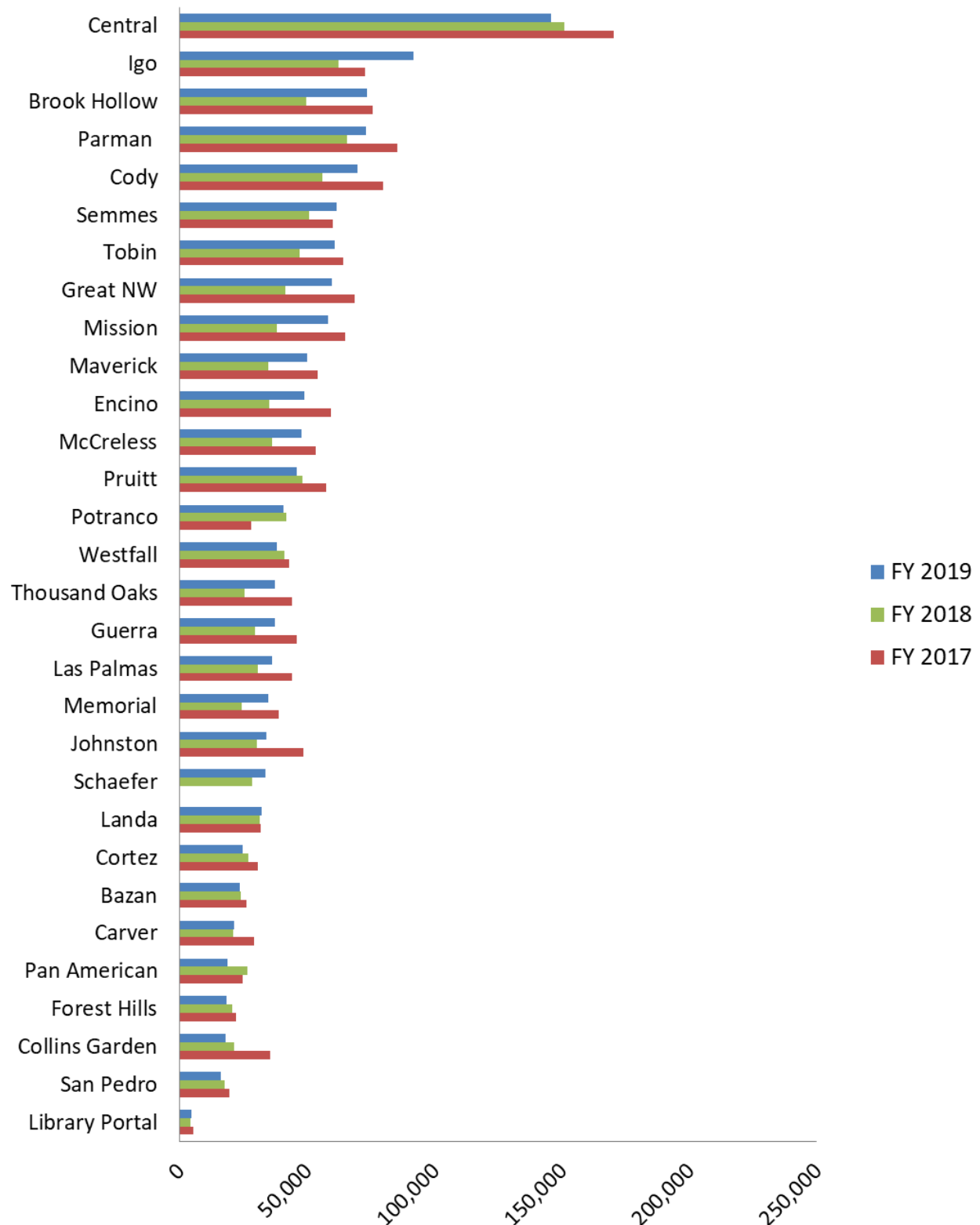
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San Antonio Public Library

Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - Jan 2019



Location Closures

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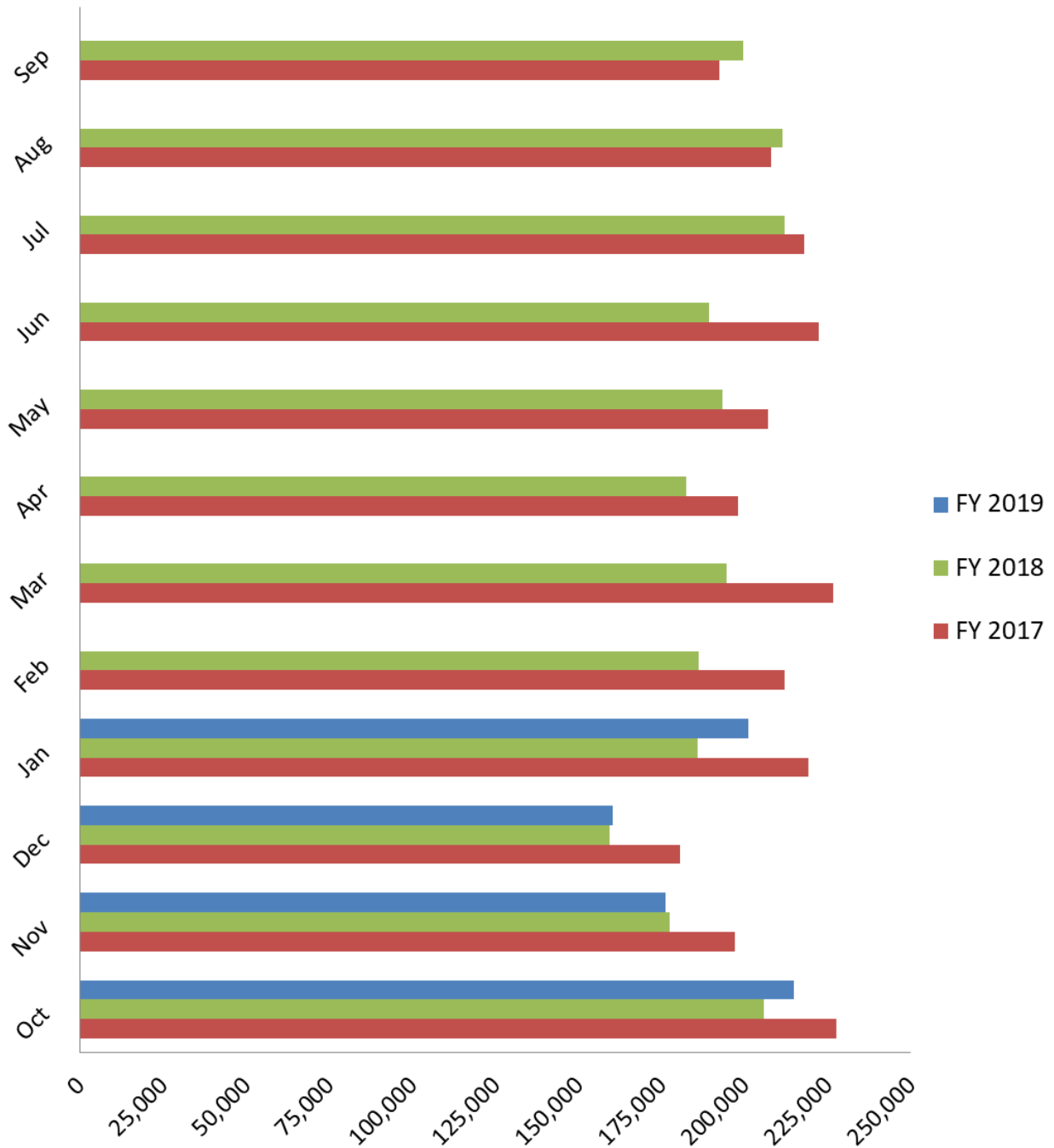
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2019/02/20

San Antonio Public Library

Hours of Computer&Wi-Fi Use



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

* Beginning December 12, 2018 - unlimited time on public computers when no one is waiting

Location Closures

FY 19: Central Oct 27 at 2pm

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