

San Antonio Public Library Director's Report November - December, 2020

San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) partnered with San Antonio Public Library Foundation (SAPLF) and Snack Pak 4 SA on a pilot program to provide students with healthy snacks over the winter break.

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I.	Administration	3
II.	Central Library	9
III.	Branch Libraries Alphabetical)	11
IV.	Performance Measures	35
V.	Appendix	.36

# **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar represented the Library in meetings hosted by partner organizations. On November 18, Mr. Salazar presented to the Library Foundation about the Library's services and resources during a COVID-19 emergency. On November 22, Mr. Salazar participated in the Friends of the Library Board Meeting and spoke about the Library services.

On November 24, Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar and Public Services Administrator Cheryl Sheehan met with the President of the Landa Gardens Conservancy regarding the necessary repairs to the playground at the Landa Branch Library.

Ramiro Salazar held a Library Director Town Hall on December 11, 2020 via WebEx for all Library Staff Members. Library Administration accepted questions from Library Team Members leading up to the Town Hall as well as during the meeting. All questions were answered during the virtual Town Hall and a video was made available to Library Staff Members who could not participate live.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended the Local Government Hispanic Network (LGHN) Annual Board Meeting on November 6 and December 4, 2020. Mr. Salazar serves as a Board Member on LGHN.

Serving as Immediate Past President of the Public Library Association, Ramiro S. Salazar attended the Public Library Association Board Meeting on November 20.

On November 20, Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar joined Library Board Chair Paul Stahl to provide a New Library Trustee Orientation to Sydney Knowles, newly appointed Trustee representing District 6.

Mr. Salazar delivered a presentation about the Library's services and resources to the San Antonio Women's Federation, a local civic group.

On November 19, Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar participated in the American Library Association's Connect Live series focused on library and information science students. Mr. Salazar spoke to the importance of library professionals and the current uncertainty in many cities and libraries as a result of the COVID-19 emergency.

In November and December 2020, Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar attended several strategy and planning meetings regarding the pilot program with Snack Pak 4 Kids and the San Antonio Public Library Foundation.

Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar continued to participated in a Return to Work committee for the City of San Antonio.

# **MARKETING**



Young students on break for the holidays can pick up more than just books at the library. They can also pick up some healthy snacks through the end of January.

- WOAI and KABB both wished the San Pedro Branch Library a Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in their 5
  o'clock broadcast on Saturday, November 14 and mentioned the online festivities associated with
  the anniversary.
- News 4 WOAI spoke to Dale McNeill about the Memorial Bond Project in a story about the City's ongoing Bond Projects.
- San Antonio Magazine published an article about the WWII Mural by Jesse Treviño in a piece called "5 Pieces of Art We Love."
- At the beginning of November, Multiple media outlets highlighted SAPL's Phase 3 Extended Services.
- KSAT 12 highlighted SAPL's resources for students in their KSAT Kids column on their website multiple times throughout November and December.
- WOAI and KABB both wished the San Pedro Branch Library a Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in their 5
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  o'clock broadcast on Saturday, November 14 and mentioned the online festivities associated with
  the anniversary.
- Multiple media outlets reported on SAPL's partnership with Snack Pak 4 Kids to provide snacks to area children and teens.

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

- SAPL's social media generated 349,489 impressions
- SAPL's social media following base grew by 290 new fans

 Content shared across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram contributed to users engaging with our posts 12,714 times.

#### Social Media statistics for the month:

Twitter: 5,343 followers

Facebook: 20,960 fans

Instagram: 6,657 followers

#### **Graphics**

The Graphics Team created publicity materials for a variety of programs and events during this reporting period, including graphics and materials for the Holocaust Learn & Remember series, communications to the public about Bond projects at Forest Hills, McCreless and Memorial and renovations at San Pedro; designing new wrap for the "Library on the Go" outreach vehicle; designing signage and graphics for interior improvements at Forest Hills; and creating graphics for the "Snack Paks 4 Kids" pilot program.

# **DIGITAL SERVICES**

Digital Library Services Specialist Brian Douglass and Digital Library Services Assistant Daniel Garcia attended Serials training sessions on November 4, and November 12, 2020.

On November 17 and 18, 2020, the Digital Services team worked with Collection Development to produce online links to cover images and book summaries to facilitate the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's yearly book plate event for Board Members. Due to COVID-19, the event was virtual this year.

Digital Library Services Analyst Tricia Masterson and Digital Library Services Assistant Christina Hess successfully tested the Symphony Offline Circulation process on December 12, 2020. A new "profile" for offline circulation computers was tested, as were the processes for adding transactions, uploading transactions and using Symphony Reports to update the system.

Ms. Masterson and Ms. Hess also successfully configured Bluetooth scanners to work with Library iPads and the SirsiDynix MobileCirc application. This combination will allow staff to check on items without being tied to staff computers. Technical Services are scheduled to begin testing the use of these scanner-equipped iPads soon.

On December 22, 2020, Digital Library Services Supervisor Rolf Laun performed the annual fiscal bill removal for the first time in the Symphony system. The Symphony report system allows the Library to perform this yearly task without the assistance of the vendor, greatly streamlining the process.

# LITTLE READ WAGON

November and December provided many opportunities for all Little Read Wagon (LRW) staff to continue building their virtual workshop presentation skills. Staff remains adaptable to the various quirks of Zoom, Webex, and Google Meets and the wide variety of technical glitches that occur during workshops. Despite technical challenges, over the course of two months staff provided direct outreach to 208 people and more than 50 meeting facilitators at Head Start and Preschool locations throughout the community.

Story Time delivery over Zoom continued at Navarro Early Learning Center, a San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) facility.

LRW staff is committed to providing as many resources in Spanish as possible. Eva Banda provided bilingual workshops at five campuses and is working to provide Spanish translations of flyers, videos and other LRW materials. Her language contributions are highly valued, especially as Julia Lazarin leads the way in creating a number of videos to support LRW resources that will soon be available publicly through LibGuides.

In November LRW staff recorded themselves singing with their children at home, in English and Spanish. Ms. Lazarin edited each recording together to create a bilingual video that includes clips of each LRW staffer discussing an aspect of the importance of singing with young children. The resulting video is titled "Sing With Me/Canta conmigo: Tuning in through song" and will be released during Baby Day, a virtual week of bonding and delight, in collaboration with First3Years during the week of February 7-13.

Megan Cruz held workshops with teen parents at Southwest ISD on the five early literacy practices in November and in December led a lively discussion about singing. Ms. Cruz also met virtually with SAISD teens in early December. LRW staff notice that teens are quite adept with the virtual platforms and as they become comfortable with LRW staff begin to speak up during workshops. Ms. Cruz delivered materials for each parent to create an individualized song book for their child and a board book for their home library.

Clair Larkin participated in "Measurable Equity 2020: A Virtual Conference to Advance Racial Justice." The focus was Results Based Accountability and speakers presented ongoing projects throughout the world. The conference was an exploration of how data can drive equitable decision-making processes.

# **CHILDREN'S (SYSTEM-WIDE)**

**Take-and-Make Kits:** Children's librarians from multiple locations worked to plan and prepare Take-and-Make kits to distribute system-wide. The November kit included plastic fillable eggs, jingle bells, and pipe cleaners to support noise-making creations. The Imagine, Make & Create work group produced a corresponding Sound Challenge video. In December children received a bag of 40 craft sticks and were challenged to create something. The STEAM work group put together a video explaining the challenge with sample creations to inspire.



Little Read Wagon worked with the Tiny Tots work group to assemble an early childhood sensory kit containing oversized buttons and adhesive paper. A patron shared this photo of their child enjoying the kit.

Online Programs: In addition to the now routine and regularly occurring live online programs, the Children's Services Team participated in or hosted a few special events. KLRN Education invited children's librarians to present read-alouds at three winter break programs on rockets, dinosaurs, and gardening. Also during the winter break Jr. Doctor presented two classes: Comets, Asteroids, and Meteors, and Space Stations. The San Antonio Food Bank education team presented a "Holiday Edition" Kids in the Kitchen class. The December 29 class included recipes for winter berry hats and veggie snow balls.

**Community connections:** Cresencia Huff co-presented two sessions of the November 5-6 Libraries and Learning online conference. Ms. Huff made a presentation on the StoryWalk® project with Debbie Howk of Northeast Independent School District. She also joined David Cooksey and Jennifer Velasquez to share about the Overdrive Public Library Connect project and San Antonio Public Library's plentiful online resources and programs.

# TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE) / TEEN LIBRARY @ CENTRAL

Due to the library closure, the Teen Library @ Central staff continued to work on a variety of projects and tasks that had system-wide impacts during the months of November and December

Virtual Teen Programs and Activities — The 210teenlibrary Discord workgroup, led by Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) and consisting of Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons from around the system, facilitated weekly virtual teen programs, events, and activities on Discord while also offering reference assistance. Highlights from the past two months include a special book club program featuring a Young Adult author; a live demo of the systemwide December Teen Take-and-Make Kit ("faux fur ears"); various teen-led gaming streams; and the introduction of a new button-making service for teens.

Ciana Flores (Library Assistant PT, Teen Library @ Central) continues to engage with teens via the 210teenlibrary Instagram page. Ciana takes both teen and staff content and presents it as posts and stories, as well as creating indirect programming. She continues to participate in IGTV videos with Teen Library staff. Ciana is also a part of the Teen Services Discord team and interacts with the teens on Discord to create a "virtual teen library" space. Ciana has continued to respond to the 3D printing requests from teens on the Discord server. She prints and sends the requested item out to the teens' preferred library branch for pick up. Ciana also records and submits all monthly statistics associated with the 210teenlibrary Instagram account.

For the 210teenlibrary Instagram page, Regina Almanza (Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central) has been creating graphics and videos for posts and stories, and highlighting general library services, such as enhancing BiblioCommons lists provided by the Teen Services booklist group. Regina will also evaluate and brand teen-created content for posting as well. Using trending topics as inspiration, Regina presented two Instagram LIVE programs with Ciana and Matthew, of celebratory and cultural interest. Teens are able to comment and ask questions, and most notably on one Live program, a teen stated he missed the library and enjoyed using the contact-free pickup.

JD Elizondo (Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central) continued hosting "Jam Club," a virtual program on the Teen Services Discord server, which is a combination of guitar and keyboard lessons, teencreated playlists, discussion and teens hanging out. JD is currently recording a separate video component to supplement the program, which will be posted on the 210teenlibrary Instagram and YouTube.

On Monday and Wednesday afternoons, Amisarahi Sarabia (SAPL's Teen Outreach Specialist) hosts "Quarantunes," an Instagram challenge where teens submit their favorite tunes to the 210teenlibrary account, and then Amisarahi and Matthew Loaiza create a Spotify playlist at the end of the week. She also created Instagram story templates that teens filled out and interacted with. In addition, Amisarahi

developed and posted teen-created content to upload on the 210teenlibrary Instagram page as well as activities on Instagram stories.

Virtual Teen Content and Resources — The 210teenlibrary Instagram workgroup, led by Matthew Loaiza and consisting of Teen Services Librarians and Liaisons from around the system, shared information, resources, activities, and other content for/by teens on Instagram. Highlights from the past two months include holiday-inspired crafts and recipes from teen volunteers, music questions and Spotify playlists curated by teen volunteers, and book lists covering a variety of topics (such as Native American History Month, gift crafting for the holidays, and the Top Ten 2020 books on the TAYSHAS Reading List) by staff. The workgroup is also identifying ways to expand virtual teen volunteer opportunities through the 210teenlibrary Instagram account.

**Fiesta Youth Partnership** — In late October 2020, Gideon Del Rio (Youth Facilitator, Fiesta Youth) contacted Matthew Loaiza with a request from teens at Fiesta Youth who were interested in finding LGBTQ+ young adult fantasy books similar to Harry Potter. Matthew worked with Heather Swindell (Teen Services Librarian I, Westfall) and Shannan Prukop (Teen Services Librarian I, Johnston) to create a list of relevant titles, and on November 10, Matthew and Shannan attended Fiesta Youth's weekly meeting to chat with Fiesta Youth's teens about the 210teenlibrary Discord server and Instagram account, homework help through Brainfuse, and the list of LGBTQ+ young adult fantasy books.

**System-wide Support** — JD Elizondo and Haley Holmes (Public Service Administrator) interviewed Cristian Ortiz (Library Aide, Westfall) about his MySAPL YouTube series "In the Stacks," which features SAPL staff discussing library materials for the Tuned In podcast. JD is also featured on the current episode of the series.

# **ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)**

In November, the San Antonio Public Library highlighted Native American Heritage Month in honor of the traditions of Native American cultures throughout Texas and the United States. Activities offered during the month included a weaving Take-and-Make kit that was available at all San Antonio Public Library locations, a video book review on the book Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko (Silko is from the Laguna Pueblo tribe and the book is written about the Pueblo and Navajo nations), and booklists featuring additional resources in the San Antonio Public Library collection on Native American traditions and heritage.

In December, the Library highlighted the various holidays that occur during that month - from a variety of traditions and cultures. Programs offered during the month included a session on managing holiday stress, an online holiday recipe swap, a multicultural holiday trivia event (where participants could test their knowledge of the various holiday traditions celebrated in December), and Take-and-Make craft kits offered at some San Antonio Public Library locations. The goal of the winter holiday series was to be as inclusive of as many traditions and cultures as possible.

As an extension of National Disability Awareness Month (which is celebrated in October), the Library offered three programs in November that highlighted the contributions of individuals with disabilities. On November 18, the Library hosted a panel discussion with three writers who have disabilities (two individuals who are visually impaired and one who has a physical disability); this panel discussions included readings by each writer and then a question and answer session with the audience. On November 19, two programs were offered. In the afternoon, the Library partnered with Sheryl Schroeder, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration to offer an informational session on Social

Security Benefits for People with Disabilities - this session was recorded and posted to the Library's YouTube Channel for future viewing. Finally, in the evening of November 19, the Library hosted a session about the radio play Crawl for All, produced by Austin Community College about activism by individuals with disabilities. Live captioning was offered in conjunction with all three of these programs to make them more accessible.

In November, the Library's e-sports committee coordinated additional sessions of the e-sports panel discussion (which was a series that started earlier in 2020 and has a total of nine sessions to date. These sessions were released on the Library's YouTube Channel. Episodes released in November 2020 include the future of e-sports, e-sports and diversity, e-sports and education, and e-sports leagues.

In December, the Library began offering a new, ongoing program. SAPL Crochet Circle is an informal program offered twice per month that is a gathering of those that enjoy a variety of fiber crafts - including sewing, knitting, crocheting, and many more. The first 30 minutes of the program is dedicated to demonstrating a new pattern, stitch or other related skill. The remainder of the program gives participants a chance to socialize and share the fiber craft project that they are working on. This program is offered the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 6-7 pm via Zoom.

# CENTRAL LIBRARY CHILDREN @ CENTRAL

The Central Children's department librarians worked together to present a special live Story Time for San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) staff and their families in December. The virtual Story Time was held on a Sunday afternoon, in an effort to make it available to staff who work throughout the week and are not able to attend the array of Story Times offered to the public during the week. A variety of SAPL families joined the session and enjoyed the wintery stories and songs shared by Manager Kate Simpson, Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin, and Librarians Ashley Stubbs and Olivia Escovedo.

Ms. Seglin and Ms. Stubbs were very active in online Story Times, each participating in and hosting live weekly preschool Story Times after which they interacted with the children in breakout sessions. Ms. Seglin plays an important role in scheduling and managing the registration for all Story Time programs. Ms. Stubbs supported the effort, as well as that of the Tiny Tots weekly program, by maintaining their "Books We Love" section of the LibGuides. Ms. Seglin made appearances in several Toddler Time virtual programs as well. Ms. Escovedo also presented during live Story Times in November.

Central Children's staff contributed hundreds of arts and craft kits for distribution at Central Library through the Contact Free Pickup service. The team was thrilled to assist with the Snack Pak food distribution program offered at Central Library during the December school break. They made sure that each child that received a Snack Pak also received an engaging arts and crafts kit. Library Assistant Ana Sandoval produced special kits that featured paint and paintbrushes, with open-ended prompts to get children to express themselves artistically. This innovation in art kits was commendable, as paint has not been handed out as a supply previously and children were very excited to receive it. Ms. Seglin and Ms. Stubbs also produced and processed art kits.

Librarian Olivia Escovedo provided outreach service with a special live Story Time for children at Green Acres Childcare Center, while Ms. Stubbs continued delivering bags of books to Central Christian Day School, in support of their curriculum.

Ms. Seglin produced booklists and Story Time recordings for SAPL's webpage and YouTube page. She posted a "Medical Mysteries and Breakthroughs" booklist for children, as well as two lists in collaboration with KLRN. Her "Pioneer Life" booklist supported KLRN's focus on Laura Ingalls Wilder that month, and another provided further reading related to the PBS program, "All Creatures Great and Small." Ms. Seglin was featured in two YouTube premieres. Her engaging programs of songs and rhymes centered on the stories *Hattie and the Fox* and *The Color of Night*. Ms. Escovedo also recorded a story for the Dial-A-Story service.

Ms. Stubbs and Manager Kate Simpson continued to contribute images of their children engaged in play experiences for the Play & Learn video series on the Library's website.

# REFERENCE

Online reference services continued to be a critical service in November and December, with even the slower holiday period exceeding service levels from pre-pandemic.

MarioKart tournaments continue to bring in a new crowd to the adult services group at Central. The event sees regular competitive contenders each session for several months now.

The central reference team has been working hard on collections protocols this month, trimming down our collection in order to eliminate all grubby items from our shelves prior to public getting regular access to the building again.

Librarian Cynthia DeLeon received her award for 25 years of service with the library this month.

# LATINO COLLECTION & RESOURCE CENTER

LCRC Program Manager Emma Hernandez presented multiple presentations in November for North East Independent School District classrooms sharing the cultural significance of Dia De Muertos. These presentations reached Spanish-speaking households and the teachers that serve them, offering an opportunity to connect with library users during the COVID-19 closure. Participating schools included Eisenhower Middle School, Colonial Hills Elementary School and Bonham Academy.

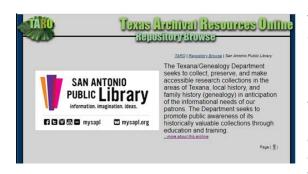
On Tuesday, November 2, The Latino Collection and Resource Center continued its partnership with Senior Planet to present a virtual screening of Macario', a 1960 Mexican supernatural drama directed by Roberto Gavaldón and starring Ignacio López Tarso and Pina Pellicer. The event was joined by over 30 participants over the age of 60 who were able to converse and share their thoughts on the classic Mexican film.

LCRC Program Manager Emma Hernandez attended Facing Race Virtual Conference from November 10-12, the largest multiracial, inter-generational gathering for organizers, educators, creatives, and other leaders. The three-day online conference offered access to information, tools, and resources on racial equity. Registration was funded by the City of San Antonio's Office of Equity.

The Latino Collection and Resource Center partnered with the World Heritage Office and La Familia Cortez to present La Gran Tamalada, a virtual celebration of all things tamales. The LCRC contributed a virtual Story Time (led by Children's Librarian Ana Menchaca) and virtual crafts led by Program Manager Emma

Hernandez. Participants were able to visit Central Library December 2-5, 2020 to pick up a free Gran Tamalada kids craft kit, which included child-sized aprons and supplies to create two (2) crafts that celebrate the tamal tradition. Kits were also made available for free at Mi Tierra, and could be delivered via Uber Eats. In total, the event served over 4,000 unique users.

# TEXANA/ GENEALOGY



During 2020 Texana staff worked together to publish a total of 16 archival finding aids that are currently accessible to researchers online via the Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) website.

Matt De Waelsche, Librarian II, was invited to speak to the San Antonio Area Retired Teachers Association (SAARTA) during their monthly meeting held virtually on November 18. His presentation informed attendees on various strategies for preserving family histories and treasures such as photographs, certificates, textiles and

electronic records. The program was attended by 32 people.

The San Antonio Public Library Foundation awarded 2020 Endowment Funding of \$9,000 to support the Texana/Genealogy Map and Poster Collection Preservation Project. The Library currently holds a large collection of maps and posters totaling over 4,400 unique items (approx. 290 linear feet of flat filing drawers). During 2021, department staff will conduct an inventory and reorganization of these oversized paper-based special collections housed in the vault. The funding will support the purchase of archival supplies and furniture (extra-large map case) to improve the quality of storage, accommodate the largest materials and complete the project.

On December 16 Librarian II Deborah Countess was recognized by Director Ramiro Salazar with the crystal book award in honor of reaching a milestone of 25-years of service with the City of San Antonio.

# **BRANCH LOCATIONS**

# **BAZAN**

Bazan Branch Training Officer Emily Flores continued to teach online Conversational English as a Second Language, Civics English as a Second Language and Advanced English as a Second Language. Long-time volunteer Karen Wyatt led the English as a Second Language Book Club and Emily facilitated. The ESL Book Club recently finished Michelle Obama's *Becoming* and is now reading *Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town*, by Warren St. John. During the month of December, Emily facilitated a series of Immigration Q and A sessions with USCIS Officers to address recent changes to the citizenship application interview and provide students with an opportunity to ask questions.

The Bazan Branch virtual book club, led by Library Assistant Enedina Prater, met in November to discuss *City of Girls* by Elizabeth Gilbert. The group reported that it was a great read and they enjoyed it very

much. Ms. Prater also led the *Bad Girls Book Club* in their discussion of Talia Hibbert's *Take a Hint, Dani Brown*. The members are all fans of audiobooks and have loved the convenience that the Libby app provides for accessing materials. The group also discussed *One Day in December* by Josie Silver in December and really enjoyed the holiday-themed read. Every winter holiday the group reads a Christmas themed romance novel, an ongoing tradition.

Coloring for grown-ups met in both November and December. Regular attendees reunited and colored away in Thanksgiving and Christmas themed coloring books while discussing their current Netflix and Hulu binges.

Children's Librarian Hope Sonnen handed out children's Take-and-Make throughout November and December. Ms. Sonnen contributed to the children's SAPL STEAM: Craft stick Creations that premiered in December via YouTube. She also contributed to the children's SAPL Imagine, Make, and Create: Small World Play that also premiered in December.

Teen Librarian Georgina Garcia visited with Tafolla Middle School's librarian Ms. Segura to discuss winter programming for teenagers. Ms. Garcia was delighted to see that Ms. Segura had posted several SAPL Teen Discord Flyers on her bulletin board and has been sharing with her staff and students what the San Antonio Public Library is offering throughout the school year. Ms. Garcia dropped off leftover summer teen reading t-shirts, along with December Take-and-Make kits to be distributed with the students. After checking in a week later, Ms. Segura let Ms. Garcia know that the t-shirts and Take-and-Make kits were all distributed. In addition, she mentioned that the principal allowed the students to wear the SAPL teen summer reading t-shirts on Fridays.

Georgina has also been hosting *Gaming Club* for teens on Saturdays on Discord. Ms. Garcia has been encouraging teens to screen share their gameplay on the 210TeenDiscord gaming server outside of *Gaming Club* to give the teens an opportunity to learn about new games and experience each other's skills with different video game genres. Several teens have taken a leap to share their gaming experience. This is a great way to build strong relationships within the gaming culture and make it accessible for teens that have an interest in gaming but don't have certain games or consoles.

In addition, Georgina partnered with Edward Mayberry from Guerra to host another Esports Podcast recording on Esports lounges and cafes. Several community Esports lounge owners joined the conversation to define gaming lounges, discuss memberships, events, and tournaments.

Teen Librarian Georgina and Dacari Lambert from Schaefer Library finished writing their manuscript entitled *Teen Participation: The Importance of a Dedicated Degreed Teen Services Librarian in Public Libraries* and submitted for review to the *Journal of Research on Libraries and Young Adults.* The journal editor reached out to let both Georgina and Dacari know that they will hear an update on their manuscript mid-January.

With support from the San Antonio Public Library Foundation and Snack Pak 4 Kids, the Bazan branch, along with other 5 other library locations were grateful for the opportunity to distribute supplemental nutrition (Snak-Paks) to kids and teens with the goal of helping kids read and learn. Hundreds of Snak-Paks were given out to children ages 4-18.

## **BROOK HOLLOW**

The Brook Hollow Branch Library served as a polling place for the General Election beginning on November 3, 2020. Voter turn-out was once again high, with lines at many times of day. Computer use by appointment began at Brook Hollow on November 4th and has proved to be a much needed resource to the community with many sessions full to capacity.

The Friends of the Brook Hollow Library donated gift cards to staff to celebrate the holidays and the branch received many cards of well wishes and thanks this holiday season.

In November, Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas wrapped up the SOW Healthy class series she cohosted with the San Antonio Food Bank. She also continued to host and present Baby Time Online-Live via Zoom every Friday morning for families with infants and toddlers. Ms. Salinas also subbed in to present at a Toddler Time Online-Live program on Zoom in December.

In December, Ms. Salinas continued to present and host children's programming for school age children including a Kids in the Kitchen program in partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank and appearing as a guest presenter for a KLRN program. At the Brook Hollow Library, Ms. Salinas along with Library Assistant Jennifer Olivarez also continued to create additional Take-and-Make craft kits for families to pick up and enjoy. She also helped to create additional bundles of library materials for children ages zero to twelve years to help patrons find new reading materials.

Teen Librarian Julia Pouliot continues to embrace the digital program offerings from teen services, this month participating in the Discord server Gaming Club on Saturdays and submitting posts for the 210teenlibrary Instagram. Ms. Pouliot made a book talk video that aired on Instagram to cross promote book lists created by SAPL teen librarians. The lists highlight certain themes and topics and can be found embedded in the library's catalog.

Ms. Pouliot met virtually with librarians of the Austin Public Library in November to discuss the outcomes of the teen summer program, and to talk about strategies going forward for this upcoming summer. Ms. Pouliot is also working with other teen librarian II's to make changes to teen librarian I's evaluations in order to reflect the landscape of programming and outreach in today's climate. She and her team are working to make sure SAPL teen librarians are getting credit for the awesome work they are doing in the virtual space for teens.

During this reporting period, Adult Services Librarian Marco De Leon continued to co-host the previously established virtual programs. There were two virtual Dungeons & Dragons where attendees expressed great satisfaction and asked for an expansion of programming. The Spyfall! virtual program also continued with great success as registration was maxed out. Patrons played along with excitement and expressed how much they appreciated that the public library was continuing to reach out to the community via the virtual realm. In December, Mr. De Leon co-hosted a new virtual program based on the popular virtual game Among Us. Participation was extremely high and patrons asked for the program to be run twice a month.

Mr. De Leon continued to host the long-standing La Tertulia Spanish language book club where the books La Hija de la chuparrosa (The Hummingbird's Daughter) and Brujas Literarias (Literary Witches) were discussed in detail. He also co-hosted the first meeting of the recently created Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book Club. The first book chosen by the book club was Skyward by Brandon Sanderson and all who attended the meeting enjoyed discussing the themes presented in the book. In December, Mr. De Leon was able to reconnect with the Mystery Book Club, another long-standing book club based in Brook Hollow, and it was agreed that the group would meet virtually beginning in January 2021.

# **CARVER**

Carver Branch Library became one of several branches to offer SAPL's new Enhanced Library Card (ELC). According to a LibGuide: "The Enhanced Library Card is a document with an individual's name, picture, and personal information that may possibly be used as a supplement with other documents to prove their identity." Customers interested in receiving this card will be able to make reservations to enter the library, sign up and have their picture made to go on the card. Other SAPL locations offering the ELC are Bazan, Johnston and Westfall.

The Snack Pak 4Kids program which kicked off in mid-December was a huge hit with families in the Carver service area. The program was designed to help combat food uncertainty in San Antonio. Leading up to the Christmas holiday, the branch reported overwhelming interest. The service was expected to be available through January. Bazan, Memorial, Westfall, Collins Gardens and Central Library also participated.

On Saturday, December 12, the branch celebrated its long-awaited 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The event was held virtually.

The branch was dedicated in April 1930 as the Colored Branch of San Antonio Public Library. Its name was changed to Carver Branch in 1938, in honor of African American scientist George Washington Carver. Prudence Lewis Curry served as its first manager. She served until 1958. Longtime Carver Branch supporter Nettie P. Hinton recalled attending Story Time as a child hosted by Curry in the 1940s. She called Curry a role model, explaining "She cared about us."

To mark the occasion, commemorative buttons and gift bags were made available to customers. Director Ramiro Salazar and Board Trustee Joanne Harris were among those congratulating the branch on its remarkable milestone of providing services to the community for nearly a century. The online celebration is still available for viewing on YouTube.

The family of the late Patricia Flynn made a \$100 donation to the branch in her memory. Flynn was a strong advocate of libraries. Her family have been huge supporters of the Carver Branch and its services for teens and young adults. The gift will bolster the branch's budget, allowing staff to make additional needed purchases. A memorial garden was dedicated in Flynn's honor in 2016.

# CODY

The Cody Branch Library served as a polling place for the General Election on November 3, 2020, serving a relatively small, but steady, stream of voters throughout the day. Cody began offering limited computer appointments on November 4, which has proved to be a popular service. Plexiglass barriers were installed at service desks on November 19<sup>th</sup>, in preparation for Phase 4 services.

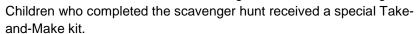
Library Assistant Roxanne Macias continued her deployment to NHSD, assisting San Antonio residents with financial assistance for housing. Staff at the branch continue to serve the community with contact free hold pick-ups and adjusted to also scheduling and offering computer appointments.

During the month of November 2020, Children's Librarian Kristin Yourdon co-hosted two online virtual programs. On November 5<sup>th</sup>, Yourdon co-hosted the SOW Healthy online virtual program, where children learned how to read seed packets to see how to care for plants as they grow and led the Adventurer's Book Club meeting on November 14th, where children discussed the book *The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman. During the meeting children learned more about India, the country where the book is set, and learned how to make recycled-paper beads.

Yourdon also put together a Corn Mosaic Take-and-Make kit for children and started passing them out on November 17th. The kit consisted of dyed popcorn kernels and a piece of paper. Children could use glue to make a pattern with the colorful popcorn kernels.

In December 2020, Yourdon participated in several online programs. Yourdon co-hosted Story Time Online on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, read the book *Ten on the Sled* by Kim Norman during Story Time Online on December 17<sup>th</sup>, and played a color scavenger hunt with some of the young patrons in the breakout room after the Story Time. Finally, Yourdon spoke briefly about SAPL resources and read *Here We Go Digging for Dinosaur Bones* during KLRN's Camp TV session on Dinosaurs on December 28th.

Working with Library Assistant Haly LeFore, Yourdon created a winter-themed scavenger hunt at the branch for children and families. Children could request a paper copy of the scavenger hunt, or scan a QR code on a smartphone to bring up a digital version of the scavenger hunt. Winter animals and snowflakes with letters on them were hidden on the exterior of the building, and children had to follow the clues to find each animal. At the end, children unscrambled the letters to figure out a secret message.





Yourdon also put together a special Take-and-Make kit for the month of December. The craft was a paper plate wreath and families had a choice of holiday or winter themed cutouts to decorate their paper wreaths – there was a cutout kit for Hanukkah, one for Christmas, one for Kwanzaa, and one for winter.

In November 2020, Teen Librarian Amy Rae Weaver worked with colleagues across the San Antonio Public Library System on several projects to provide online service to Teens. Her BiblioCommons Book Lists workgroup created multiple lists of teen fiction and nonfiction, covering subjects like Veterans Day and National Native American

Heritage Month. As coordinator for an initiative to provide reviews of recent teen books at the monthly Teen Services meeting, Weaver worked with colleagues and provided feedback on upcoming reviews. She encouraged Cody volunteers to create digital content for virtual volunteering hours and continued to promote Teen Services digital programming and Take-and-Make crafts to library patrons during contact-free holds pickup.

Throughout December 2020, Weaver continued to ensure teens have access to information and entertainment while the Cody Library is closed. During contact-free pickup, she provided teens with December's monthly Take-and-Make craft, so they could make their own animal ear hair clips. She continued to work on book lists of relevant titles for teen patrons, including books that provide handmade gift ideas for the holidays and books teens can use to learn new skills in the new year. With a new virtual volunteering-focused workgroup, she began researching and discussing ways to expand volunteer opportunities to teens during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Adult Librarian Marcella McGowan attended several professional development meetings via Zoom throughout November 2020, including: A Guide to Collaborative Leadership, Library Leadership Your Way, Staying Relevant in the Library Profession, Dismantling Institutional Racism, Engaging in the Management of Conflict, Invest in Yourself, Why are Most Librarians White Women, Why Incompetent People Think They're Amazing and Library Leaders Are Failing Librarianship: Soft Skills Needed for Human Library Leadership.

In December 2020, as a member of the Black History Committee, McGowan worked on securing virtual presenters for the February 2021 Black History month programs, securing verbal agreements from Brandon Lunsford, Johnson C. Smith University, Archivist, Julius Jefferson, Jr, current ALA President, San Antonio natives Harold Johnson and Glory Turnbull. McGowan researched a Take-and-Make family-tree project for system-wide distribution and created a Black History trivia game for a program to be presented in February. Lastly, McGowan and librarian Marco De Leon created a new podcast featuring actors, actresses, true crime stories, and resources that can be found at SAPL.

# **COLLINS GARDEN**

Collins Garden Library (CGL) hosted Bexar County Election Department Early Voting & Election Day, November 3, 2020. Bexar County 2020 Presidential Election Voting was extended three weeks due to the COVID19 Pandemic. On the last day of Early Voting and on Election Day Mariachis entertained voters standing in line. During Early Voting and on Election Day more than 7,000 Bexar County residents voted at CGL.

December 16, 2020-January 30, 2021, CGL Team supported SAPL & SAPL Library Foundation's pilot Snack Pak program providing food to the community for children/teens ages 4-18.

CGL employees Carlos Loera, library assistant, and Greg Rendon, circulation attendant, deployed to the COSA Housing Department to process housing assistance applications in Nov and Dec.

CGL CHILDREN'S Librarian Gina Brudi coordinated an installment of Story Walk in the Collins Garden Park behind CGL featuring *All Around Us* by Xelena Gonzalez and Adrianna Garcia in November. The installation was placed along the park's walking path where families could read the bilingual story. Brudi continues to engage with library families through Toddler Time Online, Make and Take Kits, and Reader's Advisory. Brudi attended Toddler Time, Juvenile and Summer Reading Club meetings. She also facilitated CGL's Nov/Dec book club via Zoom.

CGL Manager Jeannette Davies continues to be an active member of the Texas Library Association (TLA) Public Relations Committee producing TLA's Libraries Transform Texas Podcast. December's Podcast features SAPL Lib Dir Ramiro Salazar along with SAPL PSA's Haley Holmes and Cheryl Sheehan discussing SAPL's response to the COVID19 Pandemic.

Davies continues to participate in Toastmasters & hosts SAPL's Noon Time Helping of Cooking each week on Thursdays at noon. CGL Library Assistant Carlos Loera co-hosts In December, Chanukah, Christmas and Kwanza were on the menu and Thanksgiving in November. SAPL's virtual kitchen, via SAPL's website and Trumba, Library patrons sign up online to see what's cooking in SAPL's virtual kitchen. Davies made a cameo appearance in the city's *Dancing with Heroes* tribute to frontline workers partly filmed at Collins Garden Library.

Davies participated in a Zoom Meeting with the Friends of San Antonio Public Library and recorded a promo for FOSAPL's matching funds donations.

In Dec. Davies participated in the Texas Book Festival and the December Athena Readers Book Discussion re: Jennifer Weiner's *Big Summer* and SAPL Org Health Department's "12 Days of Giving"

Jernell Williams

Cate Prazak

acortes

including, sharing holiday "jelly" recipes & photos of grand pups.

Davies coordinated the SAPL Virtual Branch Manager's Holiday Event along with branch managers Monica Bustillo; Cammie Brantley; Oscar Gonzales and Tim Johnson. Davies wrote, directed a parody of SAPL searching for new Jeopardy Host; videography by Westfall Library Assistant Cristian Ortiz and emceed by CGL Library Assistant Carlos Loera. A festive time was had by all with a game of Jeopardy and holiday caroling.

CGL TEEN Services Librarian Daniella Toll packed craft kits for teens to pick up at libraries along with their books. In collaboration with Teen Services Librarian Shannan Prukup, Toll made a video for Harris Middle School's Career Day. They shared relevant information re: contact free services and library careers including, a day in the life of a librarian. Students asked questions about educational requirements and library services.

Toll assists with SAPL's weekly Dungeons and Dragons event on Discord where teens have the opportunity to problem solve, strategize, improve their social skills by working with other teens and resolving differences in game-playing strategy. In the role-playing aspect of the game, one teen commented on their character's choices and how the character was learning about good and bad and didn't always make the best choices. Through this interaction, teens learn people are not all good and bad, but are growing and learning as individuals. During lulls in the game, teens talk about school, demonstrate a commitment to school, encourage each other to make goals and use their time in constructive manners. Teens communicate time-management engaging in virtual events and practice restraint in their internet activities.

# **CORTEZ**

The staff continue to do weekly team-building events and during this period tried henna hand tattoos, worked on the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) Scavenger Hunt, and made Christmas ornaments, among other things.

The Friends of Cortez helped fund a Thanksgiving feast that was enjoyed by all staff on November 25.

Cortez Library served as a voting site on election day and though crowds were light the staff were happy to be of service.

The library was decorated for the holidays with inviting window displays, a "North Pole" exhibit, a Christmas tree, lights and garlands. Staff celebrated the holidays with a potluck breakfast and Secret Santa gift exchange on December 16.

In cooperation with the Parks Department and as a continuation of the Nature Smart Libraries initiative, the library distributed a bookmark craft featuring ethnobotany information and a bark strip to decorate for Native American Heritage Month as well as a charming kit on butterfly identification and drawing.

Branch staff were assigned dates to do presentations for the rest of the staff on ten days in December. This project was to give every staff member a chance to share anything they are interested in as well as working on public speaking skills and/or technical skills. There were presentations on Walt Disney, Sacagawea, board games, Girl Scouts, and the benefits of silence, as well as other topics.

Children in the month of November, Children's Librarian Nicole Cubillas met virtually with other Children's Librarians regarding establishing a new programming group focused on robotics and coding. Plans were made to prepare videos and curriculum promoting related activities for children aged six through tweens. Two short videos were filmed for the Small World program, featuring the use of items that might be found around the home in various common settings as imaginative play. Each video was about three minutes long and featured small dinosaur figures in an outdoor "jungle" space. The NaNoWriMo Young Writers Program met for three Zoom sessions and young attendees discussed writing projects and techniques and "talked shop" with the librarians. There was some discussion regarding establishing future programming centered around creative writing. Take-and-Make kits for sensory play were prepared for distribution. In the month of December, the Cortez Children's Librarian met virtually with other Children's Librarians to check on progress regarding digital programming with art and maker activity materials. She began preparing book lists for the BiblioCommons pages focusing on LGBTQ+ literature available at SAPL. Take-and-Make kits for home play were prepared for distribution.

Teens For the month of November sixty-five (65) Take-and-Make kits were handed out. The Teen Liaison crafts consisted of feather bookmarks, notebook covers, can-tab bracelets, and 3D hand-drawing. For the month of December, twenty-five (25) Take-and-Make kits were handed out. The Cortez Teen liaison will create more Take-and-Makes for the new year.

Adults Craft assignment emails continue to go out via email. For the month of November, the crafts were basket weaving and no-sew quilt. For the month of December, the crafts were wire ornaments and New Year's decorations. Adult Services Librarian Angela Morrow, as part of a team of three, hosted eight NaNoWriMo Story Chain virtual events during the month of November via Discord and LibWizard. Angela also moderated the December Poetry Slam and is working on the debut of her proposal to start a SAPL Writers group for Adult Services. In addition, she worked to provide KSAT with book recommendations for the upcoming year. She is working on future programming events for 2021 as well.

### **ENCINO**

Encino Children's Librarian II, Lea Ann McDonald, is continuing to lead the monthly systemwide Takeand-Make group for Spring 2021. The group is collaborating with the STEAM and Art & Maker groups to create process art kits for children age 12 and under.

Ms. McDonald is actively involved in the Art & Maker Group and the Story Time Group, creating recorded videos for (SAPL) YouTube channel and participating in Zoom training for upcoming Story Time and Art Club live online programs.

Encino branch patrons have supported the weekly children's Take-and-Make that Ms. McDonald and Librarian I/Katherine Dillard create especially for the branch, these have included: Make Your Own Felt Story, Make a Movement Dancer crafts. Over the next several months, the branch level kits will focus on

special days, including MLK day, Winnie the Pooh Day with corresponding curated book lists on BiblioCommons.

Ms. McDonald is also collaborating with Encino Adult Librarian, Ann Laird to create Intergenerational/Family Take-and-Makes.

In November and December, Adult Services Librarian Ann Laird completed two videos for the Adult Services Crafting group. The November video was DIY Fire Starters, and the December video was how to make a Sock Snowman. Both videos were released on SAPL's YouTube channel.

Ms. Laird has also been busy developing monthly branch level Take-and-Make kits for adults. In November Encino gave out toilet paper pumpkin kits. In December, Encino patrons could pick up kits for marshmallow snowflakes and/or melted crayon ornaments.

Ms. Laird also recorded *Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving* by Dav Pilkey for Dial a Story the week of Thanksgiving.

Encino celebrated 5 years of service to the Encino and surrounding community during the month of December. Staff worked in collaboration with Marketing in order to offer a virtual celebration via SAPL's Facebook page, and staff also handed out 100 goodie bags to patrons on December 5.

Encino was selected as a voting site for the special election for Alamo Colleges trustees in early December. Early voting started out slowly, but by voting day, the numbers had increased substantially.

### **FOREST HILLS**

Forest Hills Branch Library continued to offer interim service while undergoing renovations funded by the City of San Antonio's 2017-2022 Bond Program. Renovations are expected to continue through January 2021. Contact-Free Pickup service for holds and outdoor Wi-Fi access continued to be offered with adjusted hours. Book drops remained available for patrons returning items to the library.

The building underwent a major transformation as new paint and carpet slowly transformed the space. Shelving placement created new spaces in every corner of the library.

Branch Manager Mary Naylor hosted a Zoom Book Club for the Doris Griffin Senior Center on November 30. The senior participants enjoyed being able to connect with the library while remaining safely at home. Many seniors have been isolated from friends and family during the pandemic and the chance to interact with others is vital to their mental health. The book club members were excited to interact with their friends. After the meeting Mrs. Naylor received a note from one of the participants expressing her gratitude to the library and excitement over discovering a new found love of reading. The group will meet again on January 25 for a discussion of "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens.

Children's Librarian Ana Menchaca continued to participate in Children's Services work groups to provide virtual programming to the community. She participated in Virtual Story Time and had a wonderful time reading stories and engaging with children. She is currently busy with the other children's librarians developing more Spanish content for children's services.

# **GREAT NORTHWEST**

Great Northwest Branch Library Children's librarian Cari Raley has sent 222 digital kits with activities for families to do at home together for infants to tweens. The community patrons have enjoyed the surprise book bundles that library staff have picked for them to check out and take home. Several families have called for one each week. The entire juvenile collection of books and program supplies has been hand-checked to ensure all books and items are up to date and in good condition.

During November, Teen librarian Chris Castillo hosted five virtual programs on the 210teenlibrary Discord server, including Teen Time and Gaming Club. Teens participated in the planning and implementation of ongoing gaming, scholarly discussions, and shared what they were cooking for Thanksgiving. Teen Moderators on Discord discussed issues surrounding the artificial intelligence bot installed on the server and offered suggestions to improve general chat. At the branch, Teens collected DIY Take-and-Make kits.

During December, Mr. Castillo hosted five virtual programs on the 210teenlibrary Discord server. During Teen Time, teens participated in devising and implementing ongoing gaming, discussed the end of the school semester, applying for college, and shared what they were doing for the holiday break. Teen Moderators addressed concerns as they arose and offered recommendations to develop the Teen channels. At the branch, Teens collected 42 DIY take-home craft kits. This number was the highest of teen kits distributed all season.

Assistant manager and Adult Services librarian Stephanie Vazquez distributed Take-and-Make kits in November for Native American Heritage Month that included a weaving craft. Ms. Vazquez created a simple how-to guide on embroidery that is easy enough for those who may not consider themselves 'crafty.' The video is now on the San Antonio Public Library's (SAPL) Craft Demos YouTube playlist.

Ms. Vazquez also premiered six episodes of the Esports Panel Discussions on the SAPL Virtual Programming YouTube playlist that included topics on the future of Esports in San Antonio, Esports and diversity, Esports and education, and Esports leagues in San Antonio.

Ms. Vazquez created Winter Holiday Take-and-Make kits for December. The branch distributed 60 kits that included a variety of paper crafts such as snowman garland, paper village, and a snow globe.

Library assistants Kathleen Marascio and Cassandra Garza hosted a SAPL Spelling Bee with assistance from Ms. Vazquez. The theme for this spelling bee was outer space. Ms. Marascio debuted a video on the SAPL Craft Demos YouTube playlist on how to create a beautiful and affordable holiday wreath from found and recycled items.

# **GUERRA**

Guerra Branch Library welcomed the installation of plexiglass at service points on November 18. The staff was recognized on November 24 with a Paleta Party for 100% participation in the Charitable Campaign.

Branch Manager Monica Garza Bustillo participated in the Texas Book Festival including November 10 Family Ties with Amanda Eyre Ward and Phoebe Fox, November 12 *The Vanishing Half* with Brit Bennett in Conversation and *Sex and Vanity*: New Work from Kevin Kwan. On November 13 Ms. Bustillo attended the HarperCollins Winter 2021 Children's Book review and the COSA Toastmasters meeting. Ms. Bustillo facilitated the Athena Readers Book Discussions on November 18 where participants discussed *Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline and The *Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett and again on December 16 where Jennifer Weiner's *Big Summer* was discussed. On December 2 Ms. Bustillo attended the Penguin Random House Morning Book Buzz then the Library Board meeting that same afternoon. Ms. Bustillo

enjoyed the "12 Days of Giving" event hosted by OHU where staff shared holiday recipes, photos of pets and ideas to get outdoors. On December 9 Ms. Bustillo attended the Wellness event: Healthy Eating for the Holidays presented by YMCA SA! Ms. Bustillo, Collins Garden Branch Manager Jeannette Davis and Cortez Branch Manager Cammie Brantley coordinated a festive Holiday event for managers on December 11 with the assistance of Igo Branch Manager Tim Johnson and Mission Branch Manager Oscar Gonzales. Ms. Bustillo attended the Federal Trade Commission's webinar "Identity Theft & Coronavirus Scams" on December 17. Ms. Bustillo also attended the Adult Programming Meeting on December 17. On December 18 Ms. Bustillo participated in a joint Toastmasters meeting with SAPL and COSA clubs.

Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson continued collaborations with her work groups and Teams members to provide virtual program options. She collaborated with Jasmin Salinas to provide ZOOM hosting training for team members who expressed an interest in training. On a weekly basis, Ms. Richardson added curated programs and videos from the group to the preschool LibGuide and she also updated the Early Literacy Tips page of the guide. Ms. Richardson contributed weekly contributions to Toddler Time Online – Live programs... presenting and co-hosting. On November 5, she co-hosted the final "Sow Healthy – Garden to table" program facilitated by The SA Food Bank. Ms. Richardson curated



three more Toddler programs to add to the Preschool LibGuide. On December 10, she co-hosted Story Time Online – Live. On December 15, Ms. Richardson completed Mental Health First Aid Training- She designed and created 30 December crafts for kids. Patrons have been enjoying the Make and Take craft kits and have shared their appreciation and photos of their at home creations with her.

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson, assisted the Willie Cortez Senior Center in preparing and distributing meals for senior citizens on November 13, 20. He recorded *Lina Catarina* (Lina Ladybug) by Jennifer Boni and Carlos Vélez on November 17. He assisted the Willie Cortez Senior Center again with meals on November 20. He recorded *Mi abuela tiene*...(My grandma has ...[Alheimer's]) by Véronique Van den Abeele and Claude K. Dubois on November 20 for Dail-a-Story in Spanish. He assisted the senior center with meals a

third time on November 23. He recorded *¡Se busca! Lili la liebre, ladrona de libros(Wanted! Ralphie Rabbit book burglar)* by Emily MacKenzie on December 11. On December 15 he recorded *El rey de las pequeñas cosas (The king of little thin*gs by Bil Lepp). He assisted the Willie Cortez Senior Center with meals again on December 17.

# **IGO**

Igo library was one of the busiest early voting centers for the presidential election and it was also one of polling centers for election day. 21,317 people voted at Igo branch library during the early voting period putting Igo branch library on top of the list.

Children's Librarian Carrie Vance continues to co-facilitate both Baby Time Online-Live and Toddler Time Online-Live programming with Children's Librarians from across the system. Ms. Vance also collaborated with Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas on a Maker Kit that featured yarn and burlap for an exploratory stitching project.

Ms. Vance still facilitates The Stitchery, where members can work on all types of stitching projects. Members of the group range in age from early 20s through upper 70s and the group spent much discussion in November and December on baking and mailing traditions. Younger members were quite interested in the tradition of sending baked goods to loved ones across the country when they don't even know the addresses of their friends. Another frequent topic in the group are different math topics as members help one another to adjust patterns to sizes that will fit them or fix mistakes.

The Igo Library Elderberries arranged a couple of art clubs for seniors who worked on different kinds of arts projects in December. This dedicated group of enthusiastic participants are meeting once a month to continue to practice the art principles and techniques they have learned.10 people participated in the December club.

Adult services librarian Gamini Haluwana co-hosted an online Zoom program for Public on general wellness. Keith Thibodeaux-, the City Of San Antonio's Health and Wellness expert presented this program on Zoom. The title of the program was "Have Stress or Does Stress Have You?" During the program Keith discussed the causes of stress, effects of stress, mood, food & stress & stress management techniques. Eight attendees enjoyed this program.

# **JOHNSTON**

Johnston Library hosted 660 voters on Election Day, November 3. For the Alamo Colleges Trustee Runoff Johnston hosted both Early Voting (November 30 through December 8) and Election Day (December 12), a total of 95 voters.

Interim Branch Manager and Adult Service Librarian Cristine Mitchamore revised the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) Happy Holidays LibGuide and created book lists in BiblioCommons spotlighting titles about Winter holidays for patrons. Mx. Mitchamore created the "Winter Holidays" list that was displayed on Overdrive's splash page in early December. On December 4, Mx. Mitchamore helped moderate the "Winter Holiday: Manage Holiday Stress" event. Mx. Mitchamore contributed suggestions to the list submitted to KSAT for their new book club and created a LibGuide highlighting resources for upcoming KLRN programming. Mx. Mitchamore continued to participate in the library's GoodReads group, prompting and moderating discussions.

Teen librarian Shannan Prukop continued preparing and shipping out the December teen Take-and-Make kits in November, including creating a how-to video to post on the @210teenlibrary Instagram account to accompany the live program on the teen Discord server. Mx. Prukop worked with Daniella Toll to create a video for IDEA Schools' virtual Career Day outreach, showing teens what teen librarianship looks like during COVID. In early December, Mx. Prukop served as a science fair judge for the John Jay Academy middle and high school fair, giving insight into how teens have coped with learning and participating digitally. Throughout November and December, Mx. Prukop continued to run the Tryday Friday program for teens on the Discord server, curating new potential games for teens and adapting some games for online play. Mx. Prukop also continued assisting the teen book list workgroup.

Children's Librarian Tiffany Durham continued working with various Children's Services work groups to provide virtual program and Take-and-Make kits for the community. She collaborated with fellow children's librarians as the host and back-up host on Fridays for Baby Time Online Live on ZOOM. Miss Tiffany provided play prompt content for the Play and Learn videos which premiered on SAPL's YouTube channel every other Friday in November and December. In December Miss Tiffany started a storyZOOMtime outreach for homeschooling families with Lisa Taylor from the Parman Branch. The fun and energetic Zoom sessions included stories, songs, flannel boards, dance parties and story extenders on various topics. Miss Tiffany was a back-up presenter on December 22<sup>nd</sup> for KLRN Winter Fun Zoom: Rocket Fun and co-presenter on December 28<sup>th</sup> for KLRN Winter Fun Zoom: Gardening with Nature Cat. She recorded books for Dial-A-Story. Miss Tiffany designed and created supplemental Take-and-Make kits for Johnston patrons. For example, in November Miss Tiffany's craft was mask-laces kits with beads, lanyard hooks and elastic jewelry cording and during the latter part of December New Year's Eve top hats made from plastic cup, black construction and metallic garland were offered. Many patrons who have received kits continue to express their gratitude for all the Take-and- Make kits.

Library Assistant, Elsy Jackson translated the Book Bundle Activities Sheets for the Children's Librarians into Spanish. Ms. Jackson serves as a regular contributor to *Telecuentos* (*Dial-a-Story*) and recorded four books, including El patito bello by Yanitzia Canetti on November 13 and *El milagro de la Flor de Nochebuena* edited by Jesús Araujo on December 8.

# **LANDA**

Children's Librarian Robin Alcorta created an online bibliography for the Botanical Gardens tropical rainforests room. Kids will visit the several exhibits and be able to read more in-depth information about each room with each bibliography. Other Children's Librarians contributed to the exhibit.

Ms. Alcorta worked with Library Aide Carye Bye to create wonderful holiday book bundles for families. Book bundles included books and holiday DVDs. The items had to be restocked multiple times during the month.

Teens continued to request Take-and-Makes at Landa with December's Cosplay Kit being named a favorite so far. Working with Children's Librarian, Robin Alcorta, Library Assistant and Teen Liaison, Rebekah Corley, helped to provide teens and tweens with reading recommendations, putting together personalized book bundles for pick-up and receiving lots of positive feedback for the service! In November, Ms. Corley was awarded a registration grant to attend the annual Young Adult Library Services (YALSA) Symposium, an awesome opportunity to engage with YA service leaders and colleagues nationwide and discuss creative ways to facilitate library services for and with teens.

Landa's long-standing book clubs continue to meet online. Reader's Ink read Jill Biden's biography, Where the Light Enters, the story of her life with then Senator/Vice-President Joe Biden and his family. The Mystery Book Club read the very first of the Alphabet Mysteries by the late Sue Grafton, A is for Alibi. Unfortunately, the book club at The Village at the Incarnate Word had to cancel.

The very "crafty" Shirley Morrison showed her versatility by presenting a program on creating gift baskets—just in time for the holidays.

Adult Services concluded its observance of Native American Month. Landa Adult Services Librarian created the craft for this annual initiative—a weaving craft.

# LAS PALMAS

Children's Librarian Valerie Shelley created numerous "Take-and-Make" kits for the Children's Department and for the Las Palmas Branch in November. Forty-one children department kits and twenty-seven Las Palmas kits were distributed in November and December. She continues to work on the Story Time, and the Babies and Toddlers Committees, creating curated activities for the internet programming offered to the public and participating in the Online Toddler Time live programs. Three more of her curated programs went up on the internet entitled "Foods" in November and "Let's play Basketball" and "Days of the Week" in December.

Teen Services Librarian Connie Hejl helped moderate several virtual programs in December, such as The Dungeons & Dragons game, the Speak Geek Fireside Chat, and the teen Random Fandom virtual event. She also collaborated in a holiday program at Las Palmas where she invited a "socially distant" Santa Claus to the branch. Connie has been working on promoting "Pop Madness", and on facilitating the Cosplay Contest.

# **MAVERICK**

Often circulation tends to curb a bit during the winter holiday season however, despite the covid-19 situation, Maverick customers continue reserving many items and using the public library computers. Many customers continue voicing interest in wanting to browse the shelves and return into the library. It's a positive indication the Maverick community eagerly waits for the library to fully reopen its doors in the future.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Maverick hosted the Bexar County Elections Department for Election Day. Children's Librarian II, Amy Roberts, opened the branch at 6 am to accommodate the presiding judges. Phase 3 of library services began November 4 and brought new changes to Maverick-the addition of computer appointments. All Maverick staff have assisted with making appointments. In effort to maintain a safe environment, reference staff are checking patrons' temperature and following the protocol provided to allow computers users to safely enter the building.

Ms. Roberts completed many projects and programs during the reporting period. She created two online curated Story Times for the Tiny Tots committee's page. She read "Turkey Tot" for Dial-A-Story on November 20. Ms. Roberts assembled 72 Take-and-Make Kits for school-aged children and 28 Sensory Kits for babies/toddlers, all of which were in demand and distributed within a week! She also created a stand-alone branch craft for 40 kids for the month of December. The Children's Librarian had her first ever online Career Day for Ward ES on November 13. It was different but enjoyable!

November brought a new face to the Maverick Zoom Teen Times – a 15-year-old California cousin of one of the regular Teens. Teens engage with each other primarily with free on-line games, played through Zoom. However, most meetings start with Library Assistant Bleichwehl asking each one to share any updates on new books, movies, music or hobbies. Teens have shown each other their artwork, musical instruments and school projects. This month they saw one Teen's self-proclaimed 'nerd drawing,' a realistic and highly detailed battle scene from the Star Wars movie, The Rise of Skywalker.

December brought back a visitor, a former 'regular' who graduated in the spring and was home from college for his winter break. His younger sister attends the Zoom Teen Times and through her he requested entry. Bleichwehl allowed him to attend via Zoom as a guest and asked him to share any tips for those who are also college bound. His advice to the group was to not let themselves fall behind in work and to make sure they communicate with their professors if they fall ill and miss class.

December Zoom meetings included a new online game, Skribbl, recommended by the Teen from California. It is much like an online version of Pictionary, with a few enhancements. Skribbl doesn't allow for players to form teams; players are competing for points by drawing a word or concept that the others must guess, and those who guess correctly soonest receive the most points. Interestingly, Bleichwehl has not heard any Teen boast for winning this game. Rather, Maverick Teens encourage one another instead of competing.

# **McCRELESS**

McCreless Branch Library is currently undergoing renovations funded by the 2017 Bond Project and continued to offer Contact-Free Pickup service to the community during the renovation. This month the branch had a new roof installed and had the library cleared out for further renovations. McCreless staff assisted at several other branches, Central Library, and even the Neighborhood Housing Services department.

Staff has handed out several Take-and-Make crafts for children, teens and adults.

Circulation Attendant Linda Rodriguez contributed to Telecuentos on November 6th reading Como se cuidan los dinosaurios by Jane Yolen; and Circulation Attendant Lilliana Aguilar contributed to Telecuentos reading on December 1st the book Que puedes hacer con una paleta by Carmen Tafolla.

Library Assistant Joseph Gonzales attended December's Pop Culture Committee meeting to discuss upcoming Speak Geek and Among Us Programs. He also attended multiple 12 days of Giving online programs where he submitted a winter recipe for Pumpkin Crisp and shared a holiday pet photo for the program. Mr. Gonzales also helped with his input with the Symphony Fiscal Process meeting held by Training Officer Laura Villanueva.

Librarian Cristiane Yamada Lokensgard pre-recorded a video on how to make candles using beeswax which was released on November 13. Ms. Yamada Lokensgard also created and assembled a Christmas Candy Coin Wrapper as a Christmas Take-and-Make during the month of December. She also helped to assemble the Take-and-Make celebrating Native American Heritage.

#### MEMORIAL

Children's Librarian Christine Deffendall reviewed *After the Kill*, by Darrin P. Lunde, for the Children's Services Blog on December 1. Also, on December 1, Mrs. Deffendall co-hosted the third session of the Young Writers Club via Zoom. Throughout the month of December, she participated in two Toddler Time online sessions and two Story Time online sessions. Mrs. Deffendall also recorded a Dial-a-Story on Christmas Day, *Christmas for Bear*, by Bonnie Becker.

Adult services Librarian Freddy Hudson assisted in creating virtual adult programs. One is the Cinema Terrible and their discussion focused on the recently released *Santa Claus vs. The Devil.* 

The branch is one of 6 branches that are offering Snack treats for children. This endeavor started during the holidays when schools were closed for the holidays. The snack pack provides nutrition to children between the ages of 4 years to 18 years of age along with an age appropriate book. As most of the children living within the boundaries of the branch are on the free lunch program and the schools are closed they have no other avenue for nutrition when their parents are at work. During the month of December, the branch provided 724 Snack Pak treats to children in the community.

# **MISSION**

Mission Branch Library was a hosting site for the Presidential Election. The election judges informed the library that Mission was among the busiest voting locations in the area.

Library staff at Mission continue to be resourceful and have had plenty of available Take-and-Make kits for the public; whether customers are picking up reserved items or are just picking up the Take-and-Make kits only. Some of the kits included: DIY Bird Feeders, DIY Fall Garland, K-Pop kits, Bullet Journaling kits, Origami, and more.

Circulation Attendant, Briana Rangel, has begun a unique community program which connects interested members of the community to each other who wish to become 'Pen Pals.'

Children's Take-and-Make Kits are popular. 100 given out in November and 100 in December. Children's librarian, Jane Miller, participates in a weekly Zoom Baby Time that has had a good turnout.

Teen Services Librarian, Cindy Cruz, hosted an author event on the Teen Services Discord Channel. Cindy and two teen volunteers welcomed YA author, Ruth Mini, to speak to aspiring teen writers about the writing and publishing process.

### PAN AMERICAN

During the months of November and December, the Pan American Branch Library continued to provide a variety of services and resources to the community. While adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols, the branch offered "contact-less" pickup of library materials, limited computer access by appointment, and various "Take-and-Make" activities for children, teens, and adults. In November, the San Antonio Public Library also celebrated Native American Heritage month with educational activities for the community.

During the month of November, Pan American Library Assistant Cassie Garza assisted staff at the Great Northwest Branch Library with a space themed virtual spelling bee. The virtual spelling bee consisted of words that related to space and was geared towards people ages 10yrs and up. Participants had to register for the event to either be a contestant or spectator. This program used Zoom to video chat between library staff and participants.

During the month of November and December, Ms. Garza facilitated teen time program in a box for Pan American teens. The box of programs contained an activity and craft that Pan Am teens had requested prior to the COVID-19 closures. Teen volunteers also provided feedback on the craft and activities kits, which will be used to shape and improve the overall teen time program in a box experience.

Ms. Garza has also continued to maintain contact with local school librarians. Leal Middle School librarian Roxie Martinez agreed to post all SAPL teen digital flyers and SAPL service information on the school's weekly blog. Teen volunteer Nancy Rodriguez-Guzman also assisted with digital marketing of teen time activities by sharing digital information with Harlandale ISD school librarians.

#### **PARMAN**

In November, after several weeks of early voting, Parman branch had a great privilege to be a voting site for the Presidential election. The turnout was exceptional, so much so both meeting rooms were given to the Bexar County Judges to accommodate the large number of voters.

The Winter Walk is a Hallmark of the season at Parman Library and this year was no different. Due to the pandemic we focused more on providing an opportunity to experience the walk while maintaining social distancing guidance. The holiday scenes were placed 6 feet apart and this year there were more lights used than ever before, making this Winter Walk the brightest and most colorful it has ever been. Over 100 people daily visited the walk and many complimented the library staff how thankful they were to the branch for creating a safe experience they can still enjoy with friends and family in these difficult times. This Festival of Lights would not be possible without the community engagement and donations.

Since in-person programming is still not possible, patrons enjoy the monthly crafts prepared by our librarians. The crafts are so popular, that Parman Staff is daily adding more to the table to meet the demand. We have crafts for all ages. Adult Services Librarian Monty shared with our adult patrons' craft, with a highly popular weaving pattern, honoring the Native American Heritage Month. In December he provided a variety of holiday crafts. All of them were disappearing fast. Parman Children's Librarians Teague and Lisa shared several fall themed crafts in November, including placemats, napkin rings, turkey hats and porcupines. SAPL Children's Services provided a sensory craft for children exploring sound. The make-your-own porcupine craft complemented a brand new Storywalk® that Lisa and Teague placed on the trail: Porcupine's Pie. In December two winter crafts were provided—a special mitten craft and a make-your-own-winter-forest craft that tied in with the monthly Storywalk®, The Wish Tree by Kyo Maclear. Many families while walking the trail enjoyed the story and lights and some left positive feedback in a virtual guest book created by Lisa.

Lisa continued as Co-Lead for the Children's Services Editing Work Group reviewing and editing recorded programs and organizing the YouTube premieres. Teague furthered her work on the tween LibGuide as co-lead of the group and debuted a new book talk for the middle grade novels discussing mental health. As co-lead of the Tween Work Group, Teague worked with her team and debuted her own virtual event on December 10. For Pop Rocks: Among Us Rock Painting and More, Teague showed tweens how to paint popular characters on rocks. The San Antonio Food Bank (SAFB) offered a special Holiday Kids in the Kitchen class which Teague happily helped moderate and she also joined in the December 29 Jr. Doctor class to moderate, as well. SAPL Children's Services provided a STEAM Craft Stick Construction craft and 100 of these kits were picked-up by patrons. Teague and Lisa made an extra-long chalk obstacle course leading up to the library that encouraged literacy in children while getting physical outdoors! The Children's Librarians also reached out to local elementary, middle and high schools to supply information about SAPL's services during COVID to distribute to families.

During the month of November, Monty served on the Adult Services Native American Heritage Month committee. Besides building, updating and maintaining the website to which all the events were featured, Monty also created an online Native American Book Review of the novel Ceremony that was linked to this site and featured on SAPL's YouTube channel. Mr. Holcomb also assisted in writing the instruction sheets for the Native American Weaving Craft that the committee created for all the branches, and he helped in the selection of the Native American Fiction and Non-Fiction online book lists.

# **POTRANCO**

The Potranco Branch library has started their Wall of Warmth, which was started last year. The Wall of Warmth provides patrons in need with warm weather accessories that can help during the cold winter months. Items are crotched by Potranco staff, the SAPL Crochet Circle and are donated by the community. All items are guarantined for 96 hours before being made available to the public.

Circulation Attendant Miranda O'Neill hosts a bi-weekly virtual crocheting club, along with other librarians from across SAPL. The SCC members spend their sessions exchanging patterns and sharing tips and their experiences with this yarn based hobby.

Children's Librarian Monica Huerta facilitated four live programs and two pre-recorded programs during the months of November and December 2020. Ms. Huerta and her Tween Work Group team hosted three live programs via Zoom titled "Young Writers Club" in honor of National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). The three programs focused on teaching children about the writing process and encouraging them to share what they had authored. Furthermore, swag bags were made available for children to pick up at their local library which included more NaNoWriMo information.

In addition to live programming, Ms. Huerta released two pre-recorded craft videos titled "DIY Moss Reindeer Ornament" and "DIY Glue Gun and Glitter Snowflake." Both programs were featured on the library's YouTube channel and posted as virtual programs to the All Things Tween LibGuide.

In order to engage the local community, Monica and Children's Librarian Jackie Gonzalez, put together Take-and-Make crafts where children got to make their own wreaths.

Monica hosted the second meeting for her "Sci-Fi & Fantasy Book Club" where customers were able to meet virtually through Zoom and discuss the book "Skyward" by Brandon Sanderson.

Teen Services Librarian Jenny Borrero continued to supply the Potranco teens with crafting kits and online activities. During November and December, the teen Take-and-Make kits were all distributed. Additionally, Teen Librarian Jenny Borrero added an additional 25 Color Me Snow Globes crafting kits due to the high demand. Teens were encouraged to draw their own picture and place it in the snow globe.

Library Assistant Lisa Leandro hosted the monthly Potranco Book Clubs via Zoom. This book club focuses on both Fiction and Non-Fiction books, the only criteria is that they are under 300 pages. The focus on shorter books has led to more members being able to complete the books and engage in livelier discussions.

Lisa also hosted the Adult Virtual Coloring Club. This program has a legion of loyal attendees. The coloring group catch up with each other and socialize while working on coloring pages. Some of the members have expanded their coloring toolset and began to use watercolors and acrylic paints.

# PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS

Children's Services created and distributed six different Take-and-Make craft kits for toddlers and schoolage children. The focus of November's crafts was Native American heritage and Thanksgiving, and crafts included a Native American themed spin drum and Navajo sand painting supplies. A total of 125 kits were given away during curbside pickup. Children's Librarian Lucy Humphrey hosted the monthly virtual *Tween Book Club*. November's selection was *A Good Kind of Trouble* by Lisa Moore Ramée and participants discussed politics, finding your voice, and how difficult it can be to stand up for what is right.



In December, Children's Services created six different winter themed Take-and-Make crafts and gave away 175 craft kits during curbside pickup. Children's Librarian Lucy Humphrey also delivered 30 books to Spicewood Elementary as winter holiday reading incentives. The virtual Tween Book Club discussed *Dead Voices* by Katherine Arden. This month's book was selected by long-time book club member Tanielle and is the sequel to October's *Small Spaces*.



Pruitt Teen Services conducted one virtual program in November, a virtual jigsaw puzzle hangout. Teen Librarian Sheri Watkins continued outreach with Lopez Middle School, co-hosting two sessions of *Manga Club* with Lopez Middle School's librarian featuring character trivia via Kahoot. Teen Services staff distributed 37 Take-and-Make craft kits curbside.

Teen Services provided Virtual Hour of Code programming in December in concert with the Hour of Code initiative, a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code," and show that anybody can learn the basics (see hourofcode.com). Joint sponsorship of the Manga Club with Lopez Middle School continued. In support of teen academic goals at Roosevelt High School, the Teen Librarian curated SAPL resources and booklists for English IV classroom teachers to share and use with their students. Teen services also distributed 65 Take-and-Make craft kits.

Marbled Christmas Ornaments with Nail Polish



Adult Services held two virtual events in November. The *TGIF Book Club* met and discussed *Circe*. Participants unanimously said it was the most engaging book covered since taking the program online. Molly Pruitt and Potranco staff co-hosted the weekly *Adult Virtual Coloring* program on Fridays. Adult Services handed out 104 adult Take-and-Make craft kits (beaded pumpkins and corn, and Native American weaving). Adult Services Librarian Paula Opiela also made a video for the SAPL Crafting Online Programming Workgroup, which was posted on the mysapl YouTube site Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>. SAPL Adult Virtual Programming: Recycled Card Ornament, Adult Services Assistant Catrina Grivich and substitute

staff member Lydia Perez made a Winter welcoming display for library staff and Roosevelt teachers and students.



In December, Adult Services co-hosted guest presenter Shirley Morrison's *Create a Gift Basket* with Landa Librarian Karen Sebesta. The *TGIF Book Club* discussed Alexander McCall Smith's *La's Orchestra Saves the World*. Molly Pruitt and Potranco staff co-hosted the weekly *Adult Virtual Coloring* program on Fridays, which was featured in the Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> "Top Selections this Week for Adults" SAPL newsletter. Adult Services handed out 93 adult Take-and-Make craft kits (snow globes, coffee filter trees, and Santa draw bags).

The Pruitt website went live! https://pruittlibrary.com/ Pruitt branch also opened for computer use appointments Tuesday through Saturday, and continued community outreach for Family Chess Night's return by providing chess sets, Pruitt- and Roosevelt-based virtual chess room information fliers, and meals via curbside delivery.

# **SAN PEDRO**

The historic San Pedro Branch celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of opening on Saturday November 14. The celebration was mostly online, with the production of two videos – a historic look at the branch over time, and an interview with retired local architect Paul Kinnison, Jr. whose firm designed the major renovation and historical restoration of the library in 2006-2007. Both videos were produced by Karen Braeuler, Children's Librarian at San Pedro and Greg Cruz, Circulation Attendant at the Landa branch library. The celebration page is available here: https://guides.mysapl.org/SanPedro90th Goodie boxes were made available to patrons through contact free pickup as an added treat. Our partners at the Parks and Recreation Department also contributed three activity videos covering book making, science, and fitness.

The branch welcomed a new permanent manager, Nathaniel Laubner, who was previously manager at Westfall and Pan American.

Children's Services Librarian Karen Braeuler co-hosted the monthly live online program Adventurers Book Club. November's book was The Bridge Home, a 20-21 Texas Bluebonnet nominee. The book takes place in India and follows a group of homeless children who make a different kind of home and family of their own on the streets. These programs have been well received by participating kids.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, San Pedro Branch Library closed for renovation work to include: exterior painting, electrical enhancements, outdoor lighting, HVAC, restoration of windows and grill work and more. The work coincides with work on San Pedro Park which includes a new parking lot for the library. Staff was dispatched to branches across the system and to other city entities.

#### **SCHAEFER**

During the reporting period, Children's Librarian Leslie Elsasser was involved in a number of online programs for the public. She is a member of the Story Time workgroup and participated in Story Time online on Thursday mornings in November and December as a host twice and as a presenter once. She also made virtual visits to Evelyn King, a childcare center that she used to visit in person monthly before the pandemic. On Nov. 18 and Dec. 9, she did Story Time for the children, and on Dec. 9, she spoke at a parent meeting and promoted library services that are currently available and told them how to get library cards. Little Read Wagon provided a packet of information for all the parents who attended the meeting. She is a member of the Salado Elementary School Site-Base Committee, which met on Google Meet on Dec. 7. She is a co-lead of the Summer Reading 2021 committee, and the group has been meeting to work on plans for the upcoming summer. She continues to work on the children's sections of the SAPL is Here for You LibGuide and write blogs for the children's page of mysapl.org as well. Schaefer patrons continue to appreciate the Take-and-Make kits that are provided by Children's Services. The kits for babies and toddlers have also been popular.

In the months of November and December, Dacari Lambert, the Teen Librarian for Schaefer branch successfully advocated for two computers from the teen space to be added to the computer appointment availability for teen patrons. Dacari partnered with East Central High School school Librarian to promote teen computer availability and teen programming with East Central High School Students. Dacari worked alongside Teen Librarian Georgina Garcia to write and submit a research paper to the Journal of Research on Libraries and Young Adults. Additionally, Dacari has started to help with system-wide teen programming through virtual platforms.

Library Assistant BlancaSilvia Hernandez submitted the following playlists for Schaefer's "I C Vinyl (Digital Edition)" bi-weekly program for adults and seniors:

- Veteran themed the week of November 9th.
  - 23 patrons clicked on the playlist to enjoy the music and
  - 12 patrons clicked on the catalog list to browse SAPL's collection of related items.
- De-stress themed the week of November 25th.
  - 16 patrons clicked on the playlist to enjoy the music and
  - o 8 patrons clicked on the catalog list to browse SAPL's collection of related items.
- Schaefer Staff Favorites themed the week of December 11th.
  - o 18 patrons clicked on the playlist to enjoy the music and
  - o 5 patrons clicked on the catalog list to browse SAPL's collection of related items.

As members of the Winter Holiday Adult Initiative, Library Assistant Blanca Silvia Hernandez created and assembled Take-and-Make Craft Kits for six library branches to distribute to patrons. Fellow committee member Maria Adams provided excellent support prepping paracord for the dragonfly and Christmas tree craft and using her sewing skills to create a sample and sewing instructions for the stuffed felt owl craft. Library Aides Monica Macias, Dillon Martinez and Kaila Martinez provided support by creating samples of our paracord Christmas tree and pre-cutting all the felt pieces for our stuffed felt owl craft.

Librarian Maria Adams hosted another round of SAPL Live Trivia with fellow librarians, Brooke Mjolsness, Vicky Villalobos, and Morgan Yoshimura on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. The team also hosted the final SAPL Live Trivia program of 2020 on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

On Friday, December 4th, Librarian Maria L Adams co-facilitated a holiday stress management program, led by Blanca Silvia Hernandez. The program presented tips and techniques useful to managing holiday stress.

On Tuesday, December 8th, Librarian Maria Adams led a recipe swap program as part of the Winter Holiday's annual initiative. Fellow staff members, Blanca Silvia Hernandez and Cristine Mitchamore provided exceptional support during the program by leading a discussion about the recipes that had been submitted.

Librarian Maria Adams co-moderated the final Winter Holiday annual initiative program. The program was led by Cynthia DeLeon, with fellow committee members Blanca Silvia Hernandez and Cristine Mitchamore. Multicultural Winter Holiday Trivia Night was presented on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Participants were presented with multicultural trivia questions highlighting a broad range of celebrations.

Librarian Maria Adams facilitated registering patrons for the November and December Film Noir Movie club, led by Training Officer, Daniel Gomez.

# **SEMMES**

Ms. Randi continues to present stories, songs and action rhymes/songs for Toddler Time Online Live and Story Time Online Live. For Toddlers, she read aloud the books Bear Gets Dressed by Harriet Ziefert and Snowballs by Lois Ehlert. Preschoolers and their grownups enjoyed Ms. Randi's read aloud of Melvin and the Boy by Lauren Castillo and her new turtle puppet, Shelley, sang a duet with her of "You Can't Make a Turtle Come Out" by Malvina Reynolds.

Ms. Randi also continues to make recordings on SAPL's Dial-a-Story line. She especially enjoyed recording Zigazak! A Magical Hanukkah Night by Eric A. Kimmel and "Papa Panov's Special Christmas" by Leo Tolstoy.

On December 12, five nine-to-twelve-year-old children (Tweens) joined Ms. Randi and Ms. Karen (San Pedro, currently assigned to Pan Am) for a discussion of Charlie Hernández and the League of Shadows by Ryan Calejo, in our virtual monthly meeting of Adventurers Book Club. In addition to discussing the book, Ms. Randi invited the children to decorate a "sugar skull" made from a paper plate. She also showed a PowerPoint of artists' renditions of all the creatures that appear in the book, all from Latino mythology.

Premiering on December 29, Ms. Randi contributed a curated preschool Story Time online for The Antlered Ship by Dashka Slater. A curated Story Time includes a link to a YouTube recorded read aloud of the book and links to related videos to view and additional activities to do in order to extend understanding of the book. For example, in The Antlered Ship, the main character is Marco who is a fox, so Ms. Randi included a link to a BBC video clip of a red fox hunting in the snow of Yellowstone National Park.

Children's Librarian I, Valerie Carroll co-hosted two sessions of the SOW Healthy Garden-to-Table virtual program series on November 4th.

Ms. Valerie's Fall Slime Zoom program on November 7th had 12 kids in attendance. The group made lime and talked about how the different ingredients bind together to make polymers and allows slime to stretch.

Ms. Valerie co-hosted virtual Jr. Doctor classes on December 22nd (Comets, Asteroids, and Meteors) and on December 29th (Space Stations).

Ms. Valerie also assembled 58 additional Take-and-Make craft kits for the branch. She designed three different craft kits specifically for tweens out of discarded magazines. Tweens get instructions on how to make baskets, coasters, butterfly garlands, and other décor out of old magazine pages. Mixing and matching the activities that go into a kit helps prevent returners from getting the same kit twice. 24 kits were distributed in December, and since the activities are not based on a specific time of year, they can remain relevant until all supplies are exhausted.

# THOUSAND OAKS

Assistant Branch Manager Brooke Mjolsness served as Master of Ceremonies for the SAPL Live Trivia programs held on November 6 and December 4. The popular program is held monthly and continues to grow quickly in attendance.

Ms. Mjolsness co-hosted four virtual Beginner's Chair Yoga programs on November 6 and 13; and December 4 and 11. The Chair Yoga series has seen a very dedicated following and continues to grow.

Ms. Mjolsness co-hosted a virtual Ayurveda program on November 10. The topic was Gateway to the Inner Pharmacy. The program had 22 attendees, including some participants from other states and countries.

On November 12 and December 10, Ms. Mjolsness acted as a chat moderator for The Film Noir Club program. This monthly discussion group watches a predetermined film noir movie and encourages a lively talk with engaging questions provided by the host.

At the request of workgroup members, Ms. Mjolsness served as chat moderator for the cooking programs entitled Noon Time Helping of ... held on November 12 and 19; and December 3 and 10. The program series is offered weekly and covers various recipes and kitchen topics.

Adult Services Librarian Kimberly King continued to ensure Take-and-Make craft kits were available for distribution to patrons. She also designed a Doctor Who themed virtual escape room for the Pop Madness Committee's upcoming Pop Madness event.

Ms. King joined the Teen Booklist Group and assisted in curating lists of books according to subject matter and teen interest, including Winter is Coming, and Teens in Peril. These book lists are posted on the 210 Teen Library Instagram account. She attended webinars with an emphasis on teenagers, their library usage, and their activities in the library.

Librarian Marisa DeBow is temporarily assigned to the Thousand Oaks Branch while the McCreless Branch is closed for renovations. On Tuesdays in November, she served as Librarian-In-Charge at the Pan American Branch. She completed the required Security and Ethics Training sessions.

Ms. DeBow attended the monthly meetings for Teen Services, Adult Services, and the LGBTQ+ committee. She joined a new Teen Services workgroup which focuses on Virtual Volunteering. She contributed to the curation of several teen-centered, annotated BiblioCommons lists, including Native American Heritage Month, and the spiritual and philosophical beliefs of cults.

Ms. DeBow created a How-To video as an Adult Services program in which she demonstrated yarn-wrapping techniques, and offered many ideas to creatively decorate plastic or glass bottles. She curated Children's Activity Packets and a Yarn Maker Kit for children.

# TOBIN LIBRARY AT OAKWELL

Tobin Library served as a polling place for the National Election on November 3 with modest turnout compared to the long lines during Early Voting in October. On December 8 – December 12, Alamo Colleges Run-off election voting took place with light turnout. Tobin did have the most votes cast of the San Antonio Public Library's (SAPL) hosting.

Thanks to the generosity of Friends of Tobin Library at Oakwell, three tapestries were purchased and hung between book shelves to add some color to areas where access is not permitted. A couple that were voting said "the tapestries are wonderful and they just love them". The inexpensive hangings include the Forbidden Forest from Harry Potter books, dinosaurs and an ocean scene (pictured below).



On November 20, Teen Librarian, Karah Garcia impressively participated in Austin Design Week by facilitating sessions with two outside peers on Antiracism Activation. The sessions were at full capacity and engaged allies, serving as a launchpad for their own personal antiracism journey.

Assistant Manager, Rhonda Woolhouse, continues hosting the virtual Speak Geek program with two sessions on December 1 and December 29. The December 1 session included two guests from local comic and collectible stores who shared Geek gifting ideas. On December 29, attendees participated in a Fireside Chat sharing information related to Geek fandoms.

Lots of curbside customers requested the November Native American Take-and-Make craft which entailed a nice weaving. Melissa Carroll, Circulation Attendant, and Manager Tracey Knouse, created kids crafts with pencil and pen toppers for December's Take-and-Make crafts.

Many Tobin staff attended Director Ramiro Salazar's Townhall Meeting on December 11, to stay current on library operations and adjustments during the pandemic. Similarly, a number of personnel attended some of the virtual 12 Days of Giving sessions hosted by Organizational Health. Librarian, Ms. Garcia, won one of SAPL's prize bags as one of the many gifts that were given away.

# **WESTFALL**

This month, Westfall's training officer, Michelle, and the LEARN team began brainstorming with different organizations surrounding reaching patrons with low digital literacy. Ideas were shared from Libraries Without Borders and our own NTEN Digital Inclusion Fellow, Emma. Training Officers were sent off to

develop their own ideas particular to each branch location. The LEARN team also benefited from the work of an MLS candidate, who researched how other libraries are addressing the digital literacy challenge in the midst of pandemic restrictions.

Heather, Westfall's teen librarian, distributed the November Teen Take-and-Make crafts. She assisted Matthew Loaiza, the Assistant Manager of the Teen Library at Central, in compiling a list of teen LGBTQ+ fantasy and sci-fi titles to present for an outreach program with a local LGBTQ+ youth organization. She has also begun preparing the Teen section at Westfall for the eventual return of patrons by reorganizing the manga collection to make it more browser-friendly.

In November, Children's Librarian, Imelda Merino, participated in an online Story Time, sharing a couple of songs and rhymes for preschoolers. She also helped to create content for the "Small Worlds" project that will be included as a short video on the "Creative Ideas for the Whole Family" page of the "SAPL is Here for You LibGuide". In December, Merino hosted the Zoom Story Time Online on December 10<sup>th</sup>. She also participated in a KLRN online program about rockets on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. reading a book called *Oh No, Astro!* by Matt Roeser. A BiblioCommons book list was created by her, as well, in conjunction with this program.

Westfall's Librarian II and Interim Manager, Angelina, created and hosted National Novel Writing month in November and has continued her work with the Books and Literary online adult services group to create SAPL Writers annual virtual writing group that will start in January. Furthermore, Westfall's Snack Pack distribution in December had a great turn out in the first few weeks before the holiday break. Westfall's library aide, Cristian Ortiz continues to produce and edit SAPL's Youtube "In the Stacks" videos. The 'series' has 6 episodes and is quite popular and is an effective way for patrons to receive reader's advisory as well as meet some of the SAPL staff.

# PERFORMANCE MEASURES

# **APPENDIX**

**BiblioCommons** – Front end interactive catalog and web service developer for San Antonio Public Library.

**Dial-a-Story** – A free services which allows patrons to call San Antonio Public Library to have a children's book read to a child over the phone.

Esports – Video-gaming competitions over a variety of game titles

LibGuide - Individual pages or guides created through San Antonio Public Library's LibWizard system.

**LibWizard** – San Antonio Public Library's content management system used to curate knowledge and share information, organize programs and subject-specific resources.

**MobilCirc** – Mobile application provided through SirsiDynix for Android, and iOS. Allows users to check out items, register users, process holds, and perform inventory.

SirsiDynix Symphony – San Antonio Public Library's integrated library system.

STEAM - Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

**Take-and-Make** – Crafts prepared for patrons by San Antonio Public Library librarians and distributed at various branches.

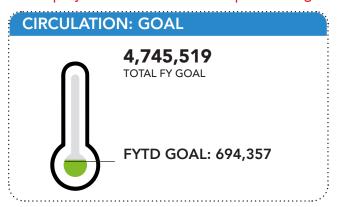
**Trumba** – San Antonio Public Library's events calendar.

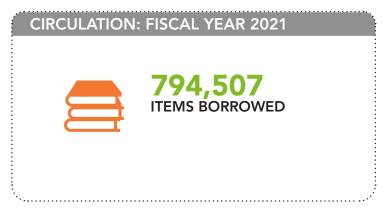
Webex - Videoconferencing application used by San Antonio Public Library.

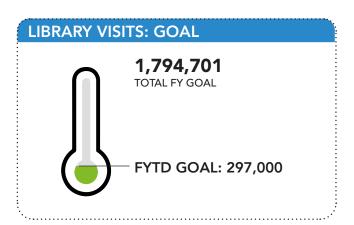
## SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY KEY INDICATORS

# NOVEMBER 2020

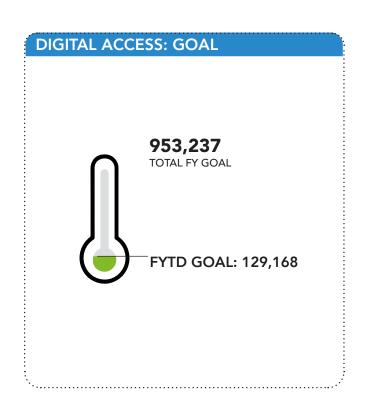
COVID-19 greatly impacted Library service levels in FY2020 and is projected to continue to impact through FY2021.

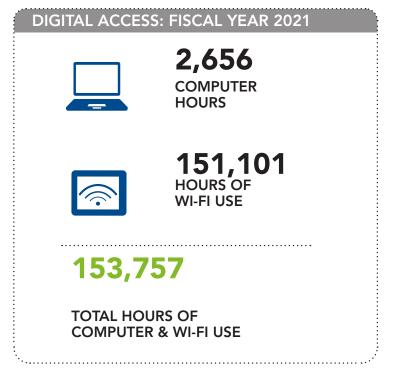




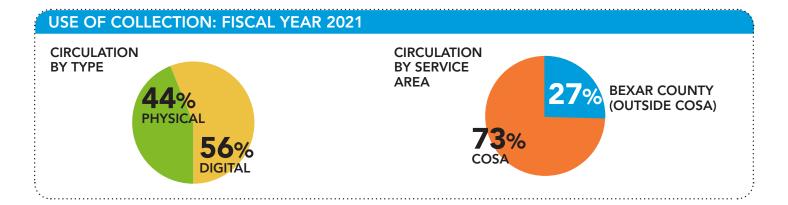








### SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS **NOVEMBER 2020 (CONTINUED)**



#### **VIRTUAL: FISCAL YEAR 2021**



150,523

**MYSAPL APP SESSIONS**  246,108

**OVERDRIVE** SITE VISITS

405,752

**SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS** 

### **PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: FISCAL YEAR 2021**



4,128

**TOTAL ATTENDANCE** 

1,181

**ADULT PROGRAMS** 

**430** 

TEEN PROGRAMS

2,517

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS** 

**59** PROGRAM VIDEOS UPLOADED

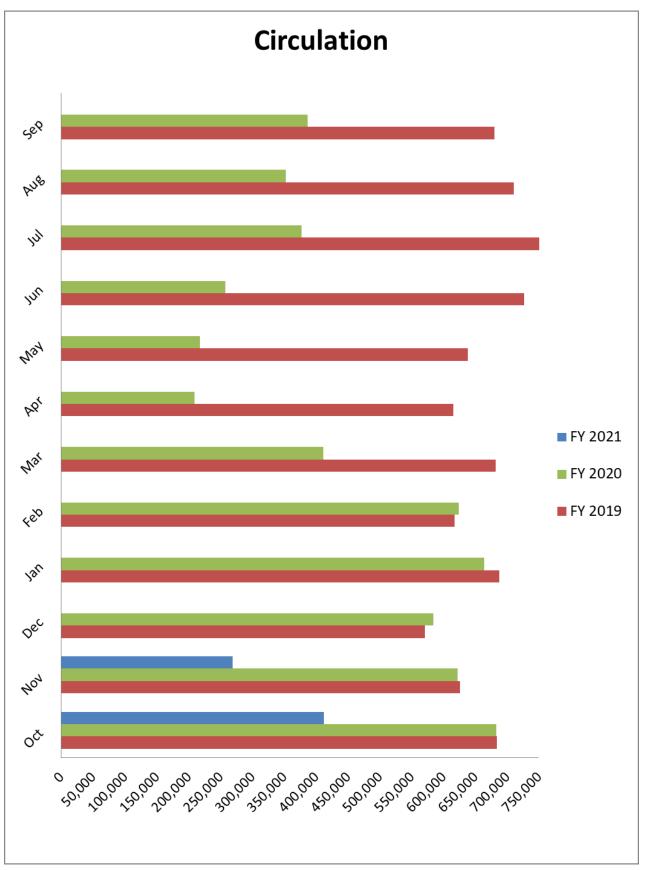
8,393 PROGRAM VIDEO VIEWS



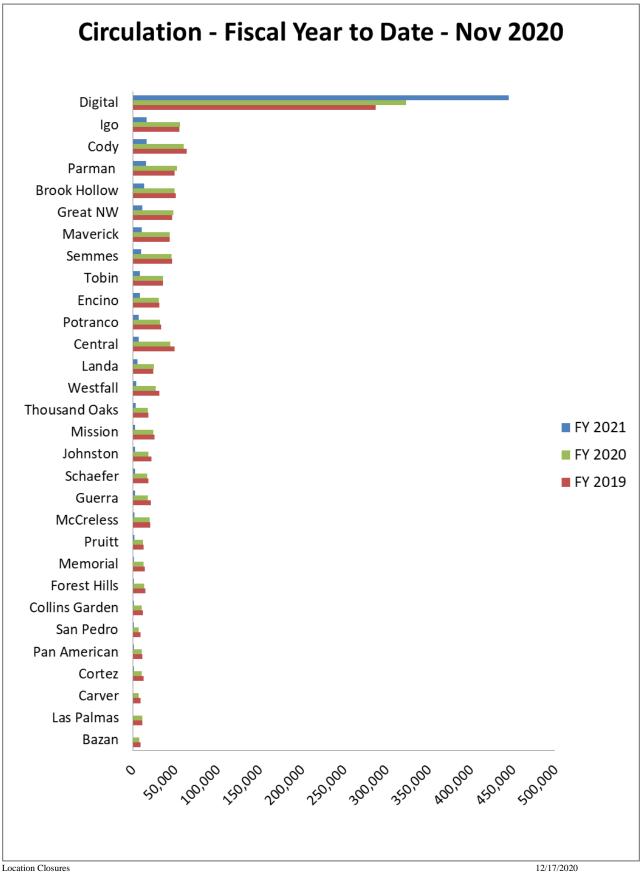
## San Antonio Public Library November 2020 Programs and Attendance

	Total				Total Live	Adult	Teen	Children's
	Live	Numl	ber of Pro	ograms	Program	Program	Program	Program
Location	Programs	Adult	Teen	Children's	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance
Bazan	14	14	0	0	69	69	0	0
Brook Hollow	1	1	0	0	16	16	0	0
Carver	1	0	0	1	40	0	0	40
Central	7	6	0	1	119	105	0	14
Cody	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collins Garden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cortez	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Encino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Hills	1	1	0	0	10	10	0	0
Great Northwest	1	1	0	0	3	3	0	0
Guerra	1	1	0	0	7	7	0	0
Igo	9	9	0	0	70	70	0	0
Johnston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Landa	4	3	0	1	33	12	0	21
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maverick	5	0	4	1	217	0	17	200
McCreless	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Memorial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pan American	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parman	5	2	0	3	49	6	0	43
Potranco	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pruitt	2	0	1	1	7	0	4	3
San Pedro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schaefer	2	0	0	2	14	0	0	14
Semmes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thousand Oaks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tobin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westfall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kampmann Library Portal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	10	0	0	10	80	0	0	80
System	63	15	30	19	875	217	182	476
TOTAL	126	53	35	39	1,609	515	203	891

System includes live virtual programming by systemwide teams.

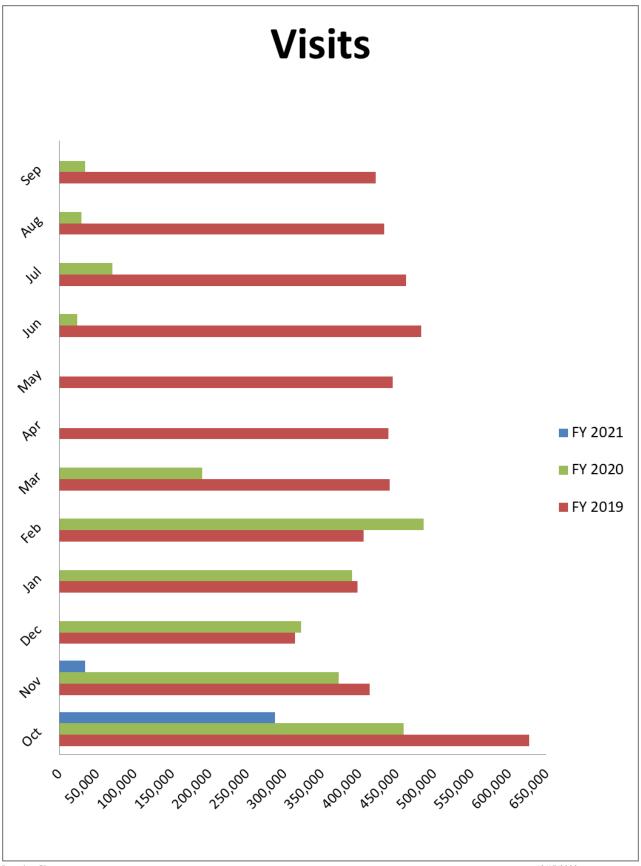


Location Closures FY 21: Forest Hills Oct 1-Jan 11, McCreless Nov 2-Mar 2 12/17/2020



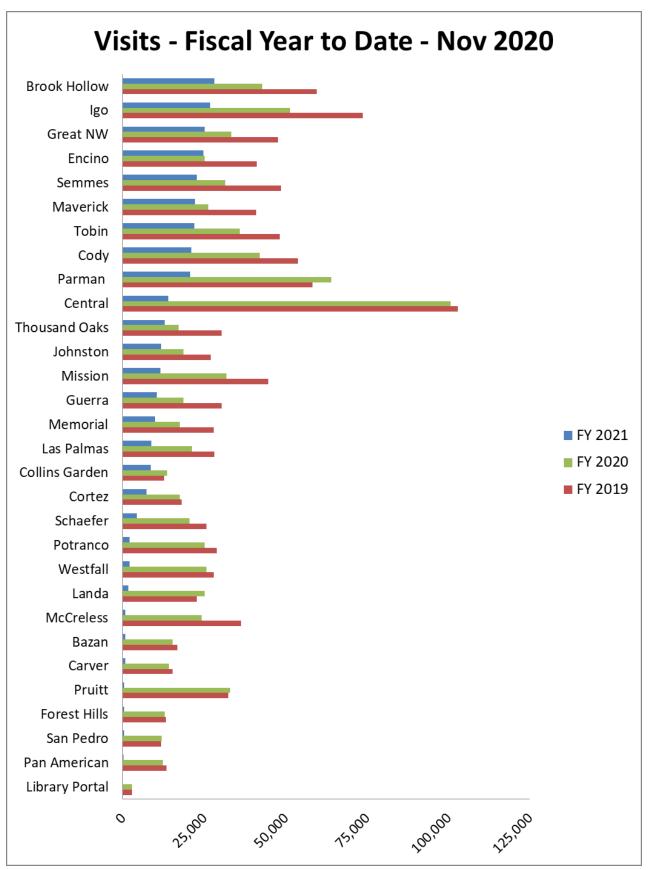
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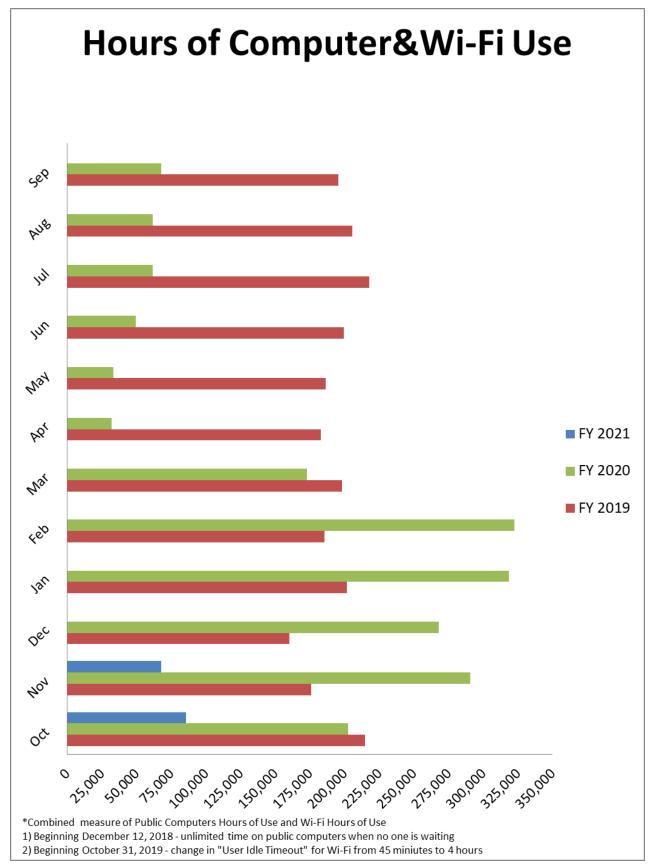


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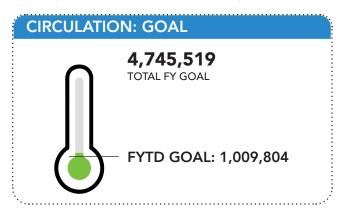
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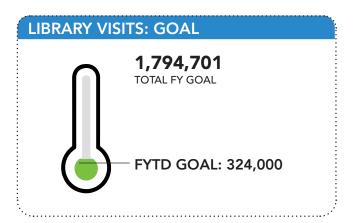
## SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY KEY INDICATORS

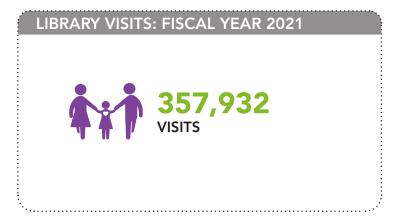
# DECEMBER 2020

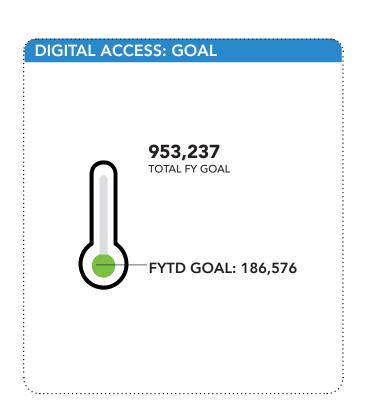
COVID-19 greatly impacted Library service levels in FY2020 and is projected to continue to impact through FY2021.

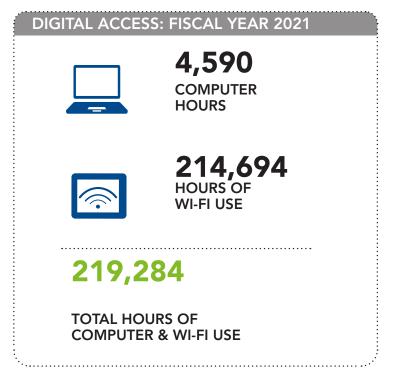




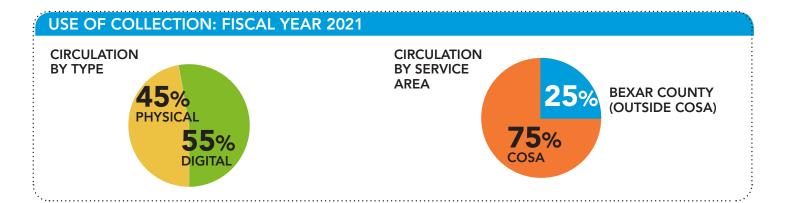








# SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL INDICATORS **DECEMBER 2020** (CONTINUED)



#### **VIRTUAL: FISCAL YEAR 2021**



350,237 222,614

MYSAPL APP SESSIONS 363,183

OVERDRIVE SITE VISITS

603,954

SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS

### **PROGRAMS & ATTENDANCE: FISCAL YEAR 2021**

**424** 

169

108

147

**TOTAL PROGRAMS** 

**ADULT PROGRAMS** 

TEEN PROGRAMS

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

5,489

1,523

640

3,326

TOTAL ATTENDANCE

**ADULT ATTENDANCE** 

**TEEN ATTENDANCE** 

CHILDREN'S ATTENDANCE

**86** PROGRAM VIDEOS UPLOADED

11,752 PROGRAM VIDEO VIEWS



## San Antonio Public Library December 2020 Key Indicators

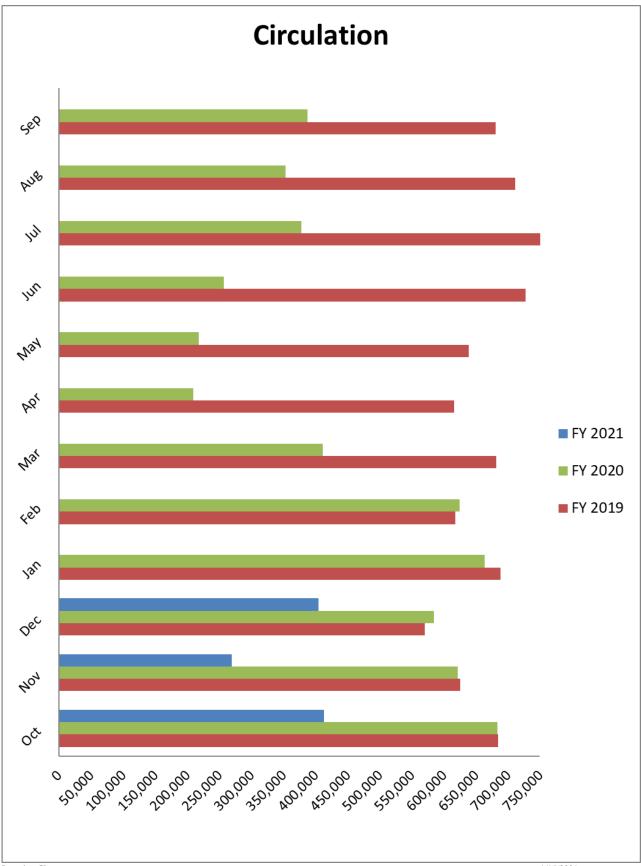
			Hours of				
	Total		Computer &	Computers -			
Location	Circulation	Visits	Wi-Fi Use	Hours of Use	of Use		
Bazan	404	387	2,328	144	2,184		
Brook Hollow	12,650	2,459	1,130	82	1,048		
Carver	806	363	1,549	56	1,492		
Central	6,784	7,882	12,375	139	12,236		
Cody	15,660	2,629	2,592	124	2,468		
Collins Garden	1,341	467	1,910	93	1,817		
Cortez	1,140	329	1,708	68	1,640		
Encino	7,980	1,151	1,548	13	1,535		
Forest Hills	1,249	208	1,439	0	1,439		
<b>Great Northwest</b>	10,010	1,528	2,369	90	2,279		
Guerra	2,506	448	1,637	84	1,553		
Igo	16,358	2,039	2,531	54	2,477		
Johnston	2,543	546	1,626	94	1,532		
Landa	5,841	1,040	654	45	609		
Las Palmas	661	92	2,161	51	2,109		
Maverick	10,125	1,688	1,601	70	1,531		
McCreless	1,921	269	976	0	976		
Memorial	1,636	1,062	1,985	59	1,926		
Mission	2,607	724	1,334	145	1,189		
Pan American	838	254	1,866	51	1,814		
Parman	14,109	1,967	1,389	22	1,367		
Potranco	6,448	1,143	4,873	37	4,836		
Pruitt	1,985	249	575	16	559		
San Pedro	298	0	521	0	521		
Schaefer	2,326	1,263	2,049	67	1,982		
Semmes	9,760	1,504	2,092	69	2,023		
Thousand Oaks	2,846	588	2,375	55	2,320		
Tobin	8,468	2,065	1,328	59	1,270		
Westfall	3,550	587	4,844	146	4,698		
Kampmann Library Portal	0	0	161	N/A	162		
Interlibrary Loan Lending	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Online/Phone Renewal	36,133	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Digital	216,087	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
TOTAL	405,070	34,931	65,526	1,934	63,593		

Circulation includes Physical, Digital and NEISD materials to SAPL patrons at Pruitt

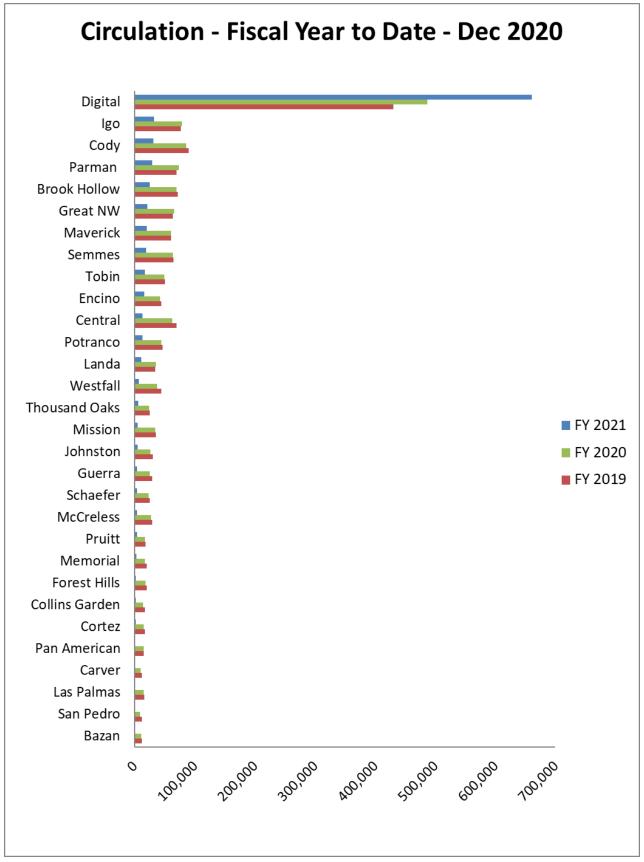
## San Antonio Public Library December 2020 Programs and Attendance

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, programs are developed with a system wide approach and not by location.

	Total				Total Live	Adult	Teen	Children's
	Live	Numb	per of Pro	ograms	Program	Program	Program	Program
Location	Programs	Adult	Teen		Attendance			
Bazan	18	18	0	0	91	91	0	0
<b>Brook Hollow</b>	1	1	0	0	12	12	0	0
Carver	1	0	0	1	24	0	0	24
Central	7	6	0	1	103	86	0	17
Cody	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Collins Garden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cortez	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Encino	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Hills	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Northwest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guerra	1	1	0	0	9	9	0	0
Igo	8	8	0	0	50	50	0	0
Johnston	3	0	0	3	15	0	0	15
Landa	3	3	0	0	18	18	0	0
Las Palmas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maverick	5	0	5	0	30	0	30	0
McCreless	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Memorial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pan American	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parman	3	0	0	3	12	0	0	12
Potranco	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pruitt	13	6	5	2	130	76	21	33
San Pedro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schaefer	1	0	0	1	15	0	0	15
Semmes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thousand Oaks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tobin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westfall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kampmann Library Portal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Read Wagon	17	0	0	17	128	0	0	128
System	18	0	25	18	724	0	159	565
TOTAL	99	43	35	46	1,361	342	210	809

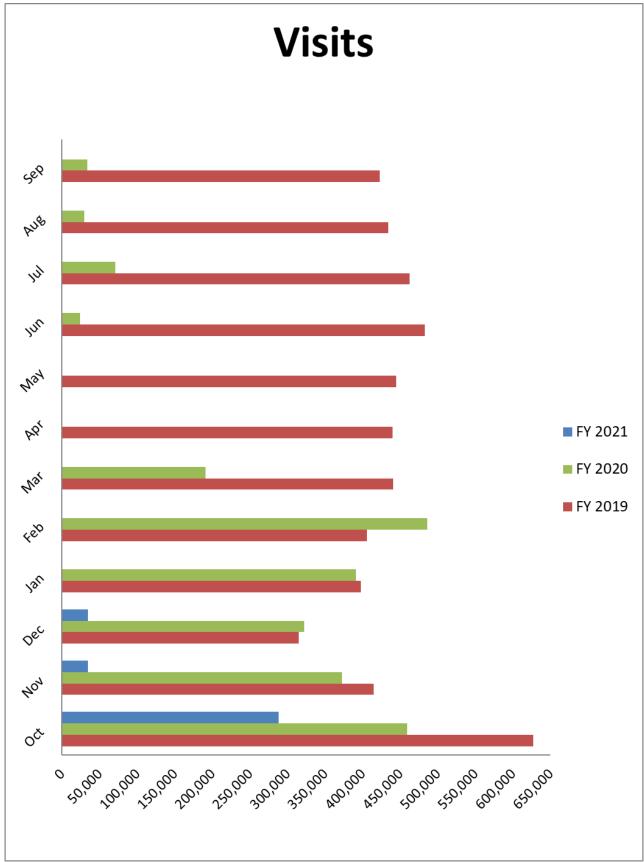


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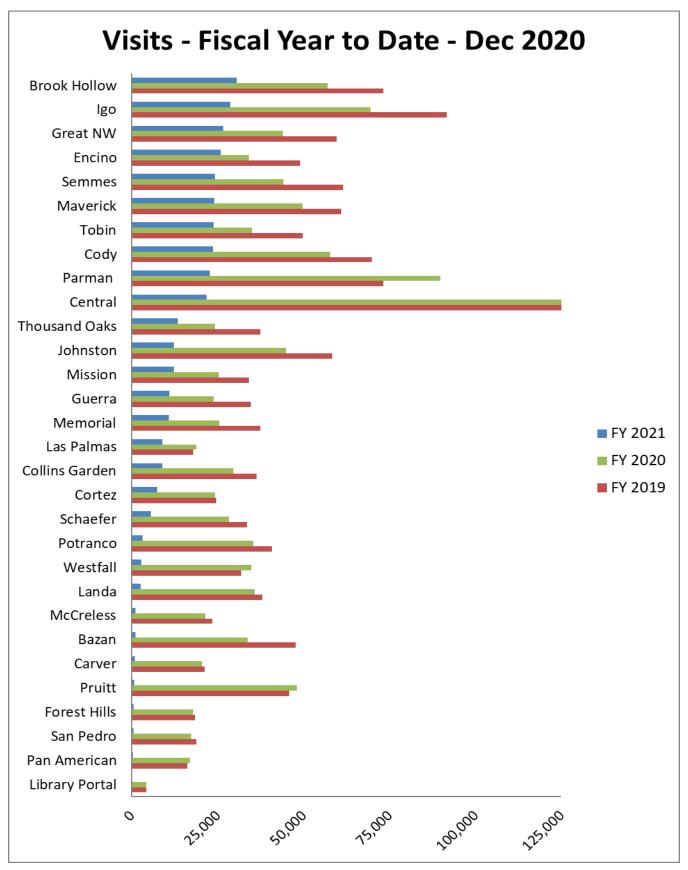
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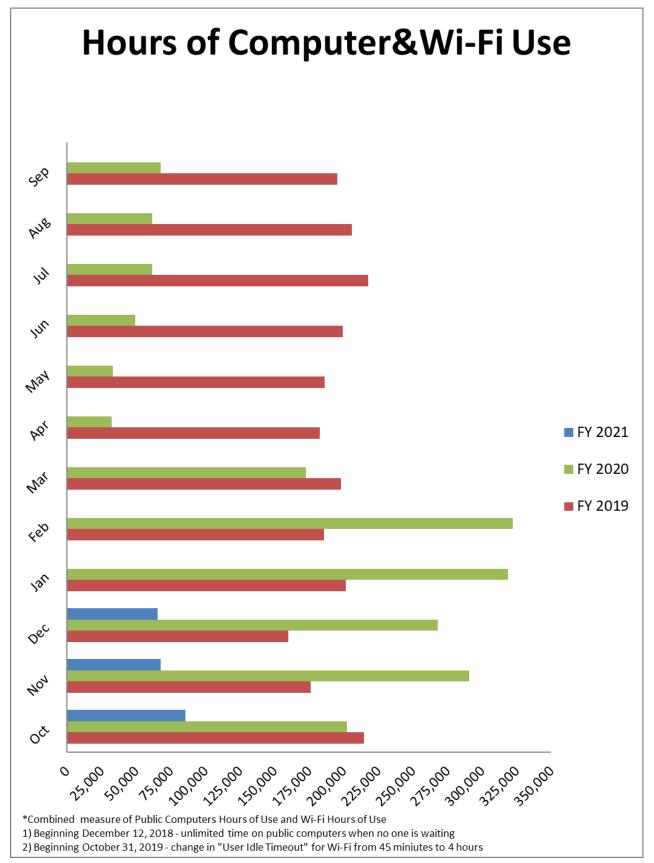
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1/15/2021

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