



San Antonio  
Public Library  
Director's Report  
October 2014

*National Night Out, Pruitt Branch Library at Roosevelt High School*

September 15 – October 12, 2014

## DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the grand opening of the Texas A&M San Antonio - Central Academic Building on Wednesday, September 17. Later that day, Mr. Salazar delivered a presentation on the Library at the San Antonio Public Library Foundation's Board Meeting. He introduced new Library Trustee representing District 5, Lupe G. Ochoa to the Library Foundation Board.

On Sunday September 21, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Executive Assistant Jessica Ramos attended the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Board Meeting. Mr. Salazar delivered a presentation about the Library during the meeting. The Friends of the Library took action to appropriate \$15,000 for the Library as a second gift in 2014.

On September 23, the Ramiro Salazar attended the National Forum for Black Public Administrators Professional Development Institute Graduation. City Manager Sheryl Sculley served as keynote speaker during the event.

On September 25, Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Assistant Library Director Kathy Donellan, Community and Public Relations Manager Caitlin Cowart, and Data and Performance Manager David Cooksey attended the SA2020 Annual Progress Report release. That afternoon, Library Director Ramiro Salazar attended the a District 7 Community Meeting at the Woodlawn Lake Community Room to provide a briefing about the services to the District 7 community through the Woodlawn Lake Community Room.

On September 27, Assistant Library Director Dale McNeill and Executive Assistant Jessica Ramos attend a District 2 Town Hall Meeting. Mr. McNeill delivered a presentation regarding the Carver Branch Library and the new District 2 Branch Library. Late that day, Mr. McNeill, Ms. Ramos, Community and Public Relations Manager Caitlin Cowart, and Branch Services Coordinator Cheryl Sheehan attended the Open House celebrating The Tobin Library at Oakwell Extreme Library makeover. District 10 Councilman Gallagher attended the event and delivered remarks.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar requested a lunch meeting with Seth Mitchell, Assistant to the County Manager. At this meeting, Ramiro emphasized the importance and value of immediately pursuing the establishment of the Joint Task Force. Ramiro made the point that both partners are at a stalemate and that the Joint Task Force provided the best opportunity to diffuse the tense situation and to demonstrate to our respective stakeholders that progress has been made. The meeting took place on Monday, October 6.

Library Director Ramiro Salazar accepted an invitation by SA Reads to join Congressman Joaquin Castro and SA Food Bank CEO Erick Cooper in delivering remarks during a media event on October 8 celebrating the success of SA Reads' Book Drive.

On October 11, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Assistant Library Director Dale McNeill attended the City of San Antonio annual Employee Recognition celebration. Several Library employees were in attendance, celebrating their years of service with the City.

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES (SYSTEM-WIDE)

As Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM) draws to a close, children's librarians are completing their New World Food programs. This year's HHM celebration centered on the foods that were native to the New World – and unknown to Europeans prior to 1492. Branches hosting the program received a bag of produce for the children to explore that included several different kinds of potatoes, squash and chili peppers plus an ear of corn and a ripe pineapple. Many of the children's librarians added to this by purchasing tomatoes, avocados and papaya. After examining, and sometimes tasting, these fruits and vegetables the children created a paper version of an open-air market. For many children, this was their first time actually seeing some of these items in their unprocessed form. The children's librarians reported lots of oohs and aahs – with one young boy looking at the inner core of a jicama asking "is that what the inside of a stone looks

like?"

On October 9 Dr. Robert A. Williams, Dr. Mary Hobbs and Carolyn Remler presented a full day workshop for the children's staff on Science for Young Children. Dr. Bob has written several books on science and math activities for preschoolers and had a wealth of information and experiences to share. The work of the trio in the past has centered on bringing science into preschool classrooms. They were particularly interested in working with SAPL staff to see how those same experiences might be translated into a public library setting. Over the next few months, a committee of SAPL children's librarians will be working with Dr. Bob, Dr. Mary and Carolyn to further develop SAPL's preschool science programming.

Digital Services Coordinator Ignacio Albarracin and Children's Coordinator Viki Ash met with Brian Sparks, Principal at Lamar Elementary School on September 30 to explore ways in which SAPL's digital content could be used in the classroom. Mr. Sparks explained what technological devices were available in the classroom while Ignacio and Viki outlined the digital services SAPL provides. As a result of that initial meeting, Viki and Ignacio made a brief presentation at Lamar's October 13 faculty meeting highlighting the library's Overdrive, BookFlix and TrueFlix services. In addition to being available to assist teachers as they try out these services with their students, Viki and Ignacio will follow up with a brief survey for the Lamar faculty to complete in mid-December. The intent is to determine if and how these tools/services were used, what difficulties the teachers/students may have had and how SAPL might better serve them in the future.

## LITTLE READ WAGON

### **Workshops for Child Care Providers**

The entire Little Read Wagon team assisted in the first presentation of the new workshop for the year, *Music and More Early Literacy Moves*. Xelena Gonzalez, Ronnie Webb, Cresencia Huff, Julia Lazarin and Corinne Sanchez each took a turn presenting a portion of the content. Liliana Ornelas and Elizabeth Huber, along with the rest of the team when they were not presenting, assisted with many background tasks such as sign-in, distribution of materials and clean-up. The workshop was very well attended and well-received. One of the participants, a professional musician with the San Antonio Symphony, shared valuable feedback and was especially impressed with the inclusion of a song book as a make-and-take activity. Jorge Ochoa joined the group for the last 45 minutes of the workshop to demonstrate how teachers might incorporate drumming and early literacy. Each participant had the opportunity to play drums and shakers. Included in the displays were home-made instruments using readily available materials and relevant children's books from the San Antonio Public Library collection.

The next workshop, to be held October 18, has been full and with a waiting list for several weeks. The workshop will be presented by Ms. Huber, Ms. Gonzalez, Ms. Huff and Mr. Webb with assistance from practicum student Deborah Carter.

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

Ms. Lazarin, Ms. Ornelas and Ms. Huff have begun presenting a new series of workshops at the four Pre-K 4 SA centers. Each center will receive a total of four visits over the course of the school year. At each visit two workshop topics will be presented. Workshop topics presented so far are "Big Dreams: Getting ready for bed and ready to read" and "More than a Meal: Mealtime traditions that build early literacy." Each of the eight topics emphasizes different points in the daily routine when parents can build early literacy skills. Feedback has been very positive with parents leaving excited to share new materials such as shadow puppets and storytelling coins with their children and look for opportunities to talk, sing, read, write and play.

Ms. Huber has also been busy visiting smaller Head Start sites and schools to share Every Child Ready to Read with parents. These smaller sites will receive one workshop this school year. Ms. Huber's ability to present in Spanish and English has been especially valuable in serving these sites.

### **Library Promotion**

Ms. Sanchez and Ms. Huff were invited to briefly share library resources with pre-service early childhood teachers at Texas A&M San Antonio. The four classes visited each received a 15-20 minute presentation about how to access appropriate books and other materials, getting a library card, and online resources such as Live Homework Help and Book Flix. Instructors and students were all excited about the vast array of library resources and services that they could use in the professional and personal lives.

### **Play & Learn**

A new Play & Learn series began October 7 at the Jean Yates Community Center. This is a new venue made available through an agreement between Parks and Recreation and the Library. The first event drew families from the immediate area who happened to be visiting the playground as well as previous Play & Learn participants who found the location to be convenient to them. Little Read Wagon staff is pleased to have found this location in City Council District 6, and appreciates the support from Library administration and the Parks and Recreation department. Play & Learn dates and locations for the remainder of the school year have already been identified and posted on the Library events calendar.

### **Professional Development**

Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Lazarin and Ms. Huff all attended diversity training at the Central Library. The four-hour training session included interesting conversations and scenarios related to race and ethnicity. The trainers shared statistics that reflect disproportionality in areas such as infant mortality and child welfare.

## **TEEN SERVICES (SYSTEM-WIDE)**

### **Off-Site Service**

Kathleen Fordyce (Teen Services Librarian II – Central) visited the Academy of Creative Education twice during the reporting period to speak to students during their Orientation about the resources and services the Library offers for teens. At the end of the presentations, the students applied for library cards.

On September 23, Kathleen, along with teen liaisons: Rhonda Woolhouse (Librarian I – Thousand Oaks), Rebekah Corley (Library Assistant – Thousand Oaks) and Beth Schorlemer (Librarian II – Semmes), spoke to students at Madison High School. The students were shown the new teen outreach video, created by Central Library teen volunteers, given information about library services and resources for teens and given the chance to apply for a library card.

On September 26, Kathleen, Barbara Kwiatkowski (Teen Services Librarian – Igo) and Marco De Leon (Teen Services Librarian – Las Palmas) gave several presentations to classes at Health Careers High School, with a focus on Tutor.com's Live Homework Help.

During the reporting period, Kathleen Fordyce and JD Elizondo (Library Assistant – Teen Services) took the V.R.O.O.M out for two events. Kathleen and JD took the van to Fox Tech High School on September 18 for an open house in the evening. Teens got the chance to play guitar with JD's Eclectic Electric program and use iPads to explore Hoopla, Tutor.com and other apps from services the Library offers. On October 7, Kathleen and JD took the van to the ET Dixon United Methodist Church in District 2 for a National Night Out event. In addition to being able to use the guitars and play a video game on the van, participants were able to use some astronomy apps on the iPads, to complement the *Rocket Boys* programming for the Mayor's Book Club.

### **Partnerships**

Staff involved in the Inspire U Workplace Mentoring Program (part of SA2020), met with their "littles" for their first meeting of the school year at Edison High School on September 29. Bigs and Littles had lunch together and enjoyed catching up with each other after a long break during the summer.

# MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

The Marketing department provided its regular support for SAPL system-wide and branch programs including the development of programs and event flyers for promotion, social media and especially, media communications.

All areas supported the strategic development, creative concept and design and implementation of The Mayor's Book Club. The launch took place on October 1 at the Central Library Atrium. The event was attended by several SAPL VIP as well as District 3 councilwoman, Rebecca Viagran. Both Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar and Mayor Ivy R. Taylor introduced the new endeavor.

Additionally, all members of the department spent many hours with Administration and Digital Services to prepare for the official opening of the Kampmann Library Portal at the Briscoe Western Art Museum. The event will take place on October 15.

## **Graphic Design**

Ana and Giselle developed Mayor's Book Club materials, airport kiosk wrap/invitations, and public domain-focused variation of the digital library wallpaper pop-up, Native American Heritage Month materials and promotional materials for the Ricardo Romo photo exhibit.

Additionally, the team worked on Just Robots event at Forest Hills materials, Red Carpet Reads materials and finally, the SAPL Holiday card.

Ana has spent time on Carver signage and end wraps, and LEARN signage and materials.

## **Media**

Marcie produced and distributed press releases about Hispanic Heritage Month, Voter Registration at SAPL Locations and for programs at Forest Hills, Central, Parman, Brook Hollow and Landa Branch Libraries.

She coordinated an interview with Conexión regarding the Latino Collection at Central on September 26. She also participated in the planning and coordination of the Tobin Library at Oakwell open house on September 27. Marcie secured and coordinated an interview and photo shoot about Teen Services with the Express News on September 29. The story ran in the San Antonio Express-News on October 7.

Marcie participated in the planning and production of the Mayor's Book Club kick-off press event on October 1 as well as the planning and production of the Caroline B. and John H. Kampmann Library portal at the Briscoe Western Art Museum that is taking place on October 15.

Finally, she performed SAPL outreach at Chalk-It-Up, sponsored by Artpace on October 11.

SAPL received a total of 188 media mentions during the reporting period. This is the equivalent of \$61,804 in value of media spending.

## **Social Media and Special Programs**

Joseph continued promotion of all SAPL events on Facebook and Twitter. He also expanded the Library's social media presence to include Instagram, a photo-based social media platform that skews to younger users.

Joseph has spent much of the reporting period managing the design and implementation of the "Patrocinadores" wall in the Latino Collection on behalf of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation and has begun planning Holocaust: Learn and Remember for 2015. He supported all of the Mayor's Book Club preparations.

He created the October SAPL newsletter and re-designed the Texana newsletter. He has written articles for both the City of San Antonio electronic newsletters, eConnections and dot.gov.

Facebook has 7,639 followers. Twitter has 2,196 followers. Instagram has 125 followers.



## CENTRAL LIBRARY

### CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Programs at Central were full of innovative ideas this month. A few of the highlights included a *Sky Adventure* themed *Play & Learn* in honor of Mayor Ivy Taylor's Book Club which featured rockets, planes and a focus on what lies beyond our stars. Children also enjoyed contributing to a large collaborative art project on the wall. The centerpiece of the project will remain through the length of the reading club and books inspired by Homer Hickam's *Rocket Boys* will be displayed beneath it so plenty of books about space exploration will be available for checkout.

Saturday *Family Funs* fed the mind as well as the tummy when Amy Lewis (Librarian I) led children to the land of fractured fairy tales and children made their three little piggy homes out of straws (potato sticks), twigs (pretzel sticks), and bricks (chocolate chunks). It was both a lesson in architecture, as the structures at to withstand huffing and puffing, but also in food art as they delighted in taking pictures of their creations before gobbling them all up!

Imaginations also ran wild when *Play & Learn* went prehistoric allowing children to try out their balancing skills as they rescued large dinosaur eggs from lava (red paper) beneath the large erupting volcano. Baking soda and vinegar volcanoes were also a huge hit in the hands-on sensory area with lots of fizzing and oozing, oohing and ahing.

A *Mercado* themed *Family Fun* in honor of *Hispanic Heritage Month* drew in children with the colorful sights and tastes of the fresh fruits and vegetables of "New World" of Central and South America. Kate Simpson (Librarian II) unveiled an array of examples for children to examine and taste. The families worked together creating fantastic baskets bursting with all kinds of produce, which they then added to a beautiful market scene.

Two special programs were hosted by Jasmin Salinas (Librarian I). *Big Dawgs of San Antonio*, a dog safety organization led by Kevin Glowski talked to families about good ways to safely approach dogs. Also, the LEGO® Club met and enjoyed building towering sculptures out of the tiny plastic bricks, but also out of large plastic cups. Children and their adults got very involved in building elaborate structures and enjoyed selecting books from the many LEGO® books the library holds.

Several groups visited for collection orientations on the third floor for education purposes. SAC Education Department students visit several times each year for specific projects. Currently the group is utilizing the Central Children's collection for a study of multicultural books for children.

A large group of adult special needs individuals and their caregivers are working with Ruth Chiego (Manager) on directive guides for their groups in topic areas they feel are most relevant to them. This is

being done in an effort to make the collection more accessible to them. The work she has done with them has also focused on building their confidence when trying to locate books on their own. The group is affiliated with the ARC of San Antonio, MOCAA Moms, and Respite Care Services. A smaller group of younger children with special needs, especially autism, also have been coming for regular visits with Ms. Chiego in which they do similar work, but focus more on early literacy skills and on socialization activities within the library as a context.

As part of her work with the special needs community as well as with parents of young children (ages 0-3), Ms. Chiego has begun a pilot project at Central to help put these families at ease visiting the Central Library. The first project is a *Parent & Child Quiet Play Zone* which is an area near the public service desk which encourages parent and child interaction and provides families with small, soft, toys, board books, and pretend play items such as puppets and hats. The hope is that this will help alleviate the initial anxieties some of these children and their caregivers face when first visiting such a large space and also creating an environment that embraces cooperative play while introducing books to young children.

"Book Bundles" have also made their way to Central. The act of library staff bundling books together into a thematic group is an idea that has been occurring at libraries all over the nation. SAPL has been doing this at several locations, but now Central is as well. This new service has made many a harried parent happy, and the team continues to think of new bundles each day. There has also been an increase in circulation for the Department.

## REFERENCE

Patrons continue to have access to several technology forums several times a week. 'Technology Questions Answered' is hosted in the Connect Training area every Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. In addition, Lily Perez and Bettina Hernandez host 'Foro Abierto' every Thursday evening and provide assistance in Spanish.

Michelle Hill presented another lively lecture in her ArtSmart series; on September 18, the topic was 'Early Christian and Byzantine Art.'

Central Library's bi-monthly film series has a new day and a new name. Movies are shown on Sundays now under 'Central Cinema'. This month folks enjoyed films featuring a classic American hero and a famous monster, re-imagined.

On September 20, Diana Starrett hosted the annual 'Knit-Out and Crochet Too' program; many new families and faces came to the Library to participate.

Deborah Countess and Sylvia Reyna from Texana presented programs that explored aspects of genealogy and Texas history. On September 17, for Hispanic Heritage Month, Ms. Reyna arranged for author, Joan Carrabin to discuss her new book, "One-of-a-Kind Judge: the Honorable Hippo Garcia". On October 4, in conjunction with 'Family History Month', Ms. Reyna facilitated a program on 'How to do an Oral History Interview'. Attendees received tips and techniques to use when conducting oral histories. On September 26, Ms. Countess presented, 'Finding Your Female Ancestors' to a class of continuing education students at Northwest Vista College.

## TEEN SERVICES

### **Weekly Programs**

Mondays with JD Elizondo (Library Assistant): JD continued his weekly Eclectic Electric program, in which teens learn to play guitar and/or keyboards. Teens can also teach their peers to play. After the music ends, teens engage in different weekly craft projects. In addition to Eclectic Electric, during the reporting period JD facilitated weekly meetings of the teen leadership group, Power Up. Also, teens continued working on building the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual haunted house, which they named "Asylum Edition." The teens have taken ownership of the haunted house, perhaps even more so than the last two years. They volunteered (unsolicited) to hand out flyers at their schools, and in addition to providing their skills in building the

haunted house, sought out their peers in roles they thought would benefit the project. The Henry Ford Academy held a contest for students to design the haunted house flyer, which resulted in a collaboration of two students' artwork, selected by JD.

Tuesdays with Caroline Mossing (Librarian I): Teens created photo mash-ups using department iPads and apps, did science experiments, and created models and improved devices using Sugru, a self-setting rubber. In conjunction with the Mayor's Book Club, teens saw their world from a different perspective, working together to learn to pilot a quad-copter at the Central library. Upcoming programs include electronic components for the Teen Haunted House and light painting.

Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II): On Wednesday nights, teens pick their favorite video or board game and engage in friendly competition with their peers. In addition, teens express their creative side by participating in craft or art projects of their choosing. During the reporting period, teens have also been working on the upcoming haunted house.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): During this reporting period, teens engaged in activities that encouraged peer-to-peer assistance, artistic expression, coordination, and cultural relevance. In celebration of the DVD release of *The Fault in Our Stars*, teens made a snack using a Dutch cheese, as the main characters take a trip to Amsterdam. They also used an image transfer process on their nails for some unique movie-inspired nail art. For a Hispanic Heritage Month activity that highlighted the history of the ancient Mayan use of the cacao bean, teens made a Mexican hot chocolate using a *molinillo*, a traditional Mexican wooden whisk, to froth it up and also some Mayan truffles, chocolate candies that they spiced with cinnamon and cayenne pepper. October Thursdays consist of a Halloween-themed food or craft. Up first was a DIY Magic 8 Ball using jars, clay, foam paper and Styrofoam. Teens created their own magic answers and clay decorations for their jars. The following week, teens got messy and used wire, tissue paper, tacky glue, and newspaper to create extreme spiders and bugs. After most craft programs have concluded, in a non-competitive environment, teens play video and board games. Pictures from Thursday programs as well as system-wide programs can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary>.

On Saturday September 27, teens gathered to make crafts and foods related to all things Harry Potter, because the HP fandom will never let him go. The movies played all day, with spurts of spirited discussion and conversation. A teen poll was conducted and teens suggested activities that would occur. Teens made wands using chopsticks, hot glue, beads and brown paint. They also made buttons. Using mini-bottles, they created potions using sand and glitter. For snacks, teens made the most popular Potterworld drink, butter beer. Other DIY snacks teens made included items only a Harry, Hermione, or Ron could enjoy: pumpkin pasties, chocolate frogs and jellybeans. Pictures from this throwback event can be found at: <https://www.flickr.com/search/?w=34630567@N06&q=harry%20potter%20september>.

### **Tours and Groups**

During the reporting period, several different classes from Fox Tech High School visited Teen Services for a tour of the library and an overview of what Teen Services offers their students, as well as to reserve computers for their students to use for research. In addition, classes from the Henry Ford Academy visited during the reporting period to receive a tour of the library from Teen Services staff.





## BRANCH LOCATIONS

### BAZAN

The Bazan branch hosted a two-hour workshop on resume writing and job interviewing skills on September 18. Attendees learned about marketing themselves to prospective employers and about how to make that all-important great first impression. The program was made possible through the work of the Jobs and Small Business programming committee and the generous financial support of the Library Foundation.

The Learn at SAPL center at Bazan began offering several new adult basic education sessions including a computer tutoring club, an ESL conversation club, ESL Game night, and GED information session. The sessions all proved to be popular; the computer tutoring session had the biggest draw.

Children's Librarian, Hope Sonnen, visited with fourth and fifth graders at Crockett Elementary where she initiated a new book club. At the branch, in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, children created a "New World Foods" wall called Mercado Bazan which they decorated with cutouts of crops that were native to North, Central and South America.

Library Assistant, Jennifer Martinez, and Children's Librarian, Hope Sonnen, joined La Trinidad United Methodist Church for National Night Out and spoke to adults and children about library resources and programming.

The City's Lunch and Learn program continued to be held in the Bazan branch meeting room twice a week. The program gives City employees the opportunity to take for-credit courses that can lead to an associate's degree in Public Administration.

### BROOK HOLLOW

Brook Hollow presented a Play and Learn based around the story "Jesse Bear, What Will You Wear?" by Nancy Carlstrom. Children dressed playdough gingerbread men in foam "clothes," painted "dirt paint" onto clothes drawn on paper, and did laundry in a homemade cardboard washer and dryer. Over 50 people attended the event.

Baby Time continues to be a success. A record-breaking 63 people attended the September 18 session.

Brook Hollow is once again partnering with MacArthur High School students to offer American Sign Language Classes on Sunday afternoons. The first class of the new school year was on September 28, and was extremely well attended with 42 attendees of all ages.

On October 4, Brook Hollow hosted local author Jaime Lee Moyer, who talked about the inspiration for her award-winning novel *Delia's Shadow*, and read from the recently released sequel *Barricade in Hell*. Ms. Moyer even treated the audience to sneak peek reading from the third book in the series, due out in 2015.

Brook Hollow continues to offer a wide range of monthly adult book groups and other programs. Some of the titles discussed this month were *Paris* by Edward Rutherfurd, *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen, and *Benjamin Franklin* by Walter Isaacson.

## CARVER

Carver Branch reopened on September 29, after nearly four weeks of renovation. The first visitors to arrive after the library's makeover positively gushed over the fresh look of their branch. They were greeted by new computers, a welcoming circulation desk and comfy chairs and tables. The meeting room received new carpet, tables and chairs. A new color scheme has gone up on the walls, replacing the old one. A mural has been added, featuring a quote by the branch's namesake George Washington Carver.

On October 4, the Carver branch library hosted storyteller Mary Grace Ketner; the event was sponsored by the Friends of the Carver Library. The audience enjoyed her Texas ghost stories.

DL Grant was invited to a joint National Night Out event sponsored by Sam Houston High School and S.J. Davis Middle School. The event attract 300 guests, many of whom stopped by the library booth to learn about activities, programs and services sponsored by San Antonio Public Library.

Carver concluded its Hispanic Heritage Month celebration with a discussion with Vietnam Veteran Gil Dominguez. Mr. Dominguez is the author of the 2004 book, *They Answered the Call*, which details the Latino presence in the Vietnam Conflict. The event was complemented by a book display highlighting the achievements of Hispanic Americans.

## CODY

Tweens had an opportunity to show off their "chalk art" at Tween Time on September 29. Many of the tweens chose scary or Halloween themes, but a number also chose movie characters, like the Minions, and the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Sheila Acosta, Children's Librarian, exhibited some of the chalk art creations in the children's area.

Sheila Acosta hosted a *Hispanic Heritage Celebration Family Fun* Event for Cody patrons on October 2. After listening to stories, and dancing to songs, children had an opportunity to create some "papel picado" and butterflies.

Tweens were eager to compete in a "ping pong challenge" and a "paper cup challenge" on October 6. Tweens who chose the paper cups, partnered up to create unique shapes and tallest structures with the cups. Sheila reported these activities proved to be popular with over 20 tweens participating in one of the two challenges.

A Boy Scout troop visited the Cody library on October 7 for a quick tour of the library and preliminary research on pioneer times. Luanne Bloom, Library Assistant, provided the troop with a tour, followed with a story. After conducting their research, Luanne said that the Boy Scouts enjoyed cake for National Night Out.

The first *Tween Book Club* meeting of the school year was hosted on October 8. Sheila said after an animated discussion on this month's book, *Double Dog Dare* by Lisa Graff, the tweens created a visual book review to share with other tweens and voted on their next reading selection.

Ten school-aged children attended the creative arts event *Rocky Pals* on October 9. Children who registered for this event learned how to create animals out of rocks. Frank Ramirez, founder and instructor of Rocky Pals, was on hand to give some one-on-one instruction to the children.

Sheila continued with Early Literacy outreach to the Pineapple School on September 26, and the Chabad Pre-School on October 2.

On October 4 the *Cody Film Club* had an enjoyable discussion of the film *October Sky*. This film is based on the book *Rocket Boys* written by Homer H. Hickman, Jr., which is currently the book club selection for the *Mayor's Book Club*.

The Cody Friends' September book sale was a success. They raised \$4,000 that will be used for programming, refreshments and enhancements to the library.

On Tuesday October 7, the Cody library invited members of the community to join us National Night Out. Local residents chatted with each other and with staff while enjoying cake and beverages. Fun was had by all.

## COLLINS GARDEN

While the numbers at Collins Garden story times continue to stay small, the group who attends is very enthusiastic. Food of the New World was a fun activity for the kids who enjoyed making paper baskets and filling them up with paper cutouts of the different New World foods.

Collins Garden has a new *Twister* board game as the other one was old and worn. However, the kids insist on playing with both *Twister* mats and making up games like *Double Twister* and *Speed Twister*.

There is a new and expanded display of titles in the children's area. It is hoped this expansion will encourage more check outs, as the newer titles are readily visible and easier for customers to browse.

Halloween is coming and the juvenile area has been decorated with bright and fun Halloween icons which staff members hope will encourage browsing of the juvenile collection and increased check out as well.

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month and through the sponsorship of the Friends of Collins Garden Branch Library, *Lorita Drive* performed for a small, but appreciative audience on October 4. The acoustic set included original compositions and covers of popular songs.

## CORTEZ

Cortez Library hosted the District 4 Watch Party for the SA2020 Progress Report on September 24.

Children's librarian Connie Hejl visited Costa Mirada Apartments for National Night Out on October 7. She continues to visit local schools and daycares to sing, dance, and read to children in outreach programs. Kids had a blast at the special Lego and Playdough Days during Family Fun. They also learned about New World Foods for a special Hispanic Heritage Month event at *Mercado Cortez*.

The English as a Second Language continues weekly on Saturday mornings with loyal attendees.

Teen Time continues to offer a place for teens to hang out with friends, play video games, and grab some snacks. Thanks to the Friends of the Cortez Library for refreshments.

Zombie Meet with Madeline Vasquez continues to be a popular program on the second Saturday of the month. They always welcome new members to join their zombie survival team.

Librarian Michelle Ricondo, Library Assistant Jo Ann Paredes and the Gettin' Crafty Cortez Crafters' Group have gotten into the Halloween spirit with elaborate Halloween mums and spooky clothes pin figurines.

In a special craft program, Matilda Gonzales taught patrons how to create beautiful bouquets of paper roses. She will teach another craft program – Making Paper Owls, on October 25.

The Cortez Book Club continues this month with *Sleep My Darlings* by Diane Fanning.

## FOREST HILLS

### **Adult Programs**

The Forest Hills Branch Library offered a number of interesting programs for adults in September and October. A poetry reading and book signing with Jim LaVilla-Havelin took place on September 22. Mr. Lavilla- Havelin is coordinator for San Antonio's National Poetry Month events and poetry editor for the San Antonio Express-News. Librarian Sandra Griffin was able to make contacts with other poets during this event to begin plans for National Poetry Month in April. Another Life Long Learning program, The Addicted Brain, was hosted on September 29. Dr. Matt Wanat from the UTSA Department of Biology discussed questions such as: What do drugs do to the brain? Why do some people become addicted to drugs while others do not? What can animals teach us about drug addiction in humans? On October 1, David Hinojosa, General Counsel for MALDEF in San Antonio spoke about the unconstitutionality of the current Texas School finance system and the DREAM Act.

### **Children's Services**

Big thanks to Arlene Richardson-Gibbs and Viki Ash for their leadership during Story Time in September. They prepared materials and provided coverage for children's programming during a brief time of leave for Children's Librarian Valerie Shelley.

Upon Ms. Shelley's return, she resumed Story Time responsibilities with stories about friendships. The children made prints of their hands on a large poster that is now displayed in the Forest Hills children's area.

A special Family Fun event on October 4 was well received as the families explored New World Foods at the Forest Hills Open Market. Foods were on display and available for tasting (with parent permission). Participants made baskets of fruits and vegetables out of construction paper to take home.

### Family Events

The Chalk-It-Up-Warm-Up was held on October 4. This event was open to patrons of all ages as they were invited to demonstrate their drawing skills with chalk on the sidewalks surrounding the Forest Hills Branch. Teens from Holmes High School created a piece depicting their school mascot.

### Outreach

Librarian Sandra Griffin visited with Rev. Henning of the St. Dominic's Catholic Church. St. Dominic's and the Forest Hills Library share many patrons. Ms. Griffin discussed the ways the church could share information about the library with its parishioners. St. Dominic's will be publishing news about upcoming library events in its weekly newsletter.

Ms. Shelley made a visited to the Villarreal Elementary School Open House on October 9. She was able to make contact with a large number of students and parents to encourage them to visit the Forest Hills Branch.

## GREAT NORTHWEST

The children at the Great Northwest Library enjoyed an exceptionally delightful day on September 16 during National Play-Doh Day. Over 200 participants enjoyed the joys of mixing colors, building and just having a fun time with the playdough.

The Tweens LEGO Club met on September 20 and stretched their imagination with meeting the challenge of building a LEGO city on a new planet.

Great Northwest Library held a Teddy Bear Sleepover on September 27. There were 45 in attendance wishing their Teddy Bears a great night in the library. The following day, families retrieved their bears and received a wonderful surprise of a little book with photos of all the bears' sleepover activities at the library.

Teens enjoyed video games after school every Wednesday evening. Participants challenged one another and enjoyed time together.

The branch was invited to attend a National Night Out event on October 7. Roberto Zapata and Sarah Vinton attended the outreach and shared information about library services and initiatives. Libro the Lion made an appearance and interacted with children and adults present at the event. Librarian Stephanie Vazquez attended a PTA event at Northwest Crossing and shared information about library services as well.

The branch celebrated Banned Books Week with two displays that highlighted banned books and graphic novels. In addition, a display for Hispanic Heritage Month was organized that offered books by and about Latinos.

## GUERRA

All staff attended a quarterly meeting on September 23. Discussion items included the circulation challenge, the conclusion of summer programs, and preparation for early voting and Election Day. The Guerra Friends held their fall book sale on October 4, 5, and 6. Branch Manager Dexter Katzman and Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson represented the branch and SAPL at the National Night Out event on October 7 at Cable Elementary School. They set up and showed attendees how to use the library digital display, distributed library information, and met with over 50 members of the community

Assistant Branch Manager Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard facilitated the Thursday Evening Book Club on October 9. Three members of the community discussed Carrie Fisher's autobiography *Wishful Drinking*. On October 11, she held the inaugural meeting of her Portuguese-language book club. Three members of the community selected short stories by Brazilian author Lygia Fagundes Telles. Library Aide Guadalupe Claypole helped Librarian Cris design and install a display for Hispanic Heritage Month.

Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson-Gibbs planned and presented eleven in-house programs--three Kids Times, four Toddler Times, and four Story Times. She celebrated Hispanic Heritage month with a special Kids Time--Mercado Guerra--allowing school aged children to have a hands-on introduction to various new world foods and then worked together to create an open air market--Mercado Guerra. Young readers enjoyed the opportunity to read to a dog on September 18 and October 12. On October 9, she participated in a day long workshop--Physical Science for Young Children facilitated by Dr. Bob Williams and Dr. Mary Hobbs. Arlene worked closely with Cammie Brantley, Branch Manager/McCreless and Marco De Leon/ Librarian I/Las Palmas on reviewing applications and conducting interviews to fill two part time temporary Library Assistant positions. She completed two modules in the New Supervisor Excellence Training and received two hours of training in recruitment /NEOGOV.

Adult Services Librarian, Stephen Jackson moderated the Club de Lectura (Spanish language book club) discussion of *La ciudad y los perros (The Time of the Hero)* by Maria Vargas Llosa on September 25. On September 27 he visited Sky Harbor Elementary for a health fair outreach. He attended Excel advanced training on October 8 and 9.

Teen Liaison Edward Mayberry held Game-Ra on September 11. The teens had Game-Ra on Thursday September 18 and October 9. The teens watched Godzilla on September 25. For the period, total attendance was 33. Edward coordinated teen assistance setting up the Guerra Friends book sale on October 2. Edward joined Christina Martinez, Library Assistant/Johnston and for an outreach at Southwest High School on September 30, speaking with approximately 50 teens.

## IGO

### Children's Services

Fall at the Igo Branch offered patrons a bounty of enriching and entertaining programs to entice children of all ages to visit the library. The branch's four weekly early literacy story times, bi-monthly Tween Time

for 9-12 year olds, as well as, monthly sessions of Discovery Time Math and Science for preschoolers and Beginner Readers Book Club continue to attract new patrons. A new offering this fall, LEGO® Club, for children of all ages, is off to a strong start and increasing the number of school age visitors and families in the library during late afternoons throughout the week. Thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Igo Library, the youth services department was able to purchase an additional 1,500 building bricks to add to the existing LEGO® and DUPLO® kits to accommodate more area youngsters.

Joining story times and school age programs on the monthly schedule, Igo staff is pleased to announce the addition of the Read to a Dog community partnership with Paws 4 Hearts Working Therapy Dogs. This program, under the supervision of children's librarian, Nancy Rodriguez, and therapy canine specialist, Jan Potter, is designed to support beginning and reluctant readers. It provides readers opportunities for read-aloud practice by a non-judgmental canine listener. Trained and certified therapy dog, Cinder, a poodle-bearded collie mix, greets readers with tail-wagging enthusiasm and patient fuzzy listening ears encouraging them to build reading skills by sharing their favorite books. This unique and fun after school program offered the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month has quickly become a favorite with readers and their caregivers.

Two system-wide programs offered in September included National Playdough Day (September 16) and the Fantastic Mr. Fox family fun event (September 26) gave library visitors opportunities for artist expression and creativity in a family friendly come and go format. Homemade playdough, dough rollers and shape cutters, as well as, other craft materials were placed in the kids' area to allow patrons to enjoy these activities over several hours throughout their visit.

Lastly, the Igo Library continues its commitment to area education partners by hosting story time for community early childcare facilities and elementary schools. The two schools visiting the branch during this reporting period included kindergarteners from the Suburban School and kindergarten and first grader students from Scenic Hills Christian School. Students, teachers, and caregivers enjoyed a variety of children's favorites and had the opportunity to explore the library during their visit. For this reporting period, Igo children's services staff presented 25 programs which served 1,591 children and their caregivers.

### **Teen Services**

Teen programming at the Igo Branch continued to be successful during the reporting period. Ongoing weekly programming continued with Teen Time on Wednesdays and Chess Club on Thursdays. Teen Time at Igo includes a Teen Library Leadership Council meeting, an anime club, and a new digital book club for teens.

Teens at the Igo worked collaboratively with Teen Services Librarian, Barbara Kwiatkowski, and put together a special program event for all ages celebrating "Talk like a Pirate Day." The event was very successful with over 50 participants, many of whom were dressed in costume as pirates, while they enjoyed pirate themed games, activities and snacks.

Teens also created a fantastic wall display in the lobby of the Igo Library promoting the Mayor's Book Club.

### **Adult Services**

Adults had the opportunity to learn from Aquifer Protection Program representatives about the importance of the Edwards Aquifer and the attempts to preserve it. Leslie Campbell, librarian for the San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society, talked to the Genealogy Club about her organization's resources. The Afternoon Book Club read Jess Walter's *Beautiful Ruins*, while the Mystery Club read Kylie Logan's *Mayhem at the Orient Express*.

The branch also began hosting an eReader/Tech Help class on Sundays. This provides one-on-one help to any attendee who needs assistance using a technology device such as tablet, smartphone, eReader or laptop. The bulk of the class focuses on help patrons learn how to use library resources, such as eBooks, downloadable audiobooks and more, in conjunction with these devices. There were two classes held

during this reporting period and both were very successful. Participants do need to register ahead of time and class size is limited.

The Igo Branch launched a "tournament" of mystery novels, running through October: Patrons are encouraged to vote for the "best mystery of all time," based on a list created by the Mystery Writers of America. Titles such as Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* and Raymond Chandler's *The Long Goodbye* are "competing" against each other in "playoffs" that will eventually determine a winner. Later in the year, tournaments will also be held for novels in other genres.

The Igo Elderberries group met with the Igo Teens on October 8 for a presentation by Robin Skoglund on Morocco. Twenty-two Elderberries and Teens enjoyed learning about Robin's experiences as a teacher-trainer for ESL instructors in Morocco. Robin also displayed some Moroccan crafts, such as rugs, tablecloths, and dresses. Several of the teens signed up for a pen-pal program with disadvantaged Moroccan youth. Moroccan mint tea and cookies, hummus and pita chips were enjoyed by all. Being an intergenerational program contributed to the diverse range of questions and enjoyment of the program.

Library Assistant, Irene Scharf, created and share the October issue (Vol. 1, Issue 8) of [The Elderberry Vine](#), which highlighted the Friends of Igo's book sale, the VIA Reduced Fare I.D. for Seniors, and a new program at Igo that provides one-on-one technology assistance.

The Friends of the Igo Library held their bi-annual book sale and bake sale on October 3 and 4. The sale was extremely successful and well attended.

Two staff members of the Igo Branch participated in a local neighborhood's National Night Out event and promoted library services and resources to the community members. Two Igo Branch staff members and a bilingual teen volunteer also attended Univision's First Annual Education Fair which was held at University of Texas San Antonio. This outreach resulted in over 100 new library cards being issued and over 500 children, teens and parents were informed about various library services.

## JOHNSTON

On National Night Out, Johnston Library participated in two neighborhood events. Branch Manager, Heather Muller, attended the Valley High Neighborhood Association's celebration at Blue Skies of Texas East. Adult Services Librarian, Monica Bustillo, joined the Springvale Neighborhood Association at the Chapel Hill Methodist Church. At the events, Johnston Library was able to promote library services as well as the Mayor's Book Club.

Children's Librarian, Beverly Wrigglesworth, continues to offer Baby Times, Story Times and Family Fun times which all get steady attendance. On September 16, which is National Playdough Day, twelve children and parents enjoyed squishing their hands into homemade Play Dough and sculpting various items. Nine parents and children attended Play & Learn on September 18; with an emphasis on "play." Eight children attended the New World Foods Hispanic Heritage program at Johnston. They had a great time creating their own baskets of fruits and vegetables. Mrs. Wrigglesworth also read stories to the pre-school children at Nurturing Hearts Learning Center.

On October 6, Mrs. Wrigglesworth gave a tour of Johnston Library to 11 Cub Scouts and their leaders. She also discussed library cards with the group.

Mrs. Wrigglesworth attended Diversity Training, a Recruitment Training, and Science for Young Children training with Dr. Bob Williams.

Teen Liaison, Christina Martinez, continues to hold weekly teen events. Over the last month she hosted a computer lab, a fall craft creating pumpkins out of old paperback books, a movie showing, and an Xbox game night.

On September 30, Ms. Martinez did an outreach event at Southwest Independent School District with Edward Mayberry, Library Assistant/Teen Liaison from Guerra Branch. Ms. Martinez also trained two new teen volunteers during the reporting period.

Adult Services Librarian, Ms. Bustillo, facilitated the Athena Readers Book Club discussion of Lois Lowry's *The Giver* on September 17. Ms. Bustillo continues to organizing the "BYOD: Bring Your Own Device" Program on Thursdays with growing attendance. On September 20, she hosted over fifty patrons for the Adult Summer Reading Program's Finale Party which featured a delightful musical performance by Optic Arrest. Ms. Bustillo also featured the movie *Hotel Transylvania* as the second film in the Friday Family Film series on October 10.

Ms. Bustillo's previous Computer Lab series was recently recognized in the Texas Library Association publication *Texas Library Journal* Volume 90, Number 3, Fall 2014 edition.

Ms. Bustillo continues to work with local senior centers including the Department of Human Services' Willie Cortez Senior Center and the Parks and Recreation Department's Virginia Gill Senior Center. On September 18 and 25, she visited the Cortez Center to promote the Mayor's Book Club and the many library services available to members.

On September 27, Ms. Bustillo partnered with Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson from Guerra Library to promote library services at the Sky Harbor Elementary Health Fair.

Ms. Bustillo also created displays to celebrate Banned Books Week, the Mayor's Book Club and Halloween. Together with branch staff, she created the Core Value Vision Board for Professionalism.

## LANDA

### **Children's Department**

September was, and October is proving to be, busy here at Landa. National Playdough Day attendees had fun with four batches of a play dough recipe that Children's Librarian Clair Larkin cooked at home for participants. Add in some giant googly-eyes, creepy crawly bugs and the result is lots of fun. LEGO Club is always a success and the participants love to see their creations decorate the library for a few weeks afterward. All Baby Time, Toddler Time and Story Time programs are well attended and children love to play the Sleeping Bunnies game. Landa Lab, a new monthly science program is slowly getting off the ground, and Clair is eager to implement the new ideas and strategies that Dr. Bob covered at the most recent children's librarians' professional development training. "*Rockets*" was the theme at the monthly Come & Go, in keeping with the Mayor's Book Club pick, and everyone was thrilled with the craft and the book displays on space.

The School of Excellence's Kelley Elementary asked Clair to attend parents' night, where she was able to invite students and their parents to visit the library. Clair also attended Math Night at Lamar Elementary and the children loved playing with straws and connectors that Viki Ash brought along. At UPCC, Clair held three story times as part of her on-going outreach at the childcare center. A local Cub Scout group came in for a tour of the library and couldn't wait to get their hands on as many LEGO books as could be found.

### **Adult Services Department**

The regular adult programming at Landa is well underway for Fall with a meeting of the Landa Seniors Mystery Book Club. This month's selection was, *Carved in Bone* by Jefferson Bass, the first of a series about Tennessee's famous "bone farm." October's Silver Screen Classic was *Ninotchka* starring Greta Garbo and Melvyn Douglas, a romantic comedy about a stern Russian bureaucrat (Garbo) who falls in love with a suave Frenchman (Douglas). The Adult Geek Gaming continues to draw a small but dedicated crowd. Connie Hejl spearheads this group.

Adult services librarian Karen Sebesta kicked off the season's Incarnate Word DeMatel Nursing Home Outreach with a program about space, tying in with the Mayor's Book Club selection, *Rocket Boys*. The



residents played “planet trivia” game, saw visuals of the solar system in library books, and did a “man-in-the-moon” craft. On Tuesday evening, October 7, Branch Manager Heidi Novotny and Karen greeted visitors at National Night Out at Laurel Heights United Methodist Church. About 50 adults and children dropped by the library table where the children created a clever owl craft and the parents learned about library services, particularly the many digital offerings available through using a SAPL library card.

Based on the popularity of the weekly Adult Summer Reading programming in June and July, Karen is hosting a similar series called *October Mondays @ Landa* each Monday at 4 pm. The first program featured Tom and Patsy Inglet, Master Naturalists from the San Antonio Audubon Society, who talked about the beginner’s basics of birding. They had a visual presentation as well as hands-on guidance in using binoculars.

### **Teen Services Department**

Teens at Landa conceptualized programs for the *Landa Teen Library Leadership Council (The Council)*, *International Teen Club* and *Teen Readers’ League* (online book club). On October 5 the Council coordinated an Environmental Awareness program for their monthly children’s program, *Science Demonstrations Live!* series. During Banned Books Week, The Council created a statement supporting library patrons’ right to read. See their statement on the Teen Services WordPress site <http://goo.gl/3NF3MN>. The International Teen Club members voted to continue with the Sisters’ Cities program through the International Affairs division. The city they are focusing on is Chennai, India. Landa Teen Readers’ League opened up their online presence with a *vine video* called “Prepping for Banned Books Week” at this link: <http://goo.gl/msfUyd>.

On September 17 Bea Canales, Teen Services Liaison, facilitated a question and answer session with teens titled, *Teen Privacy: End Piracy*. This was also part of a *Mozilla Maker Party* that gave teens on hands help on how to increase their privacy settings for their social media accounts. This talk allowed Ms. Canales to receive a Mozilla badge for sharing a web literacy skill.

For the Mayor’s Book Club challenge, on October 8 the Cool Teens Club celebrated Teen World Space Week with a *Rocket Boys*-inspired crafts, food and opened the celebration with a talk from the San Antonio College’s Scobee Planetarium and Challenger Learning Center staff.

On October 7-9 Ms. Bea Canales attended the annual, Library 2.014 Worldwide Virtual Conference: the Future of Libraries in the Digital Age ([library20.com](http://library20.com)). She attended these free sessions such as: BiblioTherapy, BiblioTech, Year One, Cool Tools to Visualize Information and more!

## **LAS PALMAS**

Branch Manager Tim Johnson hosted the Las Palmas Book Club on September 17. Members read and very much enjoyed the suspense of Gillian Flynn’s *Sharp Objects*. Mr. Johnson has also continued to learn about and teach chess on Monday evenings for the Las Palmas Dark Knights chess club, which has benefitted from donations by HEB, Castle Chess, and the Friends of the Las Palmas. The group has seen a regular increase in attendance incorporating a variety of ages.

Children’s Librarian Gina Brudi continued her outreach to literacy centers Madonna, Good Samaritan, and Avance Castroville & Mirasol. Playdough Day was a big hit at the Las Palmas Library with 20 children and 8 adults attending. The LEGO Club has continued to draw enthusiastic crowds with all creations being placed in the display case for everyone to see, with new shelves courtesy of Richard Garcia from Facilities. Ms. Brudi has continued to host Family Fun on a weekly basis and the LEGO Club twice a month.

Teen Services Librarian Marco De Leon saw a steady attendance of his teen flagship program Super Cool Awesome Teen Gaming Block 3000. While that program continued to focus on providing teen-oriented entertainment (video games, board games, and movies), the teens that attended requested help with their homework. In response to the request, Mr. De Leon decided to establish a new program called The UnHomework Hour. The program takes place Wednesday – Friday on a weekly basis. The

UnHomework Hour had an unannounced trial run on the last week of September and the results were positive. St. PJ's Children's Home also continued to send its teens to the library for academic help, as per the agreement established the previous month. Due to the great academic need, Mr. De Leon has been in contact with local universities and volunteers to bring Math tutorial services to the library. The goal is to have Math tutors on a regular, weekly basis.

September was also a month where Mr. De Leon received an unexpected amount of teen volunteer applications.

Anne Schuette hosted an adult program: "Eliminate Debt & Build Credit" with Christina Randell and Nancy Scull of the non-profit organization Debt Free Angels on September 27. Christina brought a PowerPoint slide show detailing little known facts, your rights and tips on how to become financially free. The staff began a list of financial goals for the short-term, mid-term and long range. It also began to draw up a budget and see what spending habits the branch might change to start making regular savings deposits.

Ms. Schuette also arranged for a program on "Rainwater Harvesting" on October 4. Troy Luepke is the A&M AgriLife Extension Services Urban Program Coordinator on Water and Natural Resources for Bexar County and teaches rain barrel construction, but provided the workshop free of charge. The highlight was the rain barrel raffle. One winner began collecting rain water in 1983, but both barrels went home to excited new owners. The Las Palmas Friends group covered the cost of one barrel and A&M AgriLife donated the other. Mr. Luepke is witty and entertaining along with imparting concrete facts. He is passionate about saving water, covered the aquifer recharge zone as well as grassland and wildlife conservation.

Circulation Attendant Patricia Perez introduced Las Palmas' Bilingual Story time. Bilingual Story time is held every Tuesday morning. The program integrates both English and Spanish to develop literacy skills. This month focused on introducing the letters of the alphabet using animals, colors, and repetition. The favorite selections for the month included *Hickory Dickory Dog* by Alison Murray and *Colores* by Patrick George.

## MAVERICK

Training was a priority during the reporting period. Branch Manager, Jef Martin, and Librarians, Ben Longoria and Amy Roberts, attended Diversity Training the last week of September. During the first week of October, they also attended Health Benefits Training. Ms. Roberts attended a Science Workshop, geared toward activities for preschool aged children, on October 9.

In other news, the Friends of the Maverick Library had a successful book sale on October 4 and 5, earning \$2,300! The Friends of the San Antonio Library had their meeting at Maverick on September 21. The Ladies Choice Book Club had 10 attendees on September 29. Finally, on October 4, Library Aides Raina Oster and Liz Santos, and Circulation Attendant, Sarah Borque planned a Fall Festival. Events included a Pet Adoption, a movie, snacks, and crafts.

## McCRELESS

Three Story Time programs were held during this time period. Children listened to stories, sang songs and played with puppets and musical instruments. Using blocks and other materials they created towns, people, vehicles and animals together. Topics included toys, autumn leaves, and farm animals.

In addition to the story times, McCreless Branch held three Family Fun programs, which included New World Foods, Fox Family Fun and Fall Leaf painting. To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, families worked together to create a special bulletin board, which depicts "Mercado McCreless." Fox masks and fall leaves were part of the fun in the other two programs.

Monty Holcomb, Librarian I, hosted four informal weekly chess events and hosted (with the help of assistants) four Teen events.

Adult Services Librarian Tina Hudec arranged a viewing of "Catching Fire" on September 27 to a lively audience of 15 individuals.

The three supervising Librarians completed the Supervisory Excellence classes during this time period. Branch Manager Cammie Brantley represented McCreless at the District 3 event at Harlandale High School for National Night Out on October 7.

Cammie also conducted her first of three "Weeding Workshops" on September 17 in order to train other professionals in the art of collection management in a "floating" environment.

Tina and Cammie are participating in the technology training initiative "11.5 COSA" and learning new things as they work through the lessons and create blogs.

## MEMORIAL

The Memorial Branch Library hosted a National Night Out gathering on October 7. Three local neighborhood associations came together at the branch to celebrate National Night Out, strengthen neighborhood spirit and encourage police-community partnerships. Over one hundred people enjoyed food and drinks that were generously donated by the Amigos- Friends of the Memorial Branch library. Code Blue, the St. Mary's University dance team, added to the festivities with a performance.

Children's programming at Memorial included celebrations of National Playdough Day, National Library Card Sign-up Month and Hispanic Heritage Month where children created paper fruits and vegetables and placed them on a banner to replicate a Mexican market and then had an opportunity to touch and smell a few real fruits and vegetables such as pineapples, peppers, and corn. Each event included special crafts and stories. Family fun included an origami class taught by Circulation Attendant, Adam Capelo. Children's Librarian, Trina Smith, attended the Science for Young Children workshop that was conducted by nationally-known author and educator, Dr. Robert "Bob" Williams, who introduced STEM-themed activities to preschoolers.

Adult programming observed Hispanic Heritage Month with a photo exhibit by San Anto Cultural Arts students. The exhibit featured selected photos from an annual week long summer photography program entitled *Detras Del Lente, Behind the Lens*. An associated group, Mi Familia Vota, registered voters at the opening reception.

Sixth Sense Paranormal visited the branch on October 9. The group, which is dedicated to the investigation, documentation and study of paranormal phenomena and activity, spoke about its local findings as well as "sightings" in other Texas locations. Patrons were intrigued to learn about their work and appreciated the stories from the ghostly world.

Teen programming continued to draw a good crowd. Several teens who attend Teen Tuesday programs lent a much appreciated helping hand at the National Night Out event and also stayed around to enjoy the festivities.

The Memorial Amigos- Friends of the Memorial Branch Library held a successful book sale on September 20-21. The group recently made several purchases for the branch including a new digital camera, flat screen television, indoor book drop and mobile book display unit.

## MISSION

Mission Library made positive attempts to engage its community through its programming and outreach efforts. The library participated in two National Night Out events. The Mission San Jose Neighborhood Association hosted NNO festivities in the library's North Courtyard. Manager Elma Nieto-Rodriguez

represented Mission Library at Harlandale's National Night Out event along with District 3 library managers Cammie Brantley and Nathaniel Laubner.

Adults were offered table tennis, movie screenings, citizenship classes, and a Hispanic Heritage Month documentary. The film *Fahrenheit 451* was offered during Banned Books Week along with a corresponding display featuring photos of staff members holding challenged books. The photos were placed under the heading "Public Enemies". The display garnered enlightening conversations with visiting patrons.

All ages were invited to join Mission's weekly Dark Bishops Chess Club. The relatively new program continues to grow in popularity.

Mission Teen Services had a total of 12 programs with 229 attendees for the reporting period.

### **Teen Services**

Teen Time activities focused on celebrations of Hispanic Heritage Month and Banned Books Week. Teens created embossed metal tiles, Banned Book Week buttons and other art projects. Teen Time drew 48 participants. Dungeons and Dragons night had 11 teens participating. Mission Video Game Club had 80 participants. The Anime Club created and painted custom made jewelry from buttons and other household objects. Anime Club had 13 teens participate.

Teen volunteers continue to provide input on programming ideas and displays as well as share their experiences through blogging. Teen volunteers contributed over 12 hours of service.

In addition, two presentations/tours took place during the reporting period. A presentation to SASTEM consisted of a discussion on SAPL resources to 22 STEM educators from various school districts. The Teen Librarian also gave a presentation and tour to teens and educators from St. Peter's - St. Joseph's Children's Home. Fifty teens and five teachers attended the tour.

### **Children's Services**

This month Mission children's librarian and a staff member participated in Literacy Night at Gilbert Elementary School. Over 160 children and adults visited the library table to learn about upcoming events and library services. Many signed up for their first library card. Participants were very enthusiastic and excited for the opportunity to visit Mission Library and check out "real" books.

All the staff is participating in decorating the library, the children's area and beyond, for Halloween and Fall. All are working together to create the branch's best Halloween party ever.

## PAN AMERICAN

The Pan American Branch Library continued to provide fun and educational programs for the Southside community. Fitness classes such as Tai Chi and Yoga gave residents the opportunity to relieve stress through stretching and mediation. Quilting Thursdays, a new class that has proven to be very popular is geared towards beginners and allows fellow quilters the chance to exchange ideas.

On Tuesdays the branch has Story time, Toddler Time and Family Fun hour for children and parents. Additionally, Wednesdays are for Tween time activities such as Wii Dance. Children's Librarian, Carol Collins, continued to make weekly visits to local daycare centers.

The Branch also held programs for teens such as guitar pick collage, Wii Gaming, button making and movie night. The events provided teens the opportunity to express themselves creatively and develop friendships with others at the library.

## PARMAN

The DIY U (Do It Yourself University) Fall semester continued with 7 more classes. Beginning knitting was taught by the owner of Inkskein Yarns Shannon Sanchez and was arranged by Circulation Attendant Cara Garcia. Manager Haley Holmes taught participants to make a double stranded necklace in the Jewelry Making class. Library Assistant Robin Alcorta led a class on making coasters with personal photographs out of tile and resin. The Alamo Area Woodcarvers conducted a two part beginning woodcarving class where participants carved a cowboy boot. The two part basket weaving class was taught by Children's Librarian Carrie Vance. Trinity professor of creative writing, Kelly Grey Carlisle, taught "Writing from Life", a memoir class for DIY U students. Also, the second in a three part drawing class, *Keeping it in Proportion*, was taught by Circulation Attendant Elissa Vura. The classes have been well attended. The supplies are provided by the Friends of the Parman Library. Many participants have expressed their gratitude and surprise that Parman Library is able to offer such an array of classes for adults.

A trail naming hearing for a trail in the new Panther Springs Park was held at Parman and was attended by Councilman Joe Krier. Citizens proposed that the trail be named for Wyatt McDaniel, a local boy who passed away last year. The proposal will be taken to City Council in the near future.

Parman Library held its 6<sup>th</sup> Teddy Bear Sleepover in September. Staff including Carrie Vance, Haley Holmes, Marisa DeBow, Christina Hess, Elissa Vura, Megan Gilsdorf, Robin Alcorta, and Ella Meissler stayed after the library closed to pose the animals and take pictures. Ms. Vance creates the slideshow that is then shown to the children the following morning when they return to pick up their animals. As always, the event was a great success and the children were amazed to see what their animals had done at the library overnight.

Staff planned an evening of events at Parman for National Night Out. Happy Tails brought seven exotic animals to show (and pet in many cases). The School of Rock house band played until after the library closed. The Friends of the Parman Library served hotdogs and lemonade to the crowd. It was a busy fun filled evening.

## PRUITT

Exciting programming has been happening at the Molly Pruitt Library. Science teacher Misty Belmontez and Children's Librarian, Cynthia Saenz have collaborated to create SPARK which stands for Science Propelling Amor for Reading Kinesthetically. High school students read and talk about science concepts with elementary age kids then they conduct experiments related to the theme of the day. The first SPARK program was held on September 29. There were 23 attendees. The program will be held the last school Monday of each month throughout the school year.

Hispanic Heritage Month was celebrated with a colorful display of Hispanic heritage items and books. Teen Librarian Rae Downen, Children's Librarian, Cynthia Saenz, and Library Assistant, Catrina Grivich created a Dia de los Muertos craft where students were able to decorate their own skull. Kids' Time participants also learned about fruits and vegetables native to Central and South America often sold in open air markets. The kids had fun creating their own outdoor marketplace.

Teen volunteers abound at the Pruitt Library. 39 students have signed up to assist with various tasks around the library from straightening shelves, assisting with program preparations, and program planning. Rachel Downen has done a fantastic job coordinating the efforts of these eager volunteers. These volunteers are earning hours toward their community service graduation requirements.

Lead Librarian/Branch Manager Troy Lawrence and Digital Services Coordinator Ignacio Albarracin presented a program called Crucial Conversations at the Region 20 Educational Service Center's annual Resource Roundup held on September 19. These were ideas and concepts gained through the TALL Texan Leadership Institute attended by Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Albarracin last June. The information shared gave attendees insights in how to conduct conversations between coworkers to bring forth solutions to problems shared in the workplace.

## SAN PEDRO

Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton presented monthly story times to children at Educare Child Care Center (two classes), and Monte Vista Montessori (two classes). Fifteen books were also delivered to each child care class for their use during the month.

On September 3, a group of children enjoyed creating with LEGOs and DUPLOs on LEGO Day at the Library and Miss Betsy continues to present a weekly Kids Time school-aged students.

Two Family Fun events were held at San Pedro: one was celebrating National Playdough Day and the other was celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. The children and their families enjoyed creating unusual creatures and gardens out of play dough and supplying a Central American *mercado* (market) with construction paper New World vegetables and fruits. Ana Sandoval, part time circulation attendant at San Pedro, created the stunning market for the participants. The *mercado* will be a part of a permanent display at San Pedro.

On October 7, Betsy met with the assistant headmaster of the Lower School at Great Hearts Academy to promote the library and acquaint her with all the services we can provide the students, teachers, and parents. She also promoted the Young Pegasus poetry contest.

During this period, Ms. Betsy facilitated monthly books discussions at Monte Vista Montessori (4<sup>th</sup>) and Hawthorne Academy (4th and 5th grade) book clubs. The book clubs have 12 members each. The book clubs meet during the students' lunch period in the school library where the books read the previous month are discussed.

Monte Vista Montessori brings approximately fifty students weekly to the library. These students range in age from eight to thirteen, grades 2 through 8. When the class comes to the library, the Children's Librarian spends approximately thirty minutes with the students, suggesting books and helping them navigate the Dewey Decimal system, place holds, use the catalog and databases, and locate materials.

San Pedro staff members Wilson Plunkett and James Sontag attended a National Night Out (October 7) event for the Alta Vista Neighborhood Association. The event was fun for all. There were about seventy-five people there and Mr. Plunkett and Mr. Sontag shared information with thirty-two of them. Along with the library information, there were games for the kids (sack races and such) and hamburgers and hotdogs for everyone.

## SEMMES

Librarian II, Beth Schorlemer, visited Madison High School on September 23 for an all-day library outreach visit. She was joined by Librarian I, Rhonda Woolhouse from Thousand Oaks and Kathleen Fordyce, Librarian II – Teen Services. The team did a series of six presentations to promote the services the library has to offer our Teen patrons.

The Friends of the Semmes Branch Library held their quarterly meeting on October 1. During the meeting the dates for the 2015 book sales were decided. Having the dates now should help with planning and publicizing the upcoming sales. The Friends approved the purchase of a new sofa for the Children's section, as well as slat wall display panels for the Juvenile Fiction shelving area. They will also be purchasing 100 new book easels for the branch.

The Friends of Comanche Lookout Park held a National Night Out event at the branch on October 7, 2014. The Comanche Friends roasted marshmallows on the back patio and held a white elephant giveaway for library and park patrons. The Friends of Semmes provided the refreshments for the event and manned an information table on the patio. The event was very successful. Several local politicians even stopped by to talk to their constituents.

# THOUSAND OAKS

## **Children's Activities**

Children's programs consisted of Toddler Time, Story Time, Come and Go Crafts and Lego Time. On Oct. 2, the Story Time participants heard monster stories and children's librarian Leslie Elsasser borrowed monster-related props from Little Read Wagon, and the kids had fun participating in a variety of monster activities, such as monster bean bag toss, monster feeding, monster slime and a monster craft.

The Thousand Oaks Friends group generously purchased Legos for Lego Time, and on Oct. 2, the kids used the brand new Legos for the first time. The kids were so excited that there were so many wheels, and parents commented that they were impressed with the amount of Legos the library now owns.

Leslie Elsasser presented three story times about autumn to a local daycare on Oct. 8.

Leslie Elsasser had the opportunity to attend a day-long seminar on pre-school science Oct. 9 at the Central Library. She returned to the library with new and exciting ideas about incorporating science into children's programs.

## **Teen Time**

The new Teen Liaison for Thousand Oaks, and new Library Assistant, Rebekah Corley continues to build interest in all the wonderful things the branch offers, and working on a grand "re-opening" of Teen Time in November. Ms. Corley attended an outreach at Madison High School on September 23, where she spoke with 35 students and gave them loads of information concerning the branch, the Library, and all the programs and events at the Library.

## **Book Groups**

Thousand Oaks hosted two lively book groups in September and October. The Thursday Afternoon Book Group met on September 18 to discuss *The Zookeeper's Daughter* by Diane Ackerman. Even though the theme of the story (Poland during the Holocaust) itself was not a particularly enjoyable one, the group all greatly enjoyed the book immensely and were impressed by what the subjects of the story did in a harrowing time and environment. The Monday Night Book Group met on October 6 and discussed the book *Half Broke Horses* by Jeanette Wells. The consensus of the group was that it was an interesting look at the time period, and it was well written.

## **Programming/Events/Outreach**

The San Antonio Feral Cat Coalition had a full crowd for their program on September 20.

Branch Manager represented the Library at a National Night Out event at the club house for the Valencia Home Owners Association on October 7. With loads of information to hand, it was a treat to be able to discuss all the wonderful assets the Library has to offer. Many of the folks were curious about the Library's Digital Library, and it's multitude of formats and possibilities, along with a fair amount of interest being paid to the Express titles, both books and movies. Branch events were also highlighted, along with the Mayor's Book Club selection *Rocket Boys*.

Author Jennifer Allen visited Thousand Oaks to speak on the subject of autism and discuss her book *Coping to Excellence: Guiding a Child with High Functioning Autism through School-Age Years*. While the turnout was less than hoped for, the participants who attended were thrilled that the branch offered this program. All who attended commented on valuable the information they received was, and how it was a positive event for them to attend.

# TOBIN AT OAKWELL

Tobin Library at Oakwell celebrated recent extreme renovations on September 27 with activities, refreshments and music. Despite rain, the event was well attended to hear Assistant Director Dale McNeill speak along with City Councilman, Mike Gallagher. Southwest High School's mariachi group performed under Mr. Perales and Mr. Cantu's direction with a lively crowd for Hispanic Heritage Month.

Since the branch's re-opening in September, several new programs have started with excellent results. Librarian Tracey Knouse coordinated a Voter Registration Drive for three separate days in September. Keri Moczygamba, Adult Services Librarian, impressively began outreach programs at three different senior centers in the area. At Stone Brook Manor and Emeritus at Oakwell Farms, Ms. Moczygamba initiated book clubs. At Regent Care monthly activities have commenced based on resident and activity director input. Ms. Moczygamba also energetically coordinates the trivia visits to North East Service Center, where Thousand Oaks partners with Tobin for this popular program each month.

Children's Librarian, Ariel Cummins, introduced Baby Time, in addition to her weekly Toddler and Story Time programs. Since the monthly LEGO Club has attracted large crowds, Ms. Cummins started a Messy Art Club in September with similar results. Ariel's Toddler Approved and Baby Bags displays have been enthusiastically received as well. The come and go crafts being extended to all day on Saturday have engaged more families with varying schedules to be able to participate.

Library Assistants, Terry Verner and Elvia Ramos, have been rotating with the librarians to host Teen and Tween programs to keep kids returning to the library. Teens especially appreciate the new dedicated enclosed space for them to hang out after school. Staff and customers also like the space with glass walls and the lowered noise levels throughout the branch after school on weekdays.

Numerous display areas have been added at the branch including a feature wall in non-fiction and in the lounge areas. Displays highlight health and fitness, true crime, business, the Mayor's Book Club – *Rocket Boys*, Explore the Universe, Banned Books and Breast Cancer.

## WESTFALL

After a soft opening in September, Westfall's Learn Center began offering a variety of classes on October 1. Classes include basic computer skills, resume writing, conversational English and GED preparation.

Additionally, the DHS social worker has provided help to a number of patrons attempting to navigate red tape. Annette Sweet, the DHS social worker temporarily assigned to Westfall's Learn Center, put her abilities to work within the first hour she arrived. A patron was confounded and upset by mixed information she had received about her application to the San Antonio Housing Authority. Annette listened to the problem, picked up the telephone and called SAHA. She was able to speak with a person who could provide accurate information about the patron's application status. The patron was relieved and grateful.

Training Officer Deborah Carter spoke about the Learn Center to 50 people during Northeast Independent School District's Career Fair and she interacted with another 60 people at the Dellview Area Neighborhood Association's National Night Out at Dellview Park.

Deborah also represented the library at the launch of Acceso Latino, a free website created by the Carlos Slim Foundation to provide the Hispanic community easy access to content about education, healthcare, and job training.

With school back in full swing, Children's Librarian Imelda Merino and Librarian Karen Sagun are doing a lot of outreach. Imelda talked about library services with 24 students and 24 adults at West Elementary School's Literacy Night. She also visited KinderCare to conduct an off-site story time and hosted Discovery School students on two occasions.

Karen prepared a book kit on *Dracula* for students at Jefferson High School. She gathered copies of the book, prepared discussion questions and provided a list of read-alike so the students can study Bram Stoker's classic work.

Westfall also played host to Active Shooter Training for the system, and was the site for a jobs skills workshop organized by the library's Jobs and Small Businesses Committee. The branch also hosted two



organizations working to register Texas voters in time for the November gubernatorial election. A community health worker from UTHSC set up a table to provide information about Genetic Risk Assessment for Cancer in All of South Texas, which is a program designed for early detection and prevention of hereditary breast and colon cancer in high-risk persons.



## CONSTRUCTION

### **District 2 Branch Library**

**Description:** Development of a branch library in Council District 2.

**Funds:** \$6,000,000 (2012 Bond); \$100,000 (Public Art Piece)

**Location/District:** 5.73 acre site on US Hwy 87 East near Fosters Meadow Road / District 2

**City Architect:** Stacy Gonzales

**Project Architect:** O'Neill Conrad Oppelt Architects, Inc. (OCO)

**Design Enhancement:** Cakky Brawly – Artist from San Antonio

**Construct Contract:** TBD

**Estimated Completion Date:** FY 2016

#### **Project Scope:**

Development of a Branch Library in Council District 2. There is a commitment for a donation of land for this project, as such funding does not include resources for the acquisition of land

#### **Current Status:**

Library Board voted March 27 to accept property donation for new library, contingent on the completion of due diligence. Planning Commission approval was received on May 22, and City Council approval for acceptance of donated land was given August 8.

Design Kick-off meeting was held with OCO Architects on Sept. 12.

The first public input meeting was held on Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> at Sinclair Elementary School. On September 25 an input session was held with the Library Board of Trustees.

The Owner Project Requirement meeting (OPR) was held on October 1 in the Central Auditorium. A library staff input meeting was held on October 12. On November 13, the Facilities Committee recommended accepting an additional donation of land from Mr. Schaefer that would allow for a possible driveway into the as yet developed subdivision. The Library Board of Trustees approved accepting the land donation at their December 4 meeting. A staff meeting was held January 16 to finalize programming requirements. Conceptual floor and site plan was recommended for approval by Facilities Committee on February 12, and was approved by the Board of Trustees February 26. A second public input session was held on February 20, 2014 at Sinclair Elementary School. HDRC gave conceptual approval of the project on May 7. Bi-Weekly project team meetings are being held as Architectural team continues developing design documents.

The selected artist has been introduced to the design team and will begin developing conceptual themes for the project. An artist workshop was held on April 30 to receive input from selected stakeholders. Conceptual approval of the artwork was presented to the Facilities Committee and Library Board at their August meetings and approved. Final design development documents were presented to the Facilities Committee and Library Board at their August meetings and approved. Final design approval was given by HDRC at their September 3 meeting. A Community Public Art Workshop was held on September 11 at

the Sinclair Elementary School. Construction documents have been finalized by Architect and solicitation for bids begins on October 20, 2014. Bid opening is scheduled for November 18, with city council approval scheduled for January of 2015.

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#### **District 6 Branch Library Outlet Site**

**Description:** Development of a branch library site in Council District 6.

**Funds:** \$1,400,000 (2012 Bond)

**Location/District:** TBD/District 6

**City Architect:** Stacy Gonzales

**Project Architect:** TBD

**Design Enhancement:** N/A

**Construction Contract:** TBD

**Estimated Completion Date:** TBD

**Project Scope:**

Development of a branch library site in Council District 6

**Current Status:**

Library staff met with Councilman Lopez to provide an update on the project, solicit his feedback regarding the target area and to obtain feedback regarding service model options. Staff met again with CM Lopez on August 29, 2013 to explore a potential opportunity for Library Outlet. Outlet would be approx. 5,000 sf co-located in a 40,000 s.f. recreation center. On September 25, an executive session of the Library Board of Trustees was held regarding proposed Real Estate transaction. Additional discussions were held at an executive session of the June 25 Board meeting regarding this project. Presentation was made by TCI to Facilities Committee and Library Board at their August meetings detailing the latest developments for this project. Another presentation was given to the Facilities Committee on October 8 detailing the latest developments for this project. Library staff will work with Facilities Programmer to develop service model.

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#### **Encino Branch Library**

**Description:** Development of a branch library site in Council District 9.

**Funds:** \$7,000,000 (2012 Bond); \$100,000 (Public Art Piece)

**Location/District:** 2515 East Evans Road/District 9

**City Architect:** Stacy Gonzales

**Project Architect:** Alvidrez Architects

**Design Enhancement:** Joe O'Connell & Blessing Hancock - Artists from Tucson, AZ

**Construction Contract:** Davila Construction

**Estimated Completion Date:** May 2015

**Project Scope:**

Development of a branch library in Council District 9. This project will require the purchase of land. Funding includes acquisition of the land

**Current Status:**

Library Board voted February 27, 2013 to accept offer for property located along Evans Road, west of HWY 281. Planning commission approved on March 27. City Council approved purchase on May 2, 2013. Property closed on May 10, and all locks were re-keyed after ownership transfer to secure building. Staff has begun scoping meetings with Alvidrez Architects.

Owner Project Requirement meeting (OPR) was held on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> at the Central Library Auditorium. First public input meeting was held on October 12 at Encino Park Elementary School. On October 23 an input session was held with the Library Board of Trustees. A library staff input meeting was held on October 30. A Second public input session was held on November 20 at 2515 East Evans Road. On December 4, Library Board of Trustees approved a conceptual floor plan for the facility. Floor plan, exterior elevations and selected finishes were shown to the Library Board of Trustees on February 27 and approved. HDRC approval was given on March 7 for this project. A third public community meeting was held on March 24 at the library site, 2515 East Evans Rd. to update the community on project progress. Bi-Weekly project team meetings are being held as Architectural team is finalizing construction documents. Construction

documents were completed in May, and on May 28, a pre-submittal conference was held for all interested contractors to review the project. Construction bids were opened for public disclosure on June 17, and a review committee determined qualified low-bid contractor (Davila Construction). Construction contract was approved by City Council on August 21, and construction began on August 27. A Transformation Launch Event was held on September 9 at the building site. Construction continues on the project, with weekly project meetings.

At the June 25 Board meeting, the Board approved the geographic name "Encino Branch Library". The Naming Committee held a public comment meeting on August 23 at the building site.

The selected artist was introduced to the design team and began developing conceptual themes for the project. Conceptual design was presented and approved at the July 23 Library Board of Trustees meeting. A public input meeting was held on July 24 at the building site for community feedback regarding the public art content. Final art work was presented to the Facilities Committee on October 8 and a recommendation was made to approve the art work. This will be presented to the Library Board of Trustees at their October 22 meeting for final approval

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### **Central Library**

**Description:** Renovations, repairs, upgrades and space reconfiguration to the Central Library facility

**Funds:** \$4,000,000 (2012 Bond)

**Location/District:** 600 Soledad / District 1

**City Architect:** Stacy Gonzales

**Project Architect:** Marmon Mok

**Design Enhancement:** N/A

**Construction Contract:** TBD

**Estimated Completion Date:** FY 2017

#### **Project Scope:**

Renovations, repairs, upgrades and space reconfiguration to the Central Library facility

**Current Status:** Preliminary meeting with the selected Architectural firm (Marmon Mok) has been held to finalize their contract scope. Kick-off meeting was held on Sept. 17, 2013. Marmon Mok is currently designing 1<sup>st</sup> floor restroom renovations to coincide with Café Commerce project. Additional planning meetings have been held with Marmon Mok to finalize project scope for FY 2014. Scope to include new carpet in public areas on floors 2, 5 & 6; restroom renovation to all public restrooms; installation of new exterior sign along Soledad Street; staff and collection moves associated with Café Commerce project; Audio/Visual improvements to Auditorium and other assorted mechanical, electrical and HVAC repairs. Work has been completed at the 1<sup>st</sup> floor restrooms adjacent to Connect Space, and at the restrooms adjacent to the auditorium. Carpet replacement contract for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floors was approved by City Council on June 12. Carpet replacement for the Chihuly area on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is complete. Collection and staff moves relative to Café Commerce Phase 2 are complete. A/V improvements to Auditorium have been completed, and a new podium has been installed in the auditorium. Assorted building repairs highlighted in the 2009 Facilities Assessment Study have been completed. Exterior sign has been installed, and lighting was also added for illumination of the sign. Lights were also installed to illuminate the flags, so security guards will no longer need to raise and lower the flags each day. Design for the Teen Space has been completed, and a pre-bid meeting was held on August 28th. Bid opening scheduled for September 16. Staff moves to accommodate the Teen Center space include ILL Department, which has moved from 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to basement, Facilities Department has been moved from 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to basement, Periodicals department has been moved from 6<sup>th</sup> floor to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and Marketing will move from 3<sup>rd</sup> floor to newly designed area on 6<sup>th</sup> floor. Carpet installation for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floors has been completed. Elevator replacement of the 4 public elevators at Central is underway, and is being partially funded by the Bond project. Work on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor marketing area began on September 11, and is scheduled to be complete in early November. Marmon Mok is currently working with consultants to provide a life safety assessment of Central Library, as well as a security assessment. They are also working with their HVAC consultant to provide plans and specs to replace the aging computer control system and outdated HVAC components throughout the building.

**2014 Facilities Assessment Study**

**Description:** Repairs and improvements to 8 Branch Libraries

**Funds:** \$1,492,000 (Deferred Maintenance Funding)

**District:** 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10

**Project Architect:** Debra J. Dockery Architect, PC.

**Design Enhancement:** None

**Construction Contract:** BES / Job Order Contractor system (CIMS) / Vendor Contracts

**Original Target Completion Date:** September 30, 2014

**Project Scope:** Make branch repairs and improvements, based in part on the April, 2009 Facilities Assessment Study conducted by Debra J. Dockery Architect, PC. Some additional repair items identified since the 2009 FAS study have also been included in this work. There will also be three Extreme Library makeovers completed at Carver, Cortez and Tobin at Oakwell Libraries.

**Current Status:**

**1<sup>st</sup> quarter projects:** Work at Guerra (retainer block repair) and Maverick (roof, irrigation and wall repair) has been completed.

**2<sup>nd</sup> quarter projects:** Work at Landa (interior painting, roof repairs, front door replacement and other building repairs) and Johnston (parking lot improvements and security camera installation) has been completed

**3<sup>rd</sup> quarter projects:** Work at Cortez (Extreme Library Makeover) and Westfall (interior and exterior improvements) has been completed

**4<sup>th</sup> quarter projects:** Work at Tobin at Oakwell (Extreme Library Makeover) and Carver (Extreme Library makeover) has been completed.