



San Antonio Public Library Director's Report January 2016

Villarreal Elementary School Choir at Forest Hills Branch Library

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Library continues to serve as a venue for community connections:



Mission Library Serves as Venue for World Heritage Survey: The Mission Branch Library will serve as the venue where the community can provide feedback in relation to the World Heritage Symposiums coordinated by Councilwoman Viagran through the City Center Development Office. Beginning in early January 2016, an input box will be available in the Mission Branch Library. The Library is working directly with the City Center Development Office to respond to this request. The survey will run through early February 2016. This co-operative arrangement exemplifies the Library's Community Connection strategy of the Library's Strategic Plan.



San Antonio Public Libraries as Venue for SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan Survey: Beginning in mid-January 2016, all library locations will serve as survey collection sites for the SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan. The survey is designed to obtain priorities from the community as the City's Comprehensive Plan is finalized. The Library is working directly with the City's Department of Planning and Community Development to respond to this request. This co-operative arrangement exemplifies the Library's Community Connection strategy of the Library's Strategic Plan.

Meetings with Councilmembers:



Meeting with Councilwoman Gonzales: Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Assistant to Council Chris Callanen met with Councilwoman Gonzales on December 16, 2015 to provide an update regarding the Collins Garden Branch Library renovation and expansion project. As a result of the discussion it was agreed to schedule a 'soft opening' of the Collins Garden Branch Library for Monday, January 11, 2016 and to have a grand opening for both the renovated Library and the new field office on Saturday January 30, 2016. This project entails the co-location of an existing District 5 Field Office with the branch library.



Meeting with Councilman Medina Regarding Co-Location of District 7 Digital Field Office: Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Assistant to City Council Chris Callaghan met with Councilman Cris Medina on January 13, 2016 to provide additional information regarding the concept of a digital field office in lieu of an actual co-location of a District 7 Field Office at the Maverick Branch Library. This approach achieves a win-win situation. Councilman Medina approved the concept for this first-of-its-kind innovative service model.

The San Antonio Public Library was represented at two national events:



National Convening for ConnectED Initiative: On January 19, 2016, Library Director Ramiro Salazar represented the San Antonio Public Library at a National Convening regarding the ConnectED Library Challenge, a White House initiative. Joining Ramiro at this convening was Lisa Riggs, an Administrator with SAISD, who is partnering with the Library on the Library Challenge component of ConnectED. A media release is expected to promote the Library's partnership with SAISD is forthcoming.

By way of background, President Obama announced in June 2013 the Connect ED Initiative which was designed to enrich K-12 education for every student in America. San Antonio was recently designated as one of 50 partnering communities in this initiative. As national partners of ConnectED, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the American Library Association (ALA), and the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) hosted a national convening on January 19, 2016 in Washington, D.C. This national convening brought together Library Directors, Mayors, County Executives, and School Superintendents to

discuss and share best practices on advancing the goals and objectives of the ConnectED Initiative with a focus on how school and public library can work together to facilitate access of library resources to students.



Library Director to Participate in Library Conference: Ramiro Salazar, Library Director, will be in Boston on January 8, 2016 through January 11, 2016 to participate in the American Library Association Mid-Winter Conference. He will participate in the first meeting of the work group supporting the Center for the Future of Libraries. He will join other peer directors and experts in the field to make recommendations on what libraries needs to do to be positioned for the future. Ramiro Salazar will also participate as a member of various expert panels created by the incoming American Library Association President to assist her in her administration.

Usage of the Library's Digital Resources Continues to Grow:



Library Breaks Own Records for Digital Circulation: Since the San Antonio Public Library began offering digital materials through OverDrive in 2007, the week after Christmas has always been a record week for digital use as people begin using those new Christmas presents. The trend continued over the 2015 Winter Holiday with the highest digital circulation ever with over 19,500 checkouts through OverDrive for the holiday week.



Library Experiences 20% Increase in Free On Line Tutoring Sessions- For the first quarter of FY 2016, free on-line tutoring sessions offered by the Library were up 20% for a total of 6,298 on-line sessions. Of these tutoring sessions, a staggering 83% of the sessions were in STEM subjects. The San Antonio Public Library provides free on-line tutoring every day from 2PM until midnight for elementary through college-intro in both English and Spanish. This service supports educational and learning opportunities to change lives at the individual level.

Below are a few user comments from the last quarter:

From a parent – “I never knew I could get help understanding my kids homework! They come home from school with no examples or instructions so I find myself just lost. Thank you for providing us parents with refreshing our brains and understanding.”

From a 6th grader – “I have a lot of trouble with math, and when my parents are unable to help me, I know I always have access to this service and that it will help me understand it better”

From an 8th grader – “Thanks to this maybe I'll survive 8th grade”

From an 11th grader – “I am so happy that you helped me today. I thought I was doomed or bound to fail but knowing there was an easier way to solve the equation helped me greatly”

The Library is highlighted in the media



Library Director Interviewed by Univision: Library Director Ramiro Salazar is scheduled to participate in an interview by Univision on January 7, 2016 regarding the expansion of the Latino Collection and Resource Center planned for the 1st floor of Central Library. This initiative is in partnership with the San Antonio Public Library Foundation, who has committed to fundraising \$300,000 in private funding toward the project. The interview segment is expected to air on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 10 a.m.



Library Staff Interviewed by Broadband Industry Expert: Mr. Craig Settles, an industry analyst, speaker, and author, interviewed Library Director Ramiro Salazar and members of the Library's Management Team on January 7, 2016. The Library was selected as a case study when peer libraries

identified San Antonio Public Library as an innovative library system. The topic of the interview was the state of broadband and innovative technologies being used at the San Antonio Public Library. Mr. Settles is using the information from his interviews and research to compile a new report on the role of broadband in libraries. Mr. Settles concluded the interview with compliments to SAPL leadership for our forward thinking approach to library services and the use of technology.

The Library Continues in Excellence



Library recognized by COSA Small Business Advisory Committee: On January 13, 2016 the San Antonio Public Library was recognized during a meeting of the Small Business Advisory Committee, a council appointed committee concerned with small, minority and women owned contractor participation in City contracts. The Library received a Departmental Participation Award for excellent administration of the program on library contracts. Assistant Library Director Kathy Donellan accepted the award on the Library's behalf.



Library Staff Member First to Receive Prestigious City Manager Award: Haley Holmes, Manager at the Parman Branch, was selected to receive the first City Manager's Excellence Award. Haley was nominated for her outstanding work as a Branch Manager at the Parman Branch Library, one of the busiest library locations in the City, and for organizing the annual Parman Spookey Walk, a much anticipated family Halloween walk on the grounds of the Parman Branch Library.

New Policies Piloted



Updates to the Library's Circulation Policy: In support of the federal initiative ConnectED, beginning December 1, the Library enacted new circulation procedures which aim to increase student access to the Library's resources and collections. The changes include:

- 1) increasing the amount at which point a card is blocked from checking out materials from \$10 to \$15,
- 2) patrons with accounts blocked for fines will no longer be blocked from checking out items from Digital Library collection. The Digital Library Collection does not incur library fines/fees. This change excludes patrons with expired accounts, and
- 3) extending the length of checkout periods for magazines, CDs and DVDs to 3 weeks instead of 1 week (this excludes DVDs in the popular Express Collections).

Upcoming Celebrations:



The Collins Garden Branch Library Soft Opening: The Collins Garden Branch re-opened to the public on January 13, 2016 at 10 a.m. after undergoing an extreme library makeover and expansion. A formal grand opening is scheduled for Saturday, January 30, 2016. This project also features the co-location of a District 5 Field Office which will provide District 5 constituents with a 'one stop' approach to Library services and constituent support. Library staff is in close coordination with Councilwoman Gonzales planning the grand opening festivities.



Library Prepares for 3rd Annual Texas Women of Influence Panel Discussion: On March 29, 2016, the Library will host the 3rd Annual Texas Women of Influence panel discussion. The national theme is "Honoring women in public service and government". The Library has secured Mayor Ivy Taylor, Hope Andrade, VIA Trustee; Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, A&M SA President, and Terri Williams, Director UTSA Small Business Development Center. Prior year panelists include City Manager Sheryl Sculley, activist Rosie Castro and business leader Patricia Stout. The Texas Women of Influence panel discussion furthers the Fosters Community Connection strategic focus of the Library's Strategic Plan.

REFERENCE



The Reference Department participated in the City of San Antonio's *New Employee Experience Part II* at the Phil Hardberger Ecology Center where over 100 COSA employees asked questions about SAPL, ranging from hours of operation to receiving homework help.



Central Library's Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Group met on November 18 to discuss "The Martian" by Andy Weir.



On November 19, Librarian I Pannaga Prasad and Library Assistant Blanca Hernandez presented a program entitled *Diwali Festival of Lights* at the Central Library Auditorium. The audience thanked library staff for bringing the dance group and exclaimed *they danced beautifully*. Also, on November 24, the Reference Department presented a program entitled *Diwali: The film music and dances in Bollywood* at Central Library Auditorium.



On November 29, Central Library hosted Liberty in *North Korea (LiNK)*, a grassroots organization that deals exclusively with the issue of Human Rights in North Korea. LiNK trained interns, called Nomads, and showed the film "People Can" about the efforts of ordinary North Koreans to change their country from the inside out. After the film, Nomads took questions from very interested and informed audience members and a lively discussion ensued.



There were several fantastic program opportunities for residents to enjoy related to the *Mayor's Book Club* during this reporting period. A special presentation was hosted on December 5 entitled *South Texas: una breve historia*. Bexar County Archivist Dr. David Carlson discussed the history of South Texas, including some of his research in archaeological surveys and history in the South Texas Valley.



On December 1, 8, 15 and 17 there was a series of *memoir writing workshops* offered on various topics, including *Finding My Story*, *Writing and Journaling*, *Magic Sentences*, and an *Open Mic Reading*. These programs were in offered in cooperation with the San Antonio Writing Project Organization (SAWP). The *memoir writing program* on December 8 was of special note, as there were also introductions from Mayor Ivy R. Taylor and a reading by the current San Antonio Poet Laureate, Laurie Ann Guerrero.



The Reference Department has also been offering guided tours through the Long Bin Chen exhibit currently in the gallery. Staff created talking points to be used by several departments and volunteers during tours. Staff's experience during tours so far is that patrons also ask a variety of questions about the library during tours like how to get a card and other artwork in the building.



Bibliographic Instruction was offered to Southwest School of Art students in two sessions during November, led by Deedee Lu, Librarian I, and Cindy DeLeon, Library Assistant. English Composition students consulted with staff on their term paper assignments and received help selecting an appropriate research topic. Staff assisted in reviewing the student's annotated bibliographies for completeness and additional library resources were offered to students as appropriate.



Librarian I Cristine Mitchamore provided similar trainings to Wayland Baptist University regarding database use and research using library resources. Classes visited on December 1 and December 3, totaling approximately 40 students, who all received help in conducting research for their upcoming term papers.



The Central Library Reference Department also offers Patent and Trademark Resource Center help by appointment. One-on-one assistance was provided on December 28 to help a patron with the complex research involved in patent application.



Reader's Advisory courses were also offered on December 2, 16 and 29.



The ongoing SCORE program hosted at the library continued in December with a Mentoring Roundtable. These events continue to be well attended by small business owners looking for helpful resources.



Affordable Care Act Enrollment has been offered at Central Library on Saturdays throughout the reporting period. David Meza, a certified Affordable Care Act Navigator with Daughters of Charity Services, spends his Saturdays assisting library patrons in shopping for health insurance on the ACA exchange.



The Reference Department has embraced the new popularity of adult coloring. There are now weekly adult coloring programs being offered at the Central Library, on Tuesdays and Saturdays. A true collaborative effort, staff takes turns rotating through who will host the program, as it is such a fun and enjoyable program to share with the public. *Brighten Your Day: Adult Coloring* only began on January 9, but is projected to be a success.



The Jobs and Small Business Center (JSBC) continues to provide support to job seekers who need assistance in their search efforts. December and January were especially productive months, as several patrons informed staff or submitted a comment card to say that they had received a job offer and thanked the JSBC staff for their support. One patron said, "Fifth floor librarians do a great job with assisting me with job searches. They are very helpful and I have found a job with their help," and another wrote "I got a job thanks to the support of JSBC staff!"



Central Cinema on Sunday afternoons has built a core group of attendees that appreciate the free movies and eagerly attend each Sunday. Average attendance is about 45 people and the movies shown during this reporting period included "Pitch Perfect," "Pixels," "Minions" and "Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation."



Technology Questions Answered continued throughout the holidays and continues to be a well utilized service. Patrons can attend the open-ended sessions and bring their devices in for help. Staff experts are on hand to help patrons through all of their needs.





There was one very special story from a patron during this rating period. A patron's Driver's License had been stolen and she was attempting to report the theft, but having trouble accessing the correct website. This was approximately 10 minutes before the library was about to close and she was frustrated and in tears. Several Reference staff members jumped in to help her get what she needed through some complex workarounds since the website was not working properly. With just a moment or two left before closing, staff had found success and the patron left by giving hugs to all staff and saying that she felt blessed for coming into the library and was truly seeing her tax dollars at work.



To celebrate the winter holidays, Librarian I Sylvia Reyna curated a display in late November featuring items from the Texana and Hertzberg special collections relevant to the season. Books on *Los Pastores* and Christmas in early Texas, as well as vintage Christmas cards, were featured.



Librarian II Deborah Countess led a program, *Decorating Your Family History Tree: An Introduction to Genealogy* on December 3. Attendees were instructed on resources and research methodologies useful for tracing one's ancestors.



Librarian I Andy Crews started the New Year with class on January 5, *Fold3 Database Overview* where he offered tips and guidance on how best to use the military and other government records available through this SAPL database.

MARKETING



The marketing department participated in the planning and production of events, such as the opening reception for *The Book Garden* exhibit by world-class artist Long-Bin Chen and the closing ceremony to the *Mayor's Book Club*. Also, the department promoted the winter holiday celebrations, such as *WinterFests*, *Multicultural Winter Festival*, holiday concerts and more.

Graphic Design



The graphic designers continued their work on materials for the *Mayor's Book Club* and its closing ceremony, the opening reception for Long-Bin Chen's exhibit *The Book Garden* and holiday materials. Also, the designers started the work for *Black History Month*, *Mayor's Book Club* in the spring and Teri Wilson's presentation and Long-Bin Chen's demonstration in February. They also worked on updating the Jobs and Small Business brochure and overview card for the SAPLF, newsletters and the materials for the *soft opening* and *grand reopening ceremony* at the Collins Garden Branch Library.

Public Relations



Public Information Officer Marcie Hernandez Assisted with the *Mayor's Book Club Memoir Writing Workshops*. She also participated in a Social Media for Libraries webinar. Hernandez also attended the City of San Antonio Media Open House at the Plaza de Armas building, hosted by the City Communications office.

On December 5, Hernandez facilitated a partnership with Arts SA and the San Antonio Current to host a Nutcracker event at Central Library. She also secured an interview for Library Director Ramiro Salazar and artist Long-Bin Chen with KTSA AM Radio. Additionally, Hernandez secured and facilitated a segment on KSAT 12's morning show SA Live to promote Every Child Ready to Read initiatives at SAPL.

Also, she participated in the planning and execution of the Long-Bin Chen "Book Sculpture" exhibit grand opening reception.

In her continuous media communications work, Hernandez produced and distributed press releases for branch programs at Great Northwest, Central, Encino, Parman, Pruitt, Pan American, Guerra, Texana, Forest Hills, Westfall and Landa.

SAPL received **163** media mentions during the reporting period. Also, the total value of broadcast coverage equal **\$55,778**.

Public Information Officer Arturo Gallardo filmed the opening of the Low Vision Room in the Children's Department. He also continues to provide translation support in the production of a variety of marketing materials. Gallardo secured a quarter page ad on the San Antonio Express-News (Sunday edition) and digital impressions on mySA.com for "The Book Garden exhibit, using the remaining budget from SA Gives Charity Funds donated by the San Antonio Library Foundation. Additionally, he continues the ongoing production for articles eConnections (January), email blasts of This Weekend at SAPL, and the production of the News & Events newsletter (December and January).

Gallardo provided outreach at the *HEB's Feast of Sharing* with Veronica Anderson and Ramona Lucius with hundreds of patrons stopping by the Library's table to participate in a fun activity to win promotional materials and/or sign up for a library card.

Also, Gallardo attended the San Antonio Media Open House at the Plaza de Armas building, hosted by the City Communications Office. Finally, he attended the webinar *Community Engagement: A Case Study* provided by the Seattle Public Library.

Social Media



The social media efforts during the reporting period have yielded the following results: Facebook has 10,255 likes, Twitter has 3,092 followers and Instagram has 743 followers, Pinterest has 41 followers, and YouTube 124 subscribers.

CHILDREN'S (SYSTEM-WIDE)



Efforts to fill the children's positions at Cortez and Collins Garden continued on December 1 with interviews of four candidates. The interview panel, made up of Children's Coordinator Viki Ash and Branch Managers Cate Prazak and Pam Longoria, was pleased to offer a position to Kathy Armbruster who will be joining the Cortez team very soon. The search for an outstanding candidate for Collins Garden was not successful, however. That position has been reposted with hopes of finding an exemplary candidate in the next round.



At their December meeting, the children’s librarians had a very fruitful and satisfying discussion of what it takes to be great at their work. The resulting list of qualities and characteristics is both inspiring and affirming. (Because the current roster of children’s librarians at SAPL includes only women – the feminine pronoun is used in the statement the group crafted.)



A GREAT Children’s Librarian approaches her work with a joyful sense of purpose.

Collaborates with peers, partners and patrons

Respects children

Seeks out learning opportunities

Tries new ideas and opportunities with confidence

Reads and appreciates children’s literature

Approaches her work with creativity, flexibility and resourcefulness

Knows the community she serves



Several of the children’s librarians work with their local school librarians to host book clubs. Generally held monthly during the school lunch period, these clubs foster school/public library relationships and expose children to a wide variety of books and discussion techniques. As one might expect, these clubs require the development of book club kits that contain multiple copies of the same book. Thanks to the generous support of San Antonio Mayor Ivy R. Taylor, 14 additional juvenile book club kits are now available. These additions bring the total number of kits to 57. Anticipating that these new kits might result in the creation of additional book in the coming months, Ash has updated book club procedures to assure consistency and equity as they are used. This documentation is available to all staff on the children’s shared drive, affectionately known as “childlib.”



On December 7, the North East Independent School District hosted an informal lecture by Dr. Stephen Krashen and graciously invited SAPL children’s staff to attend. Several of the children’s librarians were able to participate in his discussion of *The Purpose of Education, Free Voluntary Reading and the Importance of Libraries*. A respected scholar, author and Professor Emeritus at USC, Dr. Krashen opened with the fact that although he is 74 he reads at an 80 year old level -- a humorous but well-aimed dig at requiring students to read at their “instructional level” as identified by ubiquitous standardized tests. A staunch advocate of free voluntary reading, Dr. Krashen’s research suggests that reading widely for pleasure enhances literacy, increases knowledge, develops ethics, supports the use of academic language and helps children discover what they are good at. Sincere thanks to Faye Haggerty and her colleagues at NEISD for including SAPL in this outstanding professional development opportunity.

TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Off-Site Service



Teen Services staff presented to students at several school visits during the reporting period. During school visits, staff show students a video created by teen library volunteers, discuss resources available through the SAPL, such as Live Homework Help from Tutor.com and test prep from Learning Express Library, and give out library cards.



Caroline Mossing (Librarian I, Teen Library @ Central) worked with representatives and volunteers from Google Fiber and SA CodeJam (Clarissa Ramon, Debi Pfitzenmaier) to facilitate a STEM education session for teens at the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce’s Core4 STEM Expo on November 17 and 18. The team presented 3 sessions each day, reaching a total of approximately 120 middle school students with information about the resources offered by the San Antonio Public Library for teens, a Google Cardboard virtual reality experience, and an interactive coding session.



On November 18, Kathleen Fordyce (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central), Victoria Tijerina (Library Assistant/Teen Liaison @ Memorial), and Marcie Hernandez (Public Information Officer in Marketing) visited St. Gerard Catholic High School. Victoria presented the Teen Services outreach video and signed students up for library cards, while Kathleen and Marcie introduced students to Learning Express Library via a presentation and hands-on demonstration.



Caroline Mossing accompanied IT and Library staff (Hakeem Miles, Ignacio Albaraccin, Julian Harris) to S.J. Davis Middle School on December 11 to give technology-focused career day presentations to students and showcase the resources that the San Antonio Public Library has to offer teens who are interested in going into the technology field.



On December 15, Kathleen Fordyce and Marco De Leon (Teen Services Librarian I, Igo) staffed a table at a family literacy event at Wheatley Middle School hosted by City Year. Kathleen and Marco spoke with students and parents about library activities for teens and Live Homework Help through Tutor.com. On December 17, Kathleen and Marco spoke to students at O’Connor High School and signed them up for library cards.

Partnerships



Inspire U

Staff involved in the Inspire U Workplace Mentoring Program (part of SA2020), met with their “littles” for their regularly scheduled meeting in the Teen Library @ Central on November 16 and December 7. Bigs and Littles had lunch together and enjoyed catching up with each other. The December lunch was special because Bigs gave their Littles a movie theater gift card for the holidays.



San Antonio Food Bank

As a requirement of the Kids Café afterschool snack program, a Teen Library staff member must attend a monthly nutrition lesson at the Food Bank and provide at least one nutrition lesson for the teens per month. Regina Almanza (Teen Services Library Assistant, Central) attended the lesson in December.

Programming



The Downtown Teen Arts Fest (DTAF) took place at the Central Library on November 21 and was a huge success. There were over 1,000 attendees who enjoyed music on the plaza, live painting on the first floor, spoken word on the second floor, a curated teen arts show, a teen dance performance in the foyer, and more. JD Elizondo (Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central) has begun planning next year’s DTAF event and hopes to expand elements of the event to branch locations.

Marketing



Kathleen Fordyce participated in a Cover to Cover taping on December 7, set to air in January. Kathleen discussed the Teen Library @ Central, Live Homework Help through Tutor.com, library activities for teens, and the upcoming Mini Maker Faire in March.

CENTRAL LIBRARY TEENS

Weekly Programs



Mondays with JD Elizondo (Library Assistant): Elizondo's Eclectic Electric program includes music, ping pong and occasionally crafts. Teens continued booking time in the studio so they could use it outside of the regular Monday/occasional weekend schedule. JD was present as a facilitator during these bookings.



Tuesdays with Caroline Mossing (Librarian I): During the reporting period, Caroline hosted Science & Tech Tuesdays. As always, 3D printing was a popular activity, and some teens designed personalized items to print while others modified existing models to their specifications. Teens also created new rhythms and sounds with DrumPants, a music tool newly added to the Teen Library's collections. Teen scientists got into the holiday spirit in December, creating holiday-themed crystallized ornaments from a supersaturated solution. Other activities included 3D drawing, creating original electronic devices using the LittleBits modular electronics system, and piloting a quadcopter to capture aerial footage of the Central Library.



Wednesdays with Kathleen Fordyce (Librarian II): On Wednesdays, teens pick their favorite video or board game and engage in friendly competition with their peers. During the reporting period, teens have enjoyed playing the WiiU games, as well as board games like Chess, Jenga and Apples to Apples.



Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): Teens enjoyed some craft, cooking and art activities they suggested and helped plan, engaging in some encouraging socialization, and expressing themselves creatively. Pictures from this and other system-wide teen programs can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary>.

Tours and Groups



On December 2, Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez led a group of Architecture students from Stevens High School on an architectural tour of the Central Library, noting the modernist building's art installations and highlighting the use of color and shape by the building's architect, Ricardo Legorreta. The students were also treated to a tour of the new Teen Library at Central, including the Lab area and 3D printer, and left with a 3D printed architectural model.



Teen Library staff and Children's staff at the Central Library partnered to present tours of the library to students from Heritage Middle School on December 8, 9, and 10. Teen Library staff gave the students a tour of the Teen Library and showed them how to use the catalog and databases, and then Children's staff toured the students around the library and assisted them in finding books for research.

CHILDREN'S



The Central Children's Department has reached full staffing levels after many months of searching for the right candidates to fill the remaining vacancies. Robin Alcorta, previously at the Encino Branch Library, joined the team as Librarian I and has brought an infectious enthusiasm for Children's Services into the ranks. Ana Sandoval, from the San Pedro Branch Library, came on as Part Time Library Assistant and her diligence and positive attitude has already been an inspiration to the team. The newly formed team celebrated the holidays together with a cookies and hot chocolate party in the Story Room, where they exchanged gifts and enjoyed treats courtesy of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation Team Building Fund.



The Central Children's Department programming schedule was chock full of engaging story times and special events during the holiday season. The bimonthly evening Bilingual Story Time continued to draw its group of regular families as Nohemi Lopez Rosdahl, Collection Development Librarian, and Kate Simpson, Central Children's Department Manager, shared stories and songs in English and Spanish. Children's Librarian II Shannon Seglin delighted families during her Toddler Time programs in December. Ms. Seglin began enhancing the Toddler Times with a parade, in which the families march outside the Story Room singing a song relating to the theme of the week. This new Wednesday morning ritual is looked forward to by children and staff alike. Ms. Seglin's LEGO Club on Thursday afternoons has gathered a following, with kids having so much fun that at one point an impromptu dance party broke out! Children's Librarian I Ms. Julia Pouliot jumped into her new duties leading the Saturday Family Fun program with great enthusiasm. Regular attending families have enjoyed her fresh take on the program, such as the recycling sorting game she introduced during her America Recycles Day program – children got very excited debating into which color bin the different items should go. The first week of January saw the addition of a weekly Play & Learn program produced by Ms. Seglin, Ms. Pouliot, and Ms. Alcorta. This program was brought back by popular demand and thanks to full staffing levels, serves as a wonderful learning experience for the new team members in this unique type of early childhood programming. Ms. Simpson appeared on the SA Live TV program to promote Play & Learn at Central and demonstrated how parents could incorporate the same early childhood education principles into their daily life using common household materials.



Special events added to the holiday excitement this season. The Central Children's Department staff hosted a family-friendly *WinterFest* party during which children made crafts, enjoyed treats and fun activities. Little artists tried their hand at Q-Tip pointillism to create snow globe collages, sculpted peppermint-scented play dough creations, designed their own ugly sweater, and contributed to the snowflake collaborative mural. The *WinterFest* party also saw children of all ages working together to build elaborate structures from red plastic cups, enjoying some friendly competition with a snowman toss game, and playing with arctic animal puppets in the snowy igloo. Ms. Pouliot spearheaded the Central Children's Department's contribution to the *Nutcracker celebration* in partnership with the San Antonio Current. Ms. Pouliot developed two fun crafts for children in attendance to enjoy – a coffee filter ballerina

doll and a nutcracker mustache mask. The Central Children's Department also presented special holiday Come & Go crafts during the programming break, to the delight of visiting families exploring the library during their school vacation.



The Central Children's Department further strengthened its relationships with area schools and the community with outreach visits to Central Christian Day School and the San Antonio College Early Childhood Center. The department also hosted several field trips, such as the annual St. Luke's Episcopal School art tour of the Central Library conducted by Ms. Simpson, a tour of the building's resources for parents of Bellaire Elementary School children led by Ms. Seglin. In partnership with Teen Library staff, the Central Children's Department staff also facilitated visits by Heritage Middle School Gifted and Talented classes over three days as they worked on their history research projects.

LITTLE READ WAGON



Xelena Gonzalez left the Little Read Wagon team in December to be a school librarian in China. Though her team mates will miss her, they wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

Every Child Ready to Read Workshops for Parents



The Little Read Wagon team completed a series of *Every Child Ready to Read* workshops at the Stafford Head Start Center on November 17. The first of three workshops was presented at Carroll Early Childhood Center on December 10. One-time visits were made to Head Start parent meetings at Place for Life, Avance Home Based Head Start, Passmore, Bowden, Dellview, Madison, Maverick and Forbes Elementary schools.



Family activities were offered at the Carroll and Fenley Early Childhood Centers. The events were scheduled at dismissal time so families could pause for a brief moment or linger for as long as an hour to enjoy making big bubbles with homemade bubble solution and reading together in the tents made by Julia Lazarin and. Center staff, students and parents were delighted with the unique opportunity, which also gave Little Read Wagon staff a chance to remind parents to register for upcoming workshops.

Every Child Ready to Read Workshops for Teen Parents



Corinne Sanchez, Xelena Gonzalez and Clair Larkin were busy presenting workshops to teen parents at the following high schools: Churchill, Jefferson, Harlandale, Healy Murphy, Memorial, Stevens, Cooper, Roosevelt, Kennedy, Burbank and O'Connor. Workshops also continued for teen mothers at Seton Home.

Community Events



Crescencia Huff and Trina Smith (Memorial Branch Library) represented the Library at Cardenas Early Childhood Center's Family Science Night on November 18. In addition to receiving library and early literacy information, families had the opportunity to use magnifying glasses to look at a variety of insect specimens. The parents and children had interesting conversations about what they saw and enjoyed comparing the insects. Mrs. Huff also had an information table at Cuellar Park for a health fair

sponsored by Healthy Start. Unfortunately, the day was very windy and all the exhibitors had difficulty keeping their materials and tables from blowing away.

Meetings



Mrs. Huff attended a meeting of early childhood professional development providers on December 8. The bi-monthly meeting is used to update providers on professional development activities. Meeting attendees developed a vision statement for the group and offered suggestions on a universal training certificate. On December 17, Mrs. Huff attended a presentation by Nina Sazer-O'Donell about working with informal caregivers. The discussion following the presentation included innovative ways to deliver child development information and support to caregivers who do not attend workshops or other events outside the home.

BRANCH LOCATIONS

BAZAN



Children's Librarian Hope Sonnen ended the year with great programs and popular book clubs. Ms. Sonnen added another school to her book club group and now has four schools whose fourth and fifth graders are enjoying book discussions.



Learn Training Officer Emily Sauer noticed that many of the learners in her ESL sessions, who were regular attendees, did not possess a library card. In an effort to encourage them to obtain a library card, Ms. Sauer enlisted the help of Arturo Gallardo in the Marketing Department who translated the Patron Confidentiality statement to Spanish. Currently, two volunteers are leading weekly learning sessions in both ESL and Computer Instruction in addition to the sessions taught by Mrs. Sauer.



Library Assistant/Teen Liaison Jennifer Martinez was invited to attend Literacy Night at Tafolla Middle School on December 9. Ms. Martinez had the opportunity to speak to students and their parents about resources such as LEARN@SAPL and Live Homework Help. Bazan's weekly Teen Time moved to Thursdays starting in January.

BROOK HOLLOW



December saw the completion of the 4th semester of American Sign Language classes presented weekly at Brook Hollow Branch Library by MacArthur High School students. This program has been consistently successful with the attendance for this past autumn's 10 classes totaling over 300.



After going on hiatus for the month of December, Tech Tuesdays is back at Brook Hollow. Every Tuesday from 4 to 5 p.m., at least one reference staff member is available to provide in depth assistance with the use of downloadables and other electronic library resources.



On December 5, the Brook Hollow Friends met and elected new officers. Branch Manager Charity Gallardo presented the meeting attendees with a report on November's Teddy Bear Sleepover, which had been made possible by assistance from the Friends. On December 3, Librarian Tapley Trudell attended the annual holiday luncheon of the San Pedro Hills Women's Club, a long-time partner and supporter of the Brook Hollow Library.



On November 19, Brook Hollow Library invited kids to drop off a Teddy Bear or other stuffed animal to spend the night at the library. Library staff took pictures of the animals doing crafts, eating pizza, reading stories, and getting ready for bed. The staff created a slideshow and on November 20, the kids came back to pick up their animals and got to see all of the fun their friends had. Each child also got to take home a group photo of the teddy bears as a souvenir. The Friends of the Brook Hollow Library provided the photos.



The branch hosted a Play & Learn *WinterFest* on December 1. About 50 people attended. Kids played with peppermint play dough, did a craft, played games, decorated sugar cookies, and generally had a great time. The Friends of the Brook Hollow Library provided a cake and decorations.



On Friday, December 18, Brook Hollow hosted *Jingle Ball*: a toddler and preschool dance party that is quickly becoming a branch annual event. Kids and their parents danced along to holiday music. Activities included playing with the parachute and dancing with scarves, jingle bells and shaker eggs. The Friends of the Brook Hollow Library provided a cake, drinks, and balloons.

CARVER



Branch Manager DL Grant received the *Buffalo Soldiers Appreciation Certificate* for outstanding support of the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association, Inc. The award was presented at the organization's *Annual Appreciation Ceremony and Banquet*. Each year, the Carver Branch Library works with the organization to promote the history of the Buffalo Soldiers and their legacy through displays and by serving as host for the yearly Buffalo Soldiers appreciation month.



In December, Children's Librarian Jodi Miller continued strengthening ties within the Carver Branch service area, focusing on new schools and neighborhood organizations. One of the branch's newest partners is HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters). At their Christmas celebration, she promoted children's services parents and guests. Ms. Miller also represented the branch at the Claude W. Black Community Center's *annual Christmas fair* and toy giveaway. Dozens of families streamed by the SAPL booth she set up and she met with each one, helping them to appreciate the many services their local library offers.



Jeanne Johnson has joined the staff of Carver Branch Library. She will serve as the branch's adult basic education instructor. Ms. Johnson hit the ground running, meeting with community advocates, teachers and stakeholders in an effort to promote the new feature of San Antonio Public Library.



A Carver teen was the lucky winner in a holiday drawing last month by the Friends of Carver Branch. Stacy Robinson rode away with a shiny new bicycle that her parents said would help her get to school.



The branch celebrated Dream Week in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with an art exhibition by painter Guy Sheppard, a native of San Antonio, now based in Houston. The event was featured on TV by KSAT 12 News. The two-day celebration culminated in a special discourse delivered by education advocated Dr. Mateen Diop, author of "Inner City Schools Still Work."

CODY



Cody Branch Library's *Middle Readers Book Club* had its first meeting on November 17. Children's Librarian Sheila Acosta initiated this book club at the behest of parents whose children graduated from beginner reader books. Each attendee brought a book to share with the group. They then wrote recommendations for their books, which Acosta posted throughout the juvenile fiction area.



Families celebrated Native American Heritage Month on November 19 with Native American arts and crafts by making rain sticks, headbands, and beaded bracelets.



Let's Go Camping, a Play & Learn program, captivated toddlers and preschoolers on November 20. Parents and children enjoyed activities such as pitching tents, fishing and roasting marshmallows over the "campfire." Many toddlers did not want to leave.



On November 24, LEGO Club teams created objects demonstrating what they were "thankful for." On December 4, and January 8 Cody held DUPLO Day. The toddlers and preschoolers could choose from a variety of play areas which included floor puzzles, building block, DUPLOs, manipulative story books and stacking toys. Many of the parents commented that they enjoy bringing their children as it gives the little ones practice in sharing.



Tween Time offered many exciting activities. On November 23, they got artistic by creating masterpieces with marshmallows and paint. On November 30, they tested their knowledge of pre-historic animals and competed in a dance-freeze competition. In December, Acosta treated the tweens with a variety of activities which included LEGOs, table tennis, *Minecraft*, holiday food crafts and board games. Acosta treated the tweens to a holiday party on December 14 by providing pizza and treats. On January 4, the tweens played board games and participated in a *Minecraft challenge*. They also had fun with group pictures and writing down one New Year's resolution, which were displayed in the library.



On December 3, several families came to Cody's *Family Movie Night*, which featured the film "Cinderella." Many brought their own snacks to enjoy during the film.



Beginning Readers Club met on December 8 with each attendee sharing a new book they had read. Then, they enjoyed some word puzzle challenges and got crafty by creating winter bookmarks and creating their names out of paper snowballs, which were then displayed in the Children's Area.



With special guest appearances by *Santa and Libro*, Cody celebrated its *Jingle Bell Family Fun* pajama program on December 10. Over 100 people came to enjoy winter stories, holiday songs and a variety of crafts and refreshments.



On January 7, Cody debuted its *Minecraft Club* where Minecraft enthusiasts were invited to bring their own devices and play Minecraft. The library was able to provide the library's iPads to those first attendees who did not have a device.



Acosta promoted early literacy at several area day cares, which included Pineapple School, Discovery Day Care, Kids Campus, and Chabad Gan-Gani Pre-school.



Teens were able to express their creativity through a variety of crafts and activities. To celebrate the holidays, they made snow globes, ornaments, *Star Wars*-themed snowflakes and make desert sushi. They also challenged each other with board games such as *Sushi Go* and watching movies.



In November, Certified Navigators from the Society of Research Administrators International Inc., or SRA International, began assisting Cody patrons with signing up for insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplace.



On December 8, Cody patrons were treated to holiday caroling performed by the *Sweet Adelines*.



On December 12 Kathy Bass, Co-Director of the San Antonio Writing Project, presented a memoir writing workshop to promote the *Mayor's Book Club* selection "The Boy Kings of Texas" by Domingo Martinez.

Collins



Staff members have worked diligently to get the Collins Garden Branch Library ready for its *soft* opening on Wednesday, January 13, 2016. Employees from Collins Garden and other locations shelved many of the materials over the Winter Break. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who helped to quickly reshelve the Collins Garden collection. Staff members made note of gaps in the collection and have requested materials from other locations, who have generously responded. Thanks

also to the Facilities team for all of their help in transporting materials to and from the branch. And staff members are really grateful for the timely updates from Mark Loiselle and Ray Fraga.

CORTEZ



The Cortez Branch Library hosted a Medicare Open Enrollment program and patrons were assisted with signing up for the program by staff from the Alamo Area Agency on Aging.



Adult Services Librarian Michelle Ricondo was recognized with a *Certificate of Appreciation* for outstanding community service presented by Library Director Ramiro Salazar.



The branch's Peanuts Christmas display was a huge hit on Facebook, and many patrons visited to take pictures by the tree with the Peanuts gang. Patrons can spot the gang in their new location in the Children's Section of the library.



The branch is excited to have an opportunity to host photographs from the photo series *Reviving Benin: The History of an African Festival* by Nigerian photographer Nseabasi Akpan in celebration of *Dream Week 2016*. The photos are currently on display and a presentation on the series followed by a reception on January 12 at 6 p.m.



The Learn Center has been upgraded to give patrons a private space to receive financial counseling. Melody Vega continues to assist patrons with job search, adult education, and ESL help. Two patrons who received help from Ms. Vega found jobs in December. Ms. Vega's English as a Second Language courses take place on Sundays at 12:00 p.m. and Mondays at 4:30 p.m.



Imelda Merino from Westfall continues to assist with children's programming. With the new winter programming schedule, tweens now have their own time for games and fun on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. Story Time continues at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays and Family Fun on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. Fokie the Golden Retriever visits the branch every other Thursday at 4:00 p.m. for the Read to a Dog program.



The Getting Crafty Crafters Group is grateful to the San Antonio Public Library Foundation for the donation of two sewing machines. The group made holiday themed crafts in November and December and will be working with clothes pins and clay pots in the coming month.



At Teen Time on Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. the teens are enjoying crafts with Library Assistant Jo Ann Paredes. About 20 teens have been coming to hang out and play video games, board games, and make crafts.



The Film Club enjoyed a double feature of martial arts mayhem with Ms. Ricondo and will explore short films at their next meeting.



Monster Meet had a special guest – Jason Olivo from the podcast *Living Paranormal* spooked attendees with stories of curses, exorcisms, and other supernatural tales. Mr. Olivo was made an honorary member of Monster Meet. Next month, the group will revisit Frankenstein. The public is invited to join the group on the second Saturday of the month for monster survival tips, monster movies and games, horror book discussions, and special guests.



The Once Upon a Crime Book Club is reading “Picture Perfect: The Jodi Arias Story” by Shanna Hogan and “Columbine: A True Crime Story” by Jeff Kass – patrons can choose one or both. The book club meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. The Afternoon Book Club is reading “Amy Falls Down” by Jincy Willett and with a meeting scheduled for January 20 at 1:30 p.m.



The Friends of the Cortez Branch Library funded the annual Christmas dinner for branch staff, Friends of the Library, and their guests. The dinner was a great time to catch up and celebrate the holidays together.

ENCINO



On November 15, Encino Branch Library hosted the final Friends of San Antonio Public Library Board meeting for 2015. FOSAPL Vice President Robert Mason presided in Karen Matson’s absence, and meeting attendees enjoyed coffee and cupcakes in honor of FOSAPL’s 50th anniversary.



On November 22, San Antonio Writing Project instructor Kathy Bass presented a memoir writing workshop in honor of the Mayor’s Book Club. Mrs. Bass led the group through a series of writing, editing, and critiquing exercises. Attendees were thrilled to meet with a published author and work to refine their writing skills.



The partnership with Rackspace developed by Adult Services Librarian Barbara Kwiatkowski continues to provide a successful weekly chess club. Dubbed the Encino Knight Club, this group meets once each week to hone their chess playing skills. Rackspace provided the chess sets and a Rackspace employee facilitates the program each week. Kwiatkowski has also been successful in establishing a partnership with Franklin Park at Stone Oak assisted living residence. She visits the location each month for book talks and cultural discussions, and they transport residents to Encino’s monthly Older Adult Time. The residents enjoy sharing Kwiatkowski’s knowledge of world cultures, and their upcoming 2016 pursuits will guide them through the 7 Wonders of the World.



Branch Manager Keri Moczygemba partnered with Tex Hill Middle School to host the school's Fine Arts Showcase on December 10. This event occurred after normal library hours and featured work and performances from the orchestra, choir, Spanish Arts group, band, dance, and art classes. Over 300 people attended the event, and Atique Orthodontics provided refreshments in the Teen Space. The thank you message below was received, and a repeat event is being planned for May.

"I just wanted to sincerely thank you for EVERYTHING last night!! The help with set up, the use of the space, the support...what a pleasure to work with you all to set up such a huge production!!

I appreciate the use of space, there at Encino Library. Such a wonderful place to have an art show. ☺

Looking forward to the spring!!! ☺

Please let me know if there is ANYTHING I can do for you all there.

Again, thank you so so much!!

Heidi Myklebust

VISUAL ARTS E108

Tex Hill Middle School"



Adult Services Librarian Barbara Kwiatkowski hosted the 5th annual *Multicultural Winter Festival* on December 12. This event is entirely presented by members of the community who gather to showcase winter holidays and celebrations from various countries. Encino's community represented 18 countries, with decorations, food samples, crafts, and entertainment, and over 600 people attended the event. This highly successful program will be expanded to include additional countries for next year.



The Fitness in the Park partnership has proven to be very successful, and the addition of two adult fitness classes has been well-received. Class schedule has changed to Saturday mornings, due to the loss of an instructor, and the first Saturday class saw increased attendance for all four groups.



Create University has been regenerated with a series of DIY and *how-to* classes developed for the first quarter of 2016. Branch Manager Keri Moczygemba led the first class on January 4: exploring how to make wreaths from book or magazine pages. Future classes will include adult coloring, knitting without a needle, and turning CDs into pencil holders.



Librarians Matthew Loaiza and Barbara Kwiatkowski have taken turns hosting Tween Time during the reporting period. The tweens help to develop their own programming, and they enjoy creating activities that utilize the branch laptops and Mondopad. One recent Tween Time combined the fun of a board game with the fun of using the Mondopad's white board to play Pictionary. Numerous meetings have seen the tweens using laptops to play interactive games.



Nicki Weaver continued visiting the Primrose at Stone Oak preschool classrooms during the reporting period. Each visit includes stories, fingerplays, and songs for two separate classes. Weaver visited the Encino Park Elementary School library to conduct a Story Time and present information about library services for school age children. She met with over 60 elementary students during this visit. A partnership has also been established with the nearby Country Kids Academy. Weaver is set to visit the location twice monthly for Story Times, and they will visit the library twice a month on field trips to explore information literacy.



LEGO Club meetings have been increased from twice each month to every week thanks to the widespread demand from children and parents. Our youngest LEGO enthusiasts enjoy playing with the larger DUPLO blocks on the floor, while elaborate creations are built on tables with the smaller blocks.



Teen Librarian Matthew Loaiza was invited to Johnson High School to discuss library services and teen programs at Encino. He spoke to 475 students on January 7 and 8. Also, Loaiza held a special presentation to National Honor Society students about the Teen Leadership Council. Teen Time and the Teen Anime Club have continued successfully, with the teen cooking projects taking center stage during the holidays.



Encino hosted the Branch Managers' Meeting on January 7, and attendees participated in a webinar on the Mondopad from the Texas State Library and Archives titled *Community Engagement: Serving Diverse Communities Where They Are*.

FOREST HILLS

Shortly before Thanksgiving, the staff worked together to transform the branch into a *sweet stop* as the doors leading to the workroom were recreated as a gingerbread house. Snowmen and Penguins populated the Children's Area. The creative project encouraged idea sharing and team building within the Forest Hills staff.



Forest Hills Branch Library hosted a robotics program on December 5. The Southwest Research Institute and three robotics teams brought robotic demonstrations. Community members were invited to this opportunity to interact with and learn more about robotics. Beginning in January, one of the visiting robotics teams will use Forest Hills as a meeting space on a monthly basis.

During the winter season, a variety of holidays are celebrated by members of the San Antonio community. Forest Hills Branch Library offered a number of opportunities for patrons to learn more about these holidays while celebrating in their own unique ways. On December 9, with Rabbi Avraham Scheinberg of Congregation Rodfei Sholom, the branch hosted an informational presentation on the history of Chanukah and significance of this religious observation.

The AcaBellas from Trinity University, the *Villarreal Elementary School Choir* and the *Youth Wind Ensemble* from St. Philip's College provided festive holiday music enjoyment for many during the month of December.

The Forest Hills *WinterFest-Jingle Bell Jubilee* was very successful and featured Children's Librarian Kathleen Brown who led children and their adults in creating crafts and a Jingle Bell wand. Children then participated in a *Jingle Bell* band followed by a *Santa Claus snowball toss*. Hot chocolate, cupcakes and candy canes completed the festivities.



Children's Librarian Kathleen Brown visited three day care centers to share stories, rhymes, songs and books. Brown also attended Career Day at Villarreal Elementary school to talk with first graders about being a librarian and to share stories about community helpers.



Seven Story Times were presented during this time period, including a special *North Pole puppet play* on December 22 with Branch Manager Mary Naylor and Children’s Librarian Kathleen Brown as puppeteers.

Other Story Time themes were colors, opposites, snowmen and penguins. Children listened to stories, sang songs, acted out rhymes and played together with a variety of building blocks, puzzles and other items. They also created art projects, including reindeer antlers and snowman and penguin stick puppets. All activities included elements designed to enhance pre-literacy skills in preschool aged children.

GREAT NORTHWEST

Adult Services



Adult Services Librarian Cindy Moreno created the *Great Northwest Staff Art Exhibit* that was held on December 21. Rosie Briones, Nicole Garza, Denise Johansson, Christina Martinez, Cindy Moreno, Stephanie Vazquez, and Kimberly Wygant each submitted one of their masterpieces for the exhibit at the Great Northwest Branch Library. Customers of all ages came in to the branch to view their art. Currently some of the masterpieces are found displayed above the computers. The Friends of the Great Northwest Library generously funded refreshments for the event.

Staff



The Friends of the Great Northwest Library funded the annual holiday party. Staff members and their families, volunteers, and the Friends group gathered to celebrate the year and the season.

Children’s Services



Great Northwest Library had a very exciting program this fall called the *Enchanted Library*. The middle School and high school students of the library worked for three months getting ready for the event by meeting after school on Tuesdays and even added a few Saturdays for painting props. There were approximately thirty people involved in preparation and presentation of the *Enchanted Library*.



Four storybooks were chosen with the theme of *food*. Since *Enchanted Library* happened during the Thanksgiving holiday, the food theme was quite appropriate. On the night of Tuesday, November 24th, the *Enchanted Library* opened the doors to registered library customers. They came in groups of 20 in 15 minute intervals from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Each group meandered throughout the library, stopping at each of the four skits and finally ending up in the meeting room for some ice-cream sundaes. The families involved in the *Enchanted Library*, both spectators and presenters, had wonderful things to say about it. The library hopes to offer *Enchanted Library II* next year.

Teens Services



On December 5, the Great Northwest Branch Library hosted a *Super Smash Bros Mini Tournament* where teens could compete for first and second place. Teens used Challonge.com to register players for a double elimination tournament and tracked their progress using the websites online bracket system. A teen volunteer created the game rules and stage list for players to abide by and also officiated the event.



Great Northwest Teen Services Librarian Stephanie Vazquez visited the school library at Brennan High School on December 2 to provide a teen program to the students during their lunch period. The monthly program, which is held during lunch time, drew 300 participants. Teens enjoyed gaming and were able to make buttons during the event. This popular event is in collaboration with the Brennan High School Librarian Hugues Caby and is a way for the branch to reach out to teens in their environment.



In November, Teens held a *Charlie Brown Thanksgiving Dinner* and movie night. They prepared a special meal of popcorn, toast, pretzels, and jelly beans. Teens also made several *Thanksgiving Crafts* and a *Charlie Brown Color by Numbers* activity.



Great Northwest Teens held two Anime nights at Great Northwest Library and celebrated their love of Anime. Teens created 2.5D anime masks and anime eye glasses to turn them into an anime character for the day.



Great Northwest Teen volunteers helped with preparations for the Enchanted Library program for several weeks by creating props and backgrounds for the plays. Volunteers also helped the day of the program by being tour guides and escorting groups through the Enchanted Library.



In December, Teen programs included a *cookie decorating party* and a *Nightmare Before Christmas* themed party where teens made special crafts for the event.



On December 21, Teen volunteers hosted a Sidewalk Chalk event at the branch. Patrons had the opportunity to draw constellations and planets all around the library's sidewalks. Patrons of all ages participated and everyone had a great time.



The San Antonio League of Sidewalk Astronomers visited the library in January. Members were on hand with telescopes to show off the night sky. Teen volunteers hosted the event and handed out hot chocolate to help keep the star gazers warm while they enjoyed the view.



The Great Northwest Library staff hosted a Tamalada event in December for the holidays. Library Aide Sarah Vinton instructed Patrons of all ages on how to make tamales. Participants were able to make their own tamales at the event.



Computer Tutoring is held at the Great Northwest Branch Library every other Monday evening. Our very knowledgeable volunteer tutor Jacob provides basic computer instructions and answers computer and technology related questions.

GUERRA



The Guerra Friends group sponsored the branch holiday meeting and celebration on November 19. The Guerra Branch Library hosted San Antonio Mayor Ivy R. Taylor, Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, and Library Director Ramiro Salazar, during a memoir writing workshop on November 20. Branch staff screened the City Manager's *Run/Hide/Fight* presentation during the reporting period.



Branch Manager Dexter Katzman continued his Wednesday literature and music outreach programs to the Careplex Senior Center on November 18 and 25 and December 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.



Assistant Branch Manager Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard held Clube do Livro (Portuguese book club) programs on November 21 and December 19.



Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson planned and presented 22 in-house programs: six Toddler Times, six Story Times and ten 10 LEGO Clubs. Interest in the LEGO Club has continued to grow and Richardson, with continued support from the Guerra Friends, now offers the activity twice a week. Richardson read Christmas stories to 50 toddlers and three caregivers at Lil Dragon Den Daycare. On December 12 and 13, Richardson planned and presented all day holiday Come & Go Crafts for 161 children and adults. Children read to therapy dog *Foxie* on December 10 and January 7. Also, Richardson completed her online course: *Building Relationships, Building Bridges – Library Outreach and Marketing to Latino and Spanish-Speaking Families*. She installed a Martin Luther King, Jr. display for children and teens.



Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson recorded "Credito Bueno, Credito Malo" by noted children's author Margaret Wise Brown for *dial-a-story* in Spanish on December 9. He moderated the Club de Lectura (Spanish book club) for a midday discussion of "El Tercer Reich" (The Third Reich) by Roberto Bolaño on December 17.



Library Assistant/Teen Liaison Edward Mayberry held Game-Ra sessions on December 3 and 10. He represented the branch and SAPL at an outreach to Brennan High School with Stephanie Vazquez, Teen Librarian at Great Northwest, on December 9. The program included a Teen Services video, information about upcoming workshops for college preparation, and the opportunity for the students to play video games; over 150 students participated. Teens enjoyed movie nights on November 19 and December 7 and the participants appreciated snacks provided by the Guerra Friends. The last December program, on the seventeenth, gave the teens an opportunity to share holiday thoughts and to create ornaments.



Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl created staff picks displays with Circulation Attendant Corinna Cabeza and Library Aide Celicia De Los Santos. Other displays were Family Favorites and commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. She designed Pharos instructions for the public.

IGO

Children's Services



For this reporting period the children's service staff presented 43 programs serving 2,378 children and their caregivers. These programs included five weekly early literacy Story Times, Tween Time for nine- to twelve-year olds, as well as, LEGO Club, Read to a Dog, and weekly Come & Go Crafts to round out fall Family Fun offerings.



Once again this year, a major highlight of holiday season for children and families at the Igo Branch Library included the *4th Annual Jingle Bell Jubilee* on Thursday, December 17. In keeping with San Antonio Public Library's strategic plan of collaboration with community partners, the Brandeis High School Choir presented a musical concert for the library young visitors and their caregivers. Following the concert, guests were invited to share cookies, punch, and stay to create and decorate Santa and holiday stocking paper crafts. Everyone left the celebration with candy canes and smiles.



As library staff begins another year of programming, they wish to express their gratitude to the Friends of the Igo Branch for their generous support of early literacy and children's programming. The group's fundraising efforts which support craft activities and special library events is greatly appreciated.

Teen Services



Teen Services Librarian Marco De Leon saw an increase in attendance for the teen programs at Igo. The popular FNKY YES Time! (Teen Time) program averaged over 20 teens per week with the highest attendance being 33 teens during the first week of December. Igo has five weekly teen programs that take place Monday through Friday; new programs are being conceived by Mr. De Leon and the Igo Teen Library Leadership Council (TLLC).



The first week of December a SAT Test Prep program received an attendance of 32 teens, all of whom benefitted from a *live-time test* that replicated what is to be expected from the actual SAT test in its new format. The teens that participated in the program were set to receive an email that listed their strengths and weaknesses, and a breakdown of strategies needed to increase the test score. Plans are being made to repeat the program.



Mr. De Leon performed outreach at Brandeis High School where 74 applications were filled out for new library cards. The teens at the high school were very eager to get their new SAPL card. Mr. De Leon also had the honor to perform outreach at O'Connor High School where he made six presentations to refugee teens that all applied for library cards.



Mr. De Leon and the TLLC produced the annual *Multicultural Winter Festival* where the cultures that make up the Igo community, as well as other popular world cultures, are celebrated and honored. Attendees enjoyed live jazz played by the Brandeis High School jazz band and they enjoyed a vast array of foods from the many different cultures being represented by the TLLC and other teen volunteers. The event also had a craft center where children decorated cookies with their favorite frosting

and a craft where they decorated their very own Gingerbread Man. The event was closed by two performances including a *martial arts performance* geared for young children, along with a magnificent performance by the *Japanese drum group* Taiko Okinawa that culminated with a group dance involving most of the attendees. Over 400 patrons attended the event and had an enjoyable experience.

Adult Services



On November 17, former head of Texana Frank Faulkner reminded the Genealogy Club that common objects can carry information valuable to a genealogist, through his presentation *In Small Things Remembered: Art, Architecture and Ancestors*.



Residents of Brookdale Hamilton Wolfe came to Igo for a tour on November 18. Joining the group was the library's namesake, Mr. John Igo, who shared a brief history and stories of the land and heritage oak tree on the property.



On December 2, the Mystery Club discussed C. J. Box's "Stone Cold" and Adrian McKinty's "The Cold Cold" Ground on January 6.



Genealogy Club members brought their favorite dishes from their ancestors' country of origin to share in a holiday potluck on December 15; funding from the Friends of Igo Library provided for the main course.



The Elderberries held their Annual Thanksgiving Potluck luncheon on November 20. Along with this year's Hawaiian theme, the Hula Dance Class gave a performance with music provided by *the Pickin' & Grinnin' Band*.



On December 4, the Elderberries hosted a *holiday ukulele concert* with music performed by the *Ladies & Gents Ukulele Group* from the Lions Field Adult and Senior Center.



The Elderberries presented their first program of the new year on January 7 featuring the new State of Texas designation of "Historic Corridor" for Scenic Loop, Boerne Stage, and Toutant-Beauregard Roads. Susan Beavin, San Antonio Conservation Society member and one of the leading advocates for this designation, gave a PowerPoint presentation, in which she discussed the significance and history of these three roads, which were Indian trails, stagecoach routes, and important connectors between early Texas settlements as part of the *Old Spanish Trail*.



Additionally, the bloodmobile collected donations at Igo on January 9.

JOHNSTON



During this period's Story Times, children were treated to stories and activities on the themes of *astronauts, Christmas and winter*.



Family Fun time participants enjoyed Snap Electronic Circuits and LEGOs, which were all purchased by the Friends of the Johnston Library.



On December 1, pre-school children enjoyed the *Let's Go Camping* (Play & Learn activities) compiled by a committee of children's librarians.



On December 3 and January 7, Children's Librarian Beverly Wrigglesworth visited the Southwest High School PCI to read to the children and leave books for the teachers.



On December 15, families participated in the *Jingle Bell Jubilee* where they heard stories and made several crafts.



During this period Beverly also contributed to three blogs, created one list of winter books for the Monthly Book Shelf on the SAPL Kids page.



The teens on Wednesday Night Teen Time made Christmas ornaments and played video games.



The Anime Club has started every Sunday. The kids enjoy Anime movies and drawing.



The Minecraft Monday events directed toward tweens have been extremely popular. The attendance has been averaging 15 kids per week. The feedback has been all positive. The need for programming in this age group has been proven with this popular event.



Adult Services events

On November 18, the Athena Readers Book Club discussed E. Lockhart's *We Were Liars*.

On November 28, Diwali dance performance with 25 in attendance.

On December 3, Spare Parts helped customer create Christmas crafts. The craft was magazine trees.

On December 16, the Athena Readers Book Club discussed Karen Abbott's *Liar Temptress Soldier Spy: Four women undercover in the Civil War*.

On January 7, there was an adult coloring event with 3 in attendance.



On January 8, the branch held the first of two healthcare sign-up sessions scheduled for the month. Certified navigators from Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio assisted customers with Affordable Care Act.



Display themes for the period were: *Star Wars*, *Christmas/winter theme and holidays around the world*. *The Book Garden* banner was also displayed.

LANDA

Children's Services



Children's Librarian Jasmin Salinas rounded out November with several Thanksgiving themed Come & Go crafts for kids to do at the Landa Branch Library throughout the week while on break from school. In December, Ms. Salinas continued with her weekly early literacy programs, Baby Time, Toddler Time, and Story Time. At the end of every program, Ms. Salinas offers children a chance to play with a few toys and puzzles. Lately after her Story Time program on Thursday mornings, the children attending ask to keep reading books with the librarian and will stay and gather around her while she reads and then rereads all the books in the room.



On December 15, Ms. Salinas along with Ms. Melissa Carroll (Circulation Attendant) and Ms. Taylor Medrano (Library Aide) hosted a *WinterFest* celebration at the Landa Branch Library. Over 30 families attended and enjoyed sinking their hands into fake snow, tossing snowballs at our snowman toss game, and painting with watercolors. There was a separate baby area for the littlest attendees and several fun crafts to work on too!



In January, Ms. Salinas continued with her regular programming, but also added a second afternoon Toddler Time program and a new Story Time. Her new Story Time focuses on the principles of S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) and adds science fun to stories, songs, and play! Her first program kicked off with an *Animals in Winter* theme and an engineering twist. After talking about animals that sleep all winter, Ms. Salinas set out large foam blocks, large cardboard box blocks, magna tiles, and other building games for the kids to use to make caves and warm resting places for our visiting stuffed animal friends.



Ms. Salinas also continue to work on the children's materials collection at Landa by moving and consolidating several of the book areas to make them easier to access for children.

Teen Services



The Teen Library Leadership Council and Teen Liaison Melissa organized Landa's first annual Teen Holiday Fiesta. Held on Saturday, December 19, the party celebrated the winter break with hot chocolate and *pan dulce*, video games, music, and a piñata and decorations from Mexico.

Adult Services



Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta hosted both regular monthly programs during the months of November and December as well as some special events. The Landa Mystery Book Club read Robert Crais' "Chasing Darkness" in November and "Kissing Christmas Goodbye" by M.C. Beaton in December. This is a growing group with about a dozen members in regular attendance. Reader's Ink reads a variety of genres. Their December selection was the classic "Wuthering Heights" by Emily Bronte.



In December, Sebesta led a discussion of the *Mayor's Book Club* selection, "The Boy Kings of Texas" by Domingo Martinez. On December 21, the San Antonio Youth Ensembles presented a program of holiday music in the Landa Meeting Room. This group of high school and college youth is sponsored by St. Philip's College and done in partnership with the San Antonio Public Library.



Sebesta started a new tradition at Landa — a regular *Staff Picks* book and media display, beginning with holiday favorites. Staff members enthusiastically recommended books, DVDs, CDs and audiobooks. Staff Picks for the New Year are currently on display.



Sebesta participated in the city's *Rock & Roll Marathon*, running the half-course race. She had a personal best time that was two minutes better than last year.



Landa Branch Library hosted a retirement party for long-time Library Assistant Caroline Kirby who retired after 20 years of service. Many of her friends from throughout SAPL came to wish her well and to enjoy refreshments. Caroline is engaged to be married and will soon be moving to El Campo where she has already started the process of applying for a library card.

LAS PALMAS



Citizenship classes Finished in the month of December and new registration is on January 9.



Organizations and city departments utilized Las Palmas Branch Library meetings space for several programs.



On November 19, Librarian Gina Brudi held an *Inner City Development Program* and tour. Also, Ms. Brudi attended a Stephen Krashen workshop on December.



Connie Hejl had *Star Wars* party at Las Palmas on December 9. Teen volunteers helped out with various Star Wars themed games. For this month, Ms. Hejl also partnered with a Collins Garden Staff member for an outreach at Rhodes Middle School.



Anne Schuette guided book discussions for November and December. On November 18, it was "Five Quarters of the Orange" by Joanne Harris and "Boy Kings of Texas" by Domingo Martinez (*Mayor's Book Club* 2015 fall selection). For December, the Las Palmas adult book club discussed two books by Rachel Joyce recommended by a club member: "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry" and "The Love Song of Miss Queeny Hennessy."



On December 2, Librarian Oscar Gonzalez attended the Library Board Meeting held on December 2, for December 17 Mr. Gonzalez participated in a staffing Study Focus Group at Central Library.



Las Palmas Branch Library had a *Papel Picado Christmas Tree Ornaments* program organized by Ms. Schuette on December 5.



The Bilingual Story time program presented by Las Palmas Staff member Patricia Perez, celebrated winter holiday themes.



For the winter holidays Las Palmas had two well attended musical programs. On December 19, the *San Juan de los Lagos Choir* serenaded staff and public with holiday standards. The, the *San Antonio Youth Wind Ensembles Chamber Group* delighted attendees with their holiday program on December 21.

MAVERICK



This time period proved to be a very busy one at the Maverick Branch Library. On November 16, children's programming included a *Let's Go Camping*, a Play & Learn program, with 64 kids and caregivers participating. On November 19, Children's Librarian Amy Roberts attended a literacy fair at Braun Station Elementary. The Friends of Maverick Library continued to support programming for children by providing funds to purchase more LEGOs. In early December, some of the kids' creations were on display and received lots of interest from patrons. Ms. Roberts continues to go to Nichols Elementary once a month to discuss Bluebonnet books with 3rd-5th graders after school. The collaboration between the School Librarian Elizabeth Rush and Ms. Roberts is set to culminate in a celebration, including having the kids vote for their favorite Bluebonnet book in January.



Adult programming also took place during the time period. Branch Manager Jef Martin conducted a discussion of the *Mayor's Book Club* selection, "The Boy Kings of Texas" by Domingo Martinez, on November 18. A Holiday craft program, arranged by Assistant Branch Manager Ben Longoria garnered 10 attendees. On December 13, *Jorge and Nicole*, a singing and acoustic guitar duo performed for 22 people. On December 19, the popular Ladies Choice Book Club met with 14 ladies in attendance. For 3 Thursday evenings in December, a representative for the Affordable Care Act assisted patrons. A Resume Building workshop was offered on January 9.



Other events occurred during this time period. The branch acquired two new library aides. Alex Morones started in December and Tomas White started in January. The staff had a holiday potluck on December 17.

McCRELESS



The month of December brought many winter themed events and displays to celebrate the holiday season. The young adult section exhibited a *chill off with a cool read* display filled with books, comic books, manga, and graphic novels to promote reading during the holidays.



McCreless Branch Library hosted a total of 3 teen programs with an attendance total of 38. The teen liaison prepared a holiday party titled Winter Fun Fest to gather young adults and celebrate the holiday season. The party consisted of creating Christmas cards, decorating ornaments, while enjoying snacks.



The Bexar County Dispute Resolution Center was invited to conduct a question and answer program on December 7.



The Adult Book Club met December 19 for a discussion of the Young Adult fantasy novel “Splintered”.



San Antonio Mayor Ivy R. Taylor visited the branch on January 11 for a *Meet the Mayor* event.



Friends of McCreless held a *boutique* book sale on December 12 to highlight a large and generous donation of 1000 cookbooks to the Branch.

Staff received many gifts of sweet treats from regular customers over the holidays and also several nice note cards of appreciation.



Holidays are always a busy time for public libraries and McCreless is no exception. Programming for November focused on Thanksgiving activities. Families listened to Thanksgiving Day stories, sang songs and created various Thanksgiving crafts.



December was equally busy with McCreless participating in *WinterFest*. This is a special event featuring extra crafts, stories and activities. McCreless families created wreaths, holiday scenes and paper montages featuring polar bears and penguins. Story Time themes featured Christmas and snowy weather. The branch also offered book displays with holiday themes. Children’s Librarian Leigh Bedford also wanted to clean up the craft closet for the New Year, so McCreless offered an all-day Come & Go craft activity in December. It was well attended and received favorable comments from families, so two goals were accomplished: the closet was cleared of miscellaneous clutter and families enjoyed having something to do while school was out. Using surplus materials and left over supplies from the craft closet, they made an amazing variety of crafts, everything from Christmas ornaments to paper robots.



The New Year started with displays honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. The theme of the first Story Time of 2016 is *Januabeary*.

MEMORIAL



Memorial Branch Library hosts bimonthly art exhibits usually featuring local artists or fellow non-profit groups. In November, the branch hosted an exhibit by renowned San Antonio Artist Guadalupe Munoz whose work covers subjects such as the *Tuskegee Airmen*, *World War II* themes and a mix of other works, such as portraits. Munoz is unique among the local artists, in the late 1980's his childhood home caught on fire, resulting in severe injury and Munoz suffered 80 percent burns throughout his body and lost use of one of his hands. Munoz has turned his disability into an amazing ability to produce remarkable artwork. Memorial patrons were in awe of his work and Memorial was honored to display his work.



January 2016, Memorial hosts St. Mary's University Marianist Brother, Andrew Brian Zampier. Brother Brian's exhibit features examples of his work spanning the past 15 years. Art mediums include pen and ink, watercolor and acrylic works, and his pieces are a mix of drawing on location, cartooning and sketchbook journaling. Brother Brian's works have a fun, humorous quality and patrons are often smiling as they view his colorful art.

As part of the Mayor's Book Club, Memorial held *Memoir Writing - Finding My Story!* on Thursday, December 10th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Instructor Kathy Bass, M.A. Ed, Co-Director of the San Antonio Writing Project, had a group of six local writers. Feedback from the surveys was overwhelmingly positive. Many of the attendees remarked how informative Bass was and how they appreciated the sense of camaraderie among the workshop attendees.



As part of the SAPL Affordable Care Act program, Memorial offered open enrollment assistance in December 2015 and will continue to do so until the January 31, 2016 deadline. Norma Castillo, a certified navigator from the Daughters of Charity Services, has had a steady flux of patrons over the weekends at Memorial. Castillo provided one-on-one enrollment assistance for individuals and families. Castillo's work is in great demand at Memorial.



December 12 and 19, Memorial was part of the *Hour of Code*, a worldwide coding initiative, which spanned the weekend. The program was organized to include cross-section of age groups, Memorial's program was open to people ages 13 and up. Instructed by Chris Bailey, an Air Force cyber technician, Bailey used *Python* coding to teach participants how to create a popular game called *Flappy*. Upon creating the program, Librarian II Rhonda Davila signed up eight patrons, seating was limited due to the number of available laptops. A special thanks to Hakeem Miles, Daniel Hons, Joe O. Hernandez, and Michael Gutierrez, who updated the laptops and added the *Python* software so the programs could run. Additionally, a special thanks to Dexter Katzman, Guerra Branch Manager, who lent and delivered the Gold mobile lab to Memorial, and Dianna Morganti, Coordinator of Services to Adults for her support.

Feedback from the *Hour of Code* was overwhelmingly positive and patrons, especially the adults, were so excited about creating and running the game.

Children's Services



Families enjoyed Memorial Branch Library's Family Fun program, Read to a Dog, which aides kids who are reluctant to read. Children also enjoyed Kids Time by celebrating Thanksgiving, Native American Month and Christmas with crafts, music and books. Preschoolers at Memorial Story Time enjoyed Thanksgiving and Christmas crafts, songs and books, along with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) based activities. LEGO Club is a big hit at Memorial with kids creating sculptures throughout the day, every day. Memorial's Children's Librarian Trina Smith was invited to participate in Science Day at Jose Cardenas Early Childhood Center to share library information with families. Families enjoyed a family-friendly movie for Movie Time during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays along with *WinterFest* to celebrate Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

Teen Services



Memorial welcomes new Teen Services Liaison Victoria Tijerina who joined the Memorial Branch Library team full-time following a part-time stint at Central Library – SAPL's Alma Rodriguez is joining MEM team in January. Tijerina hit the ground running up-cycling and cooking with MEM teens and is in process of revamping the MEM teen area. Teen programming for the month of December included teens giving new life to some old tote bags by decorating the bags with fabric paint, sequins and glitter, making "ooey-goey" cookie bars and Borax Christmas ornaments. Memorial teens were joined by a group of teens from the local Boys and Girls Club and following week, they were cooking apple turnovers! For the final teen time of the year, Memorial teens' up-cycled old books to create Christmas trees to paint, decorate and display these creative, unique holiday decorations. MEM teens also enjoyed movies and had exciting video game tournaments!

MISSION

Bravo for Art Ability: never too old to create!, an exhibition of paintings and photographs created by local seniors, was on display at the Mission Branch Library through the month of December. The display, sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation, was enjoyed by many library visitors. On December 22, the San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble played holiday music for a receptive Mission audience.



Mission Branch Library hosted an Immigration Information Meeting on November 19. Former U.S. Representative Pete Gallegos was a contributing panelist at the event. The informational session provided attendees the opportunity to learn about and ask questions related to current immigration issues.



Mission Branch Library continues to serve as a useful venue for AARP Tablet workshops, Yoga, circuit cycling, neighborhood associations, Harlandale educators, and the Alliance for San Antonio Missions.

Teen Time events for the reporting period saw attendance reach of 135. Mission Video Game Club reached 165 in attendance. Video Game Club added extra Sunday sessions which were appreciated by kids and teens. Teens were able to utilize the *Make Stuff* art makerspace cart that was provided by Teen Services. Teens used materials on the cart for a number of arts and crafts projects which included making

Christmas tree ornaments, bookmaking, *Sumi-E* (a Japanese painting technique), and a Star Wars craft in preparation for the new movie release. Teen Volunteer council members also participated in library training which included a fun scavenger hunt that tested their knowledge of library resources.

On November 23, the children's librarian was invited to present a Story Time to the Boys and Girls Club at La Posada del Rey, held at a low income apartment building across the street from the library. Many of the children are already library users and were excited to see the children's librarian. Other children caught the excitement and expressed eagerness to visit the library. The children's librarian attended Literacy Night at Bellaire Elementary School on December 10 and signed up many new library users. One child, who said that she already had a Bibliotech card, was very excited to hear about all the things we offer. She yelled across the room to her mom, "Mom, come over here. I want to get a new library card. They have real books!"

On December 21, *WinterFest* was a huge hit. The kids and their families played with "snow," played stick the nose on the snowman, made ornaments and decorated cookies. One parent was very impressed. Her family was new in town and this was her first time at a library event for kids and families. She couldn't believe it was free and that Mission offers so many activities and programs for the whole family.



Discovery Time is very involved with continuing STEM and STEAM programs. The first STEAM based program on January 6 had 18 attendees. The environmental program on Reduce, Reuse and Recycle was a big hit. All the children had opportunities to talk about what they recycle or reuse and they all had great ideas. The Art part of STEAM was making a useful item or artwork out of discarded materials, such as cardboard, paper towel tubes, bubble wrap, coffee cans and more. The kids were very creative and had a good understanding of the three *Rs*.

PAN AMERICAN



In December while patrons were preparing for the holiday season, the Pan American Branch Library welcomed a new member to the team. Gladis Martinez, Children's Librarian, joined the branch from Woodburn, Oregon. Ms. Martinez brings to the branch enthusiasm and dedication to providing quality programs and services for children. Starting in the New Year, the branch is hosting a bilingual Story Time and LEGO Club.



In addition to starting new programs at Pan American, Ms. Martinez has reached out to the Harlandale ISD to schedule visits to elementary schools in the service area. She has also visited a number of Head Starts in the community and plans to hold Story Times on a weekly basis.



The Pan American branch promoted digital literacy and technology education by providing training with the *Computers 101 Series*. The classes are designed as *three-part* series that covered computer basics, internet made simple, and email essentials. The program is conducted by a local volunteer and has proven to be beneficial to the community.



Adult Services Librarian Cindy Pope continued to visit the Normoyle Community Center and held *adult coloring sessions* for senior citizens on a weekly basis. Studies have shown that coloring helps reduce stress and can be therapeutic. Plans are in the works for starting a book club at the center as well.

PARMAN



Parman Branch Library's fall semester of DIY U concluded with a flurry of classes. Library Assistant Eva Banda and Circulation Attendant Carmen Zarate presented a four-part Spanish class for beginners. Participants enjoyed the intense series and requested more Spanish classes for the future. Children's Librarian Carrie Vance led a class on woven ornaments. Attendees made miniature baskets to hang on the tree. Assistant Manager Tim Johnson planned and presented Green Cleaning Tips. Participants have since reported that they have used what they learned in the class at home. A class on creating paper snowflakes was taught by Library Assistant Eva Banda. Staff made these snowflakes to decorate the branch last year and was asked how to make them, prompting the class. Branch Manager Haley Holmes presented a snow globe class and hosted the end of the semester party – complete with three holiday projects and refreshments. The favorite project at the party was melting crayons inside glass ornaments. The Parman staff had the opportunity to make this project as well.



The Parman *Winter Walk* opened on December 1 thanks to the hard work by staff. The trail was filled with lights and holiday scenes. Many patrons asked about the walk before it opened and many compliments were received throughout the month. On December 9, about 25 people stopped by the library for hot chocolate and cookies before taking the walk.

WinterFest was held on December 17. Children had the opportunity to have a snowball fight, attend a puppet show, make snowflake and snowman crafts, participate in sensory play, meet Santa, and enjoy blue and white refreshments. Staff from aides to librarians pitch in to prepare and throw an awesome *WinterFest* each year.

Children's Librarian Carrie Vance spent time at both the Blue Roof School and Hardy Oak Elementary in December.

P3, otherwise known as Parman Ping Pong, for adults was held for the first time in January. The Friends of the Parman Library purchased the tables in December and teens, adults, and staff have now had the opportunity to play.



With the help of the Teen Librarian Marisa DeBow, Parman Teens (also members of the Reagan High School Robotics Team) presented 4 sessions of Fun with Robotics during the December programming break. Two sessions were for 5 to 7 year olds and two sessions geared towards 8-12. The popular workshops introduced the children to LEGO Mindstorm Robotics. The program was picked up by several news outlets, featured on KSAT, KENS, and in an article in the San Antonio Express-News.



The librarians at Parman participated in a *Vision Quest* on December 30 conducted by Manager Haley Holmes. They discussed several topics related to librarianship, created goals for 2016,

brainstormed programs, watched a TED Talk, listened to a podcast, created a poster representing Parman Library and a Parman Librarian t-shirt, and had lunch together.

PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS



This has been an exciting time for children's programming at the Molly Pruitt Branch Library. The library hosted the first Rackspace *MAG 7 Chess Tournament* recently. It was attended by over seventy children and tweens from area elementary and middle schools. Parents watched as their children played several rounds, and everyone was super-excited to hear the names of the winners announced during the trophy presentation.



The Family Circle Book Club discussed the month's selection, "No Talking" by Andrew Clements. Parents and their tween children are certainly enjoying the shared-reading experience, making new friends, and focusing on the value of reading.



Come & Go Crafts were a big hit during the week of Thanksgiving and Christmas break. Parents and children worked together as they prepared holiday cards for family members and *bouncy turkeys*. Children's Librarian Cynthia Saenz presented her monthly Bilingual Story Time with a *favorite things* theme. Children and parents worked together in preparing a poster depicting their child's favorite book, food, color, hobby, and television show. It is great to see children increasing their vocabulary in both English and Spanish.



The *Jingle Bell Jubilee* was the perfect kick-off to the children's holiday break. Children, parents, and teen volunteers had a terrific time participating in the Play and Learn activities, preparing holiday crafts, taking pictures with Santa, and jumping on board the Scholastic Caravan.



Families were delighted to attend the annual *New Year's Matinee Pajama Party* at Pruitt Branch Library. Kids came dressed in PJ's, relaxed on their sleeping bags, and were treated to hot chocolate and popcorn while watching children's movies. This turned out to be the perfect break from the cold, rainy weather.



Mrs. Saenz continued her monthly outreach story time visits to St. Thomas More School where she meets with pre-k students and the kindergarten class. The children enjoyed the Thanksgiving-themed songs, stories, and a turkey headband craft. Other outreach events attended by the Pruitt staff were to the Family Services Fair at Montgomery Elementary and the Camelot Elementary Career Fair. The staff continues its commitment to maintaining and developing relationships with the area schools.



The Pruitt Teens are continuing on with their regularly scheduled events. In November, the teens celebrated *Thanksgiving like Charlie Brown and his crew*. They were served popcorn, pretzels, jelly beans, and cocoa. The month of December brought the start of an enthusiastically charged student-led new teen program, old-school *Dungeons & Dragons*. The *Dungeon Master* is leading the gamers on an exciting adventure, and he has a large group of avid explorers. The teens enjoyed a Dr. Who Christmas Cosplay Special. The winner won a 3D print job of their choice and of course, they printed a

mini Tardis. The Pruitt teen volunteers, trained by the Teen Librarian Rae Downen continue to be an integral part of the library and its programming. In addition to day-to-day duties in the library, they assist with preparation of crafts and special events like chess tournaments and play and learn events for children. In 2016, the teens will benefit from a rearrangement of programming days that will be a better fit for their school obligations.



It has been a busy and great month it has been for Adult Services at Molly Pruitt. Along with the standard programming such as Zumba classes, a monthly adult book club and SNAP (Special Needs Adult Program), weekly evening adult ESL classes have been added. Special programming took center stage with two *soap-making workshops*, and the *Rackspace Simultaneous Chess Challenge* where forty-three chess challengers took on two Rackspace chess champions (Grand Master Alex Weinberg and Chess Master Rheanna English). The participants ranged in age from 8 years old to adults. The exciting event was live-streamed in the main area of the library, where parents, chess coaches and regular patrons could watch the event. A future goal is to be able to live stream the next chess event to other library branches and to the public. In the coming month, the Pruitt Library looks forward to starting a healthcare sign-up program, offering a jewelry-making workshop, and continuing to grow the existing programs.

SAN PEDRO



Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton presents monthly Story Times to children at Educare Child Care Center (two classes), Study Hall Learning Center (two classes), Monte Vista Montessori (two classes) and Laurel Heights Weekday School. Each month, she brings fifteen books to each child care class for their use during the month. She also presented a monthly Story Time to two groups of children (each group was a combination of two classes) at Respite Care, a child care facility for developmentally disabled children. Books were left for each of five classes.



Ms. Dalton started a weekly Baby Time during this report period and now has five babies and their moms attending regularly.

Ms. Dalton continues in-house programming, which includes the popular Minecraft Monday club; Kids Time on Wednesdays; and Chess Club on Thursdays.

On November 18, Ms. Dalton met again with the children's librarian at Cotton Elementary School to promote 4th and/or 5th grade book clubs at the school. She also facilitates on-going monthly book clubs at Hawthorne Academy and Monte Vista Montessori.

While students were out of school the week of Thanksgiving, Ms. Dalton hosted Game Days on Monday through Wednesday. The children had a nice selection of board games and puzzles to play with.

On Sunday, December 13, Ms. Dalton hosted a *WinterFest* Family Fun program where families made Christmas ornaments and Hanukkah decorations.

Ms. Dalton has been meeting regularly with the other members of the STEAM Committee to design a Spring Family Science night about measurement.

The San Pedro Branch Friends Group was officially approved by the “umbrella” Friends in November. The group has had a couple of meetings already. They plan to offer donated materials for sale at a “Book Nook” similar to those at other locations. A wish list of items the staff would like the Friends to purchase has already been submitted by Branch Manager Diane Backhus. The group is very enthusiastic in their support.

SEMMES



Teens and young adults continue to love coming to the Semmes Branch Library for the bi-monthly Yu-Gi-Oh! Program. Attendance for this event is usually 12-15 kids. Patrons enjoy participating in card duels and trading for new cards to add to their decks.



Children’s Librarian Randi Jones visited Steubing Ranch Elementary on November 18. She met with 19 parents to discuss the resources the library offers that would benefit parents and their children. Ms. Jones handed out flyers promoting story time and the online resources SAPL as available, such as the Live Homework Help from Tutor.com.



On Saturday, November 21, Ms. Jones also conducted a discussion of the *Mayor’s Book Club* selection, “The Boys Kings of Texas” by Domingo Martinez. This was the first meeting of the branch’s revitalized Adult Book Group. This club once met on Thursday evenings, but after attendance dwindled, it was put on hiatus. Staff is trying out the club again on Saturday afternoons, in hopes that more people will be able to attend.



The Semmes meeting room continues to be busy on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, hosting many local HOA’s and Neighborhood Association meetings. These local community groups enjoy having this free resource available to them.



The Friends of the Semmes Branch Library are holding their next book sale February 5 and 6. The Friends purchased Holiday gift cards to give to Semmes staff in December. They are also purchasing two new book drop carts for the branch. The Friends also came and decorated the branch for the December holidays. They did a terrific job and the branch was very festive.



The branch has all new meeting room chairs, thanks to a generous donation from the Semmes Foundation through the San Antonio Public Library Foundation. The Semmes Foundation is also providing programming materials, including Teen/Tween craft supplies, a new video gaming system, and new musical instruments and sensory materials for story time. The Semmes Foundation has also purchased new meeting room tables, staff task chairs and public computer chairs. These items were expected to arrive in January 2016.

THOUSAND OAKS



Thousand Oaks Branch Library finished 2015 with a number of fun activities for children. On November 17, Thousand Oaks offered a *Let's Go Camping Play & Learn* program for kids five and under. The kids were able to play, read, sing, talk and write about different camping-related activities. During Thanksgiving week, a Come & Go Craft was available each day leading up to the holiday. Children made pumpkin pie, festive corn and placemats a – all with construction paper! Come & Go Crafts were all also offered each Friday in November and December. Kids who came to Toddler Time and Story Time on Thursday mornings heard stories and had activities about turtles, cows, Thanksgiving, dogs, socks and Christmas. A highlight for December was the *Jingle Bell Jubilee*, and holiday party for kids, on December 7. Kids painted snowmen with marshmallows, decorated gingerbread people and painted snowflakes. They also enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate. To top it all off, they could visit with *Santa Claus*.



The staff celebrated the holidays with a potluck on December 16. It wasn't all about the food, though. The staff played a snowman bean bag toss to win snowmen ornaments made by Librarian Jorge Chavez, and the staff had a gift exchange.



The New Year started off with Come & Go Crafts on January 2 and 3, and the kids decorated mitten die cuts. Toddler Time and Story Time started for the winter session on January 7 with a bear theme. LEGO Time also started on January 7, switching to the first Thursday of the month from Tuesday.



Thousand Oaks Library hosted several Teen Time events. In November, Thousand Oaks showed *Princess Bride* and had board games out for the teens to enjoy. In December, the teens made artwork with pancake batter and played more board games thanks to Board Game Bento. On December 9, the teens made art with Sharpies and ceramic tiles. In the spirit of the season, the staff provided materials for the teens to make their own snow globes. In January, the teens started off the New Year by making brownies in a mug and playing Apples to Apples.



What a discussion the Thousand Oaks Book Club had for the month of December! “Looking for Alaska” by John Green was the favorite flavor of the month and all the participants thoroughly enjoyed reading this young adult choice for the month. Although the narrator, Miles Halter was the main character in the story, a major consensus remained that the protagonist of the tale was Alaska Young. The conversation ultimately culminated into a discussion about suicide and its dire consequences. Refreshments included a sopapilla cheesecake and hot chocolate for all the ladies.

TOBIN AT OAKWELL

Adult Services Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse started an adult DIY craft program in December that was well attended. Positive feedback has resulted in twice a month DIY activities starting up in January. Other adult events and groups that continue with solid attendance are the Interesting Book Group, the Whedonists, and Tobin Writers Group.



On December 3, a memoir writing workshop related to the *Mayor's Book Club* title, "The Boy Kings of Texas" by Domingo Martinez, had low attendance but enthusiastic participation. Teen Librarian Karen Barton trained several adults from Alamo Heights Development Center on downloading eBooks using the branch's iPad on December 16.



Children's Librarian Elvira Sanchez Kisser has impressively expanded children programming to meet the demand for more age groups. Weekly programs now include Toddler Time, Story Time, Tween Time and come and go crafts on the weekends. Once a month, a Play & Learn activity is held on the first Friday, as well as LEGO Club on the second Tuesday, during Tween Time.



Ms. Sanchez Kisser hosted a very successful International Games Day on November 21. Various games were donated and based on attendance and feedback, the branch will incorporate a once a month games day for all ages in the future. Parents and kids decorated cookies, during the *WinterFest* Celebration on December 5. Then, Ms. Sanchez Kisser held a special winter story reading on December 22. George Gervin Academy continues with field trips to the branch for each child attending being able to check out a book on December 7 – 8 and January 5 -8.



Another innovative program Ms. Sanchez Kisser hosted on December 10 was an *Hour of Code*. As part of *Computer Science Education Week*, kids were introduced to computer programming utilizing live action games.



Outreach this period encompassed Teen Librarian Karen Barton at NEISD's ACE campus in November. Library Assistant Elvia Ramos avidly attends monthly visits to Stone Brook Manor for senior interactive programs. Ms. Sanchez Kisser gave a presentation to seniors at NEISD's offices on November 19 sharing library services and digital information.

Highlights of the collection this period were Red Planet Day, Curl up with a Good Book, Pearl Harbor Day, Fabulous Fiction and similar series to Downton Abbey in media. The juvenile area featured winter activities, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and book bundles on animals, friends and adventures.



Thanks to the generosity of the Tobin Library at Oakwell Friends new signage has been added at the branch displaying the location of various materials and genres. Kate Gray, Public Services Administrator, came to work at Tobin on December 11 as part of the partnership program between SAPL's administration and the branch managers. Staff appreciated her helping out and getting to know her as well.

WESTFALL



Music was in the air at Westfall Branch Library. To celebrate the Mayor's Book Club, the Whittier Academy Mariachi Band performed a variety of songs. In the spirit of the holidays, the Whittier Middle School Choir sang holiday favorites.



To mark the opening of the latest Star Wars movie, the branch held an event to make Star Wars related crafts.



In partnership with Jefferson High School, library staff led a discussion for one of the school's teen book groups.



Michelle Dangler, who had been working temporarily as the Learn Center training officer, was hired for the position.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

San Antonio Public Library
Fiscal Year-to-Date Comparisons
Dec 2015 (25% of FY Completed)

Performance Measures	FYTD 16	FYTD 15	% Chg	FY 16 Goal	% of Goal Achieved	FY 16 Status
Total Circulation	1,761,611	1,721,217	2.3%	7,455,000	23.6%	✓
- Physical Circulation	1,497,301	1,514,195	-1.1%	6,395,065	23.4%	✓
- Digital Circulation	264,310	207,022	27.7%	1,059,935	24.9%	✓
Visits	1,218,124	1,319,017	-7.6%	5,493,000	22.2%	✓
Program Attendance	80,092	76,784	4.3%	350,890	22.8%	✓
- Adult's Program Attendance	15,571	11,344	37.3%	57,000	27.3%	✓
- Teen's Program Attendance	10,951	14,384	-23.9%	43,890	25.0%	✓
- Children's Program Attendance	53,570	51,056	4.9%	250,000	21.4%	✓
Hours of Computer/Wi-Fi Use	562,967	567,324	-0.8%	2,410,000	23.4%	✓
Website and App Visits	799,998	793,791	0.8%	3,658,000	21.9%	✓
Bexar County (Outside the City of San Antonio)			Customer Satisfaction*			
% of Circulation	FYTD 16	FYTD 15	2014	2012		
Total Circulation	20.4%	19.0%				
- Physical Circulation	19.2%	18.2%	96%	94%		
- Digital Circulation	27.1%	25.1%				

Goal Status ✓ = On Target ◆ = Monitor ⓧ = Not on Target

FY 16 Renovations/Closures: Collins Garden Oct 1 - Jan 10

FY 15 Renovations/Closures: Central May 15, Collins Garden Jun 22 - Sep 30

FY 15 Openings: Encino opened April 30

* From the Biennial City of San Antonio Community Survey

San Antonio Public Library December 2015 Usage

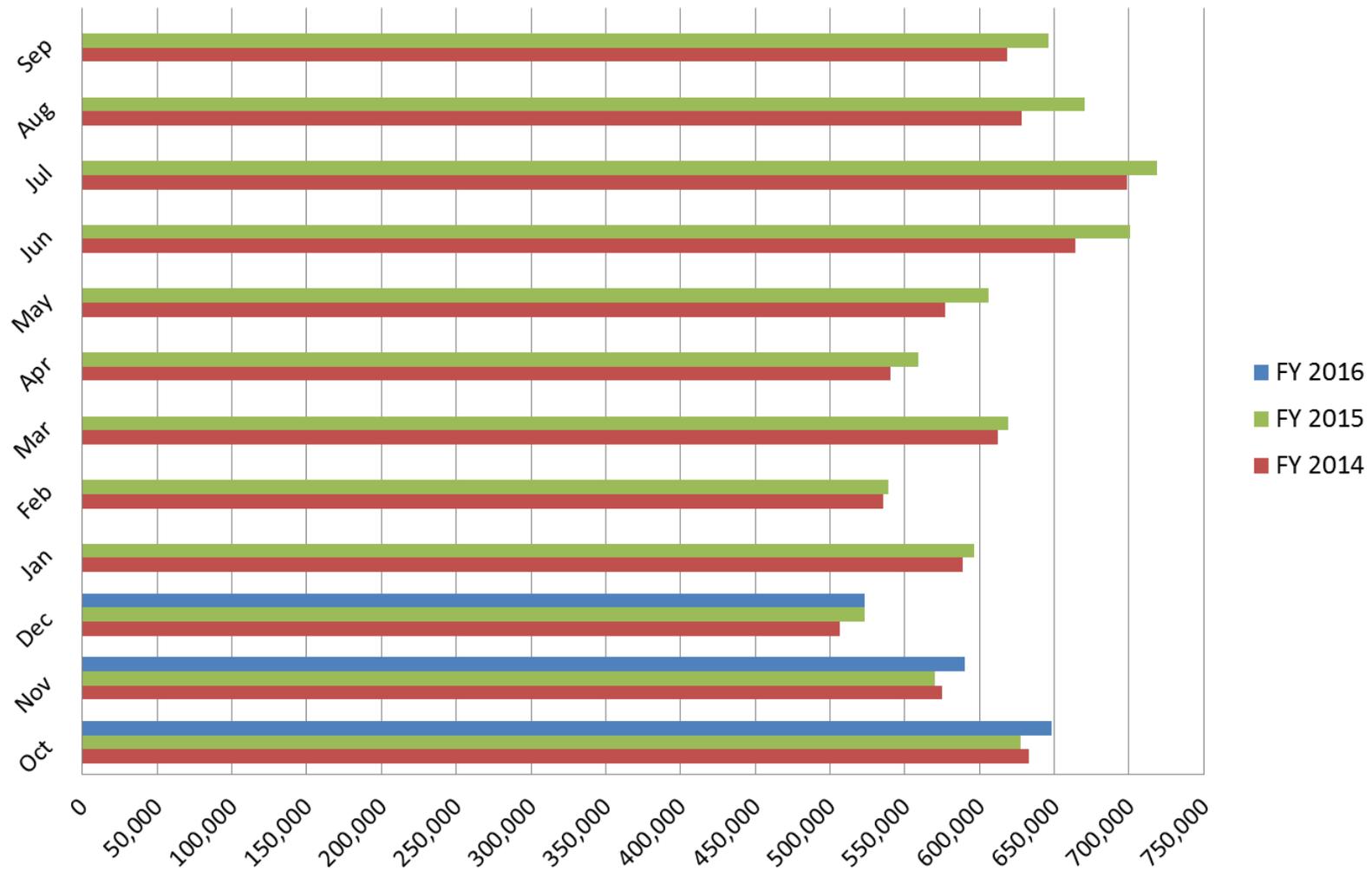
Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Total Programs	Number of Programs			Total Program Attendance	Attendance			Hours of Computer / Wi-Fi Use*	Computers - Hours of Use*	Wi-Fi - Hours of Use
				Adult	Teen	Children's		Adult Programs	Teen Programs	Children's Programs			
Bazan	4,963	7,899	29	13	4	12	185	73	52	60	5,522	1,862	3,660
Brook Hollow	21,634	14,424	32	8	2	22	714	91	0	623	5,083	1,219	3,864
Carver	4,665	8,749	49	8	8	33	1,524	148	180	1,196	4,761	1,836	2,926
Central	25,582	52,973	158	26	47	85	3,294	973	528	1,793	40,308	13,911	26,397
Cody	32,946	18,596	34	5	5	24	984	100	44	840	6,228	1,409	4,819
Collins Garden		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	404	0	404
Cortez	6,451	9,929	85	69	3	13	351	181	47	123	5,049	1,727	3,322
Encino	16,644	9,993	73	32	8	33	1,473	696	82	695	3,010	540	2,469
Forest Hills	7,176	6,727	43	15	3	25	507	243	0	264	3,461	1,143	2,317
Great Northwest	26,429	18,084	25	7	6	12	815	115	211	489	6,219	1,995	4,224
Guerra	11,643	10,270	27	8	3	16	556	155	17	384	6,268	2,058	4,210
Igo	21,998	16,564	51	11	18	22	2,530	491	734	1,305	4,802	1,299	3,503
Johnston	9,567	9,504	32	3	12	17	290	21	69	200	5,411	1,295	4,115
Landa	9,335	9,045	20	4	4	12	448	38	14	396	1,770	762	1,008
Las Palmas	5,755	10,823	48	5	10	33	560	39	69	452	5,685	1,869	3,816
Maverick	21,590	10,284	21	4	4	13	412	46	24	342	5,003	1,877	3,126
McCreless	11,083	12,268	13	1	3	9	98	3	35	60	5,494	1,763	3,731
Memorial	5,882	9,267	69	7	4	58	428	44	91	293	6,747	1,878	4,869
Mission	11,275	19,787	49	16	11	22	801	169	174	458	9,442	2,825	6,617
Pan American	8,390	8,975	28	19	3	6	144	101	0	43	5,212	2,141	3,071
Parman	22,959	17,821	103	26	5	72	2,128	215	39	1,874	4,213	855	3,358
Pruitt	5,712	8,032	60	17	16	27	1,072	155	282	635	4,598	1,344	3,255
San Pedro	3,549	6,026	20	1	0	19	183	0	0	183	2,105	585	1,520
Semmes	20,638	16,436	39	4	8	27	535	10	42	483	5,868	2,092	3,776
Thousand Oaks	9,925	9,415	19	4	3	12	263	10	18	235	4,040	1,131	2,909
Tobin	17,071	14,463	45	13	3	29	1,038	75	35	928	4,874	1,535	3,340
Westfall	14,928	12,588	33	17	3	13	214	70	20	124	6,775	1,931	4,844
Kampmann Library Portal	N/A	1,666	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	1,325	N/A	1,325
Interlibrary Loan Lending	807	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Online/Phone Renewal	76,372	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Digital	88,255	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	523,224	350,608	1,205	343	196	666	21,547	4,262	2,807	14,478	169,677	52,883	116,794

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

* Library introduced new print management system. Hours of Computer Use partially estimated during transition (Oct 15-Jan 16)

San Antonio Public Library

Circulation



Location Closures

FY 16: Collins Garden Oct 1-Jan 12

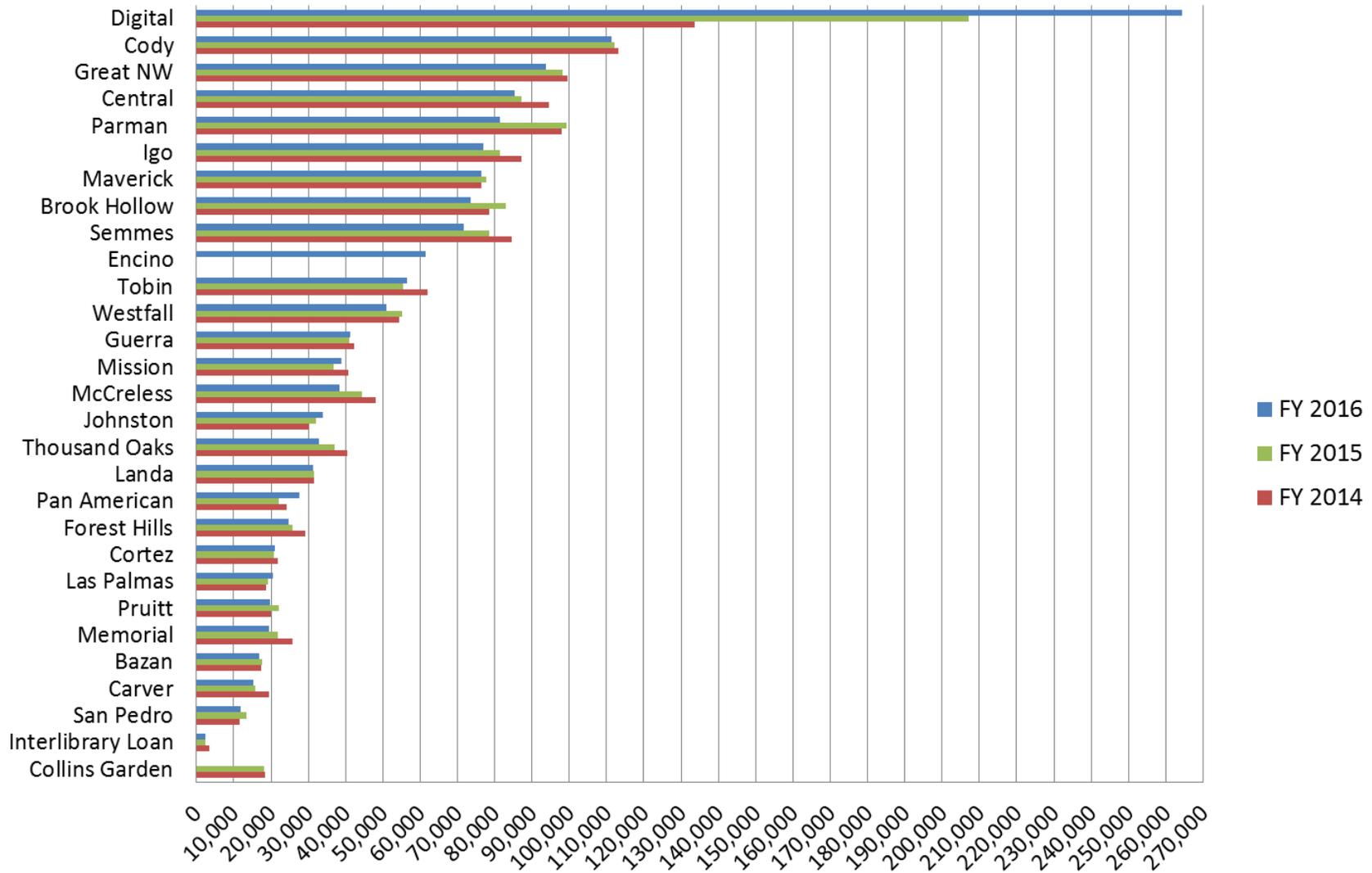
FY 15: Central May 15, Collins Garden Jun 22-Sep 30, * Opening: Encino April 30

FY 14: Cortez Jun 9-29, Westfall Jul 28-Aug 3, Tobin Aug 4-Aug 31, Carver Sep 9-28

01/21/2016

San Antonio Public Library

Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - Dec



Location Closures

FY 16: Collins Garden Oct 1-Jan 12

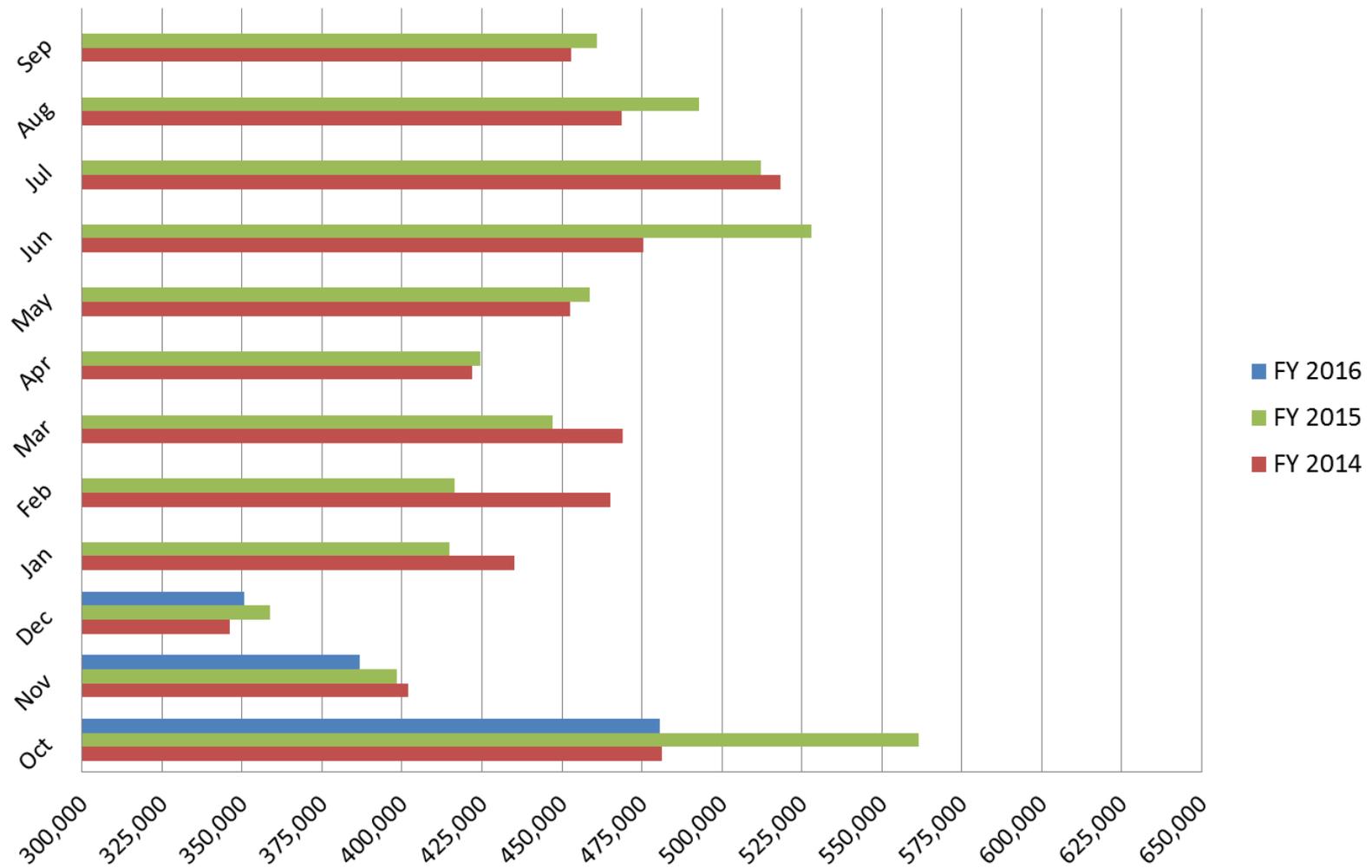
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San Antonio Public Library

Visits



Location Closures

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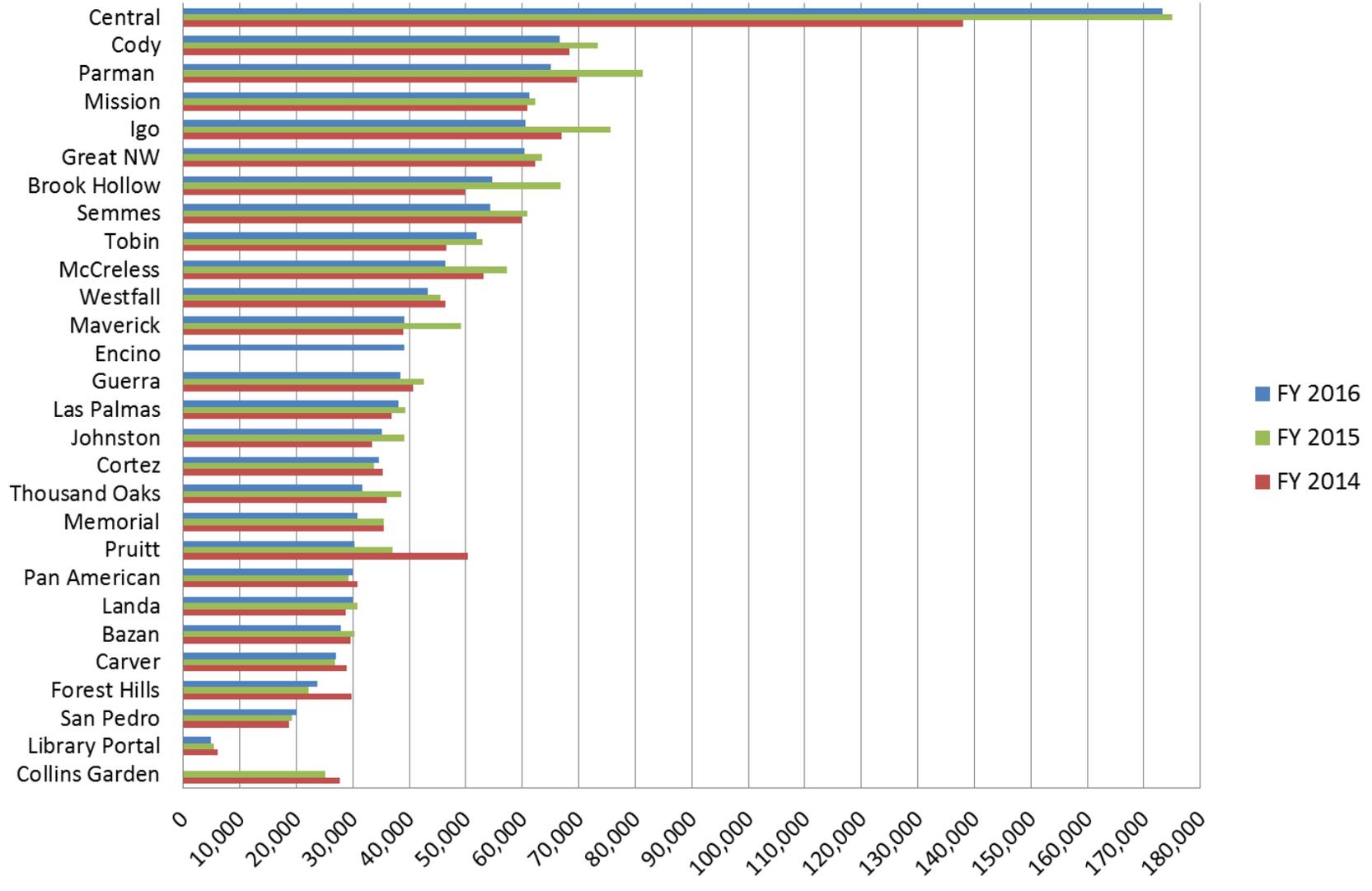
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Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - Dec



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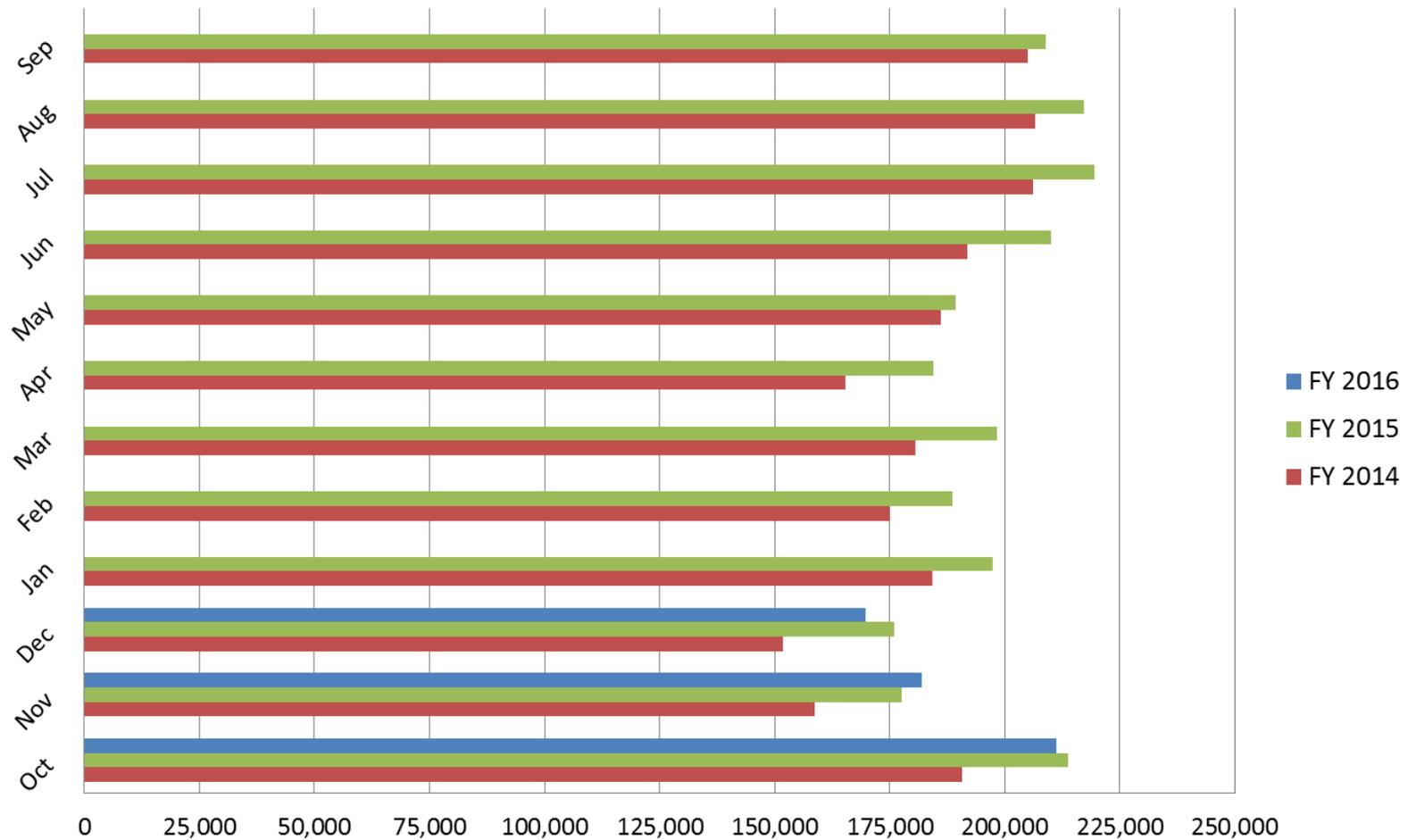
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San Antonio Public Library

Hours of Computer/Wi-Fi Use



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

Location Closures

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