



San Antonio Public Library Director's Report February 2016

Collins Garden Branch Library Grand Re-opening Ceremony

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



San Antonio Magazine recognized the San Antonio Public Library for its collaboration with the Briscoe Western Art Museum on a monthly book club, which takes place at the Caroline B. and John H. Kampmann San Antonio Public Library Portal. The friendly gathering allows local residents to mingle and explore life in the American West through a wide range of book selections covering everything from fiction to non-fiction to poetry. *San Antonio Magazine* identified this book club as "Best in the City" for 2016. The "Best of the City" will appear in the February 2016 issue, which goes on newsstands February 1-29 and will also appear on sanantoniomag.com by February 1, 2016.



On Saturday, January 30 the Library and Councilwoman Gonzales celebrated the reopening of the Collins Garden Branch Library with an all-day, family friendly event. The District 5 Field Office, also co-located in the Branch Library, was also open to the public with an Open House.

The program included an invocation by Pastor Janie Rose Alejandro, prepared remarks by Councilwoman Gonzales, Library Director Ramiro Salazar, Library Board Chair Paul Stahl, District 5 Library Trustee Lupe Ochoa and COPS/Metro Alliance former president Andy Sarabia.



Mayor's Office, Library, and Parks Departments Partner on Little Free Libraries, a State Initiative – The Texas State Library has invited the Library to participate in an initiative which establishes and promotes Little Free Libraries in 4 major cities in Texas. Because the Mayor's interest in getting the Parks Department engaged in providing access to Little Free Libraries in City Parks, the Library will be partnering with the Mayor's Office and Parks Department to realize this initiative. A total of four Little Free Libraries are planned as part of this initiative with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. All costs associated with the construction of the Little Free Libraries is provided through Little Free Libraries statewide program. A kick-off event is tentatively scheduled for March 7, 2016 and Mayor Taylor's participation is pending.

Little Free Libraries are a relatively new concept which has garnered popularity in the last few years. It involves erecting a small structure, similar to a bird house, in a convenient place where the community congregates that houses free books. Interested readers can take books or replenish the supply as well.



The San Antonio Public Library held a closing reception for Long-Bin Chen exhibit, "The Book Garden" exhibit on February 18, 2016. The exhibit has been at the Central Library since December 2015 and over 10,000 visits to the gallery to view the exhibit. Long-Bin Chen is internationally known for his transformational sculptures made using printed materials like books, newspapers and magazines. He carefully combines the East and West by incorporating Asian iconography with imagery from other cultures.

REFERENCE



The Reference Department collaborated with the Children's Department to provide an all-ages fun filled event to celebrate *Chinese New Year*. The event included several children's crafts, adult coloring tables, an informative slideshow with facts about *Chinese New Year*, and tea tasting. Staff also gave out mandarin oranges and red envelopes. Tai Chi demonstrations were enjoyed by all and tours of the Long-Bin Chen exhibit were encouraged for all attendees.



Reference staff provided several tours of the Long-Bin Chen Exhibit during the reporting period. Tours were for seniors from the Claude Black Senior Center, the Maverick Book Club and a large seniors group that had travelled from Houston.



Reference staff continued to host an ongoing program entitled *Brighten Your Day* adult coloring in the Central Library Chihuly area. Average attendance for each session is between 10 and 20 people, and the adults enjoy coloring using various coloring designs of their choice with the color pencils and crayons. Some of the patrons were returning patrons came to finish their saved incomplete coloring design. They exclaimed that it's very relaxing to be involved in the coloring project.



On January 30, Reference Librarians Pannaga Prasad and Paula Davis planned, prepared, promoted and presented a program entitled *Zumba for Health & Fitness*. There were 34 attendees and the audience liked the site of facility, friendly staff and the instructors. They had a great time with the dancing, music and having the good energy with the exercise. Reference staff also have a more casual and ongoing Zumba program, where attendees play Zumba games using a Nintendo Wii game system.



On February 7, Reference Librarian Pannaga Prasad and Library Assistant Cynthia Deleon offered training entitled *Prep Yourself to Score High on College Admission Test* at the Connect Training Center – there were 4 attendees. In this class, the attendees needed to know how to prepare for SAT, ACT and GRE. They learned how to use learning express database for accessing eBooks and practice test as well as tutor.com and library resources on college preparation LibGuides. As per the survey, they learned more about the subject than ever before and indicated that they liked the presentation specifically with the patient guidance and thanked for having the training on this informative topic.



The monthly What Are You Reading for Lunch? Book Club took place on January 19. During these programs, members of the staff entertain patrons with short reviews on various books and encourage them to share their views with others in attendance. Patrons showed a great appreciation for the program and inquired when the next event would take place. Patrons learned the values of in-depth reading, how to select types of readings of their choice and lastly where to find books and library services. Staff will soon be offering a modified version for seniors soon.



On February 7, Reference staff hosted a program for *Black History Month* with the San Antonio Youth Wind Ensembles (SAYWE) from St. Philip's College. The music they played was *Never Alone*, *Gospel Train*, *Nobody Knows The Trouble I've Seen*, *We Shall Overcome* and *Freedom Is Coming*, while Mrs. McGrath gave a brief history of the music.



On January 17 and February 7, two Central Cinema Sunday events took place. The screenings of "Ant Man" and "Everest" were very well attended.



Recently a regular patron and user the Jobs and Small Business Center informed staff that he has been hired as a dishwasher at the St Anthony hotel. He "really, really appreciates library staff" and said that we got him the job. When staff congratulated him, said he had all the talent, and that the library

just helped with a few resources and support. He also mentioned that when friends ask him how he got lucky, he said **we** are “his luck.”



On January 23, Reference staff hosted a SCORE workshop on the topic of Start-up Basics. It was a smaller group of 8 attendees, but they had a great deal of questions that they were able to have answered.



In recognition of *Black History Month*, Texana Librarian Sylvia Reyna arranged for a photograph exhibit honoring St. Paul's United Methodist, San Antonio's first African American Methodist church. Organized in 1866, St. Paul's is celebrating its 150th anniversary. The display of historic photographs, curated by church member Oscar Gooden, will run through the end of February in the Texana Room.



On January 19, Texana Librarian Deborah Countess facilitated the much anticipated genealogy program, *DNA Tests as Genealogical Sources and Evidence*. Randy Whited, President-elect of the Texas State Genealogical Society, spoke on the uses and limitations of DNA testing in furthering family history research.



On February 2, Ms. Reyna also conducted the class *Access Newspaper Archive* on a digitized newspaper database offered by SAPL. Those who attended learned searching techniques for navigating historical newspapers from all over the United States, including San Antonio newspapers dating from the late 1880's till approximately 1977.



The *Black History Month* genealogy program, *Unlocking Your Family Tree through the Freedmen's Bureau Project*, was led by Jesse Oliveiros on February 13. In this class, organized by Texana Librarian Matt De Waelsche, Mr. Oliveiros spoke on the records created by this post-Civil War program aimed at helping not only former slaves, but also poor whites living in the South.

MARKETING



The Marketing Department participated in the planning and production of events and programs, such as the *Collins Garden Branch Library Grand Reopening*, the *Long-Bin Chen closing presentation*, *Texas Women of Influence panel discussion* and *Mayor's Book Club spring program*.

Also, the department actively promoted the visit by *StoryCorps* to Central Library and started the promotion of the *San Antonio Book Festival*.

Graphic Design



Graphic designers Giselle Weyte and Ana Farr continued their work on materials for Mayor's Book Club spring program promotion, *StoryCorps* promotion, *San Antonio Book Festival promotion* and *Long-Bin Chen closing presentation*. Also, the designers started the work on materials for *Summer Reading Program*, *Texas Women of Influence*, *San Antonio Mini Maker Faire* and the new SAPL

website. They also worked on the March newsletter, Jen Bryant presentation, the LEARN anthology, LEARN invite for ESL students and New SAPL library cards.

Public Relations



Public Information Officer Marcie Hernandez secured and facilitated an interview on News 4 WOAI to promote *Symphony at SAPL* on January 15. She also secured and facilitated a live segment on KSAT 12's program SA Live to promote Little Read Wagon on January 27. Additionally, Hernandez secured an interview for Caitlin Cowart, Community and PR Manager, on KTSA AM Radio to promote *Black History Month* on January 28.

Hernandez participated in the planning and production of the *Collins Garden Branch Library Grand Reopening* on Saturday, January 30.

In her continuous media communications work, Hernandez produced and distributed press releases to promote the Collins Garden Branch Library Grand Reopening, Chinese New Year at Central Library, StoryCorps, and a Call for Makers for Mini Maker Faire. Additionally, Hernandez produced and distributed press releases for branch programs at Igo, Central, Great Northwest, Tobin, Texana/Genealogy, Carver and Parman.

Hernandez started a *SAPL Lose & Win* group with United Health Care wellness coaches. The group meets Tuesday at noon in the Central Library Board Room. She also attended a *Why Books Are Still A Good Library Brand Webinar* on Thursday, February 11.

SAPL received **157** media mentions during the reporting period. Also, the total value of broadcast coverage equal \$ **93,832**.

Public Information Officer Arturo Gallardo secured and facilitated a segment on Univision's program *Despierta San Antonio*, featuring Library Director Ramiro S. Salazar and Patricia Stout, who's a former Chair of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, to promote the Latino Collection and Resource Center on January 21. Also, Gallardo secured and facilitated another segment on Univision's weekend program *Contigo San Antonio*, featuring Library Services Administrator Candelaria Mendoza and Mario Compean, who's the president of Academia América, to promote the Citizenship Classes in Spanish at Las Palmas Branch Library – the segment was taped on February 4.

Gallardo also participated in the *Collins Garden Branch Library Grand Reopening* on Saturday, January 30, with the rest of the Marketing Department. Additionally, he continues to provide translation support in the production of a variety of marketing materials. On January 15, Gallardo secured a quarter page ad on the San Antonio Express-News (*Weekender*) and digital impressions on mySA.com for *The Book Garden* exhibit that ran on January 22. Additionally, he continues the ongoing production of articles for SAPLings (March/April), eConnections (February), email blasts of This Weekend at SAPL, and the production of the News & Events newsletter (February and March).

Social Media



The social media efforts during the reporting period have yielded the following results: Facebook has 10,501 likes, Twitter has 3,178 followers and Instagram has 789 followers, Pinterest has 45 followers, and YouTube 127 subscribers.

DIGITAL SERVICES



At the end of January, The Kampmann Library Portal unveiled a new display commemorating the contributions of the Black Americans known as the *Buffalo Soldiers* during the period of Western Expansion. The display, designed by Sierra Mendez features artifacts, portraits and historical information about the role the Buffalo Soldiers played in opening up the West.

CHILDREN'S (SYSTEM-WIDE)



January 13 marked the beginning of our second year of *Symphony at SAPL* presentations. These presentations bring one member of the San Antonio Symphony to each SAPL branch to share their talents and love of music with audience members young and old. As of February 13, fifteen presentations had occurred with a total attendance of 591 children and adults. *Symphony at SAPL* programs continue on Saturday afternoons through mid-May. Many thanks to Jeremy Brimhall, San Antonio Symphony's Educational Director, for his efforts to bring these gifted musicians to the libraries.



In honor of *Black History Month* and in anticipation of the presidential elections this fall, special programs on voting are in progress at multiple locations. The 2015 publication of "**Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965**" was the inspiration for the programs. These programs include a *straw poll* of favorite literature characters. Additionally, Children's Coordinator Viki Ash worked with the Bexar County Election Department to bring an actual voting machine to three library locations giving young attendees the chance to vote just the way the grown-ups do. Jackie Callanen, Elections Administrator was instrumental in facilitating these special voting events.

The children's librarians continue their collection maintenance efforts this month with a thorough evaluation of the Juvenile 398s – the folk and fairy tale books. This is a much needed but sometimes underutilized section in the nonfiction area. Taking the time to examine, replace and promote these titles is a good way to get them off of the shelves and into the hands of children.



On February 16, award-winning children's author Jen Bryant visited the Central Library. Ms. Bryant spoke to over 150 third and fourth graders from SAISD schools about writing, research and picture book biographies. Through a cooperative check-out arrangement with SAPL, most of the children in attendance had enjoyed three of Ms. Bryant's books prior to their visit: *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin*, *The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus*, *A River of Words: The Story of William Carlos Williams*. Bonham Academy Principal Will Webber and Lamar Elementary School Principal Brian Sparks were instrumental in bringing these students to the library to enjoy this author visit.

TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Off-Site Service



On January 25, Kathleen Fordyce (Assistant Manager, Teen Library at Central) and Karen Barton (Teen Services Librarian, Tobin Library) spoke to students in the AVID program at MacArthur High School about the services and resources the Library offers for teens. The students also signed up for library cards.

Partnerships

Job Shadow Day



The Teen Library, Organizational Health and Marketing units of the San Antonio Public Library were pleased to participate in organizing and implementing *Job Shadow Day* at the Central Library. Through this initiative of Junior Achievement and San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, 25 students from Brackenridge High School toured the Central library, met staff members, discussed career opportunities, and engaged in activities with staff from the Marketing Department, Teen Library, Human Resources and Organizational Health. Students and staff had an opportunity to speak informally at a luncheon that followed the library tour and activities.

Mini Maker Faire



Caroline Mossing (Librarian I, Teen Library at Central) continues to lead the planning committee for the second *annual San Antonio Mini Maker Faire*, collaborating with community partners and library staff to develop a space layout, reach out to local makers, and coordinate activities for a bigger and better Faire in March.

Technology Programming



Caroline Mossing has been developing a partnership with local youth technology nonprofit SA Youth Code Jam to bring *pilot coding clubs* to the Central Teen Library and (initially) one library branch, as well as future teen technology program initiatives.

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 at Central on January 25. Bigs and Littles had lunch together and enjoyed catching up with each other.

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 nutritional lesson for the teens per month. Regina Almanza (Teen Services Library Assistant, Central) attended the lesson in February.

Programming



Caroline Mossing brought a sampling of tech tools to the *Collins Garden Grand Reopening* for teens to use, including the LittleBits Korg Synth kit, the Makey Makey invention kit, and line-following Ozobot robots. Teens and other library patrons made music with LittleBits, played the Makey Makey banana piano, and created custom tracks for Ozobots using the color-coded Ozobot language.



JD Elizondo (Library Assistant, Teen Library at Central) partnered with the Children's Department at the Central Library by playing guitar for children in a music-themed Story Time and Play and Learn program on January 19 and 20.

Committee Work



Caroline Mossing has been helping to develop the second series in the *11.5 Cosas technology initiative* for library staff.

Professional Development



The Teen Services Librarian meeting was held at the Tobin Library on January 13.



The regularly scheduled Teen Services Librarian/Teen Liaison meeting was held in the Teen Library at Central on February 10.

Recognition



Kathleen Fordyce was recognized in the EnCORE Values Recognition Program, along with Andrea Silva, for Leadership and Teamwork. Kathleen and Andrea planned and hosted the 2015 Staff Holiday Party.

CENTRAL LIBRARY TEENS

Weekly Programs



Mondays with JD Elizondo (Library Assistant): Elizondo continued with Eclectic Electric programming during the reporting period. In addition to the music and video gaming aspects of the programming, Elizondo facilitated kinetic programming via ping pong games. Teens got their exercise and got to engage in some friendly competition. On February 1, Elizondo hosted a book club for the teens. The teens were given a selection of new YA books to choose from and they enthusiastically chose their selections for future book club meetings, voting and explaining their reasoning along the way. The ever-popular recording studio in the Teen Library is attracting more new teens, each with different musical styles. To accommodate this influx, Elizondo is segmenting the recording time on Mondays so that everyone will have a chance to perform and record. In addition, JD and few of the teens are dividing the studio into virtual and performance sides so that bands that want to rehearse can do so at the same time the studio is being used for recording.



Tuesdays with Caroline Mossing (Librarian I): During the reporting period, Mossing hosted Science & Tech Tuesdays. 3D printing was a popular activity, with some teens designing personalized items to print and others modifying existing models to suit their needs. Teens also created miniature scenes to display in test tubes, using craft supplies and 3D printed components. After discovering an optical illusion visible through the window of the Teen Library at Central, one teen demonstrated it

enthusiastically to staff as well as to other teens in the space, who then discussed the cause of the illusion. Other activities included 3D drawing and designing custom tracks for line-following Ozobots.



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 engaged in activities that allowed them to express themselves creatively, learn nutritional facts, and celebrate culture. Encouraged by staff, teens suggest and plan activities they wish to do at their library. They suggest ideas that play up their strengths or their interest in a certain craft or things they might have seen made online. One teen mentioned that she knew how to make tortillas, so ensuring there were supplies, staff set up a date and time for her to share her skill. Another teen drew a flyer for use as part of the Teen Library's digital display TVs, while other teens used paper to draw and make cutouts to enlarge and translate that drawing for decoration on a wall. Teens used black olives, cream cheese, carrots and green onions to create an army of penguins. Teens attempted a granola bar recipe, learning that a snack can be quick and easy to make and still provide energy, fiber and be tasty. While the granola unfortunately did not set, one teen commented that she liked when things do not go as planned, because it would still taste good anyway. In To foster cultural competencies, for Chinese New Year, teens made spring rolls. The following week, teens wrote and typed out fortunes and stuffed them inside fortune cookies they made. A tricky technique handling warm cookies that needed to be folded, but overall, teens tackled the process. Every Thursday night, as well, in a non-competitive environment, teens played video games or chose from a collection of board games to play. Pictures from Thursday programs as well as other Teen Library and system-wide programs can be found at <http://www.flickr.com/210teenlibrary>. Some nights, photos and mini-videos are also posted to Teen Library's Instagram account: <https://instagram.com/210teenlibrary>.

Tours and Groups



A group of students from Lanier High School received a tour of the Teen Library, along with catalog and database instruction on February 2. On February 9, a group of students from Memorial High School also received a tour, and Victoria Tijerina (Teen Liaison at Memorial Library) was present to introduce herself to the students.

CHILDREN'S

Collection Maintenance Project



This month the Central Children's Department initiated an ambitious *collection maintenance project*, developed by Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin. Ms. Seglin coordinated with Manager Kate Simpson and Library Assistants Judith Slaughter and Mary Elizabeth Fernandez to craft workflow procedures and collection guidelines for the project, designed to maintain the unique role of the Central Children's collection as the system's largest and most diverse collection of children's books. The comprehensive project was also designed as a training tool for the team's newest members, Librarians Robin Alcorta and Julia Pouliot, and Part-Time Library Assistant Ana Sandoval. The team worked together to tackle the

Juvenile Easy collection and will use the experience as an opportunity to streamline the process for use on the rest of the Juvenile collection throughout the year.

Early Literacy Programming



Story Times for young children this month touched on an array of topics and featured some exciting collaborations. Ms. Seglin produced the early literacy programs, Play & Learn and Toddler Time, in partnership with Ms. Pouliot and Ms. Alcorta that focused on colors, shapes, ocean life, pets, household activities, music and of course, farms and rodeo! One of the highlights of this programming session was the collaboration on the music theme with J.D. Elizondo, Teen Services Library Assistant. Mr. Elizondo was the featured guest, demonstrating the electric guitar to the toddlers in attendance. After the Story Time, the children were also able to strum the guitar, much to their delight. Another special guest to Toddler Time and Play & Learn was Jillian Knapczyk, a researcher with the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Ms. Knapczyk observed the department's early literacy programming and interviewed staff to determine the impact of the Every Child Ready to Read program on parent involvement at the San Antonio Public Library.

Family Fun Programming



Ms. Alcorta and Ms. Pouliot engaged families this month as they alternated leading Family Fun at Central Library and Collins Garden Library each week with a variety of activities and stories. Ms. Alcorta's Family Fun programs featured unicorn stories and a unicorn puppet craft, personalized by sequins, drawings and yarn, and a robot theme in which children transformed themselves into robots using a paper bag vest and lots of shiny foil after hearing funny robot stories. The group also worked on cup-stacking and block-building engineering challenges. Ms. Pouliot focused on arctic animals during this chilly season and the children delighted in playing with furry arctic puppets after story time. In another of her programs, the families enjoyed rousing dragon stories and worked together to construct their own dragon puppets made from paper plates.

Collaborative Celebrations



Ms. Pouliot and Ms. Simpson contributed to the Central Library Chinese New Year Celebration in collaboration with the Central Reference Department. They developed and presented four different children's activities, including dragon puppets, paper lanterns, watercolor and calligraphy, and a collaborative dragon that was paraded around the library! Ms. Alcorta developed the Valentine's Dance Fun event which featured an elaborate photo booth with props, dance activities and treats. Both of these special events were great successes and many families shared their praise for the programs. The Central Children's Team supported their neighbor, Collins Garden Library, by leading the children's activities during the *Grand Re-Opening Celebration*. Ms. Simpson and Ms. Seglin joined forces for a boisterous story time and Ms. Pouliot welcomed and engaged with families during the Come & Go Crafts and LEGO fun.



Special Programming: There was an array of additional programming in the Central Children's Department this month. Nohemi Lopez-Rosdahl, Collection Development Librarian, delighted families with her exuberant spirit during Bilingual Story Time, even when she had a sleepy bedtime theme! LEGO Club continued to build a fan base, as Ms. Seglin's program saw its highest attendance yet this month. In honor of *Black History Month*, Ms. Seglin coordinated *the Every Vote Counts Come & Go Craft* in which children were encouraged to vote for their favorite San Antonio Spurs player (Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili).

or Kawhi Leonard), and make an *I Voted* badge to wear. The results are in, and Tim Duncan won by a landslide!

Committee Participation



The librarians of the Central Children's Department all worked on system wide initiatives this month as well. Ms. Simpson provided leadership to the *Summer Reading Programming Committee* and ensured the team was on track for producing program sheets for SAPL children's librarians to review and choose from in April. Ms. Seglin continued her work on this committee and produced two excellent program sheets ahead of schedule. Ms. Alcorta collaborated with other Children's Librarians on the *Fall Play & Learn Committee* to develop programming centered around the *Pets* theme. Ms. Pouliot contributed to the *Spring Play & Learn Committee's How Does Your Garden Grow?* kit by creating an elaborate farmer's market imaginative play set and story re-telling manipulatives.

Tours



Several school groups, some from outlying areas of San Antonio, visited the Central Library for special tours this month. Kindergarteners from the Suburban School enjoyed a story time with Ms. Pouliot and Ms. Alcorta, after which the enthusiastic group made a collaborative poster to display at their school. Third Grade students from Leon Valley Christian School learned about the artwork, resources and fun at the Central Library on their tour led by Ms. Simpson and Ms. Pouliot. Ms. Simpson also conducted a library orientation experience for parents from several elementary schools in the Harlandale Independent School District.

Outreach



Ms. Seglin strengthened community connections with a visit to the Austin Academy Parent's Breakfast, which was especially meaningful since the school is closing this year, and Central Children's long relationship with Austin Academy will soon be coming to an end. Ms. Seglin renewed another long-standing relationship, with the Madison Square Child Development Center, when she delivered books and conducted story times there after a hiatus due to low staffing levels. Ms. Fernandez also continued her regular outreach visits to the San Antonio Early Childhood Center.

LITTLE READ WAGON



On February 9, Diana Wagner joined the Little Read Wagon team. Ms. Wagner brings enthusiasm and a distinct perspective to the team along with her background as a school administrator and early childhood teacher.

Every Child Ready to Read Workshops for Parents



The Little Read Wagon team presented *one-time early literacy workshops* at Bellaire, Gillette, Cotton, Arnold, Kriewald Road, Collier, Adams, Wilson, Wright, Beacon Hill, Burke, Big Country, Westwood Terrace and Hillcrest elementary schools as well as Avance Early Beginnings and C4NC Home Based Early Head Start. A series of workshops was completed at the Carroll and Fenley Early Childhood Centers. Workshop series began at Pre-K 4 SA East, Pre-K 4 SA West and Pre-K 4 SA South. Julia Lazarin presented to incarcerated mothers at the Bexar County Jail.



In preparation for the workshop series, family activities were offered at the Pre-K 4 SA West, South, and East locations. Center staff, students and parents were delighted with the unique opportunity to read in colorful tents just big enough for a couple children and an adult. This also gave Little Read Wagon staff a chance to remind parents to register for upcoming workshops and share library services information.

Every Child Ready to Read Workshops for Teen Parents



Corinne Sanchez and Clair Larkin were busy presenting *workshops to teen parents* at the following high schools: McCollum, O'Conner, Roosevelt, Brackenridge, Kennedy and Memorial. Workshops also continued for teen mothers at Seton Home. On February 12, with support from Ms. Wagner, Ms. Sanchez and Ms. Larkin presented at the San Antonio Independent School District Annual Teen Parent Summit. One hundred teen parent participants played with cloud dough, made chalk boards and were fully engaged as they learned new ways to be their children's first teachers.

Workshops for Early Childhood Teachers



On January 23, Elizabeth Huber, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Larkin and Cresencia Huff presented *Smart Arts: Enhancing early literacy through creativity* to twenty early childhood teachers at the Igo Branch Library. The team wishes to thank branch manager Amanda Henderson for arriving early to open the facility. The teachers, who mostly worked or lived on the northwest side of town, were especially appreciative of the beautiful and convenient location.

Play & Learn



A new Play & Learn series began on January 21 at the Woodlawn Community Room. Each Thursday morning program has been well-attended with several new participants joining the fun. The indoor space has been very welcoming on cold days while the porch overlooking the lake has been a fantastic place for outdoor activities on warmer days.

Community Events



San Antonio Metropolitan Health Department's Healthy Start program hosted a *Baby Shower* for expectant parents at the Frank Garrett Center on January 29. Mrs. Huff represented the Library with plenty of information and large pencils that reminded the recipients of their first attempts at learning to write.



Mrs. Huff demonstrated *how to make play dough and an alphabet game* on January 27 as part of KSAT 12's SA Live show. As a result of the segment Mrs. Huff has received some inquiries about Little Read Wagon programs.



Ms. Lazarin attended a meeting of several agencies to plan a series of Head Start registration fairs. Little Read Wagon and nearby branch library representatives will participate in the events by offering library cards and information to the parents who are registering their children for Head Start. Ms. Lazarin also met with a social worker for the South San Antonio Independent School District's Head Start program. They hope to offer early literacy presentations to the parents as part of their monthly meetings.

 Ms. Lazarin coordinated the formation of a *ukulele club for children's librarians* interested in learning to play ukulele as an addition to their programming or for their individual enjoyment. Eleven library employees have participated in the group lessons, taught by an independent instructor. After just two monthly lessons the group is making great progress!

 The Little Read Wagon was mentioned in a *January 2016 School Library Journal article* about services to teen parents. Last fall Ms. Sanchez and Xelena Gonzalez gave a phone interview as the author of the article gathered information from libraries all across the United States.

 Mrs. Huff was interviewed by a research assistant working with Susan B. Newman on the ongoing evaluation of the *Every Child Ready to Read initiative*.

 Mrs. Huff met multiple times with the Children's Services STEM committee to plan the spring Family Science program. The committee presented the program at the February 11 meeting of children's librarians.

BRANCH LOCATIONS

BAZAN

 The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), hosted by the Bazan Branch Library in the meeting room, opened on January 20 and will continue through tax day on April 18. The very popular service, which offers free tax preparation for individuals and families with incomes up to \$60,000, transmitted 1,879 tax returns from its Bazan site in 2015.

 Children's Librarian Hope Sonnen visited the Avance Morales Center on February 3, which she added to her list of literacy outreach locations. Ms. Sonnen read stories to two classrooms and also provided them with a collection of board books for the month.

Bassoonist Sharon Kuster from the San Antonio Symphony performed at Bazan on February 6 as part of the Symphony's series for children at SAPL. Fourteen children and nine adults enjoyed the performance and had many questions for Ms. Kunster.

 Library Assistant and Bazan Teen Liaison Jennifer Martinez met with Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center (GCAC) to discuss bringing a new programming experience for teens to Bazan. Joel Settles with GCAC pioneered a program called *Share the Stage* that would offer free acting, improvisation and storytelling classes to teens that attend. The launch date for this pilot program is expected to be in late February.

 Learn Training Officer Emily Sauer met with Brooks Academy Parent Liaison Lisa Smith on January 15 to discuss the learning opportunities the Learn Centers offer. Ms. Smith expressed interest in collaborating on future PTO meetings and Family Academy offerings.

 The Learn Center at the Bazan Branch Library welcomed a new volunteer, Samuel Fuller, who began instructing basic computer skills learning sessions in Spanish in February.

 The first session of the ESL reading circle was held on January 30 and a diverse group of students spent their Saturday afternoon reading together and practicing their English comprehension and punctuation. The group was led by volunteer Daniel Gomez and has generated a great deal of interest among the ESL students. The selection of the first title was a challenge, but with student input, Mr. Gomez decided to begin with “The Butler Did It,” an engaging play that allowed all students to participate by reading the various roles. The experience has been rewarding for all involved and quite innovative. Beginning in February, the Learn Center also started offering volunteer led sessions in Spanish teaching the Microsoft Office suite.

BROOK HOLLOW

 On January 30, patrons of the Brook Hollow Branch Library were invited to participate in Game Day, in which a variety of board, card, and dice games were available for play. Economic games such as Monopoly and Alhambra were particularly popular with those in attendance.

 Brook Hollow Branch Library held a *Valentine’s Play and Learn event* on February 2. Children of all ages enjoyed Valentine’s Day themed activities including sensory bins, a penguin/fish beanbag toss, heart shaped ice painting and a pretend flower shop.

 Brook Hollow’s longstanding Wednesday Evening Book Group gathered on January 20 to examine “Becoming Madame Mao” by Anchee Min, and the Historical Fiction Book Group held a lively discussion of their January selection I, “Ripper” by Stephen Hunter on January 25.

 On February 6, Brook Hollow hosted a representative of the San Antonio Zoo. Patrons of all ages were treated to a presentation on a day in the life of a zookeeper. Attendees got a chance to see and interact with the different foodstuffs offered to the zoo’s various residents as well as some of their chew toys.

 The Brook Hollow Branch Library is looking particularly spiffy these days due to some new signage installed on February 11 labeling the service desks, children’s area and meeting room. This improvement is courtesy of a generous donation from members of the San Pedro Hills Women’s Club, who have been longtime supporters of the branch and meet regularly in the branch meeting room.

CARVER

Mr. Holcomb hosted five Teen Time events with the Wii at the Carver Branch Library. Mr. Holcomb also hosted five Chess events, and he was pleased to see the return to the weekly event of an entire family that was interested in the game. Mr. Holcomb also continued the Mayor's Book Club group at the District 2 Senior Center session and during this period facilitated five book club meetings. He also began to collaborate with the George Gervin Youth Center in an attempt to arrange for weekly visits to the branch.



On January 16, the Carver Branch Library hosted the Symphony at SAPL, which attracted 20 people. Children's Librarian Jodi Miller continues to do outreach to local preschools and schools.



Filmmaker Ada M. Babino presented *History Begins with You*, a workshop on preserving family history. One of the highlights was learning how to infuse media into collections of family memorabilia. Babino said family history comes alive when images of ancestor are preserved for future generations. Twenty-two people were on hand for this event. Audience was invited to share family stories and bits of family history.



For *Black History Month*, the branch partnered with community business leaders to host *Black History for Children*, which was a celebration of African American Culture and accomplishments. Books were donated by members of the community and shared with the children. The event drew about 70 people.

CODY



Hobby Middle School students of Fine Arts Instructor Jeremy Nemeč displayed their art pieces in Cody Branch Library's Children's Area during January. In the month of February the artwork of Howsman Elementary art students will be on display.



Throughout January parents and their children were given the opportunity to create a unity wreath in preparation of *Black History Month*.



The Beginner Readers Club met on January 13 and the newly-formed *Middle Readers Club* met on January 20. Members from both book clubs brought some of their favorite books to share with others. The *Middle Readers* focused on juvenile graphic novels this month, selecting one book from a series to book talk. Children's Librarian Sheila Acosta provided an activity that introduced character analysis to the young readers.



On January 21, several families settled in with their goodies and snacks to enjoy "Inside Out" for Cody's Family Movie Night.



On January 27, children were treated to a special musical story time presented by Jensen's Yamaha Music School. Children were in awe of the music fairy and were most attentive.



On January 30, Cody customers commented that the San Antonio Symphony performance by Violinist Stacey Parker was beautiful and soothing. Several children were captivated by Ms. Parker's playing and sat tentatively at her feet while she played.



On January 31 volunteers from the American Cancer Society presented a special *luminaria craft* to promote *cancer awareness*. Cody customers were encouraged to decorate a *luminaria* in honor of someone who had cancer. The *luminaria* was to be displayed on customers' porches the evening of February 4.



Tweens enjoyed an hour of ping pong on February 1, challenging their friends and wanting their scores posted for all to see.



The Minecraft Club met for the second time on February 3. Approximately ten boys and girls enjoyed their time mastering the Minecraft app, engaging in great moments of discussions while they worked on their devices. One of the children even asked to engage in a friendly competition for the work accomplished during the hour.



Over fifty parents and children were in attendance for the *Chinese New Year Arts and Crafts Celebration* on February 4. Children enjoyed making monkey hats, Chinese lanterns and colorful, fiery dragons. Many of the children offered to have their work displayed afterwards.



On February 5, children participated in *Every Vote Counts!* in celebration of *Black History Month*. Kids voted on their favorite book characters and then placed their votes into the ballot box. They then designed their very own *I voted!* buttons.



On February 8, Sheila treated the tweens to a special Valentine's Day food craft, Cupid Floats. They were also enthusiastic about playing chocolate Bingo.



On February 9, over seventy people participated in the *Valentine's Day Crafts* activity. Participants made valentines for someone special using a variety of materials, such as love bugs, flowers, and cards.



The Beginner Readers Club met on February 10. Many of the readers performed a book they read to the group. They then did an impromptu readers theatre. Members then enjoyed creating a heart outlining their favorite books and a Valentine's bookmark.



During the reporting period *Teen Leaders* met to select and implement programs for the months of February and March, focusing mainly on crafts. Activities included teens learning new sewing skills which they then used to create hand warmers that could be microwaved to help keep their hands warm in the chilly mornings. Teens also did an activity where they added salt to watercolors to create paintings with a unique marbled effect. For *Valentine's Day* teens painted mason jars with glittery heart shapes to give as gifts. The teens also decided to get some exercise by playing *Wii Just Dance*, which allowed

them to express themselves through movement, coordination, balance and social interaction. Cody teens are excited to see what other programs they can look forward to in the future.



On January 12, NMLS-licensed Bob Reisen presented information regarding reverse mortgages to a small group of community seniors. Attendees found the material helpful.



On January 31, Branch Manager Hayley Latshaw and Assistant Manager Adam Spana presented a special training to Library Aides to refresh and reinforce good stack maintenance practices.



Tax season is here. VITA began assisting customers with their taxes on January 19. As in years past this service is extremely popular. On most days VITA has been reaching capacity before they open.



Throughout January in celebration of *DreamWeek* and inspired by Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream, Cody patrons continued Dr. King's legacy and shared their own dreams of civil rights progress in a collaborative public display.

COLLINS



Newly-renovated Collins Garden Branch Library hosted a very successful Grand Reopening Saturday, January 30, with 1,100 people in attendance. The Burbank High School color guard and drill team presented the colors during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Patrons enjoyed refreshments, music, and messages from guest speakers, District 5 Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales, Library Director Ramiro Salazar and the Pastor of Shepherd's Gate United Methodist Church, along with donated pastries and snacks from HEB and Viva Vegeria.

Collins Garden grand reopening performances and entertainment included poetry readings by UTSA Associate Professor and Texas Poet Laureate Carmen Tafolla and nine poets from Voces Cosmicas Poetry Group, Mascot H-E-Buddy, balloon artist and face-painter from Moxie Doll Party Company and SAPL demonstrations of library resources and services.

Collins Garden Service to Young People



Collins Garden hosted its first Family Fun program Saturday, January 16 with help from the Central Library Children's Department who will host weekly Family Fun through March 5.



The Teen program, hosted by Carlos Loera, restarted on February 2 with an average of 8 teens. Teens are utilizing the new teen space by making crafts and exploring video games with great enthusiasm.



Tween programming started February 3 with an average attendance of 11 tweens. Activities include crafts and gaming.

CORTEZ



The Cortez Branch Library hosted information sessions on CHIP and Medicaid – during one session a representative from the Texas Department of Insurance was available for questions as well.



In celebration of Dream Week, Cortez Branch Library hosted The *Reviving Benin* photography exhibit and reception, coordinated by The Olaju Art Group. The exhibit was a rousing success and had 8 interested patrons in attendance. Patrons were treated to an informative presentation about the history and culture of the *Voodoo Festival* depicted in the photos. The *Reviving Benin* exhibit will be displayed throughout the month of February.



The Learn Center saw over 130 sessions of computer use. Melody Vega continues to help job seekers apply for employment – two Learn patrons found new jobs. Others have been working on adult education by preparing for the GED exam and the ASVAB for a future career in the United States Armed Forces. Ms. Vega continues to teach English as a Second Language on Sundays at 12 p.m. and Mondays at 4 p.m., as well as computer skills as needed.



Imelda Merino from Westfall and Jo Ann Paredes continue to assist with children's programming. Story Time continues at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays with Tween Time at 4 p.m. Family Fun is on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. and *Foxie* 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 with Jo Ann Paredes continues to explore a wide variety of crafts by making accessories such as hair bows and jewelry and using clay pots and clothes pins to create decorative items. Ms. Paredes also works with an instructor from Mission Road Development Center to teach crafts that she can take back to work at the Center.



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



Cortez Afternoon Book Club met on Wednesday, January 20, and engaged in a lively discussion of Jincy Willett's book "Amy Falls Down." Two attendees enjoyed the witty repartee and discussed ideas on how to grow the club to include more members within the community.



Cortez Film Club presented the film genre of Short Films on January 23rd to 8 interactive club members. The members discussed the upcoming awards season, how the movie "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" could have been improved, and ways in which to attract more members. Word of mouth seems to be the biggest draw amongst the new members.



Monster Meet attendees viewed “Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein.” Next month the group will hear spooky stories from a ghost hunter. 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 “It’s You” by Jane Porter and “Rush Too Far” by Abbi Glines. 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 “Between the World and Me” by Ta’Nehisi Coates and will meet February 17 at 1:30 p.m.

ENCINO



Collaborate was reserved and used 72 times during the reporting period, a marked increase over previous months at the Encino Branch Library. Patrons have used the space for business meetings, Skype meetings, group projects, graduate study, nursing school testing, and entrepreneurial presentations. Collaborate changed the life of one recent visitor when she was taught to use a Mondopad to access a web-based videoconferencing system by a librarian. She was then able to see and speak to her incarcerated son for the first time in months, which she assumed was not possible because she was not tech-savvy. This patron was extremely grateful to the Encino team for understanding her situation and providing the information, access, and connection she needed. Word of mouth, librarian outreach, and the creative flyer developed by Marketing are to thank for the increased use of the space.



Encino’s Create University started 2016 with a calendar of weekly projects for adults. Participants have created wreaths from old book pages, dreamcatchers, and arm-knitted scarves. Registration for future events is quickly nearing capacity, and several additional project ideas have been suggested by Encino employees and patrons.



Adult Services Librarian Barbara Kwiatkowski continued her successful Older Adults Time with a tour of the *Seven Wonders of the World*. For each meeting, Kwiatkowski prepares a detailed presentation and uses the green screen so participants are able to leave with a self-portrait that includes the wonder. Kwiatkowski has also continued her monthly visits to the Franklin Square Residence, where she discusses current events and related library materials with the residents. An additional outreach has been added to the Emerald Oaks Retirement Community, where Barbara will conduct a monthly book club.



Children’s programming continues to be popular at Encino. Librarian Nicki Weaver conducts weekly story time, toddler time, baby time, and kid’s time. Librarians Barbara Kwiatkowski and Matthew Loaiza have eagerly led Tween Time for the past 2 months, and attendance is growing rapidly for this program. Activities for the tweens have included structure building challenges, board games, table tennis, and Kahoot! (an online, interactive trivia game). LEGO Club and Read to a Dog continue to be successful, and the Parent Child Book Club is growing in popularity.



San Antonio Symphony cellist David Mollenauer visited Encino on January 17 to share his talents and love of music with children of all ages. Guests included 23 children and their caregivers, and many parents requested information about future Symphony appearances at SAPL.



Encino's partnership with the Parks & Recreate Department's Fitness in the Park continues to draw fitness-loving crowds. All classes moved to Saturday mornings starting in January, which has opened the classes to residents who were previously unable to make the Monday afternoon times. Two separate instructors guide participants through Low Impact Circuit Training, Boot Camp, and Martial Arts.



Encino's meeting room hosted Mondopad Administrator Training with InFocus on February 3, with 32 SAPL employees in attendance. The facilitator guided attendees through maximizing the use of Mondopads for social, business, and programming functions.



Encino's Mardi Gras celebration occurred on Saturday, February 6 with 67 attendees. Flamboyant dancers from Samba Vida Dance Company provided education and entertainment to the crowd. The history of Carnival was presented as well as traditional music and dance steps, and the dancers led samba lessons to the eager crowd. Attendees also created their own Mardi Gras beaded necklaces and masks.



The teen group at Encino has grown considerably, and a core group of regulars attend teen programming 3 times each week. They have really established a sense of comradery, which is notable since they attend different schools, and they are always excited to welcome a new member to any program. During the reporting period, activities have included using Launchpad to create music, decorating cookies, watching and discussing anime, trivia night, and gaming. Encino's Teen Leadership Council is forming, with several teens currently discussing projects and leadership opportunities.

FOREST HILLS

Forest Hills Library hosted it regular round of groups using the library as a meeting place. The branch has become a go-to resource for a variety of community groups.



The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program arrived at Forest Hills in January to an eager crowd of patrons waiting to receive their assistance. This is a valued partnership which provides a needed service to the community as well as brings individuals to the library that might not be familiar with the number of San Antonio Public Library locations and other services available.



The newest addition to the group schedule is the St. Luke's Daisy Troop 973 which began meeting at Forest Hills in January. Other groups include: Project Linus, the San Antonio Needlework Guild and the San Antonio Screenwriters Guild. Programs for adults include a group of Mah Jongg players, an NPR Book Club, Opposing Points Book Club, and a Craft and Chat crafting program.



Adult Librarian Sandra Griffin is spearheading a new initiative with Pegeen A. Seger, Head of Outreach Services, UT Health Science Center at San Antonio Libraries and Dr. Carolina González Schlenker, associated with the Community Engagement Office and the faculty of Family and Community Medicine at the UT Health Science Center. Together they are working on a line of health education programs with a new twist. Recognizing that the traditional lecture style program does not draw large

crowds, they have developed a set of health information programs that will pair a crafting workshop with a “promotora” who will offer specific information and answer questions regarding health topics which are of particular interest to the community such as healthy cooking, diabetes, women’s health, etc.

This pilot project has been scheduled for Forest Hills, Collins Garden and Mission Libraries with the option to extend based on success.



Currently on display at the Forest Hills Branch Library for *Black History Month 2016* is the photo exhibit, titled *Reviving Benin: The History of an African Festival*. Presented by The Olaju Art Group, *Reviving Benin* is a collection of images captured at The Annual Voodoo Festival held in Benin, West Africa. Nigerian Photographer Nseabasi Akpan provided an all access pass to performances held on the festival grounds and within the community. These selected images offer a closer look at topics concerning community, tradition and celebration. This exhibition exposes viewers to West African culture and provides insight to the unique history of the cultural phenomenon known as Voodoo.



Branch Manager Mary Naylor delivered off site services to the Dorris Griffin Senior Center to support the monthly book club and to present training on the library’s digital services. In January, the group read Letter from a Birmingham Jail by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The seniors discussed the Civil Rights era as they were all firsthand witnesses to that turbulent time in the nation’s history. Two of the members lived in Birmingham at the time of the 16th Street Church bombing in 1963. One of them recounted details that were not commonly known in the telling of the story of that day.



Ms. Naylor visited the Bob Ross Senior Center to deliver training on the library’s digital services. During her visit Ms. Naylor recognized that the center’s library needed some help and so volunteered to work with the center to develop a more organized area for seniors to read and pursue other literary pursuits.



On January 23, a teen robotics teams were invited to meet with mentor Justin Chapko to work on robots for their competition in April.



Five Story Times were presented during this time period. Children listened to stories and rhymes, sang, danced and created projects, including paper mittens, a dog paper bag puppet, a penguin stick puppet, and a dance wand. Children’s Librarian Kathleen Brown’s puppetry skills are an especially appealing portion of the weekly Story Time. The attendance for Story Time has steadily grown in the months since Ms. Brown has joined the Forest Hills team. Young families will have a new literacy opportunity coming in March as Ms. Brown is actively working on creating a Bilingual Story Time which will be presented on Thursday mornings.



Five Family Fun programs were also held: Games and Puzzles, Building and Construction, a Coloring Party, a *Valentine’s Day* party, and a *Black History Month* voting program.



In celebration of *Black History Month* children were given an opportunity to learn about the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Children and their families were invited to vote in an election between candidates *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Jack* (of the Beanstalk).



On January 23, the *Beach Bash* was a success with 45 children and adults participating in water and beach activities and learning about shells from the San Antonio Shell Club.



A *Valentine hat Come-and-Go Craft Activity* was held on February 12. Children were invited to create valentines for friends and family members. Two elementary school aged boys presented valentines to Ms. Brown thanking her for the programs she hosts and the snacks she provides!



Children’s Librarian Kathleen Brown visited two day care centers to share stories, rhymes, songs and books with the children and teachers. Offsite services such as this are an important task for Forest Hills staff as many children in the area are in childcare and are not given the benefit of visits to the library.

GREAT NORTHWEST



The Great Northwest Book Club and the Alicia Treviño Senior Center book club met to discuss “Winter’s Tale” by Mark Helprin and to watch the movie as well.



Cindy Moreno Librarian II scheduled The Texas Master Gardeners to present *Container Gardening* to customers in January. They presented *Plants That Thrive in San Antonio* in early February. These programs are funded by the Friends of the Great Northwest Branch Library.



Great Northwest Library hosted a second *Tortilla Making* class on January 30, 2016 due to customer demand. All ages were invited to learn how to make tortillas. Library Assistant Nicole Garza and Library Aide Monique Corona demonstrated how to make the dough and participants were able to roll out and cook their own tortillas.



Great Northwest Library began a new program for homeschooling kids in grades 4-8 in January. There were 54 in attendance. The program includes history, science, teamwork and creativity. In the January program, the kids were to imagine that they were ancient farmers and needed to devise a way to irrigate their farmland using simple machines. It was delightful to see them all fully engaged the entire hour. One of the kids said, “I really enjoyed it and getting to think in this way. It was different. It was great!”



The Library also provided a program for the younger elementary kids on ancient rock and cave paintings. There were a total of 81 in attendance and was seemed to be enjoyed by all. It was focused around the book, “The First Painter” by Katheryn Lasky. Three activity stations were set up after the reading to encourage the children to interact with the material. Everyone brought rocks to put into practice all their new found knowledge.



Story Time celebrated *Valentine’s Day* with attendance of 103 in the morning and 79 in the afternoon. The children heard valentine stories about Splat the Cat, Pete the Cat and others. They showed off the valentine boxes that they made and passed out candy to all their new friends. They made an “I love you” sign language hand to take home and share with somebody special.

The Great Northwest Library hosted a Super Smash Bros Mini Tournament on January 30 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 he also officiated the event.



Great Northwest Teen Services Librarian Stephanie Vazquez visited the school library at Brennan High School on January 20, 2016 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 January, the Teen Maker Space Craft Night provided teens with a variety of crafts. Teens can pick and choose which crafts they want to create. During February the Teen Maker Space held a Valentine Craft Night where Teens could make Valentine decorations for the library bulletin board calendar.



Great Northwest Branch Library held a *Minecraft In Real Life* event. Our Teen volunteer Kaylon set up a scavenger hunt of Minecraft materials around the library so teens could search for items they needed to craft for candy prizes. Our volunteer also helped teens make their own Minecraft themed buttons.



Great Northwest Teens had an *Anime Night* 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.



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



The Great Northwest Branch Library celebrated Chinese New Year with a cooking class held by Library Assistants Monica Trejo and Nicole Garza. All ages were invited to learn how to make a flavorful spring roll and a delicious rice dumpling to bring in the New Year. In addition to the class, staff created a very colorful book display in celebration of the event.



Christina Martinez and Cindy Moreno attended the *Leadership Workshop for Women: Tapping the Power of the Female Vision - Part I and II* on January 20 and 27.

The Friends of the Great Northwest Branch Library had a very successful book sale on January 16th. They set a record in terms of sales and the group members were very happy with the results.

GUERRA



The Guerra Branch Library hosted the VITA Program six hours daily: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday; volunteers provided filing assistance to between 35 and 50 members of the community each day. On February 11, a quarterly staff meeting gave staff a time to work on customer service knowledge, skills, and abilities and to review of various safety and security procedures. Lunch was provided by the Friends and branch staff.



Branch Manager Dexter Katzman continued his Wednesday literature and music outreach programs to the Careplex Senior Center on January 13, 20, and 27, and February 3 and 10.



Assistant Branch Manager Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard moderated the Portuguese book club on January 30 discussing *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel. On February 2, she held the Classic Movies Program, screening the 1965 classic "A Patch of Blue" to celebrate *Black History Month*.



Children's Librarian Arlene Richardson planned and presented 20 in-house programs – five Toddler Times, five Story Times, and ten LEGO Clubs sessions. On January 21 and February 4, children read to therapy dog *Foxie*. In celebration of *Black History month*, Richardson presented a weekend voting activity for families promoting learning for children and adults about the voting rights act of 1935, voted in their own elections for favorite picture book character, and made *I voted* badges. Richardson installed a *Juvenile Black History Month book display* highlighting African-American culture and history. On January 22, Richardson visited Greatest Gifts Daycare and presented stories to three classrooms of toddlers and preschoolers. On January 29, she visited Angelic Smiles Daycare and read stories to two classrooms of preschoolers. She visited Lil' Dragon Den Daycare on February 5 and presented story times to four classrooms of toddlers and preschoolers. Richardson installed a *Juvenile President's Day display*.



Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson moderated the Spanish language book club, Club de Lectura, whose members discussed "*Hasta Siempre Mujercitas*" (See You Never Again, Little Women) by Marcela Serrano on January 28. The next day provided an outreach and career overview about the library profession at the Mary Hull Elementary School. Stephen recorded "La Gallinita de la Pradera" (Prairie Chicken Little) by Jackie Mims Hopkins for dial-a-story in Spanish on February 1.



Library Assistant/Teen Liaison Edward Mayberry held Game-Ra sessions on January 14, 21, 26, and February 4. He participated in an outreach to Brennan High School with Stephanie Vazquez, Teen Librarian/Great Northwest, on January 21. 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. The teens watched movies on February 11; the Guerra Friends of the Library supplied snacks for movie night.



Library Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl created a display for *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day* and a second display for *Black History Month* featuring books from the Harlem Renaissance. She and Library Aide Iris Bobren worked on the Staff Picks Display.



Circulation Attendants Dave Alvarez and Abella Lazalde designed and installed an NFL display in the foyer. They updated after the win/loss information after each football game leading to the Superbowl.



Circulation Attendants Abella Lazalde and Allison Fink prepared an-eye-catching display in the main area highlighting how the library and library staff can help with New Year's Resolutions.

IGO



January and February programs gave library visitors a large variety of choices and special events at the Igo Branch Library. For this reporting period the children's service staff presented 53 programs serving 3040 children and their caregivers. In addition, to the Igo Branch's regular children's program schedule – which includes five weekly early literacy Story Times, weekly Come & Go Craft, LEGO Club, Tween Time, and Read to a Dog – the Children's Librarian Nancy Rodriguez and branch staff offered two special opportunities for enrichment and entertainment. The American Cancer Society's Illuminate SA and Igo's First Rodeo Roundup and Cowpoke Breakfast rounded out this month's Family Fun programming.



On January 31, from 2 - 5p.m., the Igo Branch Library hosted representatives of the San Antonio chapter of the American Cancer Society for a *family make-and-take luminaria craft event*. Library guests and families whose lives have been touched by cancer were invited to create *luminarias* to display at their homes on *World Cancer Day* on February 4 to remember and honor loved ones and cancer survivors.



On February 2, from 3 - 4 p.m., Mrs. Rodriguez was the guest speaker at the Headstart Parent's Meeting at Brachle Elementary School. She was invited to speak to parents and caregivers about library programs and services to support their children's early literacy education. The librarian shared information about San Antonio Public Library's mission of family literacy and handed out information supporting the goals and practices of the Every Child Ready to Read Initiative employed by the San Antonio Public Library's children's services staff. The session included a list of books suggestions, branch bookmarks containing days and times of early literacy and school age programming, as well as a storytelling demonstration.



On February 9, Mrs. Rodriguez attended the Scobee Elementary School's So SMART (Social Studies, Science, Math, Arts, and Technology) Night from 6 - 7:55 p.m. During each of the four 20-minute sessions, students and parents rotated into the school library to as the children's librarian shared stories and invited guests to participate in various reader's theater and puppet performances of familiar folktales. Guests were also given flyers highlighting programs offered at the Igo Branch Library, as well as, information about resources and services available at San Antonio Public Library.



Let's Rodeo San Antonio! Inspired by the excitement and western spirit of San Antonio's Annual Stock Show and Rodeo, the Igo Team hosted their *1st Annual Rodeo Roundup and Cowpoke Breakfast* for area families on Saturday, February 13, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. With the support from the

Friends of the Igo Library and under the direction of the children's library, families were invited to share in a small bites breakfast of biscuits and jam, pigs-in-the blanket, juice, cocoa and coffee followed by games, crafts, and petting zoo. Young guests and their caregivers created a variety of rodeo inspired crafts such as a make-and-take cactus cowboy and decorate your own craft stick pony. Games included horseshoe toss and hula hoop "steer roping." Those wanting a photo opportunity took pictures at the selfie photo booth where they could use a variety of fun props and creative backdrops to remember their rodeo experience. Special guests from Fiesta Farms Petting Zoo offered guests a hands-on and up-close look at a variety of farm animals to inspire families to visit the Stock Show and Rodeo for more family friendly fun. Attendance for the event exceeded expectations at just over 1000 visitors. Judging by the overwhelming attendance and enthusiasm of patrons, there is no doubt that North West San Antonio strongly supports the City of San Antonio's Stock Show and Rodeo.

Teen Services



Teen Services Librarian Marco DeLeon continued running the popular teen programs at Igo, the most popular and favorite being the FNKY YES Time! (Teen Time) on Wednesday nights. Due to the popularity of that particular program, many new teens submitted applications for volunteer service with the aim on making it to the Igo Teen Library Leadership Council (TLLC).



The first official *Teen Cooking Class* also premiered in January and was an instant hit. Mr. De Leon showed the teens in attendance how to make an Asian stir-fry with noodles, veggies, and chicken. After the first demonstration, the teens were allowed to make their own version of the stir-fry. The teens also requested for the program to be a bi-weekly program instead of a monthly program. Mr. De Leon is currently considering their request.



Mr. De Leon coordinated a restructuring of the YA Collection to make space an area that will be dedicated for a teens-only space. The Library Aides shifted the entire collection (Manga, YA Graphic Novels, Young Adult, YA Audio, and YA Spanish) and Mr. De Leon shifted and moved the Periodicals Section to a new area in the library to create the space to be used as a dedicated Teen Space.



The TLLC met with Mr. De Leon on a weekly basis to discuss the planning for the upcoming Teen Space and to discuss future programming and events planning. During one of the meetings, the TLLC discussed volunteering needs and focused on the upcoming Rodeo Roundup.

Adult Services



Throughout January and February, the Elderberries hosted 12 sessions of *Tai Chi with Garrie* for Igo patrons. The participants gained strength, flexibility, and balance by learning the 24-forms Yang Tai Chi.



Igo's three book clubs continued to meet throughout the reporting period. The Afternoon Book Club enjoyed a lively conversation regarding "A Casual Vacancy" by J.K. Rowling. The Romance Readers Club discussed "Hard As It Gets" by Laura Kaye and the Mystery Club read "No Man's Nightingale" by Ruth Rendell.



Adult Services Librarian Ramona Lucius offered a program celebrating the final season of the hit television series *Downton Abbey* with tea, cookies and conversation. On January 17, 38 gentlefolk attended a dynamic discussion led by Dr. Cynthia Hawkins of UTSA's English Department while also providing listeners insight concerning one of the reasons the series has been so successful: the writing.



On January 19, a partnership between the Texana Department and Igo's Genealogy Club brought in a guest speaker, the president of the Texas State Genealogical Society, Randy Whited. Mr. Whited taught 20 listeners how DNA tests can be used to trace lineage and establish heritage.



On February 4, the Elderberries hosted Peg Seger, Outreach Librarian from the UT Health Science Center San Antonio Libraries. She instructed the participants in the use of the National Institutes of Health databases in order to research health and medical topics for seniors. Laptops allowed each participant to practice their searches through this hands-on experience.



For Black History Month, the Celebrate Diversity Committee arranged for Igo to host a talk by UTSA Professor Kinitra Brooks. *Natal African Religious Practices in African American Literature* was the title of the talk.

JOHNSTON



On January 25, Library Aide Sarah Vinton started work at Johnston Branch Library. She was previously an aide at Great Northwest. She comes to the branch with great enthusiasm for learning new tasks.



On January 15, Johnston Branch Library hosted the second of two sessions of one-on-one assistance for individuals signing up for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. The certified navigators from Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio served six attendees.

Children's Services



Story Times at Johnston featured extra-terrestrials, spiders, football, toys and Valentine's Day. Family Fun times included extra-terrestrials, LEGOs, painting pictures, snap electronic circuits and Valentine's Day.



On Thursday, February 4, Children's Librarian Beverly Wigglesworth visited the Parent Child, Inc. (PCI) at Southwest High School. She entertained the babies and toddlers with stories and props about farm animals.



Beverly Wigglesworth created a LibGuide for the San Antonio Symphony's Young People's Series on Saint-Saens *Carnival of the Animals*.

Teens Services



The teens at Johnston have been recruiting more Anime Club members and had 18 in attendance on February 7. The teens enjoy having a space to hang out with each other and talk about manga. Most recently, Alyssa (a regular attendee) has been working on a character list for an anime script and has several outstanding character sketches.



Teen Time has really transformed this past month and teens have expressed an interest in cooking. Kitchen items are being supplied thanks to the Johnston Friends of the Library and this past Wednesday at teen time, the teens made no-bake peanut-butter and corn flake cookies. This shift towards cooking will enable the teens to feel more confident in the kitchen and encourage teamwork.



Library Assistant Megan Stanley is working with Teen Services Coordinator Jennifer Velasquez and Manager Marcia Spaulding to shift the teen books to a corner of the branch to create a true “teen space.” Ensuring a dedicated space in the branch is the best way to invest in the teens at Johnston.

Adult Services



Adult Services Librarian Monica Bustillo hosted several Adult Coloring events every Thursday till the end of March. Monica was interviewed and appeared on the local news station on January 21.



On January 18, Bustillo presented the *Digital Resources of SAPL* at the Valley Hi North/Blues of Texas Neighborhood Association. She then helped members in one-on-one sessions with their personal devices.



On January 20, Bustillo facilitated the Athena Readers Book Club discussion of Celeste Ng’s “Everything I Never Told You.”



On January 21, Bustillo attended the Adult Services Meeting at Central. Bustillo attended a series of webinars at Central Library. On January 20 and 27 titled *Leadership Workshop for Women: Tapping the Power of the Female Vision*. On February 2, she attended a Senior Resources class at the NISD Adult Education Center with Great Northwest Adult Services Librarian Cindy Moreno.



Bustillo presented two Oscar nominated films in a series to run the entire month. February 5, the movie was “Avengers Age of Ultron.” On February 12, she presented “Bridge of Spies” and “Inside Out” is scheduled on be February 19 with “Cinderella” ending the series on the 26. Bustillo organized a *Make a Card Come & Go* craft for *Valentine’s Day* on February 13.

LANDA

Children’s Services



In January, Librarian II Ms. Jasmin Salinas began a new monthly Story Time outreach program with University Presbyterian Child Care Center, reading stories to all of their classrooms from toddler to preschool ages. The preschool children, especially, have really enjoyed listening to some very

silly books. In fact, the children requested that Ms. Salinas bring more silly stories in the future. In January, Ms. Salinas read “Shh! We Have a Plan” by Chris Haughton and the children loudly said “shhh” right along with her. As the story was read the children could barely contain their giggles. After two monthly visits, Ms. Salinas solicited some feedback to better serve the teachers and their kids. The director of their center replied that “The teachers have enjoyed your visits. We appreciate you!”



January kicked off a new *S.T.E.A.M. Early Literacy program* (created by Ms. Salinas) at Landa Branch Library that focused on science, engineering, math and art for preschoolers. The January program focused on learning about animals in winter, introducing children to vocabulary and concepts of hibernation, adaptation, and migration. Every week, the children loved pretending to be black bears falling asleep in the winter and then waking up to stomp around the room. During our art week, Ms. Salinas made water color ice cubes and had the children painting with them. The parents and children raved about this activity, saying that it was extremely creative and a great experience for their kids. After the four week session, parents completed an evaluation form to submit feedback. They rated the program between good and excellent, with program content and activities scoring consistently as “excellent.” Their comments included: “My son loves the program. Great job so far! ☺”, “Jasmin does a great job providing activities both my 2 and 4 year old enjoy.”, “I judge success of a pgm (program) by how happy/engaged kids are – and they have been very happy/engaged per this pgm (program).”, and “Wish other libraries would pick this program up.”.



Ms. Salinas’s February S.T.E.A.M. program continues to be a parent favorite with a new theme about *Our Bodies*. The surprise hit is a flannel activity coupled with a song that “builds” a body on the board. Each week as the song is sung the kids gravitate to the flannel board and Ms. Salinas for a closer look at the body being created. Parents have commented on how surprised they are that this activity completely engrosses the children, but they are extremely complimentary on the inclusion of it every week.



At the beginning of February, Ms. Salinas also created a picture book *Black History Month* display to encourage patrons to enjoy the books noted in the created lists on the Kid’s Page of the San Antonio Public Library webpage for notable African American authors and illustrators. The books have been well received with one little girl clutching tightly to the picture book of Martin Luther King’s speech, *I have a Dream*, illustrated by Kadir Nelson saying that it was a book that she read in school and loved.



In February, Ms. Salinas organized and set up a LEGO Club program that attracted a record number of families. Over thirty children attended the program which was run by Circulation Attendant Ms. Melissa Carroll. Ms. Salinas opened up the age ranges on the LEGO Club to allow an area for younger siblings to join in the fun by playing with DUPLOs and blocks. The change seems to have attracted more family attendance and resulted in larger numbers of children attending. After a LEGO Club, all the creations were displayed in the Children’s Area of the library. The day after LEGO Club, several young boys came hurrying into the library to show their creations off to their friends and tell them all about LEGO Club. They loved seeing their worked displayed and talking about what they made and why. Starting in February, Lego Club will now be bimonthly at Landa Branch Library.



Also starting in February, Ms. Salinas organized the first *Minecraft Builders Club* for all ages at the Landa Branch. It was a huge success with fifteen children attending ranging in age from 3 to 11 years

old. The children loved talking to each other about their worlds, showing Ms. Salinas what they had built, and sharing tips on how to achieve new skills: like building portals and spawning ocelots. After the program, the mother of three of the boys came up to Ms. Salinas and thanked her for hosting this type of program at the library. The books displayed were eagerly sought after by the children so that they could learn even more about the computer game they love. The Minecraft Builders Club will also continue to be a bimonthly program at Landa through the spring.

Teen Services



The teens of Landa were not immune to *Star Wars fever* during this reporting period. They continue to direct the programming—they chose to watch and discuss “Star Wars” episode 1 and 2. The Teen Library Leadership Council continued its efforts to attract new teen members to the weekly program. The Wednesday before Valentine’s Day Teen Liaison Melissa Carroll held a *Valentine’s Day Party* for the group.

Adult Services



The two adult book programs, led by Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta, continue to attract both new and continuing membership. Reader’s Ink met twice in this reporting period, reading the memoir “H is for Hawk” by Helen MacDonal in January and Sue Monk Kidd’s “The Invention of Wings,” a *Black History Month selection*.



The Friends of the Landa Library conducted a highly-successful book sale on January 30. The outstanding and varied selection of items and beautiful weather contributed to make it one of the library’s best sales ever. A group of dedicated Friends held both a “preview” sale for members the day before and an all-day event. Many thanks go to Pat and Frank DePasquale who keep the on-going sale refreshed and regularly collect and organize items for Landa’s “big sales” as well.



This week Landa welcomed new Library Assistant Destiny Byrd. Destiny has over ten years of experience with SAPL. She is a wonderful addition to the Landa team.

LAS PALMAS

Symphony Musicians at SAPL



The *Symphony Musicians at SAPL* event on Saturday, February 6, was a great success with both kids and adults. While Children’s Librarian Gina Brudi read the book “Where the Wild Things Are,” the violist played atmosphere music like a soundtrack. After the program a customer told Ms. Brudi, “*That was great, thanks.*” Another community connection was made when one of the children, a regular Las Palmas Branch Library user, had brought her violin to the concert and got a chance to meet with the violist after the performance.

Avance



Children’s Librarian Gina Brudi also visited a new *Avance* early literacy site in her service area where she read to four classrooms and supplied them with classroom collections. She also served as a judge at

the Las Palmas Elementary Spelling Bee with top spellers from each 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classrooms competing, including two participants who are users of the Las Palmas Branch Library.

LeapPads and Bilingual Storytime



Circulation Attendant Patricia Perez started piloting the use of LeapPads during Free Play in Bilingual Story Time, proving to be a 'big hit' with preschoolers. In a recent academic article Patricia read, J. Kervin (2016) wrote that the digital learning experience promotes cognitive thinking skills that are vital to language development. In this way, the library is transforming lives by giving preschoolers access to technology that develops their reading and language skills. In addition, the children made *winter Eskimo paper* crafts, and learned about the winter season.

Teens Services



The Teen Librarian also conducted an outreach visit with the *Teen Tech Center* Coordinator at Neighborhood Place to discuss partnering with Las Palmas Library on events, resources and expertise/mentoring for teens. Connie also gave the Tech Center some flyers about library recruiting of teen volunteers and mentioned the downtown Maker Faire to be held on March 26.

Adults Services



Teen Librarian Connie Hejl worked at the *Terror Expo* (Jan. 23-24) at the Convention Center in collaboration with librarians from Parman and Mission branches. She took pictures of people with scary background scenes, and zombie babies she brought as props, using Tobin Library's green screen and emailed the picture to the participant on the spot, and later to Marketing. Oscar Gonzales (Mission) showed a PowerPoint of *horror movie trivia* as part of a quiz contest; attendees won a free poster from the Grimm television show. Librarians also handed out flyers regarding various library book clubs (which Connie helped design with Ana Farr in Marketing) and a flyer of "other cool stuff" at various libraries. In showcasing the types of books people could check out, librarians discovered that people were surprised to know they could check out *graphic novels*. Librarians also spoke to one man who was partially blind about the Library's low vision services.

Computer Help Thursdays



Library Assistant Anne Schuette held three sessions of *Computer Help Thursdays* (1/14/2016 - 2/11/2016), which helped students with questions ranging from navigating the web to using Microsoft Word 2010 to using the SAPL Job and Career Accelerator database to search and apply for work.

Adult Book Club



Adult Book Club (1/20/2016) participants discussed two books: "Bella Tuscany: The Sweet life in Italy" by Frances Mayes and "Extra Virgin: Recipes & Love from our Tuscan Kitchen" by Deb Maza. Several members have lived in and visited Italy. The books sparked interesting first hand stories of those days, validating experiences expressed by author Frances Mayes. A new member plans to join the library for the February book club.

Catholic Charities



Catholic Charities partnered with the library to present a two-hour class entitled *Precious Minds* on effective parenting in high stress situations. Presenter Victoria Valdez greatly appreciated Library

Assistant Anne Schuette giving attendees a detailed overview of library services catering to children and families. Together they created *Calm Down Jars* and decorated them with glitter. Afterwards, attendees visited the library and enjoyed reading children's books.

Clases de Ciudadanía and Citizenship Classes



The Library is pleased to offer the Spring 2016 semester classes in partnership with **Academia América**, taking place every Friday and Saturday – 1/22/2016 and 2/13/2016. The week of February 1st, Candelaria Mendoza and a representative of Academia América were interviewed by the local TV station Univision 41, publicity from which should help inform the public of this opportunity, and help **Academia América** keep or extend their federal grant.

Habitat for Humanity



Blanca Salazar from *Habitat for Humanity* returned (2/1/2016) to explain how the public can qualify for an affordable new home. The organization charges no interest and mortgage payments are \$525. In addition, they encouraged people to work with COSA's Financial Empowerment Centers for free help getting out of debt, and how to budget toward a secure future. After the presentation four attendees took applications. While the library has no reliable method to track how many attendees actually buy homes, if even one person acquires homeownership, the library mission to transform lives through the power of information will have succeeded.

CoSA Public Meeting



The Library hosted *CoSA, Transportation & Capital Improvements Department*, which held a Public Meeting in the Meeting Room on February 1, 2016.

Other Events/Developments



Mural Installed at Las Palmas. *Cuentos de mi Vida* a colorful mural, was donated by artist Sonya Gonzalez and installed on February 3-4, 2016 in the Las Palmas Library Meeting Room in an area most frequently used for children's programming. The Library has already had several inquiries about the mural by community users attending programs in the meeting room, and the artist herself came in and took pictures of it.

MAVERICK



During the reporting period, the Maverick Branch Library saw a few community collaborations. On January 12, Children's Librarian Amy Roberts attended the last meeting of the Bluebonnet Bloggers at Nichols Elementary. Ms. Roberts and the School Librarian Elizabeth Rush had the 15 students vote for their favorite Bluebonnet book online, as the winner is chosen by students in 3rd-6th grade in Texas. They celebrated the five month collaboration with cupcakes, certificates and Bluebonnet spirit sticks. Both the school librarian and Ms. Roberts will be doing this program next year!



On January 30, violinist Aimee Toomes-Lopez from the San Antonio Symphony played for 75 children and grown-ups. This is a partnership between the symphony and all of the San Antonio Public

Libraries. The American Cancer Society came to the branch on January 31. Patrons took advantage of making *luminarias* using materials provided by the society.



In other news, the two book clubs at the library are growing. The Tuesday Lady Mavs have 9 members and the Saturday Ladies' Choice Book Club had a record 20 attendees on January 30!



The Maverick Branch Library celebrated its 10th Anniversary on Saturday, February 13! Teamwork was integral to the celebration. Librarian Ben Longoria scheduled *Guitar SA* to come perform and created publicity. Children's Librarian Amy Roberts scheduled *Dinosaur George* and *All Things Balloon* do rip-roaring programs for kids. Librarian Pat King scheduled her husband's *King William Jazz Quartet* to perform. The 4 programs were sponsored and funded by the Friends of the Maverick Library. Library Aide, Raina Oster and other Library Aides created an *Elephant and Piggie puppet show*. Decorations were created by Circulation Attendant, Brittany Gates and t-shirts were procured by Library Assistant, Lucy Villa. Special thanks to the Friends of the Maverick Library who funded t-shirts for Maverick staff and to Branch Manager, Jef Martin, for coordinating refreshments.

McCRELESS



On January 11, San Antonio Mayor R. Ivy Taylor was at the McCreless Branch Library as part of her *Meet the Mayor* events. There were 29 people in attendance and many of them took time to talk to the Mayor privately. There was a nice representation of members of the McCreless Friends wearing their customized green t-shirts.



The McCreless Friends met on February 8 and agreed to purchase badly needed furniture for the staff break room and there was an initial discussion on plans for the big McCreless 50th anniversary event planned for August 14.



Children's Librarian Leigh Bedford was recognized by the Director's Office with an Employee Recognition award for Teamwork. Ms. Bedford received a commendation and a paid leave day for her service.



Story Times at McCreless have been small but participants have been enthusiastic. Some of the themes have been *Bears*, *Family*, *Aliens from Space* and of course, *Valentine's Day*. Additionally, the number of displays has increased in the children's area, featuring themes such as *Winter Weather*, *Black History Month*, *Rodeo*, *Homework Helpers* and *Valentine's Day*. The displays appear to be successful and staff finds that the displays need to be frequently refreshed with more books. Additionally, the book bundles are proving popular. Each bundle has three books. Sometimes patrons check out all three, sometimes they prefer to just select one.

The collection of children's books is being overhauled. Older titles are being removed and replaced with new titles, or newer copies of classic titles. It is improving the appearance of the children's area, making it appear bright and new.



On February 11, the branch hosted a large but well-behaved group of 5-6 year olds from Highland Park Elementary. They are all experienced and enthusiastic readers.



McCreeless Branch Library hosted a total of 3 teen programs with an attendance total of 36. All three programs consisted of creating various crafts and art to exhibit the teens' artistic qualities with painting, and drawing. Other stations are also setup in Teen Time with board games and video games for those who are not heavily engaged in creating art.



Furthermore, the young adult section displayed an array of popular titles featured in the 2016! book display. A few other young adult novels and graphic novels were also featured in a Staff Picks display shared amongst other library staff who contributed titles for patrons to enjoy in the month of January.



During the reporting period, the branch offered two Family Movie Time programs with fifteen in total attendance. To highlight *Black History Month*, the branch had a showing of "Selma" with five people attending. The branch also had a special presentation with Home Depot on how to save costs through proper maintenance of your home. Ten people attended the program.

MEMORIAL



February 2016 is *Customer Appreciation Month* at Memorial Branch Library. Patrons who check out library materials receive a heart-shaped note thanking them and children receive a book and candy for visiting the library. This is part of Memorial's on-going program *Catch You Reading*.



Memorial Branch Manager Jeannette Davies networked with St. Mary's University Libraries and Technical Services Departments staff members and toured the Louis J. Blume Library and the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library.



Memorial Branch Library hosts bimonthly art exhibits usually featuring local artists or fellow non-profit groups. January-February 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.



Memorial Branch Library, SAPL sponsored, hosted Affordable Care Act enrollment in partnership with the Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio in January. Certified Navigator Norma Castillo, representing both organizations, assisted patrons with paperwork and went the extra mile to write letters to obtain waivers for persons who needed additional assistance. Castillo provided one-on-one enrollment assistance for individuals and families.



Memorial Branch Library also hosted several information tables to provide community information to patrons. On January 13, a representative from the UTHSC-Cancer Prevention Center provided pamphlets and answered questions from patrons. On January 20, Texas Workforce enrolled people into their job programs and was very popular among patrons seeking employment. On January 31, the Texas Department of Insurance provided consumer related insurance publications, such as avoiding fraudulent companies and addressed a variety of questions regarding other types of insurance, e.g. auto, home and renters insurance.

Children’s Services



The children of Memorial enjoyed Kids Time, Story Time, and Come and Go by listening to stories, performing action rhymes, singing songs and making crafts to celebrate the *New Year, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Polar bears, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day and Black History Month*. In celebration of *Black History Month*, children placed ballots in a voting box to vote for their favorite book about African Americans gaining the right to vote.

School-aged kids have been rewarded candy and a free book in recognition of our program: *You've Been Caught Reading*. This has been a great program to let children know that we are paying attention to them and to encourage them to continue reading.

Memorial Teen Time



In January, Memorial Teens took charge of Tuesday Teen Time by creating large art pieces to display in the Teen Corner. Fun gaming-themed images such as Pokeball and a Mario star out of *post it's* now hang in the Teen Corner to help teens feel ownership to the space. Teens from Central Library helped Memorial Teens create an art collage that Memorial Teens are continuing to work on with each teen’s drawn or painted contribution to the piece with an amazing end result. Then Memorial Teens decided they wanted pizza and movie time the following week. So with all the yummy ingredients teens wanted, they made personal pizzas. The pizzas started off pretty basic, but soon teens came up with the idea to create pizza sushi rolls. Teens later described the pizzas as *epic*.



So far in February, Memorial teens continue to call the shots and decided they wanted to make plushies with a *Valentine's Day* theme. Teens made heart plushies, pandas of love and sugar-cookie plushies. One teen created his favorite anime character and other teens made lapel buttons using images from old magazines. One teen searched all of the magazines for every superhero he could find and put them all on his backpack. During Memorial Teen Time, teens are interacting with themselves and are sharing new ideas with Memorial’s teen services assistant.

MISSION



On January 23 and 24, Librarian Oscar Gonzalez of the Mission Branch Library was one of the representatives from the San Antonio Public Library at the *Terror Expo* at the Henry B Gonzalez Convention Center. The Library booth was one of the few organizations that provided free activities. *Horror Movie Trivia* tested participants’ horror film knowledge and giveaways were offered to those who

had fewer than three mistakes. The most popular SAPL activity included a *creepy background photo booth*. A green screen provided the backdrop. Visitors used props, including horror books, to create their frightening photos. Participants enjoyed it immensely. They were pleasantly surprised that the library could email their pictures for free. The library booth attracted approximately 7000 people over the two day event.

On February 7, the library hosted St. Philips College San Antonio Youth Wind Ensemble in celebration of *Black History Month*. The group performed gospel and freedom songs. The program was very well received by library patrons.



A groundbreaking ceremony was held for a demonstration garden on February 13. The garden, a partnership with the Friends of the Mission Library, Green Spaces Alliance and interested community members, drew an environmentally-friendly crowd. The groundbreaking ceremony included words from Mr. Gerald Hess, lead organizer for the project, Clayton Leonard, President of Leonard Holding, Co., Councilwoman Rebecca Viagran, and Public Services Administrator Cheryl Sheehan. District 3 Library Board Member Margarita de Leon was also in attendance. A blessing was offered by members of a Native American Intertribal group. Leonard Holding, Co. and HEB provided funding to support the garden. Nicha's Restaurant and Friends of the Mission Library donated the morning refreshments. A community group called Help Out Work Out, along with other community volunteers, helped move sod to the newly arranged planting beds. The event was a success.



Table Tennis for Adults, the Chess Club, and Dungeons and Dungeons continue to be popular programs. Teen events for the reporting period included 15 programs with an attendance of 219. Mission teens completed a service project creating flowered hairbands for children residing at St. Peter's – St. Joseph's Children's Home. Teens completed 35 hairbands and these were delivered to the children's home on January 20. Teen Librarian, Cynthia Cruz, had various outreach events that included two visits to Harlandale High School. On January 22, Cruz visited with students from Communities in School and had them sign up for library cards. On February 3, she participated in the Career Resource Fair with 132 teens and faculty visiting the library's information table.



In addition to school visits, Cruz toured the Bexar County Juvenile Detention Center with fellow librarian Karen Barton (Tobin) in anticipation of future visits with teens at the center.



The children's programs continue to have great attendance. This month kids and families were treated to a special musical performance. A symphony violinist performed and informed about her instrument and music. She was enthusiastically received.



The Discovery Program for young children has expanded from just STEM activities to STEAM activities by occasionally adding an appropriate art element. This month primary colors were the focus of several fun and educational activities. The children got to experiment with the primary colors and see how they mix to form other colors in three hands on activities, one of which was a water color painting.

PAN AMERICAN



To kick off the New Year right, the Pan American Branch Library continued to host weekly Fitness in the Park exercise programs such as Tai Chi Easy and Gentle Stretch Yoga. On Wednesdays in January, the branch hosted certified application counselors from Methodist Healthcare Ministries to assist patrons during the Affordable Care Act open enrollment period. To help patrons de-stress, the branch brought back Adult Coloring in the evening to better accommodate working adults.



In January, the Pan American Branch began new children's programs for the community. Children's Librarian Gladis Martinez held a weekly Lego Club where children could be creative and build cool Lego objects. Ms. Martinez also had weekly Bilingual Story Time that included stories in English and Spanish, which followed with a fun craft. In addition to children's programs at the branch, Ms. Martinez visited local area daycares, head starts, and elementary schools to share the joy of reading to youth in the community.



The Pan American Branch Library continued to promote digital literacy and technology education by providing computers 101 series trainings. The classes are three part series that covered computer basics, internet made simple, and email essentials. The program was developed in partnership with the San Antonio Public Library volunteer services section and the AmeriCorp Vista program.



Adult Services Librarian Cindy Pope continued to visit the Normoyle Community Center and held adult coloring session for senior citizens on a weekly basis. In addition to coloring, Ms. Pope also organized a book club for the community center.



On February 6, the branch hosted a Small Business Tax Responsibilities program. The presenter CPA David Plemmons provided valuable information to small business owners to assist with tax code compliance. Adult Services Librarian Cindy Pope noted that the event was also an opportunity to highlight SAPL resources such as Legal Forms Library. Additionally, the program instructor indicated that he will promote this product to others within his network.

PARMAN



Classes for adults started right away in 2016 at the Parman Branch Library with a session on creating vision boards taught by Library Assistant Elissa Vura. Ms. Vura led participants through exercises designed to inspire goal setting and visualizing the year to come. Staff also planned the Spring Semester of Parman's popular DIY U. Ms. Vura held the first class of the semester on Zentangle Valentines. Other upcoming classes include *Piñatas*, *Pyrography*, and *Nail Art*. Thirteen staff members and three volunteers make up the instructors this semester.



The Friends of the Parman Library purchased a full sized playhouse for the Children's area. The staff have received many compliments from parents and kids excited about the additional encouragement of imaginative play. The area also includes a puppet stage purchased by the Friends.



Many of the regular Parman clubs have seen an increase in participation in the last month. The Parman Fiber Arts Club is now open to all ages. Anyone with an interest in knitting and crochet,

beginners and those with experience, is welcome to spend every Sunday from 2 – 4 p.m. relaxing with yarn. The group is led by Children’s Librarian Carrie Vance.



Assistant Manager Tim Johnson represented the library at the recent San Antonio Terror Expo. He was able to get many great photos of attendees in front of the green screen with their SAPL cards and favorite books.



Parman hosted an opening reception and talk about the Olaju Art currently displayed in the gallery for *Black History Month*. The program was well received and the art has been viewed by many. The Reagan High School Latin Club presented the story of the *Trojan War* with epic battles, insane wit & a fun craft for school-aged children. Attendees loved the program and asked when it would be at Parman again.



Mr. Johnson also leads the weekly Discovery Time. In recent weeks, he has been teaching the 4 to 6 year olds about plants and photosynthesis. They have been growing plants from seeds and have been out in the Parman garden transplanting the seedlings to the ground.



With the help of the Teen Librarian Marisa DeBow, Parman Teens (also members of the Reagan High School Robotics Team) are planning more sessions of their Fun with Robotics to take place during Spring Break.



Score offered a session at Parman covering Search Engine Optimization.

PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS

2016 is off to a great start at Molly Pruitt Branch Library. Children’s programming has been busy with a wide array of activities.



Members of the Family Circle Book Club had an engaging discussion over this month’s selection, “Mick Harte was Here” written by Barbara Park. Tweens and a parent are enjoying the shared-reading experience and the opportunity to make new acquaintances who also share a love for reading. The group is looking forward to their next meeting where they will be discussing Mary Hahn’s “Wait Till Helen Comes.”



Children’s librarian Cynthia Saenz made her monthly outreach visit to St. Thomas More Catholic School where the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children participated in a *Valentine-themed* Story Time and craft. The children were delighted as they sang songs, listened to the story, “Love Monster” by Rachel Bright, and made their *owl valentine cards*.



San Antonio Symphony cellist, Lachezar Kostov, was delightfully-entertaining as he performed a variety of music and shared some interesting stories about his experiences as a member of the

symphony. The audience members, comprised of both children and adults, were engaged throughout the duration of the program and all agreed that it was certainly a “special” experience.



Children attending this month’s SPARK Science program were extremely interested to learn about various sea life and ocean preservation. The monthly event is led by Roosevelt High School science teachers. A group of AVID students volunteered to read stories about sea life to the children, and they assisted the children as they performed experiments involving density and causes of oil flotation on water.

The children’s librarian looks forward to celebrating *Black History Month* during which the children will be taking a look at the history of voting rights. She expects they will be excited as they participate in an election of their own as they vote for their favorite book character.

Teens visiting Pruitt Branch Library now have seven teen events to choose from. Dates for some events have changed in order to accommodate the new programming.



Chess instruction by a master chess instructor is offered on Mondays. The Isshoni Anime Society now meets on Tuesdays after school.



Rackspace Teen Chess is offered after school on Thursdays along with complimentary pizza.



Fridays brings us a popular, new event called Teen Dungeons & Dragons. The teens are really excited about this new event.



Teen Librarian Rae Downen added an additional teen time event after school on Wednesdays. The events rotate as follows: 1st Wednesday is Book Club, 2nd Wednesday is 3D Printer Program, 3rd and 5th Wednesday is gaming activities, and the 4th Wednesday is devoted to Fandom, a fan fury activity. The 3D printing event has really blossomed into an interactive, collaborative learning experience about 3D designing and printing for the teens and Ms. Rae Downen, the teen librarian.



Also, starting in February, the Pruitt Teen Library Leadership Committee met and will continue working collaboratively in planning other events for the spring semester.



The newly-formed Teen Book Club had their first meeting and decided on their first selection, the award-winning YA novel, “Challenger Deep” by Neal Shusterman.



In January, a group of teens participated in *volunteen* orientation, and all are looking forward to volunteering in various events and tasks throughout the spring semester. Many of the teens are fulfilling their community service hours required as entrance to colleges.

January, for adult services, started the year off with a bang!



The branch once again had chemist and entrepreneur, Rachel Bailey in to conduct an educational workshop, Hand & Lip Balm-Making, where participants concocted personal balm recipes.



The implementation of adult ESL classes has allowed the branch to take advantage of the existing school-community relationship, connecting families of our Roosevelt students to the services we offer as a public library branch. School social service personnel have been instrumental in publicity and supplying instructional materials.



The branch expanded its technology training emphasis from one-on-one instructional time to include formal technology training classes. January's classes included Basic Computer Skills & Intro to MS Word. These adult classes have a focus on not only increasing technology skills, but also providing skills for the 21st Century workforce.



The SNAP (Special Needs Adult Programming) program has a very special place in the heart of the branch employees. Each month, special needs adults are exposed to the joy of reading, educational crafts, and life-skills learning opportunities.



The branch identified a Health Care Navigator who helped guide our patrons through the healthcare sign-up process.

SAN PEDRO



On January 27, Children's Librarian Betsy Dalton presented an *after-hours sensory program* at San Pedro Branch Library for an underserved population – children on the autism spectrum and their families. She partnered with Jackie Viera, director of the Respite Care Day Care (a child care specially designed and equipped to provide care for children with special needs). Three families with six children ranging from age 3 to 6 attended. The parents, grandparents, and children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and are all looking forward to another after-hours program. None of the children had ever been in a library before and none of the participants wanted to leave when the program was over. Ms. Dalton is hoping to continue the partnership with Respite Care and provide an *after-hours sensory program* for children on the autism spectrum and their families on a bi-monthly basis. Here is a wonderful postscript to this program: One of the families who attended the program came to the LEGO Club program on Wednesday, February 4! The two boys had a lot of fun; and even received their own library cards, and checked out five books that they were totally excited about.



Ms. Dalton continues her outreach monthly Story Times to children at Educare Child Care Center (two classes); Study Hall Learning Center (two classes); Monte Vista Montessori (two classes); and one class at Laurel Heights Weekday School. Fifteen books were also delivered 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.



In house programming includes Baby Time on Monday mornings, the popular Minecraft Monday Club, and Kids Time on Wednesdays. Kids Time programming includes LEGO club on the first Wednesday of the month, STEM activities on two Wednesdays, and an outdoor activity on one of the Wednesdays. For one of the programs, the children learned about cloud formation and made cloud paintings. For the second STEM Wednesday program, the children learned about chemical reactions and watched popcorn *jump!* during one of the Kids Time programs, Viki Ash brought a voting machine borrowed from the Bexar County Election Commission, and demonstrated how it works to the participating children. Then the children discussed other types of elections; and had the opportunity to vote for their favorite book character from a list of five choices, (plus the opportunity for a write in candidate, which was also discussed). The children were very engaged in the whole process. On Saturday, February 13, John Carroll of the San Antonio Symphony brought his love of the trumpet to San Pedro. He played his instrument and talked about it with an audience of 24 children and adults. The program was presented as part of the Symphony performance series for children, *Musicians at SAPL*.



Ms. Dalton also facilitates on-going monthly book clubs at Hawthorne Academy (4th and 5th grade clubs); Monte Vista Montessori (a combined club); and the newly started 4th and 5th grade clubs at Cotton Elementary School.



On January 24, Ms. Dalton hosted a *Beautiful Oops! Family Fun program* in which families enjoyed making art from *mistakes*. The Family Fun program for February was a Valentine's Day party on Sunday, February 14.



Branch Manager Diane Backhus met with the San Pedro Library Friends in January. The group supported the setup of an ongoing Friends Book Sale. The branch has received many donations of high quality books, DVDs, and CD's, which were in storage in the branch. Sales have been excellent so far. The Friends Group is also planning to have a *Friends of the Library Logo Contest*, which will be open to all age levels.



Library Assistant Carmen Roja created a book display for February, *Have you RED any good books lately?* The display features books with red covers, and has been popular with patrons. The branch also welcomed volunteer Rudy Lopez. He will support the branch by helping to create bulletin boards and other displays for Children and Teens.

SEMMES



The new Children's Librarian I at Semmes, Kirsten Lorenzen, joined the staff in late December. After a few weeks of observing library programming, Ms. Lorenzen has taken over the weekly Tween program. The tweens enjoyed a special guest on February 3; Viki Ash visited the branch with an actual voting machine. The tweens were able to cast their ballots in a mock election and learn a little bit about the election process.



Early voting for the Texas House District 118 run-off election took place at the branch from Wednesday, January 20, through the Friday, January 22. Turnout was fair, especially since the election was limited to one particular district. Early voting will return to the branch on Tuesday, February 16, and run through Friday, February 26.



Children’s Librarian II Randi Jones began a new monthly Saturday Story Time in January. These *Growing up Wild* programs will focus on exploring nature and the outdoors. During nice weather, Ms. Jones hopes to be able to take advantage of resources in nearby Comanche Lookout Park. The next program in the series will be on Saturday, February 27.



The American Cancer Society hosted a *Luminaria come and go craft* on Sunday, January 31. Participants were invited to make their own *Luminaria* to honor or remember a loved one. The *Luminarias* would then be displayed on February 4, *World Cancer Day*.



The Friends of the Semmes Branch Library hosted a book sale on Friday, February 5 and Saturday, February 6. The sale went well and the Friends raised a little over \$1000.00. This was the first book sale where the Friends were able to take credit cards, giving customers another option when purchasing materials.

THOUSAND OAKS



Children’s programming included fun themes and activities for the winter session at the Thousand Oaks Branch Library. Story Time participants played in snow (baking soda and conditioner) after hearing winter stories. For the *Rodeo Story Time* and Toddler Time programs, kids could sit on a real saddle, dress up in chaps, bandanas and cowboy hats and also play horseshoes. For the *Valentine’s Day* programs, kids played a heart-shaped bean bag toss and made two heart crafts – one to take home and one to add the library’s *Valentine’s Day* display. Come and Go Crafts included seasonal activities – decorating winter mittens and hearts to add the *Valentine’s Day* display. Librarian Leslie Elsasser also presented three programs on penguins and winter at her monthly daycare outreach. On February 4, LEGO Time once again brought in enthusiastic builders of all ages.



Librarians Leslie Elsasser and Jorge Chavez completed a huge shift of books in the children’s area. The shift made new space for displays, as well as made the area more *user-friendly*. Also as a result of the shift, the children’s magazines and the popular paperbacks are in a more prominent area.



On January 23, Children’s Librarian Leslie Elsasser attended an early childhood education training course at the San Antonio Food Bank called *Accentuate the Positive: Giving Kids the Assets Needed for Healthy Development*. Some of SAPL’s children’s librarians attended the event with early childhood teachers.



Thousand Oaks Library hosted 4 Teen Time programs. A movie night, which turned into a game night, two button making events and a cookie decoration program were on the agenda. Many of our teens

have returned weekly and have begun to open up more and more each week. Thousand Oaks continues to provide a safe, positive environment for teens to come and be themselves.



The Thursday Book Club selection for the month of January was “The Husband’s Secret” by Liane Moriarty. An intense discussion preceded the topic of whether or not the wife should open the envelope, which disclosed the husband’s shrouded past. All those who attended really enjoyed the book and expressed interest in checking out more books by the same author. A delicious spinach and fruit salad accompanied the raucous discussion.



Nine seniors met for the monthly book group at the Northeast Senior Center, hosted by Library Assistant Theresa Ybarra in January. Sue Monk Kidd’s “The Invention of Wings” prompted much discussion about women’s roles in society, the history of slavery in the US, familial expectations, women’s suffrage, and the difficulties involved in breaking free from societal norms. While there were some passages that were difficult to read, the group overall enjoyed the book and were prompted to read up on the characters in the book, as several were historical figures in the South and in the abolitionist movement.



Tina Reid, along with Elvia Ramos from Tobin at Oakwell, hosted a coloring program for seniors at the District 10 Senior Center. Several senior citizens dropped-in to color from a variety of coloring pages as well as socialize. The program was well received and has been requested as a regular monthly program.



On January 16, Computer classes have started at Thousand Oaks due to a large number of patron requests for basic computer classes. The first class was Computer Basics taught by Branch Manager Troy Lawrence with four students in attendance. The class went well and the students requested a tablet class that was held on Wednesday, January 20. Due to the high need, there will be a series of eight classes: Basic Computer Class, Tablet Basics including E-books and E-Audio books, Email Class, Word Essentials and Keyboarding, Excel Essentials, Resumes, Job Searching, and Technology Questions Answered. Each of these classes will incorporate library resources to help encourage use of the library’s online services.

TOBIN AT OAKWELL



Librarian Rhonda Woolhouse planned and hosted a special Tea on January 10, for the final season of the TV series, *Downton Abbey*. Over 165 people came, many in period dress, to join in British and Downton activities and of course, drink tea. Crumpets, a nearby restaurant, catered with cake and snacks. Local PBS station, KLRN, donated give away items to add to the celebration. Everyone wanted their picture taken with the Downton castle, using the new Green Screen, which was recently purchased by the Tobin at Oakwell Friends.



Ms. Woolhouse contacted local author, Teri Wilson, to give an author talk on her book, “Unleashing Mr. Darcy” on January 21. The romantic book was made into a Hallmark Channel original movie. Ms. Wilson’s presentation gave insight on the making of the movie and her involvement in the feature.



Tobin Library at Oakwell Friends group held their annual meeting on February 6. Co-author, Travis E. Polling of “San Antonio Beer,” shared the history of the Alamo City Pint by Pint with all that attended.



New book club, *Drama, Death and Daring* meets monthly to discuss *Ancient Tales for Modern Times*. Currently the group continues its journey through one of the greatest of ancient Greece's poets, Homer. His work, “The Iliad,” is being explored with the devastating *Trojan War* and one man's ten year struggle to find his way home. Also, Tobin's Writers' Group meets twice a month where local authors share and critique each other's work. Several members have successfully had titles released through publishing firms.



Librarian Ms. Barton hosted a *Valentine Teen Party* on February 11. Teenagers decorated cookies, made a love bug craft and played games while listening to some great tunes. Ms. Sanchez Kissler helped kids ages 5 and under dance away to music with balloons and scarves as favorite tunes were played at the *Children's Valentine Dance* on February 12. Over 50 children enjoyed the festivities.



Children's programming this period included a *special Little Red Riding Hood Play and Learn* on February 5. Pre-schoolers play with toys and materials to creatively utilize science and art and enhance sensory and motor skills while doing so. Baby Time each Friday employs similar strategies and has seen attendance triple up to 15 babies along with their caretakers. On February 9, the LEGO Club theme, hosted by Librarian Tracey Knouse, challenged kids to build a man-made engineering marvel and then have it displayed out in the library. Tween time is incorporated into this once a month club to encourage kids of all ages to participate.



Families enjoyed a special performance by San Antonio Symphony's flautist, Martha Long on January 23. Ms. Long performed and shared her love of classical music with all guests.



Children's Librarian Elvira Sanchez Kissler and Library Aide Catherine Tschoepe attended *Literacy Night* at Oak Grove Elementary. They spoke with 140 kids and parents about library services and literacy initiatives. Ms. Sanchez Kissler went to Northwood Presbyterian Day Care on January 28 where she read stories to several classes for another outreach. Teen Librarian, Karen Barton visited NEISD's ACE school on January 19 and February 1 to process new library cards for the high school students and demonstrate digital and library benefits. In addition, Ms. Barton established a new partnership with Bexar County's Juvenile Detention Center. Working with Mission's Teen Librarian Cynthia Cruz the pair met with the Center's administration to plan future outreach library services at the center.



In January, Library Assistant Elvia Ramos attended Stone Brook Center to present seasonal activities with the seniors. Then on February 8, Ms. Woolhouse met with the group with *Valentine* related programming.



The branch is one of several that partners with the Internal Revenue Service to have tax forms and instructions booklets available for the public. Libraries are one of the few places folks can rely on still

obtaining paper forms. Tobin at Oakwell's significant senior population has come to depend on this service each tax season.



Several branch employees, along with a dozen other SAPL personnel, attended a class for getting organized titled *Every Thing in Its Place* held at Tobin on January 12. Librarian Tracey Knouse coordinated the training through the City's resource service, Deer Oaks. The branch sadly said goodbye to Library Aide Giovanni Occhiuzzi as he returned to Brown University in Rhode Island to complete his Bachelor's Degree. Fortunately, the team is pitching in and working together to stay current with shelving duties.

WESTFALL



Patrons visiting Westfall Branch Library were able to register to vote, learn about the Affordable Care Act, talk with representatives from Texas Workforce Commission, get information about staying healthy and have their taxes done. Volunteers deputized to register people for the upcoming primaries set up a table in the branch's foyer and signed up several people. Navigators knowledgeable about the Affordable Care Act met with many people at Westfall to discuss their options for securing health insurance, and staff with United Health Care handed out information about preventative care. Members of the Texas Workforce Commission passed out information about their services, and VITA began preparing income tax returns for people making less than \$60,000 annually. Last year, VITA workers at Westfall submitted 1,161 returns and secured \$1.8 million in refunds.



Mary Ellen Goree, a violinist with the San Antonio Symphony, talked music with about 30 children and adults as part of the Symphony Musicians at SAPL Performance Series for Children.



In the past few weeks Westfall staff members have received a number of compliments via EnCORE. Each fill-in-the-blanks form begins *I wanted to recognize:*

- All employees with Westfall Branch for your excellent patron relations skills, willingness to help and putting up with my children occasionally.
- The staff with Westfall Branch for always being so attentive and kind. I have been coming to this branch for over 45 years. It's a home away from home.
- Ms. (Jernell) Williams with Westfall Branch for wonderful customer service and excellent consistency.
- Imelda Merino with Westfall for she is a wonderful person, always willing to go above and beyond. When I come here, Imelda is the one I look for if I need help.



Branch Manager Sherrie Hardin began offering Color Me Calm at Granados Senior and Adult Center. The program is a continuation of the highly successful adult coloring program Ms. Hardin conducted at the branch last fall.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

San Antonio Public Library
Fiscal Year-to-Date Comparisons
Jan 2016 (33.3% of FY Completed)

Performance Measures	FYTD 16	FYTD 15	% Chg	FY 16 Goal	% of Goal Achieved	FY 16 Status
Total Circulation	2,368,456	2,317,511	2.2%	7,455,000	31.8%	✓
- Physical Circulation	2,007,129	2,036,435	-1.4%	6,395,065	31.4%	✓
- Digital Circulation	361,327	281,076	28.6%	1,059,935	34.1%	✓
Visits	1,649,661	1,733,738	-4.8%	5,493,000	30.0%	✓
Program Attendance	107,331	97,750	9.8%	350,890	30.6%	✓
- Adult's Program Attendance	23,649	14,057	68.2%	57,000	41.5%	✓
- Teen's Program Attendance	13,642	17,284	-21.1%	43,890	31.1%	✓
- Children's Program Attendance	70,040	66,409	5.5%	250,000	28.0%	✓
Hours of Computer/Wi-Fi Use	759,869	764,755	-0.6%	2,410,000	31.5%	✓
Website and App Visits	1,074,092	1,078,801	-0.4%	3,658,000	29.4%	✓
Bexar County (Outside the City of San Antonio)			Customer Satisfaction*			
% of Circulation	FYTD 16	FYTD 15	2014		2012	
Total Circulation	20.3%	19.0%	96%		94%	
- Physical Circulation	19.1%	18.2%				
- 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 January 2016 Usage

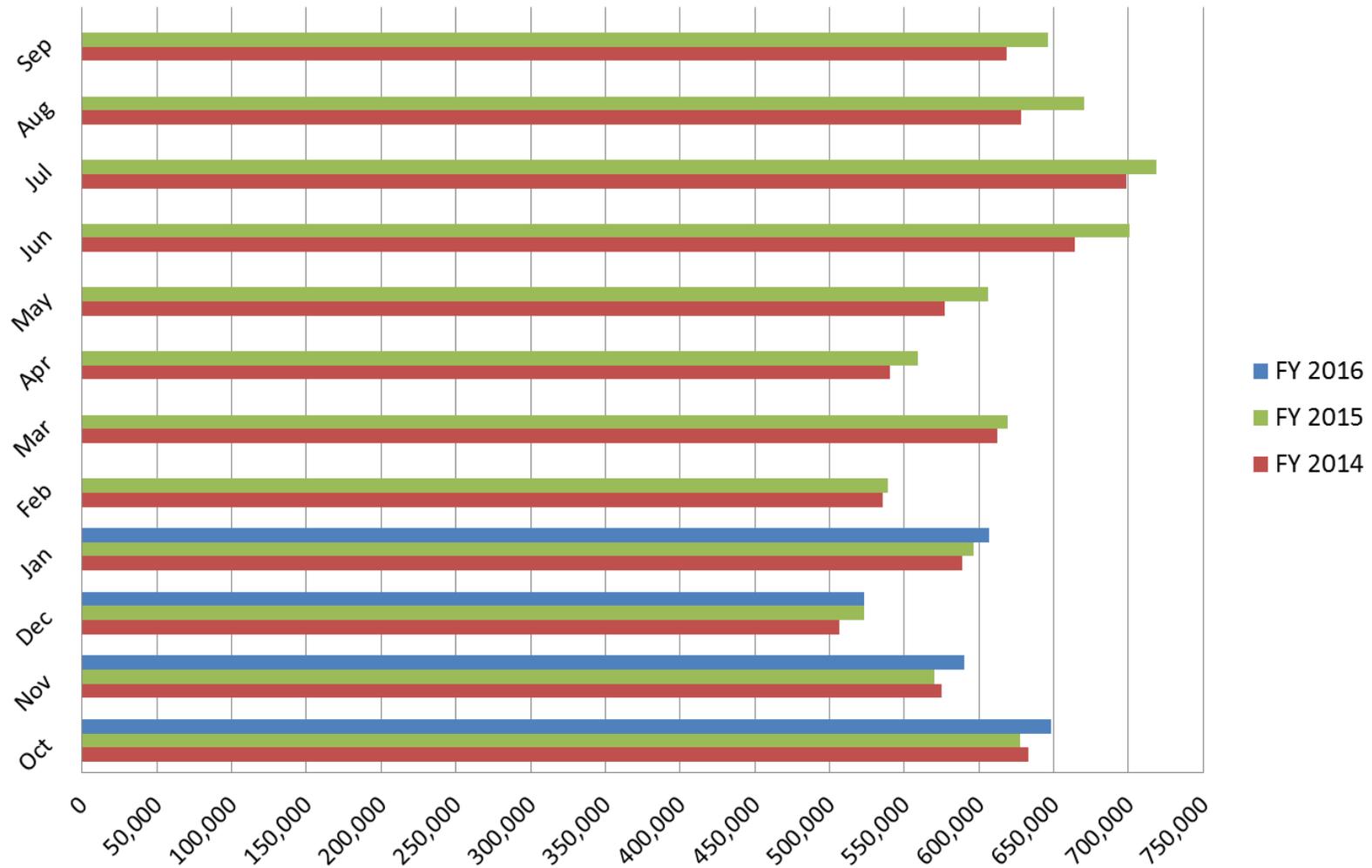
Location	Total Circulation	Visits	Total Programs	Number of Programs			Total Program Attendance	Attendance			Hours of Computer / Wi-Fi Use*	Computers - Hours of Use*	Wi-Fi - Hours of Use
				Adult	Teen	Children's		Adult Programs	Teen Programs	Children's Programs			
Bazan	6,517	10,012	35	15	3	17	180	52	0	128	6,313	1,881	4,431
Brook Hollow	27,240	18,912	41	12	2	27	777	78	0	699	5,497	1,329	4,168
Carver	5,115	9,809	45	16	4	25	544	175	47	322	5,442	2,085	3,358
Central	30,017	58,500	185	48	57	80	2,328	455	419	1,454	44,149	15,100	29,049
Cody	40,174	23,395	50	8	5	37	1,572	73	61	1,438	8,026	1,595	6,431
Collins Garden	2,832	5,237		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,852	814	3,038
Cortez	7,122	11,426	92	76	4	12	328	207	62	59	5,845	1,985	3,859
Encino	20,913	11,056	91	33	10	48	2,042	387	561	1,094	3,352	540	2,812
Forest Hills	8,192	8,405	30	14	1	15	328	84	14	230	4,155	1,322	2,833
Great Northwest	33,261	21,204	33	10	6	17	1,737	132	219	1,386	6,905	2,186	4,720
Guerra	13,882	12,485	36	7	5	24	818	89	182	547	7,321	2,235	5,086
Igo	27,031	20,439	57	16	12	29	1,937	244	124	1,569	5,228	1,428	3,801
Johnston	11,919	11,296	40	12	10	18	451	148	94	209	5,999	1,530	4,470
Landa	11,663	12,094	33	2	4	27	834	18	12	804	2,171	795	1,375
Las Palmas	6,820	12,872	47	8	8	31	2,688	2,374	11	303	5,972	2,064	3,908
Maverick	26,597	12,558	27	4	4	19	610	39	10	561	6,043	2,192	3,851
McCreless	13,570	15,230	14	3	4	7	161	37	39	85	6,525	1,994	4,531
Memorial	6,866	10,422	54	11	4	39	266	108	29	129	6,464	1,811	4,654
Mission	12,873	22,407	62	21	17	24	928	206	245	477	11,638	3,224	8,414
Pan American	9,412	10,899	77	25	6	46	436	153	13	270	5,986	2,357	3,629
Parman	30,010	21,711	81	24	4	53	3,821	2,516	40	1,265	4,830	747	4,083
Pruitt	6,541	17,789	75	23	23	29	1,110	123	339	648	6,085	1,527	4,558
San Pedro	4,245	6,778	24	0	0	24	282	0	0	282	2,341	630	1,711
Semmes	25,862	20,028	40	4	7	29	817	12	39	766	6,874	2,431	4,443
Thousand Oaks	11,660	12,447	24	5	4	15	318	21	30	267	4,764	1,246	3,517
Tobin	20,260	16,909	54	11	8	35	1,558	239	101	1,218	5,852	1,676	4,176
Westfall	18,158	15,758	44	26	0	18	368	108	0	260	7,919	2,320	5,599
Kampmann Library Portal	N/A	1,459	0	N/A	N/A	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	1,355	N/A	1,355
Interlibrary Loan Lending	1,073	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	70,003	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	97,017	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	606,845	431,537	1,391	434	212	745	27,239	8,078	2,691	16,470	196,902	59,040	137,862

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-Feb 16)

San Antonio Public Library

Circulation



Location Closures

FY 16: Collins Garden Oct 1-Jan 12

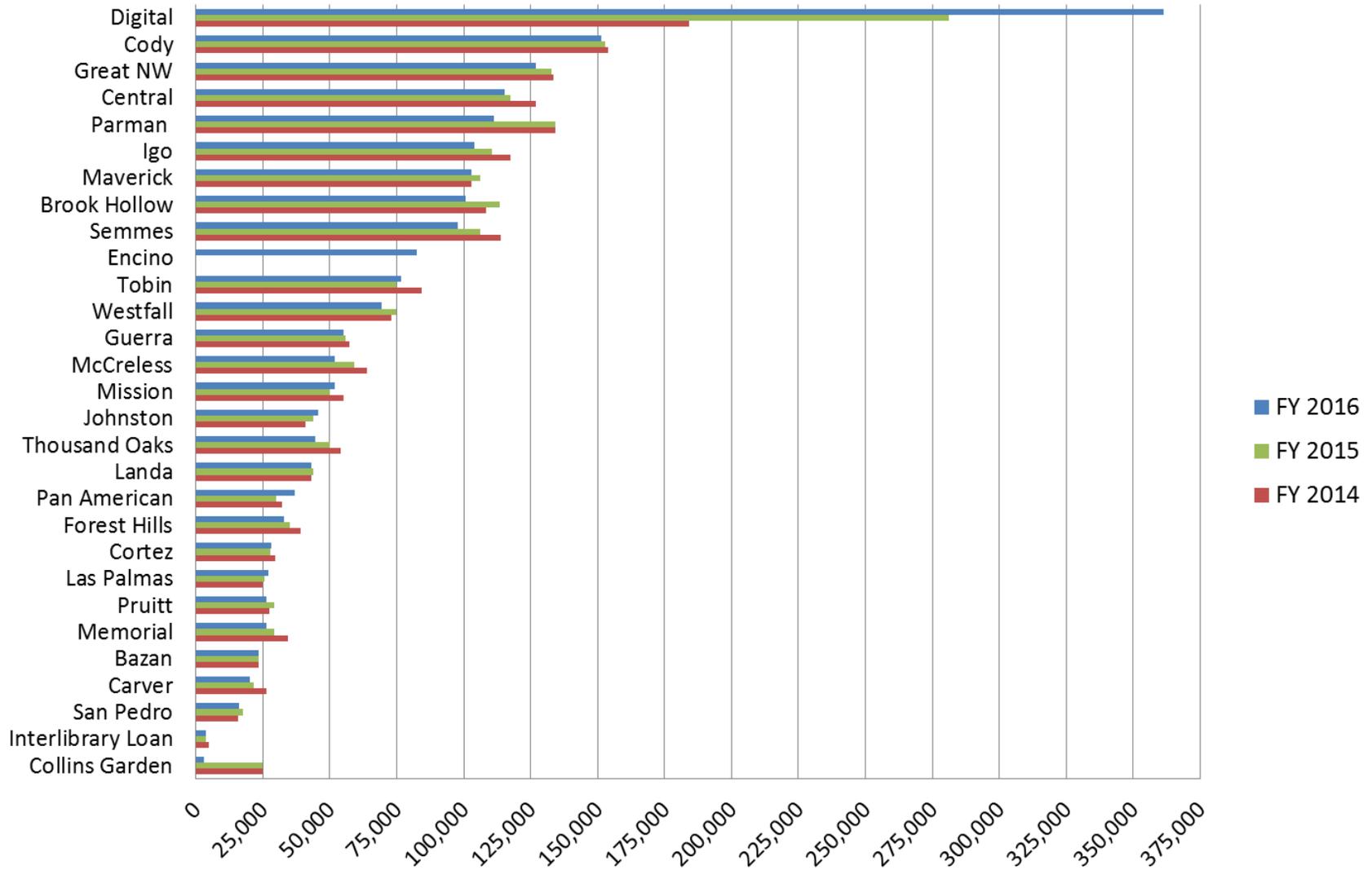
FY 15: Central May 15, Collins Garden Jun 22-Sep 30, * Opening: Encino April 30

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02/17/2016

San Antonio Public Library

Circulation - Fiscal Year to Date - Jan



Location Closures

FY 16: Collins Garden Oct 1-Jan 12

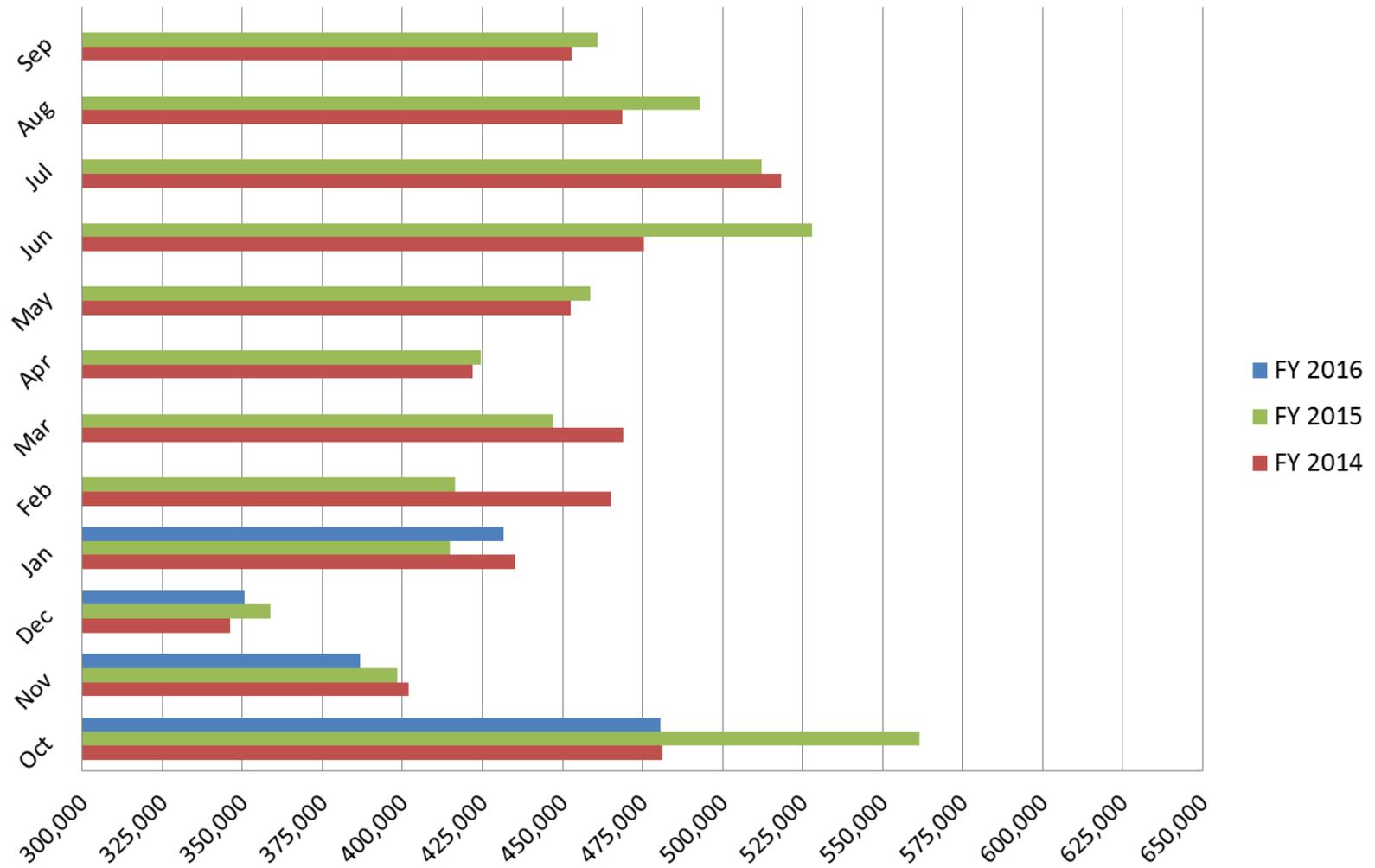
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02/17/2016

San Antonio Public Library

Visits



Location Closures

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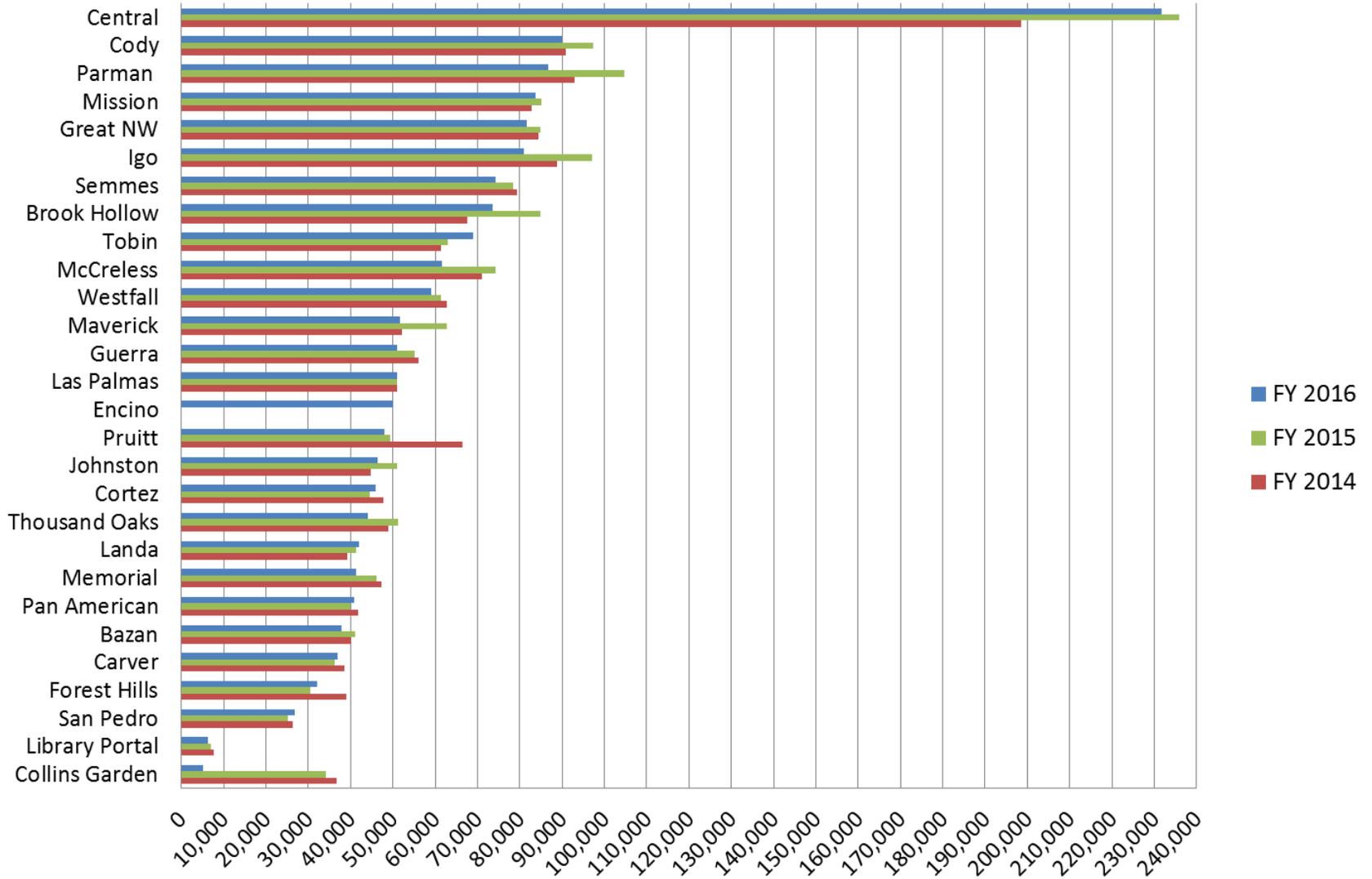
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San Antonio Public Library

Visits - Fiscal Year to Date - Jan



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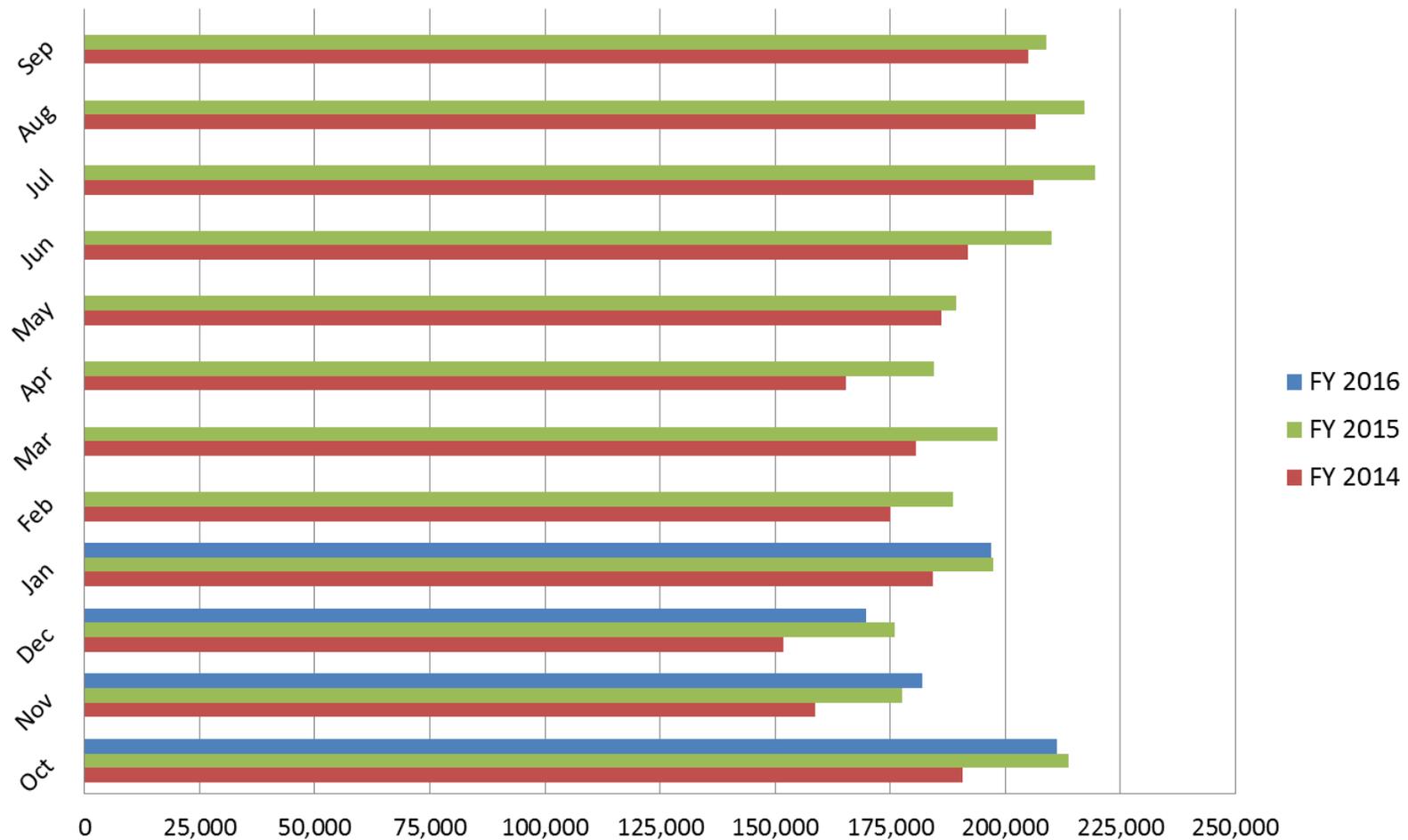
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02/17/2016

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

FY 16: Collins Garden Oct 1-Jan 12

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