San Antonio Public Library partnered with San Antonio Parks and Recreation, San Antonio Metro Health, and Cities Connecting Children to Nature to launch the Nature Smart Libraries initiative on September 21st. Mayor Ron Nirenberg was in attendance and enjoyed the outdoor activities with community members.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Administration ......................................................... 3
II. Central Library ......................................................... 9
III. Branch Locations (Alphabetical) ....................... 16
IV. Performance Measures ................................. 51
DIRECTOR’S OFFICE

Assistant Library Director Kathy Donellan attended the Executive Committee Meeting of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation on October 16, 2018 and provided an update on Library initiatives.

Assistant Director Kathy Donellan represented Library Administration at the City of San Antonio Service Appreciation Event on October 13, 2019. The event celebrates City staff, Library included, who have reached years of service milestones in their career with the City of San Antonio.

Starting with the November 5, 2019 uniform election, Bexar County is introducing a Vote Center model which will replace the current model. Library Administration is actively engage with Bexar County Elections Department. This change makes each Election Day site open to all registered voters, regardless of assigned precinct. This Election Day model is similar to how Bexar County currently administers Early Voting.

San Antonio Public Library and The Children’s Hospital of San Antonio have partnered to establish a self-service kiosk with the Library’s digital collection at the Children’s Hospital. To introduce this partnership to the community a kick-off event was held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 with remarks by Library Director Ramiro Salazar and Councilman Roberto Trevino. As part of the partnership, the Library is offering specially branded “digital access only” cards to patients and families, effective for the extent of their stay, regardless of their permanent residence. The kiosk is located on the Second Floor Surgery Waiting Area which is visited by nearly 70 families per day. The hospital overall, has accommodations for 195 patients, many of whom stay long-term with their families nearby. This service provides a welcoming and helpful City of San Antonio service. Funding for the kiosk was generously donated to The Children’s Hospital of San Antonio Pi Beta Alumnae Club

MARKETING

Top media hits for the past month:

- The Express News featured the Library’s Director Op-Ed regarding the eBooksForAll national campaign on Friday, September 27th.
SAPL Marketing successfully pitched and secured a full week of media coverage with KSAT to highlight SAPL programs and events in honor of Hispanic Heritage month. This series of features included:

- 9/19 KSAT: Zine Launch Party feature on Good Morning SA (LIVE)
- 9/21 KSAT: Chile and Talamada programs throughout SAPL location by Blanca Rivera from the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center
- 9/22 KSAT: Tin Art at SAPL – system wide children programming
- 9/22 KSAT: Gebhardt Exhibit at Forest Hills Branch Library (in partnership with UTSA)

Additionally, during this reporting period, the SAPL Marketing team secured media coverage with leading news stations including KSAT12, Fox 29, News 4 WOAI, KENS5, SA Current and Rivard Report to promote Library related services, programs and upcoming events.

Graphics Highlights

The Graphics Team created publicity materials for over 30 programs and events during this reporting period, including a reading log to promote our partnership with the Witte Museum for their Mythic Creatures exhibit; Young Pegasus poetry competition (now in its 94th year); Great Northwest’s 25th anniversary; signage updates to wayfinding and Teen Space enhancements at Bazan; digital graphics for the Digital Library Kiosk at Children’s Hospital of San Antonio; Teen Arts Fest; Disability Awareness Month: Human Library; and Café con Letras with author Esmeralda Santiago, presented in partnership
with the Puerto Rican Heritage Society.

Social Media fun facts for the reporting period:
- SAPL’s social media following base grew by 363 new fans
- Content shared across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram contributed to users engaging with our posts 7,699 times.

Social Media statistics for the month:
- Twitter: 4,830 followers
- Facebook: 18,444 fans
- Instagram: 4,156 followers

DIGITAL SERVICES

On September 19, Coordinator of Digital Services Adam Spana and Digital Library Services Supervisor Rolf Laun joined Library Services Administrator Ron Suszek for the kickoff of the i-Tiva project, the successor to the current telephone notification and account services system.

Mr. Spana participated in a visioning session for the Digital Inclusion Alliance of San Antonio on September 25.

All Digital Services staff came together for a "nacho" (bunuelo) ice cream social on September 26 to celebrate the unit's 100% participation in the COSA Charitable Campaign.

On October 9, Mr. Spana and Mr. Laun finalized installation of the digital collection kiosk, the centerpiece of a partnership with the Children’s Hospital of San Antonio to bring the Library's digital collections to the hospital's patients. The kiosk project presented an opportunity for Digital Services to work closely with the Marketing department and to learn how to administer a new kind of software for the benefit of future kiosk projects.

LITTLE READ WAGON
Play & Learn

Little Read Wagon, with additional support from Central Children’s and branch library staff members, has moved Play & Learn to Pickwell Park. This is a lovely neighborhood park near IH-37 and Military Drive. The first event included many regular program attendees as well as new families from the neighborhood. The second event, on the first truly chilly day of the fall, drew a smaller but enthusiastic crowd in spite of the wind and occasional drizzle.

Services to Pregnant and Parenting Teens

Now that school is fully in session and school social workers and counselors are learning which students need parenting support, visits to high schools are beginning to fill the calendar. Ms. Larkin visited with students at Excel Academy, MacArthur High School, Cooper Academy, Southwest High School, and Sam Houston High School.

Workshops for Parents

Parent workshops were presented at newly re-opened Athens Elementary, Pre-K 4SA South, Vineyard Ranch Elementary, Glenoaks Elementary, and Bob Hope Elementary. Ms. Lazarin and Ms. Larkin made their first visit with families at Casa Mia, a home for mothers recovering from opioid addiction. The team visited with staff at the home at the end of August and has additional visits planned.

Workshops for Professionals

Ms. Lazarin and Ms. Larkin presented another “Make Way for Play!” workshop for early childhood teachers on October 10. The Central Library auditorium was set up with a variety of materials to invite open-ended play. A key part of the workshop is time set aside for teachers to settle in and engage in their own exploration of play. Then the group gathers to reflect on the experience and share their thoughts on how it might apply to play opportunities provided for the children in their care.

System-wide Support

Little Read Wagon continues to be a source of materials on loan to colleagues across the San Antonio Public Library system. Commonly borrowed items include different kinds of blocks, puppets, flannel board sets, and toys. At the October 10 Children’s Services meeting Ms. Lazarin offered co-workers materials and instructions to make Little Mouse flannel board pieces. While many children’s librarians already have a Little Mouse set, the materials offered were a great way to refresh the presentation of the rhyming game.

Ms. Lazarin and Ms. Huff brought a sampling of Play & Learn activities to the September 21 Nature Smart Libraries kickoff at Cortez Branch Library. As a result of their participation, the team has been invited to Parks and Recreation’s Arbor Day celebration at Olmos Basin Park.

CHILDREN’S (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Children’s Programming

Children’s librarians system-wide celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with activities inspired by hojalata, a Mexican form of folk art. Children made unique and colorful creations by tracing their own designs onto...
heavy duty aluminum foil and coloring them with permanent markers. Several library locations also celebrated Playdough Day, an annual tradition involving home-made playdough and slime.

Professional Learning
LeVar Burton was a featured speaker at the 2019 VOICES for Children Congress on Children. The San Antonio Public Library was represented by eight children’s services team members who thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Burton’s reading of his book *The Rhino Who Swallowed a Storm* as well as the legislative update by several state and local representatives, and presentations on the impact of trauma in early childhood. One of the highlights of the day was hearing the auditorium come alive with everyone singing the *Reading Rainbow* theme song as Ms. Burton came on stage.

Cresencia Huff, Interim Coordinator of Children’s Services, joined David Cooksey and Jennifer Velasquez at the Region 20 Education Resource Roundup for a presentation on the digital sharing partnership offered to area school districts by the San Antonio Public Library through Overdrive. Ms. Huff also attended a presentation on the city-wide Battle of the Bluebonnets. For many years, Children’s Services has supported the San Antonio Independent School District Battle of the Bluebonnets by providing questions about each of the Bluebonnet nominee books.

Much of the October 10 Children’s Services meeting was taken up by viewing a webinar, “What Fred Rogers Would Say: How simple, everyday interactions make the difference in early childhood.” Discussion included reflections on the documentary “Won’t You be My Neighbor?” and how important it is for all of us to understand the opportunities we have to make a difference in people’s lives.

Community Connections
Ms. Huff attended the quarterly meeting of the Ready Children Impact Council, a gathering of leaders from area organizations working for the benefit of children and families initiated by United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County. The group completed an exercise to examine the alignment of services provided by different agencies. She also attended the September Nature-based Education Support in Texas meeting at the Headwaters of the University of the Incarnate Word. The meeting included a brief nature walk as well as updates from attendees.

TEENS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

Fiesta Youth Partnership—On September 24, Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) attended Fiesta Youth’s weekly meeting to promote Library Card Sign-Up Month and host a game night. While Loaiza was explaining the process of obtaining a library card, one of the Fiesta Youth teens enthusiastically proclaimed that he had just received his library card the week before. Loaiza asked the teen to speak about the process, and the teen excitedly told the group about how easy it was, what he needed to provide to get the card, and the vast amounts of materials available at the library. Loaiza also filled in some extra details about the process and explained the Fine-Free Checkouts pilot program. Afterwards, Loaiza—along with Erica Alcocer (Youth Facilitator, Fiesta Youth)—hosted a game night with the teens. To showcase some of Teen Services’ latest gaming equipment, Loaiza set up the Nintendo Switch as well as two Oculus Go headsets. Some teens naturally gravitated towards playing “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate” on the Switch while others explored the world of virtual reality for the first time. Alcocer and Fiesta Youth provided board and card games as well.
Off-site Service—On September 24, Ami Sarabia (Teen Outreach Specialist) attended the Juvenile Justice Academy Resource Fair. Ami provided attendees with information about live homework help, the Teen Library @ Central, and Overdrive and Libby. On October 1, the VROOM! Van was activated for a National Night Out event at the Woodard Community Center. Ami and Edward Mayberry (Library Assistant/Teen Liaison, Guerra) staffed a table at the event and spoke with parents and teens about SAPL resources. They also distributed buttons to teens. Ami attended the Excel Academy Resource Fair during the reporting period and spoke to teens about live homework help and teen programs at SAPL.

Amy Rae Weaver (Teen Services Librarian I, Cody) and J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central) visited Cornerstone High School on September 25 and gave presentations to classes all day about SAPL services and resources for teens. On September 20, Cassie Garza (Library Assistant/Teen Liaison, Pan American) and J.D. visited Harlandale High School to speak to students about the library. In addition to Amy Rae and Cassie promoting their weekly teen programs, J.D. also brought guitars and keyboards to both schools for a hands-on activity to promote his weekly Teen Library program, Eclectic Electric.

On October 11, the Library Off-site Services for Teens (LOST) workgroup represented Teen Services and the San Antonio Public Library at the San Antonio LGBT Chamber of Commerce’s annual National Coming Out Day event. The VROOM! Van was activated to provide a space for attendees to interact with several library resources while learning about library services and Teen Services’ Teen Pride initiatives. Attendees also created personalized pronoun buttons and LGBTQ pride-themed buttons as well as took photos with the Simple Booth. A big thank you to Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central), Ami Sarabia (Teen Outreach Specialist), Emily Young (Teen Services Librarian I, Mission), and Kimberly King (Teen Services Liaison / Adult Services Librarian, Thousand Oaks) for assisting with the event!

Professional Development—The Teen Librarian/Liaison meeting was held on October 9 in the Teen Library @ Central. Meeting minutes are posted on the Teen Services Web.

Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) continues to represent the San Antonio Public Library in this year’s Alexander Briseño Leadership Development Program (ABLDP). As part of the Arts & Culture Action Team for the program, Loaiza and his team are working with multiple arts and culture institutions in the city to identify ways to increase access to their facilities.

During the reporting period, Matthew served on two interview panels: Librarian I (Teen Services) and Digital Library Services Specialist.

Rock the Plaza—The annual music event took place on the Central Library Plaza on Saturday, September 28. The event was a rocking success, with over 400 attendees, and featured music and dance performances from teens in J.D. Elizondo’s Eclectic Electric weekly Teen Library music program, the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center Mariachi Academy, Antonian Varsity and Junior Varsity dance squads, Echo Effect Dance group, as well as teen musician / teen bands Ariel Corin, Ta Li, Como Coyote and Other Plans. Thanks to the Rock the Plaza workgroup: J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central), Cindy Cruz (Teen Services Librarian I, Westfall), Michelangelo Sosa (Circulation Attendant, Memorial), Ciana Flores (Library Assistant PT, Teen Library @ Central), Jonathan Lopez (Library Aide PT, Central), and Library Practicum student, Dacari Lambert. A mother of one of the teen performers wrote a very flattering email about the event and noted the good work done by J.D. and the whole Rock
the Plaza workgroup, as well her son’s and her appreciation of the Teen Library and staff. Pictures of the event can be found at: https://guides.mysapl.org/RockThePlaza.

Teen Arts Fest—J.D. continues to network with artists Eric Fonseca, Jose Guardo and featured Teen Arts Fest artist, Kathryn Taylor, to plan the workshops for the upcoming annual event. Kathryn will also be a new addition to this year’s Teen Arts Fest panel discussion of teen artists. The Teen Arts Fest workgroup continues to meet regularly to plan, and includes J.D. Elizondo, Georgina Garcia (Teen Services Librarian II, Bazan), Ciana Flores (Library Assistant, Teen Library @ Central), Cindy Cruz (Teen Services Librarian I, Westfall), Stephanie Vazquez (Adult Services Librarian II, Great Northwest), Michelangelo Sosa (Circulation Attendant, Memorial), Michelle Villarreal (Library Assistant, Central Reference), Jonathan Lopez (Library Aide PT, Central), and Cassie Garza (Library Assistant/Teen Liaison, Pan American).

System-wide Support— On September 26, Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager, Teen Library @ Central) assisted Julia Lazarin (Library Services Specialist, Little Read Wagon) and Arlene Richardson (Children’s Services Librarian, Guerra) with setting up “Just Dance” on the Xbox One in preparation for Guerra’s Autism Accessible Browsing Hour program on September 28.

Ami Sarabia (Teen Outreach Specialist) filled in at branches that have Teen Services Librarian vacancies. Ami facilitated Teen Time at the Schaefer Library on September 18 and 25, and on October 2 and 9. The teens decorated their own Rubik’s Cubes and created their own perler bead designs to take home. Teens also enjoyed in snacks that included October horror themed treats.

ADULTS (SYSTEM-WIDE)

On Wednesday, September 18, the Library hosted an offsite event at El Luchador Bar in honor of El Santo’s 102nd birthday. El Santo is one of the most famous and iconic of all luchadores and has been referred to as one of the greatest legends in Mexican sports. To celebrate his birthday, staff members Emma Hernandez from the LCRC and Lorin Flores from Central Reference collaborated with El Luchador Bar to plan a variety of activities. These included a screening of the digitally restored film ‘El Santo contra el Cerebro del Mal’, a trivia game about El Santo, and Luchador mask making.

On Thursday, September 19th, the Library began offering programming as part of the Wash and Learn initiative. Wash and Learn is a program started by Libraries Without Borders in which library and digital inclusion services are offered in local laundromats. SAPLs efforts have been coordinated by Kate Simpson, manager of Central Children’s. There are currently two laundromats in San Antonio participating in Wash and Learn – EZ Wash St. Cloud (closest to Memorial Branch Library) and EZ Wash Culebra (closest to Great Northwest Branch Library). Staff members will be visiting these locations once a month for two hours to provide a wide variety of programming and library services. On September 19th, Christine Deffendall, Children’s Librarian at Memorial, and Morgan Yoshimura, Interim Coordinator for Adult Services, provided programming at the St. Cloud location for the initiative’s soft launch. Imelda Merino, Children’s Librarian at Westfall, and Lily Perez, Librarian from Central Reference, visited the St. Cloud Location on October 1st as the first of that location’s regular monthly visits. A Hard Launch with a variety of festivities is planned for October 18th.

Students from ESL classes at the Learn Centers at Bazan, Cortez, and Westfall met at the Institute for Texan Cultures on October 1st. The group received a tour of the museum and learned about
the various cultures that have called Texas home throughout history, including Native Americans, African Americans, Tejanos, Japanese Americans, and more. The experience ended with a scavenger hunt planned by Training Officers Emily Flores, Michelle Rickman, and Daniel Gomez.

San Antonio’s 3rd Annual Zine Fest was held at Central Library on Saturday, October 5th. A zine (pronounced ZEEN) is an independently published booklet. Zine Fest included zines submitted by a variety of artists as well as panels and workshops on a variety of topics (including a presentation by Janie Esparza about Tejano-Conjunto music, a discussion of zine making empowering communities of color, and a presentation by Emma Hernandez of the LCRC about cartoneras, a contemporary publishing trend that are made of recycled cardboard). The Fest also included a DIY zine making station for participants to try their hand at zine making. San Antonio Zine Fest is the largest of its kind in San Antonio.

CENTRAL LIBRARY
CHILDREN

The Halloween season came to the Central Children’s department this month! Librarian Olivia Escovedo decorated a special cart full of Halloween picture books to help meet demand for this popular topic. Librarian Ashley Stubbs transformed the children’s area into a pumpkin patch, with assistance from Library Assistant Judith Slaughter. Giant paper pumpkins adorned the castle structure at the entrance to the floor and puppets dressed for trick or treating decorated the service desk. Ms. Stubbs used butcher paper to cover shelf end panels to look like Frankenstein, Dracula and a jack-o-lantern. The centerpiece of the space is the dramatic play pumpkin market created by Ms. Stubbs. Children have enjoyed pretending to sell each other the flannel pumpkin props that she crafted in the wooden storefront stand. This type of passive play experience in the common area is part of a concerted effort the department is making towards encouraging play in the library beyond the story time experience.

Assistant Manager Shannon Seglin’s Toddler Time programs continued to be popular events. Families enjoyed a pizza theme featuring the book Hi, Pizza Man! by Virginia Walter. Children engaged in dramatic play with a chef’s hat and apron with a pretend pizza parlor and playdough. The sensory experience of mixing pompom “meatballs” with spoons and picking them up with tongs let toddlers practice their fine motor skills. A huge colorful paper leaf pile and forest puppets welcomed autumn. Children had a blast jumping in the leaves and tossing them at each other. The highlight of Toddler Time was a special appearance by Organizational Health Manager Roberta Sparks. Ms. Sparks donned a leaf crown and scepter and led children in a lively autumn parade around the castle. Ms. Seglin also presented Toddler Time and Baby Time at the Landa Branch Library one week. Children enjoyed stories and songs and play with Ms. Shannon.

Ms. Stubbs presented engaging Play & Learn early literacy programs. Her dinosaur themed event was a big hit with kids. They played in a pretend dinosaur nest with dinosaur “eggs” and made dinosaur tracks using playdough. The highlight of the program was the life-size dinosaur tracks Ms.
Stubbs crafted out of butcher paper. This helped give them a sense of how big dinosaurs really were! Young children investigated insects one week using magnifying glasses and specimens encased in resin. They engaged in a collaborative activity that involved placing pictures of insects that spiders eat onto a sticky contact paper spider web. The children enjoyed the sensory experiences of creating bugs from play dough, pipe cleaners and googly eyes and playing with cooked spaghetti “worms.” Autumn began in earnest with a program all about pumpkins! Children manipulated pumpkin spiced cloud dough to make pretend pies and cookies. They also washed and cleaned real pumpkins of all sizes and “worked” in the dramatic play pumpkin market farm stand. The final Play & Learn of the month celebrated Mad Hatter Day. Children enjoyed a pretend tea party with animal puppets (all wearing different hats, of course), making their own hats to wear home, and playing in a sensory bin full of felt, yarn, buttons and pompoms. Ms. Stubbs extended this theme when she presented Toddler Time in Ms. Seglin’s absence. Toddlers enjoyed these activities in addition to a tea party sensory bin of tea bags, spoons and cups.

Ms. Escovedo led the Family Fun programs and special events on weekends. Children tried their hands at making papel picado banners. They worked together to create a long string of papel picado that was hung near the service desk to decorate the Children’s area. They making paper tacos modeled after the popular story, Dragons Love Tacos, as well. Ms. Escovedo introduced the presenters from Learn Nature, who talked to families about the different animals and insects that live in San Antonio. At the end of the program, they brought out animals and insects for the kids to touch and feel. Ms. Seglin presented the Hispanic Heritage Month Family Fun program in Ms. Escovedo’s absence. The children enjoyed learning about the tin foil art style, hojalata, and making their own version with foil.

Ms. Stubbs continued to craft creative collection marketing initiatives for the department, this month featuring staff picks from Ms. Slaughter and Manager Kate Simpson. Ms. Slaughter made a frightening display of non-fiction books with an “I Survived” theme all about disasters, diseases and deadly animals.

Central Children’s outreach efforts continued in earnest this month. Ms. Escovedo presented a story time to preschoolers at Green Acres Child Care Center. Ms. Stubbs delivered books to Central Christian Child Care Center and did a story time for two different classes, with books and songs all about friendship. Ms. Simpson delivered selected books to the Discovery School in support of their curriculum. Ms. Stubbs represented SAPL at the Texas Comic Con. She helped with the craft table and promotion of the library resources and programs. Ms. Escovedo assisted Little Read Wagon staff with their fall themed Play & Learn at Pickwell Park. This exposure to the “loose parts” theory of play was an important professional development experience for Ms. Escovedo and her assistance was a great help to Little Read Wagon.

TEENS

TEEN LIBRARY @ CENTRAL

Mondays with J.D. Elizondo (Library Assistant): J.D. continued to facilitate Eclectic Electric music programming in the Teen Library’s recording studio. Teens are invited to play instruments for fun and/or for school practice and record their music if they wish.
Tuesdays with Matthew Loaiza (Assistant Manager): Because of the competitive nature of “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate,” teens have consistently requested Nintendo Switch Pro Controllers as they provide better handling of the fighters when playing the game. As expected, teens were ecstatic when these new controllers arrived and many of them have commented on how much easier it is to play the game (especially those who struggled with the smaller Joy-Con controllers). As part of this weekly program, Loaiza continuously holds spur-of-the-moment conversations with teens to identify what other gaming interests they would like to explore at the Teen Library. The latest request from teens is for a Switch game called “Just Shapes & Beats,” a multiplayer action rhythm game that requires teens to move to the beat of the background music as a colorful shape while dodging pink shapes.

Wednesdays with Ciana Flores (Library Assistant PT): Ciana continued to facilitate technology programming in the lab in the Teen Library to assist teens with designing 3D models to print and finding printed models online. She also facilitated use of the Oculus Rift, a Virtual Reality headset loaded with games for teens.

Thursdays with Regina Almanza (Library Assistant): With teens engaging in some encouraging socialization and positive activities, they also express themselves creatively with programs suggested and/or planned by them. During the reporting period, teens made cute clay sculptures and figures with air dry clay. To celebrate the upcoming Fall season, teens made individual pumpkin empanadas and afterwards filled two tables with felt fabric choices where they were inspired to sew mini-plush things like otters, hearts and candy corn.

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, teens attempted a traditional Latin American food, arepas. The corn-based food lent itself to a familiarity to the teens and the process gave them a new appreciation for a new food. Then teens tried their hand at a totally STEM challenge of making a standing ring using only a can of Pringles. The efforts were thrilling, as arrangements were set and then re-set to make a sturdy base. One teen completed a ring – alas, yes, the base had to be held slightly, one teen on Instagram commented, dubbing her the “Queen of the Ring.” With a nod to Halloween, teens used the Silhouette cutting machine to design iron on patches for totes or shirts. The machine cuts out the design from a roll of heat transfer vinyl. Teens also used a variety of fruits to make themselves a cold smoothie.

During craft sessions, teens also engage in some open play using Teen Library’s variety of games, including Twister, Uno. Oftentimes movies are played as well. Teens also take the opportunity to spend independent time using the recording studio or the lab. Teens can also request video game systems to engage in some friendly competition. Pictures from Thursday craft times can be found at http://www.instagram.com/210teenlibrary.

Tours and Groups

Several community centers brought groups of teens to the Teen Library to use computers and participate in teen library programming. Groups of teens from the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, Roy Maas, and other community centers made regular visits during the reporting period.

Several school classes made visits to the Central Library for tours from Teen Library staff, including CAST Tech and Fox Tech High Schools, and the Advanced Learning Academy.
This month Reference staff hosted two film presentations for the Central Cinema series. *Men in Black: International* was screened for an audience that included adults, teens, and children. Chris Hemsworth and Tessa Thompson playing Agent H and Agent M, respectively team up on a globe-trotting adventure to save the world and the agency from shape-changing aliens and their biggest threat to date, a mole in the MIB organization. Attendees found the movie funny and action-packed and expressed appreciation for the Central Cinema series. The second screened film, *Avengers: Endgame*, is the culmination of over ten years of world building in the Marvel series. The remaining Avengers are compelled to take one final stand against Thanos, the evil demigod who had wiped out half the universe and fractured their ranks. The large audience oohed and aahed when the Avengers triumphed in their battles, laughed at the snarky interchanges among the ensemble cast, and shed tears at the sacrifices made.

In September, Librarian Lorin Flores teamed with LCRC Program Manager, Emma Hernandez to present a Hispanic Heritage Month program, *Feliz cumpleaños, El Santo!* at El Luchador Bar. There are wrestlers. There are luchadores. And then there’s El Santo! The Library partnered with El Luchador Bar to screen the digitally restored film, *El Santo contra el Cerebro del Mal* in celebration of El Santo’s 102nd birthday. This noir-styled film was shot in Cuba in 1958 and completed the day before Castro took power. El Santo remains an iconic symbol for the Mexican public; his persona as a heroic fighter for justice was developed in a series of influential films spanning the years 1958 to 1982. After the film, attendees participated in Luchador mask making, a Santo-themed trivia game and Cake cutting. One attendee shared how he had grown up watching El Santo movies in black and white in his family home in Mexico, expressing how happy he was to come to this event.

Librarian, Michael Dunbar-Rodney brought in local slam poet, Chibbi Orduña to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Originally from Laredo, the spoken word artist talked about his life and the influences that shaped his poetry. Chibbi’s work explores identity, culture, and sexuality. He is doing a tour for his latest published work, *Otro/Patria* and was glad to make the Central Library one of his stops.

As members of the Zine Committee, Mr. Dunbar-Rodney and Library Assistant, Brianna Glass participated in September’s *Big Read Zine Launch Party*. The event celebrated the launch of San Antonio Public Library’s first-ever community collaboration. The Zine Committee was formed, not only to produce a community zine, but to develop a Zine Collection at the Central Library. Ms. Glass and Mr. Dunbar-Rodney helped determine which community submissions would be included in the first SAPL Zine and then helped assemble the first 105 issues of the Zine that was distributed at the party. In October, *San Anto Zine Fest* (SAZF) partnered with the Library to present its third annual festival at the Central Library. SAZF is dedicated to independently published media, zines, comics, and alternate press. During the Festival Ms. Glass and Mr. Dunbar-Rodney helped attendees at the *Make Your Own Zine* table in Connect. Participants learned how to fold a sheet of paper to make a mini eight-page zine that could be decorated with colored markers. Ms. Glass made two mini-zines and added them to the *Zine Swap* table; attendees could trade their own Zines for ones made by someone else.
For the month of October Reference staff developed a series of spooky Halloween programming under the banner of *Horror in the Stacks*. In the first program in the series, *Prosthetics DIY*, attendees learned to create gruesome wounds just in time for Halloween. Participants expressed their appreciation for the ease of the tutorial and the uniqueness of the idea, declaring the DIY event an awesome experience.

**LATINO COLLECTION & RESOURCE CENTER**

On Wednesday, September 18th, the Latino Collection and Resource Center presented “Feliz Cumpleanos, El Santo” at the Luchador Bar located on San Antonio’s Southside. This program included a screening on the digitally restored film “El Santo Contra El Cerebro del Mal” as well as lucha libre mask making, and a cake cutting. The event helped to reach new library users on San Antonio’s southside.

Emma Hernandez, Program Manager of the Latino Collection and Resource Center (LCRC), presented to University of Texas San Antonio Librarians on Wednesday, September 18th, 2019 regarding LCRC’s holdings and unique efforts to attract new library users, create immersive learning environments tools to connect new generations to key persons, events and Latinx traditions.

On Thursday, September 19th, the Latino Collection and Resource Center along with SAPL Marketing presented the *Big Read Zine Launch Party*, the release of our first community collaborative zine. 100 limited edition zines were produced by SAPL staff. Attendees could pick up their free copy of the zine, enjoy refreshments and make their own screen-printed tee. This event drew 200 attendees.
On Saturday, Sept 21, the Latino Collection and Resource Center presented *Los Chiles: sabrosos, deliciosos y picosos*, a lecture describing the different aspects and benefits of chili peppers as well as a sampling of a vegan mole. The event drew 32 attendees.

On Saturday, Sept 28th, the Latino Collection and Resource Center staffed an outreach table at the Plaza Guadalupe’s *Pachanga de Palabras: A Westside Book Festival*. Community members were able to create literary inspired crafts and pick up information about their local public library. The event attracted 250 attendees.

On Tuesday, October 1, 2019, the Latino Collection and Resource Center hosted *Meet the Poet: Chibbi Orduña* as part of Hispanic Heritage Month programs. Originally from Laredo, Texas, Chibbi Orduña, founded Laredo Border Slam and Write About Now, a poetry organization in Houston, TX. Now, 3-time member of San Antonio’s only national slam team, PuroSlam, he has published two books: *Where the Wild Things Grow* and *Otro/Patria*.

On Saturday, October 5th, the San Antonio Public Library and Latino Collection and Resource Center partnered with the San Anto Zine Fest to present a celebration of DIY publishing that drew 1,200 attendees throughout the day. Library visitors were able to view the original work of over 90 exhibitors, listen in on panels, make their own zines and swap with other visitors.

Emma Hernandez, Program Manager of the Latino Collection and Resource Center (LCRC), presented to St. Mary’s University’s Public History graduate program on Monday, October 7, 2019. Her presentation was on the topic of ‘Making History Relevant’ and highlighted the LCRC’s efforts to create immersive learning environments that enhance the Latino Collection. Library programs geared towards Latinx audiences, such as San Anto Zine Fest, the Lowbrary Carshow, Lucha Libros and more were discussed as tools to connect new generations to key persons, events and Latinx traditions.

**TEXANA / GENEALOGY**

The Texana department hosted the San Antonio Regional Archivists meeting on September 20 in Central Library Auditorium. Twenty professionals from area archival repositories were in attendance. The meeting highlighted the gallery exhibition *The Winds and Words of War: Welcome Home Exhibit*.

For Hispanic Heritage month, Librarian Sylvia Reyna invited Blanca Rivera and Angie Merla on September 21 for a lively educational workshop/demonstration on the history, tradition, healing properties, ceremonial, and flavor of *Los Chiles: sabrosos, deliciosos, y picosos*. Rivera led the presentation while Mrs. Merla translated from Spanish to English in the LCRC.

Texana hosted the *Border Radio* program in the Briscoe Western Art Museum’s Clingman Education Gallery on September 24. Featuring live musical performances, images, and props, author Gene Fowler’s presentation brought to life the well-known book *Border Radio -- Quacks, Yodelers, Pitchmen, Psychics and Other Amazing Broadcasters of the American Airwaves*. 
On Sept. 25 Librarian II Matt De Waelsche assisted the Friends of Texana ship eight boxes of genealogy books to the Paradise Genealogy Society (PARGENSO) in Northern California. The books were duplicates left over from the Friends of Texana book sales. The genealogy society’s library was completely destroyed by the Camp Fire wildfire in Nov. 2018 and they put out an urgent nation-wide plea for donations to help rebuild their collection.

On October 7 Special Collections Manager Heather Ferguson and Director Ramiro Salazar participated in the monthly installment of Urban 15’s Hidden Histories, a live web video broadcast series that investigates San Antonio and the region’s untold history. The program featured two special segments that highlighted the Library. In the first segment Ramiro discussed the future of libraries and Heather explained the history of the Texana/Genealogy Department’s development. For the final segment, Becky Barrera and Merri Gutierrez who represent the Foundation’s Latino Leadership for the Library and Altarista, promoted Texana and the Catrina Ball fundraiser being held by the SAPL Foundation.

Librarian Andy Crews attended the free workshop Personal Digital Archiving at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in Austin on October 12. The event was presented in conjunction with National Archives Month.

BRANCH LOCATIONS

BAZAN

Children’s Librarian, Hope Sonnen, attended National Night Out at La Trinidad United Methodist Church on October 1 where she visited with many families and shared information about library programs and resources. Children enjoyed a craft activity and everyone had a good time.

Ms. Sonnen resumed book clubs with three Bazan area elementary schools and reported that the children were excited to be part of the group. On October 7, Ms. Sonnen had the Hispanic Heritage program hojalata/tin artwork. The children enjoyed drawing a picture on tinfoil and coloring them with markers. She also had two adults join in for the fun.

Bazan’s teen space was remodeled mid-September. The remodel prioritized power outlets and strong Wi-Fi connectivity to provide a multifunctioning environment for programming in the teen space. The remodel also included new furniture, storage, and acrylic walls to enclose the area. Since the remodel, all teen programming is hosted in the teen space. With the remodel programming experienced a drought in September, but it quickly regained its momentum after the remodel’s completion. Ms. Garcia continued to host Teen Hangout every Wednesday after the Afterschool Snack Program, and Teen Anime Club every third Monday of the month. The space is exclusively for teenagers to spend time reading, engaging in scheduled or impromptu activities in the teen space at all hours. The feedback has been positive from both the teens and the community.

Training Officer Emily Flores attended the Alazan Apache SAHA Resident Council’s National Night Out festivities at the historic Plaza Guadalupe.
On Wednesday, October 2, ESL and citizenship students from Bazan, Westfall and Cortez libraries participated in a group visit to the Institute for Texan Cultures. None of the students had been before and felt that the visit was very entertaining and informative.

Three current Bazan citizenship students reported to Training Officer Emily Flores that they had passed their interviews for citizenship this past month. One student continues to attend citizenship classes because she enjoys learning about U.S. history and feels that she is improving her English.

Training Officer Emily Flores completed the course “Expanding Digital Inclusion in Your Community,” offered by NTEN.

The Bazan Journaling and Planner Club and Snail Mail Social Club met with a small but dedicated group. Both groups have taken inspiration from the Facebook Group called Rainbowholic and the YouTube Channel by the same name. The group promotes and encourages snail mail, making pen-pals, journaling, all things Kawaii (the culture of cuteness in Japan) and all things stationery swapping and stationery related. The group has a seasonal Journaling challenge that gives over a dozen prompts and ideas to choose from and the both Bazan groups have joined in these challenges. It’s a great extended community.

Bazan hosted a coloring pop-up program for all ages and it was a great success—easy, inexpensive and fun. For adults bored while waiting for a friend or children being a little fussy, this activity was a sure bet and budget friendly.

Library Assistant Enedina attended Big Texas Comic Con on September 22 and reached out to about 50 patrons. It was a great opportunity to promote Pop-Con and fan groups at Bazan such as USSR Bexar and Alamo City Browncoats. The Alamo City Browncoats celebrated partnering with the Bazan Library for over a year and scheduled a Halloween party with the Bad Girls Romance Book Club at the end of October!

The Bad Girls Romance Book Club recently read “It Ends with Us”, by Texas romance author Colleen Hoover. The book was a little more serious than the group anticipated and touched on the subject of domestic violence. The authors note was read aloud during the book club; needless to say it was a cry fest.
Brook Hollow Assistant Manager Julia Pouliot became the branch Interim Manager this reporting period (starting October 1st) while Heidi Novotny went to help as the Interim Branch Manager at the Cody Library. Jennifer Borrero, Brook Hollow’s adult services librarian separated from the library this month. Her position will be permanently filled by Marco DeLeon who has been covering at the branch for some time. Brook Hollow also welcomed a new library aide, Lilly Atkinson, to its staff this reporting period.

The Friends of the Brook Hollow library hosted their Book Sale on Saturday, September 21st. The sale, which raises funds for library programming, was a great success with lots of satisfied library patrons walking out with new books to add to their own collections. Many group members volunteered to set up the sale, for daylong shifts the day of the sale, and to help take the sale down. Leftover items were donated to the 18th annual NEISD PTA used book sale which takes place at the Blossom athletic center in the spring.

Children’s Services

Brook Hollow branch continues to host weekly early literacy programming with Baby Time, Toddler Time, Toddler Two, and Story Time. Baby Time continues to grow in attendance at both Thursday and Friday sessions with Brook Hollow seeing almost fifty babies and their caregivers every week between the two program days. Families report to Children’s Librarian Jasmin Salinas that they value the connections to the community and other families that begin at library programs. For example, at Toddler Two this month one mom asked to bring pre-approved treats that complied with the City’s food policy to celebrate her youngest son’s birthday because their family considered the library to be their most important social community.

To continue to promote the value of early literacy and Every Child Ready to Read, Brook Hollow also hosts a monthly Play & Learn program. In October, Ms. Salinas worked with Little Read Wagon to bring some new materials to Brook Hollow which encourage more open-ended and loose parts play. Multiple caregivers approached Ms. Salinas to thank her for the program and to express their appreciation for the new activities like playing with cardboard boxes, water sensory bins, large vertical collaborative art projects, and the open-ended process art station.

After school continues to be a very busy time for Brook Hollow, and the library offers a variety of school age programming including weekly Tween Time, Come & Go Crafts and Read to a Dog programs. However, in September Library Assistant Elissa Vura also created and implemented a new program at Brook Hollow to focus on the middle school children that come after school and enjoy art, Young Artists. Each week, Ms. Vura creates art projects for them to focus on and tips for how to improve their artistic skills. The latest Young Artists program project focused on still life drawing in graphite and shading.

Brook Hollow book clubs for children include Books BeTween Friends and Graphic Novels for Kids. In September, the Graphic Novel for Kids book club met to talk about Raina Telgemeir since her newest book was released the same week. The group watched a clips of Ms. Telgheimer’s process in creating a new comic book and then designed emoji buttons and discussed what moment in their lives...
they would immortalize in a graphic novel. In October, *Books BeTweeN Friends* focused on Bluebonnet nominee book that centers around robots. Ms. Salinas borrowed the Central Children’s Services robotics kits and iPads and after a discussion on the future of robotics the children built their own obstacle courses and to test out the library’s robots.

Ms. Salinas also visited Country Home childcare center for the first time to provide several of their classes with story times. Country Home enjoyed the visit and asked for monthly outreach story times and wanted to expand the number of classrooms visited. Additionally, Ms. Salinas was invited to Coker Elementary School for the Literacy Fair and National Night Out by their school librarian. Ms. Salinas brought information about upcoming Brook Hollow programs and talked to families about Homework Help through the library. After the event, the Coker Elementary principal emailed families with the Brook Hollow fall programming information.

**Teen Services**

Brook Hollow Teens continued to have a fun and crafty fall with teens making DIY squishies from craft foam and buttons with their own artistic designs. Teens made the most of their time with the Nintendo Switch borrowed from teen serviced playing Super Smash Brothers and Mario Party games in friendly competition. The snacks at *Teen Time* remained engaging for teens with an Oreo tasting, as well as a session of making mini waffles.

For the last *Teen Time of* the reporting period, Brook Hollow teens were excited to try out virtual reality simulations with the Oculus Go. Participants tried their luck at rollercoaster simulations, underwater reef explorations, and haunted expeditions into scary locales.

Library Assistant Elissa Vura continues to help with library programming, this month specifically with covering a *Teen Time* while Ms. Pouliot was on vacation.

**Adult Services**

* Brook Hollow hosted its longstanding book clubs
  * Wednesday Evening Book Group, La Tertulia Spanish Language Book Club, Book Lover’s Book Swap and Gab Session, Thursday Afternoon Book Group, Historical Fiction Book Group, and Mystery Book Group.

* On October 9th, Brook Hollow hosted the final program in the *Crochet Series*, with this week’s theme centering on Granny Squares. One final time participants practiced all they have learned over the series to great results.

* Brook Hollow’s American Sign Language class series began this month. Over six weeks of classes, MacArthur High School students will teach participants of all ages the basics of sign language. The first class alone had over sixty participants!
CARVER

For a third year, the Carver Branch partnered with the Coliseum Willow Park Neighborhood Association on October 1 for National Night Out, which turned out to be an evening of food, fun and making friends. Highlights were the appearance of the Sam Houston High School robotics team and an outdoor film on the lawn. Organizers thanked the branch for their hospitality and are already planning to return next year.

Carver Branch was a host site for the first annual San Antonio Black International Film Festival (SABIFF), October 11-12, which featured two days of documentary shorts, feature films and discussions.

In addition, San Antonio African American Community Archive and Museum (SAAACAM) and the San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) partnered with the branch to observe Docomomo Tour Day “an annual celebration of modern architecture and design where the public and like-minded organizations across the country participate in a tour or event on the second Saturday and throughout the month of October,” the organization's website explained.

Locally, the observance centered on the contributions of the late Norcell D. Haywood, the city’s first licensed African American architect. Members of the community and colleagues of Mr. Haywood showed up to offer oral history interviews that celebrated Mr. Haywood’s work. SAAACAM also used the opportunity to capture the oral histories of senior citizens who have been longtime residents of the city’s East Side. Students from Trinity University also took part, learning valuable oral history interviewing techniques.

CODY

Children’s Story Times at the Cody Library remained well-attended during this reporting period. Children’s Librarian Kristin Yourdon has been focusing on providing early literacy tips during each story time to help parents extend their child’s learning throughout the week. Each tip provides the parents with a suggested activity to complete during the week, such as to take a nature walk and point out the names of objects they see along the way.

Tween Time continued to meet weekly during the reporting period. A few of the favorite activities included playing a life-sized version of Candy Land, building a Mini Golf course using recycled materials, and painting sun catchers.

The branch’s offerings for school-age children have continued to consist of Lego Club, Kid’s Time, Come & Go Crafts, and Read to a Dog. The branch hosted a special Kid’s Time on September 25th to celebrate the popularity of the Dog Man series by Dav Pilkey. Children created Dog Man and Petey the Cat headbands, designed inventions that Petey might use to escape from Cat Jail, and competed in a blind sniff test to see if their nose was up to par with Dog Man.

Children celebrated a couple of different national observances during Come & Go Crafts programs this reporting period. On September 19th children celebrated International Talk like a Pirate Day
by making pirate finger puppets. On October 3rd children celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month by making Mexican Tin Art using tin foil and permanent markers.

Ms. Yourdon visited a couple of places for outreach visits during the reporting period. On September 18th Ms. Yourdon visited the Waters at Elm Creek apartment complex to speak with residents about upcoming events at the Cody Library and to share about various library services for students. On October 10th Ms. Yourdon visited Locke Hill Elementary for the school year’s first meeting of the afterschool Writing club. This is the third year that Ms. Yourdon has led this afterschool club at Locke Hill. Ms. Yourdon and the students talked about the elements needed for a short story and practiced writing short stories. At the end of the club meeting the students each read a little bit of what they had written and received constructive feedback.

Teen Gaming provides teens with opportunities to hang out after school and play video, board, and card games. Current favorite games include Super Smash Bros Ultimate, Just Dance, and a virtual reality Western game on the Oculus Go!

Teen Time, Cody’s evening programming for teens, draws dedicated attendees interested in creating delicious food, playing games, and doing light crafts and art projects. The endless Monopoly game finally came to an end after several weeks and a lot of property purchases! Teens have also enjoyed using Perler beads to make a variety of cool magnets, featuring everything from motorcycle helmets to Minecraft characters. Coloring continues to be a big hit, as has decorating miniature composition notebooks.

The Cody Chess Club continues to bring children and teens into the library each Tuesday for games and chess puzzles.

Partnering with J.D. Elizondo of the Central Library, Teen Librarian Amy Rae Weaver visited the Cornerstone Christian School on September 25th for a day of outreach fun! Almost 400 students from CCS’ middle and high school grades learned about teen programming at the library (including upcoming special events Rock the Plaza and Teen Arts Fest) and all the great tutoring resources SAPL provides through Brainfuse. After a quick presentation, everyone had a chance to create custom buttons with Ms. Weaver and try out guitar riffs and piano chords with Mr. Elizondo.

Cody hosted the Executive Book Club for its regular Tuesday meeting on September 17.

Cody hosted its longstanding book clubs: Friday Book, Cody Film, Friday Friends with Fiction, Friends of the Library, Cody Saturday Book Club, Cody Mystery Book Club, Winn Murin Book Club and Tamil Book Club.

Katrina Chretin, author of The Interview Artist, Understanding the Art of Career Development and Interviewing hosted a workshop.
Cody continues to welcome back the following programs:

   Kelly Wu and her partners presented ABC’s of Medicare
   Ramakrishnan Karunakaran presented a Yoga class

The Adult Chess Open Play continues to be on Friday at 10 and we have two players.

Luanne Bloom did outreach on behalf of the adult services librarian to participate in the Andante Book Club.

Adult Services Librarian, Marcella McGowan, volunteered at the Texas Municipal League’s Annual Conference which was held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center on October 10.

---

**COLLINS GARDEN**

**Adults**

CGL hosted Coffee & a Movie featuring Mexican Cinema with classic & recent releases with an all-time high attendance of eight in September. Coloring for Adults had five attendees. CGL hosted PE Teachers from area schools for a mini-workshop.

**Children**

Children’s Librarian Gina Brudi hosted thirty-five attendees in four programs for the continuously popular Lego Club. Lego creations are displayed for public enjoyment in the reference area. She also hosted two Come and Go crafts with peacocks and playdough. September 21st the branch hosted TamboRhythms and Jorge Ochoa had children, teens and adults playing a variety of drums and shakers with 16 attendees. Children made octopuses for World Octopus Day October 2nd. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month children and caregivers made colorful hojalatas from foil at the library October 9. Brudi attended Literacy Night at Kipp Aspire Academy October 10 and spoke to more than 100 adults and children about library services such as Brainfuse, Libby and the Young Pegasus Poetry Competition. Brudi attended the webinar “What Would Fred Rogers Say-The Difference We Make” about the importance of human interactions with young children during the SAPL Children’s Services meeting October 10.

**NEW Tween Scene**

Teen Services Librarian Daniella Toll made SLIME with 13 tweens who attended CGL’s newly reconfigured Tween Scene. The tweens were fascinated by the process and sounded very knowledgeable discussing adding more “activator” to their creations.

**Teens**
Teen Services Librarian Daniella Toll hosted local artist Jesse Burciaga, who guided teens in making a personal oil pastel depicting Dia de los Muertos. Students from Burbank High School’s Art Club, and their teachers attended and want to collaborate with the library in the future to exhibit student art. Drawings will be exhibited at the Lone Star District’s Dock Space Gallery Annex in October. Drawings sponsored by Lone Star Art Alliance, council members Roberto Trevino, Rebecca Viagran, Shirley Gonzales, and the Lone Star Neighborhood Association. Thirty-two teens attended four weekly Teen Tuesday events, making fall-inspired crafts from yarn and testing their trivia knowledge.

Manager Happenings

Collins Garden Library Branch Manager Jeannette Davies attended the Boerne Book Festival; Friends of San Antonio Public Library Workshop; Ride for Reading San Antonio’s Teacher Appreciation Night/Bits & Books at Cherrity Restaurant and SAPL’s Second Friday at the Pearl. Davies serves as vice president of the newly created SAPL Toastmasters.

CORTEZ

Branch Manager, Cammie Brantley

The “Nature Smart Libraries” (NSL) event on September 21 was a huge success with over 20 tables, 50 partners and volunteers, and 500 patrons. The day was hot but breezy and both indoor and outdoor activities were well attended. Three Board members came to the event as did the Mayor, the Councilwoman for District 4, and members of Library Administration. NSL programs held since the kickoff have also been well attended with events planned through the end of the year. The sidewalk construction that was started in August was completed in time for the NSL event so attendees benefited from sidewalks across from the parking at CentroMed and improved handicapped access. Ms. Brantley also wants to commend the Facilities Team for their efforts in making the grounds and building look good and the Marketing Team for their support before and during the event.

Cortez Branch would like to congratulate Vanezza Garcia on her promotion from Library Aide to Circulation Attendant and to welcome Celina Gomez as the new Library Aide.

Children’s Programs

Toddler Time (Nicole Cubillas)

Toddlers and their caretakers heard more songs and stories on the themes of autumn, things that grow, making music, and Hispanic Heritage month; They prepared relevant crafts, participated in dramatic play, and spent time digging through sensory bins, making music with soft rattles, writing with chalk and building with foam blocks.

Family Fun and Kids Time (Nicole Cubillas)
Cortez families heard stories on the themes of music, Hispanic Heritage month, and things that grow. They collaborated on arts and crafts, and participated in relevant challenges and competitions.

**Family Fun** (Mr. Kinsey)

Naturalist Mr. Kinsey visited the Cortez Library with some of his animal friends. He taught attending families about animal life and the children were allowed to handle some of the creatures he brought in.

**Ready, set, game!** (Nicole Cubillas)

Attending families came together for board games, card games, puzzles, and more. This is a new program Monday afternoons at 4pm.

**Bob Hope Elementary Literacy Night outreach** (Nicole Cubillas)

The Library hosted a table at the Literacy Night event. Calendars and flyers were distributed to attending families, and their children were invited to build with straws and connectors.

**Teen Programs**

**Teen Time** (Jo Ann Paredes)

On October 3, Teen Time was a featured Nature Smart Libraries event. Teens and adults were welcome; they enjoyed a papermaking and bookmark event. Presenters hosted the program in both English and Spanish. Cortez Library has also seen attendance growth in teen programming.

**Adult Programs**

**Adult Coloring and Cortez Older Adult Social Time** (Madeline Vasquez)

On September 19 and October 3 staff member Madeline Vasquez leads the COAST program. This weekly community event features advanced coloring for adults, board games, puzzles and light refreshments.

**Getting Crafty Program** (JoAnn Paredes)

Attendees have been making creative jewelry projects out of polymer clay. Patrons enjoyed these projects so much, the class will host it again in December.

**Quilter's Corner** (Jo Ann Paredes)

Beginning November 2019, this program will be called “Tea Time Crafts”. Attendees may bring in any craft they wish to work on, while enjoying hot tea and the company of other crafting enthusiasts.

**Monster Meet** (Madeline Vasquez)
Monster meet hit the road this month. A good-sized crowd was treated to an off-site ghost tour at Vista Hermosa on October 12. This popular monthly program brings regulars as well as new attendees who enjoy anything spooky, scary, or mysterious.

Art Therapy (Madeline Vasquez)

On October 10, Ms. Vasquez led patrons in making painted mini-pumpkins for Halloween. All supplies were provided, including paint, brushes, stencils, beads, glitter and hot glue.

Salsa and Cumbia Dance Lessons (Mario Alvarado)

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, Mario Alvarado from Empowered Arts Studio led Salsa and Cumbia dance lessons on September 17 and 24, and also October 8.

Community Programs

Cortez Chess Club

Mr. Pacheco continues to lead our weekly chess club every Saturday. He enthusiastically teaches attendees of all ages about chess. Chess sets are provided.

National Night In (Brooke Mjolsness, Nicole Cubillas)

On October 1, Cortez Library celebrated “National Night In” for the third year in a row. Activities for all ages were available including shrink-dinks, board games, coloring, Legos and playdough. Light refreshments were served.

LEARN Center Activities (Daniel Gomez)

This reporting period (September 16 – October 13) saw a total of one hundred and ten visits, with an average of six patrons a day. The majority of usage was dedicated to developing computer skills.

During this reporting period, seven patrons enrolled in the Cortez LEARN Digital Inclusion Certificate program. One patron completed the program this period and received her certificate in Basic Computer Skills.

Patron, Amelia A., reported that she found a job with South San ISD as a Special Ed Assistant. She expressed much gratitude for the LEARN center and staff. She had used the LEARN center for several months to create her resume and apply for jobs.

Patron, Aurora G., received employment with the U. S. 2020 Census as a clerk. Aurora submitted many applications over the last few months using the LEARN Center. She is very happy because this will be her first job in a clerical position, after having worked manual labor for over 30 years. She learned to use a computer at Cortez LEARN Center, having gone through the Digital Inclusion program.

On October 1, the LEARN Centers sponsored a field trip for ESL students to the Institute of Texan Cultures. ESL students from Bazan, Cortez, and Westfall branches attended. Students listened to presentations about the diversity of cultures in Texas, and participated in a scavenger hunt.

Conversational Spanish classes began at Cortez on October 6. Eight patrons attended the first class. Reasons given for wanting to learn Spanish were that it was needed in order to communicate with Spanish speaking employees, to communicate with Spanish speakers in the community, and to communicate with Spanish speaking senior members of the family.

ENCINO

Late September and early October were busy and artistic at Encino. The branch hosted the San Antonio Needlework Guild again, the weekly Hand Bee, and a popular silk screen workshop for Hispanic Heritage Month. Libraries and Labyrinths began its October Horror campaign, and Fitness in the Park took a brief hiatus in early October after a strong September. The Read It. Love It! Discuss It Book club likewise enjoyed its September book, and looks forward to a productive meeting on October. On October 12th, the Friends of Encino Library had their book sale, which saw nearly a hundred people through the branch doors.

Computer classes continue to be offered on an appointment basis, including instruction in Google Drive, Google Docs, and help constructing and editing resumes. The appointment basis works well with patron schedules, and allows classes to focus on their needs

Teen programming has continued with bi-weekly programs at the Encino Branch. Krystal Owen (Part Time Circulation) and Katy Dillard (Part Time Librarian I) have continued to present these programs, as Encino is currently without a Teen Librarian. Teen Anime club continued watching episodes of My Hero Academia via Crunchy Roll. Teen Club hosted Pancake Night, Board Games and Movies this month.

On September 26 the Encino branch hosted a Tea Rex Party. Children’s Librarian Ann Laird read Tea Rex by Molly Idle. Library Assistant Brenton Baker dressed in an inflatable Tyrannosaurus Rex costume to take photos with the children. Children also enjoyed dinosaur themed snacks, a dinosaur craft, and got to go home with a small plastic dinosaur.

Children got to make a Mexican tin art Come and Go craft in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month at Encino on October 6.

In conjunction with Encino’s Friends of the Library book sale on October 12 the Encino Library also hosted appearances by the Literacy Caravan and the San Antonio Humane Society. Children enjoyed the activities on the literacy caravan, and were thrilled to receive a free book. Adults and children alike loved visiting with the puppies from the Humane Society. While none were adopted on the spot, we hope that it encouraged patrons to perhaps visit the human society at a later time to adopt a pet.
LEGO Club is held bi-monthly and continues to be a popular program. The program is run by Librarian Katy Dillard, and at each session she gives the children a theme to build on. Between sessions the children’s LEGO creations are displayed in Encino’s Children’s Room.

Baby Time, Toddler Time, Story Time and Tweens Create all continue to have good attendance and success at Encino.

FOREST HILLS

In partnership with UTSA Libraries | Special Collection, Forest Hills opened an exhibit titled, “The Gebhardt Mexican Food Company | The name that Made Chili Powder Famous”. The Opening Reception held on September 15 was well attended. HEB served Gebhardt chili, distributed treat bags and cut the cake purchased by the Friends group. T shirts and postcards designed printed with a special “Gebhardt Chili Can” image were eagerly received by the patrons.

A silk screen exhibit and corresponding workshop provided by Sabrina Alfaro was a popular offering. The patrons were curious to learn the process of silk screen and came away from the program with a set of handcrafted art pieces. The patrons were very happy with the prints they created.

During the month of October a series of screenings of movies directed by Guillermo Del Toro films and other Spanish cinema classics will be held every Saturday afternoon. The list includes “The Orphanage, “The Devil’s Backbone, “Spirit of the Bee Hive“and Pan’s Labyrinth”.

This fall has been full of exciting activities for children’s services at Forest Hills. Kids Time has really had some really interesting programming from a Hispanic Heritage Month hojalata program to Mr. Tom Kinsey educating everyone about the natural world around us. Mr. Kinsey not only spoke about the wonders and dangers of the animals that live in our area but he also brought some of those animals. Children were delighted to get to pet a rat snake, a pigeon, a toad, a couple of rats, and cockroaches from Madagascar. Parents and children were able to take pictures with the animals and Mr. Kinsey shared a lot of safety tips.

Lego Builders is as popular as ever. Every week Ms. Menchaca is amazed by the creations made by children. Additionally, every week there is a child who’s disappointed that Lego Builders goes by so quickly – time flies when you’re having fun.

Story time continues with as much enthusiasm and excitement as ever. One theme in October was “Bathtime.” Ms. Menchaca put some laminated dirty pigeons in a sensory bin and provided soapy water and sponges so that kids could give pigeons a bath. This activity was used in conjunction with “The Pigeon Needs A Bath” by Mo Willems. Kids were delighted by the books, craft, and activity. Another story time pertaining to dinosaurs was a lot of fun and children were amazed with the pop-up books that Ms. Menchaca showed them; children literally “oowed” and “awed” when shown the book “Dinosaurs” by Robert Sabuda. They also really enjoyed the craft which was to make a stegosaurus, with its spikes being made by clothespins.
Ms. Menchaca visited PCI Head and read the book “La Princesa and the Pea” by Susan Middleton Elya. The kids and their teachers really enjoyed the book. She read the book to the 3, 4, and 5 year olds. Ms. Menchaca chose the book because it was a mirror for the children who attend the center. The Longfellow Middle School choir visited Forest Hills Library to tour the library and so that Ms. Menchaca and Ms. Mary Naylor could speak to the students about everything that the library has to offer. Ms. Menchaca spoke to the children about what makes a story interesting and how most stories have a conflict which ends with a resolution. Ms. Naylor showed the students the SAPL website and how easy it is to find a book and put it on hold. The students had an opportunity to ask questions and to explore the library.

Ms. Menchaca attended the Region 20 Library Round-Up and did a presentation, as a committee member of the Tejas Star Reading List. While at the conference, Ms. Menchaca attended training that pertained to story time and how to improve her story time program. Ms. Menchaca was also able to network with school librarians throughout the city, as they are the majority of attendees at the conference.

Teen volunteers participated in a Teen Craft program on October 6. The teens decorated personalized bracelets. They completed the day with volunteer work shelving hold items to earn their volunteers hours.

GREAT NORTHEAST

Great Northwest Library children’s programs had a successful start to the new units introduced. The Tween Time program World Matters introduced beginner critical thinking skills by studying money and savings, geography, and the history of sugar skulls. The Story Time program ABC Explorers learned letter pairs and about different cultures from around the world: USA, Mexico, and Brazil. The Toddler Time program Toddler 2 was well attended with early readers who developed letter and number recognition skills with the Chicka Chicka Boom Boom books. The programs had an influx of intercultural communications with patrons fluent in French, Japanese, German, Japanese and Chinese. One patron shared that she heard of the library through an ESL program. It was recommended to attend because Great Northwest is multicultural and inclusive to all families. That one patron has introduced the branch to 14 new families!

The San Antonio Parks and Recreation Fitness in the Parks program series continues with Barre Fitness and Core Training on Mondays from 12 pm to 1:30 pm in October. Mindfulness for Families has returned at a new time. On Tuesdays at 10:30 am families can learn listed to stories and learn focused breathing exercises and light stretches.

Great Northwest Library hosted a Tree Adoption on September 16. Trees were handed out to the community by the Urban Forestry and Trails Division and the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department.

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, Library Assistant Christina Martinez planned a Hispanic Folklore program on September 16. Maria Banos Jordan from the Texas Familias Council presented three folklore stories: The Tortilla Maker, La Llorona, and The Rabbit in the Moon. Ms. Jordan brought
props to enhance the stories: a *molcajete*, *cazo*, *maíz*, and a *sarape*. Everyone enjoyed the stories and participated in a group discussion about folklore.

Great Northwest Library hosted the Teen Arts Fest Featured Artist Exhibit during October. The Teen Arts Fest Featured Artist is Rachel Kamata. Ms. Kamata is the 2018 Teen Arts Fest Adjudicated Art Show winner and a Blue Star Contemporary MOSAIC student artist.

Great Northwest Teens had an 80’s night with the movie *Pretty in Pink* on September 16. On September 23 they watched *Stranger Things* and made waffles. On September 30 they created plush dolls for the theme *Over the Garden Wall*. On October 7 they created snowglobes with roses and watched *Beauty and the Beast*.

Great Northwest Library introduced *Library for All: Programs for Adults with Disabilities* on October 6. This is a monthly program providing games, crafts, and art activities for adults with disabilities and their caregivers.

Great Northwest Library presented a *Classic Film Series* on October 8 with a screening of Alfred Hitchcock’s film *Rear Window* followed by a discussion about the movie and trivia.

The Great Northwest Library hosted a *DIY U: Journaling* on October 9. This is a monthly program for adults that provide tips and techniques on how to start a journaling projects.

The Great Northwest Saturday Book Club met on Oct 12 to discuss the book *The Dependents* by Katharine Dion.

**GUERRA**

The Guerra Chess Club met on Fridays--September 20 and 27 and October 4 and 11. Community Volunteer Ruben Lozano spent time at October events providing instructions.

Branch Manager Dexter Katzman provided music and literature outreach to the Careplex Adult Daycare Center on Wednesdays--September 18 and 25 and October 2 and 9. He provided computer classes on October 8 and 9.

Assistant Branch Manager Jernell Williams participated in the National Night Out event at the Virginia Gill Community Center on October 1. The event had a good turnout and she shared library information with a number of families. She held an outreach book group at the Virginia Gill Community Center on October 4. Participants discussed *All We Ever Wanted* by Emily Giffin.

Children’s Librarian Arlene Richardson planned and presented four Lego Clubs, four Toddler Times, four Story Times, and four Art Clubs. She presented stories and songs to toddlers and preschoolers at Angelic Smiles Daycare Center on September 20 and to Lil’ Dragon Den on September 27. Arlene and
Julia Lazarin, Library Services Specialist/Little Read Wagon, hosted an evening Autism Accessible Browsing Hour on September 28 for children on the autism spectrum. Activities included dancing, a bubble machine, block play, and play dough. On September 29, Arlene provided families with a Come & Go Mexican Folk Art Craft celebrating Hispanic Heritage. On October 1, she presented story time at Johnston. On October 8, she attended Literacy Night at Cable Elementary School where she shared information about library programs and services with parents and educators. On October 11, Arlene served on an interview panel with two Central staff—Carla Conrad, Shelving Unit Manager and Rachel Gallop, Public Service Associate—to fill Library Aide vacancies at Central and Guerra. On December 25, in celebration of Hispanic Heritage month, Arlene hosted a screening of the movie *Coco*. After the movie, families enjoyed a *Coco*-inspired craft and activities. Free refreshments were provided by the Guerra Friends.

Adult Services Librarian Stephen Jackson presented a trivia game at the Willie Cortez Senior Center on September 20 emphasizing current events and biographical information about Willie Cortez as part of this center’s tenth year anniversary celebration. Stephen led the Club de Lectura book club in Spanish on September 20 for a discussion of *Un día de cólera* (*A Day of Rage*) by Arturo Pérez-Reverte; the book provided insight into the 1808 Madrid uprising against French rule, a part of Spanish history of which most were not previously aware. Stephen’s Spanish and French language skills proved again useful when he volunteered at the COSA Migrant Resource Center on September 27. He prepared a trivia game highlighting Halloween for his is outreach to the Willie Cortez Senior Center on October 11.

Teen Liaison Edward Mayberry held Game-Ra sessions on September 19 and October 3 and 10. Guerra held a movie night on September 26 (*Avengers End Game*); refreshments were provided by the Guerra Friends group. Amisarah Sarabia, Library Assistant/Central and Edward participated in Woodard Community Center’s National Night Out on October 1.

Library Assistant Roxanne Menchaca reviewed and resolved many of the patron-contested returns using Millennium and Excel. She held her Knit & Crochet program on September 24 and October 8 and her Quilting program on September 28.

Circulation Attendant A. Abella Lazalde-Jimenez recorded *Chancho el Pug* (*Chancho the Pug*) by Aaron Blabney for Telecuentos for the week of September 16.

Library Aides Yamilex Rosales and Laura Oacsio planned and presented Lego Club on October 8; Children’s Librarian Arlene Richardson was away from the branch for a Literacy Night event.

**IGO**

- Community Connections
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
- Educational & Learning Opportunities

**IGO**

- Community Connections
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
- Educational & Learning Opportunities
- Employee CORE Values (Teamwork, Integrity, Innovation, Professionalism)
- Workforce & Economic Prosperity
Children’s Services

Kindergarten students from Suburban School enjoyed a library tour on October 11 led by children’s librarian Carrie Vance. Activities included a brief story telling activity, movement and rhymes, and a small scale scavenger hunt.

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, a special Kids Time was held on October 3 featuring hojalata or tin art work. Families really enjoyed this open-ended art activity led by library assistant Cara Sifuentes. The children especially enjoyed being allowed to use normally forbidden permanent markers for this project.

Teen Services

During teen time this month the teens made painted CD art, played board games and video games with each other as well as studied or did their homework after school.

The first manga/anime club met this month and the students played a sushi themed card game, made origami and discussed what anime they liked to watch and manga that they enjoyed reading.

The Teen Librarian visited Brandeis and O’Connor High School during their lunch period to inform students about upcoming programs at Igo, the library’s online homework help Brainfuse, how to volunteer at the library as well as how to get a library card.

Adult Services

The Igo Stitchery has begun creating and collecting Little Red Hats for delivery in December to the San Antonio contact for the American Red Cross. Hats will be on display through December at the branch.

Several members of the Stitchery assisted during the Knit-Out & Crochet Too event presented by San Antonio’s Alamo Rows Crochet Guild. The volunteers instructed over twenty people in learning new skills.

October is the Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic Violence Awareness Event was held on the 7th of October at Igo Branch Library. This very informative session will be presented by Janeshka Almaguer, The Director of Education of The Rape Crisis Center. Teens and Adults participated in this event.

On the 2nd of October, Igo Mystery Club invited a local self-published author Susana Marsch to their author event. She discussed her book “Rust: A Ghost Mystery Novel. Book discussion was very engaging and lively. 20 readers attended the event.
On October 5th, the Dollars and Sense book group met to discuss Bill Browder’s *Red Notice*. As part of the program Natasha Arguello from UTSA’s John Peace Library came and spoke to the group about her experiences in Russia during the time period covered in the book. She was also able to provide some perspective beyond that time period through the experiences of family members still living in Russia. The discussion was very well received and informative. Many group members expressed having a broader understanding of the issues and appreciation for having attended. 8 people total attended.

**Senior Services**

Level I Hatha Yoga continued every Friday when the meeting rooms were available.

The newly-formed Art Club (*I*GO for Art) held its first meeting on September 27. Ralph Stanton, one of the members, gave a presentation on the Artist, Marcel Duchamp that was well-received by the 20+ attendees.

**JOHNSTON**

Johnston Branch Library celebrated the 80th anniversary of Batman on September 21 with activities for all ages. During the reporting period several Children’s Librarians graciously conducted Toddler Times and Story Time to Johnston’s community including Christine Deffendall from Memorial Branch Library, Arlene Richardson from Guerra Branch Library, Amy Roberts from Maverick Branch Library, and Interim Coordinator of Children’s Services Cresencia Huff.

Branch Manager Monica Bustillo facilitated the Athena Readers Book Club discussion of Riley Sager’s *Lock Every Door* on September 18. Ms. Bustillo completed the Persuasive Influence Pathway with the City of San Antonio Toastmasters group on September 18 and on October 4 Ms. Bustillo joined the new SAPL Toastmasters club. Ms. Bustillo joined the Blue Skies of Texas/Valley Hi Neighborhood Association for their National Night Out celebration on October 1.

Adult Services Librarian Cristine Mitchamore attended an EEO class on Anti-Harassment on September 18 as part of the City’s continuing commitment to positive working conditions. Ms. Mitchamore conducted a workshop on September 23 teaching patrons to create mini-piñatas. On September 24 Ms. Mitchamore attended the Springvale HOA meeting, providing attendees with information about library programs. September 25 Ms. Mitchamore hosted author Marian McCarthy who discussed the effect of military service on families. Ms. Mitchamore represented the library at Springvale’s National Night Out event on October 1, providing information about library services and answering questions. On October 2 Ms. Mitchamore hosted a trainer from Guide Dogs of Texas, Inc. who spoke about the life of a Guide Dog—from puppyhood through training and working life and retirement. Ms. Mitchamore hosted Ms. Blanca Rivera of the Esperanza Center on October 12 for Johnston’s Tamalada as Ms. Rivera walked patrons through making tamales and answered questions.

Library Aide Victoria Liendo, with assistance from Children’s Librarians hosted four Toddler Times and four Story Times working through the letters of the alphabet one week and one book at a time including crafts such as paper plate hamburgers and colorful jellyfish. On September 16 Ms. Liendo and the children celebrated National Play Doh Day using homemade playdough. On October 4 Ms. Liendo and the children celebrated Hispanic Heritage month by creating bright foil art inspired by Mexican tin art. Ms. Liendo and Ms. Mitchamore hosted four Lego Clubs allowing children to experiment with building and creating unique Lego masterpieces.
Library Aide Cynthia Blancas hosted four Teen Times. Led by two teen volunteers, Deborah Blancas and Kaitlyn Wooley, teens decorated the branch for Halloween—creating a giant spider for the Circulation desk and a series of smaller spiders to hang from the ceiling in the Children’s section. Teens celebrated their weeks’ long decoration efforts with a donated pizza, lemonade and cooked themselves Rice Krispy Treats.

Library Assistant Elsy Jackson is teaching a weekly class, Conversational Spanish on Mondays: September 16, 23, 19, and October 7, 2019, members learned interactive lessons about Aprendiendo español (Learning Spanish,) Viajes (Traveling,) El otoño (The Autumn), and Escenarios en el tiempo pasado (Scenarios in Past Tense) On September 19, she also served as a facilitator for the Discovery Time-Homeschool Makers Club making Slime.

LANDA

Children

Children’s Librarian Robin Alcorta continued working with children every other week doing process art. This month, the kids created Saran wrap murals. Saran wrap was wrapped around the legs of a table. Kids painted caterpillar cheetahs and sunsets. Kids also got into the spirit of Halloween by decorating Styrofoam skulls with paint, tissue paper, sequins, glitter, and more.

During Tween Time this month, Library Assistant and Teen Liaison Rebekah Corley demonstrated how to create salad spinner art. The tweens used small paper plates, blobs of paint, and a salad spinner to create incredible works of art. All of which were later hung in the Children's area in the newly designated Art Gallery.

Children’s Librarian Robin Alcorta presented the very first Pajama Story Time. Families were invited to bring stuffed animals, wear their pjs, and listen to bed time stories. This is a program that will continue once a month.

Teen

Landa Teens collaborated with Library Assistant and Teen Liaison, Rebekah Corley, to create exciting and inclusive weekly programming. The group kicked off their bi-annual Movie Month, this time with a theme of ‘Yes to Everything’ – so Marvel, sing-a-long, anime? Yes! The programs include film screenings with film choices voted on by the teens, thematic crafts and lots of healthy but tasty snacking. The group also brought back the Teen Suggestion Box to help Ms. Corley facilitate new programming, collection additions (always more Manga!), or anything else the teens want to see included at the branch.

Speaking of new programming, by direct request of one of Landa’s Teen Club members, Ms. Corley and Children’s Librarian Robin Alcorta worked together to start hosting a Dungeons & Dragons hangout. Led by the teen and their own D&D group, and facilitated by Ms. Alcorta and Ms. Corley, it is open to other pre-teen and teen adventurers who want to use the space for their own campaigns or stop in to learn what it is all about. The last event welcomed over a dozen teens stopping by to check it out.
Additionally, Teen Study Hall continued to provide a dedicated space for teens to study and socialize afterschool and Drop In Volunteering had teen volunteers prepping for Landa’s annual Landa BOO!, helping organize the collection, and chat about ideas for future teen programs.

**Adult**

Landa’s adult book clubs—both onsite and outreach—are growing. Reader’s Ink started out with one member and the latest attendance was nearly a dozen! This is an enthusiastic group of men and women who enjoy reading a variety of types of literature. This month’s selection was a mystery—*Magpie Murders* by Anthony Horowitz. Almost all in the group enjoyed the complexity and format of three-books-in-one. The Mystery Book Club read a “cozy”—*The Darling Dahlias and the Cucumber Tree* by Susan Wittig Albert, a period gentle read set in Alabama during the heart of the Great Depression. The book group at the Village at the Incarnate Word read a non-fiction work, *Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History*. Pat Fietsam, one of the book club members, shared a story about her mother who at about the same time period covered in this book (1930s) sneaked out of her house to take pilot’s lessons and became a barnstormer.

Adult Services Librarian Karen Sebesta leads an arts and craft outreach at the Kenwood Senior Center one Tuesday each month. This last month they decorated elaborate mandalas, using a variety of colored pencils and special paints. This group is very creative and challenges Karen to bring exciting new crafts for them to produce.

In observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Janeshka Almaguer from The Rape Crisis Center of San Antonio presented a program in early October.

Many thanks to Lupe Rodriguez and Carye Bye for representing SAPL at this year’s Siclovia. Interest was great, they reported, and they quickly ran out of handouts as well as the activity they brought for the enjoyment of the crowd.

**LAS PALMAS**

Toddler Time in September/October revolved around the family. Valerie Shelley, Children’s Librarian, and Elvia Ramos, Librarian Assistant, have continued the Bilingual Monthly Storytime on the first Tuesday of the month.

National Night Out was a Community Outreach that Valerie attended. She made several contacts with the Jubilee Academy and also disseminated information to the community.

Family Fun continues on Monday nights. Families have built structures with various materials. They also participated in Hispanic Heritage Month by making Hojalata (tin art).

Las Palmas has begun a six week collaboration with Humanities Texas from Austin, Texas. This program was piloted at Pan American Branch Library last spring. Humanities Texas funds the program of Bilingual Storytime which includes a meal for the families, reading of stories in Spanish and English and an array of activities relating to the story. Each family goes home weekly with a copy of the
book read that evening. Sonia Cuellar, the Site Coordinator, and Valerie work together with Elizabeth Frye from Humanities Texas to conduct this program. Sonia and Valerie work with local public schools to signup families of preschoolers.

Lego Time continues to bring children in to the library to use their imaginations to build various contraptions. It is enjoyable to see the projects being built from start to finish and often energe into something completely different from what they started to build. Some of the children ask to save their designs for a week so they may keep working on them the following week.

In celebration of Diez y Seis de Septiembre and Hispanic Heritage, Adult Librarian Rhonda Davila led an adult craft workshop. The event was held on Sept. 16. Participants made Frida Kahlo inspired flower headbands by rolling colorful pieces of felt. The event was well attended and received positive reviews. SAPL Foundation granted funds to support the event.

On Sept. 25, Las Palmas sponsored Carol Smith of the Texas Inmate Family Association (TIFA). In her workshop, Ms. Smith covered pertinent information, such as communicating effectively with TDCJ staff (Texas Department of Criminal Justice), and other related topics.

As part of Hispanic Heritage month, Las Palmas exhibited five Day of the Dead/Día de Muertos painted skeletons/catrinas and muñecas/dolls by artist Ruben E. Garcia. The exhibit was entitled Siempre Amor/Love Remains. To honor Mr. Garcia, Las Palmas also held an art reception and costume contest on Saturday, Sept. 28. The event included face painting by Jolly Joey’s Clowns; the painter was Ms. Inez Esquivel. Parents came and brought their children dressed as Day of the Dead catrinas and related themed characters. Adults played Loteria, and all enjoyed healthy snacks provided by the Library Foundation and the Friends of Las Palmas Library. The event drew over 60 patrons, and the feedback from the surveys was all positive.

MAVERICK

The Ladies Choice Book Club met on September 28. The Lady Mavs Book Club decided to meet at a local restaurant in October, but will be returning next month. Maverick held its Fall Used Book Sale on September 21st and 22nd. The Maverick Friends Group did a tremendous job organizing and carrying out the successful book sale. Many from the community came to support the used book sale event. The South Texas Role Playing Games Group met on Sunday, October 13. The Maverick Writer’s Group gathered on October 12 for its monthly meeting. As always, the knitters group continues gathering at Maverick and welcomes anyone who is willing to learn a new hobby.

The Maverick Chess Club met on September 23. Westchase Homeowners Association met on September 19. Maverick celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with cookie decorator, Ms. Chrystle Sandoval. Ms. Sandoval hosted “Sprinkled with Fun” at Maverick on September 28. Ms. Sandoval demonstrated how to create colorful floral and Frida Kahlo cookies. To welcome the Fall season, Maverick welcomed Mr. Don Lovato to perform many of favorite acoustic tunes on October 12. Library guests enjoyed the music program as the performance brought a warm and soothing ambiance to the library.
On Thursday, September 26, Ms. Roberts did a tour and storytime for 30 3-5 year olds from Scenic Loop Christian Academy. Ms. Roberts began assisting with Toddler Storytime at Johnston beginning on Oct. 1. Thank you to Ana Menchaca, Children's Librarian at Forest Hills for filling in for 4 storytimes and to Mary Lou Bleichwehl, Library Assistant at Maverick, for filling in for Lego Time while Ms. Roberts was on vacation.

Maverick Teen regulars continue to enjoy their time together every Tuesday evening and welcome new faces; the group contains students from four different area high schools, two middle schools and has home schooled regular attendees as well. Librarian Assistant Mary Lou Bleichwehl reserved a button maker from the Central Teen Services Shared Resources and the teens are excited to create their own personalized buttons this month.

Ms. Bleichwehl promoted the SAPL Brainfuse database at Marshall High School's Meet the Teacher Night on September 18th. She spoke with 250+ teachers, parents and students of all ages, handing out Homework Help bookmarks and SAPL pens and pencils.

**McCRELESS**

McCreless Branch Library welcomed a new children’s librarian to the branch. Librarian Angela O’Malley has already started up a story time and a baby story time for the community. Librarian O’Malley also attended an outreach at a local Home Depot for Fire Prevention. She had over 120 children in attendance where they made a fire hat and Dalmatian ears. O’Malley also conducted outreaches at Highland Park Elementary and Riverside Park Academy.

Lego Club continues to be a big hit for McCreless! The Lego Club continues to have a following of over 17 children and 7 adults. The children are able to watch a movie, build with Legos and Duplo’s, play Lego Dimensions video game, and enjoy a snack.

Library Assistant Joseph Gonzales helped out at Big Texas Comic Con. He assisted with the Cosplay Repair station, a super hero band craft, and green screen photography.

Librarian DeBow conducted outreach this month at two area high schools, Highlands High and Jubilee Academy. She talked to over 500 students and brought back 250 library card applications to process. With the help of Circulation Attendants, Alma Bruno, Gracie Rendon, Krys Hernandez, Linda Rodriguez and new Assistant Manager, Cristiane Yamada-Lokensgard, the applications all were processed and distributed to the teens. Both schools were very appreciative of the information about SAPL’s resources and programs for teens.

McCreless teens tried out the new air fryer during Teen Time. They cooked up refrigerated dough for doughnuts and cut up potatoes for fries. The doughnuts were “okay” according to one teen but the French fries were “better than Whataburger!” and only one tablespoon of oil was used, making them much healthier than traditional fries.

The McCreless Book Club met to discuss An American Marriage by Tayari Jones. The library also welcomed the MetroHealth van that tested nearly 30 adults for sexual wellness. The monthly
scrapbooking club enjoyed continuing on past projects as well as starting some to document their summer travels.

MEMORIAL

Children’s Services

Children’s librarian Christine Deffendall was invited to Open House at Cisneros Elementary School on September 18. She interacted with more than 30 students, parents, and teachers.

Mrs. Deffendall attended training for the Wash & Learn Initiative on September 18.

Mrs. Deffendall participated in the soft launch of the Wash & Learn Initiative at the St. Cloud E-Z Wash.

Mrs. Deffendall hosted a Hojalata/Mexican Tin Art program for Tweens.

Teen Services

Circulation attendant Adam Capelo hosted a Teens program that created bracelets out of para-cords. This taught them simple knots that can be used to create bracelets and necklaces. They were encouraged to help each other as they became more skilled at it.

Mr. Capelo had a board game night and the game of choice was Heroscape. It helps to promote teamwork as it is a strategy based game. It also gave the teens a chance to talk to each other and make new friends. The idea of the game is to communicate to each other to defeat the opposing team.

Mr. Capelo hosted a Minecraft day. Teens played Minecraft on the ps4. It helps to promote teamwork as we talk to each other about maps we could make and how to make structures. This activity promotes a lot of interaction between the teens allowing them to be creative with the ideas they had. From time to time the group would debate on structure stability. The game allows for structures to float in midair without support of any kind. The engaging topic would be where to place and why support beams would have been necessary to make the house or building they made. In turn this activity helps teens to make more intricate but realistic building structures.

Rock the Plaza

Circulation attendant Michelangelo Sosa has participated with Teen services at Central over the course of 6 months. During that time he participated in planning, outreach, and establishing partnerships with musically inclined teenagers and institutions. At meetings with marketing and leadership the group was able to successfully execute an event where teens could perform in front of an excited audience eager to listen to live music. Approximately, 450 people showed up to listen to 10 teenage performers and performance groups at a 4-hour Teen Library sponsored concert at the Central Library Plaza.

Teen Arts Fest
Mr. Sosa is also involved in organizing and attending outreach events in an attempt to gather attention, interest and new performers and performance groups in an art show. Teenage artists in the San Antonio area from all walks of life and artistic styles are being invited to attend. The group will be hosting the Teen Arts Fest at the Central Library on the 1st and 2nd floors, Saturday, November 16th.

Adult Services

Librarian Freddy Hudson is on a committee that had been pursuing a tie collection for SAPL. He met with Dress for Success about partnering on this project. The organization was interested and even offered to donate clothing items to jumpstart the collection. The branch is pleased to have its support.

On September 19, Mr. Hudson hosted a computer program on creating a bibliography with an academic focus. This program was timely since school recently started.

Mr. Hudson arranged for an author to present on a topic of military life. The branch was proud to host an author talk with Marian McCarthy. She wrote, *Beneath the Wild Blue*, a book about being a military spouse. The topic is especially meaningful for San Antonio, since it is known as “military city.”

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, patrons guided by Mr. Hudson made felt sugar skull sachets on September 26. These nifty creations were decorated with yarn, markers, and glitter and also were filled with cinnamon and cloves, giving them a sweet aroma.

Mr. Hudson hosted the screening of *Selena* to promote Hispanic Heritage Month. Patrons enjoyed this portrayal of an iconic Mexican-American entertainer.

To the delight of patrons entering the branch an offering of free chips and salsa were available for several hours in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Branch Services

The branch hosted National Night Out a long standing community initiative that attracts members of the community, elected officials, Edgewood educators and various COSA departments. The community gathers to hear leaders present crime prevention strategies. Amigos Friends of the branch provide food, games and other treats and elected officials contribute beverages for the community.

To remind and also to educate community members of different aspects of the history of Hispanics the branch offered screenings of the following titles: “*Willie Velasquez: Your Vote is Your Voice*; *La Soldadera*; *On Two Fronts: Latinos and Vietnam*; *Spare Parts; I am, Yo Soy*.”

Juan Valdez from District 5 partnered with the branch to engage in block walking. Members of District 5 and library staff are walking from house to house and knocking on doors to hand out flyers promoting events that benefits the community.
Library Assistant Lupe Pinales created an exhibit of Ofrendas in celebration of Día de los Muertos / Day of the Dead. Patrons are encouraged to bring in photos of deceased family or friends, candles and or flowers to add to the exhibit. Staff participates in this yearly exhibit and the community shows respect by stopping by and acknowledging the exhibit.

**MISSION**

**Community**

The Friends of Mission Library hosted their semi-annual book sale.

The Mobile Health Clinic was on site offering STD/HIV testing services to the community.

Mission continues to have a presence offering its library services in the monthly Farmer’s and Artesian Market at the Mission Marquee.

The meeting rooms at Mission were utilized by District 3 Councilmember Rebecca J. Viagran’s office to reach out and speak to the public. It was a highly attended event.

**Family Services**

Mission has begun a weekly 2 hour session during which interested customers can experience cutting-edge new virtual reality technology through the use of an Oculus Rift.

**Adult Services**

Mission hosted its’ Fifth-Year Anniversary Table Tennis Tournament. It was a very well-attended all day event. Prizes and trophies were awarded to top players.

Mission hosted its’ first book club discussion group.

**Teen Services**

 Teens at Mission Branch enjoyed movie nights this month, choosing Halloween favorites from the collection.

Teen Librarian Emily Young attended National Coming Out Day activities at the Mission Marquee, giving out library and event information to patrons that attended that event.

**Children’s Services**
As the season has changed, the library is decorated for fall. The children’s area is decorated with scarecrows and falling leaves. The start of school has brought many new families and returning ones to story times and attendance is booming. The children’s librarian, Jane Miller, is also doing Baby Time and Toddler Time at Pan American and some of the families there are now attending story times at Mission also.

The children’s librarian participated in a resource fair at New Horizons Charter School. There was a lot of interest in the events on Mission’s monthly calendar and in getting library cards.

**PAN AMERICAN**

Pan American library assistant and teen liaison Cassie Garza was invited to set up an information and craft table and Scobee middle school’s parent’s night. The event showcased various community partners. Ms. Garza shared information about live homework help, Libby and various other library programming at the event.

Ms. Garza conducted a food demo in celebration of Hispanic Heritage month. The food demo was Strawberries and cream. Teens learned how to make homemade whipped cream and how to carefully slice thin piece of strawberries. Teens then layered each ingredient to create a mouth-watering delicious treat. Some of the teens had never used a hand mixer before this event and were excited to try it out.

Librarian II, Adrian Leal, took the Pan American Branch mobile to the Elvira Cisneros Senior Center. The Senior Center members were able to sign up for library cards and get their SAPL questions answered. They continue to be appreciative of SAPL and the Pan American Branch for bringing mobile services to their center.

Mr. Leal held a movie showing of Shaun of the Dead. Participants were able to watch the movie and complete some related crafts.

Stephanie hosted the Graphic Novel Reading Club on September 26th 2019. They discuss the two chosen graphic novels, related media, and she reveals the next books. This is a once a month meet up. This program is adult only.

Ms. Garza reveled to the Pokémon Champions group new Pokémon being release in the Sword and Shield games. Also discussed were new rare Pokémon cards that have been release recently and how much a person could sell them for.

Ms. Garza was invited to speak to all the 6th and 7th graders at Leal middle school. There were a total of 300 plus students in attendance. Ms. Garza spoke about upcoming events at Pan American library and how students could utilize Libby to download online books and audio books.

On September 24, Ms. Garza attended a literacy night event at Stonewall Flanders Elementary. The library table had an activity for all ages and information about events at Pan American library.
October 1st was National Night Out at Pan American Library. Library staff set fun activities for families. Those in attendance participated in karaoke, ping pong, a VR room with an Oculus Rift and several OculusGo Headsets and other fun games. Popcorn and cotton candy was provided.

Ms. Garza hosted a food demonstration for making flour tortillas. Teens received hands on guidance on how to make flour tortillas. They mixed the dough with their hands and flatten the dough ball with a rolling pin. A handful of teens shared that their grandma taught them how to make tortillas.

Mr. Leal provided an adult coloring class at the Elvira Cisneros Senior Center. Some participants enjoyed the new low vision coloring books provided. The center's members are able to enjoy a relaxing and stress-free environment while coloring and listening to some good tunes.

Library Aide Jennifer Huizar led Pan American’s first rock painting class. Participants were provided paint brushes, paint and rocks to decorate. The group watched YouTube videos to get inspired.

Stephanie hosted a meeting of the Sketchbook Club. Stephanie brings in art books, books with photographs, and items for participants to draw. Ideas, feedback on work and creativity with participated is emphasized. The program is open to teens and adults.

Pan American Library hosts a weekly meditation program led by instructor Abel Menchaca. The meditation group enjoys a short de-stressing session followed by silent meditation.

Children’s Librarian Jane Miller provided a fun and vibrant toddler time to the Pan American Branch Library. The group of children in attendance listened to a fun story, sang some songs and enjoyed a creative craft. The return of toddler time after a short break was well received.

Librarian Cindy Cruz, and Library Assistant Cassie Garza, assisted with the Rock the Plaza event held at the Central Library. They provided support for Teen Services and promoted teen programming at Pan American Library.

PARMAN

Parman library is pleased to have two new staff members who have joined the Parman team: Carolyn Bradley and Corie Taylor. Carolyn Bradley has returned to Parman after a brief encounter last summer, when she got to know Parman community and staff. Similarly, Corie Taylor had been a high performing volunteer at Parman, and both she and the Parman staff are happy to see her sharing her skills and enthusiasm on a larger scale.
Outreach. Carolyn Bradley represented Parman Branch and SAPL at the locally organized “Dyslexia Fair”. This free event was created to spread awareness and provide as many resources as possible. Carolyn met with parents and teachers attending the fair, presented books and resources available at SAPL and build the networking for further collaborations.

On September 16, Monty Holcomb coordinated with San Antonio resident Ken Gerhard to present “The Legendary Monsters of Texas” program at the book signing event. Ken Gerhard—a widely recognized published cryptozoologist, and a regular television personality who has traveled the world searching for evidence of legendary beasts including Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, and the Chupacabra—discussed his book to a dozen attendees at the event. His presentation covered the accounts that he had researched concerning real-life monsters that were being reported in and around the San Antonio area.

In early October in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month Barbara Kwiatkowski organized a program which shined a light on Latino soldiers' service in Vietnam War. The main guest was Gil Dominguez who discussed his book: “They Answered the Call: Latinos in the Vietnam War.” Mr. Dominguez, a native of San Antonio, had served in the Army during the Vietnam War. His presentation covered the role of Hispanics in the war and what it means to be a Latino Vietnam veteran. He shared his and twenty other warriors experience in the war, in this case, America's longest and most unpopular conflict. The event was attended by many college students who were interested in this opportunity to have a more direct experience of this important aspect of history.

On October 10th, Parman Library was pleased to host the Maria Williams Band/ Small World of Jazz concert in its outdoor amphitheater. The large audience enjoyed the mix of Big Band and Latin Jazz, infused with pop and Broadway musical tunes. The soothing voice of the very talented lead singer Marie Williams entertained the audience throughout the night. This concert was brought to us by the District 9 Councilman John Courage and is part of the Fall concert series.

Parman Library hosted a panel discussion titled “San Antonio Through the Eyes of Local Writers.” Members of the panel included published local writers and poets L.M. Gonzalez, Don Mathis and Gil Dominguez. Each panelist covered different aspect of life and history of San Antonio. The program was very informative and the lively discussion with the audience revealed many unknown secrets of our city. This program was organized by Barbara Kwiatkowski.

In this reporting period Parman had four large school group visits from local public elementary school. In an organized manner the groups of children were given guided tours by the manager of the library Barbara Kwiatkowski and Carolyn Bradley provided wonderful Storytime. Children were able to check out books they found in the library, learned about our collection and were also informed of upcoming library events that would be of interest to them, such as Parman’s annual Spooky Walk event. Parman library’s weekly children’s programs--Baby Time, four Toddler Times, Story Time, the Chess Club and the Lego Club—all continue to have high turnout rates.
Parman library's weekly children's programs—Baby Time, four Toddler Times, Story Time, the Chess Club and the Lego Club—all continue to have high turnout rates.

POTRANCO

I Heart Vinyl

We saw the return of I Heart Vinyl's new sound system (turntable and speakers), which has allowed the branch to revive the true spirit and intention of I Heart Vinyl: to spotlight the branch's extensive and ever-growing vinyl collection. The return of the sound of vinyl in the branch has been a tremendous pleasure for patrons and branch staff alike. More than a few patrons are so enamored of the branch sound system that they are ordering the same system for their own private collections.

Potranco Book Club

The Potranco Book Club (PBC) October book selection was Paul Kalanithi's *When Breath Becomes Air*, a memoir of the author's journey through his own cancer treatment and eventual death. As expected, the book was a moving experience for the majority of the club's readers, with a few dissensions, fueled not by a lack of sympathy for the writer's journey, but by what they found to be unremarkable prose. As with September's participant numbers, October's PBC attendance numbers were also much higher than usual, with 10 readers attending.

November’s book selection is Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. This choice will be a revisitation for a handful of participants and an introduction to the Nobel Prize-winning author's work for the majority of PBC members.

Writers Group

The Potranco Writers Group (PWG) continued its twice monthly meetings on second and fourth Thursdays. Attendance continues at a steady and committed level, fluctuating between small, concentrated meetings and larger wide-ranging discussions. The group meetings are never at a loss for individuals seeking feedback about their works in progress, as the group continues to feature such genres as flash fiction, short stories, sci-fi and fantasy novel excerpts, historical novel excerpts, memoirs, poetry, and the newly invented (by a PWG participant) genre of “flash nonfiction.”

Alicia Trevino Senior Center Book Discussion
Alicia Trevino Senior Center Book group met on Monday, October 14 to discuss *When I Was Puerto Rican* by Esmeralda Santiago. Ms. Santiago will be visiting the Central library in November and the group is excited to be reading her memoir.

Twisted Stitches

Circulation Attendant, Miranda O’Neill, moderates the Twisted Stitches program. She now has a volunteer Mary Joe who helps with showing patrons how to crochet. There are a total of five attendees and two are regulars. We are starting to see growth and interest in the program. For this month Miranda created a stitch of a Frankenstein.

The pug and the octopus are Amigurume pets, the patterns are from one of the library crochet books. Miranda created the hand warmers as well. Customers could create any of the projects in the photos.

Craft for the weekend of September 21 was a paper plate wind chime. Children and families were provided a white paper plates, pre-cut shapes, sequence, glue, hole punchers, scissors, and balloon ribbon. Children and families could then use supplies to create their very own paper plate wind chime.

The come-and-go craft for the weekend of September 28 was a paper bag puppet monsters. Children and families were provided paper bags, glue, precut shapes, and additional construction paper in all colors to create their very own paper bag monster puppet.
Craft for the weekend of October 5 was Q-Tip Skeletons. Children and families provided construction paper, pre-cut shapes, pumpkins and skeleton heads, along with q-tips to craft their very own skeleton.

The children’s department at Potranco branch has had a great September. Each week the branch has put on a Baby time, Toddler time, Story time, Lego Club, come and go crafts and Read to a dog. Once a month there is a tween book-to-movie club. In September the title was James and the Giant Peach. A special program was put on called Interactive Oregon Trail. It was based on the retro computer game, it was built as a lifesize game board, families were given a wagon and went along the trail. As they played through the game, they had to cross rivers (sensory bins full of water) and draw calamity cards to see what happened on their journey (such as player one has dysentery). It was a big success. Librarian, Rozanna Bennett also has done outreaches at a daycare center, elementary school, Home Depot’s Fire Safety fair along with Lisa, Library Assistant and participated in National Night Out along with Desmond, PT Teen Librarian.

PRUITT at ROOSEVELT HS

CHILDREN

Children’s fall events at Pruitt Library are off to an exciting start. Kids and parents enjoyed a fun-filled time celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Children enjoyed listening to a reading of Waiting for the Biblioburro by Monica Brown. The author was inspired to write this book by a librarian who used his two donkeys to deliver books to children in remote villages in Colombia. Children and parents were thrilled for the chance to make their own beautiful “hojalata” tin artwork incorporating a variety of shapes such as doves, suns, and hearts.

Librarian Cynthia Saenz recently held the monthly meeting of the Family Circle Tween Book Club. Attendees participated in a lively discussion of The Someday Birds by Sally J. Pla. This unique, award-winning novel was well received and allowed participants a opportunity to discuss such topics as autism, war, and appreciation for the wonders of nature. The novel was also informative as kids read about many different bird species as the family traveled throughout the United States.

TEENS

In addition to regularly scheduled teen chess, Lunchtime chess also made a comeback to the Pruitt calendar. This event is open to local teens (home schooled, charter schools, the students at RHS on passes) on a weekly basis.

During Popsicle Pop Up at Pruitt, teens found out that the library can “literally” make you cool.

Community Connections  STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)  Educational & Learning Opportunities  Employee CORE Values (Teamwork, Integrity, Innovation, Professionalism)  Workforce & Economic Prosperity
Pruitt Teens created colorful duct tape crafts at our Duct Tape Crafting event.

Teens recognized their right to read while playing Banned Book Bingo. During this altered BINGO game, the titles of banned books were called out in order for participants to become aware of titles they may not be able to access if not for non-censorship.

Banned Book Bingo went so well, that we decided to do another BINGO activity. This time teens played La Loteria - the Mexican version, in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Pruitt Teen Library staffers were present at National Night Out in the Windcrest/Roosevelt High School community. Pruitt staff were able to mingle with the community and find out their reading preferences as they filled entries out for the “My Favorite Book” board.

ADULTS

This month Pruitt Library started ESL classes. They are basic beginner classes and have been well received and attended. Roosevelt High School has offered to promote the classes as part of their parent information night. A couple of the students also attend the citizenship classes on Wednesdays.

TGIF Adult Book Club members are enjoying their reading selections. This month we read The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah. One of the members had lived in Alaska and brought in maps and photos, and used them to explain where the story took place. It was a very engaging meeting this month.

Pruitt Library finished Hispanic Heritage Month with a craft class making Dios de los Muertos themed embroidered sachets. The patrons embroidered colorful and unique designs on skull shaped felt and scented the stuffing with eucalyptus oil.

SAN PEDRO

Read to a Dog was initiated at the branch to an enthusiastic reception by children and their parents. On two occasions this month, readers and pre-readers had a chance to share a great book with a gentle therapy dog and its trainer.

Children’s Librarian Karen Braeuler began a monthly outreach story time and book distribution for two classes at the San Antonio College Early Childhood Center for children of students attending classes. The Center was appreciative of the books and the time spent with their students.

Mrs. Braeuler started three book clubs with enthusiastic students at SAISD schools: Cotton Academy (3rd graders), Hawthorne Academy (4th and 5th graders), and Mark Twain Dual Language Academy (3rd graders). The branch has noticed a shift in requests for these book clubs from older elementary to younger students.
Families celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a Mexican Tin Art craft. This craft was also shared with families at the Will Rogers Academy (SAISD) Hispanic Cultural Literacy Night. One of the Toddler Times also celebrated Hispanic Heritage with a bilingual presentation of songs and books.

Naturalist Tom Kinsey shared information and his host of wild friends with an enthusiastic group of kids and parents. The group learned about what animals need to thrive in the wild and in our urban environs.

Mrs. Braeuler represented SAPL at Cotton Academy’s (SAISD) Open House. Families learned about the many programs and offerings at their neighborhood branch.

The branch offered weekend Family Fun opportunities on some Sundays to encourage more visits from families.

Adult services staff Diana Starrett and Carmen Roja coordinated a Crepe Paper Flowers program on Saturday, September 21. Ms. Roja presented a Papel Picado program Saturday, October 5 for Hispanic Heritage Month. She received thanks from a participant, who is also sharing her programming ideas with Ms. Roja.

San Pedro Library Friend Becky Grissom participated in a National Night Out event with the Alta Vista Neighborhood on Tuesday, October 1. She had a good time sharing library information, and making some good contacts.

SCHAEFER

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, Schaefer offered a Mexican Tin Art Come & Go Craft on Oct. 14. Kids decorated tin foil with markers by drawing creative and colorful pictures.

Schaefer children’s programming for the fall includes a variety of programs for all ages of children. Toddler Time, Story Time and Baby Time have all experienced larger than normal crowds for this time of year. Toddler Time and Story Time participants have had programs on autumn, camping, monsters, squirrels and bikes. Following the stories, the toddlers have time for construction play with foam blocks, and the preschoolers have had a number of activities, such as sidewalk chalking, painting and building. The LEGO Time participants continue to express their creativity by building inventive and unique creations. They enjoy seeing their work displayed in the children’s area of the library. Read to a Dog has been continued to draw in young readers on Monday evenings. Kids read aloud to Molly, a terrier, to practice their reading skills.

Yoga in the Park continues every Friday at the Schaefer Library. Patrons are supplied with yoga mats to use during the class and program attendance has been growing with each class.

The monthly Zumba program continues in the flex space at Schaefer. Classes are held twice a month and are led by a certified Zumba instructor.

Zumba Gold is also being offered at the Schaefer branch on alternating Friday’s. This class offers a modified version of Zumba, appropriate for all ages.
Craft Night for Adults was hosted by Librarian Maria Adams on Wednesday, September 25th. Crafters painted small wooden trays in a variety of colors and patterns.

On Tuesday, October 8, Adult Services Librarian Maria Adams hosted a coloring program at the District 2 Senior Center. Participants are provided with coloring sheets and pencils to use during the program.

On Wednesday, October 9, the branch hosted the SA Food Bank for a monthly series on healthy cooking for adults. This month’s topic was healthy spooky treats for Halloween.

Library Assistant Sara Ramirez hosted two Science Time programs during the reporting period. On September 24 children played an animal diets game and learned about herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores. Children also practiced measuring with animals and colored chameleons with art marbling. On October 8, Science Time explored coding with Beebots and mini Spheros.

On September 22, La Printería conducted a printmaking workshop on Aztec inspired prints for Hispanic Heritage Month.

SEMMES

On Wednesday, September 18, Ms. Randi read a very funny book titled, *Ragweed’s Farm Dog Handbook* by Anne Vittur Kennedy. Everyone, of course, sang along to “Old McDonald Had a Farm” and then made a cow mask to take home.

At Baby Time, on Wednesday, September 18, one little girl took her first steps! Fortunately, Mom had her phone ready and got the whole thing on camera.

On Monday, October 7 and Wednesday, October 9, Ms. Randi read book titled, *The Peculiar Pig* by Joy Steuerwald about a dachshund who gets adopted into a family of pigs. Although his pig siblings consider him quite strange, they are thankful when his peculiar “oinking” scares a large snake away from the farm.

On Saturday, October 12, children and their grownups listened to a reading of *The Bossy Gallito* by Lucia M. Gonzalez, for our Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. For an art project, children used aluminum foil to imitate *hojalata* or Mexican tin art in their own unique designs.

The Friends of Comanche Lookout Park held their National Night Out event at the Semmes Branch. The Friends of the Semmes Branch Library provided snacks. The annual event included a white elephant table, information about the park and some delicious s’mores.

In partnership with Parks and Recreation, the branch is now hosting 3 Fitness in the Park classes each week. Yoga, Circuit Training and Family Fitness classes are taught each week.
Family Fun Friday on Oct 4 was a screening of the movie, “Coco.” This is a new program that Ms. Lea Ann is trying out called PJ’s, Popcorn and a Movie. Many summer patrons with school age children requested a program during the year. Ms. Lea Ann is testing out the day and time frame as well as providing a variety of programs that will appeal to all ages and include school age children.

In honor of Hispanic Heritage, children and families created a Hojalata craft during Family Fun Friday, while listening to stories and a specially created song playlist created by Ms. Lea Ann.

Thousand Oaks hosted Tambo Rhythms program in which children enjoyed learning about rhythm, close listening skills, leadership, community and cooperation through this unique drumming program.

This month’s Teen Time, hosted by Librarian Kimberly King, was half creative and half relaxing. During the first half of the month, the teens made color-your-own velvet mandalas while listening to music. They also made very imaginative clay creations and did the continually popular activity of jewelry making. At the last half of the month, they rounded out their activities with watching movies: Venom and Phantom of the Opera. As always, the teens played an integral part in deciding what they wanted to do week after week.

Thousand Oaks Librarian II Theresa Garza spent a lot of time making community connections at the Northeast Senior Center this reporting period. First up is the North East Senior Center Book Club, which meets every fourth Tuesday of the month. Readers thoroughly enjoyed the September selection, A Man Called Ove, by Fredrik Backman. Translated from the original Swedish, readers loved the transformation of the cranky old man into the lovable Granddad of the neighborhood. The group explored themes of love, loss, friendship, and redemption.

The next event at the Senior Center was the NESC Expo on September 26, where Ms. Garza was able to promote the Book Club to members of the center. All the classes were represented, with many members stopping by the library table to ask questions about the book club, their library cards, and accessing digital collections.

Ms. Garza represented the library at the 4th Annual Health & Resource Fair on the morning of October 8. This fun and informative event serves as a one stop shop for members to learn about available services from which they may benefit.

The Thousand Oaks Thursday Book Group read Sue Monk Kidd’s The Invention of Wings for the September meeting. Set in the early 19th Century South a young girl Sarah Grimke is given a slave on her twelfth birthday. Sarah believes slavery is wrong and tries to free her ward. Thus tells the tale of Sarah and her slave Handful. Not only is this a tale of slavery in the American South but also women’s rights. Sarah and her sister Angelina spend their life fighting for slave and women’s rights. The book was well received by group members. Ms. Kidd’s writing was clear and well researched.
New Children’s Librarian, Valerie Carroll, started working at the branch on September 23. Ms. Carroll comes to Tobin Library with past experience at both Schertz and Seguin’s Public Libraries.

Children’s Librarian, Barbaraella Frazier’s weekly programs continue with very solid attendance including Toddler Two, Toddler Time, Story Time and Baby Time. Library Assistant, Elvia Ramos from Las Palmas Branch Library, currently assists with the Bilingual Story Time that occurs once a month. In addition, Ms. Frazier oversees the weekend Come and Go Crafts and the monthly Lego Club.

Read to a Dog happens twice a month as part of Tobin’s children’s programming on the first and third Wednesday’s. Trainer, Margaret Rivera, brings one of her dogs, Angel or Cowboy, and children practice reading out loud to the dog. Early readers and children through middle school enjoy this special event.

Circulation Attendant, Lauren Jennings, assisted the Little Read Wagon at an outreach event at Pickwell Park on October 11. Ms. Jennings helped with the early literacy fun which involves children and their families making and playing with messy paint playdough and water.

Assistant Manager, Rhonda Woolhouse, helped host a booth for two days at the Big Texas Comic Con held at the Convention Center September 20 – 22. Visitors learn about library services and create a simple craft or other fun stuff.

Friends of the Tobin Library at Oakwell held a Preview Book Sale for Friends of San Antonio Public Library on Friday September 27 from 4:00 – 6:00pm. Then on Saturday, October 28 a full day sale open to the public. Sales were good and help to fund many programs and supplies held at the branch. The Book Nook in the entry foyer provides substantial funding as well from on-going sales.

The Interesting Book Group met on October 2 to discuss Louise Erdrich’s *Future Home of the Living God*. The fiction title has a futuristic theme in a police state involving evolution.

Various staff hosts After School Fun Time on school days for the one hour program which includes serving San Antonio Food Bank snacks with activities. Some of the more popular “fun” that happens is board games, hula hoops, crafts, movies and WII gaming.

Each month, the Food Bank requires a nutrition lesson be taught as part of the after school snacks being provided. On September 30, Ms. Carroll conducted a session on the 5 Basic Food Groups and Healthy Snacks. Kids made Bugs on a Log which consist of raisins, low fat cream cheese, celery, carrots and apples slices.

Library Assistant, Andrew Charltonjones, now is the Dungeon Master for the Dungeon and Dragon Club that meets weekly on Thursday’s. Mr. Charltonjones has started a new campaign with the group of teens and is seeing attendance increase as a result.
In October, the Westfall Branch Library provided a variety of programs and services to the community. There were weekly programs for all ages and a wide range of topics. In addition to many events hosted at the branch, the staff was also able to offer off site services as well as outreach.

In September and October, the Westfall branch library continued to partner with SAMPL: San Antonio Music Production Lab, which provides free music production workshops for students and adults. The workshops primarily use Apple’s Garage Band app to teach children and adults how to create and mix their own music. All equipment is provided by SAMPL and it’s a great way for people to get creative. SAMPL is a mobile music production lab whose mission is to create positive change in the lives of young people by fostering creativity, empowering voice, and developing both tech based and social skills through audio and music production.

In September and October the Westfall Branch hosted Yoga for Beginners and Meditation for Beginners in partnership with the Isha Foundation. Each class focused on how yoga and meditation can improve one’s health and overall wellness. These classes may be offered more in the future depending on demand.

On Tuesday, October 1st, Imelda Merino, Children’s Librarian from the Westfall Branch Library, represented the San Antonio Public Library at a “Wash and Learn” session at the E-Z Wash at 319 St. Cloud. The Wash and Learn Initiative was created by an organization called Libraries without Borders and SAPL has just recently started working with them. Imelda was joined by fellow librarian Lily Perez from the Central Reference Department. Both Lily and Imelda spoke with a few patrons, most of them Spanish speaking, to let them know who they were and that they were there if they had any questions about the library. Before the library staff members left, they invited the family to come to the library for a visit.

In September and October Westfall Teen Time included several arts and crafts activities. Teens created pumpkin spice slime, D-I-Y stickers, and took part in a scavenger hunt. Westfall teens also celebrated Hispanic Heritage month with a Mexican folk art craft. Teens designed and created metal tiles and hearts that they used to decorate the teen space.

Teen Services Librarian, Cindy Cruz, assisted at the Rock the Plaza event held at Central Library on September 28. This yearly event showcases teen musicians in the plaza of the downtown library. Cindy and the other committee members organized and coordinated this event that had an estimated attendance of over 400.

The Westfall Branch Library continued to host the “Stranger than Fiction” and “Third Thursday” book clubs. Books read this month included “Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II” by Liza Mundy and “The Ninth Hour” by Alice McDermott. Both book clubs draw small but dedicated groups that enjoy discussing the themes of the books as well as other issues of the day.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES