



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2024



FORT BEND COUNTY
LIBRARIES

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HIGHLIGHTS

Polling Sites at the Library

Fort Bend County Libraries (FBCL) began the month as polling sites on Election Day at five locations: **Cinco Ranch Branch, Fulshear Branch, George Memorial Library (Richmond), Mission Bend Branch, and University Branch (Sugar Land)**. As with early voting, the library was a popular voting place.

Albert George and Mamie George Branch Libraries Celebrate 50th Anniversary

In November 1974, two branches named after Albert and Mamie George were opened. Both branches celebrated their anniversary this month. On November 2, **Mamie George Branch Library (Stafford)** celebrated its 50th anniversary. In conjunction with the anniversary, the Friends of the Mamie George Branch hosted a two-day book sale.

On November 9, the **Albert George Branch Library (Needville)** celebrated its 50th anniversary. This spectacular event was themed in black and gold. A "Celebrating 50 Years" bulletin board and a slideshow featured images of the library and staff throughout the years. Many people shared their experiences at the Albert George Branch from over the years and perused the scrapbooks. Punch, cake, and sandwiches were enjoyed by those in attendance. Activities like "Guess How Many Bookworms Are in the Jar," "Spin the Wheel and Win a Prize," and making their own bookmarks were available to attendees. About 100 people showed up for the occasion.

2024 FBCL Book Festival

On Saturday, November 16, FBCL's annual Book Festival took place at the George Memorial Library in Richmond. The Book Festival celebrates books, authors, and the importance of literature to the imagination.

The keynote speaker was Texas native, **Stacey Swann**, author of ***Olympus, Texas***. Audience members learned all about the inspiration for the novel, how small-town life in Texas is woven into the story, and how mythology influences the plot. Swann also talked about the themes of family and forgiveness, as well as her writing process.

Young Audiences of Houston teaching artist **Malia's Hula Hut** demonstrated the beautiful storytelling techniques that are woven into the song and dance of Polynesia, including the hula from the islands of Hawai'i, Tahitian from the islands of Tahiti, the Haka and Poi Balls of New Zealand, and fire-knife dancing from Samoa. Although these dances may often be seen performed together in a Polynesian show, they are unique and represent various cultures.

Kids, teens, and adults enjoyed the come-and-go **Mythic Mayhem Escape Room** where teams enter through a virtual portal into another place and time, where they must solve puzzles to find their way through multiple mythical worlds to return to the present!

In the Bohachevsky Gallery, there was face painting, button making, rocket launching, ornament making, and more at the **Kids' Book Carnival!**

And you couldn't miss the annual **Friends of the Library Book Sale** at the front entrance of the library. All proceeds from the book sale go toward programs and activities just like the Book Festival!

HIGHLIGHTS

Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month was celebrated with events and exhibits. Carol Beauchamp, of the Genealogy & Local History department at **George Memorial Library**, provided information on the Karankawa Indians of Texas' Gulf Coast region on November 22 at the **Missouri City Branch**, November 25 at the **Sugar Land Branch**, and November 26 at the **Fulshear Branch**. On November 23, children at **George Memorial** participated in the "Bluebonnet Thumbprint" blended storytelling-and-art event, where they listened to Tomie dePaola's *The Legend of the Bluebonnet* and produced their own bluebonnet blossoms with their thumbs and blue and white paint. The **Mission Bend Branch's** Youth Department provided several crafts, including water-bottle totem poles and beaded corn cobs. In addition, **Albert George, Cinco Ranch, and Missouri City Branches** had drop-in art events and displays.

International Games Day

International Games Day takes place every November. On November 16, **Sugar Land Branch** offered a unique Saturday event for middle-grade students. Attendees had fun playing a range of board games as well as Xbox and Wii video games. **Sugar Land Branch** also hosted its first-ever Board Game and Puzzle Swap. Customers generously donated their gently used games and puzzles between November 7 and 21. On the day of the swap, participants chose one item for each donated item. The event attracted 106 customers and gathered 292 things. Tabletop games, floor puzzles, and building toys were available for both children and adults to enjoy at the **Mission Bend Branch's** Family Game Day. Children who attended the "Life-Sized Games" at **First Colony Branch** played Giant Jenga, Giant Connect Four, Giant Uno, and life-sized Chutes and Ladders. Ladders and slides for the Chutes and Ladders game are printed on legal-sized paper to form a big gaming board on the floor. During the "Computer Games" After-School program, children played online multiplayer games on the GimKit website. The website provides a variety of classroom-friendly competitive activities that foster collaboration.

Outreach across the Library System

Fort Bend County Libraries conducted outreach around the county during the month. **Sienna Branch** hosted a monthly book club at the Missouri City Recreation Center. The residents at Clayton Oaks Living, a retirement community, were treated to a book talk from University Branch staff on November 12. The Adult Services staff at the **University Branch** also assisted seniors at Landon Ridge Independent Living, who were delighted to see them. The **Missouri City Branch's** Youth Services department attended two career days and made a regular visit to Fifth Street HeadStart. **George Memorial** Youth staff took part in three events hosted by the Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (LCISD). **Fulshear Branch** Youth staff also participated in an LCISD program at Morgan Elementary School.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Administration Building in Richmond

Updates:

- The Administration building was built in 2014, so the existing air-conditioning system is more than 10 years old and needs replacement. Installation of the new air-conditioning unit will be completed in January 2025. The new system allows digital, remote access and will run more efficiently.

George Memorial Library in Richmond

Updates:

- Elevator repairs were made.
- Toilet leaks repaired throughout the building.
- Time on outside lights have been adjusted.

Upcoming projects include:

- With the increase in residential development in the area in recent years – including more homes and apartments – it was determined that safety and security measures were needed at George Memorial Library. These safety measures include: new fencing around the amphitheater and around the county vehicle parking lot.
- Because of leaks in the roof and atrium at George Memorial Library – which increase the risk of accidents and mold -- we have requested bids from two different companies for roof replacement and glass sealant.

Albert George Branch in Needville

Updates:

- Water sprinklers were repaired.
- Meeting Room emergency exit door was repaired.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Cinco Ranch Branch

Updates:

- The Cinco Ranch Branch Library was built in 2004. The carpet, paint, and lighting have never been replaced and need updating. The library will close in early spring for carpet replacement and for repairs, including paint and new lighting.

Fulshear Branch

Updates:

- The Fulshear Branch Library opened in December 2023, and corrections to punch-list items for building completion are being finalized.

Mission Bend Branch

Updates:

- Fixtures in the restroom sinks have been replaced to a single-push mechanism to minimize wear-and-tear on the fixtures.

Sienna Branch

Updates:

- A leak near the second-floor copy center was repaired.

Sugar Land Branch

Updates:

- The wheels of the glass sliding-door display case have been replaced.
- The door closer on the door of the women's public restroom has been repaired.

PHOTO GALLERY

Mamie George Branch in Stafford - 50th Anniversary Celebration, November 2, 2024



Albert George Branch in Needville - 50th Anniversary Celebration, November 9, 2024



George Memorial Library in Richmond - Book Festival, November 16, 2024



PHOTO GALLERY

Native American Heritage Month



International Games Day



Outreach in November



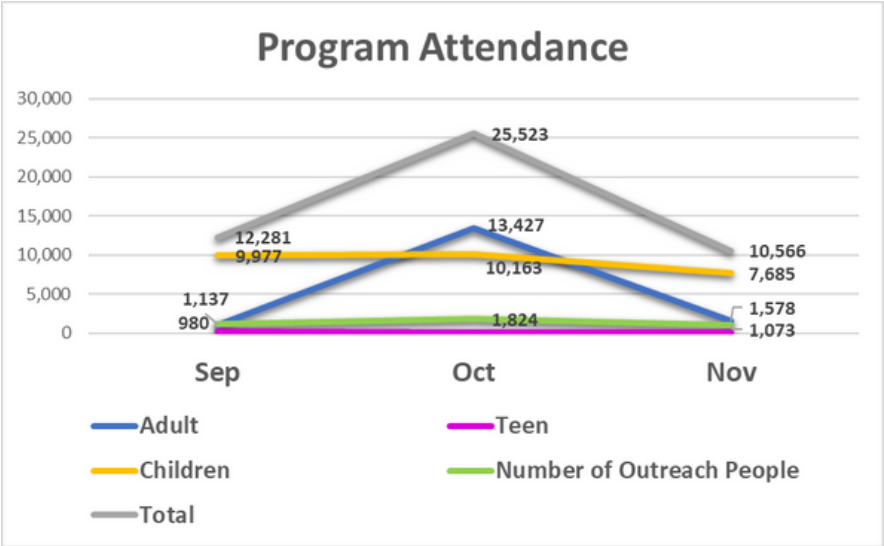
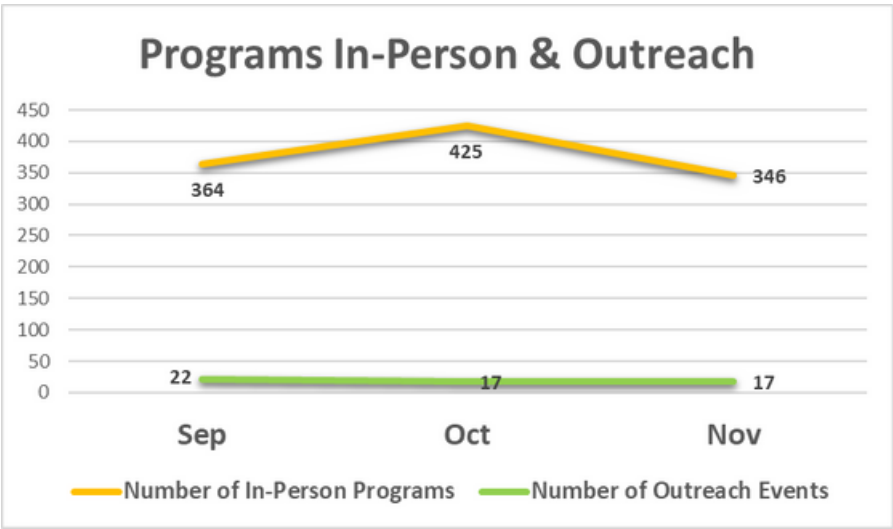
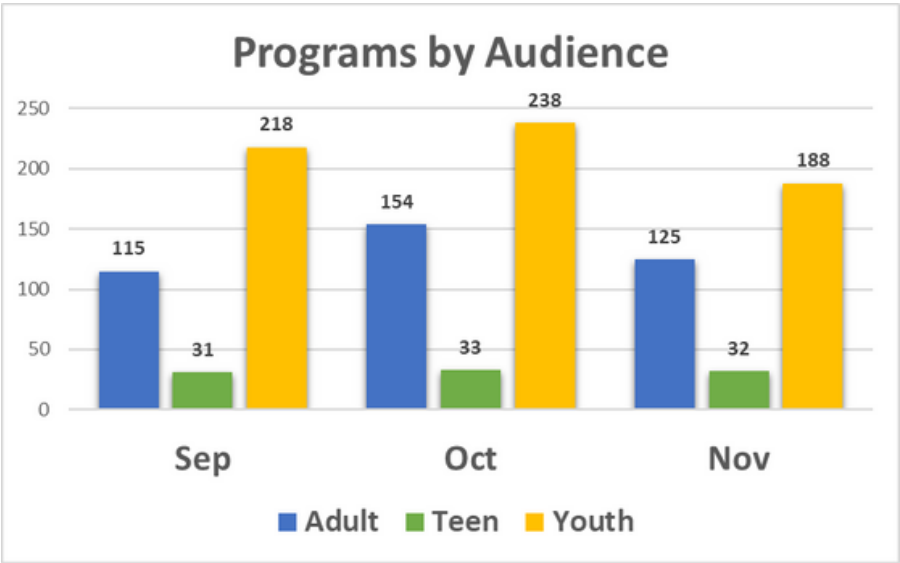
DATA & NUMBERS

NOVEMBER 2024

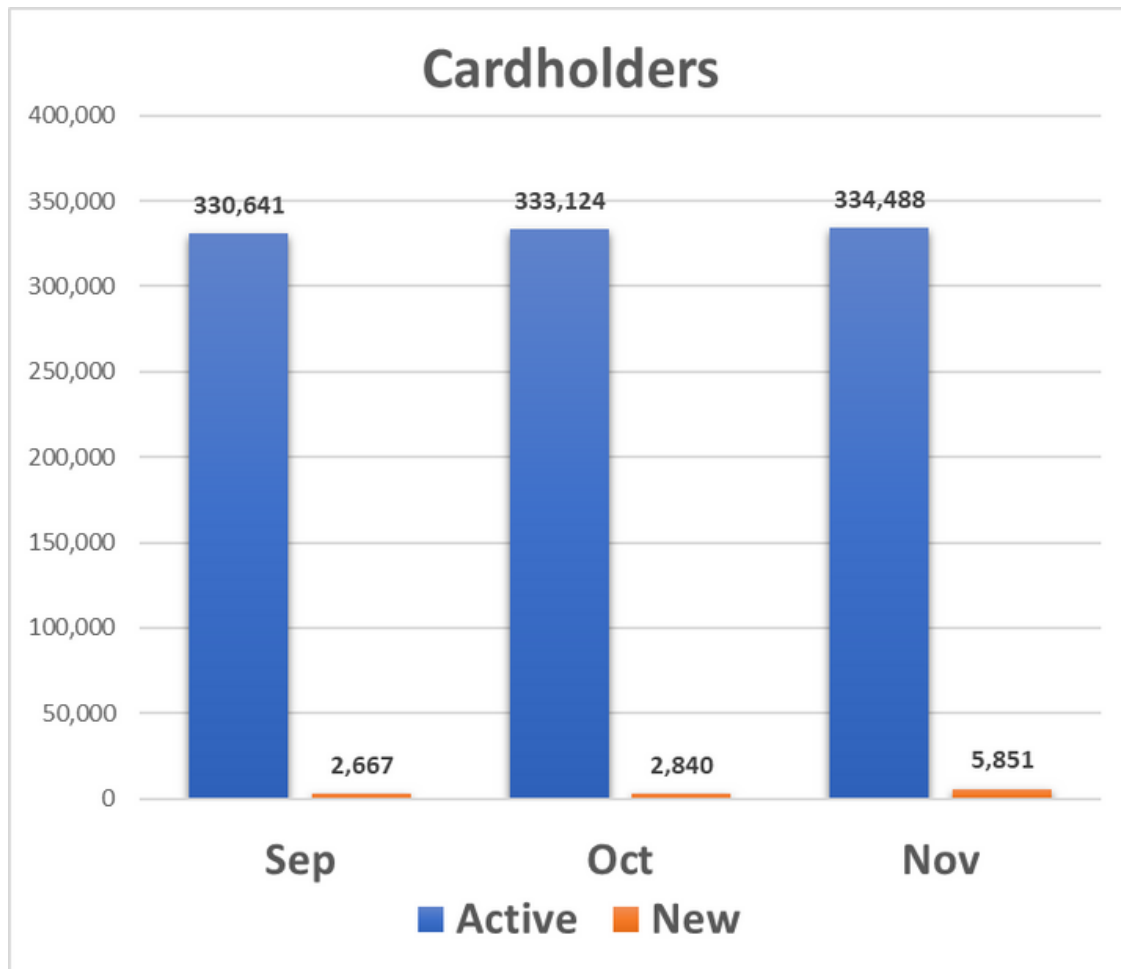


**FORT BEND COUNTY
LIBRARIES**

PROGRAMS



CARDHOLDERS & VISITORS

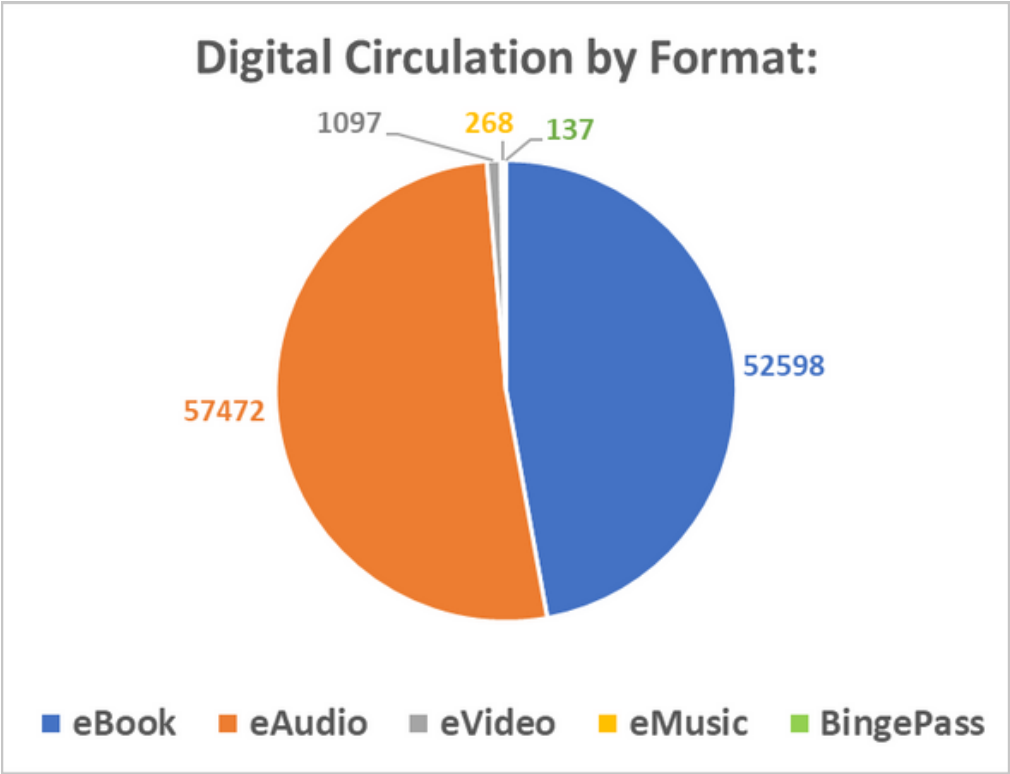
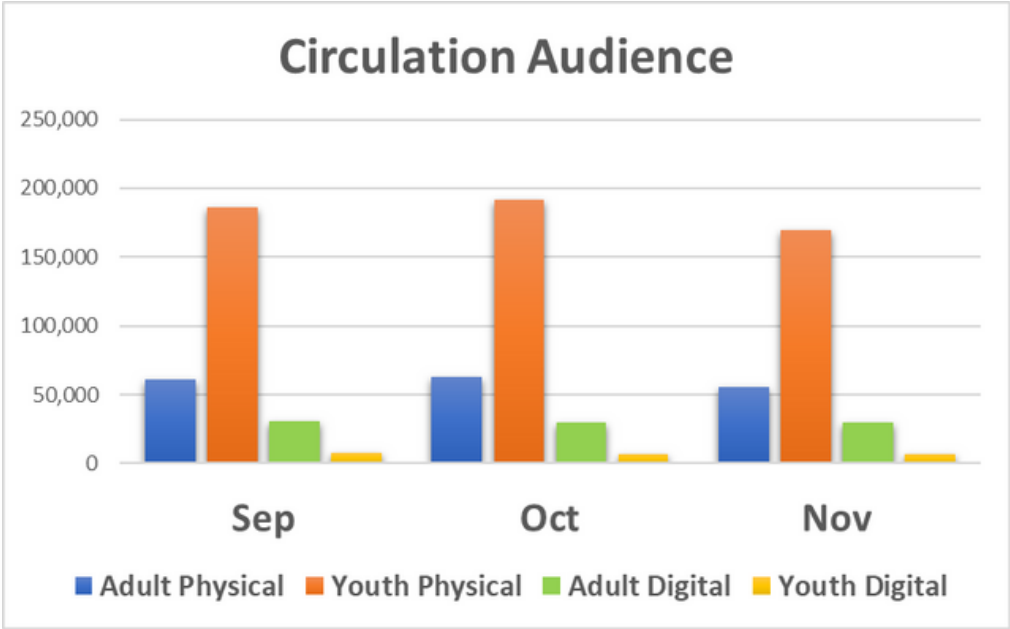


Google Review

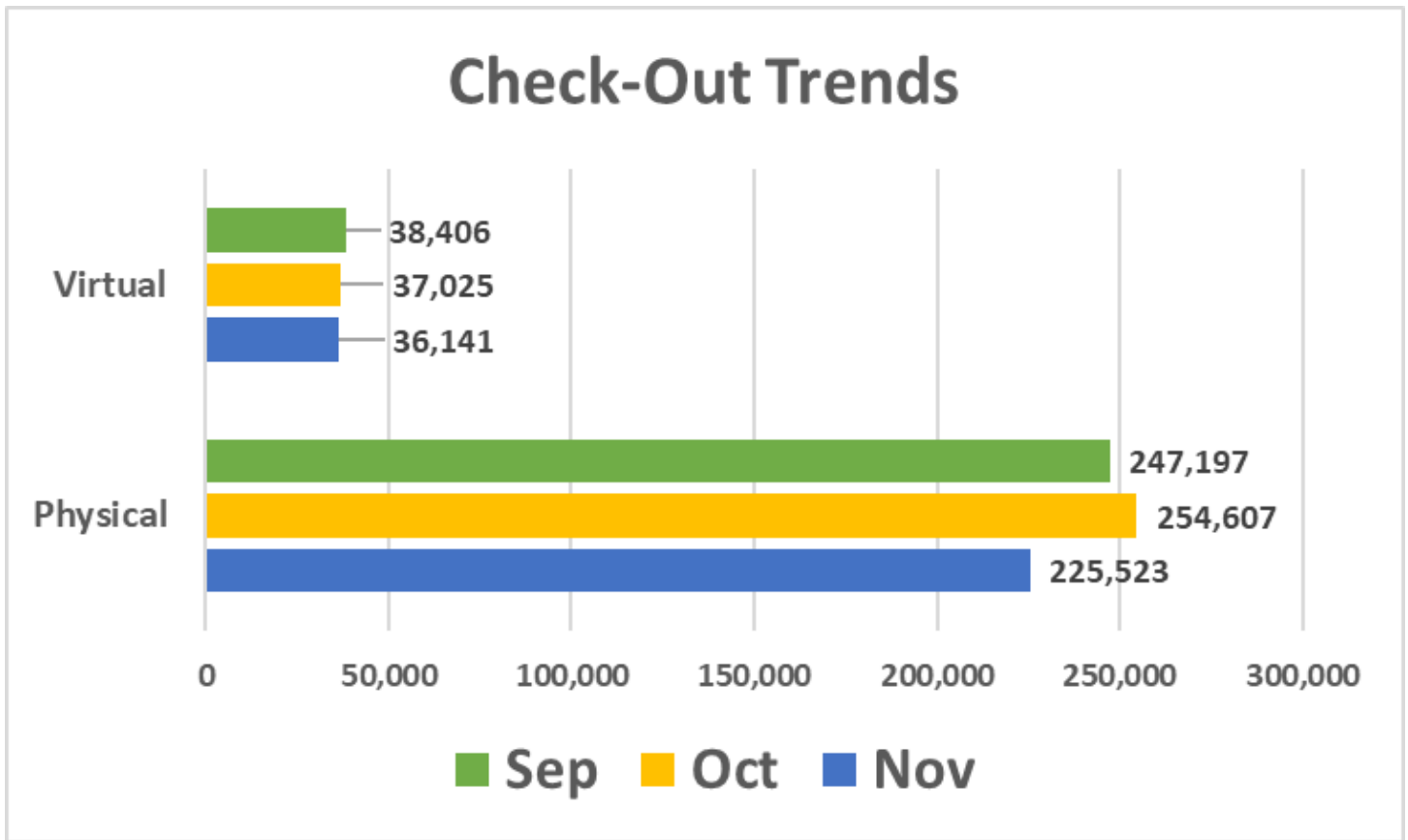
"This library has an excellent juvenile/kids book collection. They have a very inviting section for children to read and enjoy their library experience! The librarians are also very sweet and helpful."



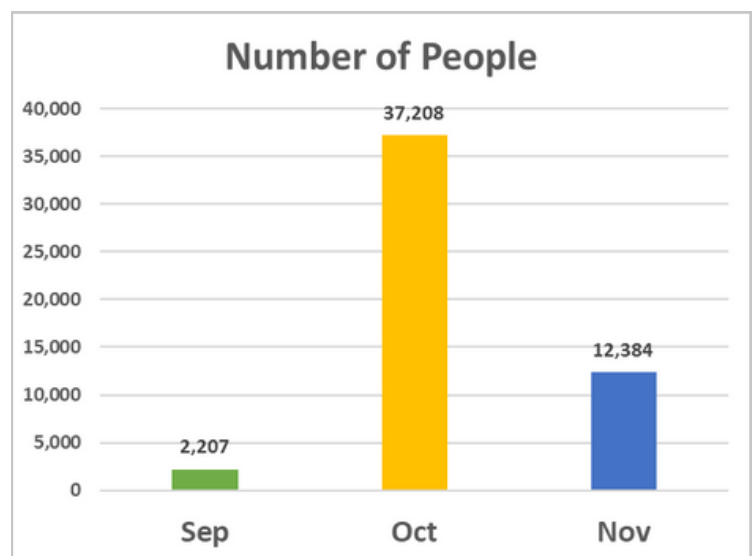
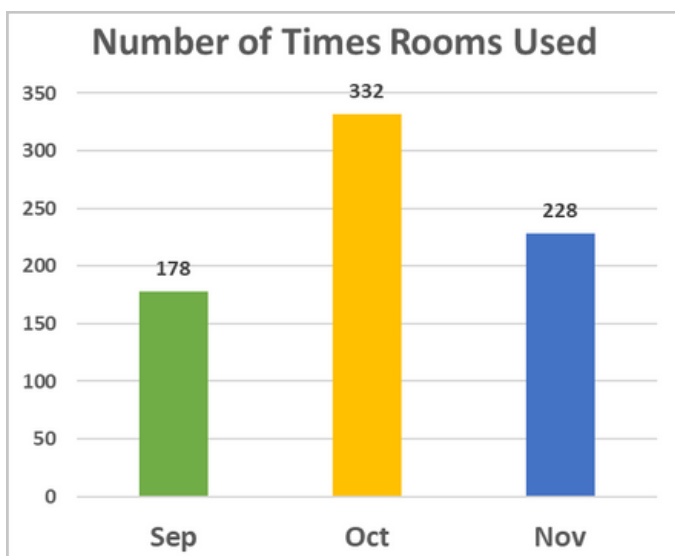
CIRCULATION



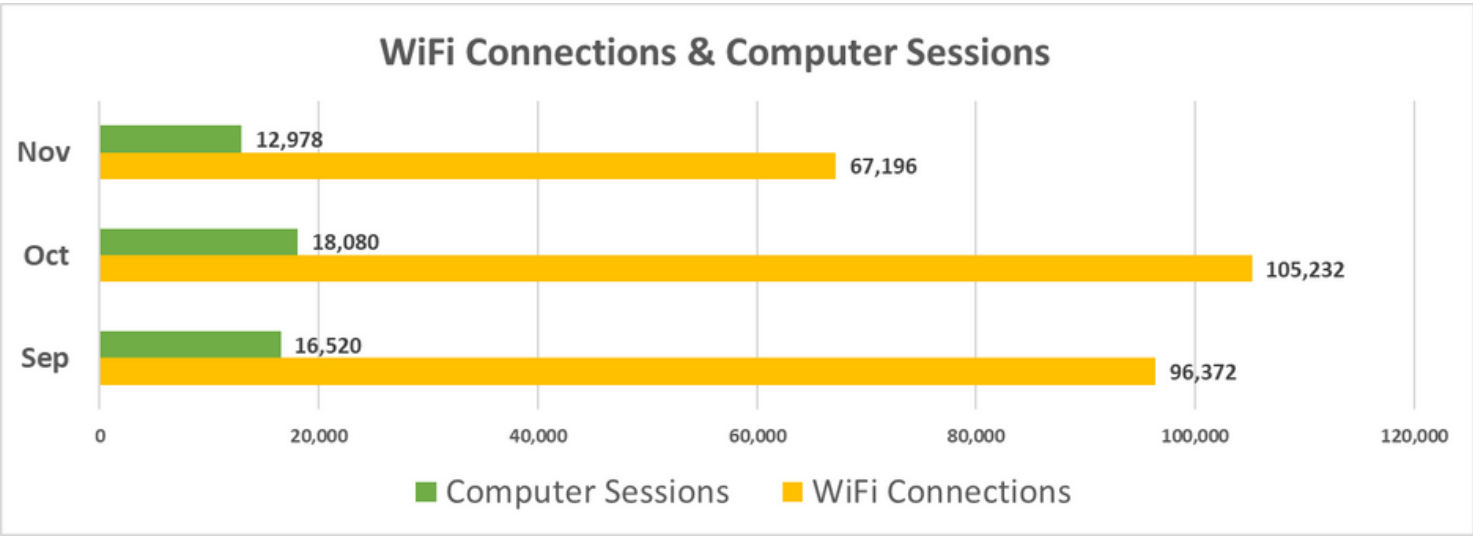
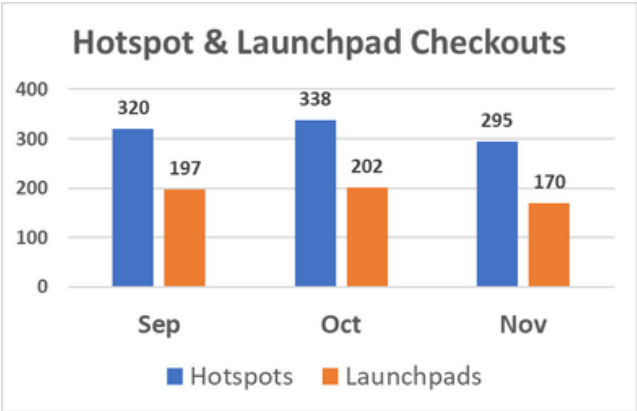
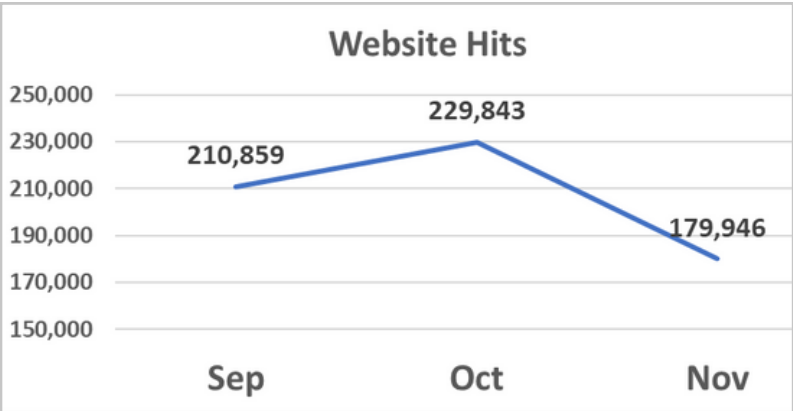
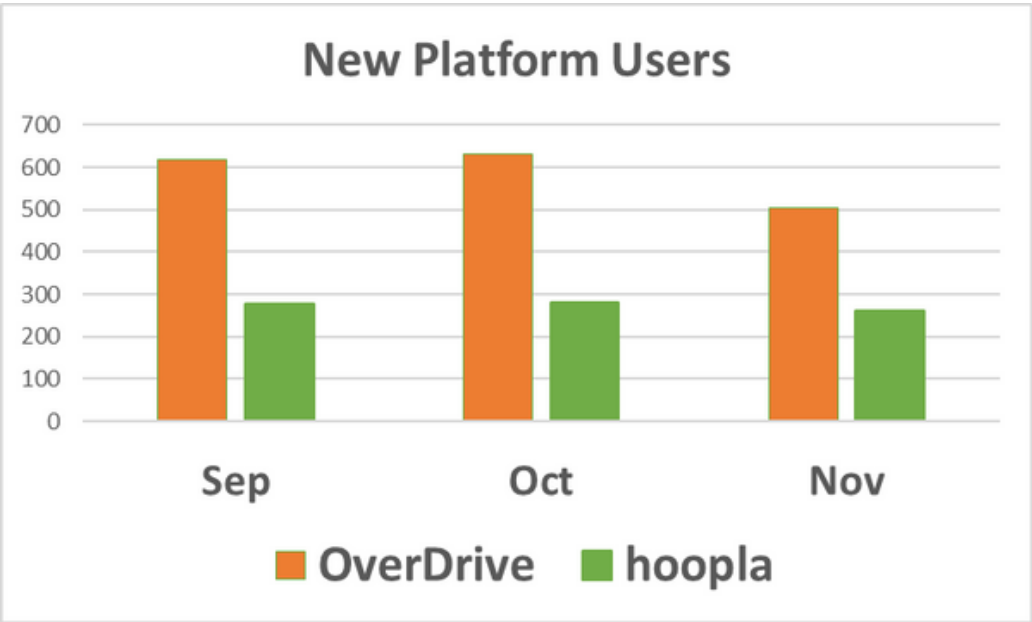
CHECK OUTS & MEETING ROOMS



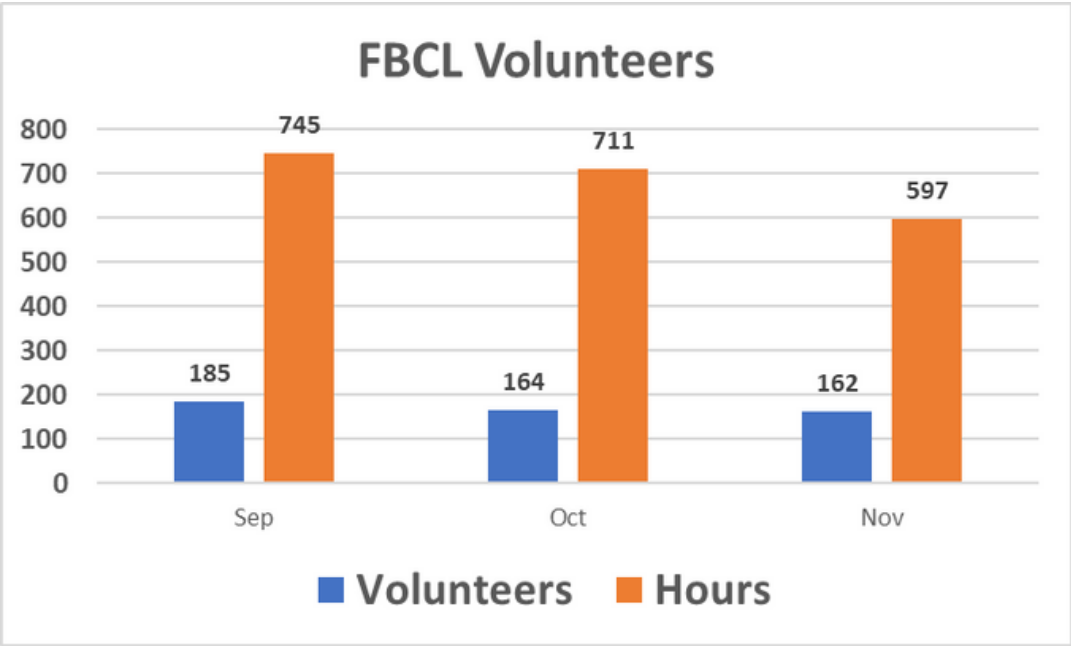
MEETING ROOM RESERVATIONS



PLATFORMS & TECH



VOLUNTEERS & COMMUNITY SERVICE



BUDGET & EXPENDITURES

FBCL by the Numbers	
	November 2024 - Budget Report
	Fiscal Yar 2025 (10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025)
Total Budget	\$ 23,939,555.00
FTEs	267.50
Year to Date Revenues, as of 10/01/2024	
Donations	\$1,531.49
Fines, Copiers, 3D Prints, etc.	\$26,818.47