



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

APRIL 2025



FORT BEND COUNTY
LIBRARIES

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HIGHLIGHTS

System-Wide Outreach

LCISD Spring Book Festival was on Thursday, April 3, and was attended by Rachelle Hollingsworth Youth Librarian **Missouri City Branch**, Philip Kramer Adult Librarian **Geroge Memorial Library in Richmond**, Dana Brittain Youth Services Coordinator, and Amy Girgnhuber Young Adult Librarian. This event focused on selected books from this year's state award lists. In celebration of the book *"Birds of Prey,"* Dana and Rachelle helped youth make buttons with hawks, eagles, and owls. Also, to celebrate the book *"The Mystery of the Monarchs"* students could make a paper butterfly or a monarch butterfly button. The prize wheel offered parents and high school students the opportunity to win prizes while learning about volunteer opportunities and programs for teens and adults. Youth programs continue to draw children and families to branch libraries.

University Branch -- On Tuesday, April 8, the Adult Services Manager visited the Clayton Oaks senior facility to give a book talk to eight (8) residents. On Thursday, April 17, the Adult Services Manager visited The Village at Sugar Land senior facility to give an expanded book talk to eight (8) residents.

National Library Week (April 6-12)

Albert George Branch - After-School Break - **Game Day at the Library:** In celebration of National Library Appreciation Week, the library hosted a fun-filled Game Day at the Library! Library staff, families, and friends gathered for an exciting afternoon of classic **board games and card games**. Popular fan favorites were Scrabble, Connect Four, Candy Land, and Uno. This event was a perfect opportunity to enjoy some fun and friendly competition with library staff.

Sugar Land Branch - Community members were invited to join the branch on Saturday, April 5, for a round of **book-related trivia** in honor of Library Appreciation Month.

Fulshear Branch - The branch offered two programs to celebrate Library Appreciation Month. The first one was **Library Careers** where 3 patrons showed up to learn about the different jobs at the library and requirements. *(What was the 2nd program?)*

Missouri City Branch - For Library Week, the library hosted *"From Bookmobile to Branches: The Journey of Fort Bend County Libraries"* with **The Fort Bend Museum**.

University Branch - On Saturday, April 12, the library hosted a **D.E.A.R. Day Reading Lounge**. Adult Services and Youth Services collaborated on this program to celebrate National Library Month and Drop Everything And Read Day. The D.E.A.R. Day Lounge was set up with inflatable comfortable seating for children, materials to make a blanket fort, and light refreshments.

HIGHLIGHTS

Build It Programs

George Memorial Library in Richmond - On Tuesday, April 8, guests participated in a "**Build it!**" After-School Break event led by Emily Bennett and Linda Lyons. Participants took part in a variety of hands-on building activities, including a LEGO-based Building Brick STEM Challenge Kit for grades 3-5, the Turn-and-Learn magnetic gears game at the stand-up magnetic design center, Jumbo Linking Cubes, Soft and Quiet Building Blocks, and assorted LEGO bricks. The building challenges were spring themed-chicks, rainbows, flowers, eggs, and bunnies.

Albert George Branch in Needville - Building Club: On Thursday, April 24, participants designed and built structures using building toys such as Straws & Connectors, Playstix, Legos, and more! Students in grades K-5 constructed amazing creations. Some creations consist of a dog, chairs, towers and more! April's challenge was to create a moveable race car and then raced to see who could get to the finish line without their race car collapsing.

First Colony Branch - During April's Building Club, children and their caregivers were able to build whatever they wanted using the building materials provided. They were able to build using Legos, Kapla blocks, wooden blocks, magnetic tiles, and connecting straws.

Games & Video Game Programs

First Colony Branch -The Creative Connections program for April was "**Ultimate Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament**" presented by youth paraprofessional, Olivia Von Ruff. In an arcade style program, attendees were able to enter the tournament and play other games to receive tokens and redeem them for prizes. Attendees enjoyed snacks while waiting their turn.

George Memorial Library in Richmond - On Thursday, April 24, Deepna Bhana hosted the **Roll with It: Board Game Club** where participants played a variety of games, including Codenames. The **Family Games & Jigsaw Puzzles** come-and-go option for library patrons in the Middle Grades Game Room was open until one hour before closing Monday through Saturday for a total of 186 hours. We saw 180 patrons (101 children and 79 adults) take advantage of this opportunity during the month of April.

Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra Games

Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra came for their annual performance at the **George Memorial Library outdoor Jodie E. Stavinoha Amphitheater**. This year they performed "**Orchestra Games**", introducing kids to a fun, engaging demonstration of the different periods of music from the formation of notes to the baroque period to contemporary music. They offered their traditional '**petting zoo**' where kids could try out different instruments in the **Bohachevsky Gallery**.

HIGHLIGHTS

Earth Day

First Colony Branch - Youth are encouraged to participate in a **bi-monthly challenge question**.

Twice a month a new challenge question is up and ready for youth to submit their answers. Those that answer the question correctly are put in a drawing to win a prize. On average, about 40 youth participate in this bi-weekly challenge question. This month featured questions about Earth and butterflies. This month we also had the **ISPY: Earth Day display** as a passive program. Forty five children participated in finding flowers, frogs, Snoopy stickers, butterflies, turtles, and more. This program was led by paraprofessional Olivia Von Ruff. On Fridays, April 11 and April 25, guests were invited to join Kathy Vu, First Colony Community Member, for an informational session on **Bitcoin in Plain English**. Ms. Vu covered topics such as how Bitcoin works, the pros and cons of investing in Bitcoin, and the future of Bitcoin.

Fulshear Branch - Middle School programs, led by Adri Rondel, welcomed 15 students and three adults. The key program for April was a **mason jar gardens craft** using recycled materials as well as materials provided by the Friends of the Fulshear Branch Library.

George Memorial Library in Richmond - On Tuesday, April 22, a total of 18 children and 9 adults participated in a "**Plastic Bottle Bird Feeders**" After-School Break event led by Emily Bennett and Alicia Saravia. Students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 constructed homemade bird feeders using plastic bottles, spoons, twine, and birdseed. Participants enjoyed repurposing everyday materials and having something to take home and hang outside.

National Poetry Month

George Memorial Library in Richmond - On Saturday, April 26, **The Live Oak Playhouse**, a local community theater based in Missouri City, brought 13 actors to portray **famous poets** from various time periods for a day of **interactive theater**. Dressed in full costume, the actors interacted with patrons in full character while reciting poetry at a mini stage on the 2nd floor landing. There was **high tea** served in Room 2C where patrons could talk one on one with poets over tea and refreshments. Local poet **Melissa Huckabay** also attended.

First Colony Branch - Poetry Month Workshop - On Saturday, April 26, guests joined librarian Ariel Hess for a general overview of different formats of poetry types and different ways on how to write poetry. Participants got a chance to **write and share poetry** and ended with a general overview of story writing.

Mission Bend Branch - The library hosted a **blackout poetry program** in celebration of National Poetry Month.

Autism Awareness Symposium at Missouri City Branch

Missouri City Branch - On April 17, the library hosted an Autism Awareness Symposium in conjunction with Andrea Sawyer, Library Outreach Coordinator. The event featured a strong lineup of speakers, including advocates, educators, and professionals in the autism community. H-E-B- served as the official event sponsor, providing refreshments for attendees.

HIGHLIGHTS

Teen Programs

Fulshear Branch - All members of the Young Adult Advisory Group received applications for the **Teen Advisory Group**, a county-wide replacement to the Young Adult Advisory Council. Guests watched the first episode of "**Your Lie in April**" and played Kahoot! and Taboo at the **Teen Anime Club**. We held a new program in April, the **Writing Club for Teens**.

George Memorial Library in Richmond - On April 16, Janelle Johnson from the **Fort Bend Extension Office** gave a presentation on **Insurance Basics** as part of the **Teen Financial Literacy Series**. On April 21, **Anime Community Club**, focusing on **Origami and Japanese cream soda**. On April 26, Kathy Rose from **CollegeCommunityCareer** spoke about **Social Media and College Admissions**.

First Colony Branch

This month in After-School Break, youth librarian Dan Reed presented "**Science Stations**" and "**Comic Strips Workshop**". In "Science Stations", children used an Electricity kit and a Force & Motion kit to learn about conductors and force. The children were able to create a simple circuit and pendulums. In "Comic Strips Workshops", the children learned about comic strip essentials, panel layout, dialogue, and more. Attendees had fun creating their own comic strips from scratch or filling out premade strips.

University Branch

On April 4, the library hosted **Craft Squad: Miniature Bookshelves**. In this program, guests turned wooden boxes into miniature bookshelves. They decorated the boxes with paint and decorative paper, then assembled their miniature books made of craft foam sheets. Everyone added their custom-selected book covers to their foam books. Everyone also got a miniature fake plant to put on their shelves.

On April 11, the popular **Senior Series** program met. The topic of this month's lecture was **The Truth About Aging in the Right Place**. Certified Senior Housing Professional Liz McNeel's presentation about resources and support networks available to caregivers was well-received.

AARP Tax Assistance

AARP finished their tax season strong at the Fort Bend County Libraries as they included two new locations this year. The Mission Bend Branch and Sienna Branch Libraries were new locations this year and they were able to assist a healthy number of patrons requesting tax filing assistance. Library locations included: **George Memorial Library** in Richmond, **Fulshear Branch**, **Sienna Branch**, **Mission Bend Branch**, and **Sugar Land Branch**. Total clients served were 2,743 patrons (Fulshear: 139, Sienna: 468, George Memorial: 1,481, Mission Bend: 138, Sugar Land: 517). *The Cinco Ranch Branch was not included as a location for 2025 because of an anticipated re-carpeting project.*

PHOTO GALLERY

Walking in Verse at George Memorial Library in Richmond



Autism Awareness Symposium at Missouri City Branch Library



FACILITIES UPDATE

Cinco Ranch Branch

The library had to close early on Monday, April 14, because a nearby watermain was damaged near the library.

First Colony Branch

Leak near light fixture in Adult Services repaired; Leak near light fixture in circulation workroom above rolling shelves 9 and 10 (Partial repair); Leak in Children's near juvenile book spinners partial repair. Leak in adult fiction above the FIC STA section (repaired); Leak above ANF 900 section (repaired); Leak in study room 6 (repaired). Roof repair occurred Dec 30- Jan 3. Suppression release system in outside book drop need to be repaired.

Fulshear Branch

The library will be closed May 19-26 for repairs to the HVAC and other various issues. The Meeting Room has water leaking from the ceiling and the floor again. We have closed it through May to hopefully be fixed during the repair week. The blinds in the conference room still need to be removed. We have an increase in the frequency of ceiling tiles becoming loose. The HVAC system continues to need weekly tweaking, especially during hot weather. The terrace is still unavailable because of damage from Hurricane Beryl. The list of issues was updated to included enhanced importance on the HVAC, ceiling tiles, and the Meeting Room.

George Memorial Library

Made temperature adjustments to the A/C, Toilet repairs, Elevator adjustments made. The roof continues to leak when it rains.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Mission Bend Branch

Staff continue to monitor roof leaks above Circulation service desk, above Circulation workroom desk, above staff PC in Adult/Circulation workroom, and in public area above Friends bookshelf. There was no additional leaking noticed during the month of April. Changed out the water filters on both the staff refrigerator and the public water fountain in April.

Missouri City Branch

Discovered rodent activity in the wire closet in the large Meeting Room. The rodents have chewed the base of the two flagpoles stored in the closet. Droppings were also noticed in the room. Sticky traps were set up the next day. No further chewing has been observed at this point of time.

The elevator phone was finally fixed in a collaboration with the county, library maintenance, and the elevator company. Repairs were made to the A/C in the network closet room.

Mamie George Branch in Stafford

One of our panel lights went out and leaked the fluid inside the screen. The light went out end of day on a Saturday. Maintenance was called Monday and they came out that afternoon and replaced the light because there was a spare one in our storage area.

Sugar Land Branch

This month, maintenance staff fixed a leak on the air handler, and technology staff replaced the power supply and monitor of the computer that handles announcements.

University Branch

CenterPoint Energy requested another planned power outage on the University of Houston Sugar Land Campus which affected the University Branch Library. Power was shutdown to the library building from Saturday 3/29 - 3/30/2025.

DATA & NUMBERS

APRIL 2025

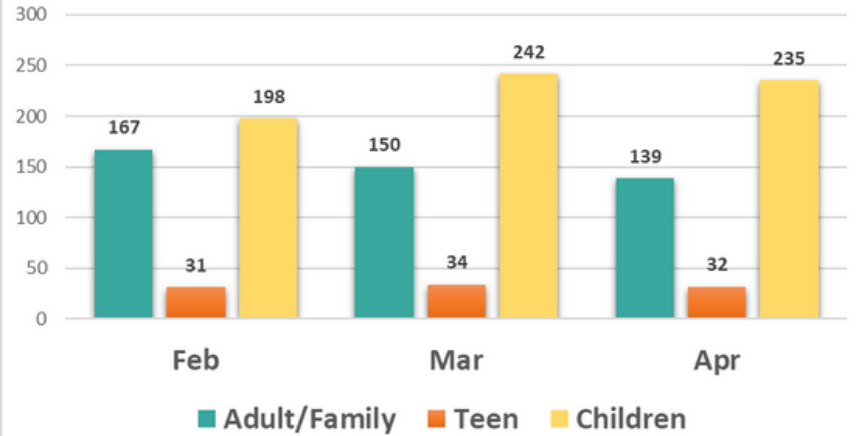


FORT BEND COUNTY
LIBRARIES

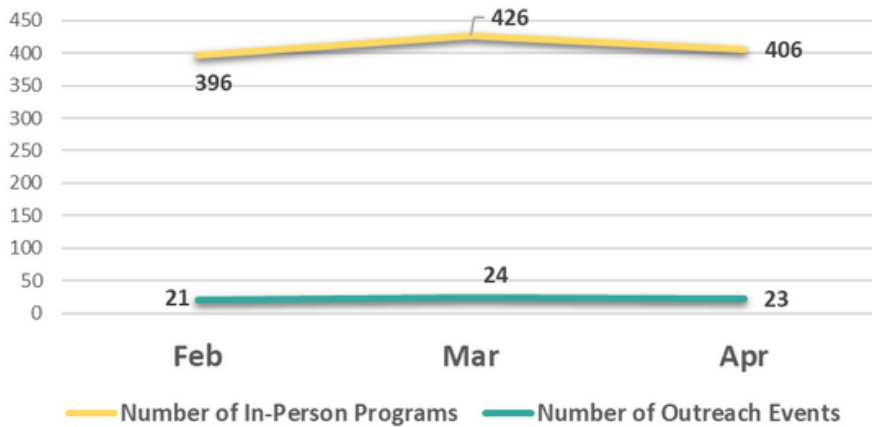
PROGRAMS



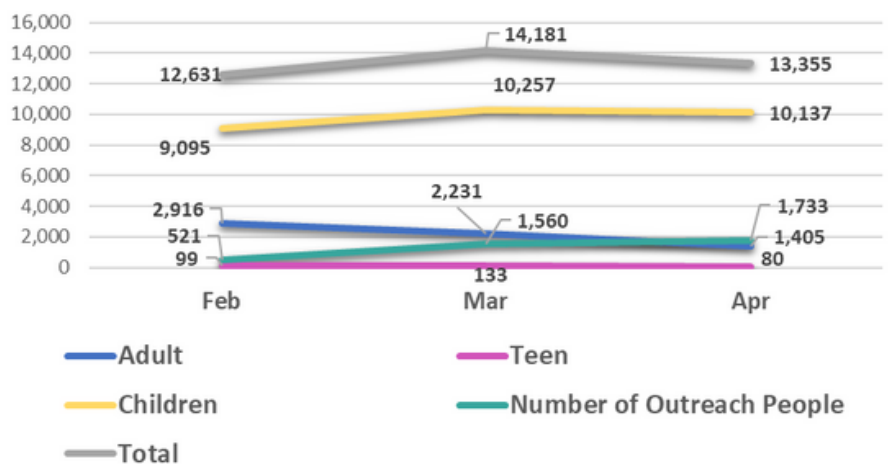
Programs by Audience



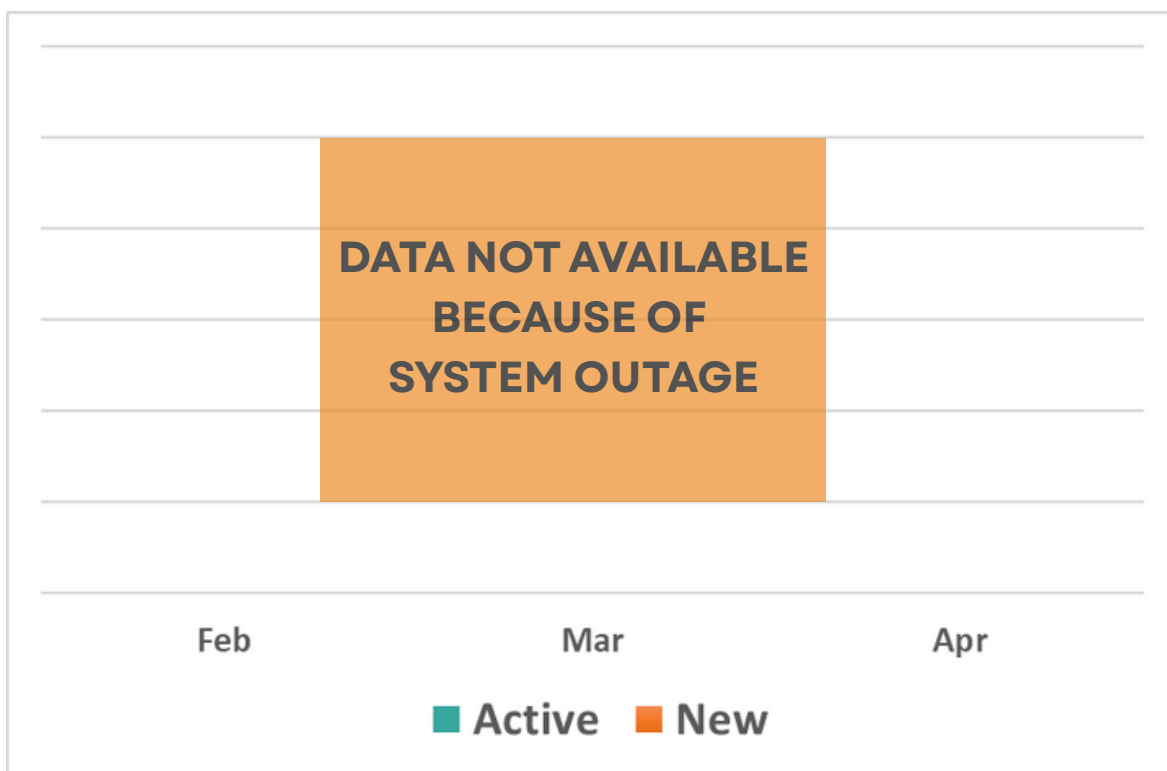
Programs In-Person & Outreach



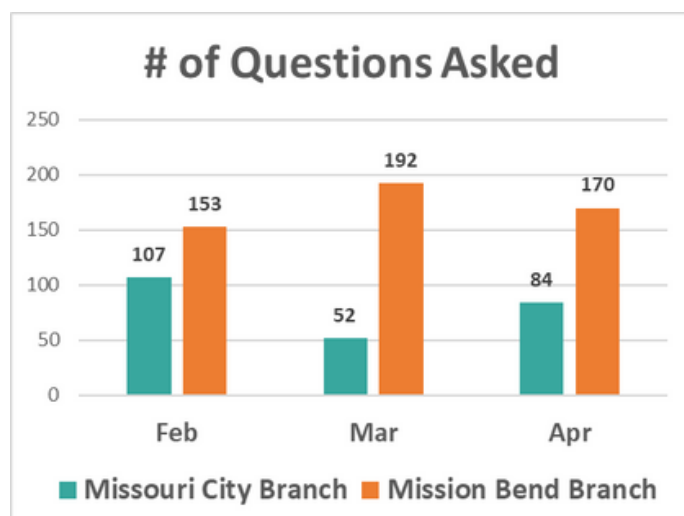
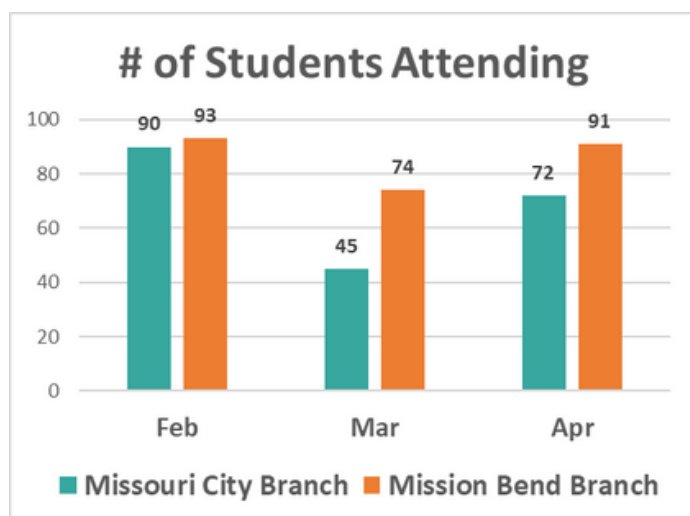
Program Attendance



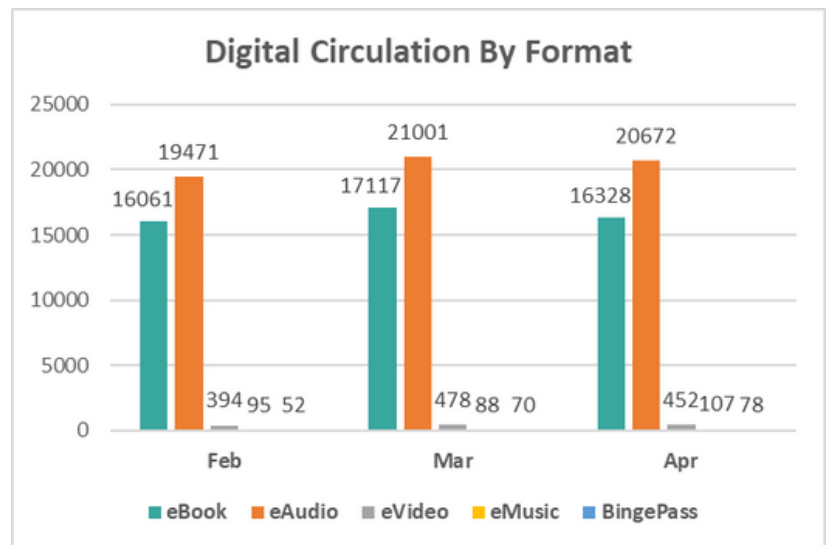
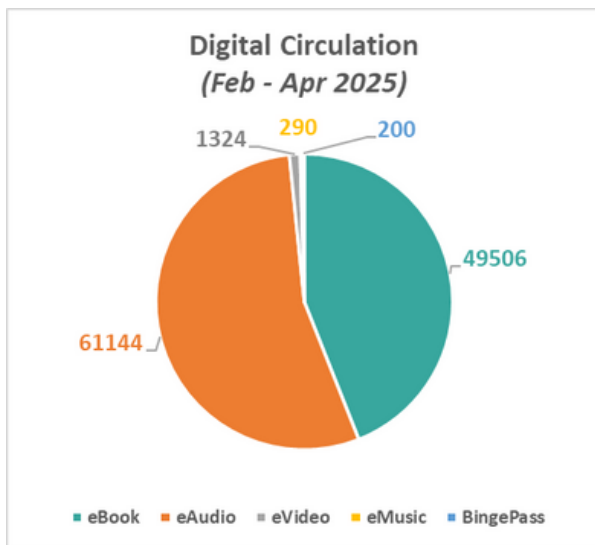
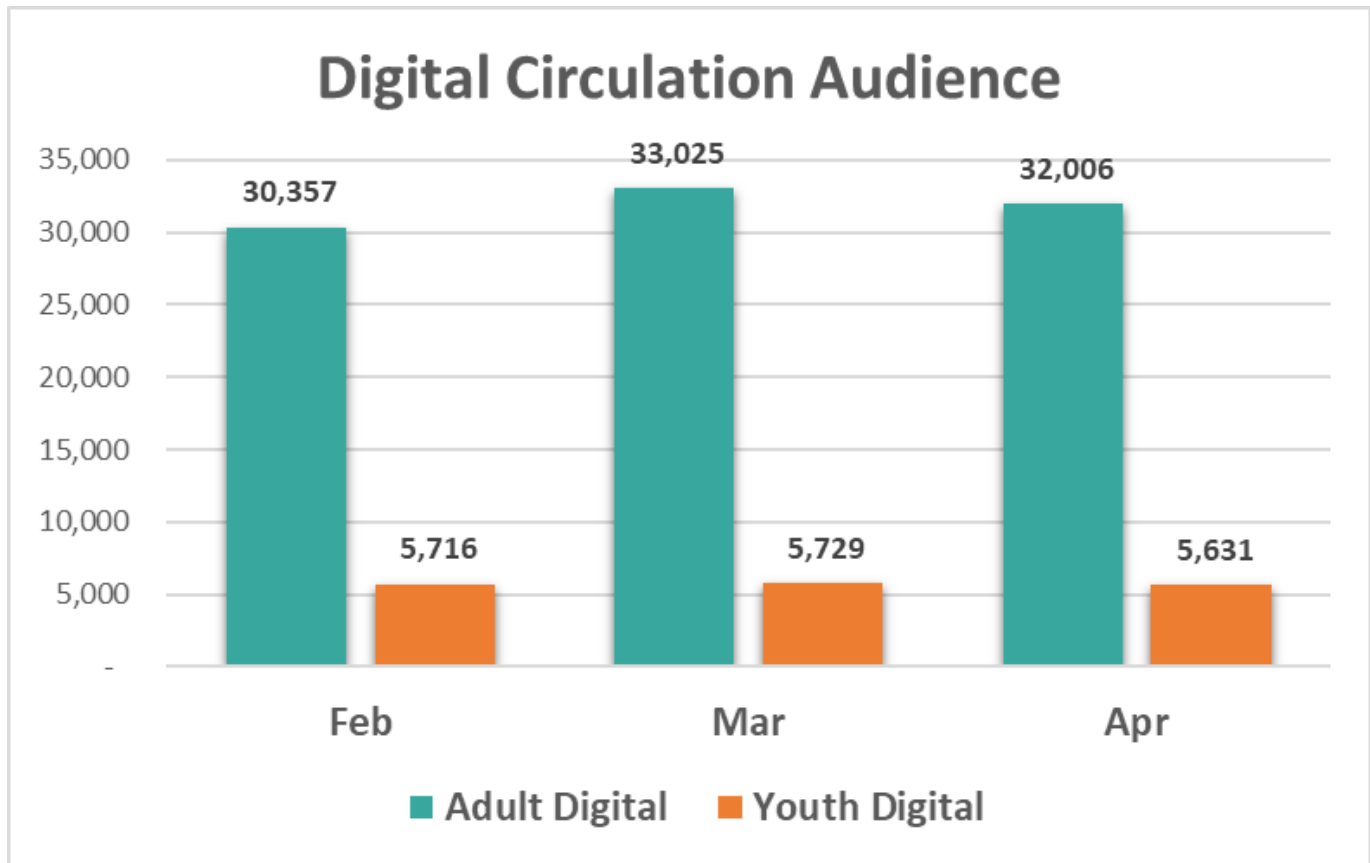
CARDHOLDERS



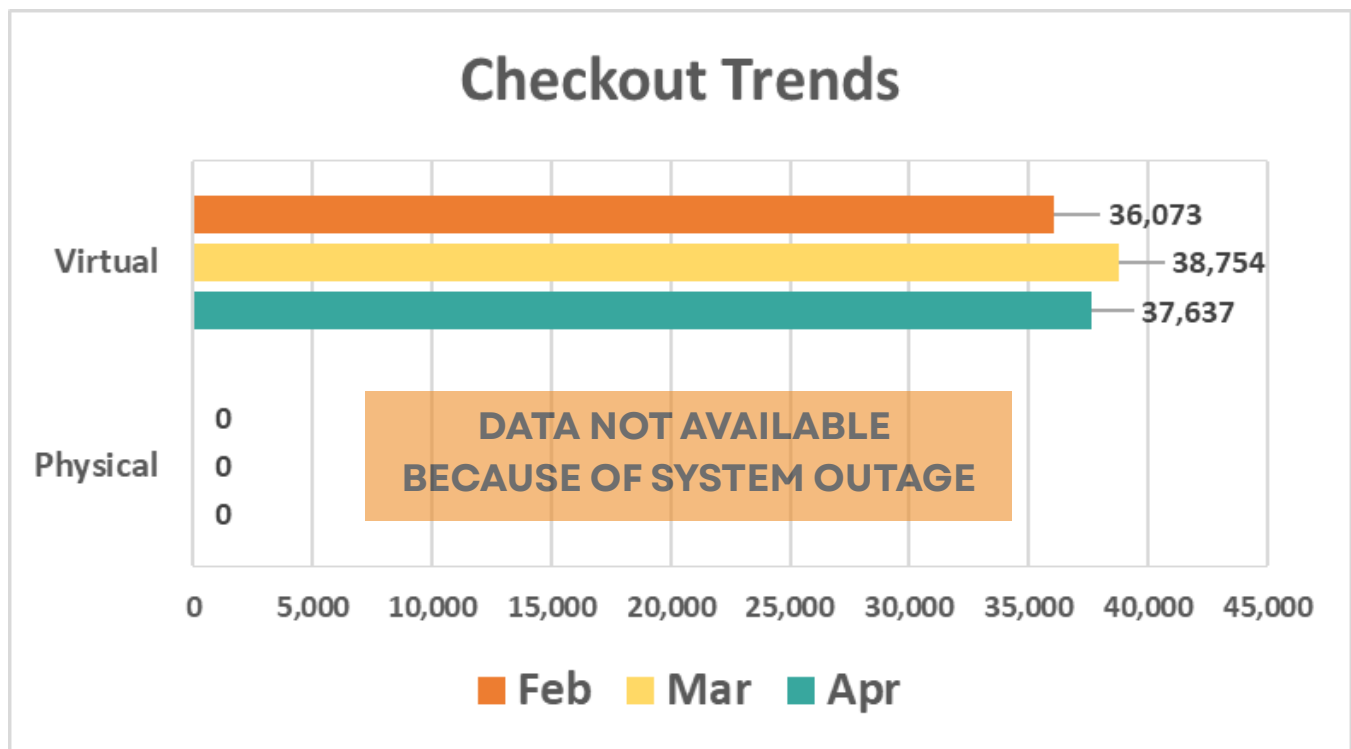
TEACHER IN THE LIBRARY



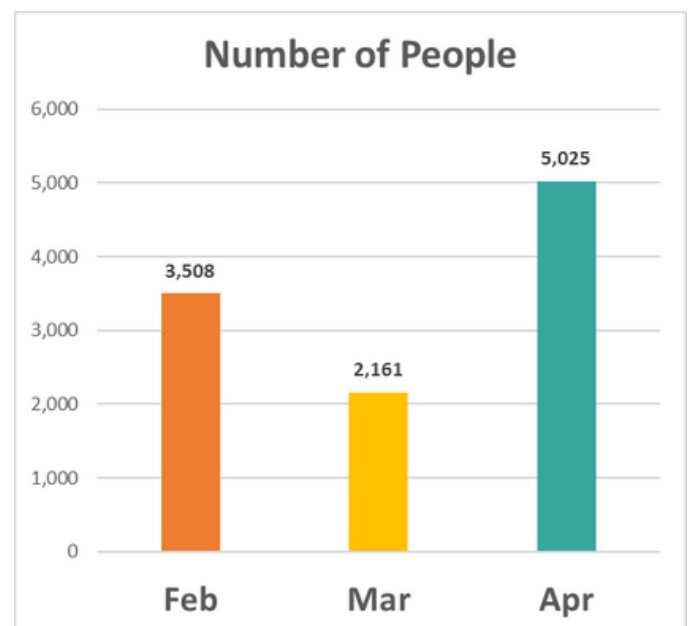
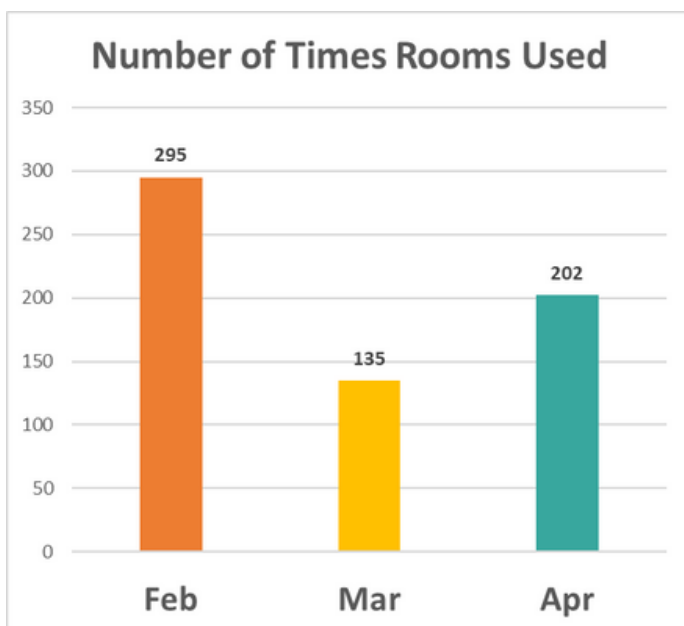
CIRCULATION



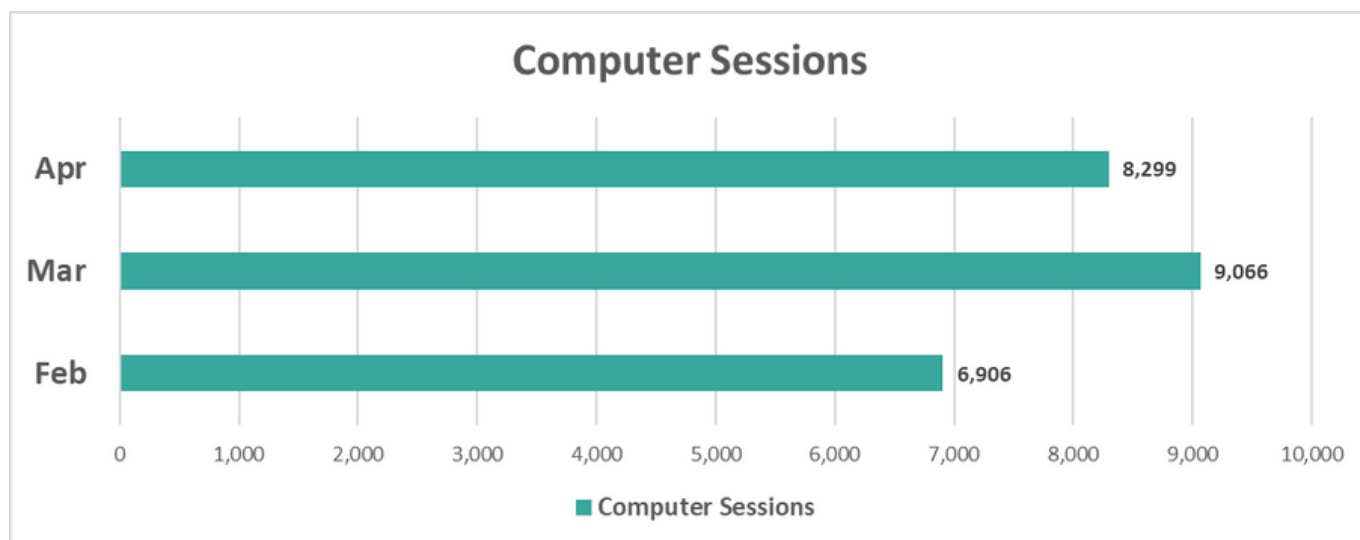
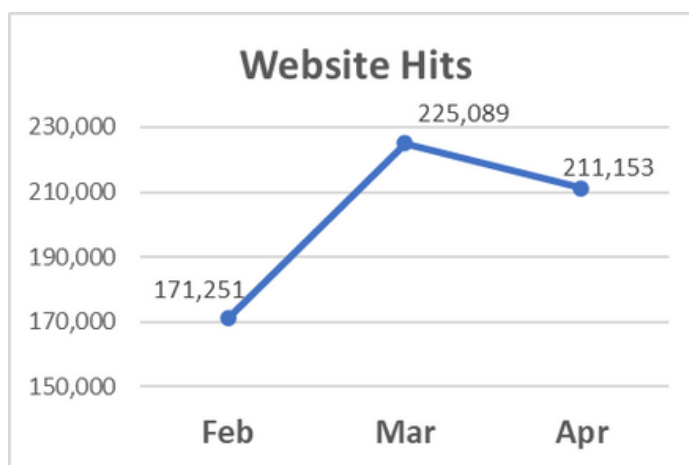
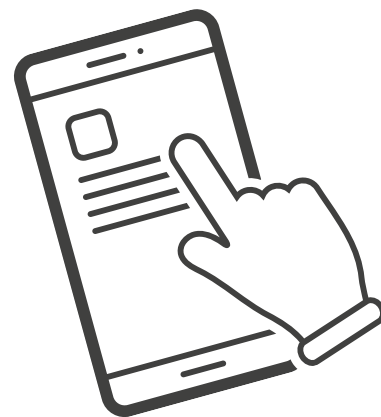
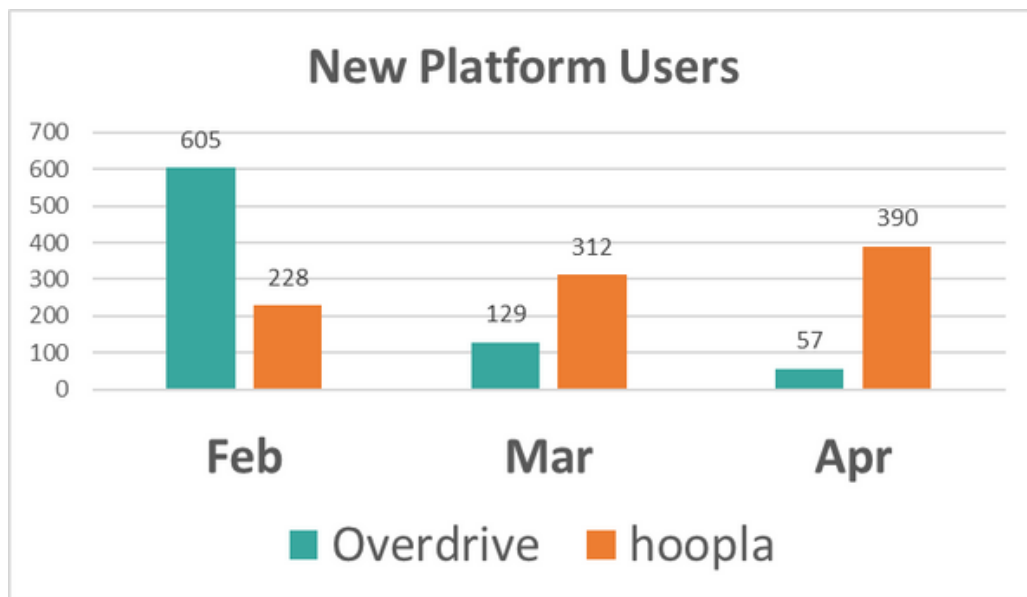
CHECKOUTS



MEETING ROOM RESERVATIONS



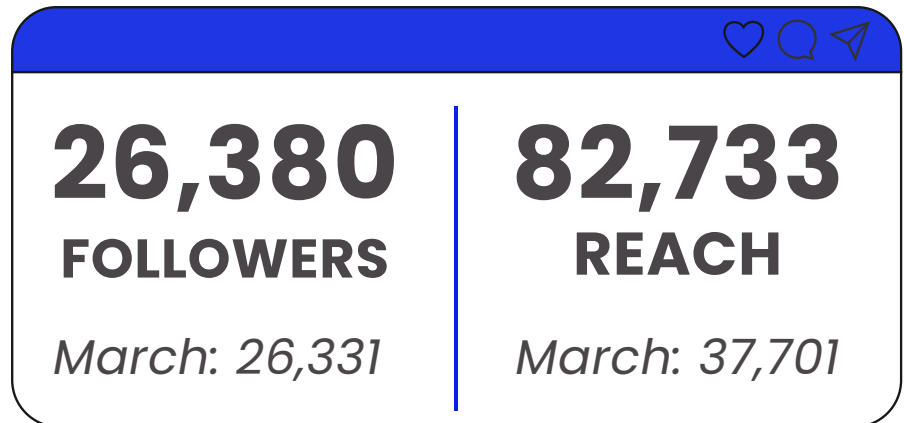
PLATFORMS & TECH



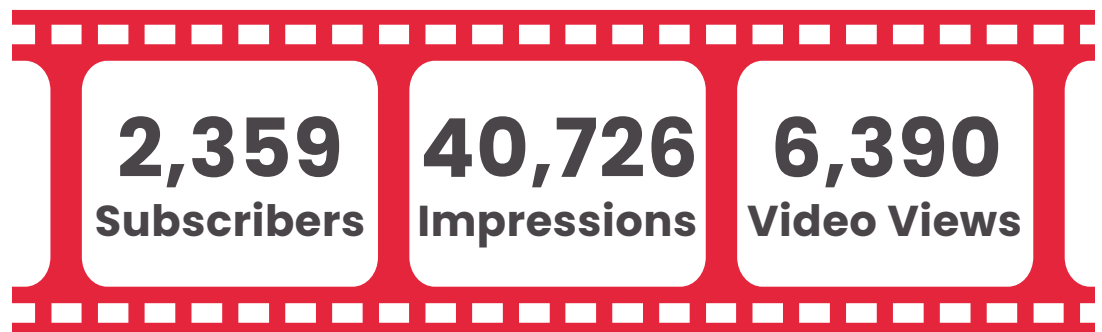
SOCIAL MEDIA

April 2025

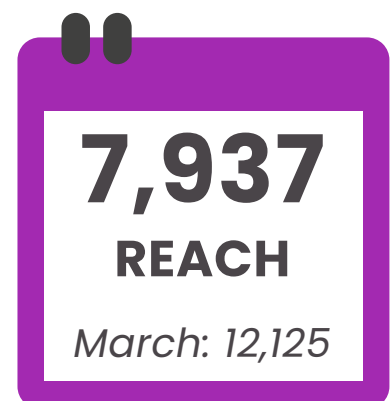
Facebook *(all pages combined)*



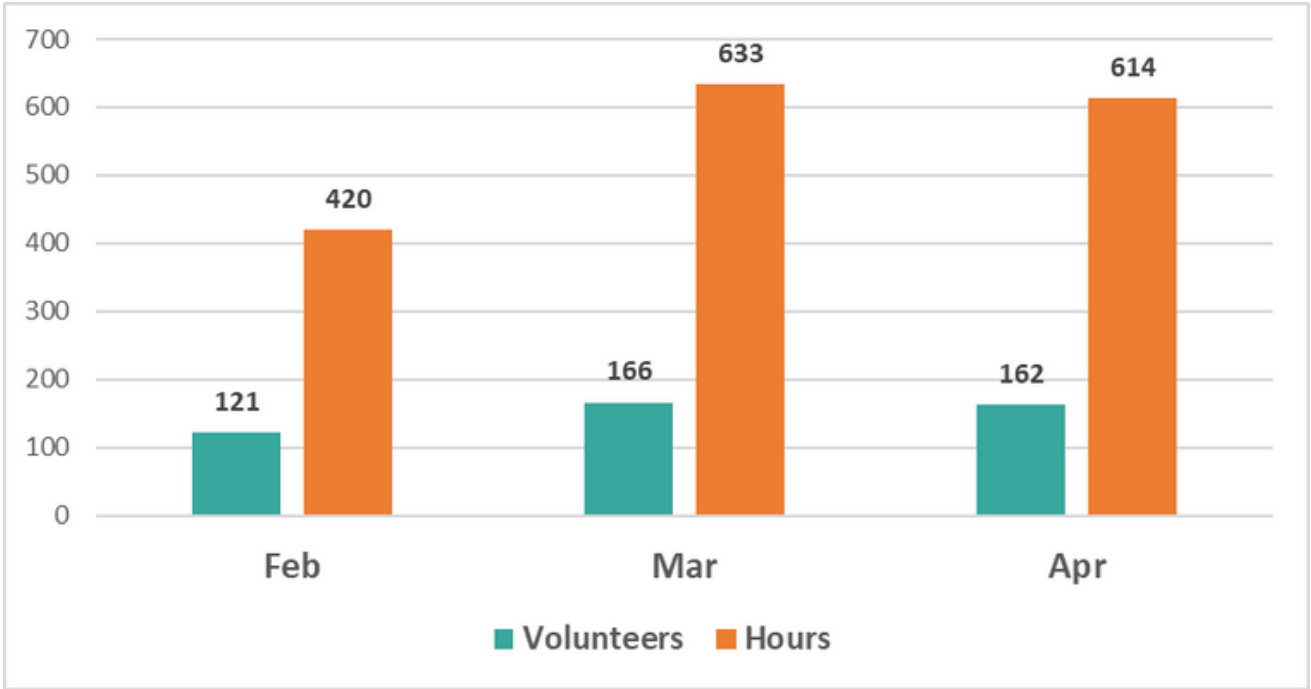
YouTube



Instagram



VOLUNTEERS



BUDGET & EXPENDITURES

FBCL	April 2025 - Budget Report
	Fiscal Year 2025 (10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025)
Total Budget	\$23,939,555.00
FTE	\$267.50
Year to Date Revenues, as of 10/01/2024	
Donations	\$42,417.00
Fines, Copiers, 3D Prints, etc.	\$61,184.13