



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

AUGUST 2025



FORT BEND COUNTY
LIBRARIES

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HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Services Summer Reading Challenge

Summer reading continued during the month of August. Readers had until August 30 to finish reading, logging, and picking up prizes. This year, 9,272 youth registered and 5,742 completed the challenge, and 1,575 middle school students registered and 681 completed. CYCLE Houston donated 11 bicycles and helmets, and each library awarded one to a lucky reader who completed the Summer Reading Challenge! Pictured are winners from George Memorial Library and Sugar Land Branch Library!



Albert George Branch in Needville

Youth Services Programs: After a brief programming break, staff has enjoyed being able to share stories, sing songs, and enact finger-rhymes with Family Story Time attendants once again! Our post-break themes were Back to School, Turtles, and Dogs. Each child received a take-home craft to remind them of the story they experienced and to encourage them to retell the stories they heard with others. Our take-home crafts this month included an adorable backpack, a dog in the shape of the letter D, as well as the cutest turtle!

Adult Services Programs: Craft and Chat - Crafters shared projects and techniques during a fun and creative Craft and Chat session on August 12. Some participants crocheted and knitted scarves and blankets, while others enjoyed diamond painting.

Cinco Ranch Branch

Youth Services Programs: In August, there were a total of 13 youth programs and 1,176 attendees. Fall morning programs resumed second week of August. There were three Mother Goose Time and nine Family Story Times (1,091 in total attendance). There was also one special Shimmer Flute Choir performance on August 2 which had 85 attendees. They performed two stories -- *3 Crotchety Cats* and *Turtle and Rabbit* - with narration and music.

Adult Services Programs: Chess Day continues to be highly popular with 39 attending in August. Fort Bend County Master Gardener Shelly Beck offered a presentation on plant propagation - the history, its methods to include seeds, air layering, division, water culture, and stem cuttings. The event was well-attended, with 35 present.

HIGHLIGHTS

First Colony Branch

Youth Services Programs: This month, regular programs included weekly Toddler Time and Story Time. Youth staff also had a Back-to-School iSpy as a passive activity for youth to participate in. Participants received a school-bus keychain upon completing the iSpy sheets. For the Special Mother Goose Time: Sensory Play program, babies (ages 0 - 15 months) had the opportunity to play at different stations. The program had a water station, ball-pit station, tummy-time station, puzzles station, sensory-toys station, building-block station, and washable-paint station. There was also a bubble time during the program.

Adult Services Programs: Embroidered Bookmarks - Patrons were invited to learn the basics of sewing and embroidery and create their own embroidered bookmarks using cardstock bookmarks and embroidery thread. Cellphone Tips and Tricks - Adult Services staff hosted a program for patrons to learn shortcuts and tricks on their iPhones and Androids. College 101: Getting Ready to Go - Adult Services staff members taught incoming college freshmen about the basics of dorm living, college life, and getting ready to start college. Canva for Beginners - Patrons were taught the basics of Canva, an online graphic-design studio. Beginner Origami - Adult Services staff members taught patrons the basics of origami and how to create three different origami shapes of varying difficulties. College 101: Applications 101 - incoming high school seniors learned how to apply for schools, scholarships, and financial aid. Adulting 101: Quick Hems - A staff member taught patrons the basics of sewing, how to quickly hem a hole, and how to re-attach a button with a sewing kit. Book Wreaths - A staff member showed patrons how to create a wreath using a wreath form, twine, and book pages. Puzzle Swap - Patrons participated in a puzzle swap. They were invited to donate puzzles and receive tickets which could be exchanged for different puzzles.

Fulshear Branch

Youth Services: Programming during the month of August featured only morning story times after a break as youth staff transitioned from summer programming to fall activities. We hosted a volunteer orientation on August 28. A total of 9 volunteers attended to prepare for volunteering this school year.

Teen Services: Dungeons and Dragons for Teens went well! We changed its start time to accommodate our teens heading back to school. Several teens attended the Teen Anime Club where they watched a movie, discussed anime, and ate Japanese snacks. Watercolor Painting for Teens went well! We now have a Back-to-School display in our Young Adult collection! Test books, job information, classics, and school reading items are displayed here, further increasing our collection's circulation and connecting teens to the resources that they need to succeed this school year.

Adult Services: ESL Conversation Circle continues to be well-attended, as is Writer's Workshop and Watercolor Wonders. The Adult Coloring Hour is gaining traction as a way for adults to unwind while their teens go to another program or look for books. The Tuesday Nifty Needlers is still more popular than the Saturday Nifty Needlers, but word is getting around.

HIGHLIGHTS

George Memorial in Richmond

Youth Services: During August, the Family Games & Jigsaw Puzzles come-and-go option for library patrons in the Middle Grades Game Room continued to be popular. We saw 390 patrons take advantage of this opportunity during the month. Mother Goose Time was reintroduced to the programming roster in August.

The Teacher in the Library Kickoff Event took place on Saturday, August 16. There was face painting, giveaways, and a chance to meet the teachers. In the Children's Corner, Youth Services hosted a special story time allowing children to pick a book from a table of pre-selected books and then having it read aloud. Puppet songs were sung, and items were raffled off afterward by the teachers.

Teens: In August, we offered a summer snack series (ice-cream sandwiches) and the final session of 'Color our World Art Talk and Creation' for Summer Reading, which featured a different artist and art project during each session. Attendees learned about contemporary artists while creating their own masterpiece inspired by these works of art.

Genealogy & Local History: Staff offered a "Downsizing Your Genealogy Research" outreach program at Del Webb, Sweetgrass. Staff presented two classes in August -- "Organizing your Genealogy Research Using Google Drive Spreadsheets" and "Revolutionary War Records."

Adult Service Department: Staff offered a variety of programs in August, including: ESL Conversation Circles, a Craft Studio session where attendees created DIY planners to fit their life and style, The Book Break book club, Story Spinners Writing Club, Roll With It: Board-Game Club, Chess Club, and an assortment of computer classes, including: Tech Help, Resumé-Writing Workshop, LinkedIn Learning, and Big Interview.

Mission Bend Branch

Youth Services: During the month of August, Youth Services offered a Back-to-School Scavenger Hunt. After a brief tutorial on the Dewey Decimal System and Youth special collections, they ventured into the youth department to find eight items in sections that will be useful for them during the school year.

Teens: In August, teens were invited to create Pull-String Art using string to create a spiral design on canvas.

Adult Services: This month, Adult Services continues to offer a variety of high-quality monthly programs, including ESL Conversation Circles, the Writer's Block writers' club, and the Wednesday evening Book Club. Computer classes offered included Microsoft 2016 PowerPoint Basics and Email Basics. Adult Services also presented the College-Camp Workshop, providing information for first-year college students. The staff facilitated the craft program "Altoid-Tin Decorating," which was enjoyed by several patrons.

HIGHLIGHTS

Missouri City Branch

Youth Services: During the month, we had six in-house programs with 149 participants. In addition to the in-house programs, we attended two outreach events and interacted with a total of 823 people. We interacted with a total of 972 participants for the month.

Adult Services: *The Skin I'm In Book Club* continues to see good attendance, with 12 participants. Active Adult Series: Medicare 101 and Lavendar and Calendula Bath Soak saw healthy attendance, at 7 and 5 respectively. Participation was lively, and the patrons got a great deal from both sessions.

Mamie George Branch in Stafford

Adult Services: Two adults attended our Board-Game Night. We had fun playing the Game Trekking and they asked for me to reserve that game again for next time. They both expressed interest in returning, so hopefully as the program continues, we will have more who join us.

Teens: Dungeons and Dragons (DnD) Session - We had five teens -- two returning and three new -- that came to make characters for DnD. Most have said they hope to return for actual play in September.

Sugar Land Branch

The **Sugar Land Community Garden** volunteers met with Branch Manager Mary Hulse and Gabrielle Butler from the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension to discuss expanding the garden and other fall plans. The volunteers have begun working on expanding the current garden and creating a pathway between the existing garden and new garden space.

Youth Services: This month, Toddler Time, Mother Goose Time, and Preschool Story Time programs saw an enthusiastic return of patrons. Our signature themed program, Back to School, took place on August 25 with a special edition of Creative Connections. Guests also attended the "Rock Your Locker" event. Participants created an assortment of magnetic locker accessories and played a magnetic word game while also watching a movie and enjoying snacks.

Teen Services: The library hosted an overview of "Library Resources for High Schoolers," where staff taught teens how library databases and services could help them find sources for assignments, get help with homework, and access test-prep materials. Sugar Land's Teen Board-Game Club occurred twice in August.

Adult Services: The B.Y.O.C. (Bring Your Own Craft) program took place twice in August. Four adult computer classes were offered: two sessions of MS Excel Basics and two sessions of MS Excel Intermediate. ESL Conversation Circle occurred four times in August, and the Evening ESL Circle occurred twice. Sugar Land Book Break met to discuss *Before We Were Yours*, by Lisa Wingate, and The Swoon Society book club met to discuss *At the Water's Edge*, by Sarah Gruen.

HIGHLIGHTS

Sienna Branch

Youth Services: Staff presented 12 youth programs, with 794 total attendees, and all were home-grown. The Summer Reading Challenge has gone very well with many people still signing up and picking up prizes. Morning programs came back in mid-August, and most were very full, with summer-like crowds. Multiple guests asked for Pajama Night Story Time to be brought back in August.

Teens attended the Video-Game Night this month. Teen Advisory Group (TAG) starts in September, and we are hoping that will help encourage attendance to future teen programs.

In August, **Adult Services** had 21 programs and three computer classes. Booked on Crime, led by Melissa, was the most popular. Board-Game Night continues to have strong attendance by multiple age groups. The Dungeons and Dragons (DnD) program is growing quite nicely and is a hit with teens. Our craft programs had great attendance as well.

University Branch

Youth Services: During August, Mother Goose Time, Toddler Time, and Preschool Story Time returned after a short break. Approximately 425 crafts were handed out at Story Time programs and the youth services desk.

Adult Services: In August, several craft programs were offered, where guests enjoyed making woven bookmarks, cross stitch, needlepoint, diamond painting, brick painting, knitting, and pattern making. Wild Bird Adventures' Mary Ann Morris gave her "Get WILD For Raptors" presentation. Mary Anne brought three of her raptor friends to the library and spoke to the audience about the lives and habitats of raptors, as well as their role in the ecosystem. Mary Anne also gave tips on places in our community that are great for birdwatching. University Branch Book Club discussed *Independence*, by local author Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. At the August Senior Series: The Truth About Scams, visitors learned about the most common scams of 2025. The University Branch Culinary Club met to share their culinary creations and recipes for this month's theme, Awesome Apples. The Tabletop Society's August game was Trekking the National Parks, a game where players compete in a cross-country race to visit the National Parks and collect points. The casual puzzling table saw 76 visitors.

Outreach: In August, the Adult Services Manager visited the Clayton Oaks senior facility and The Villages of Sugar Land to give book talks to some of the residents.



PHOTO GALLERY

2025 Photography Contest Reception at George Memorial Library in Richmond



1st Place: Judge's Choice
Kenny Hu



1st Place: People's Choice
Anna Colwell



2nd Place: People's Choice
Christy Hawthorne

Winners not in attendance:

2nd place Judge's Choice: Rashmi Gupta

3rd place Judge's Choice: Magaly Mucientes

PHOTO GALLERY

Teacher in the Library Launch Party at George Memorial Library in Richmond



FACILITIES UPDATE

Albert George Branch in Needville

Maintenance personnel pressure-washed the building and sidewalks.

First Colony Branch

Dead bushes near entrance were removed; maintenance is working to remove remaining dead bushes around the building.

Fulshear Branch

County Facilities has scheduled vendors to address the leaking in the Meeting Room and Children's Area. 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 is still unstable and will continue to be as such until it can be fully integrated into the new network. The terrace is still unavailable because of damage from Hurricane Beryl.

George Memorial Library in Richmond

Maintenance emptied a trash can (rain catcher) of water and broken tiles in the Meeting Room. An air-conditioner panel in the basement was reset. A new leak in Genealogy was reported. The Youth Services side elevator was repaired. A request to remove two typewriters from the Adult Services workroom has been placed. Issues with the building chiller were addressed.

Mission Bend Branch

Maintenance replaced the flag light which was damaged.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Missouri City Branch

A request has been submitted to repair the carpet in the children's play area. The bottom of the doll house has screws that stick out and have been getting snagged by the carpet.

The a/c went out once and was promptly repaired by Maintenance.

Mamie George Branch in Stafford

The repairs to Viking Lane have been completed. Library visitors have praised the new smooth parking-lot entrance. The construction company also repaired the sidewalk they damaged. No new building issues this month; just waiting on roof repairs.

Sienna Branch

The exterior windows were cleaned, the elevator was inspected, and the a/c was repaired in the first-floor wire closet.

Sugar Land Branch

This month, the exterior windows were washed, dead trees in the parking lot were cut down, the leak above the Juvenile Nonfiction 900 section expanded, and the leaks at the windows in the Adult Services department occurred during some of the heavier rains.

DATA & NUMBERS

AUGUST 2025

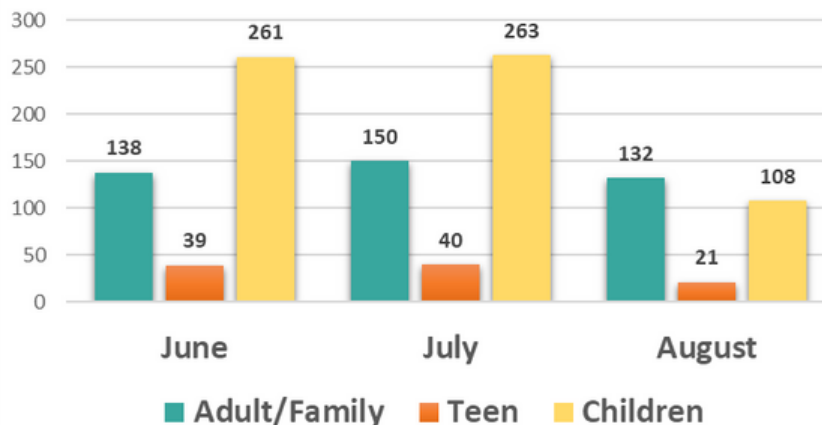


FORT BEND COUNTY
LIBRARIES

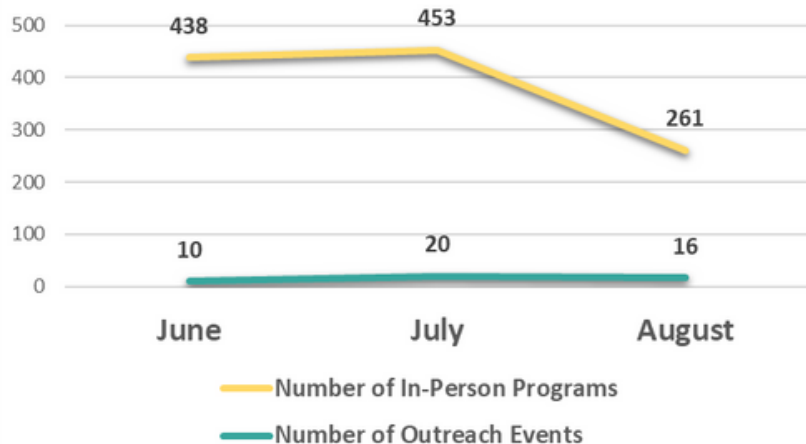
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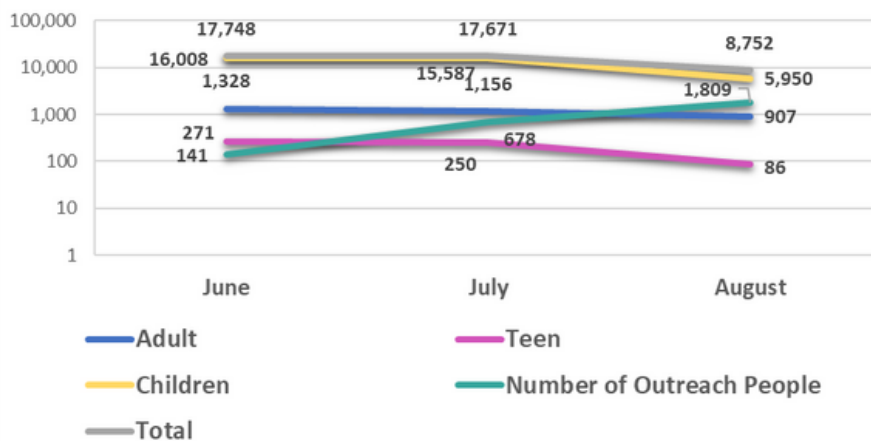
Programs by Audience



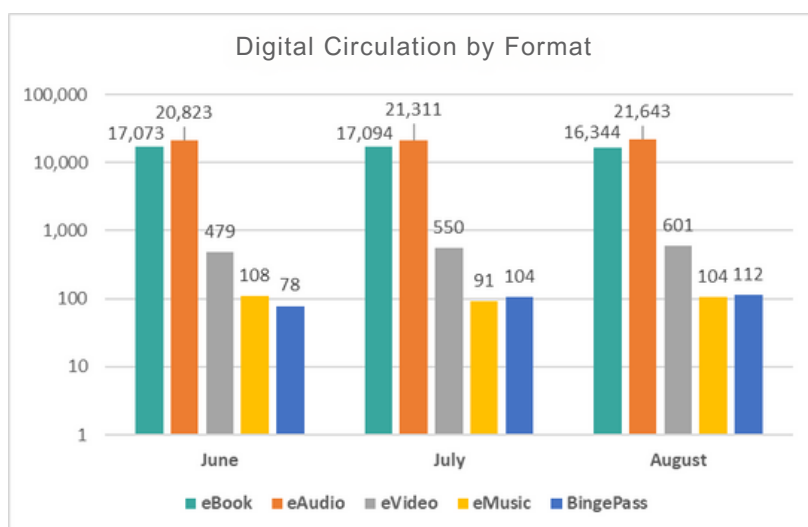
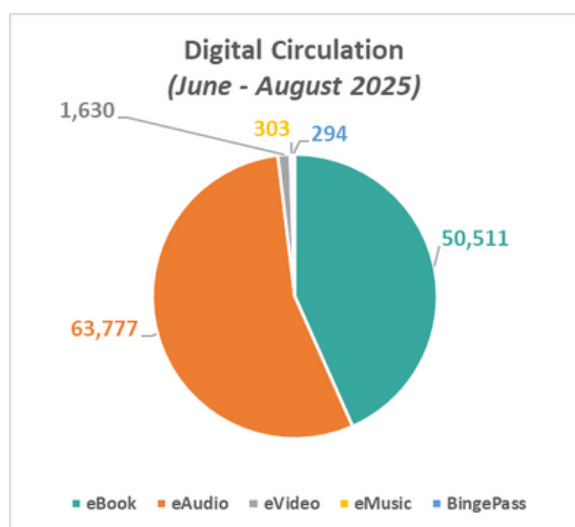
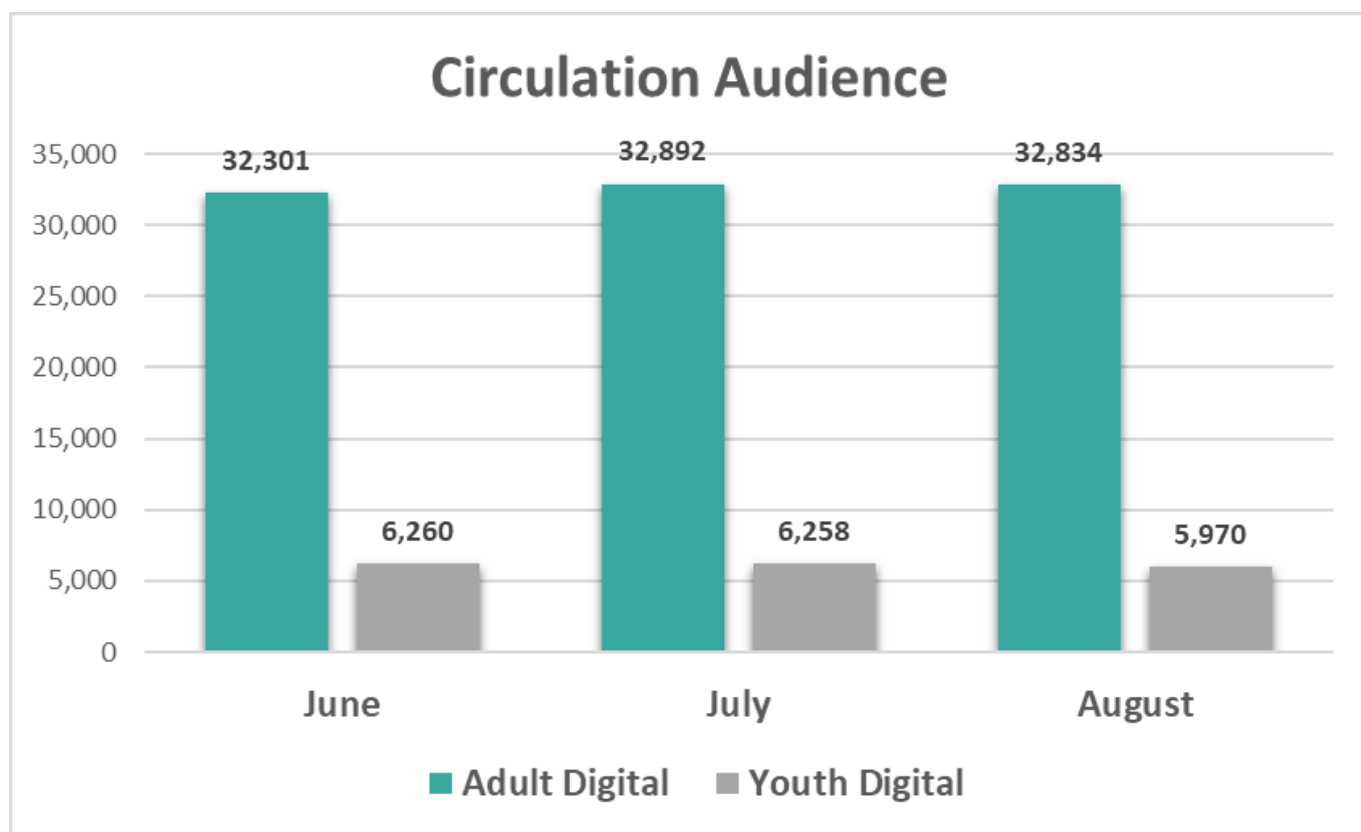
Programs In-Person & Outreach



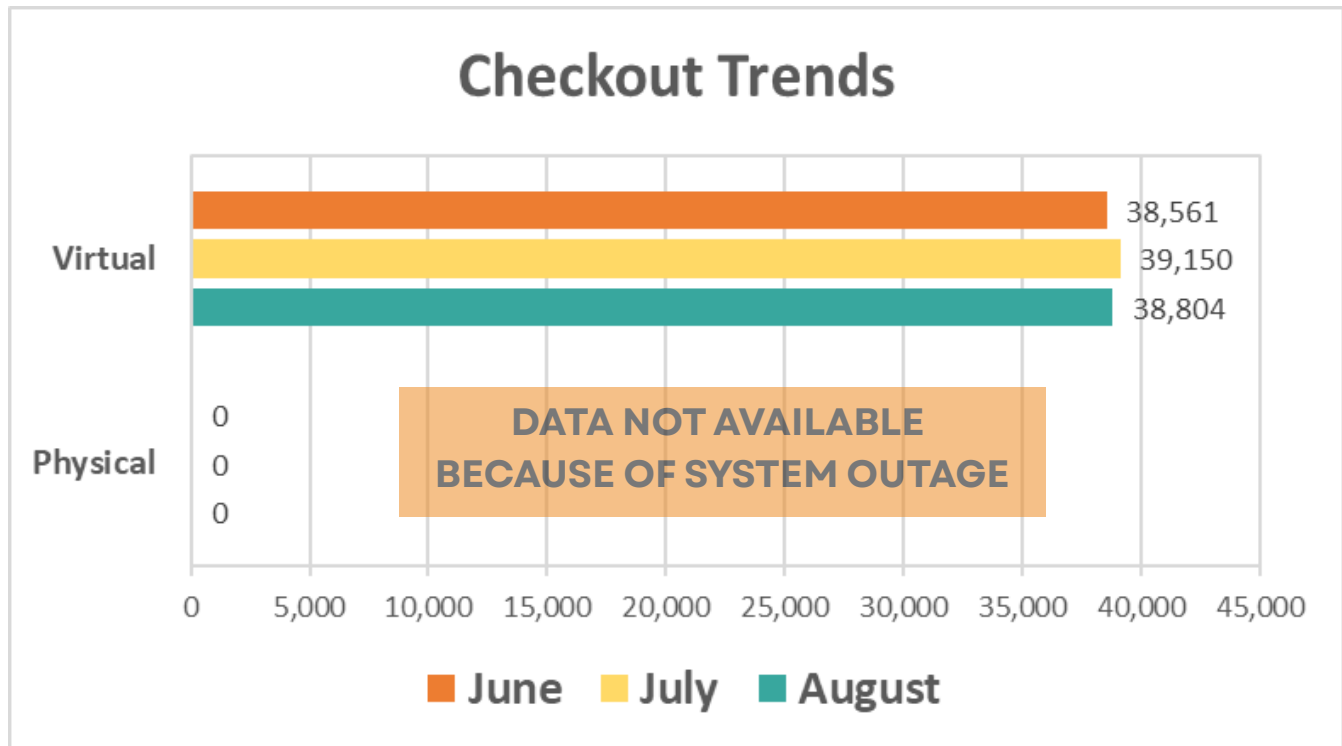
Program Attendance



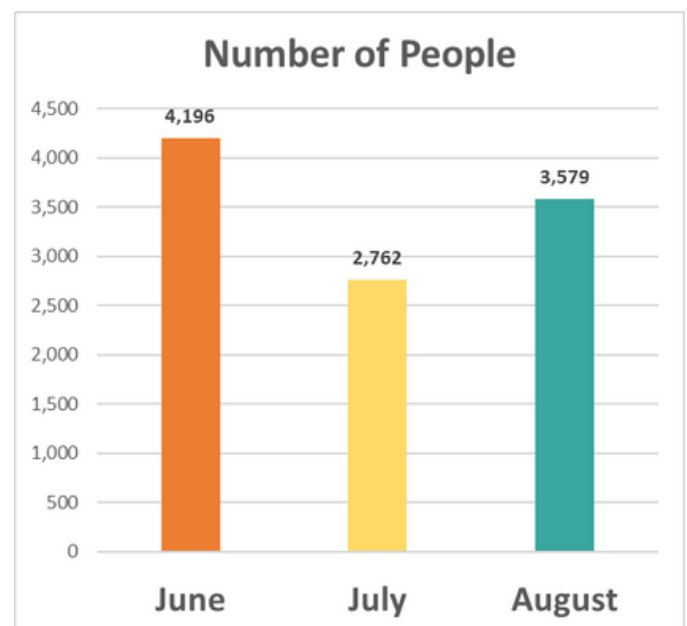
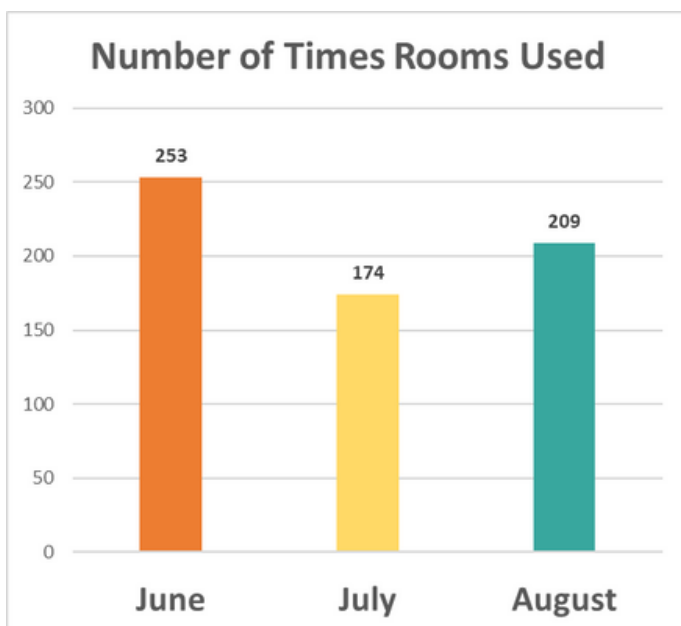
CIRCULATION



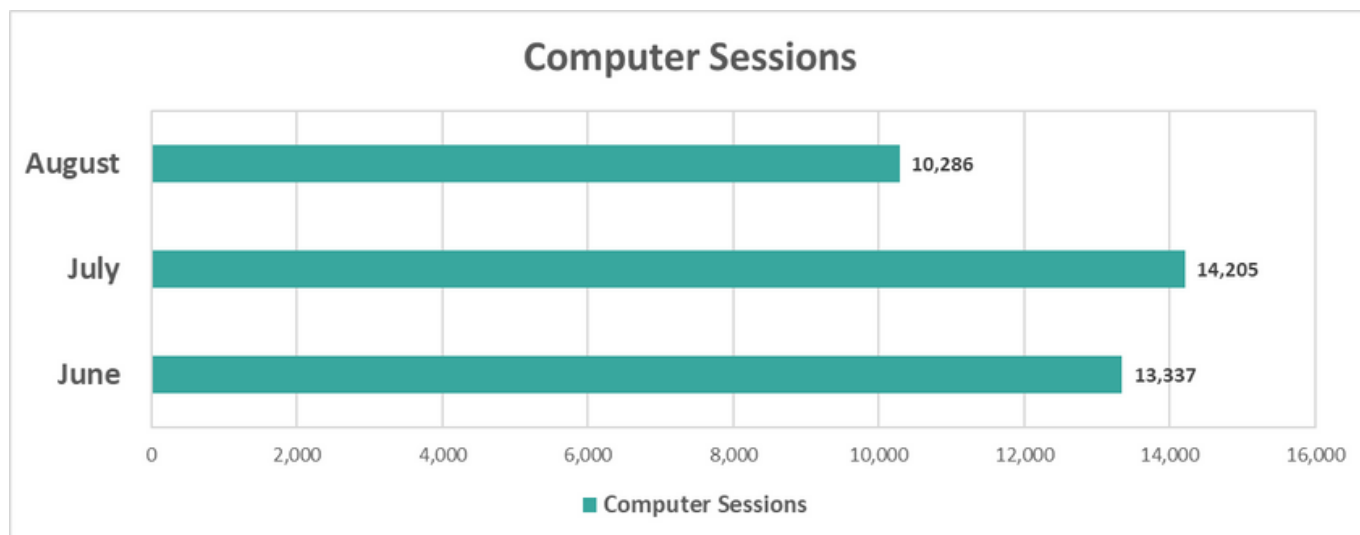
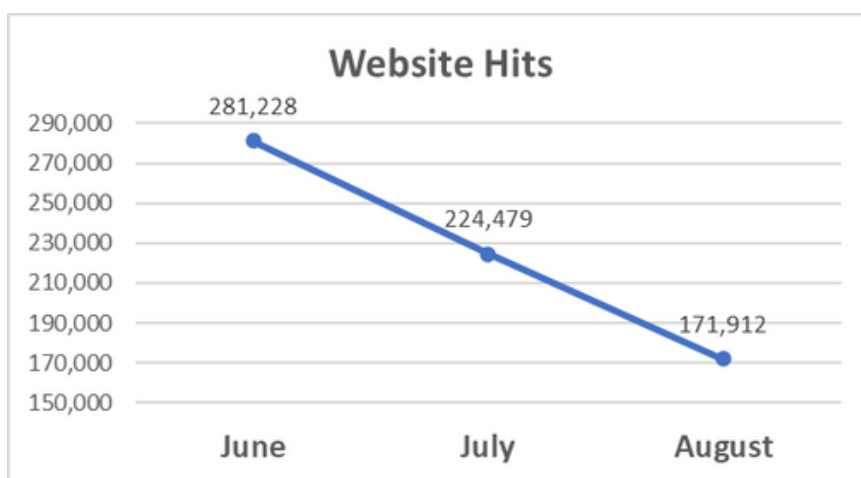
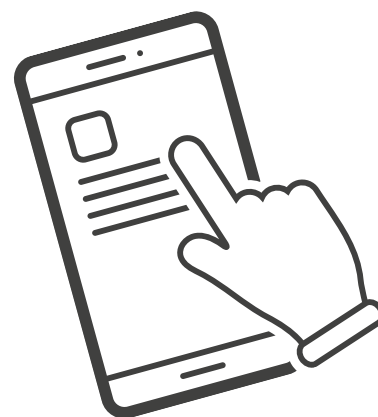
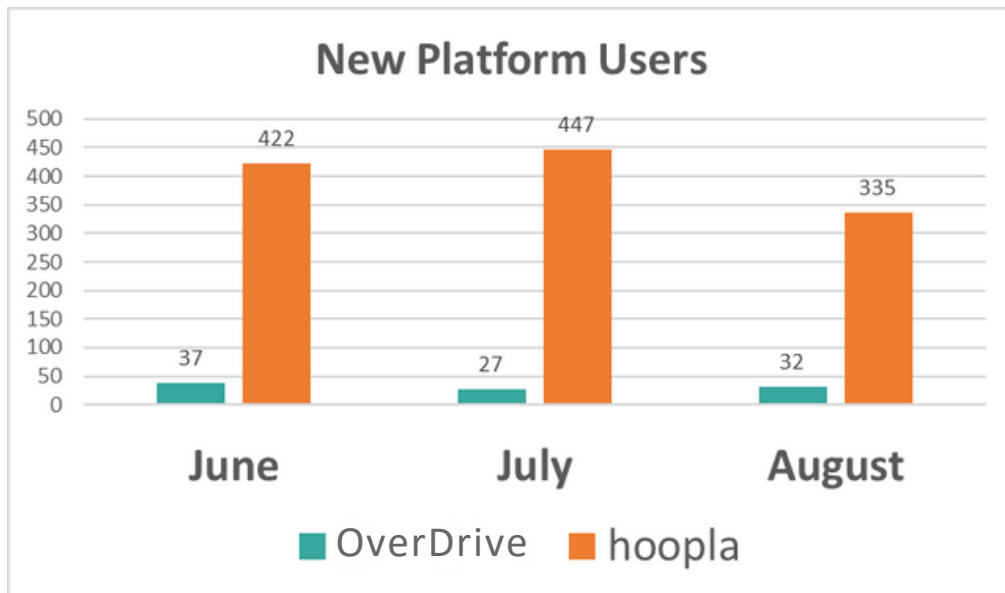
CHECKOUTS



MEETING-ROOM RESERVATIONS



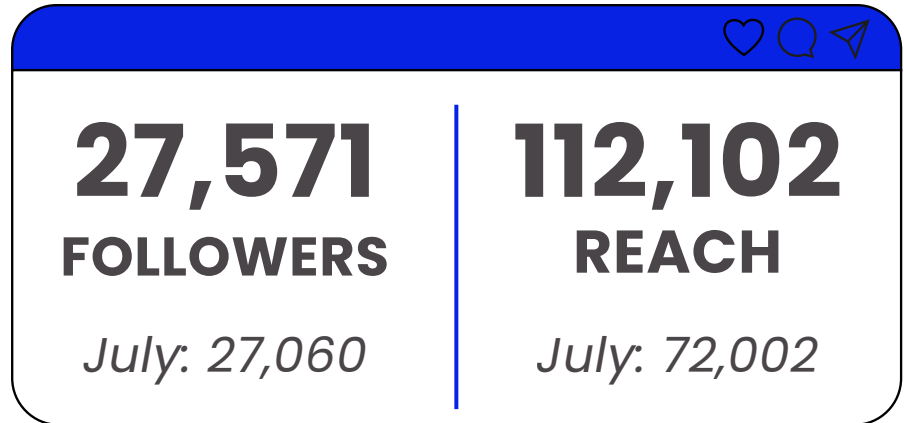
PLATFORMS & TECH



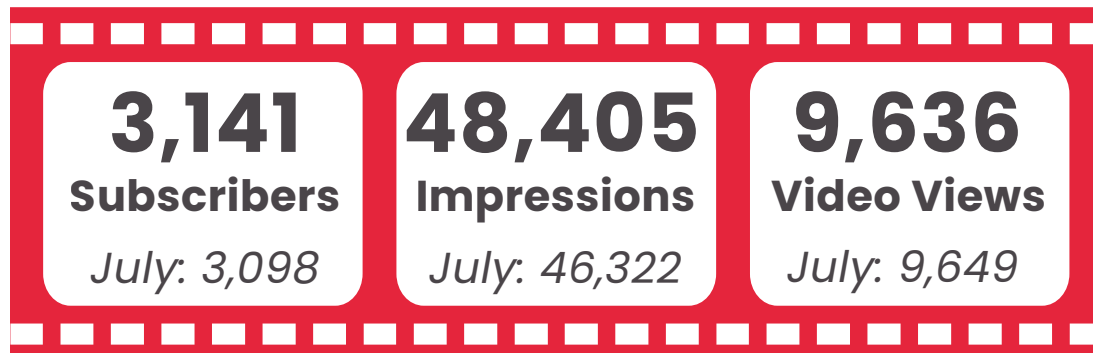
SOCIAL MEDIA

August 2025

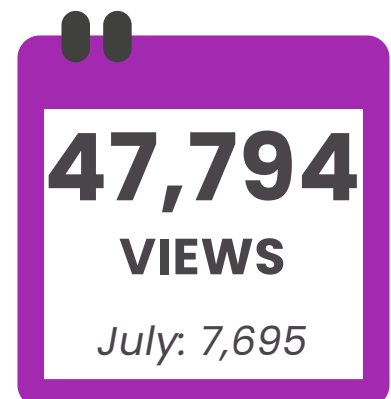
Facebook *(all pages combined)*



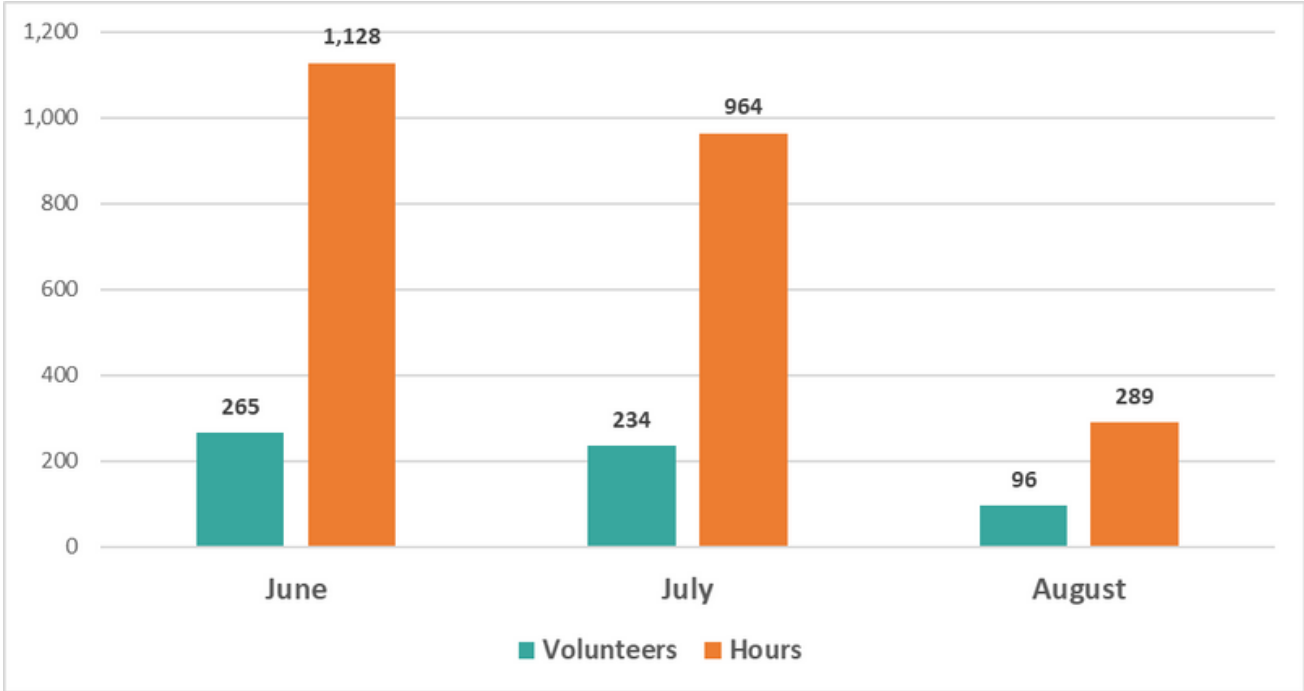
YouTube



Instagram



VOLUNTEERS



BUDGET & EXPENDITURES

FBCL	August 2025 - Budget Report
	Fiscal Yar 2025 (10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025)
Total Budget	\$23,939,555.00
FTE	267.5
Year to Date Revenues, as of 10/01/2024	
Donations	\$53,105.57
Fines, Copiers, 3D Prints, etc.	\$66,104.85

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Cinco Ranch Branch: “Good place to bring kids. It also has some books in Spanish.”

Mission Bend Branch: “Calm and enjoyable atmosphere.”

Missouri City Branch: “I bring my family here often, and it's a great library! The staff is always helpful, and they have a great selection of books. It's especially great for those with small kids, they have a dedicated area on the first floor for small children to have fun, including a computer area as well as a play area with children's toys. I often see many families take their kids here on the weekend to read and play.

They also have planned activities throughout the week such as story time for kids of all ages. We applied for a library card here and the process was seamless as well.

Overall a great library, highly recommend for everyone in the community!”

Fulshear Branch: “The library is spacious and beautiful. I found the children’s area to be full of great toys, puzzles, books and computers.”

University Branch: “Fort Bend County Libraries University Branch location is located in Sugar Land next to the University of Houston's Sugar Land campus/university library. Spacious and filled with many resources for community members, students, and library card holders.

I've been to this location many times. During my most recent visit I stopped in to pick up my Summer Reading Color Our World prizes! I stopped by two information desks and eventually they informed me that I needed to go upstairs. Once I made it to that desk, the ladies were helpful.

I'll be sure to take a picture of my rewards for the Grown Ups Reading Challenge. I received water bottles, sticky notes/flags/pens, drawstring bag, and pen pouches.

Definitely worth stopping by and joining the reading challenge! If I'm in the area this is a library I'd return to.”



Cinco Ranch Branch: “Absolutely love this library. The view, the wide collection of books in various fields, the reading areas, the kids sections. Such a calm atmosphere and so well lit which makes for a good study session.”

Mission Bend Branch: “Very friendly and helpful staff.”

Cinco Ranch Branch: “Organized and clean. What every library should be. Also every year it's the place for voting.”