



CITY OF  
**FARMERS BRANCH**  
MANSKE LIBRARY

# ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021



13613 Webb Chapel Road | Farmers Branch, TX 75234

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# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

## **Fiscal Year 2020-2021 was eventful, exciting and full of innovation.**

The Farmers Branch Manske Library grew stronger through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. As the year began, the Library was well into providing a number of new services to continue quality service during the pandemic. At the same time extensive renovations to the library building were just beginning. City and Library staff worked together to ensure crucial services continued uninterrupted for the community.

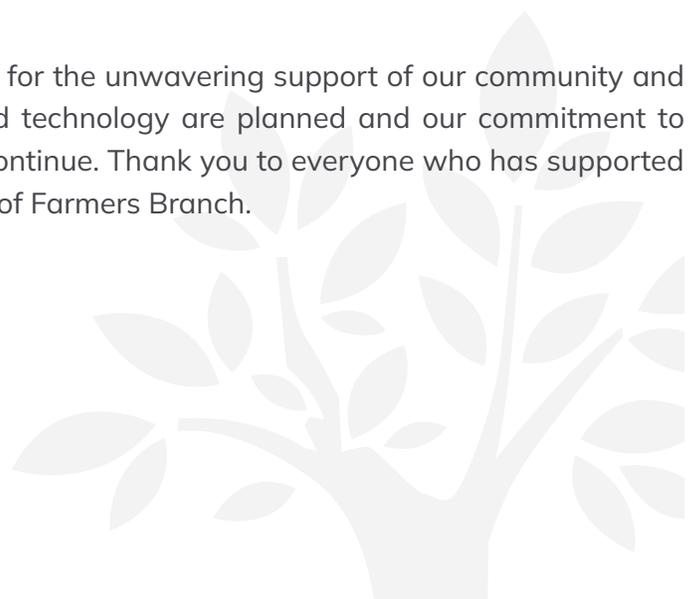
The Library maintained a full 64 hour per week schedule of operation throughout the year, even as some North Texas libraries had just begun to return to modified operating hours due to pandemic constraints. Library staff offered virtual programs for all ages, and created “Take It, Make It” kits for patrons to use at home through April 2021 while continuing to assist all library patrons with checking out books, using computers and printers and meeting reference and research needs inside the building. More than 86,000 community members received quality service in person and 95,000 visited online during the year.

Service inside the building continued during interior and exterior renovations in early 2021. After a closure of only six weeks, we eagerly reopened to full in-person services on June 28. The Library was immediately back to full capacity, hosting Farmers Branch Night Out on July 15, and celebrating a Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting July 29.

The support of the community, city leadership and the Library Advisory Board was crucial to the Library’s successful year. The Board comprises nine engaged and enthusiastic citizens who care deeply about access to high quality services throughout Farmers Branch. The Board is committed to core Library values of exceptional literacy and education resources for our thriving community along with equal access to free and innovative services. The Library Advisory Board was recognized for their exceptional work with the Mayor’s Award of Excellence as the Board of the Year for 2021.

Farmers Branch Manske Library staff and I are grateful for the unwavering support of our community and look forward to an amazing 2022. New programs and technology are planned and our commitment to excellent service for all in our growing community will continue. Thank you to everyone who has supported our amazing library; we are proud to represent the City of Farmers Branch.

**Denise Wallace | Library Director**



# LIBRARY STATISTICS



**2,843**

Public Service  
Hours



**85,746**

Library Visits



**14,356**

Public Computer  
Usage



**14,680**

Registered  
Borrowers



**161,555**

Total Circulation



**217**

Library  
Programs



**4,651**

Total Program  
Attendance



**21,161**

Electronic  
Material  
Circulation



**140,394**

Physical  
Material  
Circulation



**94,158**

Website Visits



**18,571**

Reference  
Transactions



**1,354**

New Borrowers

# YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Continued engagement with Farmers Branch teens was crucial when school buildings and other youth services were closed. The Library stayed connected to children and teens by offering virtual programs including virtual story times, "Take it, Make it" crafts, and even virtual speakers as part of the Summer Reading Club.

**Tails & Tales Summer Reading Club 2021 was a hit!** Beanstack, an app that tracks Summer Reading Club participation, was a new Library service and made tracking and logging reading times quick and easy for patrons. Using the app, children, teens and families earned badges and prizes during the eight week Summer Reading period.

## Summer Reading Statistics

**119** Completed Activities      **1,566** Program Attendance  
**268** Active Readers              **3,331** Books Read  
**1,662** Badges Earned



Library staff found creative ways to advertise monthly programs and events with a weekly newsletter emailed to all cardholders, and a monthly calendar available in print, online and posted inside the building.



**FARMERS BRANCH  
MANSKE LIBRARY**  
Hours  
Monday - Thursday: 10 - 9  
Friday - Saturday: 10 - 6  
Sunday: 1 - 5

## Inside the Library

### FEBRUARY 2021 CALENDAR

#### Adult Events

*\*Library programs are currently virtual, and can be attended through either Facebook (\*) or Zoom (\*).*

**Blind Date with a Book**  
Monday, February 1 through Sunday, February 14  
The safest way to date during a pandemic? Blind Date with a Book, of course! Let us play literary matchmaker this February. Stop by our display and take home a mystery date - you just might end up staying 6 feet away from everyone with the book of your dreams.

**Virtual Knit Wits** °  
Wednesdays, 5 to 6 pm  
If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, or would like to learn, please join our informal knitting circle.

**Take It, Make It: Heating Pads** °  
Wednesday, February 17, 6 pm  
Ever needed a heating pad and couldn't find one? Are your hands cold in this winter weather? Join us to learn how to make homemade heating pads that can double as hand warmers. They are a great item to have in any self-care kit. *While supplies last.*

**Book to Screen: To Kill a Mockingbird** °  
Wednesday, February 24, 6 pm  
Our Virtual Book Club is kicking off 2021 with a Book to Screen series! You voted on our first selection, and the most votes went to *(drum roll, please)...* Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*! We're starting the year with this Pulitzer Prize winner turned Academy Award winning classic. Check it out from the library or grab your old high school copy to read along on Goodreads, then join us on Zoom for our final discussion. *FB residents can find ebook and audio versions free on Hoopla!*

**Marvel Heroes: Black Panther Virtual Trivia** \*  
Thursday, February 25, 6 pm  
Don't freeze on this trivia challenge! Gather your own Dora Milaje and put your Black Panther knowledge (comics, movie, and cast) to the test on Facebook Live. *Wakanda Forever!*

#### Youth & Teen Events

**Recie's Pen Pals**  
Monday, February 1 - Friday, February 26  
It's International Correspondence Writing Month and our story time mascot, Manske Rex, would love to get postcards/letters from her fans! This month during Family Story Time, everyone's favorite red dino will ask her friends to write to her. You can mail a postcard to the library or pick up a pencil and paper and write one out here. *Recie might just read it during Story Time!*

**Paint with Water**  
Monday, February 1 - Sunday, February 14  
Grab your free brush and coloring sheet. All you need is a little water! Ask at the Children's Desk for details. *While supplies last.*

**Take It, Make It: Bugs and Dragons** \*  
Thursday, February 11, 4 pm  
Have a blast making a fire-breathing dragon, love bug, and more! Pick up your craft kits near the front entrance starting February 1st. *While supplies last.*

**Mystery Prize Game**  
Tuesday, February 16 - Friday, February 26  
Stop by and make your guess for a chance to win our mystery prize!

**Babybounce on Facebook Live!** \*  
Tuesday, February 2, 10:15 am

**Family Story Time on Facebook Live!** \*  
Thursdays, 10:15 am

**972.247.2511 | FARMERSBRANCHLIBRARY.ORG | 13613 WEBB CHAPEL**

# ADULT PROGRAMMING

Adult Programming remained virtual throughout Fiscal Year 2020-2021. As Staff planned and offered a growing array of virtual programs for adults, understanding of what patrons need and want in online programs increased. The community wholeheartedly embraced these virtual offerings with more than 1,900 participants in 101 programs.

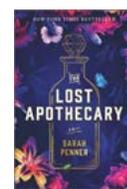
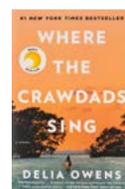
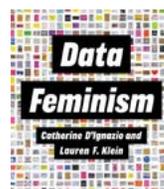
MORE THAN 1,900 PARTICIPANTS IN 101 PROGRAMS

Once-a-month Virtual Trivia was popular, as was the Virtual Knit Wits knitting program. Adult crafts were added to the roster of events and special guests such as Galen Abdur-Razzaq, who spoke about Women in Jazz, provided virtual learning experiences while monthly book discussions kept patrons engaged and reading.

The adult Summer Reading Club was quite successful and resulted in increased visits to the Library building as more Texas buildings and services re-opened in early summer with enhanced safety measures.



## MOST READ BOOKS DURING SUMMER READING



### Data Feminism

by Catherine D'Ignazio & Lauren Klein

### Where the Crawdads Sing

by Delia Owens

### The Lost Apothecary

by Sarah Penner

### Oona Out of Order

by Margarita Montimore

# EXPANDED SERVICES



Access to Library materials as well as services was enhanced throughout the pandemic. Digital resources were even more important during pandemic-forced building closure. The Library added digital resources including eBooks and eAudiobooks, databases and periodicals, ensuring the community could continue to check out materials for entertainment and enrichment. Circulation of digital resources grew during the pandemic and while the building was closed for renovation. The Library added access to the Kanopy music and video streaming service, the Wall Street Journal, and Value Line.



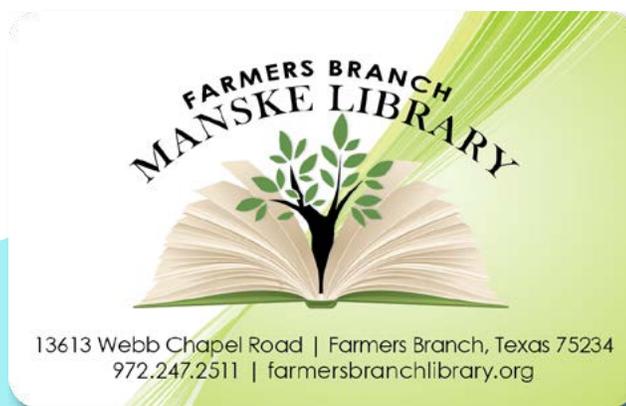
Staff worked hard to make sure the community knew about this robust collection of online resources. This work paid off handsomely; by the end of the fiscal year, the Library welcomed 1,400 new library card holders! *For a complete listing of all resources, visit [farmersbranchlibrary.org](http://farmersbranchlibrary.org).*



The Library's Innovation Zone makerspace was a busy and valuable resource for everyone in Farmers Branch. STEM kits were added to the collection and included items such as a Raspberry Pi computer kit, a Code-a-Pillar, and a Sphero robot for children of various ages and learning levels. The kits are vital tools for teaching simple coding to young children and have been a great success.



Adults were not left out of the fun as the Manske Sprout Seed Library found a new home in the Innovation Zone and seeds were catalogued with more efficiency to make browsing and borrowing easier for patrons. Sewing machines were also added to the collection, creating an inclusive space for adults to learn new skills and create. Even more equipment and materials are planned for the makerspace, including a GlowForge for laser etching and engraving, a Cricut Maker 3 for creative printing projects, and more.



# LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

Building renovation began in Fall 2020. The \$2.5 million project began with a new roof and solar panels.

In April 2021 interior work commenced and on May 14th the building closed to the public for six weeks while the website, or virtual library, continued to provide access. Fresh wall paint, new carpet, and new shelves were installed, providing a fresh look to the former fire station building.

Renovation also included:

- Innovation Zone makerspace
- New seating, tables and work stations
- New meeting and study rooms
- Family restroom
- Upgraded parking lot
- Enhanced green space
- Redesigned outdoor patio with a beautiful view of Rawhide Creek
- Enhanced lighting throughout the building
- Two exterior reflection pools (coming soon)
- Pickleball court in the outdoor amphitheater (coming soon)

On June 28, 2021 patrons were thrilled to return to their Library and turned out in droves for Farmers Branch Night Out on July 15 and the Grand Re-Opening on July 29. Patrons enjoyed face painting and games while exploring the Library's fresh look.

Even more improvements are planned for Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Special events will be held in the Innovation Zone (formerly the Art Gallery) and a fountain will be built in front of the building.

As the library grows, so does its dedication to the future and to the community it serves.



**CITY OF FARMERS BRANCH:** Charles Cox (*City Manager*), Mike Bomgardner (*Councilman*), Cristal Retana (*Mayor Pro Tem*), Robert Dye (*Mayor*), Michael Driskill (*Councilman*), Bronson Blackson (*Councilman*), David Merritt (*Councilman*), Denise Wallace (*Library Director*)



# LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

The Library Advisory Board has been tireless in their support of the Farmers Branch Manske Library and spends countless hours advocating for the Library. This commitment was on full display as the Board volunteered their time and talents to over 50 regular and specially scheduled meetings, with well over 1,500 hours dedicated to planning the future of the Library. Working closely with council and citizen input, the Board created a new vision to “connect a thriving community to an innovative destination for reading, learning, and creating.”

While the COVID-19 pandemic ushered in a new and unwelcome reality, the Library was one of the first City buildings to open as an essential service to residents. The Library Board continued to support staff in a caring and energetic way. If the Board could not meet in person, they met virtually. Board members stepped up to give presentations at numerous City and community events. As the City moved closer toward Library renovation, the Board met regularly and provided feedback as construction progressed. When renovations were complete, the Board enthusiastically attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate new beginnings. Thank you to this group, and other partners and city leadership who supported the library this year!

## Board Members

- Jennifer Bauer - Board Chair
- Jessica Rodriguez - Secretary
- David Solly - Trustee Reports
- Benjamin Williamson - Assistant City Manager  
*(City of Farmers Branch Liaison to the Board)*
- Stacey Baker
- Weber Baker
- Kristen Hansen
- Natasha Moser
- Rachel Rouse
- Stacy Tibbits



**BOARD MEMBERS:** Jennifer Bauer (*Board Chair*), Weber Baker, Denise Wallace (*Library Director*), David Solly (*Trustee Reports*), Stacey Baker, Kristen Hansen.