



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

MINUTES

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, February 22, 2024

1. Call to Order – President Maryann Hendrickson called the meeting to order at 3:04 P.M. Library Advisory Board (LAB) Members present: President Maryann Hendrickson, Vice-President Stephen Jones, Members Jennifer Kreie, Patricia Gallegos, and Erin Wahl. Members absent: Secretary Teresa Valenzuela. Also, in attendance: Sarah Booth, Library Deputy Director; and Dan Carrillo, Administrative Assistant.

a. President Maryann Hendrickson read the *Land Acknowledgement Statement*.

b. Acceptance of February 22, 2024, Agenda – President Maryann Hendrickson called for a motion to approve as presented; Vice-President Stephen Jones voiced a motion to approve; Member Jennifer Kreie seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion carried.

2. Review and Approval of January 25, 2024, Minutes – President Maryann Hendrickson called for a motion to approve as presented; Member Erin Wahl voiced a motion to approve; Vice-President Stephen Jones seconded the motion; all voted in favor; Motion carried.

3. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee Report – There is no report for this month.

4. Library Deputy Directors Report – Sarah Booth, Library Deputy Director, presented the following:

a. Library Statistics:

i. We currently have 126,296 items in the library. This number is a little low since we are continuing to weed older items that have not been checked out in a very long time. We are continuing to purchase new items to add to the library's collection and replace weeded items.

- 1 ii. We currently have 51,397 library cardholders. 46% of Las Cruces residents
- 2 are library cardholders.
- 3 iii. Staff conducted 112 programs in January with 1352 people in attendance.
- 4 This number is a little low, probably due to the transition from the holidays
- 5 to the new year. These numbers should increase as we move into spring.
- 6 iv. We had 25,775 Wi-Fi users for January. Wi-Fi is open to anyone, and no
- 7 library card is needed. There was a suggestion to add a pop-up page to
- 8 advertise library services when someone signs in to use our Wi-Fi. There
- 9 were 38 public meetings with 830 in attendance. We also had 161 study
- 10 room reservations for 242 people.
- 11 v. The year-to-date statistics for fiscal year 2024 were given to the LAB. This
- 12 is attachment 1.

13 b. Personnel Updates:

- 14 i. Library Assistant I (Circulation & Media): Estella Gonzalez retired at the
- 15 end of December 2023, leaving a vacancy for this position. This position
- 16 had over 150 applicants. Qualified applicants were invited to take a test
- 17 at the end of the month. The highest scoring applicants will be passed on
- 18 to hiring supervisor, Colleen Corgel, Library Supervisor.
- 19 ii. Library Page (Circulation & Media): Shari Riley retired at the end of
- 20 January, leaving a vacancy for this position. This position had over 288
- 21 applicants. Qualified applicants were invited to take a test at the end of
- 22 the month. The highest scoring applicants will be passed on to hiring
- 23 supervisor, Colleen Corgel, Library Supervisor.
- 24 iii. Library Assistant II (Support Services): Carlos Gonzales will be retiring in
- 25 late March, leaving this position vacant. We will post this position as soon
- 26 as we are able to.
- 27 iv. Library Assistant I P/T (Support Services): Michael (Cody) Edwards

1 resigned, leaving this position vacant. His last day was February 15, 2024.

2 This position has been posted.

- 3 v. Librarian II: This vacant position has been posted. Shuly Serrano, Library
4 Manager, has begun the process to get this position filled.

5 c. Library Programs & Events:

- 6 i. Our biggest event right now is the VITA Free Tax Preparation Service. The
7 VITA volunteers are trained by a person employed by the Internal Revenue
8 Service. They have really been overwhelmed with people wanting to have
9 their taxes prepared. This is such a popular program that people line up
10 hours before the tax preparation services open. This is a very important
11 service to our community. We do not have enough volunteers to meet the
12 demand of the public, so we must cap off how many will be served daily.
13 Many people are turned away and asked to come another day. Lab
14 Member Erin Wahl mentioned that New Mexico State University has
15 student volunteers that are trained in tax preparation. She will see if they
16 are available to help. Sage Café and Munson Center will also have the
17 VITA Tax Service soon.
- 18 ii. The other program that we are working on is the Creative Industries grant,
19 which we are calling Ask ALICE. This is named after the library's founder,
20 Alice Branigan. ALICE stands for: Artists + Libraries Innovative
21 Collaborative Entrepreneurship. We had a very well attended Ask ALICE
22 mixer on Friday, February 2, 2024, at the Branigan Cultural Center. Many
23 creative industry tools have been donated and purchased. Steven Haydu,
24 Library Manager, is adding these items to our Library of Things cabinet
25 downstairs. We had a problem with our coding in our catalog system but
26 hope to have it up and running in a couple weeks. A flyer that will be
27 publicized, is attached describing what the Ask ALICE program is. This flyer

- 1 was not given to the LAB. This is attachment 2.
- 2 iii. We have had a delay in the purchase of the laser cutter and the 3D printer
- 3 for the Makerspace program. We hope to have these purchased shortly.
- 4 d. Godfrey's Library Consultant:
- 5 i. Brad Waters will be returning the last week in March and will be here all
- 6 week with presentations on the Library Strategic Plan. He will start on the
- 7 Charette Building program. Please stay tuned for an additional program
- 8 on Monday, March 25, 2024, in the morning that will discuss the Charette
- 9 process.
- 10 e. Other Information:
- 11 ii. New software will be installed in the Public Computer Lab to make the
- 12 check-in process for patrons much easier and more efficient. The tentative
- 13 installation date for the new software is March 5, 2024, and may take a few
- 14 days to be completed.
- 15 5. Old Business – None noted.
- 16 6. New Business – None noted.
- 17 7. Announcements – The following was announced:
- 18 a. Lynda St. Clair, Friends of TBML President:
- 19 i. The last book sale was well attended and broke a sales record for the
- 20 Friends quarterly book sale events.
- 21 ii. The last author talk featuring Dr. Joseph Ortiz was well attended with over
- 22 30 people. The audience was well engaged throughout the talk. Dr. Ortiz
- 23 lives in El Paso, TX, but is from Las Cruces, NM. He had a book for sale
- 24 for \$30. 14 people bought it, which is great.
- 25 iii. There will be a pop-up book sale on Monday, March 11, 2024, from 10 A.M.
- 26 to 4 P.M. This sale will focus on world history and westerns literature. There
- 27 will also be DVDs for sale.

1 iv. The next Friends pop-up book sale will be Monday, April 15, 2024. This
2 sale will focus on biographies and memoirs literature. There will also be
3 DVDs for sale.

4 v. The next author talk will be on April 22, 2024. The featured author will be
5 Jennifer Bohnhoff, with more information to follow about what Ms. Bohnhoff
6 will present.

7 b. Erin Wahl, LAB Member:

8 i. Ms. Wahl was elected vice-president of the Mountain Plains Library
9 Association. Everyone at meeting congratulated Ms. Wahl.


10 ii. Ms. Wahl also reminded Sarah Booth to finalize a date for library staff to
11 tour the archives at the New Mexico State University library. Ms. Wahl
12 would also like to invite the LAB and Friends of TBML to tour the archives.

13 8. Public Participation – The following public were present:

14 a. David Brown, Public Member. Mr. Brown moved to Las Cruces, NM from Ohio.
15 Mr. Brown is a retired librarian. He is a board member for the Dona Ana County
16 Historical Society. Mr. Brown was made aware by an LAB member that there is a
17 District 3 vacancy on the LAB. He expressed interest but is in the process of
18 looking for a permanent residence and it may not be in the area of the LAB
19 vacancy's district.

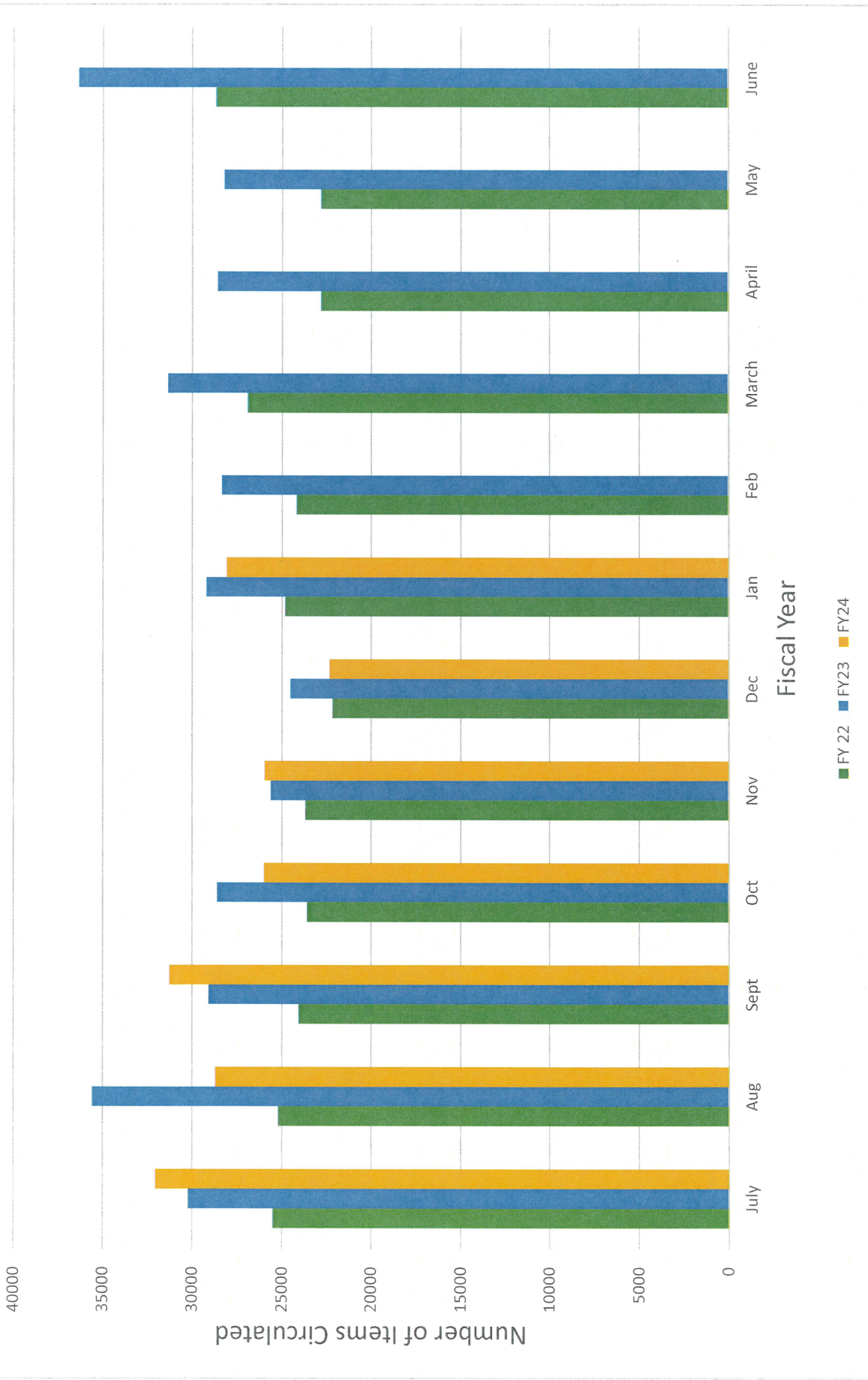
20 b. Lynda St. Clair, Friends of TBML Vice-President.

21 9. Adjournment – President Maryann Hendrickson made a motion to adjourn meeting;
22 meeting adjourned at approximately 3:46 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for
23 Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 3:00 P.M. in the Roadrunner Room on the 2nd floor of
24 TBML.

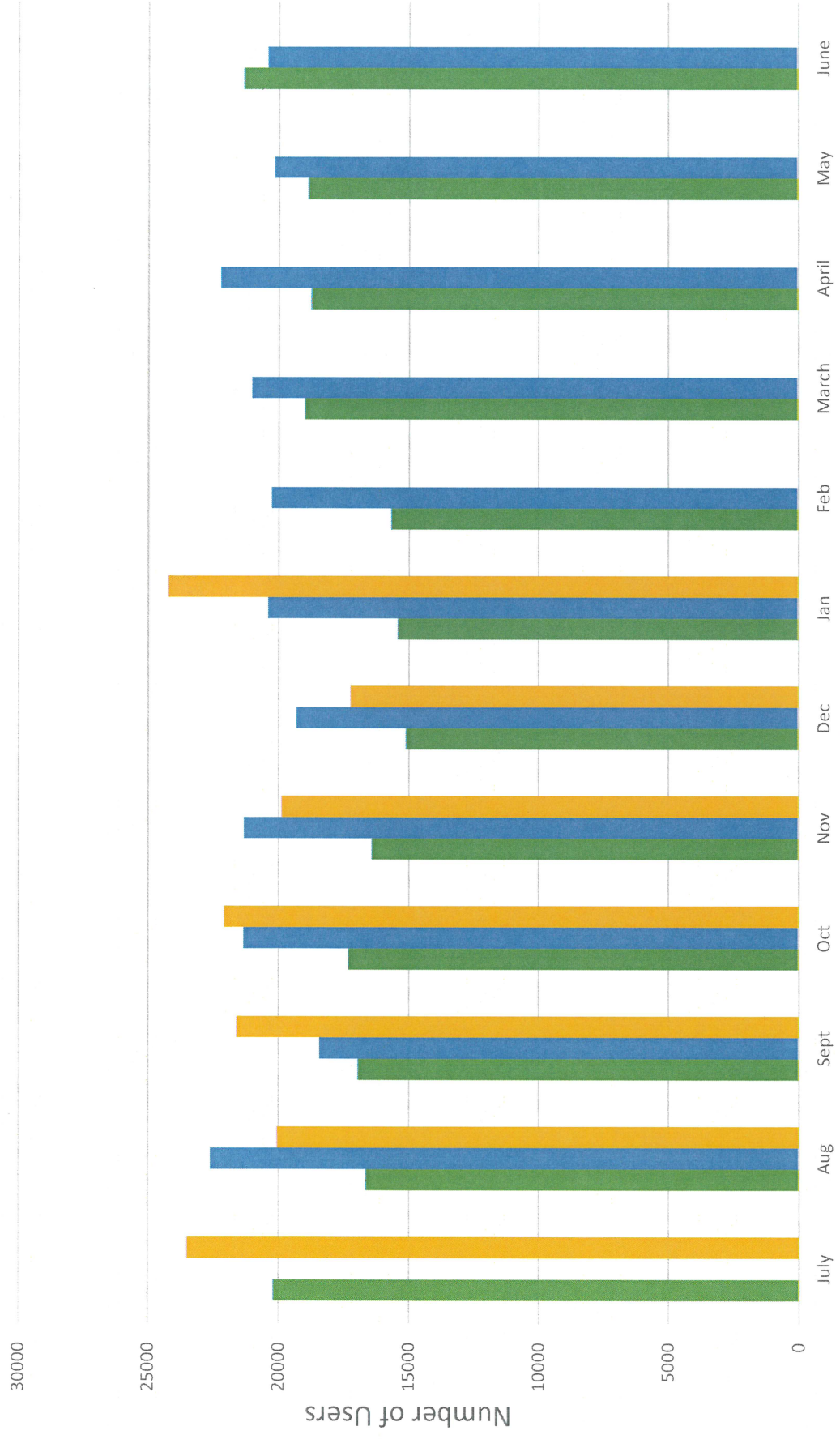
25
26 

27 **PRESIDENT or VICE-PRESIDENT**

Las Cruces Public Libraries Circulation Year To Date



Las Cruces Public Libraries User Count Year To Date



Fiscal Year

■ FY 22 ■ FY 23 ■ FY 24

30000

25000

20000

15000

10000

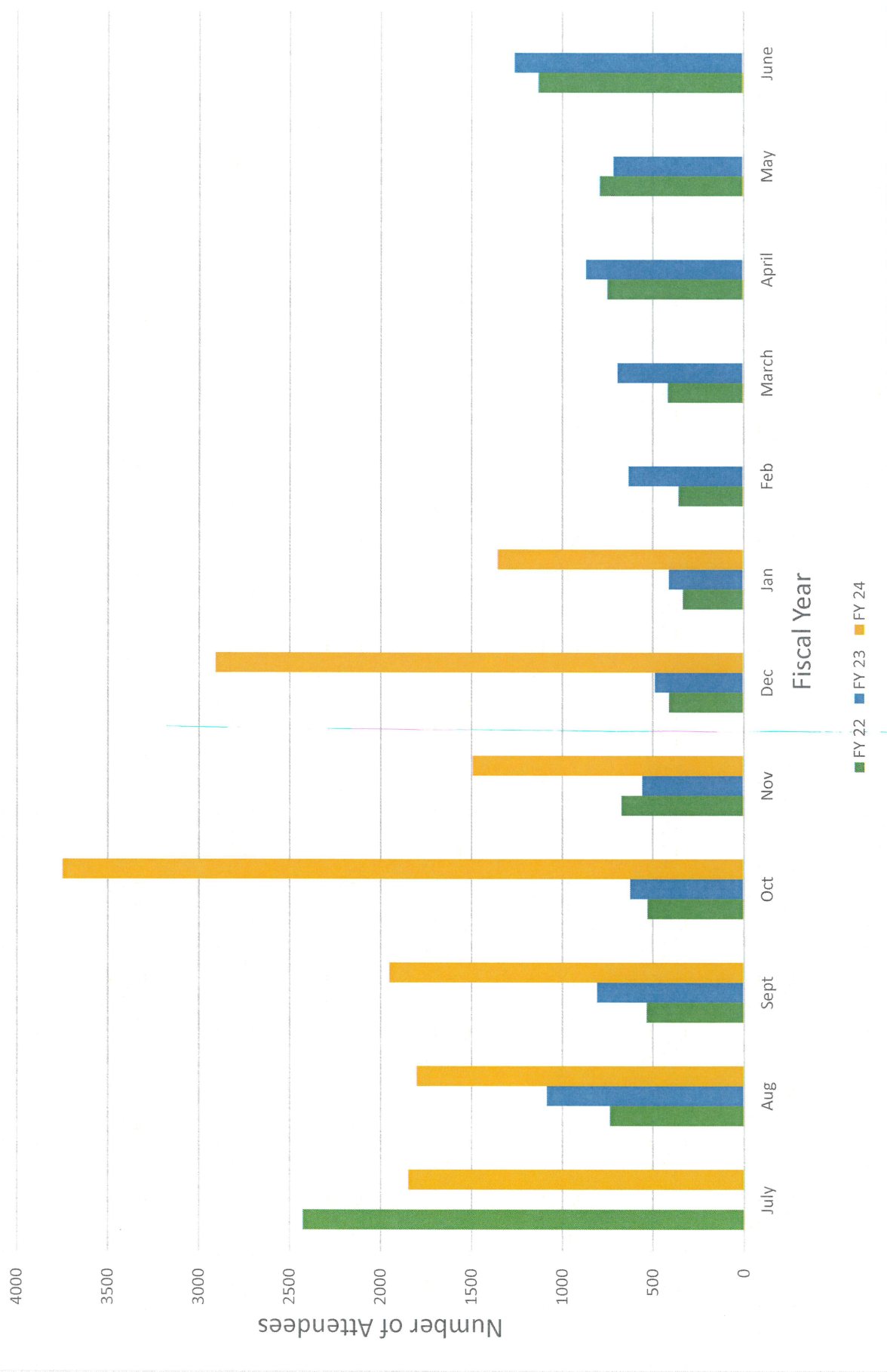
5000

0

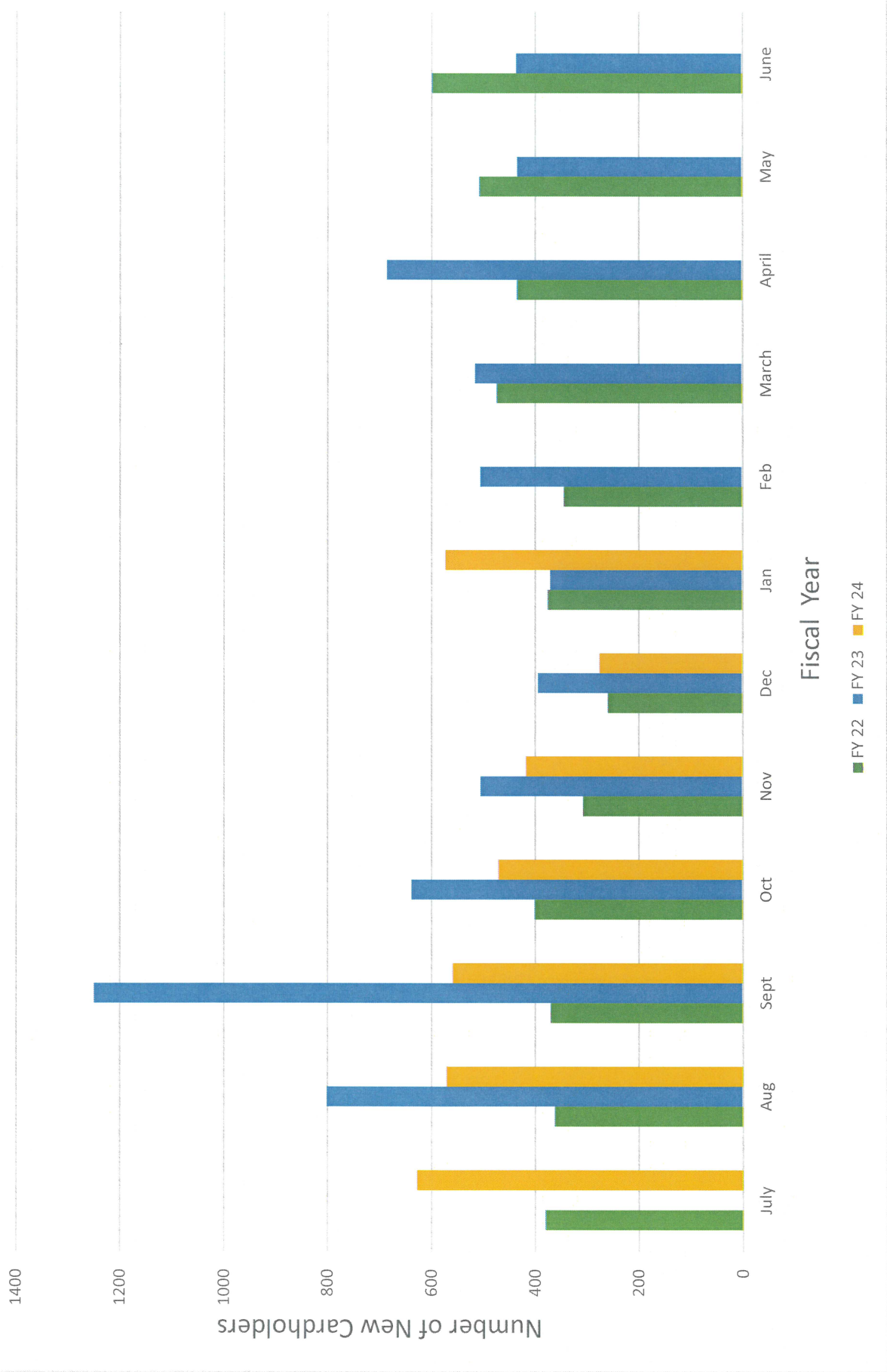
Number of Users

July Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb March April May June

Las Cruces Public Libraries Program Attendance Year To Date



Las Cruces Public Libraries New Cardholders By Month





CALLING ALL CREATIVES!

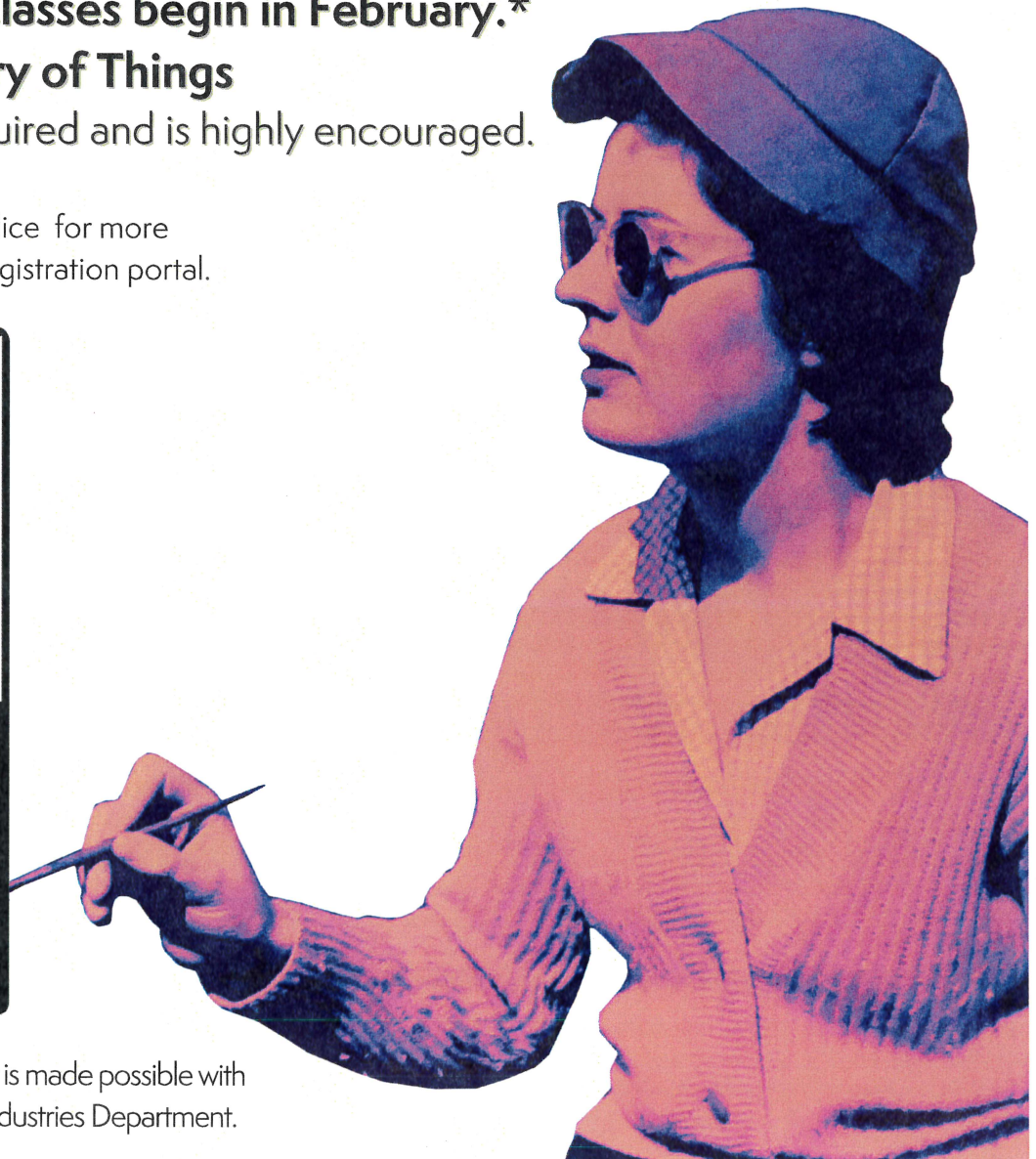
ATTACHMENT 2

ASK ALICE! ART SMARTER, NOT HARDER WORKSHOPS & MAKERSPACE

Artists + Libraries Innovative Collaborative Entrepreneurship (ALICE) provides opportunities to explore new skills and meet other artists & creative entrepreneurs.

- Programming is offered at no charge!
 - Workshops and Classes begin in February.*
 - Explore the Library of Things
- *Registration may be required and is highly encouraged.

Go to lascruces.gov/AskAlice for more information and a link to the registration portal.



Ask ALICE: Art Smarter, Not Harder is made possible with grant funding from NM Creative Industries Department.