



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

MINUTES

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, February 26, 2026

1. Call to Order – President Stephen Jones called the meeting to order at 3:02 P.M. Library Advisory Board (LAB) Members present: President Stephen Jones, Vice-President Maryann Hendrickson, Secretary Erin Wahl, Members Jessica Streeter, Jason Ferguson, Denali Wilson, and Nancy Claypool. Also, in attendance: Vicki Simkins, Acting Library Manager; and Dan Carrillo, Administrative Assistant.

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

b. Acceptance of February 26, 2026, Agenda – President Stephen Jones called for a motion to approve as presented; Member Jessica Streeter voiced a motion to approve; Vice-President Maryann Hendrickson seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion carried. NOTE: Secretary Erin Wahl wasn't available for this vote.

2. Review and Approval of January 22, 2026, Minutes – President Stephen Jones called for a motion to approve as presented; Secretary Erin Wahl voiced a motion to approve; Member Jason Ferguson seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion carried.

3. Library Deputy Directors Report – Vicki Simkins, Acting Library Manager, presented the following:

a. Library Statistics

i. Library statistics were handed out to the LAB. This is attachment 1.

ii. We are now halfway through FY2026. Our checkouts are a little behind, more than likely due to the bankruptcy of Baker and Taylor. So far this year, we have checked out 171,316 physical items. Last year at this time we had 189,721 checkouts.

1 iii. So far, the library has had 136,715 visitors this year. This includes 8,313
2 people who have attended 575 programs.

3 iv. The study rooms have been reserved 772 times for a total of 1,153 people.

4 b. Personnel Updates

5 i. Library Manager (Support Services): This position has been posted. It
6 closes on March 9, 2026. As of February 13, 2026, we have 26 applicants
7 for this position.

8 ii. Outreach Co-Op: We have received approval to fill this position.

9 c. Library Programs and Events

10 i. Jenny Chatwin, Librarian I, has started a new program. She is presenting
11 a Storytime reading on Thursdays at 11:30 A.M. Jenny's audience has
12 already grown from six participants to twenty in just four weeks. We now
13 offer this event three days a week.

14 ii. The GECU VITA Tax Assistance has resumed for the third year. We are
15 offering this free tax service to patrons at Branigan Library on Mondays and
16 Saturdays. There is also tax assistance available at Munson Senior Center
17 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This has always been a popular program,
18 and we are happy to be able to offer it to the community. A big thank you
19 to Shuly Serrano, Library Manager, for her planning and leadership of this
20 huge event.

21 iii. Vicki Simkins, Library Manager (Support Services), has done an excellent
22 job of managing our E-Rate funding. Ms. Simkins found out that our
23 contract with Conterra, who provides the public internet for the library, will
24 be expiring this year. This funding greatly reduces the price of internet costs
25 by 80% for us. Vicki has been working with Richard Govea, New Mexico
26 Office of Broadband and Expansion Project Manager, to submit our

renewal application. The Request for Quotation is now posted. We will need to make a provisional decision by April 1, 2026.

d. Library Renovation and Expansion

i. Thank you to Lynda, Sandy, Jessica, Erin and Denali, for coming with us to Santa Fe. We had a busy but successful visit with legislators. I appreciate the time and involvement everyone is taking to advocate for our renovation! As many of you know, our Legislators contributed \$1.7 million to our renovation and expansion project.

ii. We have heard from the City that this project will be on the November 2026 Go Bond ballot. We do not know how much they will ask for this project

e. Acceptance of Library Director's Report

i. President Stephen Jones called for a motion to approve report; all voted in favor; motion carried.

4. Announcements/Other Information

a. Vice-President Maryann Hendrickson mentioned the following:

i. Ms. Hendrickson noticed the EEO statement on the LAB agenda was a little different than the current one that is on the agenda now. This is attachment 2. There was a change in the protected categories. Ms. Hendrickson has been in contact with City of Las Cruces Administration about this. They responded that the reason for the change in this statement was done by a City Manager directive dated November 8, 2024. Come to find out, there was no criteria in how they selected and removed items in the statement. Ms. Hendrickson mentioned that the statement is abbreviated and doesn't reflect the rich diversity in the city. City Administration said they would change the EEO statement on the City agendas, but that was it. They are not going to change the rest of the public

1 facing documents to be inclusive. Ms. Hendrickson would like to bring a
2 proposal to the LAB. This proposal will be that all library positions include
3 a more expansive diversity statement like the one the City previously had,
4 with the addition of statement regarding TTY for the hearing impaired. Ms.
5 Hendrickson would like action item *'Proposal to Match City Policy with*
6 *Library's Public Facing Statements with Regard to EEO'* be added to New
7 Business on the March 2026 agenda.

8 b. Lynda St. Clair, Friends of TBML President mentioned the following:

9 i. We just had our spring book sale. March typically records the lowest book
10 sales for the entire year. We made \$3,000, which is still good. We do have
11 a few pop-up book sales coming up, and a couple more regular book sales
12 in 2026.

13 c. Member Erin Wahl mentioned the following:

14 i. The New Mexico Black History Exhibit, previously held at the NMSU
15 Branson Library and NMSU Zuhl Library, will be moved to Branigan Library
16 sometime in March 2026. There is a tentative date of March 31, 2026, for
17 a reception for this event.

18 5. Public Participation

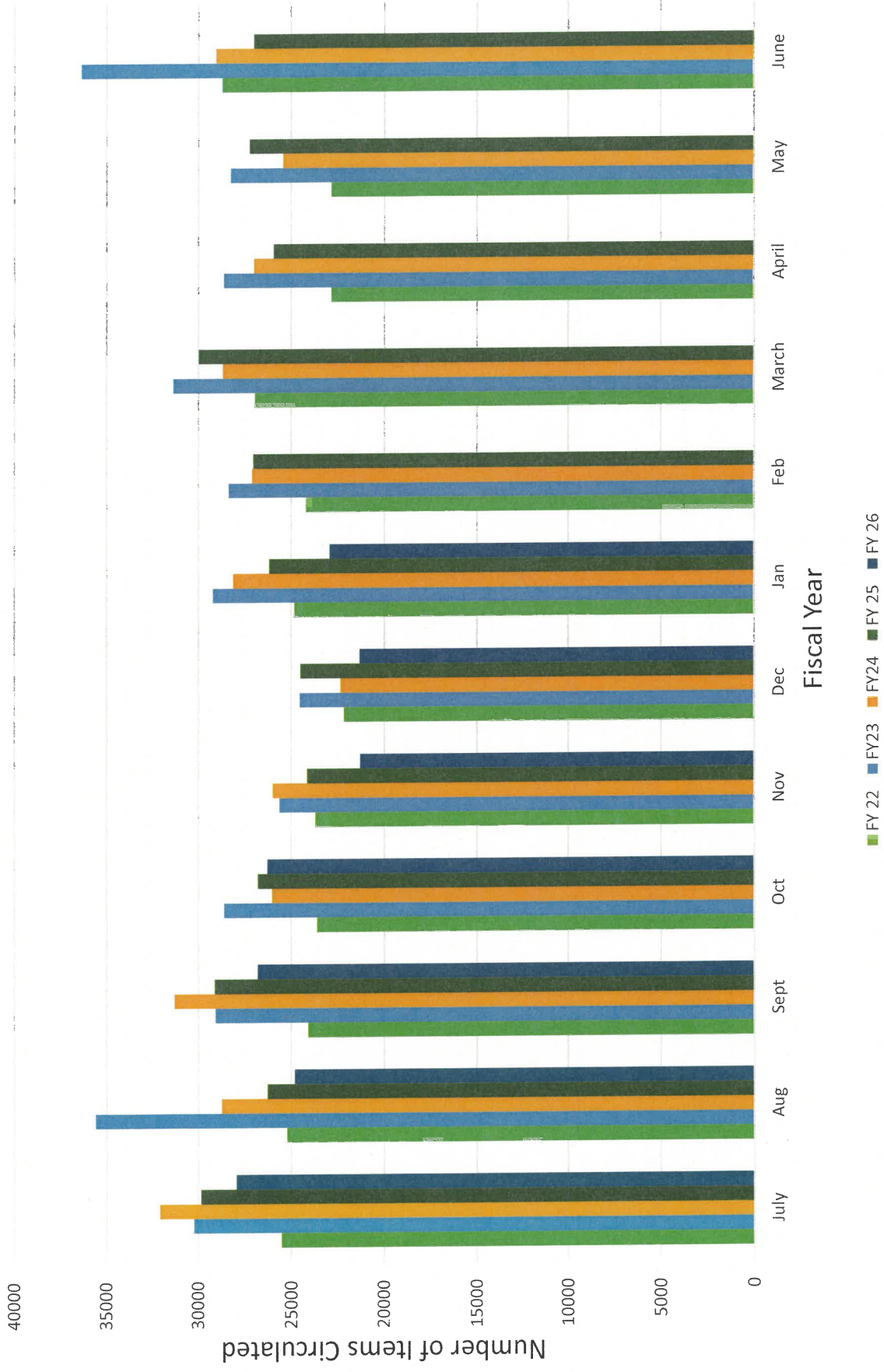
19 a. Lynda St. Clair, Friends of TBML President.

20 6. Adjournment – Vice-President Maryann Hendrickson entertained a motion to adjourn
21 meeting; meeting adjourned at approximately 3:43 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled
22 for Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 3:00 P.M. in the Roadrunner Room on the 2nd floor of
23 TBML.

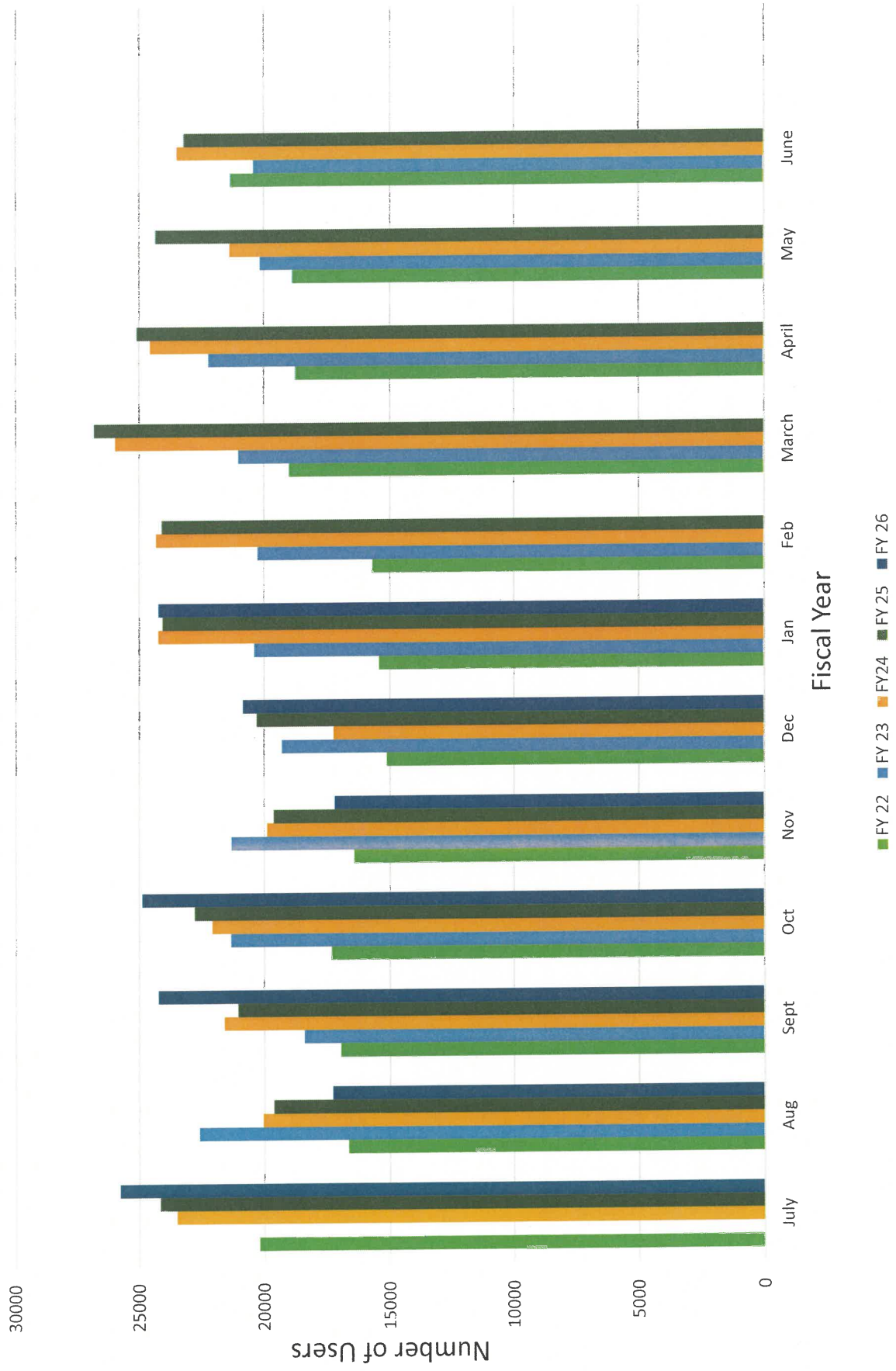
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25 _____

26 **PRESIDENT or VICE-PRESIDENT**

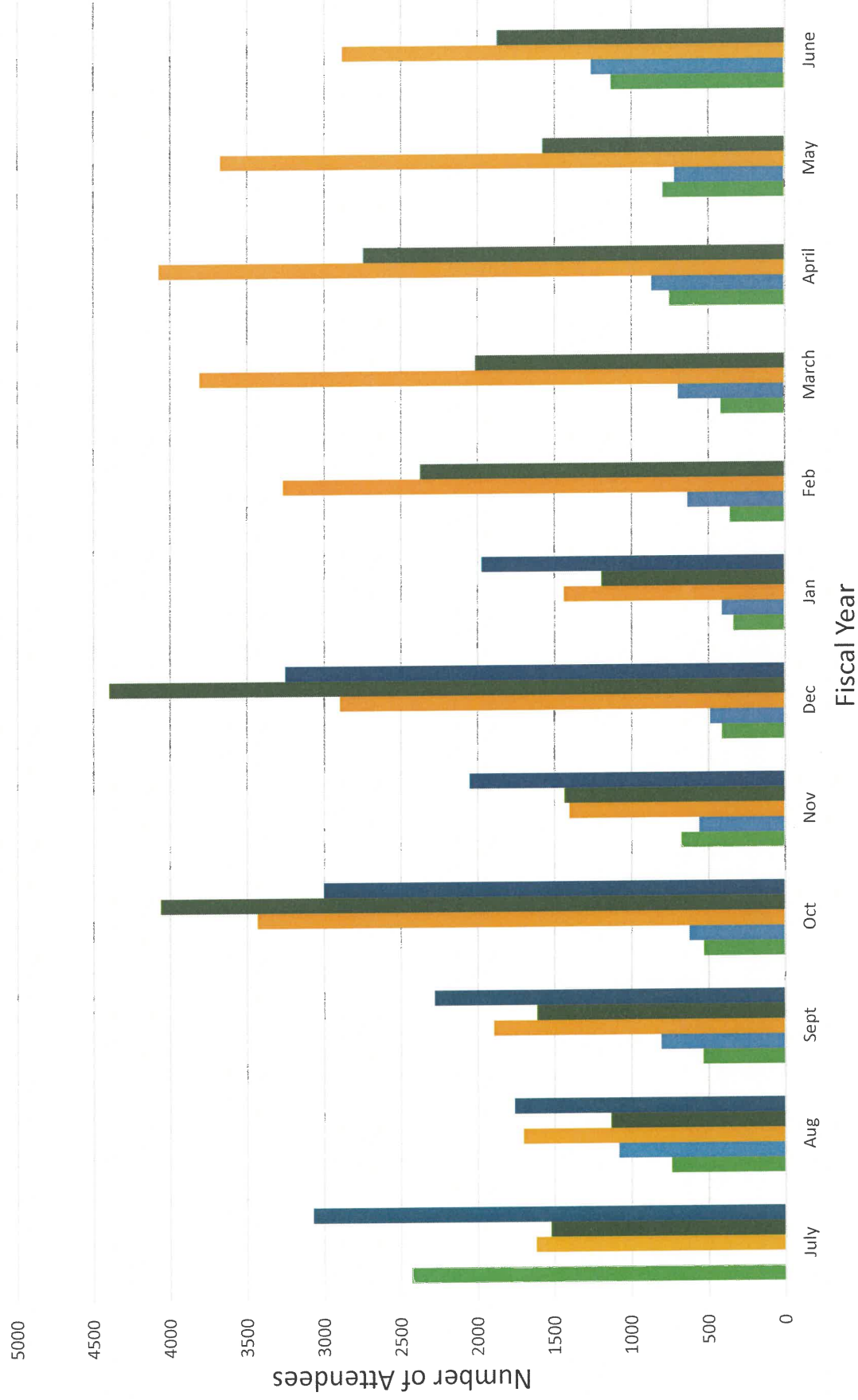
Las Cruces Public Libraries
Circulation Year To Date



Las Cruces Public Libraries User Count Year To Date

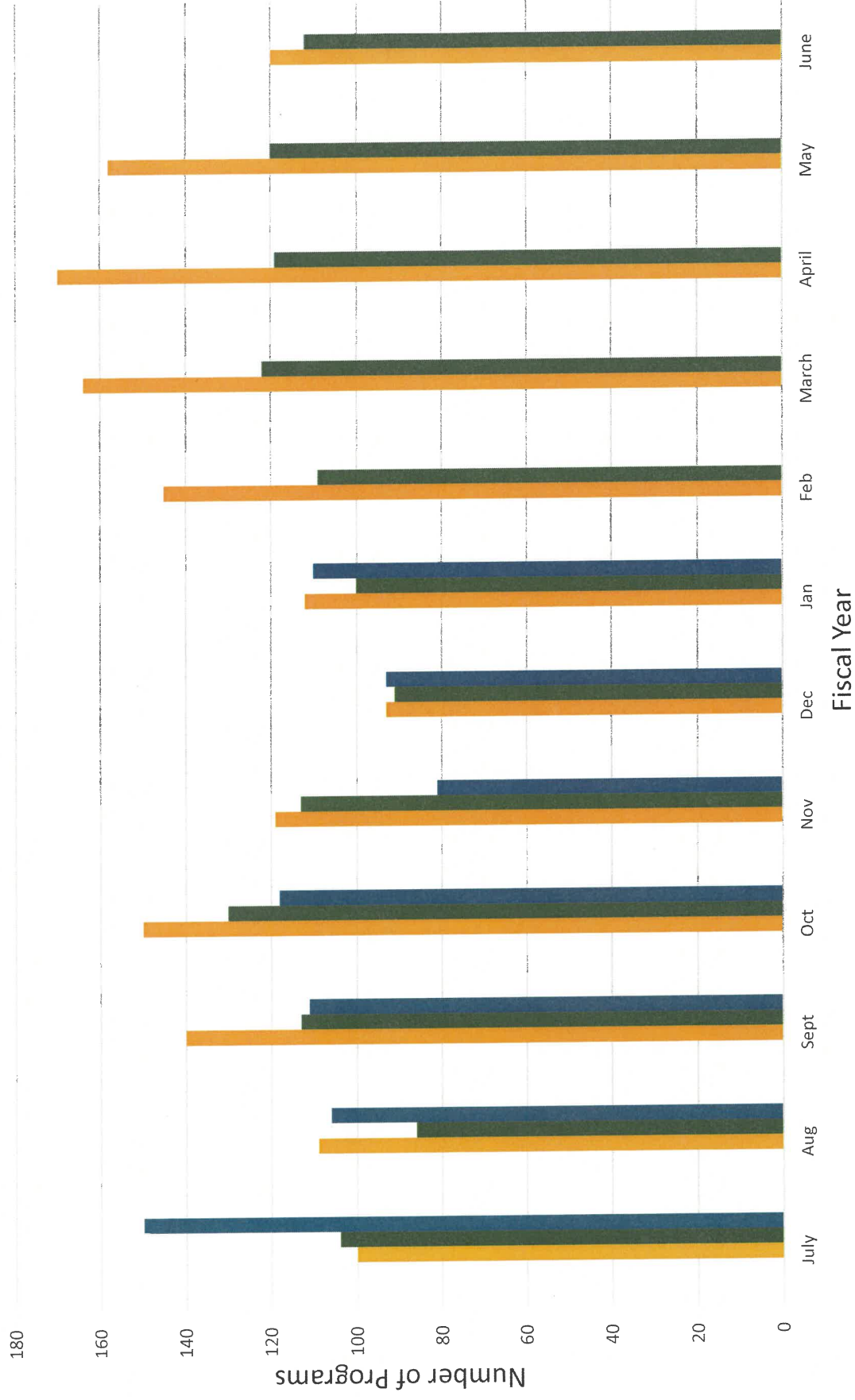


Las Cruces Public Libraries Program Attendance Year To Date

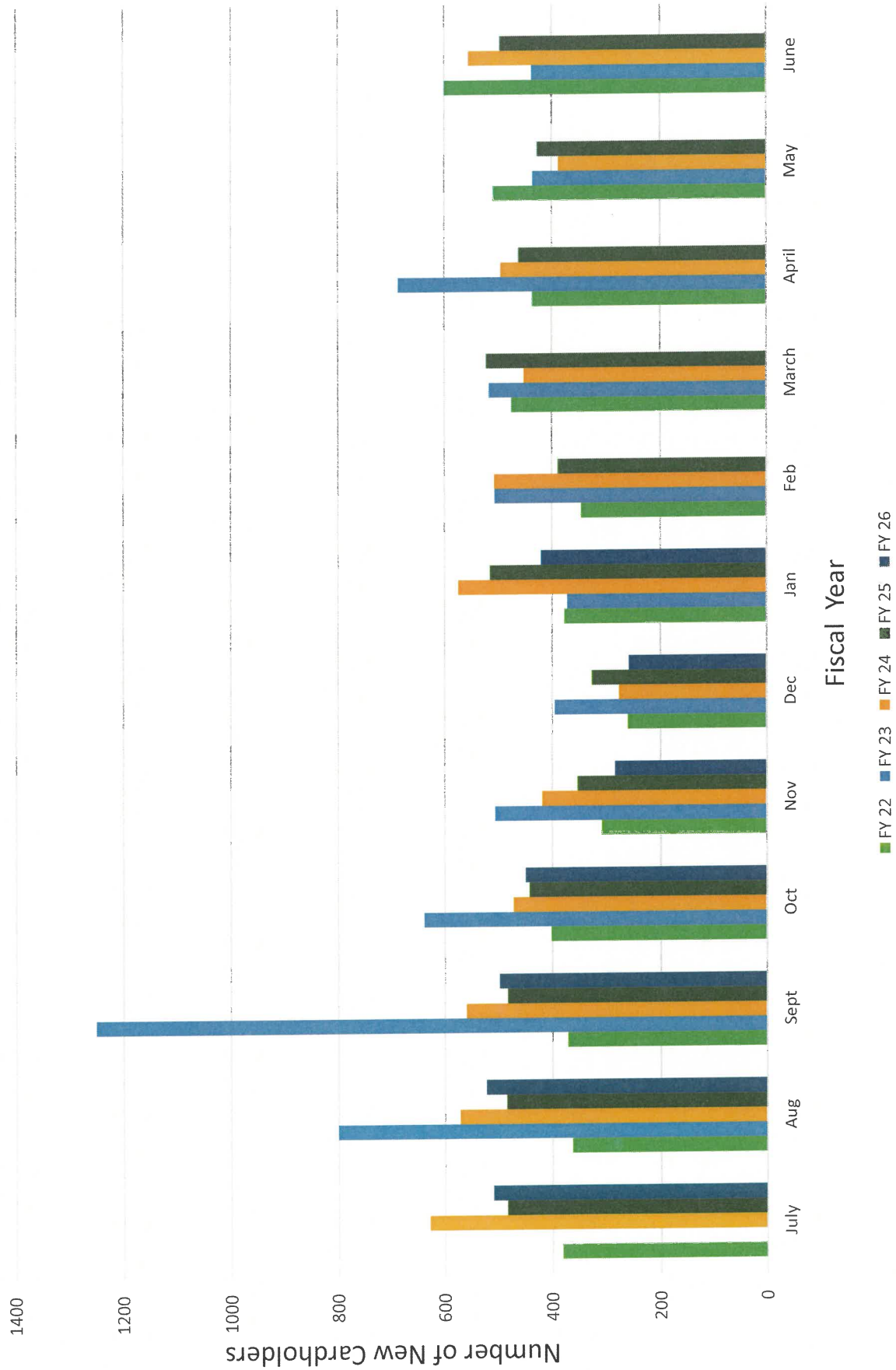


■ FY 22 ■ FY 23 ■ FY 24 ■ FY 25 ■ FY 26

Las Cruces Public Libraries Library Programs



Las Cruces Public Libraries New Cardholders By Month



These statements have been on, or are currently on all City of Las Cruces Agendas

Previous Statement on Agendas (Non-Discrimination)

The City of Las Cruces does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Current Statement on Agendas (EEO)

The City of Las Cruces provides equal employment opportunities and does not discriminate based on race, sex, age, disability, or any other protected class in employment or the provision of services. Individuals may request reasonable accommodations and language accessibility services at (575) 528-4000 / TTY 711.