



Library Director

Ramiro S. Salazar

Ramiro S. Salazar joined the City of San Antonio as Director of the Public Library in April 2005. He is responsible for the delivery of library services to approximately 1.8 million citizens in San Antonio and Bexar County. He provides management oversight for the library system, consisting of the downtown Central Library, 25 branch libraries, one bookmobile and leads a team of approximately 500 employees.

San Antonio Public Library offers an extensive collection of English and Spanish language books, eBooks, music, and audio books of all genres for check out and a growing digital collection. The Library Department also offers a variety of programs for children, teens, seniors and special needs populations. Public computer access and laptops are currently available to check out for in-library use and iPads used to facilitate programming and training for all ages.

Since joining the San Antonio Public Library, Mr. Salazar has led efforts to complete capital improvements and other major projects, including expansion and/or renovation of 13 existing branches and the opening of four new branch libraries: Julia Yates Semmes, Maury Maverick, Jr., Mission and Parman Library at Stone Oak. Other library service enhancements led by Mr. Salazar include the launch of free public wireless internet service (WiFi) throughout the library system; development of an agreement for the Landa Gardens Conservancy to inject \$1.4 million to improve and maintain the Landa Branch Library grounds; negotiation of a lease agreement with the National Western Art Foundation to establish a state-of-the-art Western art museum in the Hertzberg Building that will also house a digital portal for the San Antonio Public Library: a total injection of \$25 million in private funds; laptops for in-library use; development of a five year (2012-2017) strategic plan; ; a technology hub that opens in the summer of 2013 adding more than 120 new computers, faster WiFi service and a host of other offerings available for technology education.

The San Antonio Public Library's ongoing commitment to the community has earned both national and local awards with its most recent being the prestigious Urban Libraries Council Innovation Award in 2012. In 2006, it was selected as one of only three libraries in the country to receive a national award for outstanding public service, given by the national Institute of Museum and Library Sciences.

Before joining the San Antonio Public Library, Mr. Salazar served as Interim Assistant City Manager for the City of Dallas. Prior to that,

he served as the Director of the Dallas Public Library from 1993 to 2004. He also served as Director of the El Paso Public Library for three years. He has dedicated his public serve to increasing availability of library resources and services to all segments of the community.

Mr. Salazar, a native Texan, has been a library professional for over 30 years. He was first introduced to the field of library science while working in the library periodicals department as a work-study student at San Antonio College. After receiving his Master's Degree, Mr. Salazar returned to his native South Texas and served as the Director of the Eagle Pass Public Library. Mr. Salazar has experience with large urban library systems and in building partnerships with communities.

Education

- Master of Library Science, Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas
- Bachelor of Arts, Texas A&I University, Kingsville, Texas

Professional Memberships and Community Involvement

Mr. Salazar is active in the American Library Association, the Texas Library Association, and the Public Library Association. In 2011, he served as co-chair for the national conference for the REFORMA National Conference. REFORMA is a national organization promoting Library and Information Services to Latinos and Spanish speaking. Mr. Salazar was appointed in 2011 by City Manager Sheryl Sculley to serve a two-year term as Chair of the United Way Campaign for the City of San Antonio.