

#### Library Services Update

April 1, 2025

Roberto Zapata, Director of Library and Cultural Assets

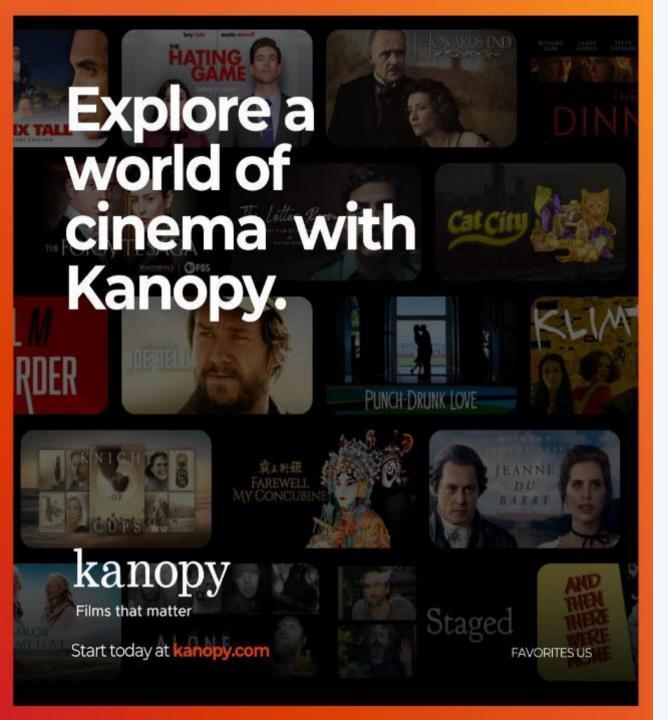


#### WHY ARE WE HERE?

#### Purpose

- Provide an overview of the library services recently implemented
- Discuss new services being planned with the goal of advancing access throughout the county
- Discuss the Mayor's Summer Reading Challenge





#### Introducing Kanopy

- Kanopy launched on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and is free to all adult library card holders
- Kanopy allows users to stream movies, documentaries, The Great Courses, and series from anywhere
- Stream directly from the platform or via apps available through Apple Store, Play Store, and on Smart TVs
- Library users receive 10 tickets a month

## Kanopy Kids



- Kanopy Kids can be used in conjunction with Kanopy and allows for parental controls
- Unlimited streaming for kids—no tickets needed
- Includes beloved PBS shows like Sesame Street and Mister Rogers' Neighborhood to animated storybooks and STEM-focused series
- Diverse topics: Offers titles covering literacy, languages, math, and social-emotional learning
- Empowers caregivers to incorporate screen time that enriches, entertains, and educates

## Why Kanopy?

- Blu-Ray and DVD prices are 29% higher than they were this time last year
- DVD sales have declined for the 16<sup>th</sup> straight year
- Streaming video has become the go-to for film and TV favorites
- Kanopy has 1100+ content partners, including MGM, A24, WB, PBS,
   Paramount, BBC Studios, and The Great Courses
- 65% of films and TV shows on Kanopy include public performance rights for the library, eliminating the need for a separate license

## AWE Early Literacy Stations



- 7 AWE stations available throughout our 4 locations
- AWE Early Literacy station is an all-in-one educational touchscreen computer designed for children 2-8
- Provides a safe, ad-free learning environment that promotes early literacy, math, science, and problem-solving skills
- Software includes 70+ award winning, preloaded programs
- Games and activities make learning interactive and fun for young users
- No internet required
- Bilingual English and Spanish programs
- Funding provided by Waco Foundation

### **Benefits of AWE Stations**

- Early Literacy Support: Reinforces key skills to prepare children for school
- Bridging the Digital Divide: Provides access to technology and educational resources
- Parent engagement: Encourages caregiver involvement through co-use of engaging and educational tools.
- Community Value: Demonstrates the library's role in fostering lifelong learning and reducing barriers to education.

## Looking Ahead



- Through support from our Friends group, we are purchasing two new selfcheckout stations for East and South Branches
- Working to implement an app for the library that will provide ease of access for users that will launch in May
- Working with IT Department on an E-rate grant through TSLAC for a hotspot lending program
- Investigating book vending machines and book lockers to expand access across the county
- Increasing number of e-book titles available through CloudLibrary (app available on App Store, Google Play, and Amazon App Store)

Mayor's
Summer
Reading
Challenge



# Why Summer Reading Matters

- Prevents the "Summer Slide"—students can lose up to 2 months of learning
- Encourages lifelong reading habits
- Supports literacy development and academic success
- In 2024, we had 2,700 people participate in SRC
- 1,565 were children ages 0-12 and 280 were teens
- With new sponsorships and changes, we expect to increase number of participants this year

#### **SRC 2025**



- Registration is completely online through Beanstack and opens May
   11
- This year, we have 100+ programs that are being offered for all ages,
   with 74 of those programs specifically for children
- Incentives are provided when participants reach each level of the program. Incentives include book bags, coupons to local businesses, and other prizes.
- Sponsors include: Friends of the Waco-McLennan County Library,
   Hawaiian Falls, Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, H-E-B
- New this year: A commercial to encourage elementary age kids to participate
- Schools will have access to this commercial and flyers that can be easily printed, emailed, and shared with students

City of Waco | New Library Services Update

## SRC 2024 Programs







# Achievement of Excellence In Libraries Award

- Awarded by the Texas
   Municipal Library Directors
   Association, part of TML
- Places us in the top 19% of libraries in the state
- Must demonstrate excellence in a variety of categories
- Reflection of the work of our dedicated team



City of Waco | Section Header here

### THANK YOU

Questions: <a href="mailto:robertoz@wacotx.gov">robertoz@wacotx.gov</a>