

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 24, 2015

Second branch of all-digital public library to open Saturday

Contact: Laura Jesse

210.787.9038/m

Less than two years after opening the country's first all-digital public library, Bexar County officials and the Hon. Julian Castro will open the second full service branch with a ceremony at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 25. The Dr. Ricardo Romo BiblioTech is located in the Gardens at San Juan Square, a San Antonio Housing Authority community at 2003 S. Zarzamora.

Following the official ceremony, attendees will have an opportunity to register for a BiblioTech library card, browse the collection and check out e-books and e-readers, and tour the new facility. Residents who register for a library card at the event will be put into a drawing for two Samsung Galaxy tablets. Kids can enjoy activities, games and visits from the University of Texas at San Antonio mascot Rowdy and the children's book character Spot the Dog. Joe Posada will perform outside the library during the event.

BiblioTech offers residents of Bexar County 24/7 access to 38,000 current titles, an endless number of classic titles, research databases, comics, graphic novels, music, movies, technology tutorials, genealogy resources and more through a cloud-based collection. The physical locations offer access to Mac desktop computers, laptops, iPads, study rooms, and interactive touch screen tables for children to play educational games. Residents also can check out e-readers loaded with five books at a time, or interactive e-readers loaded with 150 children's books for a two-week period.

The Dr. Ricardo Romo BiblioTech will be the first digital library co-located in a public housing community. The Gardens at San Juan Square is the San Antonio Housing Authority's newest mixed-income community that includes 539 units redeveloped from the San Juan Homes. The three-phase redevelopment created a walkable community connected by walking trails and a park with plaza space. The community also features live-work units for small business owners and commercial spaces to spur economic development on the near Westside.