

AGENDA
The Denver Public Library Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting
June 19, 2008, 3:30 p.m.
Denver Central Library

1. Call to Order. Fofi Mendez.
2. Approval of Minutes of Regular Library Commission Meetings. Commission.
 - a. April 17, 2008
 - b. May 15, 2008
3. Introductions.
4. Public Comment Period.
5. Report of the President and Members.
 - a. Staff Council. Sid Wilson.
 - b. Other Reports.
6. Report of the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation. Hanne Lichtenfels.
7. Approval of Proposed 2009 Budget. Fofi Mendez.
8. Approval of Proposed Revisions to Computer and Internet Use Policy. Fofi Mendez.
9. Report of the City Librarian and Staff. Shirley Amore and Staff.
 - a. Written report items.
 - b. Other items.
10. Other Business. Commission.
11. Recess of Public Session. Fofi Mendez.
12. Executive Session for Discussion of City Librarian's Performance Evaluation, June 19, 2007-June19, 2008.
13. Reconvening of Public Session.
14. Action on matters discussed in Executive Session. Commission.
15. Adjournment.

Reminder: The Eleanor Gehres Award Reception will take place immediately following the Library Commission meeting (5:30p) in the Western History/Genealogy Reading Room on Level 5.

Agenda Item 2

Requested Action: Approval

Minutes
The Denver Public Library Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting
May 15, 2008, 3:30 p.m.
Denver Central Library

Present: Fofi Mendez, Kevin O'Connor, Lois Ann Rovira, Sid Wilson.
Excused: Susana Cordova, Suneeta Hazra, Jay Mead, Karen Rokala.
Staff: Shirley Amore, Carol Edwards, Eleanor Glover, Letty Icolari, Celeste Jackson, Susan Kotarba, Diane Lapierre, Rachelle Naishtut, Jo Haight Sarling, Richard Sosa, David Trabosh.
Guests: Melinda Lloyd, Denver Public Library Friends Foundation; Councilman Rick Garcia, District 1; Jim Hannifin, West Colfax Business Improvement District; Steve Hildmann, community member.

1. Call to Order.

President Fofi Mendez called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes of April 17, 2008 Regular Library Commission Meeting.

Due to lack of a quorum Approval of Minutes held over until June meeting.

3. Introductions.

The staff and guests present introduced themselves.

4. Public Comment Period.

Community member Steve Hildmann reported that he heard at a recent neighborhood meeting that a West Denver Library site had been selected at West 10th Avenue and Sheridan Boulevard. Shirley Amore explained that before any site could be chosen it would have to undergo a full review and then receive approval by the Library Commission. A number of sites are still being considered (see agenda item 7 below).

5. Report of the President and Members.

- a. Sid Wilson, on behalf of the Staff Council, thanked Richard Sosa for his presentation on the Balanced Scorecard.
- b. Fofi Mendez reported on her participation at recent Library related activities.

6. Report of the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation.

Melinda Lloyd presented this report.

7. Report on Negotiations for a Library at St Anthony's Hospital site.

Councilman Rick Garcia representing Northwest Denver and the West Colfax corridor reported on his negotiations with Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI), parent organization for Centura Health and St. Anthony's Hospital, to donate a parcel of land for a library on Colfax Avenue between Raleigh and Stuart Streets. The CHI Board is expected to take action on the

land donation at their June meeting. The Library parcel would then be included in their Request for Proposals for redevelopment of the site.

Jim Hannifin, President of the West Colfax Business Improvement District, reported that the entire site has been rezoned for mixed use and high-density which could offer a number of additional money-saving opportunities for the Library.

8. Report on 2009 Budget Guidelines.

Richard Sosa reported on the 2009 Budget guidelines outlined by the City. The 2009 Budget will be based on the City's newly developed Strategic Framework.

9. Approval of DPL Human Resources Policy Guidebook Changes.

Letty Icolari, representing the Library Commission Human Resources Sub-Committee, summarized the reasons for the proposed changes. Upon motion, by Kevin O'Connor, and second, the proposed revisions to the Human Resources Policy Guidebook were approved by the Commissioners present along with proxies submitted prior to the meeting.

10. Approval of City Librarian Evaluation Process and Timeline.

After discussion, a motion was made by Kevin O'Connor and seconded to approve the Evaluation Process and Timeline as written with the addition under June19-June30: *Prior to the meeting of the City Librarian with the President of the Commission, the President will formalize via a letter to the City Librarian, the results of the evaluation made in the June Executive Session. This letter will include pay raise information.* A vote was taken by the four commissioners present with 3 in favor and 1 against. Due to lack of a quorum the excused Library Commissioners will be polled via email.

11. Report of the City Librarian and Staff.

Diane Lapierre reported that the Library received \$25,000 from the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation to help support the Read Aloud Project. She also presented the following reminders:

- > Wild, Wilde West Fresh City Life Program, Saturday, May 17 at 2 p.m.
- > Third Annual Friends Award to Stephen Savageau on June 4 at 6 p.m.
- > 33rd Annual Used Book Sale, which is returning to an outdoor venue on the lawn, June 14-15 (preview party for Friends Foundation members the evening of June 13).

12. Other Business.

Fofi Mendez announced the formation of a new Library Commission Committee. The Committee for Naming and Sponsorship Policy will consist of Jay Mead, Kevin O'Connor and Karen Rokala.

Fofi Mendez also announced that this year's Nominating Committee for the next slate of Library Commission officers would consist of Kevin O'Connor, Lois Ann Rovira and Fofi Mendez.

13. Fofi Mendez adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Submitted by Rachelle Naishtut for Sid Wilson.

Denver Public Library Commission, June 19, 2008
Agenda Item 7 - Approval 2009 Proposed Budget

Action Requested: Approval

2009 Budget Highlights

2009 Base Budget:

- The 2009 base budget request is \$32,856,489; this is an increase of 5.31% from 2008
- The 2009 base budget is an estimate of what is needed to maintain 2008 level of service in 2009.
- The 2009 base budget largest increases, for same level of service, are in cost relating to new book processing, shipping, and library materials for the current collection. These are lines 57-59 for Freight, Printing, and Binding Services, respectively.
- The 2009 base budget was approved by Library Commission Finance Committee on June 4 and submitted to the Budget Management Office (BMO) on June 5.
- Updates and changes that have occurred since LC Finance Committee review are:
 - a. The reduction amount increased to reflect more accurate information from BMO from \$397,683 to \$403,616.

This budget year:

- The Library is required to submit to BMO a base budget and after a two-week review period, submit the library's expansions and reductions requests.
- The Library will submit our final proposed 2009 budget on June 20 after Library Commission review and approval.
- The Library was initially requested to cut \$1.5 million from the budget but after analysis of the type of reductions this large amount required, the proposed reduction request was reduced to \$403,616 which is 20% more than what was reduced last year.
- The Library is requesting \$645,526 in service expansions, which is 9% less than what was awarded last year.
- The 2009 Budget process is centered on the Citywide Strategic Framework and both proposed expansions and reductions have been linked to the City's Strategic Framework.
- The 2009 Budget reduction process provided the Library with an opportunity to consider the City's strategic process and the Library's Balanced Scorecard initiatives and engage in strategic discussions to improve future library services for the 21st Century. The strategic approach, including analysis and discussion, will continue in the next budget year.

- The 2009 Budget process also reflects DPL’s Balance Scorecard Objectives that are also linked to the City’s Strategic Framework (see **Table 1** below)

Table 1

City-wide Strategic Outcome	DPL BSC	Measure	Target
Vibrant, dynamic economy	Small business and job seekers	DPL Job resources and # of users of DPL business resources	Increase DPL job resources 80% and Increase circ and electronic searches for business resources to 255,000
Quality cultural and recreation opportunities	DPL programs and materials that enrich adults	Circulation of adult library materials	Maintain the materials collection circulation
Quality cultural and recreation opportunities	Community is aware of the depth of the Historical Services Collection	Number of Historical Services exhibits, displays and programs	Increase the number of yearly exhibits, displays and programs by 16 each year.
People will lead healthy and successful lives	Children are immersed in enjoyable literacy-rich environments birth to Kindergarten	Early literacy training for parent and caregivers	100 programs with 1,947 attendees
People will lead healthy and successful lives	Students will enjoy reading and interact frequently with those who encourage their reading and learning	# Circulations of children’s and young adult materials and the # of juvenile Library cardholders	3,000,000 and 113,747
People will lead healthy and successful lives	English language (EL) learners feel welcomed and succeed in EL classes	# Attendees at ELL classes	9% increase per year including outreach and programming
People will lead healthy and successful lives	People have access to technology and the training to use it effectively	# Attendee at group or individualized computer classes	Increase attendance by 250% per year to meet current demand-to 40,000 by 2010

Agenda Item 8

Requested Action: Approval

Computer Use and the Internet at the Denver Public Library

The Internet contains a wide variety of material and opinions from various points of view. Not all sources provide information that is accurate, complete or current, and some information may be considered offensive or inappropriate for certain age groups. While the Denver Public Library is sensitive to the concerns of customers about Internet content, no one, including the Library, can control the information available on the Internet. It is the goal of the Denver Public Library to provide a comfortable and welcoming environment for all ages. Each individual is responsible for his or her own appropriate use of the Internet in a public place.

The Denver Public Library's Role

The Denver Public Library makes Internet resources accessible to all customers. The staff of the Denver Public Library helps customers navigate, identify and access resources on the Internet. The staff reviews and recommends good sources of information on the Internet and develops special tools (denverlibrary.org) in order to assist customers in using the Internet. The staff and docents of the Denver Public Library also conduct classes for adults and children to instruct them in the effective use of the Internet.

The Library's goal is to make the public computers at all DPL locations available to as many customers as possible. To accomplish this, the Denver Public Library controls the amount of time any customer can use the public computers on a given day. There are a variety of services available on Library computers. Not all services are available at every computer and some computers may be dedicated for particular services.

Internet Filters

The Denver Public Library complies with [state](#) and [federal](#) law mandating the use of filtering software in public libraries. Internet filters are software programs that block access to content that is considered inappropriate for viewing in a public place. It employs filtering software to protect against the visual depiction of pornographic and obscene content.

The Denver Public Library is committed to free and equal access to information and will provide a limited number of computers with unfiltered Internet access.

No filtering software is totally accurate. Filters may falsely block material that is appropriate in a public library setting or they may fail to block access to illegal or objectionable material. Customers may submit a Request for Reconsideration of a Web Site to block or unblock a specific site. The Denver Public Library will respond to questions and concerns regarding the filter's accuracy by communicating with the filtering software vendor towards improving its product. (web version only: For more information, visit our [Internet Filtering FAQ page](#).)

Confidentiality and Privacy

The Denver Public Library follows state and federal law regarding privacy of library users' records and information.

It is the Denver Public Library's practice to erase all customer use records, except those absolutely essential for library business operations. When a computer session is ended, all information about that session is deleted. The Library does not retrieve any information, including web sites visited,

passwords, credit card numbers, or any other information a customer has entered. At the end of the business day, all computer use and reservation records are erased.

Customers' Responsibility

In order to insure a positive library experience for everyone the Library requires that all customers: Customers shall:

- Use computers only for lawful purposes.
- Refrain from viewing pornographic or obscene content.
- Observe the established computer time limits.
- Leave computer monitor privacy screens in place.
- Respect the security of the network.
- Respect the configuration of computer equipment at the Library and refrain from downloading or installing nonstandard software programs.
- Keep virus protection software up-to-date on personal laptops or other mobile devices using the Library's wireless Internet connection.

Children and the Internet

The Denver Public Library believes that the reading and viewing activity of children is ultimately the responsibility of parents who guide and oversee their own children's development. The Denver Public Library does not intrude on that relationship, except when mandated by law.

In order to help parents, DPL provides guided access through a specially designed web site, kids.denverlibrary.org, with filtered search engines, and selected web sites.

Parents are encouraged to read and follow these tips for "Internet-wise" parents:

- Take time to learn about the Internet.
- Take individual or group Internet classes, which are always available to families.
- Explore cyberspace with your children.
- Provide clear guidelines - let your children know if there are subjects that are off limits.
- Learn how to evaluate the Internet - read books and magazines and take a class offered by the Library.
- Teach your children safety rules for dealing with strangers online and appropriate ways to deal with online businesses.
- Ask a librarian - librarians have always been expert at selecting materials for children.

Sample the Internet

The Library has created the following web sites to guide customers to accurate, complete and current sources, which provide a wealth of information:

- <http://denverlibrary.org>
- <http://kids.denverlibrary.org>
- <http://teens.denverlibrary.org>
- <http://espanol.denverlibrary.org>
- <http://history.denverlibrary.org>

This policy was adopted by the Denver Public Library Commission on June 19, 2008.

Agenda Item 9a
Requested Action: Receive Report

REPORT OF THE CITY LIBRARIAN AND STAFF, JUNE 2008

Infrastructure

We continue to meet with various City committees to move our projects forward. Lisa Lumley from the City Real Estate Office reports that she has received the title work, survey and environmental study for the Green Valley Ranch land acquisition and that they will be reviewed by the appropriate City agencies in the next two weeks. Once this due diligence work is completed, the City attorney will work on the contract and ordinance for City Council. The land acquisition should be completed this summer.

In order to get ideas for the new libraries, we have scheduled tours of new library buildings in the area. The E-Team and some key staff toured two new libraries in the High Plains Library District, one in Firestone and one in Erie. Both offered good ideas for a one desk service model and placement of computers as well as interesting furnishings and equipment. We will be touring the new library in Arvada later this month.

Democratic National Convention

Earlier I reported that the Central Library and Blair Caldwell would be hosting welcoming receptions for state delegations for the convention. The DNC host committee has changed its plans and will hold one large welcoming reception for state delegations at the Convention Center. A few smaller convention-related meetings are being scheduled at Central and Blair Caldwell.

Read Aloud 20th Birthday Celebration

On May 21, a large crowd gathered at Four Mile Historic Park to celebrate the 20th birthday of the Read Aloud program. Key staff involved in the development of the program shared their stories with an appreciative audience. The program has grown from a grant program reaching a limited number of Head Start classrooms to a program fully funded by DPL with the help of over \$50,000 in private funding. Today, Read Aloud reaches over 2400 children in 142 classrooms. These children get to hear hundreds of stories over the course of the school year.

The impact of Read Aloud has been tremendous on many levels. Readers report that over time the children are able to sit for longer periods of time, listen to longer, more complex stories, and engage more with the stories. They love their "library lady" or "library guy" and learn that reading is fun and that books are full of wonder. Readers also report how fulfilling the experience is for them and the positive impact they are having on the lives of their little friends. Read Aloud is a great example of the positive outcomes we are trying to achieve in the community.

Employee of the Quarter

Noriko Spinks, Bear Valley Branch, has been selected as the Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2008. Noriko has worked for the Denver Public Library for more than 20 years, mostly at Bear Valley Branch and in that time has left a positive impression on every person who has had the privilege to meet her. Several colleagues nominated her for the award and offered the following kudos “This smiling, soft-spoken lady is one of the most capable members of the Bear Valley staff.” “She is by far one of the hardest working employees I have ever seen. Nori won't stop till the job is done and she will do it all with a smile.”

Colorado Public Library Directors Meeting in Aspen

I attended the meeting of directors from across the state on May 27 and 28. The annual meeting provides an opportunity for the directors to share experiences and new ideas. One topic that received a lot of attention was the idea of a statewide library automation system. Many libraries are in the market for a new system and are interested in exploring new options including “open source architecture” to build a system designed to meet the needs of libraries today. Many are disillusioned by the cost of current vendor systems and the lack of vendor commitment to providing the functionality libraries need. As a follow up to this conversation, the State Library is conducting a survey of libraries to gauge interest and identify resources for a statewide system. DPL will stay engaged in these discussions to determine if and when this approach makes sense for us.

Exhibits

America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures: The First 100 is currently on display in the Vida Ellison Gallery until July 11. The collection showcases theatrical dance in the United States and includes photographs, posters, video clips and memorabilia. In addition, this exhibit features a historical view of dance in Colorado highlighting Colorado-based performers and dance companies.

Colorado Artists Guild

This annual exhibit of local artists is on display in the 5th floor gallery.

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

MONTHLY CIRCULATION REPORT BY MODELS

MAY 2008

	<u>ADULT</u> <u>CHARGES</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u> <u>2008 / 2007</u>	<u>JUVENILE</u> <u>CHARGES</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u> <u>2008 / 2007</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>CHARGES</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u> <u>2008 / 2007</u>	<u>RENEWALS</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u> <u>2008 / 2007</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>CIRCULATION</u>	<u>% CHANGE</u> <u>2008 / 2007</u>
Family										
Athmar	5,597	-4.3%	3,602	19.5%	9,199	3.8%	947	33.8%	10,146	6.0%
Decker	8,805	0.2%	3,546	1.7%	12,351	0.6%	485	-30.0%	12,836	-1.0%
Eugene Field	20,402	13.7%	8,562	31.3%	28,964	18.4%	2,450	2.3%	31,414	17.0%
Parkhill	15,044	7.5%	12,095	16.2%	27,139	11.2%	2,253	7.0%	29,392	10.9%
Virginia Village	17,436	5.6%	7,673	4.5%	25,109	5.2%	1,648	-0.7%	26,757	4.8%
TOTAL	67,284	6.6%	35,478	15.3%	102,762	9.5%	7,783	3.0%	110,545	9.0%
Contemporary										
Bear Valley	28,792	3.2%	8,359	5.7%	37,151	3.7%	2,812	11.1%	39,963	4.2%
Ross-Broadway	10,845	9.3%	1,760	-10.3%	12,605	6.0%	1,071	0.3%	13,676	5.6%
Ross-Cherry Creek	31,252	-3.1%	5,768	4.9%	37,020	-1.9%	2,566	14.7%	39,586	-1.0%
Ross-University Hills	42,125	-8.5%	16,275	27.9%	58,400	-0.6%	4,646	2.2%	63,046	-0.4%
Schlessman	49,574	-1.7%	12,133	-25.4%	61,707	-7.4%	4,185	14.8%	65,892	-6.3%
Smiley	12,885	-2.8%	3,997	-11.6%	16,882	-5.1%	791	-32.8%	17,673	-6.8%
TOTAL	175,473	-2.4%	48,292	-1.2%	223,765	-2.1%	16,071	5.7%	239,836	-1.6%
Learning & Language										
Ross-Barnum	9,090	-3.4%	5,171	5.9%	14,261	-0.2%	1,594	1.6%	15,855	0.0%
Blair-Caldwell	11,755	0.7%	2,519	-3.0%	14,274	0.0%	1,247	4.6%	15,521	0.4%
Ford-Warren	6,146	7.9%	2,639	-6.7%	8,785	3.1%	1,080	61.4%	9,865	7.3%
Hadley	10,274	-1.9%	4,689	-12.4%	14,963	-5.4%	1,957	-0.2%	16,920	-4.8%
Hampden	22,390	3.9%	8,036	33.6%	30,426	10.4%	1,948	-15.9%	32,374	8.4%
Montbello	11,515	-10.6%	6,713	-13.0%	18,228	-11.5%	1,961	-35.3%	20,189	-14.5%
Woodbury	16,127	2.7%	7,357	4.3%	23,484	3.2%	2,192	-25.1%	25,676	0.0%
TOTAL	87,297	-0.1%	37,124	1.9%	124,421	0.5%	11,979	-12.3%	136,400	-0.8%
Children's										
Byers	2,812	30.4%	1,209	27.7%	4,021	29.5%	581	196.4%	4,602	39.5%
Pauline-Robinson	3,894	31.2%	2,435	13.9%	6,329	24.0%	590	26.6%	6,919	24.2%
Valdez-Perry	3,839	39.2%	1,827	7.7%	5,666	27.2%	554	85.9%	6,220	30.9%
Westwood*	2,594	100.0%	2,384	100.0%	4,978	100.0%	317	100.0%	5,295	100.0%
TOTAL	13,139	66.7%	7,855	64.3%	20,994	65.8%	2,042	112.7%	23,036	69.1%
AutoRenewal						4.2%	175,645	4.2%	175,645	4.2%
Book Mobile	2,569	55.3%	1,515	31.7%	4,084	45.6%	219	-20.7%	4,303	39.7%
Central	70,533	9.9%	12,374	11.5%	82,907	10.1%	7,171	-10.0%	90,078	8.2%
Denverlibrary.org eBooks	-				6,786	23.9%			6,786	23.9%
MAY TOTALS	416,295	3.1%	142,638	7.1%	565,719	4.3%	220,910	3.2%	786,629	4.0%
YEAR TO DATE TOTAL	2,165,399	1.9%	742,395	3.8%	2,941,849	2.5%	1,136,510	4.0%	4,078,359	3.0%

Adult Programs May 2008

Program/Activity Name	# of Programs	Attendance
Computer Instruction Classes	22	43
Facilitated Book Clubs & Book Discussions	4	31
Fresh City Life Programs	14	3,580
Learning and Language Adult	77	492
Library Event On-Site	56	1,493
Library Informational Programs Off-Site	1	8
Library Informational Programs On-Site	2	49
Tours	5	71
Total	181	5,767

Teen Programs May 2008

Program/Activity Name	# of Programs	Attendance
Computer Instruction Classes	0	0
Facilitated Book Clubs & Book & Movie Discussions	0	0
Library Event On-Site	4	34
Library Informational Programs Off-Site	0	0
Library Informational Programs On-Site	0	0
Tours	0	0
Year Round Student Promotional Visits-Not SOR	0	0
Total	4	34

Children's Programs May 2008

Program/Activity Name	# of Programs	Attendance
After School is Cool	38	500
Children Summer of Reading Program On-Site	14	511
Children Summer of Reading Program Off-Site	7	116
Computer Instruction Classes	0	0
Facilitated Book Clubs & Book & Movie Discussions	0	0
Learning & Language Concurrent Children	37	572
Library Event On-Site	2	48
Library Informational Programs Off-Site	6	429
Phone-a-Story Hits	0	0
Read Aloud Program - Volunteer Provided	256	2,432
Read Aloud Program - Staff Provided	77	1,177
Storytime	138	3,451
Storytime Craft Programs	20	719
Summer of Reading Student Promotional Visits	774	30,551
Super Saturdays	40	1,642
Teen Summer of Reading Program On-Site	0	0
Teen Summer of Reading Program Off-Site	1	4
Tours	33	863
Year Round Student Promotional Visits - Non SOR	21	538
Total	1,464	43,553

**REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
JUNE 2008**

Applicants	Total	Percent of Total	Personnel Actions	Total
Month of May	449		Shelver applicants tested	103
Male	175	39%	Vacancy postings	6
Female	249	55%	Non-retirement separations	6
Gender Unknown	25	6%	Retirements	1
Asian	23	5%	Interviews for positions filled	58
Black	45	10%	Postions filled	8
Hispanic	51	11%		
Native American	4	1%		
White	209	47%		
Ethnicity Unkown/Other	117	26%		
Hires by Gender and Race	8		Turnover	
Male	4	50%	Year to date	4.9%
Female	4	50%	Previous year to date	6.4%
White	6	75%		
Black	0	0%		
Hispanic	2	25%		
Asian	0	0%		
Native American	0	0%		

New Hire Name	Postion	Location	Internal/External	Gender	Race	EEOC Code
Crystal Barros	Custodian	FAC	External	F	H	6
Jennifer Callaway	Circ Clerk	CRK	Internal	F	W	4
James Rogers	Digitization Clerk	WHG	External	M	W	4
James Ramsey**	Education Prog Asst	WDB	Internal	M	W	4
Ross Murphy	Circ Security Clerk	ATH	External	M	W	4
Siobhan Keheler	Shelver	CRK	Internal	F	W	4
Matt Siglinger	Business Intel Analyst	FIN	External	M	W	2
Carmen Duarte	Shelver	SCH	External	F	H	4

Classification Codes

1. Officials and Administrators: City Librarian and Department Directors.
2. Professional: Managers, Librarians and other professionals.
3. Technicians: Occupations requiring a combination of basic scientific knowledge and manual skill which includes computer programmers and operators
4. Office and Clerical: All clerical-type work regardless of level of difficulty, including Shelvers.
5. Craftworkers: Manual workers of a relatively high skill level.
6. Service Workers: Workers such as maintenance workers, guards, custodians and cleaners.

* This is a professional/managerial position filled within the Denver Public Library.

** Staff member with 2nd language proficiency.

Information pertains to data collected during the month of May 2008.

Famous footwork on display

By Marc Shulgold

Friday, May 23, 2008

Dance is about movement, which might suggest that a dance photograph is self-defeating. Not so, as is abundantly clear in the touring photo exhibition "America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures." The collection of 52 mounted panels, created by the Washington D.C.-based Dance Heritage Coalition, will be on display beginning Tuesday on the seventh floor of the downtown Denver Public Library.

Displayed in the Vida Ellison Gallery, adjacent to the exhibit, will be more pieces of dance memorabilia: programs, photographs, books and other treasures culled from the collection of the Carson-Brierly Dance Library.

The "Dance Treasures" display provides views of numerous legends of the art form, from Isadora Duncan and Ruth St. Denis to Gregory Hines and Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Many of the more famous photos are etched in the minds of dance lovers everywhere: Pearl Primus and Edward Villella, each in mid-leap; Martha Graham, wrapped in black as she dances *Lamentations*; Agnes de Mille as the rambunctious tomboy of *Rodeo*; George Balanchine at work in the studio; Twyla Tharp doing her classic deadpan slouch.

The iconic photos capture the personality of our greatest performers while revealing the range of styles, unfolding history and endlessly varied movements and gestures of this timeless art. The Ellison Gallery nearby hosts another sort of dance history - *Denver* dance history. Thanks to a collection gathered by the Carson-Brierly, many of the greats who've performed here are remembered, along with a few local figures undeservedly forgotten.

"We're one of the better-kept secrets in town," Glenn Giffin said of the dance library.

The former *Denver Post* music and dance critic, who'd served as curator of the Carson-Brierly from 1986 to 2006, on a recent day was beginning the task of arranging items in display cases placed in the Ellison room. The pieces, he explained, are drawn from a collection that includes around 8,000 books, 500 videos, 3,000 photographs and hundreds of microfilms.

Among the items Giffin selected for display are theater programs from the early 20th century, including a Denver performance by the Ballets Russes with Vaslav Nijinsky. He unpacked a softly blurred photo of modern-dance pioneer Ted Shawn posing dramatically - in the buff.

Giffin brought out a caricature of Lloyd Shaw. "Anyone who square danced in their youth can thank Lloyd Shaw," the curator noted.

The Denver-born teacher (1890-1958) is largely responsible for the preservation and popularity of square dancing in this country. Giffin reported that the Carson-Brierly owns a 72,000-piece collection from the Shaw Estate.

"Pappy" Shaw, as he preferred to be called, was a teacher at the Cheyenne Mountain School in Colorado Springs who felt that boys and girls should attend classes together (a novel concept in the '30s). And while they're together, it's best to keep them busy with such safe activities as dancing. Shaw traveled the country, collecting square-dance steps and calls, publishing pioneering books on the subject (the seminal *Cowboy Dances*, published in 1939, is included in the Ellison Gallery display). He then toured with an ensemble of students, who reignited nationwide interest in square dancing.

He may not be included in the list of America's 100 "Irreplaceable Dance Treasures," but Giffin suggested that "Pappy" Shaw deserves to be remembered, along with those locals who contributed to dance, such as Hanya Holm (represented in a stunning head-shot photo).

Preserving those accomplishments for the benefit of scholars and fans has been the goal of the Carson-Brierly library, named for Denver dance teacher Martha Carson and her friend Justin Brierly. Relying mainly on donated items, the ever-growing collection has bounced like a ping-pong ball between Park Hill and south Denver.

Established shortly after Carson's death in 1972, the library was first housed at the Colorado Women's College in Park Hill, then moved to the University of Denver in the late '70s after CWC closed. It then moved back to its original home when the Houston Fine Arts Center was established. Finally, with the conversion of the Arts Center to the Denver School of the Arts, the collection moved back to DU, where it is now part of the Penrose Library.

Today, it stands as one of only 14 nationally recognized resources of American dance.

Dance Memories

"America's Irreplaceable Dance Treasures" and the Carson-Brierly display will open Tuesday at the downtown Denver Public Library, 10 W. 14th Avenue Parkway. It will be on view during regular hours through July 11. Information: 303-871-3248. Some of the images:

- Fabled Russian ballerina **Anna Pavlova** (1881-1931), dancing in a garden during an American tour around 1914;
- Dance pioneer **Ruth St. Denis** (1877-1968), posing majestically in a 1929 work, *Tagore Poem*;
- A barefoot **Doris Humphrey** (1895-1958), caught in an energetic moment from her *Exhibition Piece* of 1939, flanked by two other legends: **Charles Weidman** and **Jose Limon**;
- Choreographer **Jerome Robbins** (1918-98), smiling next to a corps of 20 dancers, all airborne;
- Beloved Hollywood icon **Fred Astaire** (1899-1987), in his trademark tux in mid-routine.

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DPL Friends Foundation Recognizes Outstanding Library Contributor

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Written by Stacie Ledden

DENVER—Each year, the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation presents its Annual Friends Award to an outstanding community volunteer whose contributions have made a significant impact on the Denver Public Library. This year, the Foundation will recognize local art dealer and gallery owner Steve Savageau. In an unprecedented display of support for the Library, Savageau is matching the \$2,500 award so that his favorite department, Western History, and his favorite program, Fresh City Friends, both benefit equally.

“The Denver Public Library Friends Foundation is honored to present Steve Savageau with the 2008 Friends Award for his generous contributions to the Library over the years,” says Melinda Lloyd, director, DPL Friends Foundation. “Steve’s support of the Western History Department and Fresh City Friends, among others, has helped further the Library’s mission of providing quality service and events to the Denver community.”

The Annual Friends Award includes \$2,500 for the recipient to designate to any department or program within the Denver Public Library system. An Award for Excellence will be presented at a by- invitation only event, an engraved plate will adorn the Annual Friends Award master plaque in Schlessman Hall, and a smaller commemorative plaque will be hung in the area benefited by the recipient’s designation. In this case, commemorative plaques will be hung in both the Western History and Fresh City Friends areas.

“Steve Savageau is Fresh City Friends,” says Chris Loffelmacher, co- director of Cultural Programming at DPL. “The small seed of the idea for a branch of the Friends Foundation that nurtures Adult Cultural Programming was planted by Steve. Then Steve made the largest contributions to the newly formed Fresh City Friends. Aside from that, Steve has been a loyal supporter and wise counselor for Fresh City Life and me personally for many years. The Friends Foundation could not have chosen a more deserving and dedicated Friend of the Library than Stephen Savageau.”

Savageau has been involved with the Denver Public Library since 1968, when he worked in the back room of the Western History department while it was located on the fourth floor of the old building. During the ’90s, Savageau served as a Library commissioner. Over the years, he’s dedicated time, money and art – and made many lifelong friends in the process.

“The sparkling thing about public libraries is their democratic missions,” says Savageau. His contributions over the years have been with the intention of furthering those missions. Through this award – and his matching contribution – he continues to do just that.

-The Cherry Creek News-

Old-school handicrafts propelling innovation

By Claire Martin
The Denver Post

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Colorado's do-it-yourself groundswell — mixing old-school handicrafts with cutting-edge organic materials and design — is propelling a surge of innovative galleries, stores, classes and blogs. "I can't believe how much the scene has exploded since we started the Fabric Lab," says Tran Wills, co-owner of the edgy Colfax Avenue boutique that exclusively features Colorado designers, along with The Shoppe, a cupcake/cereal/design emporium.

"The Fabric Lab would not be what it is if it weren't for all the great designers who've become friends and created a community that has an art scene, a music scene and a fashion scene."

Sometimes all three simultaneously, like last December's Frock Out collaboration between Wills' East Deanna Webb, co-owner of the Plastic Chapel, cuddles a 20-inch Dunny artist-painted collectible figure. The store specializes in limited-edition Colfax Avenue businesses and Fresh City Life, the Denver Public Library's new venture. Modeled after TV's "Project Runway," local designers strutted their work on a catwalk in the downtown library's main hall. "We had an unprecedented number of people attend Frock Out," said Fresh City Life co-director Audrey Sprenger.

"There is a lot of resistance to taking a space that's traditionally quiet, where you're supposed to behave, and saying let's make some noise in here. But we see the library as one of the rare public spaces where you can experiment with cultural programming."

Learn more about a few of Colorado's scenes and be-scenes:

Edifice Gallery

325 N. Tejon St., Colorado Springs; 719-434-4866, edificegallery.com and edificeclothing.com

Edgy clothing and art prove that Colorado Springs isn't entirely consumed by conservative Christians. "Fashionista," an exhibit of fashion influenced art, opens Friday, featuring giclée prints — a printmaking method using an ink-jet printer — and singular creations. Check out the blogs for groovy links and videos.

Fancy Tiger

1 S. Broadway, Denver; 303-733-3855, fancytiger.com

This DIY handicraft-supplies store emphasizes fabric, with a vast stock of gorgeous (and eco-friendly/sustainable) yarns, fibers, wool and needles for felting toys, retro-print fabric in the incredibly hip colors and patterns that non-scene-sters find visually painful. The friendly staff offers lots of DIY classes. Each Tuesday from 6 to 9 p.m. is open-crafts night, and Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. is open-sewing night, with sewing machines available to rent by the hour or evening.

Fresh City Life

10 W. 14th Ave., Denver; denverlibrary.org/fresh, 720-865-1206

This 3-year-old program turns conventional library culture on its ear, bringing in food, music, performance and idiosyncratic fashion shows.

The recent "Wild Wilde West" series centered on Oscar Wilde's exploits in Colorado that brought in American Indians, cowhands, an Asian-American cowboy singer, and a bean dinner that drew "Iron Chef" devotees.

JoyEngine

2037 13th St., Boulder; 303-449-1967, joyengine.com

JoyEngine is a boutique and gallery of local street clothing and art, and also a phenomenal blog and website. The physical facility in Boulder is where irony cultivators come to shop after outgrowing Hello Kitty and anime. Its website has a stunning assortment of Clothing designer Noah Price, left, and downloadable, free desktops; a rich archive of past exhibitions; an up-to-the-second events listing of scenester-friendly happenings and stuff.

The Lab at Belmar

404 S. Upham St., Lakewood; 303-934-1777, belmarlab.org

"Part art museum, part lab, part of the problem" is The Lab's motto. It's known for witty, unconventional art exhibits, like last year's paired display of grinding stones and the poems they Wendy Erwin enjoy mini cupcakes at The Shoppe, 3103 E. Colfax Ave. The

hip hangout features graphic design works and hyper-sugar cereals, as well as cupcakes. Price's work is sold at The Shoppe. The Lab is celebrated for its eccentric Mixed Taste series that combines tag-team presentations on two diverse topics. Upcoming lectures include "Sun Ra and Southern family restaurants" and "Maya astronomy and Stanley Kubrick."

Plastic Chapel

3109 E. Colfax Ave., Denver; 303-722-0715 and plasticchapel.com

In 2005, owners Deanna Webb and Dave Wendt opened the Plastic Chapel as a limited-edition designer toy store specializing in the Asian action figures exemplified by Hikaru Iwanages' Bounty Hunter brand. Most are limited-edition and imported toys designed for collectors hoping to snag the next Captain Bounce or Kid Hunter, originally \$50, and now up to \$500 on eBay.

The Shoppe

3103 E. Colfax Ave., Denver; 303-322-3969, theshoppedenver.com

Come for the cupcakes, stay for the zines and graphic design works. Then come back again, maybe after clubbing, for a bowl of the hypersugary cereal that your mother never let you eat. It's a happenin' scene from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

- Claire Martin