



|
FREE
AND
EQUAL
ACCESS
FOR
ALL.
|

MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

In 2016, customers made four million in-person visits and 13 million online visits to the Denver Public Library, checking out some nine million items. Here are a few more numbers that make our hearts sing:

Abby Goodman attended 144 programs at 18 different library locations, and even a few beyond our buildings. We love it that Abby is a super user.

Like clockwork, Sandra LaBella spent two hours every Thursday for three months in our SM Energy idealAB at the Central Library, learning how to build a website for her physical therapy practice. She credits library staff with teaching her the skills she needed to succeed.

Finally, through our Career Online High School program, at age 35, Cory Wicks earned one precious document: a diploma. The father of two admits he made mistakes early in life, but was determined to earn his degree. While juggling two jobs and raising his kids, finding time to study was a challenge. But he persevered. And on a warm September evening, Cory proudly accepted his diploma along with six other graduates in a packed house at the Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales Branch Library. The heavy equipment operator hopes to continue his education, perhaps one day becoming a supervisor.

It’s a privilege to be part of our customers’ lives and we beam over their successes.

In 2016, we also reaffirmed our role in the community as a place for free and equal access, serving and welcoming people from all walks of life. In 2017, we’ll focus on serving Denver’s youth by providing early learning and out-of-school opportunities; we’ll expand access to technology and training; and we’ll connect immigrants and refugees with information and resources.

We are extraordinarily grateful to you for your support of the library and the Friends Foundation. Without you and our volunteers, we could not serve the community as well. It all begins by serving one customer at a time.



Gay Cook
Friends Foundation President



Michelle Jeske
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Rosemary Marshall
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OUR WORK

Everything we do at the Denver Public Library begins and ends with our mission to connect people with information, ideas and experiences to provide enjoyment, enrich lives and strengthen our community.

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SANDRA LABELLA

Health Coach/Website Whiz

When Sandra LaBella first walked into the SM Energy ideaLAB at the Denver Central Library, she didn't know the first thing about building a website.

The physical therapist/health coach had moved from New York where she enjoyed an established client base. When she relocated her practice to Denver, she had to build her business from scratch.

"It was like starting over," she says.

Sandra learned about the ideaLAB after checking out *WordPress for Dummies*.

"For someone who is not that interested in computers, I felt vulnerable," she admits. "But staff made me feel welcome. And, they know how to do everything!"

The new Denverite came to the lab for two hours every Thursday for three months. Soon, she was uploading photos, plotting info and more.

Lab program administrator Nate Stone says Sandra was determined. "She really wanted to learn and would not give up."

Today, the business owner rattles off words like "search engine optimization" faster than you can say "relax and breathe." And she loves her website.

"I owe so much to the library and staff," she says. "I couldn't have done it without their help."

The SM Energy ideaLAB at the Central Library is the ultimate makerspace. Special nights/weekends are available for families and adults.





4,259,373

annual visits to the library

ABBY GOODMAN

Avid Learner/Library Program Groupie

The slight aroma of mac 'n' cheese wafts through the meeting room at the Park Hill Branch Library, where author/food scholar Adrian Miller regales the audience with history, recipes and anecdotes about the popular dish, followed by—to the delight of the crowd—a tasting.

Sitting front and center is library fan Abby Goodman. Abby loves going to library programs. In 2016 she attended 144 programs at 18 library locations. The retired teacher was hooked from the very first program she attended at Virginia Village Branch Library.

"I told (senior librarian) Martha Garbison I didn't have a creative bone in my body," Abby says. "But she convinced me to go to Painting on Canvas. I had the best time!"

Now, Abby picks up the *Engage!* magazine each month and highlights her favorites. From films at the Central Library downtown, to a travel program on Cuba, to Walk with a Doc, Abby adores them all.

Abby has not only learned about everything under the sun, she's made new friends (and a snow globe!) and gained a newfound confidence.

"I feel more creative," she says. "Most of all, it's fun!"

From Beginning Genealogy to Trivia Night, the library offers hundreds of programs for adults and families. Check out more at denverlibrary.org/events





9,323,082

annual circulation

1,797,766

annual circulation of children's materials

CORY WICKS

Father of Two/Graduate

When Cory Wicks talks about earning his diploma through the library's Career Online High School program, his pride and unmistakable confidence fill the room.

"I'm proud of what I accomplished," the 35-year-old heavy equipment operator and father of two, says.

Cory learned about the program after taking his children to Hadley Branch Library where librarian James Vallejos encouraged him to take the first step: writing an essay about why he wanted to earn his degree. Program manager Viviana Casillas remembers being impressed when she read Cory's essay.

"Earning my diploma is important," he wrote, "for one thing because of my kids."

Cory admits he made mistakes as a young man, but he never gave up on his dreams.

He was accepted into the program, and after hitting the books hard, Cory—wearing cap and gown—participated in the graduation ceremony at Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales Branch Library, as his family proudly looked on.

What's next? Cory hopes to attend college, working toward becoming a project manager. "I'm not afraid," he says, flashing an easy smile. "If I try, I cannot fail."

The Career Online High School program is a free online diploma and career certification program. For information, contact cohs@denverlibrary.org or call 720.253.8736.





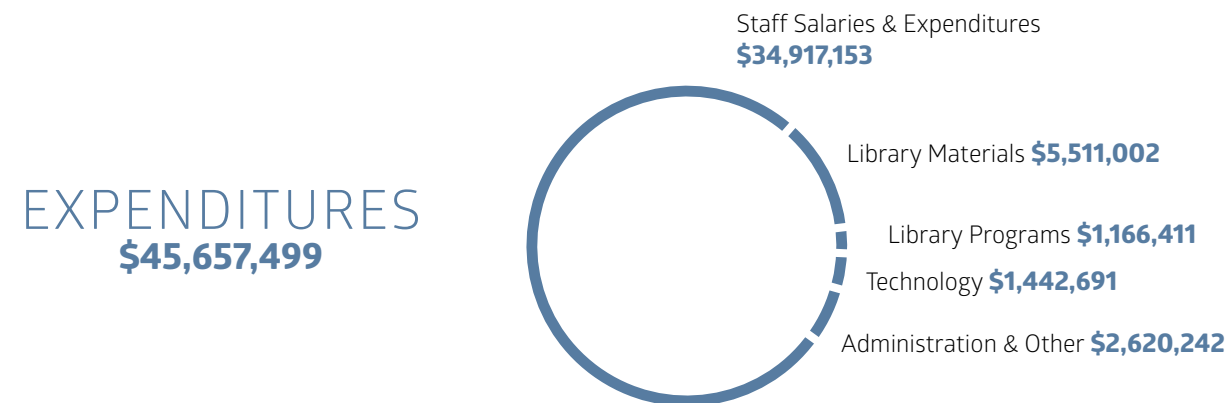
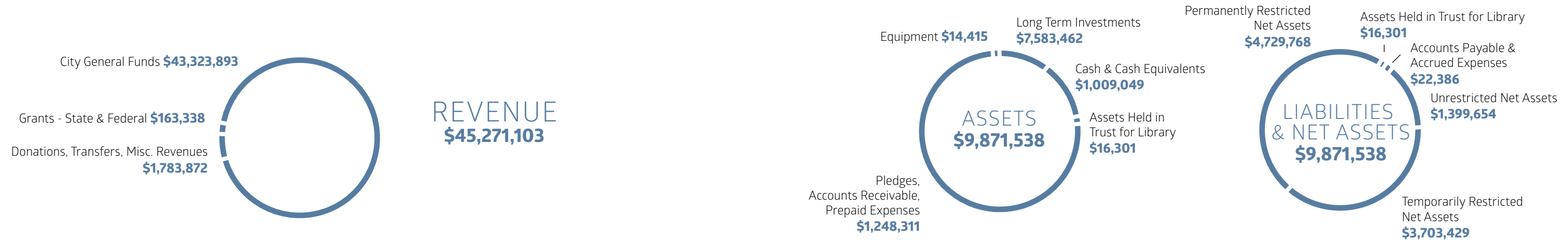
13,002,172

annual website visits

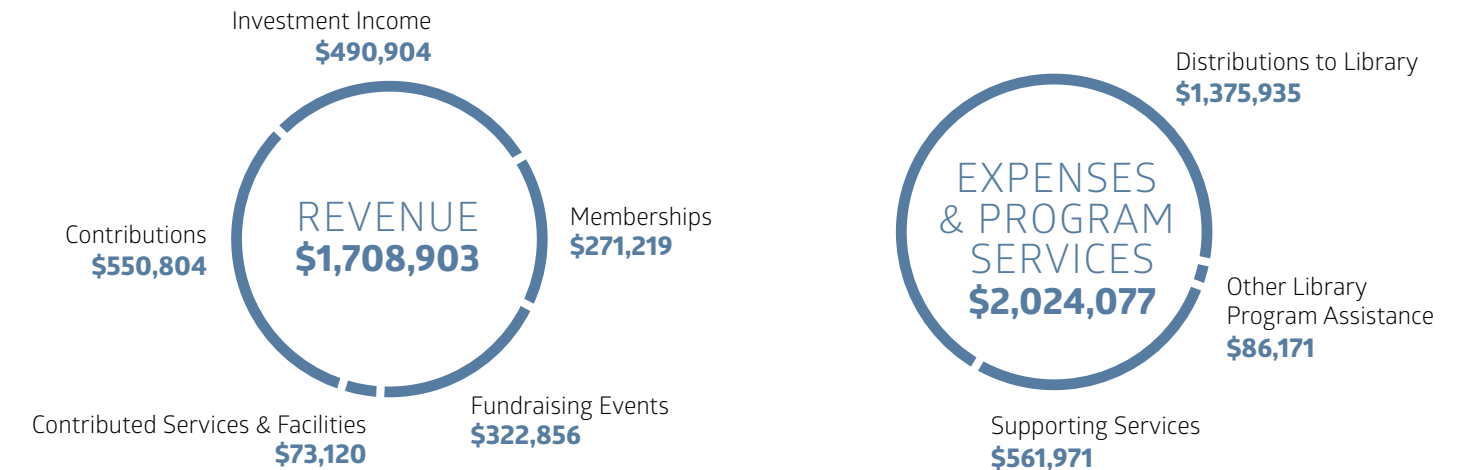
2,021,139

annual electronic content use

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Statement Of Activities



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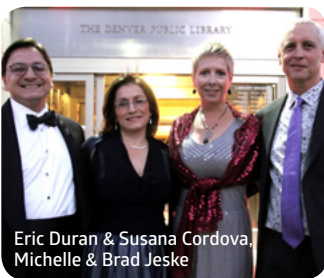
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