

AGENDA
The Denver Public Library Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2018, 8:30 a.m.
Denver Central Library
7th Floor Training Room

1. Call to order.
2. Introductions.
3. Approval of Minutes from December 21, 2017, Regular Library Commission Meeting.
Commission
4. Public Comment Period.
5. Report of the President and Members.
6. Report of the Friends Foundation. Laurie Romer and/or Pam Jewett.
7. GO Bond Discussion. Tykus Holloway, Laura Perry, Michael Sheehan from the City's
Bond team
8. Data roadmap and warehouse. Seana O'Grady
9. Report of the City Librarian.
10. Other Business.

MINUTES
The Denver Public Library Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting
Thursday, December 21, 2017, 8:30 a.m.
Denver Central Library
7th Floor Training Room

Present: Mike King, Cathy Lucas, Rosemary Marshall¹, Carlos Martinez, Laurie Mathews

Excused: Greg Hatcher, Alice Kelly, Sonya Ulibarri

Staff: Rebecca Czarnecki, Rachel Fewell, Dana Franklin, Chris Henning, Michelle Jeske, Susan Kotarba, Elaine Langeberg, Zeth Lietzau, Amber Lindberg, Erika Martinez, Michael Murphy, Sherry Spitsnaugle, James Vallejos, Bria Ward

Guests: Laurie Heydman, City Attorney's Office; Laurie Romer, Friends Foundation

1. Call to order.

President Mike King called the meeting to order at 8:46 a.m.

2. Introductions.

Commissioners, staff and guests present introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Minutes from November 16, 2017, Regular Library Commission Meeting.

Commission

The minutes were approved as written.

4. Public Comment Period.

N/A

5. Report of the President and Members.

The DPL Holiday lighting party was a success. Friends Foundation Board Member Matt Hanson and his family got to flip the big switch for the lights.

Laurie Mathews expressed that she was glad to be back and looking forward to working with everyone.

6. Report of the Friends Foundation. Laurie Romer

Laurie Romer reported that we had an excellent Colorado Gives Day this year. We received \$36,000 last year and almost \$63,000 this year. She's not sure why it was such a big jump but it's exciting. They did promote it everywhere, including at the Winter Used Book sale.

The search for an executive director is moving along. Jeske is a part of the search committee. Romer invited Jeske to speak about it. Jeske reported that there is a draft RFP

¹ Rosemary Marshall arrived at 8:51 A.M. during the report of the Friends Foundation.

for a search firm that they are reviewing. The goal is to get it out next week and then have a firm selected by the end of January.

King reiterated that the partnership between the Friends and DPL is pivotal as we look to close the \$12 million funding gap from the bond.

7. Approval of the 2018 Special Trust Fund budget. Amber Lindberg

Amber Lindberg came forward to present the 2018 Special Trust Fund (STF) budget. She told the Commission that the STF is mostly revenue generated from outside the City and includes money from grants, private donors, the Friends, and endowments. The money we receive from the City General Fund primarily covers staff and operating expenses. It also must be spent every year or it goes back to the City. The STF budget rolls over from year to year.

The report is in a new format this year. It is simplified and in more of a programmatic style.

Questions:

- Under expenses at DPL: What is Staff Day for \$75,000? This is an event that happens every other year. It is an all day staff training and recognition event that must happen at an off-site venue due to the size of the staff. Most of the cost covers the venue and food as well as some awards and recognition.
- Lindberg also noted that we receive almost \$200,000 from our copiers as well as significant money from lost items. Fines for overdue items go to the City.

With no further questions King called for a motion to approve. Martinez moved, upon second by Marshall the motion passed.

8. Amendment to 2018 Holidays and Closures.

a. October 8, 2018 - Indigenous People's Day/Staff Day

Jeske explained that it is not a City holiday and we are usually open. However, people expect us to be closed since it is a State and Federal holiday, so it's a good day to close for our Staff Day.

With no further questions King called for a motion to approve. Marshall moved, upon second by Lucas the motion passed.

9. GO Bond Discussion.

President King reminded Commissioners that the Commission needs to be thoughtful and strategic as this may be our last chance for a generation to do such a major renovation of the Central Library. He called on Laurie Heydman with the City Attorney's Office to speak to the Commission about the bond and soliciting additional private funds. Heydman has been doing this work since 2000. She addressed that she knows the library is interested in trying to raise additional dollars and want to help everyone understand private activity limitations.

Heydman noted that the City can issue bonds in two ways, as either taxable or tax-exempt. If the bonds are issued as taxable there are no IRS rules but it costs more, even millions more, to pay the taxes on the bonds.

- As a government entity we are eligible for tax-exempt bonds. However, with that the IRS has very strict rules about the money not being used to benefit private entities.
- The limit for private benefit is 5-10% based on various tests such as square footage as well as money in.
- Quid pro quo automatically qualifies as private use.

- Taxable bonds are a worthwhile consideration depending on the amount of money being donated. If it is millions of dollars it's likely a good choice.
- It is also different if you do non-corporate naming rights. Ellie Caulkins Opera House is a great example. You can name something after an individual, again so long as there is no quid pro quo.
- You can have personal names and do naming rights as long as there are no strings attached. You can name something for someone as long as there are no terms and just a way to show recognition of a gift.

Questions:

- DPL has the option of going for taxable bonds? Yes. The voters approved bonding authority for principal amount and maximum interest. However, whether or not the money will be taxable or exempt needs to be decided before the bond is issued/sold.
- Does the City have an opinion on whether we should choose taxable or exempt? Any decision will go through the Department of Finance. If it looks like a good deal, if it is a lot of money, it will likely be approved.
 - Bond money can also be carved apart. You can say we want taxable funds for this building but not for the others. It is possible to designate certain projects within a building as taxable and not the others but it is legally difficult. You have to be very careful.
- If ideaLABs are built with tax exempt funds can the equipment comes from corporate sponsors? We would probably need to know the value of the equipment and then seek advice from tax counsel.
- Where do foundation contributions fit in? If you're naming it for the foundation it's a problem. Again, you could name for a family member of a foundation as long as no quid pro quo.

Jeske mentioned she will be meeting with staff at DMNS as they have a number of named spaces and seem to really understand the rules and do this well. She has also reached out to the Urban Libraries Council Directors to ask if they have had to make the decision around tax-exempt versus non. Columbus Metropolitan Library has replied that their renovation was taxable and Jeske will ask them for more information.

Jeske also stated that we will be reviewing DPL's naming policy. Heydman asked for a copy to review once it gets close to final.

Heydman noted that it is very helpful to know what private gifts are coming in upfront so compliance can be addressed in a straightforward manner. It can be very difficult to work out these issues after the fact. If there is a violation you have to refund the money, pay off, then issue new taxable bonds. Such violations affects the city's credit rating and has a ripple effect.

She emphasized that it is the dollars in that is looked at from a large corporation. If you have a plaque that says something like 'Thank you for your generous donation in 2019' and you move that plaque around, it is much different than tying a name to a space. Jeske noted that in our 5% is currently the Coffee Mug, the SM Energy IdeaLAB, and possibly the Red Chair bookshop.

The Commission thanked Heydman for her time.

Jeske then brought up the facilities master plan guiding principles for the Commission to review. These principles were used in figuring out what we wanted to fund with this bond. Jeske has no comment on these. She did mention that for Central there is

one additional point around maintaining the architectural integrity of the Michael Graves building.

Martinez asked if anything should be included around making sure we are intentional in naming spaces respectful of all our communities. Jeske noted that it is in the naming policy but it does apply to more than just naming. She will come back with a possible edit to the third principle.

King stated we have to think about how we maximize the library of the future while taking care of the necessary maintenance. To that point Mathews wondered if this list does speak to striking that balance. She did not advocate for an edit.

Jeske mentioned that there is an enormous gap in funding for capital on top of the bond for the whole City.

Jeske then took the Commission through a brief review of the Central Library phase one renovation plans to show what we are hoping to do with \$38 million and what we could do for \$50 million. The \$38 million is based off of rough numbers the architects gave us but it is just highly conceptual at this time. These figures also do not include rising construction costs. Some necessary repairs and highlights of the project include:

- Replacing escalators with stairs which will open up the building.
- Fixing the loading dock to allow normal sized delivery trucks entry and prevent flooding.
- Fixing failing automatic doors and broken outlets.
- Securing the north lawn and moving the children's area.
- Refreshing the east entrance and enclosing it in glass with revolving doors.
- A large first floor event center. There is no center in Denver affordable enough to do things like big author events. We want to fill that gap.
- Adding a grand reading room.

President King encouraged people to go see Library 21c in Colorado Springs. It is inspiring and a good way to get in the mindset for things we want to do at DPL. King would like to have a retreat in February.

10. Report of the City Librarian.

The Hadley Branch Library renovation is almost done. It is the last project from the last bond. Various inspections have caused some delays but anticipate a soft opening in January and a grand opening in January or February.

Jeske invited everyone down to the 4th floor to see the new collaborative workspace that has been made and thanked Elaine Langeberg for her work.

Lastly, the Juanita Gray awards celebration is on February 3 at 1:30 p.m. at Blair-Caldwell.

11. Other Business.

King thanked Michelle and assembled staff and wished everyone a good holiday season.

12. Executive Session to Discuss City Librarian Performance Review.

President King called the Commission into executive session at 9:44 a.m. to discuss the City Librarian's performance review.

14. Meeting Adjournment.

The Commission came out of executive session and will submit the City Librarian's performance review to Human Resources. With no further public business to conduct the meeting was formally adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Submitted by Rebecca Czarnecki for Cathy Lucas

Agenda Item 9

Requested Action: Receive Report

City Librarian Report



Winter of Reading 2018

February 1 - March 31

Complete five or more activities and return your brochure to any library location in exchange for a nifty Winter of Reading mug or pint glass and a chance to win a prize from the Tattered Cover.

This fourth annual adult program shows appreciation to the readers in our community and exposes library customers to services they may not know we have. We will also host a kick-off

trivia party at Wood Boss Brewing, 2210 California St, on February 1 at 7:00 pm and hope you will join us!



Second Denver Women's March

Western History and Genealogy will again collect archival material from the Denver Women's March scheduled for January 20 at Civic Center Park. On the day of the march, a staff member will be available to assist customers who wish to donate material, including digital donations. The library will also accept donations the week of January 20-27. Archival material and stories from women who participated in the 2017 Denver Women's March will be featured in the [Pink Progression](https://pinkprogression.wordpress.com/)

(<https://pinkprogression.wordpress.com/>) art exhibit in the Vida Ellison Gallery at the Central Library, March 2 - June 29.



Hadley Branch Library Reopening

The Hadley Branch Library will reopen to the public on January 29 and we will celebrate with a grand opening on Saturday, February 10 at 9:00 a.m. with remarks beginning at 9:30 a.m. Tours will be scheduled throughout the day. Please visit!

Shown above the new community room with garage door separator and below new meeting room and seating area



New Cultural Experiences Available via Library Card

The library offers multiple cultural passes through the Denver Public Library card. To see all options and see how to use the services, check out <https://denverlibrary.org/museum-passes>. This month, we launched two more options:

The Denver Center for the Performing Arts (DCPA) has partnered with us to offer a limited ticket voucher program for select Theatre Company shows. Customers were able to place holds on the first two plays earlier this month: Zoey's Perfect Wedding and American Mariachi (already full!). Vouchers are not tickets. Customers must call the DCPA to reserve seats for the date they want to attend.

The Molly Brown House has also joined our Museum and Cultural Pass service. Admission is valid for a party of up to 4. All tours last approximately 45 minutes and generally start every 30 minutes, beginning on the hour and half hour.

2017 Year in Review from the Community Resources Team

2017 was a busy year for the Community Resources team!

We initiated the Peer Navigator Program. We hired three Peer Navigators in January and two more in August. We currently have four peer navigators as one person left, and our federal funding is unsure (we hope to know more soon). They remind customers, staff, and community that recovery is possible and happens every day. They now run our "Drop-In Hours" at Central, Valdez-Perry, Gonzales, Blair-Caldwell, and Ross-Broadway. They also provide outreach throughout Central to engage people who otherwise might not be engaging in services. [Here](#) is a cool piece about the Peer Navigators!

In 2016 the Community Resource Specialists made 1265 contacts. By adding these positions the team made 3501 contacts in 2017.

Alongside our amazing Security Team, we received a "Badass of the Year" award from the Harm Reduction Action Center for our work in getting Narcan into the library. We enjoyed a night out with some of our amazing co-workers from the Security Team and Administration.

The library has successfully reversed 13 opiate overdoses. Yes, our Security Team has saved 13 lives! We work closely with them to engage those using IV drugs and help them move toward treatment options. Due to the national opioid epidemic, Elissa has added information about the intersections of mental health, substance use, and trauma into the Finding Resiliency training. The entire Community Resources team has been trained on administering Narcan. (thanks Bob!) Thanks to a collaboration with Signal Behavioral Health, we now receive Narcan paid for by federal funding. Bob and Elissa also met with Auraria Library and provided education and training on Narcan. Due to DPL's front line experience, Elissa has been asked to co-chair the City of Denver's Collective Impact Approach to the opioid epidemic alongside Marion Rorke from the Department of Public Health and Environment.

Trainings, trainings, trainings! 71 people completed "Homelessness 101" training! Including people from Englewood Public Library as well as the City of Denver's Arts and Culture Events team. 64 DPL staff completed Finding Resiliency. In addition this training was also provided to Englewood Public Library, Aurora Public Library, Family Support Services at the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, and MotherWise.

Kristi joined the LCSW ranks with Elissa when she obtained her License as a Clinical Social Worker. She can now supervise graduate student interns and complete mental health holds that insure distressed individuals are assessed by a psychiatric doctor at the hospital, as Elissa has been able to do also.

Stories of customers' successes:

- Antonio - Came to us after years of IV meth use and was ready to quit. We couldn't initially find him inpatient treatment in Denver because he had some health problems and treatment providers weren't capable of taking him. He stayed engaged with the peer navigators who helped him keep his motivation and eventually he was connected to an inpatient treatment program in Portland, Oregon. We were able to help provide resources to make sure he got to the airport. He was recently visiting Denver visiting around Thanksgiving and stopped in to see our team. He looked great! He is living well in recovery and is looking forward to using his experience to help and inspire others. Anthony thanked our team for support.
- Justin - Another IV drug user who approached us wanting to get into treatment. He had good health insurance from his family which meant there were more options for treatment. He was hospitalized for an infection within his spinal column (a side effect of IV drug use) just before he was scheduled to enter inpatient substance treatment. He stayed in touch with Cuica, a peer navigator who helped him stay motivated to enter treatment after he was medically cleared. He is very engaged in treatment and seems to be doing well.
- Emily - A trans woman who started meeting with the team over the summer, recently came into the office and she's housed! She was living in crisis, using IV drugs, and was at risk in the street. The team assisted her in getting connected with MHCD which led to her housing opportunity.
- Approximately 10 people reunited with family outside of Colorado with assistance from our team.

Navigators rode the bus with customers to make hands on linkages to Walk-In Crisis Center, day and night shelters, and Social Security Administration.

Stories of Impact

This month's stories of impact come from Field, Hampden and Central.

Speaking with a Mom about her son's school, a customer told me how much she loved Winter of Reading. She went on to say that she takes her daughters (in second and seventh grade) to the Plazas at Hampden for their craft programs. While she doesn't use other aspects of Plaza, she said she is so proud that her library has this type of programming available to all. She said she loves the fact that her daughters see immigrants who make up the fiber of our country and that the library offers everything from citizenship classes to computer help. She had tears in her eyes when she spoke about her love of DPL and the work happening in Plazas.

I recently held my first craft program at Eugene Field and was happy to see many of my usual attendees. One of the ladies, who came to Novel Night and many programs throughout the system, told me, "Every gift that I gave my family for Christmas, was

something I made at the library!" Another participant had given her daughter a pair of earrings she had made for her college graduation gift. It was delightful and gratifying to learn that folks find joy in making things with us, and had shared what they made with loved ones.

A customer I had helped in a Bizboost appointment earlier this year came by to thank me and tell me that he's gotten funding and is getting ready to launch his business!

Dates to Remember

- Thu., Feb. 1, 7:00 p.m., Winter of Reading Trivia Event, Wood Boss Brewing, 2210 California St
- Sat., Feb. 3, 1:30–3:30 p.m., Juanita Gray Community Service Award/Blacks in Colorado Hall of Fame, Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library
- Sat., Feb. 10, 9:00-10:30 a.m., Hadley Branch Library Grand Opening, Hadley Branch, 1890 S. Grove St.

City Librarian Select Activities-On vacation from 12/23-January 7!

Mayor/City Council

- Met with staff helping Mayor get out in the community to identify opportunities in libraries

Activate!Denver Facilities Master Plan

- Met with Denver Art Museum leadership and architects regarding bond renovations and Acoma Plaza
- Met with RiNo Arts District Director to discuss planning for library services in River North
- Participated in City Bond Leadership Team meeting

Early Learning/Out of School Learning

- Participated in Metro Denver Chamber's Education and Workforce Committee meeting

Community Engagement

- Attended annual MLK, Jr. Business Awards Luncheon
- Participated with library staff in the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade

Friends Foundation

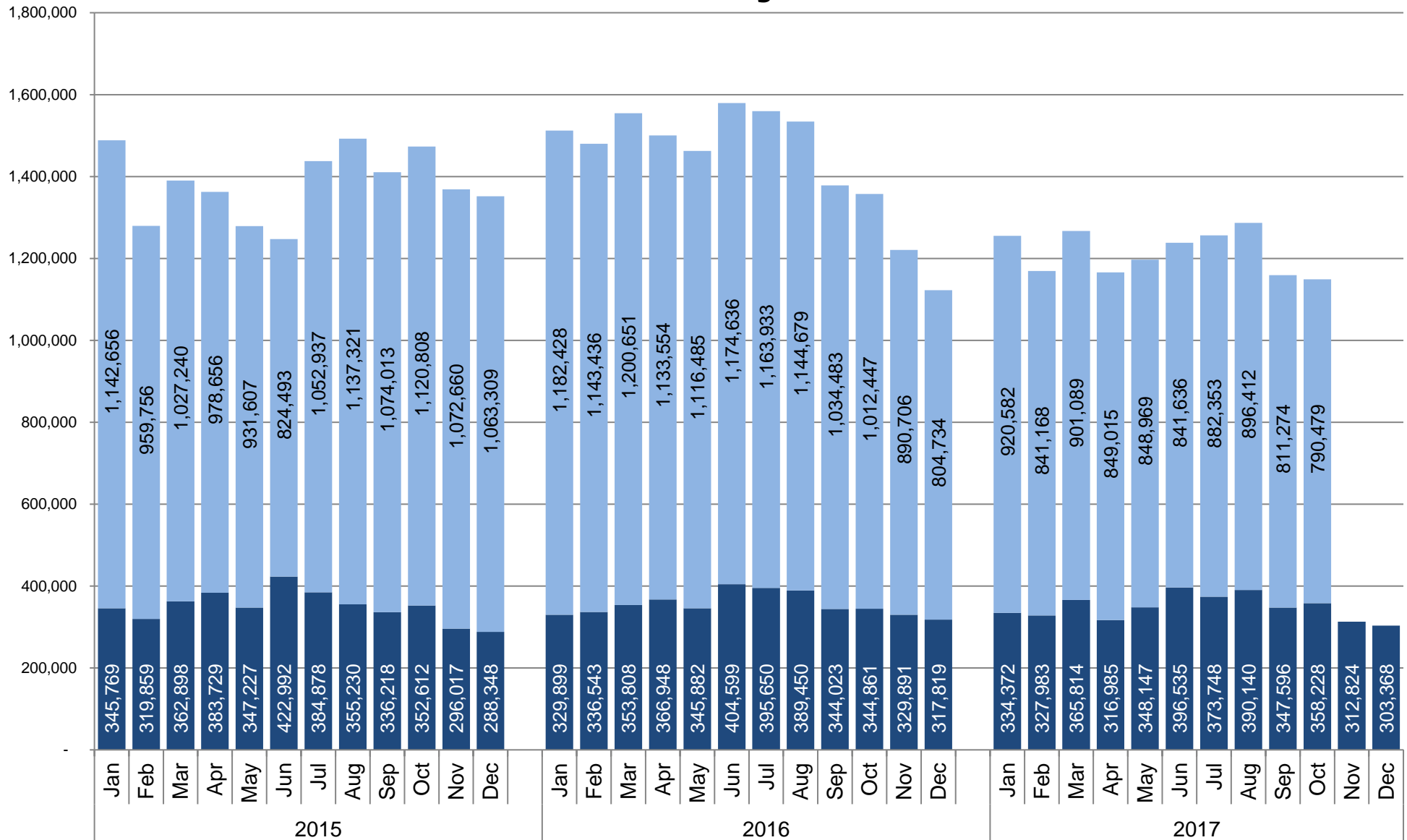
- Met with the Friends Foundation Executive Committee and Executive Director Search Committee
- Participated in the Friends Foundation Board meeting

Staff

- Attended new adult storytime hosted by Schlessman staff at Fiction Beer

Denver Public Library Total Visits By Month

■ Online
■ In Person



➔ November & December 2017 Online visits reporting currently unavailable

➔ Gonzales Branch opened February 23, 2015

➔ Overdrive changed how site visits are counted, resulting in significant drop in our online visits since November 2016

Online visits - total website, Overdrive, catalog, and database visits by session, as reported by DUX

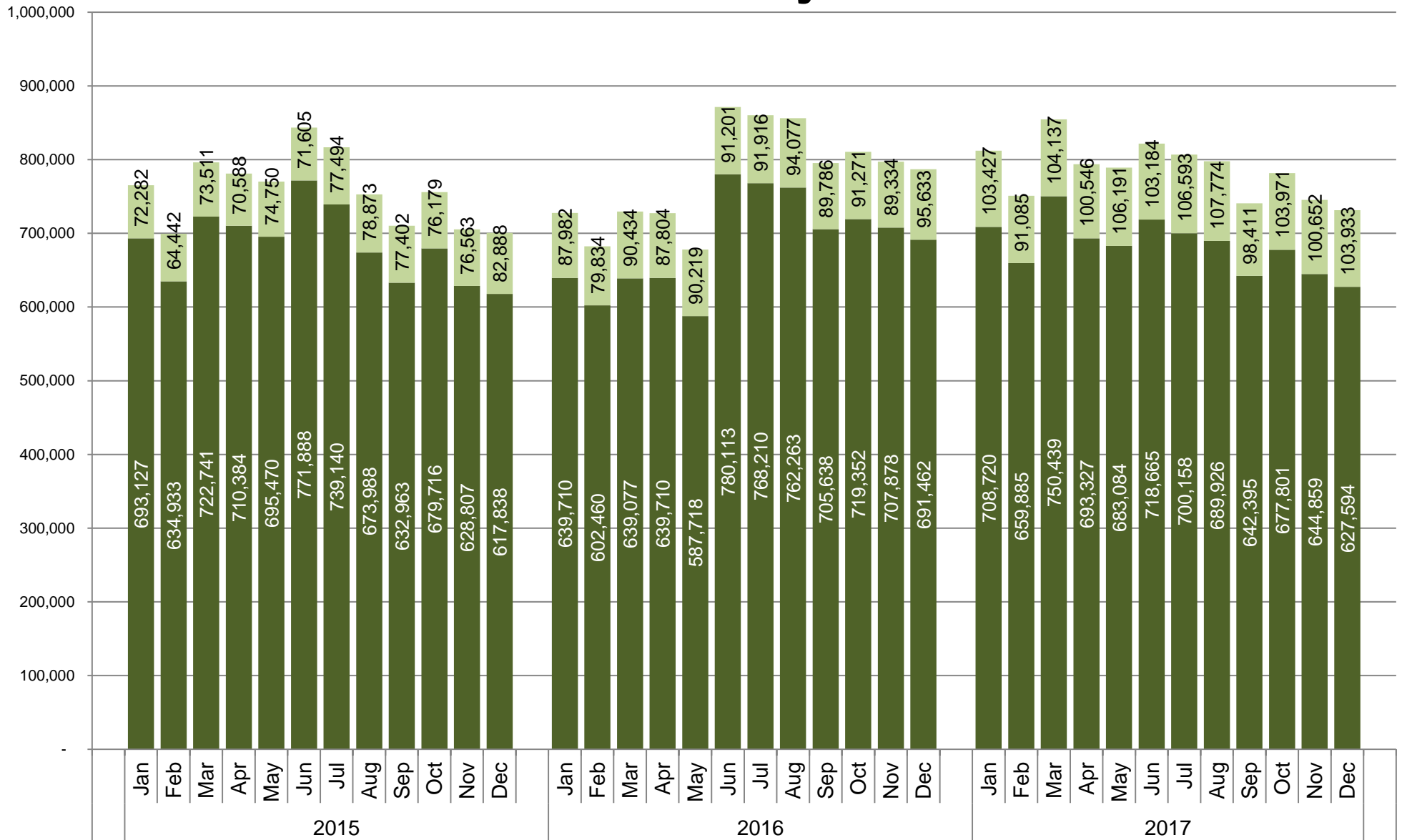
In Person visits - total door count from all locations, as submitted to TrackVia Door Counts application; data collection methodology changed to be more consistent across all locations in 2015.

Denver Public Library

Total Circulation By Month

Downloads

Materials



→ Gonzales Branch opened February 23, 2015.

→ Auto-renewals began on June 1, 2016.

Downloads - total downloads, including electronic books, movies, magazines, and music, as reported by DUX

Materials - total circulation of physical materials at all locations, from Polaris ILS

Denver Public Library

Monthly Circulation by Branch

December 2017

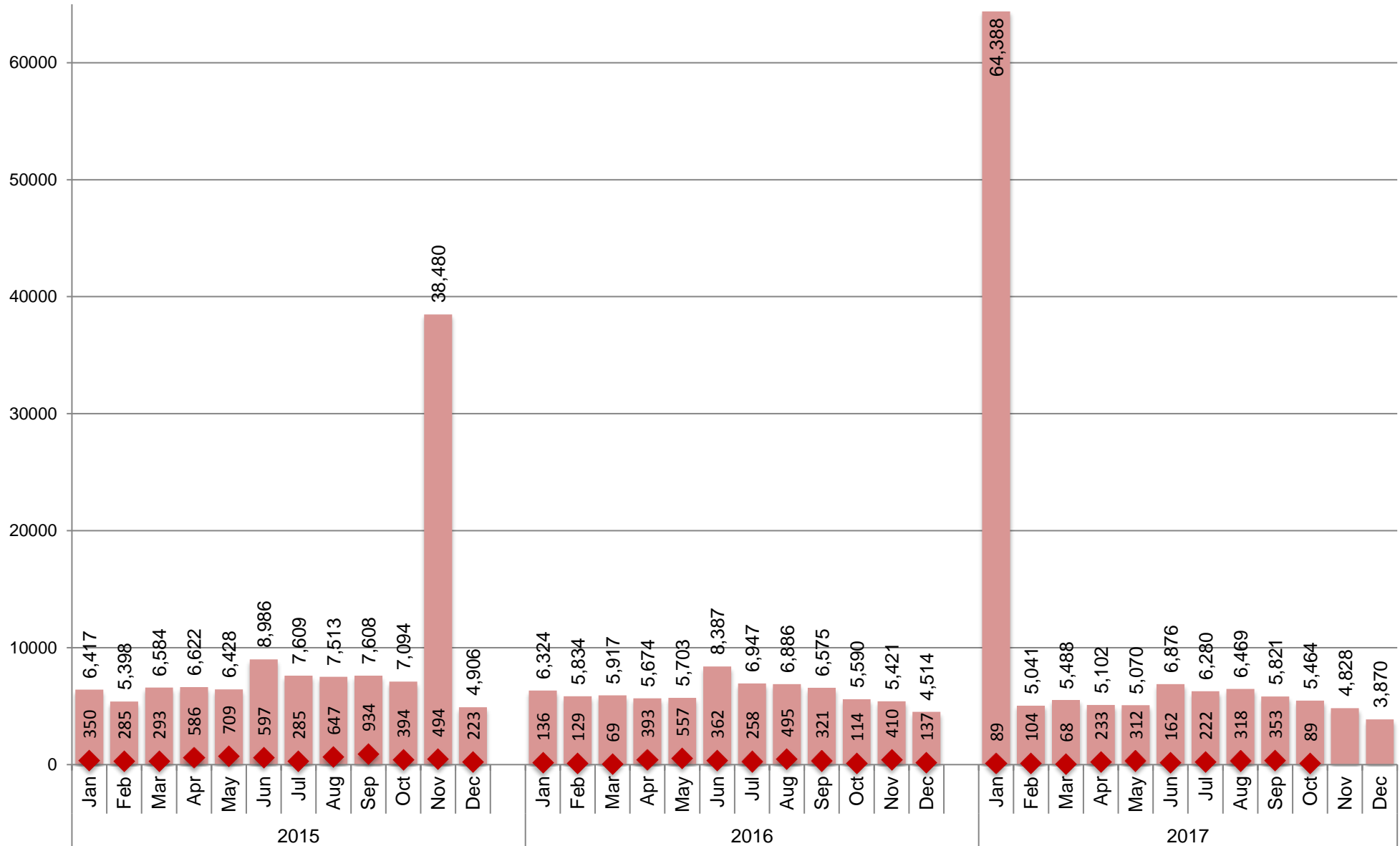
Location	Total Circulation	+/- Previous Month	2017/2016 Year/Year
Athmar Park	11,743	→ (176)	↑ 3,055
Bear Valley	31,815	↓ (1,567)	→ (251)
Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library	9,062	↓ (583)	↑ 759
Bookmobile	6,984	↓ (1,350)	↓ (3,039)
Byers	3,265	↓ (544)	↓ (929)
Central Library	96,708	↑ 2,037	↓ (8,239)
Decker	14,288	↑ 255	↓ (1,268)
Eugene Field	24,125	↓ (704)	↓ (591)
Ford-Warren	13,517	↑ 153	→ (249)
Green Valley Ranch	26,482	↓ (1,911)	↑ 254
Hadley	16	↑ 12	↓ (13,151)
Hampden	29,658	↑ 22	↓ (5,446)
Montbello	9,428	↓ (1,170)	↓ (1,899)
Park Hill	29,871	↓ (1,912)	↓ (2,643)
Pauline Robinson	5,409	↓ (959)	→ (221)
Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales	24,514	↑ 123	↓ (828)
Ross-Barnum	9,436	→ (184)	→ (497)
Ross-Broadway	15,184	↑ 214	↓ (1,242)
Ross-Cherry Creek	24,582	↓ (1,789)	↓ (3,794)
Ross-University Hills	49,909	↓ (1,526)	↓ (5,724)
Sam Gary	57,105	↓ (3,519)	↓ (5,357)
Schlessman Family	55,107	↑ 1,205	↓ (3,694)
Smiley	20,717	→ (408)	↓ (3,014)
Valdez-Perry	3,494	→ (366)	→ (439)
Virginia Village	29,040	↓ (1,953)	↓ (4,466)
Westwood	3,578	↓ (704)	→ (332)
Woodbury	23,347	↑ 256	↑ 167
Denverlibrary.org Downloadables	103,933	↑ 3,281	↑ 8,300
Total	732,317	↓ (13,767)	↓ (54,778)

→ Gonzales branch opened February 23, 2015.

Denver Public Library

Total New Library Cards By Month

■ New Cards
◆ Outreach Signups



➔ November 2017 Outreach registration data is unavailable while we transition fully to our new Events Management tool.

➔ MyDenver card program large DPS database upload in November 2015 and January 2017.

➔ Gonzales Branch opened February 23, 2015.

New Cards - total number of new library card registrations (including computer user only cards), as reported by IT

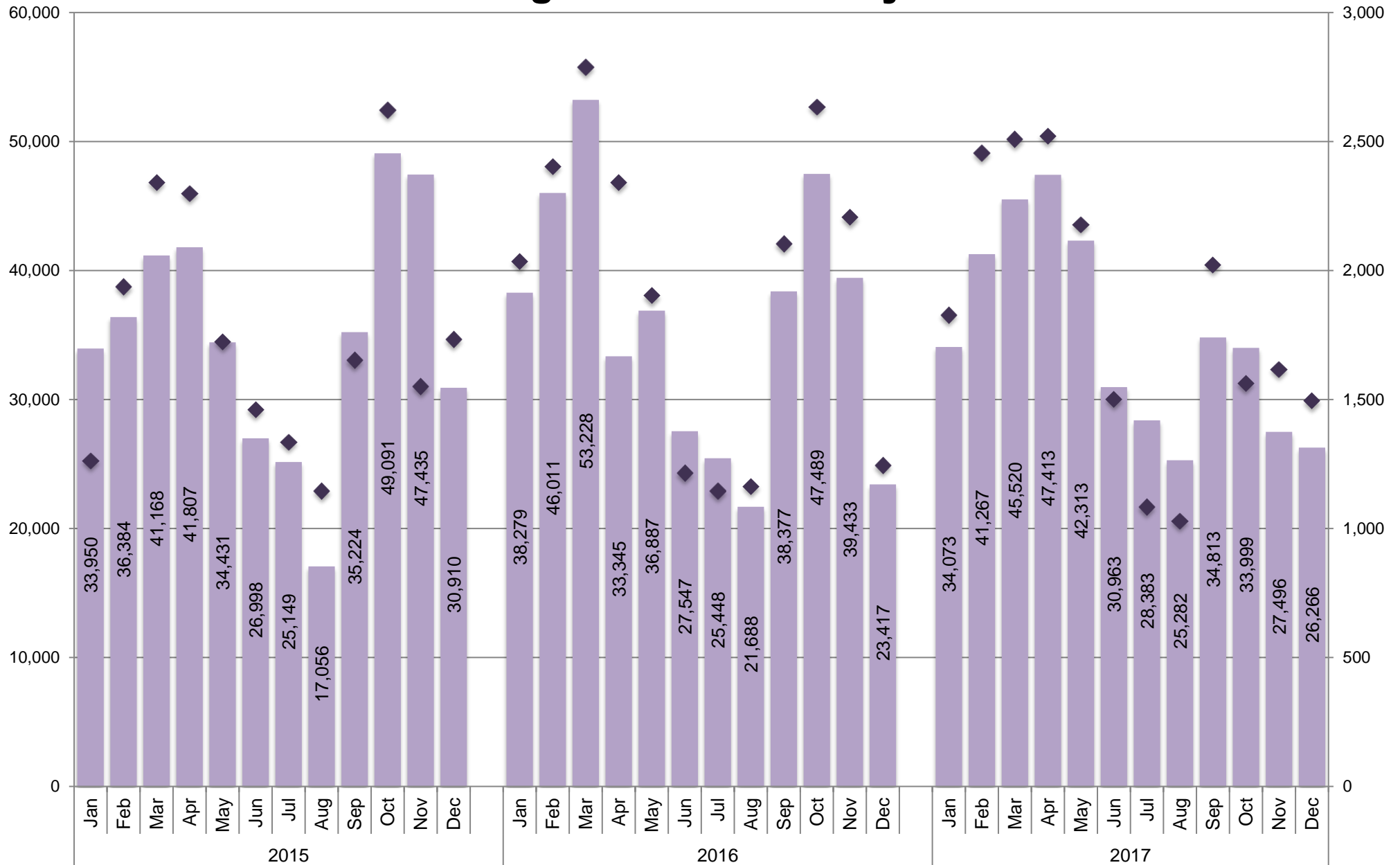
Outreach Signups - total number of new library card signups occurring at Outreach events in the community, as submitted to TrackVia Program & Outreach Tracking application. (Note: 2014 data includes some estimates, as our tracking system did not capture this information before 2015.)

Denver Public Library

Total Program Attendance By Month

■ Attendance

◆ Sessions



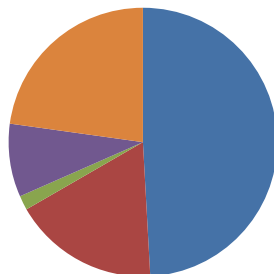
Attendance - total program attendance from all locations, as submitted to TrackVia Program & Outreach Tracking application (includes programs, library events, storytimes, and tours); prior to 2015, attendance figures were not aligned with state reporting definitions and may include (Appointment Services, Exhibits, and Passive Programs).

Sessions - total number of program sessions offered (as defined in Attendance), as submitted to TrackVia Program & Outreach Tracking application

Denver Public Library Human Resources Dashboard

Open Leave Cases as of December 2017

- FMLA - Intermittent
- FMLA - Continuous
- Leave of Absence
- Interactive Process (ADA)
- Medical Disqualification
- Workers' Compensation



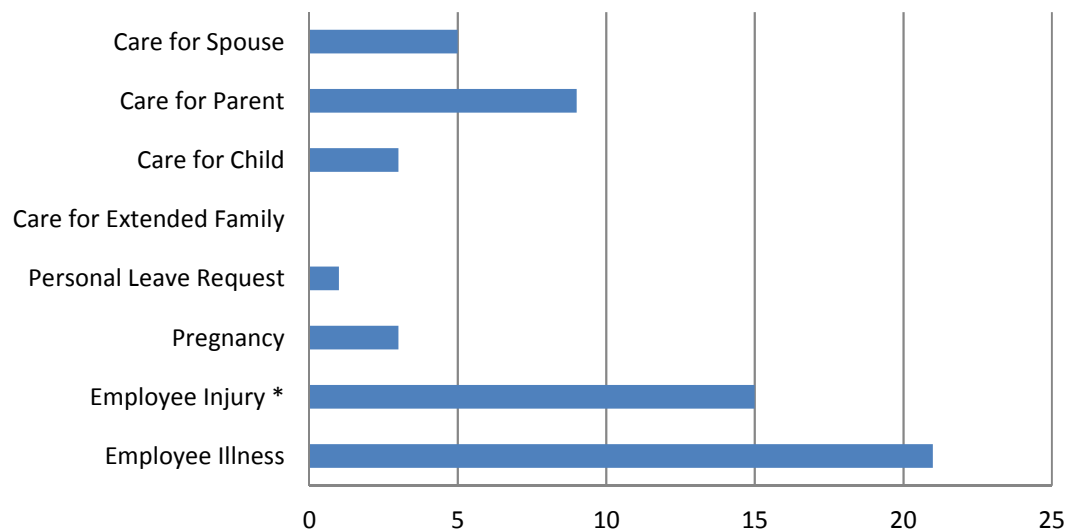
Percentage of Staff on Leave

9%

Leave Cases

Leave Cases	
FMLA - Intermittent	28
FMLA - Continuous	10
Leave of Absence	1
Interactive Process (ADA)	5
Medical Disqualification	0
Workers' Compensation	13

Type of Leave Taken



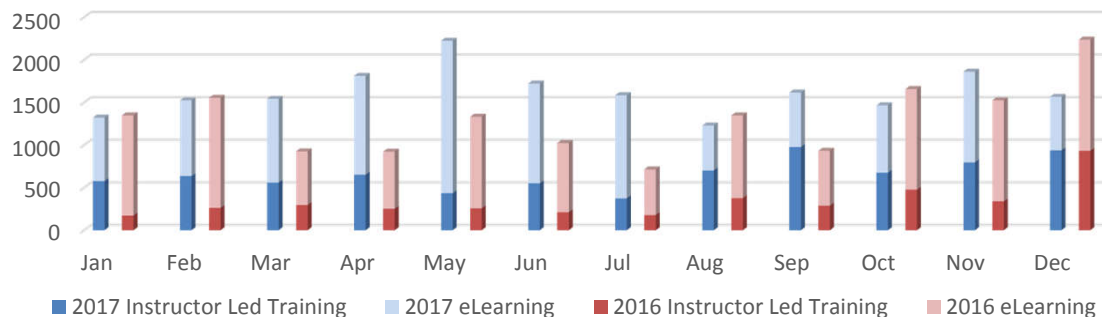
Type of Leave Taken

Type of Leave Taken	
Employee Illness	21
Employee Injury *	15
Pregnancy	3
Personal Leave Request	1
Care for Extended Family	0
Care for Child	3
Care for Parent	9
Care for Spouse	5

* Employee injuries are a combination of on-the-job injuries (13) and off-the-job injuries (2).

Denver Public Library Human Resources Dashboard

Completed Learning - Year-to-Year Comparison

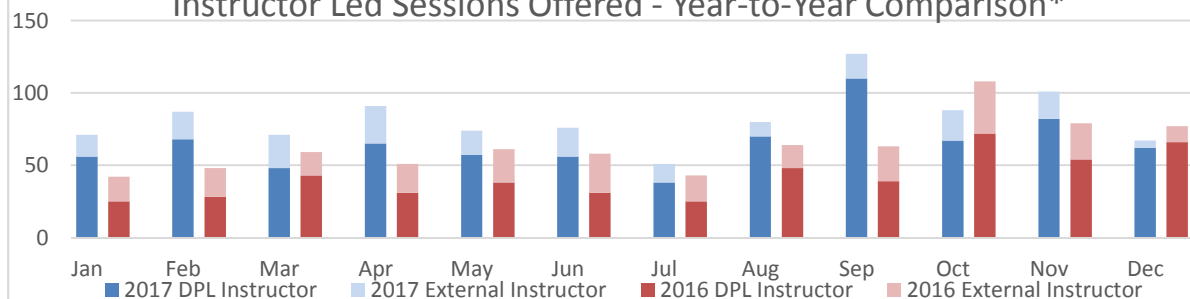


Last Month:

Staff Learning Completions

eLearning	628
Instructor Led Training	937

Instructor Led Sessions Offered - Year-to-Year Comparison*

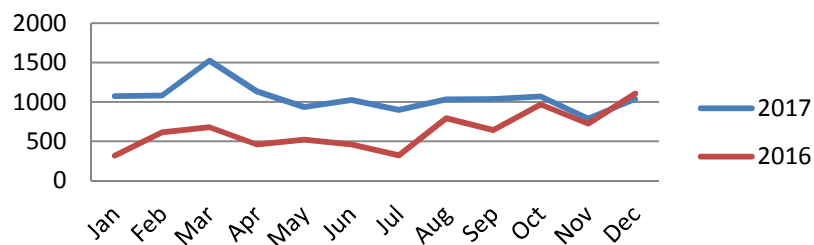


Last Month:

Instructor Led Training

Sessions Offered	67
Percentage Taught by DPL Staff	93%

Instructor Led Training Hours Completed by Staff



Top 5 Training Items Last Month

Title	Type	Rank
Narcan Training	Session	1
Bloodborne Pathogens: The Unexpected Hazard	eLearning	2
Safety at DPL	Session	3
Setting Healthy Boundaries	Session	4
The Empowered Employee: Informed Judgment and DPL Policies	Session	5



EDUCA Newspaper, Radio & TV

December 2017 - Radio

Plazas and New Americas Project – Vivian Casillas and Rocio Gutierrez

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TIEJg5TzmRKYPfpyrKOcoMYMGoH_esAZ/view

January 8, 2018 - TV

Career Online High School - Vivian Casillas and Erika Martinez

Segment not available at this time

A Publication of the Public Library Association

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ONLINE

NEWS & OPINION



The Future Looks Bright for Librarianship

by [Noah Lenstra](#) on December 15, 2017

USA Today recently published an article entitled “Careers: 8 jobs that won’t exist in 2030.” The first career listed was “librarian.” According to author Michael Hoon, “As books fall out of favor, libraries are not as popular as they once were. That means you’ll have a tough time finding a job if you decide to become a librarian.”

Empirical data paint a far different future of career prospects in librarianship. According to a recently published report on “[The Future of Skills](#)” by *Pearson*, a publishing and educational company, who conducted research with *Nesta* and Oxford University, “Librarians, curators, and archivists” will be [the ninth most in demand occupation group in coming years](#). Librarians will be more in demand in 2030 than media and communication workers, construction trade workers, and others, according to the report.

Why, despite consistent evidence that public librarians are in demand, do we continue to see articles proclaiming our death? The profession faces the challenge of communicating its continued relevance in changing times. In response to the *USA Today* article, [the Association for Library and Information Science](#)

69
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Education wrote a letter to the editor that communicated the continuing value of public librarians: “Public librarians connect patrons to community resources, lead programming for children and adults, and engage in community outreach and advocacy.”

Part of communicating our value involves aligning library services with local and national goals, a fact pointed out by the Aspen Institute’s *Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries* initiative. The Pearson report highlights seven societal megatrends that public librarians will need to address to ensure continued relevancy. These values include “changing technology, globalization, demographic change, environmental sustainability, urbanization, rising inequality, and political uncertainty.” In response to these trends, human skills that will be needed include “teaching, social perceptiveness, service orientation, and persuasion.”

An article in *Library Journal* on the Pearson report notes that we need to ask ourselves “How will the people libraries serve be impacted by these megatrends, how will they need to learn, and what skills will they need to develop in order to thrive?” Part of the answer to this question involves advocacy and marketing. Public libraries already address all seven megatrends, and in particular “changing technology” and “rising inequality,” but perhaps we need to do more to communicate broadly on the impacts we are having. We can use reports like *The Future of Skills* to craft messages that vividly showcase our value now and into the future.

Tags: [job market](#), [librarianship](#), [library jobs](#), [public librarian career](#)

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Denverite

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Denver's Laundry Truck for the homeless has washed more than 25,000 pounds of clothes since April

Kevin Beaty / [Follow](#)

December 21, 2017 / 3:12 pm / Denver news

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The Laundry Truck at work at the Denver Public Library downtown, Dec. 13, 2017. (Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite)

Last April, Bayaud Enterprises launched The Laundry Truck, a mobile laundromat equipped with a suite of washers and dryers to provide hygiene services for Denver's homeless. The venture, a partnership with Denver Homeless Out Loud and Radian design group, was

received with huge public support when it was unveiled. We decided to check in and see how it's going now that they're entering their first winter.

As of the beginning of December, the truck has processed over 25,000 pounds of laundry. That's over 1,700 loads serving at least 2,200 people.

"We've exceeded all our expectations and goals," said Scott Kerr, Director of the Employment and Opportunity Center at [Bayaud Enterprises](#).

How else does Kerr qualify success? For one thing, the truck has hardly broken down so far this year.

FOR YOU: Let's take a closer look at Denver Public Library's annual Lego contest

"We've only had one day where we totally airballed service because we had a mechanical failure," he said. "That's really good because there's a lot of moving parts on that thing."

They did experience some frozen lines a few weeks ago, Kerr said. That's something he's a little concerned about now that winter is upon us, but he said he's confident they'll figure out how to keep working despite the weather.

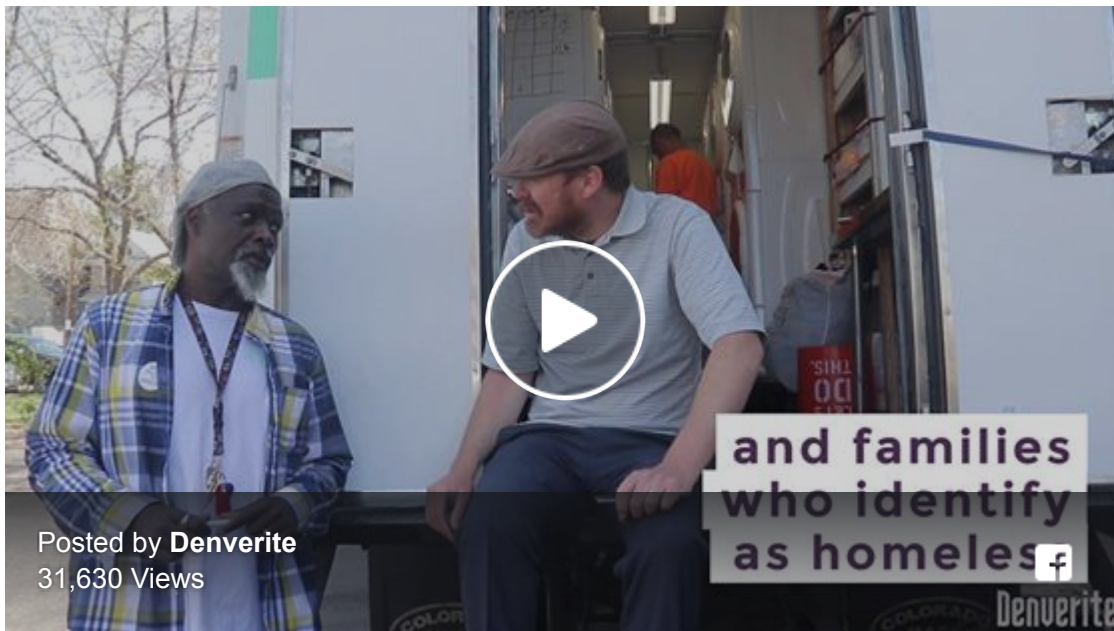


Inside The Laundry Truck, April 14, 2017. (Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite)

The folks who use the truck seem to be pretty happy with it, too. Kerr said their regular appearance at the main Denver Public Library building now has people expecting them. The truck can service about 30 loads a day; they had trouble filling up all those spots when they were getting started and showing up less regularly at more locations.

“When we first started, we wanted to serve everyone,” he said. “We’re kind of narrowing it down to have maximum impact.”

That people know when and where they’ll be now, Kerr said, means they can wring the most out of each day in operation.



“It is amazing, and I’m speaking on behalf of the library staff and customers,” said Elissa Hardy, the downtown library’s resident social worker.

In the last few years, DPL has made a concerted effort to be a serve the entire Denver community; part of that has been direct outreach to people experiencing homelessness. Hardy said she’s glad to have another resource on hand for people, and she’s started to notice indirect benefits too.

“They’re actually more engaged with staff because they’re not trying to hide,” she said, embarrassed by odor or dirty clothes. She said she has a feeling that it’s helped decrease occurrences of “behavior incidents,” too.

“It helps people feel comfortable and safe,” she said, and that’s good for everyone who uses the library.



The Laundry Truck at work at the Denver Public Library downtown, Dec. 13, 2017. (Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite)

Looking to the future, Kerr said he's excited to see what the program's momentum will bring. They've already bought another truck and are gearing up to double their capacity in 2018. If nothing else, the second unit will be a backup in the event of some malfunction.

Kerr said they also hope to be operational in another city next year. "People love it and we want to do more of it," he said.

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Author: Kevin Beaty

Kevin Beaty is a media producer with experience in a variety of settings spanning Hollywood film sets to international backpack journalism expeditions. He is on a never-ending quest to meld artful imagery, functional design and intimate storytelling. His biggest struggle in any given moment is whether to shoot stills or video. Find him on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) at @kevinjbeaty.

[View all posts by Kevin Beaty](#)

Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales Library to house new exhibit to the west side’s Jewish roots



Kevin Beaty / [Follow](#)

October 19, 2017 / 3:55 pm / Denver news



Inside a synagogue in Lakewood that was once used by the Jewish Consumptive Relief Society. It was re-constructed in 1925 and now sits on the campus of the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design. Sept. 18, 2017. (Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite)

If you were intrigued by [our dive](#) into West Colfax’s history as a center of Jewish pioneers in the early 20th century, you may care to stop by the Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales Branch Library on Sunday.

At 2 p.m., the library will kick off a reception for a new permanent, interactive touch screen that aims to stand as a storytelling monument for the neighborhood’s Jewish roots. It’s open to the public and will include a quick presentation by Dr. Jeanne Abrams, the University of Denver’s expert on the subject, whose work was featured in our recent story.

Let’s take a closer look at Denver Public Library’s annual Lego contest



Kevin Beaty / [Follow](#)

April 25, 2017 / 5:09 pm / Denver news



An aquarium in block form at the Bear Valley library, part of Denver Public Library's annual Lego contest. (Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite)

For the sixth year in a row the Denver Public Library system has put on their annual Lego building contest on display, featuring works from kids and families from all over the city.

As a longtime Lego maniac, I thought it would be fun to take a well-lit look at this year's entries.

Meet the secret society that infiltrated Denver's Ku Klux Klan during the height of its power



Kevin Beaty / [Follow](#)

February 8, 2017 / 12:00 pm / Denver news



The first members of the Boulé in Denver. (Denver Public Library/Western History Collection/The Clarence and Fairfax Holmes Papers)

When the Ku Klux Klan was at the height of its power in Denver, one man from Denver's black community infiltrated the group and tried to blunt the impact of its terror. Dr. Joseph H.P. Westbrook's light complexion allowed him to pass for white, and at great danger and cost to his personal health, he attended Klan meetings and relayed their plots back to Denver's black residents.

Terri Gentry knows this story well, and it's not just because she's been working at the [Black American West Museum](#) in Five Points for a decade. Westbrook was her grandmother's godfather and her great-grandfather's best friend.

Discover Denver's fanciest historic digs with this '70s-era bike tour



Kevin Beaty / [Follow](#)

January 31, 2017 / 11:57 am / Denver news



1701 Cedar Ave, built in 1933 for Mrs. Ella Mullen Weckbaugh and was a popular summer spot for visiting movie stars in that era. (Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite)

Sifting through documents in the Denver Public Library's [Western History Collection](#), we discovered something magical: an old Denver history tour meant to be accessed by bike. Take "Bike Into Denver's Past" for a spin some sunny day, and read what was written about the area sometime in the 1970s.

LOOK: The history of America's agricultural youth looks like something out of "Napoleon Dynamite"



Kevin Beaty / [Follow](#)

January 14, 2017 / 10:57 am / Denver news



Charles Waneka wins a ribbon in the “catch-it-calf” competition at the 1967 National Western Stock Show. (Denver Public Library/Western History Collection/Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce Records)

Since I’ve popped in and out of the National Western Stock Show all week, we decided to look into days of Stock Shows past in another of Denverite’s favorite places, the [Denver Public Library’s Western History Collection](#).

Inside I discovered images that felt familiar. And then it hit me.

OLDER POSTS

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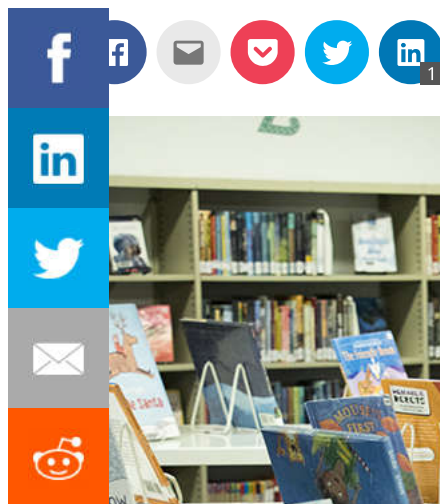
Denver Public Library users were really into historical fiction, women authors in 2017



Adrian D. Garcia / [Follow](#)

December 23, 2017 / 6:45 am / Denver news, Entertainment

Share this:



The Ford-Warren Branch Library, Five Points, Dec. 13, 2017. (Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite)

Denver Public Library users were really into historical fiction, hillbilly culture and books written by women this year, according to DPL checkout data.

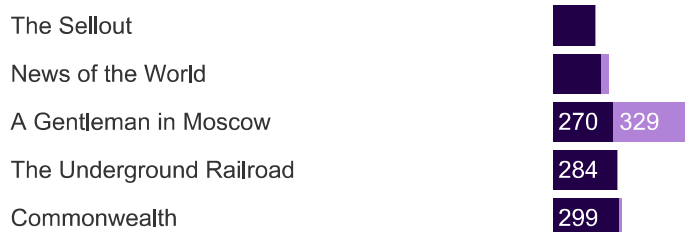
Altogether, DPL branches were visited more than 3.87 million times in 2017, resulting in a whole bunch of item checkouts. Below is a look at the book, e-book and DVD titles that rose to the top.

Most popular Denver Public Library items in 2017

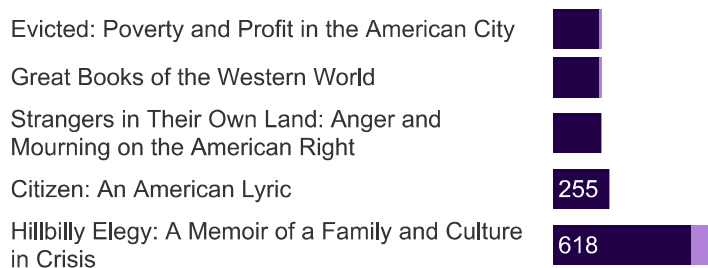
The top books, DVDs and e-Books checked out from Denver Public Library in 2017.

■ Check outs ■ Holds

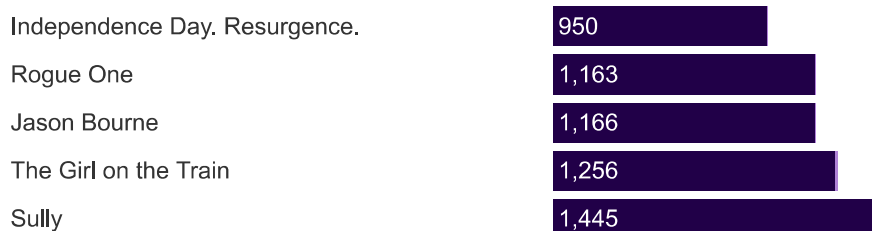
Fiction



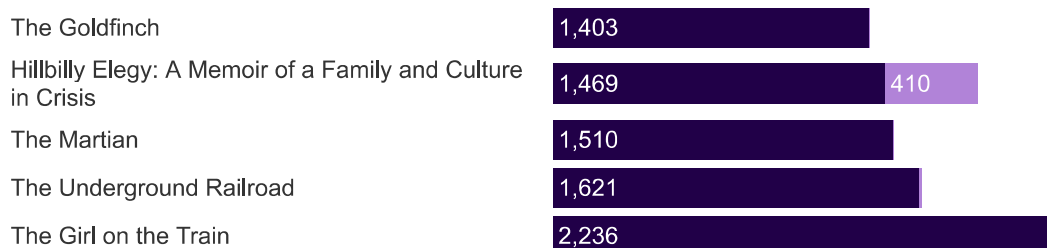
Nonfiction



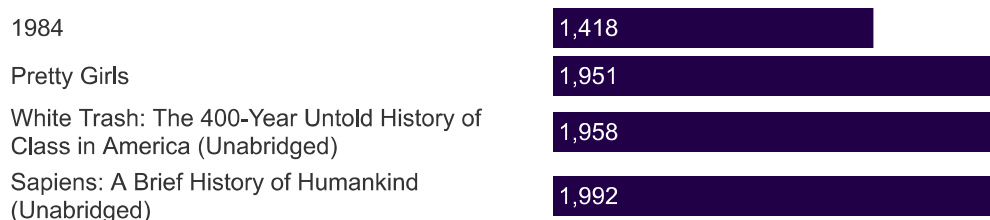
DVD



e-Books (Print)



e-Books (Audio)



You Are a Badass: How to Stop Doubting Your Greatness and Start Living an Awesome Life (Unabridged)

3,004

Data is as of Dec. 13.

Source: Denver Public Library • Created with Datawrapper

Ann Patchett's 2016 novel, "[Commonwealth](#)," about how an unexpected romantic encounter irrevocably changes two families' lives, was the most checked out fiction book, the data show.

"[Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir Of A Family And Culture In Crisis](#)" was the most popular nonfiction book check-out and high up on the list of e-books read. The 2016 book by J.D. Vance provides an account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class.

FOR YOU: Seeking to help low-income families, Denver Public Library adds WiFi hot spots to items patrons can check out

The 2016 film "[Sully](#)" about pilot Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger making an emergency landing in New York's Hudson River was more popular for library goers than even Star Wars, the data show.

[DPL makes major investments in e-books](#). The data provided by the organization shows the 2015 thriller "[The Girl on Train](#)" was the most popular book electronically read this year. Jen Sincero's 2013 self-help book "[You Are a Badass: How to Stop Doubting Your Greatness and Start Living an Awesome Life](#)" was the most popular book heard.

There is a large variation in the amount of times a title can circulate depending on format. DVDs check out for one week, books for three weeks, so it's not strange that DVDs will always look three times more popular. The same applies to eBooks. Some publishers allow for simultaneous use meaning unlimited checkouts are available at one time. Others are one copy per user like a traditional print book, according to DPL.

Want more Denver news? Subscribe to Denverite's newsletter here bit.ly/DailyDenverite.

Business & data reporter Adrian D. Garcia can be reached via email at agarcia@denverite.com or twitter.com/adriandgarcia.

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Author: Adrian D. Garcia

Adrian D. Garcia is on business and trends for Denverite, serves as treasurer for the Colorado chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and on the board of the



December 26, 2017

The celebration of Kwanzaa begins in Denver

December 26 marks the first night of Kwanzaa. Over the seven day celebration of African Heritage, seven principles are recognized. Drums banged, feet stomped and voices sang inside the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Academy on Tuesday evening.

December 26 marks the first night of Kwanzaa. Over the seven day celebration of African Heritage, seven principles are recognized:

1. *Umoja* (Unity)
2. *Kujichagulia* (Self-Determination)
3. *Ujima* (Collective Work and Responsibility)
4. *Ujamaa* (Cooperative Economics)
5. *Nia* (Purpose)
6. *Kuumba* (Creativity)
7. *Imani* (Faith)
8. Each night a candle is lit on a Kinara to symbolize the principle.

Each night a candle is lit on a Kinara to symbolize the principle I

In addition to welcoming new celebrants, the Kwanzaa Committee of Denver welcomed four new members to The Circle of Wisdom.

Mr. Ron Springer, Senakhu Jones Reddick, Charles Burrell, and James "Daddio" Walker were all recognized for their contributions to their community.

Executive Director Theodora Jackson treasures this opportunity to honor her roots.

"I want to celebrate my heritage," Jackson said. "I want to celebrate my ancestors, because; they're the ones who got me here. That's why it's important to me. Kwanzaa just represents all of that for me."

Here's a list of celebrations from the [Kwanzaa Committee of Denver](#):

- Dec. 27 - 2 p.m. Denver Public Library Ford Warren Branch 2825 High St. 720-865-0920
- Dec. 28 - 2 p.m. Denver Public Library Green Valley Ranch Branch 4856 N. Andes Ct. 720-865-0310
- Dec. 29 - 2 p.m. Denver Public Library Pauline Robinson Branch 5575 E. 33rd Ave. 720-865-0290
- Dec. 30 - 2 p.m. Denver Public Library Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales Branch 1498 N. Irving St. 720-865-2370
- Dec. 28 - Senior Luncheon 10 a.m. at Zion Senior Center 5151 East 33rd Ave. Presentation, gifts and lunch. Hosted by Rev Gladys Jones Turnbough and Dr. Claudette Sweet.
- Dec. 30 - The Big Dance 5 p.m. at Dahlia Health Center, 3401 Eudora St. The History of Dance from Ring Shout to Hip Hop. Entertainment and refreshments. Love offering. Hosted by Daphne Rice Allen, MC Native Son.

[The Denver Public Zoo](#) will also have nightly celebrations



A TEGNA Company

January 5, 2018

New tell-all Trump book generating a 'Harry Potter-level' response at local libraries

The Denver Public Library was caught off-guard as hundreds of Denverites request copies of the tell-all book about the president's first year in office.

Officials with the Denver Public Library have been taken off-guard by the massive local response to the new tell-all book about President Donald Trump's first year in office, "Fire and Fury."

The book, written by New York elite gossip columnist Michael Wolff about his last year covering the Trump presidency with interviews with insiders, has caused a major firestorm in the past week with the administration.

Trump's personal lawyers have threatened to sue the book's publisher, Henry Holt, serving to only push up the publication date four days, [according to the New York Times](#).

A spokesperson for the local library said that the book has generated an incredible response with Denver residents.

They say it's similar to a Harry Potter release, the massively popular young adult series about a teen wizard and his friends as they try and save the world from evil.

There are 853 requested holds across all possible platforms which include hard copies, e-copies, audio copies and downloadable versions.

The library ordered just 63 hard copies that aren't set to arrive until next week (they explained that they weren't ready for the author to push up the publication date).

The library's 63 hard copies are facing 446 hold requests as of Friday - again, they won't be arriving until next week.

Audiobooks of "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House" have already arrived - but the library only has 10 copies against 23 hold requests (probably your best bet with the library to get the book).

The Denver Public Library purchased four copies of e-books and downloadable e-books and those are facing hold requests totally 272 at the time of this writing.

There are also 112 downloadable audiobook hold requests.

"Fire and Fury" by Michael Wolff is set likely the earliest ever tell-all book written about a presidency. [The New York Times](#) reports that oftentimes presidents are forced to deal with books that paint them in a poor light - but never this early in a presidency.

Even though Wolff received a significant publicity boon thanks to a public denouncement from the president before the book was even published, his books have been known to contain some errors in the past, [the BBC reports](#).

Already, [it's been publicized that](#) he misattributed something to CNN when it actually came from BuzzFeed News.

Still, [Wolff has said he got](#) "something like a semi-permanent seat on a couch in the West Wing" after interviewing the president in 2016.

Wolff's portrayal of Trump's White House staff says they treat the president as they treat an infant; he claims staffers say he doesn't read or listen; despite claims to the contrary, [Wolff says he was](#) given a "pretty significant" window into the presidency.

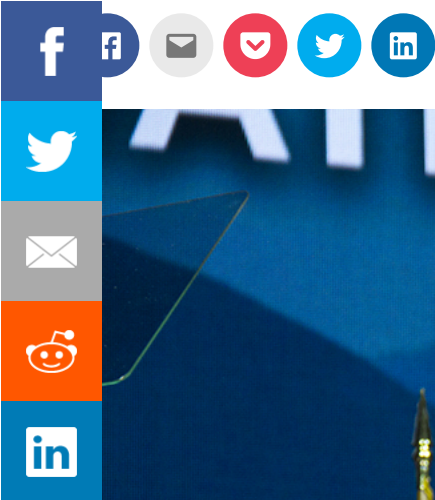
The book had people lining up [outside D.C. bookstores before midnight](#) and quickly sold out.

Denver library patrons place more than 500 holds for new “Fire and Fury” book



Adrian D. Garcia / [Follow](#)
January 6, 2018 / 4:18 pm / Denver news, Entertainment, Politics

Share this:



Donald Trump at the Western Conservative Conference 2016. (Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite)

Denver readers, like their counterparts throughout the nation, really want to get their hands on a new book about alleged chaos in the Oval Office during the first nine months of Donald Trump’s presidency.

Author Michael Wolff rushed Friday to get out "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House" after [Trump threatened legal action](#) and demanded that Wolff and his publisher "immediately cease and desist" from publication. As of Saturday afternoon, 588 people put the book on hold at the Denver Public Library and copies were flying off the shelves at bookstores in the area.

[DPL has not yet made available any of its 63 copies of "Fire and Fury"](#). The library also plans to make the book available by CD and e-book, according to its website.

Denver's Tattered Cover Book Store owner, Len Vlahos, [told CBS 4](#) on Friday that demand was unlike any he's seen for a political tell-all. The Denver shop quickly sold out of copies.

FOR YOU: Denver Public Library users were really into historical fiction, women authors in 2017



President Trump repeatedly denounced what he called a "phony book" and criticized Wolf as former White House chief strategist, Steve Bannon, for [spreading lies](#).

Despite, or maybe partially because, the attention from the president, "Fire and Fury" is No. 1 on the [Amazon Best Sellers list](#).

**Donald J. Trump** ✓

@realDonaldTrump



Michael Wolff is a total loser who made up stories in order to sell this really boring and untruthful book. He used Sloppy Steve Bannon, who cried when he got fired and begged for his job. Now Sloppy Steve has been dumped like a dog by almost everyone. Too bad! twitter.com/gop/status/949...

9:32 PM - Jan 5, 2018

52,068 23,699 86,549



What people in and around Denver are saying:

**Donald J. Trump** ✓ @realDonaldTrump

6 Jan

....to President of the United States (on my first try). I think that would qualify as not smart, but genius....and a very stable genius at that!

**Mark Edwards**

@w0ql



I wasn't going to read Fire and Fury until I saw how pissed off it made you, Donald. Must be right on the mark. It'll be a good read. Thanks for tipping us off.

3:59 PM - Jan 6, 2018

2

**Leif Cedar**

@LeifCedar



How soon will Trump be selling signed copies of Fire and Fury?

2:43 PM - Jan 6, 2018

**Sonia Gupta**

@soniagupta504



Today I nap, read Fire and Fury, get my hair done, and nap some more. Followed by a nap.

1:25 PM - Jan 6, 2018

5 25

**Oz Robert**

@osbornert



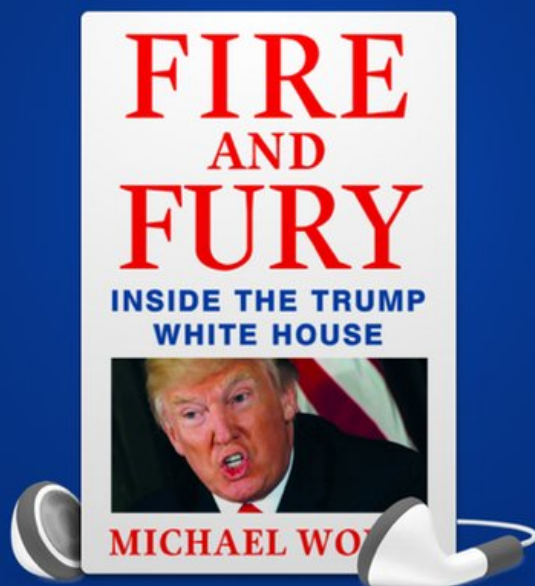
At this point, I give it a 50/50 chance that 'Fire and Fury' is true - but watching 45* whine and cry about it is hilarious.

12:02 PM - Jan 6, 2018

5 25



Audiobook Available Now

**Libro.fm**
Audiobooks**Tattered Cover**

@TatteredCover



The digital audiobook of FIRE AND FURY by Michael Wolff is now available through our partner @librofm! Sign up for a membership and get it for only \$.99. More details here: goo.gl/m6wkKv

4:12 PM - Jan 5, 2018

1 2

**Corey Hutchins**

@CoreyHutchins



"You would not believe how many calls I've answered with that exact same question."— Bookseller at a Colorado Springs Barnes & Noble today after saying they don't have any 'Fire and Fury' copies left.

1:30 PM - Jan 6, 2018

**Germ**

@the1germ



Trump tried to stop Fire and Fury from being published, so I just did my part in getting it to the bestsellers list. 📖

9:58 AM - Jan 5, 2018

**Elia Trucks**

@eliatrucks



I wasn't going to read this fire and fury book about tr*mp, but now that he's big mad about it... I'm #251 on the hold list at the public library

3:12 PM - Jan 4, 2018

**Stant Litore**

@thezombiebible



1. Author dude: Publishes Fire and Fury.
2. Mr. Trump: Nobody buy this book. Fake news! Don't buy this book, definitely don't, whatever you do, buy this book.
3. Book becomes #1 bestseller on Amazon immediately.

1:13 PM - Jan 5, 2018



1



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Business & data reporter Adrian D. Garcia can be reached via email at agarcia@denverite.com or twitter.com/adriandgarcia.

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Denver Public Library users were really into historical fiction, women authors in 2017



Adrian D. Garcia / Follow

December 23, 2017 / 6:45 am / Denver news, Entertainment



The Ford-Warren Branch Library, Five Points, Dec. 13, 2017. (Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite)

Denver Public Library users were really into historical fiction, hillbilly culture and books written by women this year, according to DPL checkout data.

Former Colorado Republican Party Chair: Gardner and Coffman still made the right choice on Trump



Adrian D. Garcia / [Follow](#)

November 9, 2016 / 4:49 pm / Denver news, Politics



Senator Cory Gardner introduces U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman as the victor at the 2016 GOP watch party at the Double Tree Hotel in Greenwood Village on Nov. 8, 2016. (Jessica Taves/For Denverite)

Sen. Cory Gardner and recently re-elected U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman decided to bet against a Trump presidency this election cycle and lost.

New poll shows Hillary Clinton, Sen. Michael Bennet leading in Colorado



Adrian D. Garcia / [Follow](#)

October 3, 2016 / 11:28 am / Denver news, Politics



A campaign sign in a Speer neighborhood yard. (Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite)

A new poll from Monmouth University shows former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Sen. Michael Bennet maintaining double-digit leads in Colorado over their competitors.

Seeking to help low-income families, Denver Public Library adds WiFi hot spots to items patrons can check out



Adrian D. Garcia / [Follow](#)

August 16, 2016 / 11:23 am / Denver news



The Denver Public Library. (Kevin J. Beaty/Denverite)

Chart of the week: Colorado is no Ohio when it comes to presidential visits



Adrian D. Garcia / [Follow](#)

August 10, 2016 / 8:00 am / Denver news, Politics

Denverite

January 6, 2018

How to read a ton of great e-books this year in Denver

I love my Kindle and I love the library. The combination of those two, however, didn't work so well for me at first.

See, Denver Public Library has a significant collection of e-books, and it even offers a really decent app for them. The trouble is that everyone else *also* loves e-books, to the point that most of the titles I want to check out have waitlists longer than a month.

I previously wrote a whole legal and economic explanation of the limits on e-book supplies — *it was really interesting, I swear* — but knowing the truth didn't solve my problem: All the e-books were on hold.

Well, friends, I have finally discovered a winning strategy that will ensure you have a steady supply of e-books to read. The key is to place a ton of holds and then manage them carefully. Here's how.

Step 1: Tools of the trade.

You'll need a library card, obviously. Any resident of Colorado is eligible. [It's free.](#)

Then, you can check out the [e-books collection](#). You can use a regular web browser, but I really like [Libby](#), the official mobile app for the OverDrive e-book service that Denver uses.

It doesn't really matter which one you use, but it's nice to have quick access on your phone via the app. Libby is also a competent audiobook player and e-book reader.

And before you do anything else, go to your [OverDrive settings](#) and *disable* “automatic hold checkout.”

Step 2: Find your titles.

I'm not very cool, so I just jotted down some interesting titles from "Best of 2016" and "Best of 2017" lists. You might also use [GoodReads](#) or make a friend who is smarter than you. (Unfortunately, OverDrive's recommendation engine isn't great.)

From there, start looking up your titles — and be prepared for sticker shock. Recent chart-topper "Little Fires Everywhere," by Celeste Ng, has nearly 600 people on the waitlist. The library has more than 80 copies available, but the waitlist is still three-plus months long. It's OK — sign up anyway.

Now, here's the crux: Go put 29 more books on hold, too. DPL will allow you to place holds on up to 30 e-books at once.

Step 3: Manage your waitlists.

A few of your titles will likely be available immediately.

For the rest, it's a waiting game. But if you're not careful, you'll have multiple books checked out at the same time. You don't want that: You only have three weeks to read, since you can't renew titles with waitlists.

The solution is to aggressively use the "suspend hold" function, which you'll find in the "[holds](#)" tab. When you suspend a hold, you'll continue to progress forward through the line — but you'll freeze when you reach the front.

By strategically suspending your holds, you'll space out your titles so they don't arrive all at once. If you're almost to the front but you don't have time to read yet, hit suspend. You can do it for anywhere from a week to six months.

I would also, again, recommend you [disable automatic holds](#), which will give you some more flexibility about the start of your reading period.

It takes a little patience, but if you get started now you'll have a steady flow of books available soon. It will help you hit those yearly reading goals, and you'll save a few hundred dollars over the "buy it off Amazon" approach.



Monday, January 8, 2018 - 21st of Tevet, 5778 | 46° F, cloudy | Print Edition

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Politicized library?

Shana Goldberg (<https://www.ijn.com/Author/Shana-Goldberg/>) • Dec 21, 2017 • Columns (<https://www.ijn.com/Opinion/Columns/>), Opinion (<https://www.ijn.com/Opinion/>), Snapshot (<https://www.ijn.com/Opinion/Columns/Snapshot/>) • 0 (<https://www.ijn.com/Politicized-Library/#Respond>)

I'm a big reader and the library is a regular part of my week. In the past year, I've noticed a trend at the branch I frequent, Ross-Cherry Creek. Signs about inclusion began to proliferate. Stickers appeared declaring the library a "safe place" for LGBTQ people. I questioned such signage because it implies the library is a "safe space" where everyone is accepted, whereas the outside world is not. It struck me as fear-mongering and not a little ironic, considering that the location of this branch is in one of the most affluent areas of town, with likely a low crime rate.

The sign that pushed me over the edge was one declaring "We all belong," sponsored, in part, by Jewish Voice for Peace. I wrote a letter to the head librarian explaining to her that JVP is a radical political NGO and I questioned why political groups were present, at all, in a library, which is supposed to be a non-political institution.

EVENTS CALENDAR

JAN
8
Mon
(https://www.ijn.com/calendar/action~oneday/exact_date~1-8-2018/)

7:00 pm Hebrew Nights (TJE)
(https://www.ijn.com/event/hebrew-nights-tje/?instance_id=6364)

JAN
9
Tue
(https://www.ijn.com/calendar/action~oneday/exact_date~1-9-2018/)

10:15 am In Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King
(https://www.ijn.com/event/martin-luther-king-jr-life-legacy/?instance_id=6401)

12:00 pm Mussar Study (B'nai Havurah)
(https://www.ijn.com/event/mussar-bnai-havurah/?instance_id=5967)

6:30 pm Ageless Adversity Series
(https://www.ijn.com/event/ageless-adversity/?instance_id=6398)

The sign was removed the following day. The librarian apologized for its appearance and said it had been “unsanctioned.” She also explained that the LGBTQ sticker was part of a larger police campaign to raise awareness.

For me, a library is about providing books. We as patrons have the privilege of reading those books to educate ourselves. For example, if one wants to address anti-LGBTQ bias, why not display a memoir or novel on the topic? When it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, there is certainly no shortage of books that could be displayed instead of putting up a poster sponsored by a political NGO.

A library, as the temple of free thought, should be the last place where people are literally messaged on how they should think.

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


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