

**AGENDA**  
**The Denver Public Library Commission**  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
**Thursday, March 15, 2018, 8:30 a.m.**  
Denver Central Library  
7th Floor Training Room

1. Call to order.
2. Introductions.
3. Approval of Minutes from February 15, 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. Review of 2017 Friends Foundation endowment and fundraising funds.  
Ron Miller
  - a. Report of 2017 endowment distribution and fundraising funds
  - b. Approval of 2018 endowment request
8. Discussion and approval. Donor Recognition Policy revision to 2013 Commission  
approved Naming Policy
9. Report about library community engagement. Tara Bannon, Erika Martinez, James  
Vallejos, Beth Warren, Leslie Williams
10. GO Bond update. Michelle Jeske
11. Report of the City Librarian.
12. Other Business.

### **Agenda Item 3**

Requested Action: Approval

**MINUTES**  
**The Denver Public Library Commission**  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
**Thursday, February 15, 2018, 8:30 a.m.**  
Denver Central Library  
7th Floor Training Room

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

Excused: Greg Hatcher, Alice Kelly, Sonya Ulibarri

Staff: Rebecca Czarnecki, Rachel Fewell, Dana Franklin (SC), Jennifer Hoffman, Michelle Jeske, Anne Kemmerling, Susan Kotarba, Elaine Langeberg, Zeth Lietzau, Amber Lindberg, Joe Mills (SC), Bria Ward

Guests: Pam Jewett and Laurie Romer, Friends Foundation; Sam Hosfelt and Michelle Sandoval, Swinerton; Nikki McCabe, City Budget Management Office

1. Call to order.

President Mike King called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

2. Introductions.

Commissioners, staff and guests present introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 18, 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.

Carlos Martinez reported that he attended a day of the American Library Association Conference held at the Convention Center and noted its focus on diversity.

Rosemary Marshall reported on a successful Juanita Gray event and thanked Hannah Miles for her work organizing it.

Laurie Mathews attended the Hadley opening. She said Hadley looks wonderful and the event had great energy. Mathews also went to Smiley to start her tour of DPL branches. She noted she can tell it needs renovating but remarked on what a lovely building it is. Jeske added that the Smiley and Byers branches are 100-years-old this year.

King then noted he had a couple of items he would like to defer to other business.

6. Report of the Friends Foundation. Laurie Romer and/or Pam Jewett

Pam Jewett noted that the Friends Foundation onboarded three new members in January and all of the committees have been meeting.

The search committee for the Executive Director is interviewing two search firms. They anticipate choosing a firm within the next week.

The Booklovers Ball Committee has also met recently. The Ball will be October 6 and Jewett encouraged everyone to attend.

Jewett concluded stating that the Friends Foundation feels well aligned with library priorities and that they know what to target for fundraising. King noted that given the upcoming deployment of bond funds that the Commission would like to have a retreat with the Friends.

7. Presentation of Potential Fine Elimination. Jennifer Hoffman and Rebecca Czarnecki  
See attached presentation.

The library is working in tandem with the City and has already reached out to let them know we are working on this.

- Question: Could eliminating fines reduce the library's budget?
  - That is a possibility.

Commissioners went on to agree that even if it did it would be a relatively small amount and worth it for the amount of positive attention the library would receive. It was noted that DPL might be the largest library in the nation to make the move.

8. Approval of Fine Elimination. Library Commission

President King asked for a motion to give DPL the permission to explore eliminating fines with the City, understanding there would still need to be final approval by the Commission. Upon motion by Mathews and second by Marshall the motion was approved.

9. Report on the Library Academy. Anne Kemmerling

Anne Kemmerling, manager of innovation and strategy, talked about the inaugural Library Academy, a nine-week, 21 hour course similar to a police citizens academy. We believe this is the first of its kind among libraries. People are craving civic and community engagement and they might have social influence, funds, or time to give - so let's activate that. The hope is that participants can be turned into advocates for the organization who take information about DPL into their communities. There was an application process and people volunteered to do this on their free time. 33 people out of 50 applicants were selected and about 26 people attended regularly.

- Every course focused on DPL's strategic priorities.
- The academy was held at seven different DPL locations.
- All sessions were informational and had an activity.
- Relationships with staff were developed.
- Sessions ended with calls to action, ways people can help. There were 45 different calls to actions and 204 calls to action have been completed.

Kemmerling noted that the library has applied for a federal IMLS grant to move this forward again. She would also consider trying a different format in the future, maybe an abbreviated one location, day long intensive. Several Academy participants have become volunteers or given donations.

King said it reminded him partly of the Leadership Denver program and voiced his support saying this plants seeds for future Commissioners and Friends members.

10. GO Bond update. Michelle Jeske

Jeske reported that she hopes to know in the next month about what the City intends to include in its first bond issuance. Currently, DPL is working with the Denver Art Museum (DAM) on Acoma Plaza and we have hired a designer to work with theirs to make

sure there is a unified vision. DPL and DAM will also be considering pooling funds received for public art which will come to a total of about \$700,000 to use on the campus.

Jeske is also arranging tours of other libraries in the area that have had recent renovations. She encouraged Commissioners to let her assistant know if they would like to be included. On these tours she will also be looking at donor recognition signs to help guide how DPL would like to handle such recognition. King noted he would love to see photos. Jeske noted DPL continues to work with the Friends to figure out naming and recognition and policies while complying with IRS regulations. She has already gotten some really strong advice from cultural partners.

#### 11. Report of the City Librarian.

Jeske said that the Juanita Gray Awards was a great event as usual and thanked Commissioner Marshall for her work.

The Diversity and Inclusion team is formed and met for the first time at Hadley. She would like to potentially discuss more about and with the team at the April meeting.

The Hadley Branch Library is open and looks wonderful.

There is a Career Online High School graduation on February 24 at Gonzales at 10 AM. There are six graduates.

Jeske reminded Commissioners that they all voted to start receiving the HR report quarterly so it is not included in their packet.

#### 12. Other Business.

King brought up that he noticed that there is a slight downward trend in checkouts, which is to be expected but is why we need to continue to push to be the library of the future. Jeske replied that visits are up and that we offer even more programs than what are listed in Engage. She talked about the success of the laser cutter at the ideaLAB at Hampden and how DPL will continue to seek funding and space to expand that type of programming.

King noted that there is concern about what could happen to federal funding such as IMLS and Jeske agreed that is a potential threat. She said last year Representative Herod organized the state legislature to send letters to support funding. We recognize how important civic engagement is and next month the team that has been doing community engagement strategic work will have a public knowledge document which pulls together the major themes we've been hearing.

We're also working hard at changing the message about Central and making sure the brand is positive. Jeske had a great conversation with Representative Herod about how to talk about the library and opioids. She will also reach out to Councilman Brooks and the other Council Members to make sure they have the same talking points. Erika Martinez, director of communications and community engagement, is forming a plan to make sure our advocates really know how to talk about us and how to change the story that the press has been recycling. Marshall asked for Jeske to send those talking points to the Commission as well. DPL might also consider if there is ever an opportunity to host lobbyists and lawmakers here.

King thanked everyone for their work.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 am

Submitted by Rebecca Czarnecki for Cathy Lucas

## Agenda Item 7a

Requested Action: Receive Report

### Expenditure of 2017 Endowment Funds

Unrestricted and restricted Endowment Funds help support the work of the Denver Public Library. These funds are managed and invested by the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation on behalf of the Library. Consistent with the previous year, the Library received \$270,000 in Endowment funds from the Friends Foundation in 2017. Following are details of the expenditures made by the Library from these funds.

#### Collection Development

In 2017, the Collection Development department received the following disbursement of endowment funds from the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation. The funds were used to acquire items for the circulating collection including new musical scores, poetry collections, transportation books and adult education materials.

Sharon Gravelle Endowment	Acquisition of Library Materials	\$16,133
Smiley Branch Collection/ Beverly Ann Walker	Acquisition of Library Materials	\$ 3,495
Lucille Wilken	Acquisition of Music Materials	\$ 1,174
George Dolmas	Acquisition of Library Materials	\$ 900
John Pershing	Acquisition of English Poetry Books	\$ 436
Erlich Fund	Acquisition of Library Materials	\$ 305
Nell Scott	Acquisition of Adult Education Materials	\$ 250
Lorraine Sabin	Acquisition of Transport Materials	<u>\$ 165</u>
Total		\$22,858

#### Western History/Genealogy

In 2017, the Western History/Genealogy department received endowment funds totaling \$212,228. This amount was distributed among multiple programs: general Western History, DPL Trust, Classen, Hilliard, Jackson, Massa, and Hendrie endowments.

Western History-General (includes \$7,904 Viola Smith)	\$138,974
DPL Trust	\$ 65,213
Joanne Classen	\$ 2,907
Joy Hilliard	\$ 1,778

Jackson	\$ 1,645
Emil J Massa	\$ 876
Marion G Hendrie	\$ 835
Literary Club	<u>\$ 651</u>
Total	\$212,879

Western History/Genealogy endowment funds are used to purchase antiquarian materials including rare and artists' books, conservation of rare materials including professional services and archival supplies, and salaries and benefits for 4.75 FTE staff in the department.

#### Community Awards

The Denver Public Library received \$943 from the Latino Awards endowment in 2017. Funds contributed to the annual Latino Awards event held in September at the Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales Library. The honorees were Jamie Torres, Eric Duran, Angelina Rivera-Malpiede, and Don Mares. Approximately 100 attendees joined the celebration.

The Barbara Jordan Funds have been held for the last few years to purchase all staff eLearning for DPL staff. The eLearning tutorials are a valuable enhancement to the myTRACKS staff learning portal, and the skills training will continue to enhance the library's excellent customer service. In 2017, \$1,426 was distributed to DPL from the endowment to help contribute to the cost of the learning tools.

The Nell Scott endowment distributed \$250 to support the DPL Employee of the Year award. This year, Bob Knowles, Security Manager was nominated by his peers and recognized in a ceremony celebrating his accomplishments. Other nominated staff and years of service were also celebrated.

#### Unrestricted Endowment

The 2017 unrestricted endowment of \$31,644 was used for audio visual technology upgrades throughout the library system. Meeting rooms at University Hills Branch, Ford Warren Branch, Park Hill Branch, and Ross Cherry Creek Branch received updated audio visual equipment with the funds. The endowment was combined with other DPL funds to upgrade audio visual equipment in the Children's Library Pavillion as well. These upgrades will deliver an enhanced user experience for patrons and staff, as well as offer more consistent technology in the libraries and simplified maintenance.

**Expenditure of 2017 Fundraising Money**

In 2017, the Friends Foundation distributed \$184,286 in revenue from fundraising events that occurred from November 2015 to October 2016. These funds were used to support:

Collection Development	\$99,200
Western History Digitization	\$40,000
Summer of Reading Program	\$20,000
Read Aloud Program	\$ 9,600
Other Library Programs	\$15,486

## **Agenda Item 7b**

Requested Action: Approve Endowment Request and receive fundraising report

### **Proposal to Denver Public Library Friends Foundation for 2018 Endowment Funds Disbursement.**

The Denver Public Library requests the disbursement of \$270,000 from the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation Unrestricted and Restricted Endowment Funds for expenditure in 2018 as follows.

#### Administration

The Barbara Jordan Funds of \$1,426 will be held and combined with prior years' funds to purchase eLearning tutorials on a variety of topics for DPL staff to enhance excellent customer service.

The Nell Scott funds of \$250 will be used to help recognize the 2018 DPL Employee of the Year. They will receive an award and a membership to an organization of their choice for their services.

#### Collection Development

The Collection Development department requests the following disbursements from DPLFF Endowment funds. The funds will be used to acquire items for the circulating collection including new musical scores, poetry collections, transportation books and adult education materials.

Sharon Gravelle Endowment	Acquisition of Library Materials	\$16,133
Smiley Branch Collection/Beverly Ann Walker	Acquisition of Library Materials	\$ 3,495
Lucille Wilken	Acquisition of Music Materials	\$ 1,174
George Dolmas	Acquisition of Library Materials	\$ 900
Literary Club	Acquisition of Rare Materials	\$ 651
John Pershing	Acquisition of English Poetry Books	\$ 436
Erlich Fund	Acquisition of Library Materials	\$ 305
Nell Scott	Acquisition of Adult Education Materials	\$ 250
Lorraine Sabin	Acquisition of Transport Materials	<u>\$ 165</u>
Total		\$23,509



### Western History/Genealogy

The Denver Public Library Western History/Genealogy department requests \$212,228 from the in 2018. The purpose for this disbursement is to cover the salary and and benefit costs of 4.75 FTE positions, archival supplies and equipment, and other antiquarian materials.

Western History-General (includes \$7,904 Viola Smith)	\$138,974
DPL Trust	\$ 65,213
Joanne Classen	\$ 2,907
Joy Hilliard	\$ 1,778
Jackson	\$ 1,645
Emil J Massa	\$ 876
Marion G Hendrie	<u>\$ 835</u>
Total	\$212,228

### Community Relations

The Denver Public Library requests \$943 from the Latino Awards Endowment in 2018 to help support the annual Latino Awards event in September.

### Unrestricted

The Denver Public Library requests the unrestricted endowment distribution in the amount of \$31,644. The unrestricted endowment will be used to supplement the construction costs of the ideaLab at Gonzales.

### **Expenditure of Fundraising Money 2018**

The Friends Foundation has identified \$220,495 to be distributed from November 2016 through October 2017 fundraising events. The Friends Foundation Board will vote on the distribution on March 21, 2018. The Western History Council raised \$3,400 of the distribution and this portion is restricted for Western History activities. The remaining amount will be used to support the library mission and programs. The program allocation will be determined by the Executive Team.

## **Agenda Item 8**

Requested Action: Approval of updates to the Donor Recognition Policy

### **Donor Recognition Policy for Denver Public Library - 2018 (Revision to 2013 Commission Approved Naming Policy)**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the authority and process for donor recognition in Denver Public Library Branches as well as interior and exterior spaces associated with the branches and the Central Library, and major programs and collections. Consistent with this policy the specific recognition given to donors to commemorate a significant gift may include recognition in specific library spaces, furnishings or fixtures within the library, placement on a donor wall, or in other areas deemed appropriate by the Library Commission.

#### **Authority**

The Library Commission has authority over naming pursuant to City Charter Section 11.1.2 which gives the Commission exclusive control over the library and its branches, all property and funds, all administration of gifts and trusts, and all things necessary or expedient in connection with library purposes.

All donor recognition proposals shall be reviewed by the City Librarian prior to discussing the proposal with a prospective donor. The City Librarian will refer recognition proposals for an entire Branch, significant area or collection within the Central Library or major system-wide programs to the Library Commission for its consideration and approval.

The Library Commission delegates authority to the City Librarian to approve any recognition proposal acknowledging a significant gift within branches and report them to the Library Commission.

#### **Guidelines for Donor Recognition in Library Interior and Exterior Spaces**

A Branch or significant area within the Central Library may include recognition for individuals, families or entities meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Extraordinary service to the Denver Public Library as a staff member;
- Distinguished person who has provided extraordinary service to the library or who otherwise merits special recognition;
- Donors who have made a significant financial contribution to the library.

Branches or significant areas within the Central Library shall not include:

- recognition for individuals currently employed by the library, the City of Denver, the State of Colorado or elected officials.
- recognition for an individual earlier than five years following the departure or retirement of the person from the library or the end of an elected official's service in office.

There shall be a due diligence review of each significant gift recognition proposal to carefully consider the overall benefit of such recognition to the library, including whether recognition

in library space(s) is and will continue to be a positive reflection on the library. Such due diligence shall include the following:

- Review of any possible conflict of interest issues affecting the library;
- Evaluation of the impact on future giving by the donor and others;
- Any other factors that could reflect on the library.

In order to avoid any appearance of commercial influence or conflict of interest, or any other potentially adverse consequence, additional due diligence shall be undertaken before recommending any recognition opportunities that includes a commercial enterprise. Recognition may be given to a commercial enterprise only if recognition of the commercial enterprise's name is appropriate in the public setting of the library.

### **Duration of Gift Recognition**

The scope of gift recognition in Denver Public Library spaces and its duration should correspond to the scale of the financial assistance provided by the donor. Each recognition opportunity will include specific duration of recognition based on gift value and benefit to the Denver Public Library. In the case of an extraordinary gift, typically capital or endowment, recognition will extend to the useful life of the space where recognized or be moved to another space of similar value.

If a Branch or area within the Central Library is substantially renovated (providing new useful life equivalent to a new building), or if there is a significant addition to a Branch or the Central Library, recognition may be altered or removed.

Recognition in honor of a commercial enterprise will have a set number of years attached, which will be determined on a case-by-case basis and included in a signed gift agreement associated with the recognition opportunity. The duration of commercial enterprise recognition shall normally remain the same notwithstanding future changes in the commercial enterprise name; provided, however, in the event of a name change in the commercial enterprise, the Library Commission may in the exercise of its sole discretion elect to remove the established commercial enterprise recognition, if either such action is determined to be in the best interest of the library.

### **Prior Procedures and Named Spaces**

Gift recognition in branches or interior/exterior spaces in existence at the time of the adoption of this policy shall remain in effect, subject to future renaming consistent with this policy and subject to restrictions in any gift agreements related to prior naming action. If no gift agreement exists, the City Librarian and Library Commission, in coordination with the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation, will consult with the donor, or donor's descendants, to reach a mutual agreement regarding new recognition opportunities within branches, interior or exterior spaces.

Nothing herein shall preclude or prevent the Commission from modifying, changing, renovating or disposing of any library facility.

### **Removal or Change of Name**

Gift recognition is provided to individuals, families and entities that exemplify the attributes of integrity and civic leadership. If an individual, family or entity for whom recognition has

been made violates these standards, the library may elect to remove the individual, family or entities recognition from any branch, interior or exterior space, furnishings or fixtures within the library, or donor wall . Before taking such action, the library shall undertake due diligence, including consultation with counsel, as to any legal ramifications that the library may have under any pre-existing agreement(s) related to gift recognition or in regard to any other matter that may have legal bearing upon a proposed change in name. Any recognition authorized by the Library Commission can only be revoked by a vote of that body.

Alternatively, unforeseen circumstances may make it impossible for a donor to complete a gift commitment after that commitment has been recognized by placing a name on a Branch, interior/exterior space or major program. The Commission will make reasonable efforts to work with the donor to create a plan for completion of the commitment. However, in certain circumstances it may be necessary in the best interests of the library to remove the donor's name from the naming opportunity.

Gift recognition within a library, including branches, interior and exterior spaces, furnishings or fixtures within the Library, or donor wall, shall be finalized only after the financial commitment by the donor has been honored in full and not on the basis of a pledge for future funds.

March 2018

# **Former Naming Policy for Denver Public Library**

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the authority and process for naming and renaming Denver Public Library Branches as well as interior and exterior spaces associated with the branches and the Central Library, and major programs and collections. Consistent with this policy the specific recognition given to donors may include named spaces, furnishings or fixtures within the Library, placement on a donor wall, and other items that commemorate a gift.

## **Authority**

The Library Commission has authority over naming pursuant to City Charter Section 11.1.2 which gives the Commission exclusive control over the Library and its branches, all property and funds, all administration of gifts and trusts, and all things necessary or expedient in connection with library purposes.

All commemorative naming proposals shall be reviewed by the City Librarian prior to discussing the proposal with a prospective donor. The City Librarian will refer naming proposals for an entire Branch, significant area or collection within the Central Library or major system-wide programs to the Library Commission for its consideration and approval.

The Library Commission delegates authority to the City Librarian to approve any commemorative naming proposal for spaces, programs and collections within branches and report them to the Library Commission.

## **Guidelines for Naming Branches and Interior/Exterior Spaces**

A Branch or significant area within the Central Library may be named for individuals, families or entities meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Extraordinary service to the Denver Public Library as a staff member;
- Distinguished person who has provided extraordinary service to the Library or who otherwise merits special recognition;
- Donors who have made a significant financial contribution to the Library.

Branches or significant areas within the Central Library shall not be named for individuals currently employed by the Library, the City of Denver, the State of Colorado or elected officials. A Branch or significant area within the Central Library shall not be named for an individual earlier than five years following the departure or retirement of the person from the Library or the end of an elected official's service in office.

There shall be a due diligence review of each naming proposal to carefully consider the overall benefit of such naming to the Library, including whether the name is and will continue to be a positive reflection on the Library. Such due diligence shall include the following:

- Review of any possible conflict of interest issues affecting the Library;
- Evaluation of the impact on future giving by the donor and others;
- Any other factors that could reflect on the Library.

## **Duration of Names and Name Changes**

Naming rights in honor of an individual or individuals, family or non-commercial entity are generally expected to last for the useful life of the Branch, Interior/Exterior space or program.

If a Branch or area within the Central Library is substantially renovated (providing new useful life equivalent to a new building), or if there is a significant addition to a Branch or the Central Library, it may be renamed.

### **Prior Procedures and Named Spaces**

Branch names or names of interior/exterior spaces in existence at the time of the adoption of this policy shall remain in effect, subject to future renaming consistent with this policy and subject to restrictions in any gift agreements related to prior naming action.

### **Removal or Change of Name**

Naming recognition is provided to individuals, families and entities that exemplify the attributes of integrity and civic leadership. If an individual, family or entity for whom a naming commitment has been made violates these standards, the Library may elect to remove the individual, family or entities name from the naming opportunity. Before taking such action, the Library shall undertake due diligence, including consultation with counsel, as to any legal ramifications that the Library may have under any pre-existing agreement(s) related to naming opportunities or in regard to any other matter that may have legal bearing upon a proposed change in name. Any naming authorized by the Library Commission can only be revoked by a vote of that body.

Alternatively, unforeseen circumstances may make it impossible for a donor to complete a gift commitment after that commitment has been recognized by placing a name on a Branch, interior/exterior space or major program. The Commission will make reasonable efforts to work with the donor to create a plan for completion of the commitment. However, in certain circumstances it may be necessary in the best interests of the Library to remove the donor's name from the naming opportunity.

Approved by the  
Denver Public Library Commission  
September 16, 2010  
***Revised 10-28-13***

### **For Sponsorship Agreement procedures:**

In order to avoid any appearance of commercial influence or conflict of interest, or any other potentially adverse consequence, additional due diligence shall be undertaken before recommending the naming opportunities that includes a commercial enterprise. Naming opportunities may be assigned that include a commercial enterprise only if the proposed name is appropriate in the public setting of the Library and will not detract from the Library's use or the Library's reputation as a public entity.

### ***Duration***

Naming in honor of a commercial enterprise will have a set number of years attached to the naming, which will be determined on a case-by-case basis and included in a signed gift agreement associated with the naming opportunity. The duration of a commercial enterprise name shall normally remain the same notwithstanding future changes in the commercial enterprise name; provided, however, in the event of a name change in the commercial enterprise, the Library Commission may in the exercise of its sole discretion elect to remove the established commercial enterprise name or to change the name, if either such action is determined to be in the best interest of the Library.



# OUR DENVER

The Denver Public Library is listening and holding community conversations to better understand people's values and aspirations for Denver. Libraries all over the country are utilizing the library's role and position in the community to support and connect community members to activate brave spaces for open dialogue and action. The library will make decisions based on what we have heard that will ultimately empower our city, its neighborhoods and communities to thrive by achieving their aspirations.

From Fall 2016 through 2017, the Denver Public Library reached out to the greater Denver community to listen to its aspirations, concerns and needs. The information we received in those conversations will help guide our work, increasing our responsiveness to the customers and communities we serve. We will share what we learned widely, with partners and with the community and we will seek out voices in the community not fully explored in our original conversations. We will look to trusted community partners for their expertise and assistance as we move forward in our community engagement pursuits, and we will continue to ask questions, seek feedback, and listen to our community.



DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

# The Kind of Place People Want Denver to Be

People in Denver told us they want neighborhoods that are safe, where children can play and walk to schools and parks safely. They want neighborhoods that are safe from dangerous traffic and criminal activity, and have a benevolent police presence. And they want communities where neighbors know each other, are friendly, and help each other. A participant in the Green Valley Ranch neighborhood described a neighborhood where people “watched out for each other.”

People want a gathering place to make connections within and among their neighborhoods. They want a physical place that can serve as a connection point between neighbors, young and old, long-time residents and new residents. A participant from the Park Hill neighborhood desired a place where “I can grow old [in place] and feel comfortable.”

Many people identified wanting a community that is diverse and inclusive, a place that respects old and new, and is welcoming for all. In the Hampden neighborhood, one participant referred to a “welcome wagon” approach, with existing neighbors welcoming new neighbors. They want a community where gentrification does not displace people, where people can afford to stay in their homes and their neighborhood.

People also want to choose where they live; they desire the security of knowing good-paying jobs and good schools exist in the community. They want neighborhoods where youth activities and resources exist.

They also want to live in clean neighborhoods that promote beauty and community pride. They want people to take pride in their homes and their yards, keeping neighborhoods clean and promoting healthy spaces.

“ I CAN GROW OLD [IN PLACE] ”  
AND FEEL COMFORTABLE.





# Issues Affecting the Community

Our conversations yielded several key themes in response to questions about the issues faced in Denver communities. These concerns often were big picture, with many sub-issues underlying the larger issue. A couple of the issues were cited less often, but because of the nature of the issue, warranted inclusion in this report.

## Safety

Many people expressed concerns about safety in their communities. From personal safety to economic safety to public safety, the issue of safety was discussed often and in all conversations.

When people talked about safety, they cited personal safety concerns that ranged from cracked sidewalks and bad street lighting, to safety of crosswalks, and speeding cars causing accidents or near accidents in neighborhoods. They described how challenging it can be to walk in their own neighborhoods because of these issues, and cited a lack of investment in fixing these problems. They also discussed criminal activity, including property crime. One participant in the Hampden neighborhood stated that his/her car has been broken into twice recently.

People also talked about safety in other terms. For example, many expressed that they do not feel safe letting children play outside and that there are not enough youth activities available in their community, which they feel would help children stay out of trouble. In several conversations, participants described their communities as lacking in parks, recreation centers and opportunities for youth jobs and educational activities.

While many of the same issues within the context of safety arose, we also heard varying opinions on safety with regard to police. People from several neighborhoods, including Lincoln Park in Central Denver, Hampden in Southeast Denver and Green Valley Ranch in Northeast Denver, revealed that they felt a lack of appropriate attention and presence by the police. In the Southwest neighborhoods of Athmar Park and Mar Lee, people said that there is a disconnect between residents and police, perhaps due to language barriers, and that creates frustration and distrust of the police among residents. Meanwhile, in the East Central neighborhood of Whittier, some people said they were intimidated by police, or felt less safe because of a heavy police presence in their neighborhood. They felt over-policed and that the police did not respect them. One person from Athmar Park echoed those unsafe feelings saying “I don’t want what is happening here like what is happening in other states with police.” In other communities, people expressed a need for greater police presence, and that police were under-policing their area.



# Community Connection

The people we spoke with are overwhelmingly concerned about communities lacking connection. Many people described neighborhoods where neighbors do not know one another, and where there is a disconnect between longtime residents and new residents. One person from the Berkeley neighborhood noted that neighbors often do not say hello or even make eye contact walking down sidewalks, noting people have “less energy to be nice”. A participant from Bear Valley discussed the disconnect saying “It has been 12 years since I’ve been in a neighbor’s house.”

They also spoke of a lack of community spaces for neighbors to engage with one another, to get to know one another and to share community information. In one conversation, the issue focused more specifically on how often people move into and out of neighborhoods, with a participant in the Hampden neighborhood lamenting that moving multiple times in a short time period does not allow for getting to know one’s neighbors. Others spoke of people being too busy to get to know neighbors and to engage with their community, and how that challenged the ability to forge community connections.

# Affordability

People said that affordability was an important issue in their community, with affordability of housing being the main issue of concern. People cited a rapid rise in both rental and home purchase prices throughout the city and how that made them feel insecure about their own housing situation. They also cited a lack of affordable housing available or being built in their communities, exacerbating their concerns over how to keep up with housing costs. A participant in the West Colfax neighborhood explained

rapidly rising costs stating “30% of your income is considered affordable.” Alongside this issue was the concern that moneyed interests were driving up the cost of housing and keeping affordable units at bay, even in neighborhoods where home prices and rental rates were outpacing earnings. Many people spoke of being “priced out” of Denver, with one person in the Platt Park neighborhood saying there is “nowhere for people to live or places for regular people to go that aren’t expensive.”

# Neighborhoods In Transition

People we conversed with spoke broadly of issues often referred to generally as “gentrification.” They spoke about concerns of displacement, or losing community character, and about collisions of new and old residents in neighborhoods. Many connected affordability to the larger gentrification issue, with one person in the Berkeley neighborhood discussing gentrification’s significance to overall neighborhood diversity “as it becomes whiter, it becomes safer for whites and less safe for other groups.” People feel like Denver is growing too quickly and that longtime residents

are being “replaced” by new residents. They feel vulnerable to a City that they feel is sacrificing their needs for those of the development community. In the Lowry neighborhood, we heard that “Denver [government] has lost focus [ignoring] the people who live in Denver. They are focused on promotion and attracting people to come to Denver and it’s causing massive growth.” A participant in the Barnum neighborhood indicated a similar frustration, stating simply, “I’m over Denver.”

“ IT HAS BEEN 12 YEARS SINCE ”  
I’VE BEEN IN A NEIGHBOR’S HOUSE.

# Jobs and Education

## *Important Issues but Not Top of Mind*

While we had anticipated jobs and education coming up as important issues facing our community, we heard those specific issues brought up infrequently overall. On several occasions, jobs and education were referenced as part of another larger issue. For instance, people spoke about needing good jobs to afford housing and stay in their neighborhoods, but focused more on how jobs related to broad issues of affordability and gentrification. In the Montbello neighborhood, one woman said “my husband does not work as much, but prices are still going up. Salaries are flat.” People also spoke of the lack of job opportunities for youth relating to safety- relaying that without jobs and youth-specific activities, youth in their neighborhoods resorted to criminal activity.

People in several conversations expressed a desire for better schools in their neighborhoods. In the Whittier neighborhood, a participant was bothered that families were moving into the neighborhood, but were choosing not to have their children attend the neighborhood school. Similarly, in Berkeley, one woman noted there were “9 kids on her block, and all 9 go to different schools.” People felt like new neighbors were choosing not to invest in their new community, keeping neighborhood schools at a disadvantage.

“ MY HUSBAND DOES NOT WORK AS MUCH, BUT PRICES ARE STILL GOING UP. SALARIES ARE FLAT. ”





# What Can Be Done



We listened to people from many different neighborhoods with many different takes on how to improve their community life. Some people discussed issues and aspirations, but seemed to not know where to begin to take action. Many described feeling stuck, and a participant from Bear Valley simply said “we accept things.”

On the other end of the spectrum, people had specific actions they wanted addressed by named organizations or individuals. Many people trusted partners in their communities like Registered Neighborhood Groups (RNOs), community organizers, faith organizations and public libraries to partner with them on action items. More often than not, the people we spoke with suggested a baby step approach to improving community life, suggesting starting points and initial actions rather than defining partners or specific actions to take. They spoke of actions they can take to confront issues directly, as well as actions that require partnership to achieve success. In more than 10 different conversations, people mentioned meeting their City Council representative or a Denver Police Department representative as a good starting point for action.

People we spoke with overwhelmingly cited a need for more community outreach and engagement throughout neighborhoods to help people connect with their neighbors and educate themselves on community issues. They would like to build better relationships with City officials, including their City Council Representatives. In many instances, people stated that having access to “decision-makers” in City government would help them understand local issues better and would give them a voice in their community. They want to be able to contact someone with their issues and feel that their opinions and concerns matter to City officials. In Whittier, one person said it is important to “have a seat at the table.” They want to hold elected officials accountable for actions in their communities. People suggested community information walks, workshops on how to engage with local representatives, and holding community town halls as opportunities to be heard. Additionally, people felt strongly about building better relationships with police, including in several neighborhoods where people felt that police presence and trust was lacking. They wanted to bring police to their neighborhood to share their concerns, and develop neighborhood watch groups to increase the feeling of safety.

Many people we spoke with discussed the desire to create community spaces where people could actively congregate, connect with one another and share information. In several conversations, people spoke of utilizing resources currently available to help connect neighbors, including social media sites like Nextdoor and Facebook, as well as local publications and communication with neighborhood organizations to encourage community activation. Several people spoke about using libraries as gathering spaces, encouraging people to use community spaces already available for the greater community. In addition, people in some neighborhoods wanted to see more culturally relevant resources in libraries that would help them feel more informed about the history and culture of their communities.

People we spoke with also indicated that they were responsible for change in their communities. They felt that in order to move in the right direction, they needed to take actions themselves and encourage others in their neighborhoods to do the same. A participant from Platt Park declared "it's on us as well, we can't let others act for us". People mentioned small actions that could make a big difference in creating a more welcoming community. "Talk to your neighbors" was heard in Cherry Creek, and "say 'Hey'" to your neighbor from a West Colfax participant. Other ideas included supporting aging neighbors, helping in neighborhood cleanup, hosting a neighborhood BBQ, leading a community building event like Denver Days, or joining local registered neighborhood organizations (RNO) as opportunities to take action for a better community. Among Stapleton neighbors, we witnessed this idea of creating change, as people began discussing how they could partner with others in the room on activities immediately following the conversation.

“ IT’S ON US AS WELL, ”  
WE CAN’T LET OTHERS ACT FOR US.



# What Will Denver Public Library Do

As we move into 2018 and beyond, we will continue our efforts to build public knowledge through community engagement efforts. With 26 physical locations in our community, we are uniquely able to reach out to neighborhoods in every pocket of Denver. We are committed to holding community conversations with diverse residents, host programs and events that reflect issues and aspirations we heard from our community, and forge relationships with community organizations and governmental agencies that can create positive change. We will speak with city agencies addressed in conversations, including the Denver Police Department, City Council, and the Mayor's Office, to share what we learned and partner on action items. We will take a leadership role in our community, taking action when and where we can, and working with partners to address community aspirations and concerns in their work.

We are already starting to take action based on what we heard in our community. The Schlessman Branch Library addressed the Lowry neighborhood's aspiration to get to know neighbors by creating the Lowry Community Singers, a music group whose participants vary in age, ethnicity, neighborhood of residence, and ability. Several of our branches have

added "meet your neighbor" events and activities to encourage community building. The Park Hill and Pauline Robinson Branch Libraries have held joint community conversations, diving deeper into topics like affordable housing and equity in education, and offering events based on what they heard: a neighborhood potluck at the Pauline Robinson Branch and a community discussion about gentrification at the Park Hill Branch. In addition, we are reaching out to our partners in city government to address civic aspirations and concerns, and to community organizations that can take action on specific items or in specific neighborhoods.

We heard from a community conversation participant in Virginia Village, who said "I enjoyed being able to talk about this" and we invite other community members to engage with us in our efforts, and take individual action to improve their neighborhoods. We want to hear from you, and we want to share with you. We encourage you to contact us, whether stopping by a branch, reaching out online, or connecting directly with our community engagement team. We can all play a part in improving our neighborhoods and building a better Denver.

## **Community Engagement Team Lead**

**Beth Warren, Manager of Resource Development & Community Partnerships**  
**[ewarren@denverlibrary.org](mailto:ewarren@denverlibrary.org) | 720-865-2046 | [www.denverlibrary.org](http://www.denverlibrary.org)**





## Agenda Item 11

Requested Action: Receive Report

### City Librarian Report



#### Shirley Amore

The library team is so sad about the loss of our ninth City Librarian Shirley Amore. She was a wonderful boss, mentor and friend and a terrific advocate for the Denver Public Library and the Denver community. We will host a memorial service to honor and celebrate her life in April. The family has suggested that in lieu of flowers people consider a donation in her name to Career Online High School via the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/dplff> . In the comments field please include "Career Online High School."

#### Career Online High School Graduation

Some of us were fortunate to have spent time with Shirley the weekend before she passed away as she attended the library's fifth Career Online High School graduation. Shirley was a tireless and passionate advocate for that program,

continuing to work with us to develop donors and partners to support the program even in her retirement. This time we had seven graduates, four of whom participated in the actual ceremony at the Gonzales Branch Library. Also in attendance were the Director of Workforce Services, State Librarian for the Colorado State Library and the Deputy Director of Human Services, all agencies that help support the program.



#### Newest In Residence Programs

##### Paul Karolyi: Podcaster In Residence

Thursdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 2-4 p.m.

Central Library, SM Energy ideaLAB, Floor 4

Paul Karolyi, of Changing Denver podcast, shares his expertise as he edits his latest serial project. Ask questions in an informal setting. Get inspired to join the podcast community.

##### John Lake: ideaLAB Maker In Residence

John is regularly working in Central's ideaLAB Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons through March. During

that time he plans to take portraits of visitors to the library, host two Photoshop workshops and work on an art book with a working title of *DPL Portrait Project*.

### **Also Available to You with Your Library Card**

[LyndaLibrary](https://www.lynda.com/portal/sip?org=denverlibrary.org) or <https://www.lynda.com/portal/sip?org=denverlibrary.org>

The library provides access to a vast array of instructional training. With their library card, anyone can learn the latest software as well as creative and business skills. There are bite-size tutorials for immediate problem solving or comprehensive courses on hundreds of topics.

### **Community Engagement Work at Sam Gary Branch Library**

#### **Read. Awareness. Dialogue. Action. and Community Day of Reflection**

Sam Gary Branch recently hosted a Read. Awareness. Dialogue. Action. (R.A.D.A.) book discussion on the legacy and symbols of white supremacy and racism using Carol Anderson's *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*. At Sam Gary Branch's Community Conversation last September, we heard from community members that they wanted public forums to talk about contemporary issues. About 50 people attended, a mix of people from the branch community and the Denver community at large.

Many Denverites are interested in learning more about the regional history and in this case the name "Stapleton." To respond to widely felt curiosity and promote a solid understanding of the past, Stapleton United Neighbors, Denver Public Library, and the University of Colorado's Center of the American West are partnering to provide an opportunity for several accomplished historians to share their knowledge. Speakers include Professor Albert Broussard of Texas A & M University, author of *The Hooded Empire: The Klu Klux Klan in Colorado* and professor at the University of Utah, Robert Goldberg, and Professor Geoffrey Hunt of Aurora Community College. The discussion will be moderated by Professor Rebecca Hunt from the University of Colorado at Denver and State Historian Patty Limerick. This Community Day of Reflection is April 21 from 12:30-4:30.

### **Stories of Impact**

This month's stories come from Children's and Books and Borrowing.

- Recently, two of my Storytime moms told me that their babies (around six months) love my baby Storytime. At home, they sing the songs they've learned in Storytime, and their babies smile! It makes my heart melt to know that our Storytimes reach beyond the library's walls.
- Lauren hosted an advisory program, Comics for People Who (Think They) Don't Like Comics. After the class, one attendee shared that she never had a desire to read comics until Lauren's talk. The library has another happy customer and comic convert thanks to Lauren.

### **Dates to Remember**

- Mayor's Cabinet in the Community, Exdo Event Center, Saturday, March 24, 9a-11a.
- Cesar E. Chavez Holiday Closure, Monday, March 26
- Naturalization Ceremony, Central Library, Schlessman Hall, Thursday, April 12, 8:30a-10a
- Dia Del Nino, Central Library, Sunday, April 29, 10a-4p



## **City Librarian Select Activities**

### **Mayor/City Council**

- Met with Councilman Lopez about Westwood library expansion
- Met with Mayor's Chief of Staff regarding library priorities and expansion
- Met with Mayor Hancock regarding library priorities and expansion
- Attended Chief of Staff meeting
- Attended Mayor appointee meeting

### **Activate!Denver Facilities Master Plan**

- Visited Boulder Public Library's Central Library
- Toured Children's Museum
- Met with Atkins and City bond team members to discuss library priorities
- Met with RiNo Arts District Director and Board member on potential RiNo Park library
- Met with Mile High United Way CEO regarding Globeville
- Visited potential locations for Westwood expansion

### **Early Learning/Out of School Learning**

- Participated in Children's Cabinet early childhood education workgroup

### **Digital Inclusion**

- Met with Office of Economic Development staff regarding makerspaces

### **Community Engagement**

- Visited new Kirkland Museum
- Attended 80th anniversary of Denver Housing Authority reception
- Interviewed by the Broadview for Broad of the Month
- Attended Field Branch volunteer appreciation party
- Presented about library to Latina Cafecito group at Gonzales
- Participated in the 5th Career Online High School graduation ceremony

### **Friends Foundation**

- Met with the Development Committee
- Met with the Executive Committee
- Interviewed search firms with Search Committee

### **Staff**

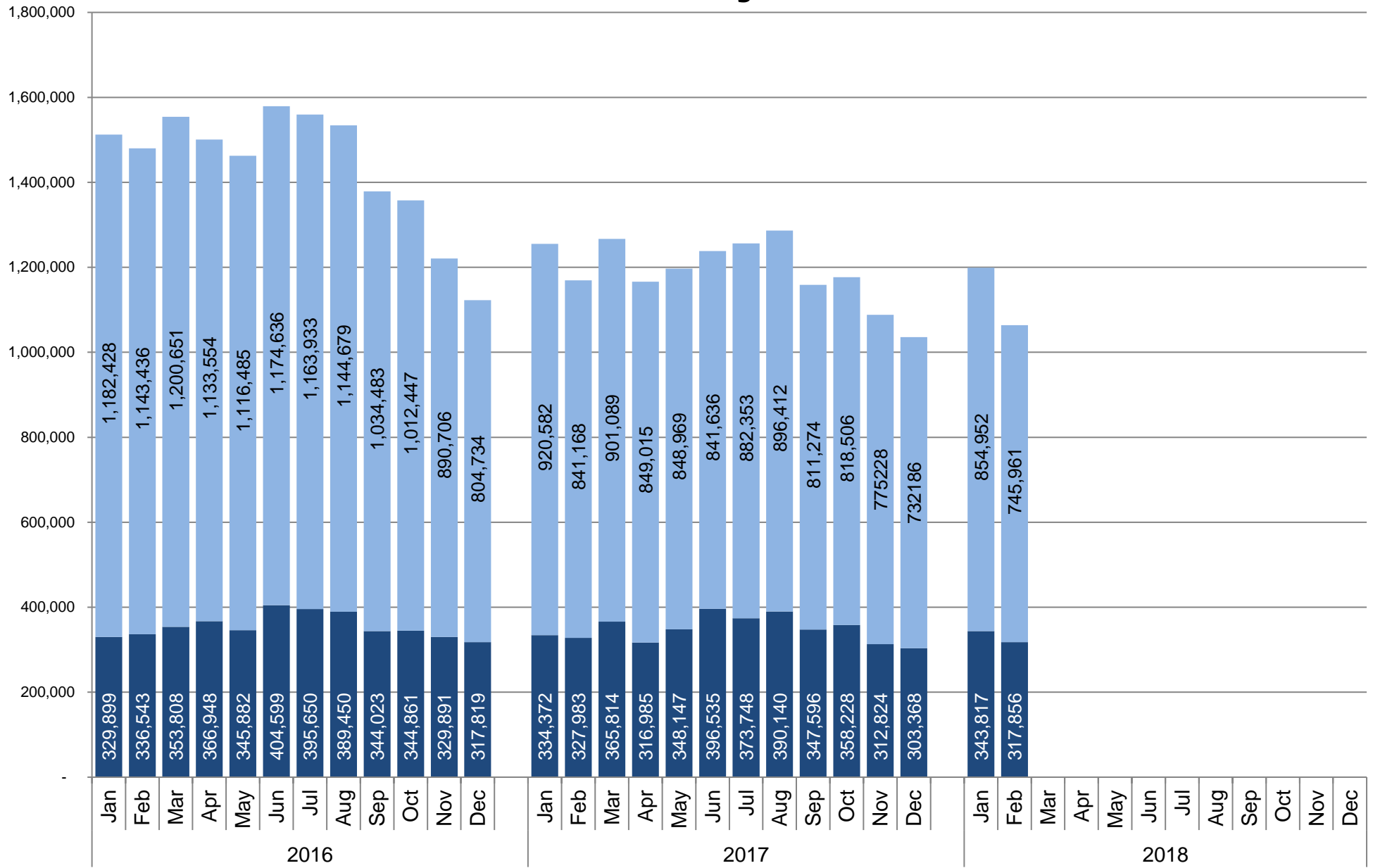
- Interviewed twelve candidates for Deputy Director position
- Attended Shirley Amore memorial service
- Celebrated Employee of the Quarter
- Attended Woodbury and Smiley Winter of Reading program
- Attended staff-led Homelessness 101 workshop

### **Professional**

- Participated in Colorado Association of Research Libraries Member Council meeting

# Denver Public Library Total Visits By Month

Online  
In Person



➔ 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

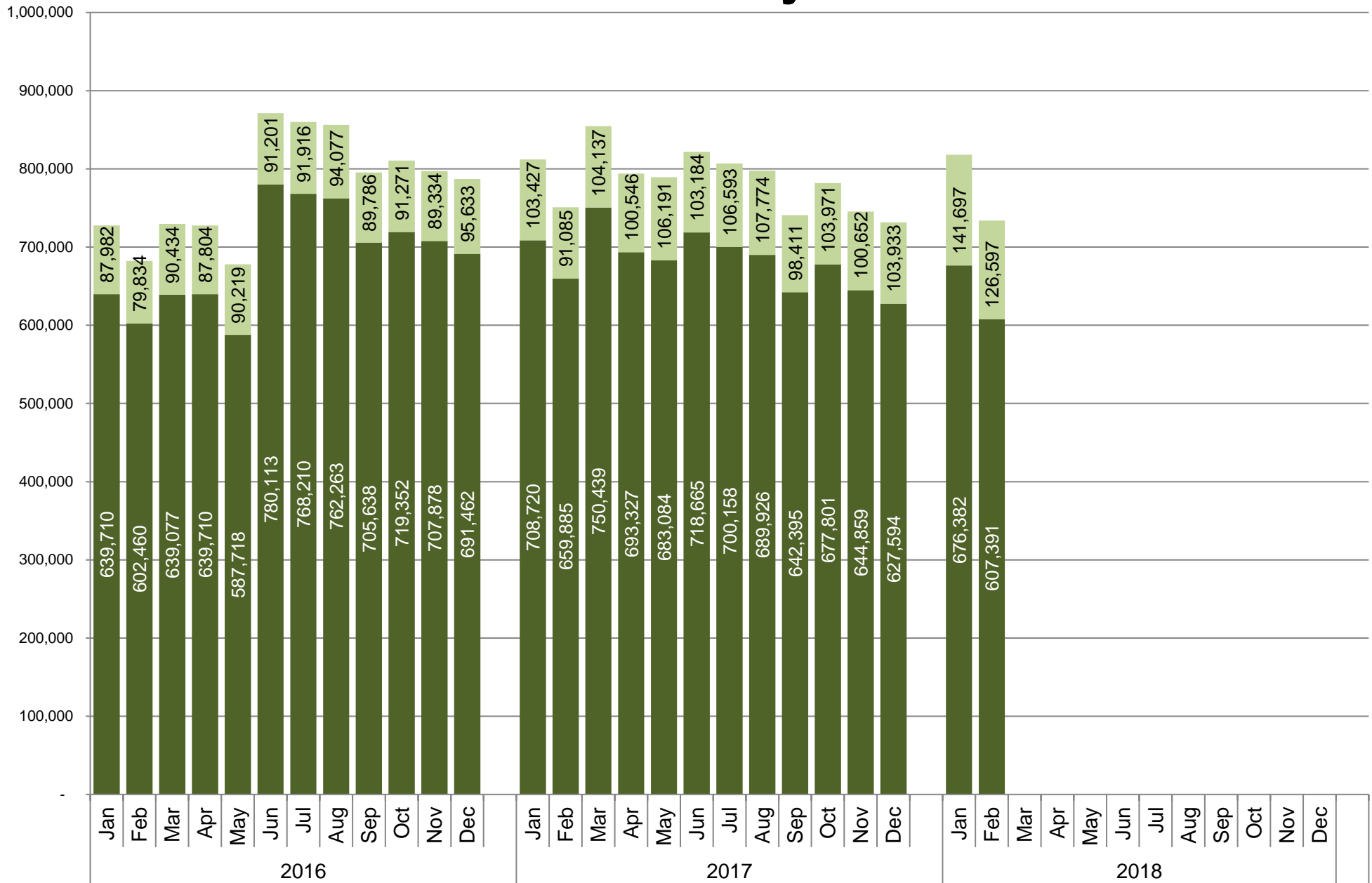
**In Person visits** - total door count from all locations, as submitted to TrackVia Door Counts application; data collection methodology changed to be more consistent across all locations in 2015.

# Denver Public Library

## Total Circulation By Month

Downloads

Materials



➔ 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

### February 2018

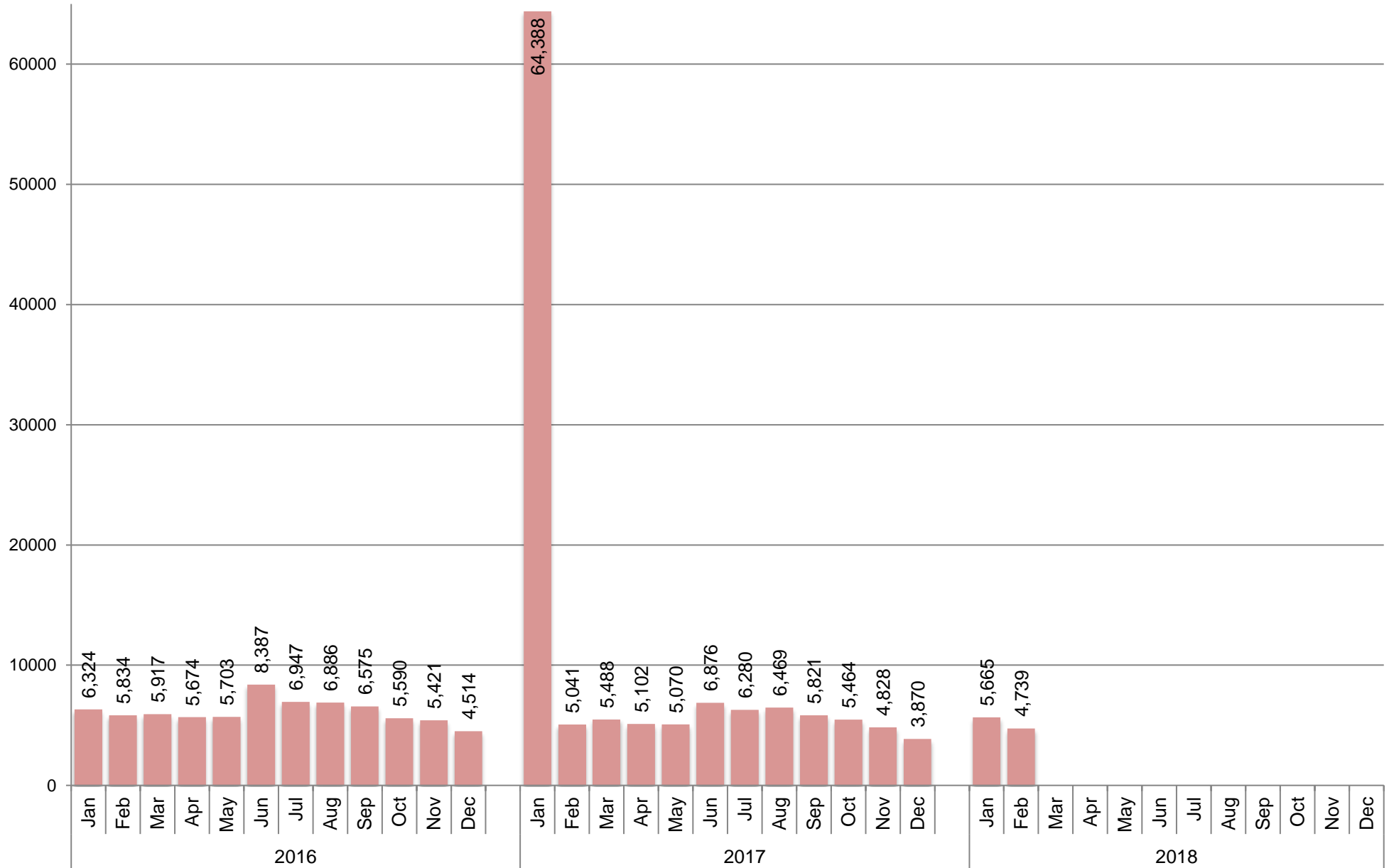
Location	Total Circulation	+/- Previous Month	2018/2017 Year/Year
Athmar Park	10,343	↓ (2,348)	↑ 2,388
Bear Valley	29,775	↓ (4,750)	↓ (609)
Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library	9,042	↓ (1,219)	↑ 277
Bookmobile	7,587	↓ (984)	↓ (3,741)
Byers	3,373	↓ (848)	↑ 151
Central Library	88,504	↓ (11,232)	↓ (13,769)
Decker	13,762	↓ (1,877)	↓ (975)
Eugene Field	23,931	↓ (1,369)	→ (333)
Ford-Warren	12,967	↓ (1,879)	↑ 1,011
Green Valley Ranch	27,618	↓ (1,511)	→ (322)
Hadley	4,545	↑ 4,173	↓ (7,324)
Hampden	26,663	↓ (4,120)	↓ (5,854)
Montbello	9,044	↓ (842)	↓ (1,561)
Park Hill	30,047	↓ (3,485)	↓ (1,059)
Pauline Robinson	6,323	→ (232)	↑ 101
Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales	24,331	↓ (2,166)	→ (364)
Ross-Barnum	8,853	↓ (684)	→ (72)
Ross-Broadway	14,537	↓ (2,109)	→ (468)
Ross-Cherry Creek	23,883	↓ (2,843)	↓ (1,856)
Ross-University Hills	50,792	↓ (5,231)	→ (292)
Sam Gary	55,139	↓ (7,061)	↓ (4,101)
Schlessman Family	49,428	↓ (6,628)	↓ (4,773)
Smiley	20,289	↓ (1,869)	↓ (2,038)
Valdez-Perry	3,314	→ (292)	→ (341)
Virginia Village	27,955	↓ (4,011)	↓ (4,258)
Westwood	4,361	↑ 96	↑ 256
Woodbury	20,985	↓ (3,670)	↓ (2,568)
Denverlibrary.org Downloadables	126,527	↓ (15,170)	↑ 35,442
<b>Total</b>	<b>733,918</b>	↓ (84,161)	↓ (17,052)

→ Hadley branch re-opened January 29, 2015.

# Denver Public Library

## Total New Library Cards By Month

■ New Cards



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

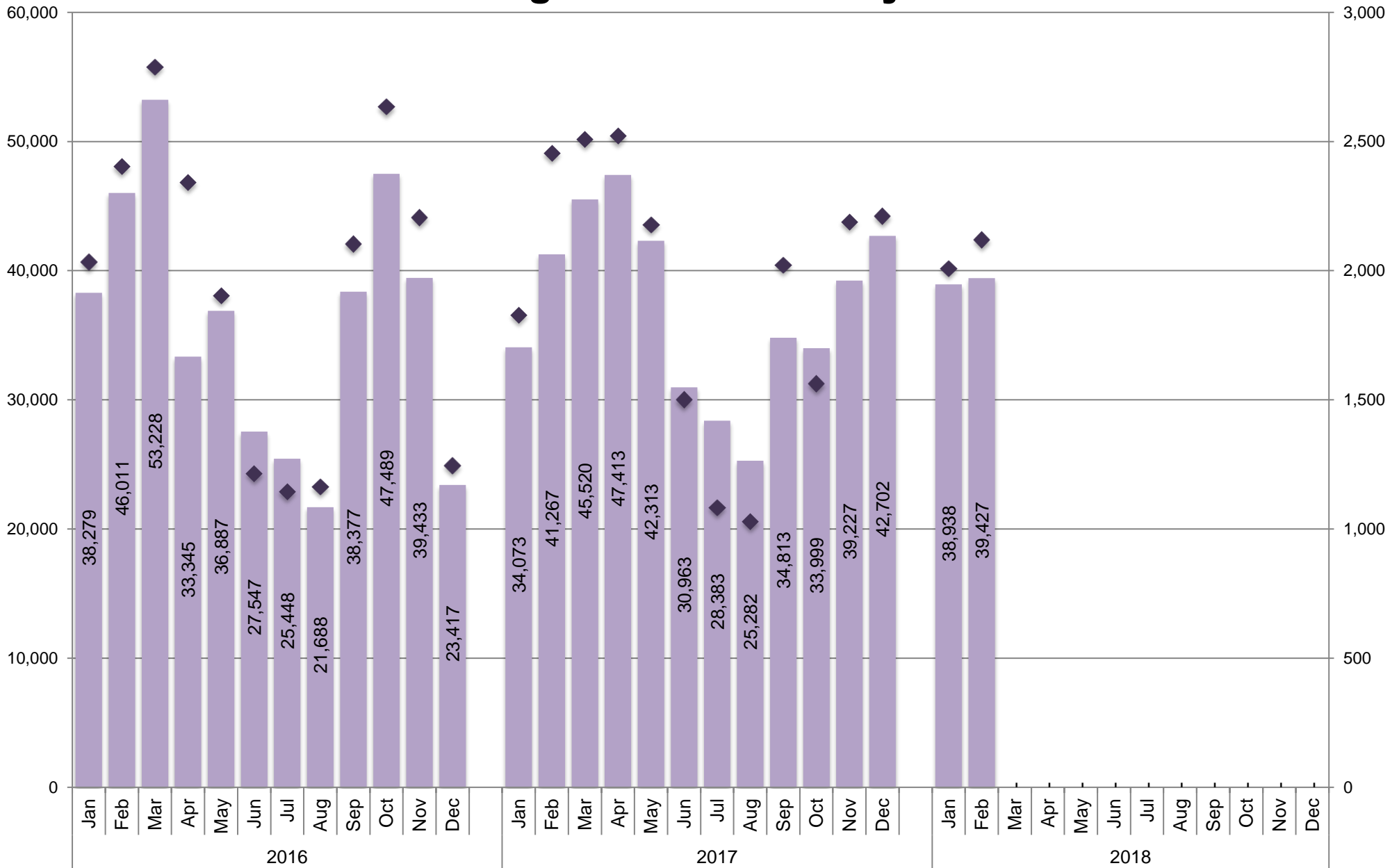
**New Cards** - total number of new library card registrations (including computer user only cards), as reported by IT

# 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

**Glendale Cherry Creek Chronicle**  
 Founded 1996  
 P.O. Box 460429, Glendale, CO 80246  
 e-mail: newspaper@glendalecherrycreek.com  
 303-512-1808 • Advertising: 803-859-8366  
 Production Facility:  
 2110 S. Ash St., Suite 223 Denver, CO 80222  
 "So the people may know"  
 Publisher: Charles C. Bonniwell  
 Editor in Chief: Glen Richardson  
 Executive Editor: Mark Smiley  
 Neighborhood Reporters:  
 Lisa Marlin  
 and Ruthy Wexler  
 Production: Southeast Denver Graphics  
 Tami Accardi and Pam Shepard  
 Advertising Sales:  
 Julie Hayden, John Edwards,  
 Phil Kummer and Steve Mast  
 Owner: Gheroke Trail, LLC  
 www.glendalecherrycreek.com • Ads: julie@glendalecherrycreek.com

## Editorial —

# Glendale 180 Next Year?



## Color Us As S — For M

Denver media recently hyped that the eating Cherry Creek near Virginia Avenue known as around the corner. *Channel 7 News* declared the early as next year."

Deputy City Manager Chuck Line is quoted in *Denver Post* about the project: "Before, we were and now we're definitely driving down the int

Oh, pleaseeeee! Members of this Editorial Boarding The Glendale Riverwalk which was later in 2003. Since then, every few years the city has p breaking would occur in the next 12 to 18 mont

Of course, it is not entirely the city's fault. Al was envisioning building a Riverwalk modeled Mohammad Ali Khairkhahi and his family who c Rugs rushed out and outbid the city for the 3.8 Colorado Boulevard from longtime owner Jim

Grossly overpaying for the land, Khairkhahi to hold up the city for over three times what they they went out and asserted the city was threat ized potentially violent marches with the para-m and others in an attempt to cow the City Coun

When that failed, the rug merchants brought suits utilizing some of the most expensive law: stop any development on land other than their spending hundreds of thousands of dollars, I numerous questionable ethics complaints with Ethics Commission.

But the rug merchants may have finally outst the Khairkhahi land was excluded out of Gl Authority. Thus any development on their land most financing. Because of that fact Khairkha

## Guest Editorial

## Donate A Book To DPL And See What Happens

by Peter Chronis  
Retired *Denver Post*  
Reporter

*The Dead Sea Scrolls* and *Harley and the Davidsons*, by *Ele Barnes*. (I'll get to that ventually.)

In the autumn of 2016, I ordered a copy of the *Barnes* book, mistakenly thinking it was an eponymous companion volume to the *Discovery Channel* miniseries. When the book arrived, I discovered that it was clearly intended for younger readers. So I donated it to the Denver Public library.

Several months ago, out of curiosity, I checked online and learned *Harley and the Davidsons* wasn't in the DPL collection. I was somewhat puzzled, so a few weeks ago, while returning a book to Ross-Broadway library branch, I asked the front-desk librarian why, after all these months, the book wasn't on the online catalog?

She said such donations automatically go to the Denver Public Library's book sales. I was surprised and disappointed because my intention was that the book be made available to Denver youngsters interested in how a great American icon like *Harley-Davidson* came to be.

So I emailed several questions to Chris Henning, marketing communications manager for the Denver Public Library, who confirmed what the librarian told me.



Peter Chronis

"Donated books become the property of the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation, the nonprofit that raises funds and advocates for the Denver Public Library," Henning wrote. "Friends Foundation staff members evaluate donated materials to see if any could or should be added to the collection, which happens rarely. Materials not added to the collection may be sold at two of the Friends' annual book sales, at the Red Chair Bookshop in the Central Library, through an auction house, or online."

Henning said the cost of reviewing, cataloging and processing donated books "is high. It is generally more effective to sell items through the Friends Foundation." The sales are expected to raise \$250,000 this year.

Because I had grown up in Pittsburgh with its superlative Carnegie Library system, I contacted Suzanne M. Thirnes, the library's manager of communications, about what that system does with donated items.

"Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is grateful for community donations and does accept gifts of library materials," she wrote back. "We make every effort to use all donated materials to the best advantage. Donated materials are potentially useful sup-

*Continued on page 13*

## We Get Letters...

Yelp

Each time I pick up a *Chronicle*, I learn something new. Mark Smiley's story on Yelp was an eye opener. And, I listened to him on Chuck and Julie's radio show which was also great information. As a frequent user of Yelp, I had no idea what was happening behind the scenes and

developers (February 2018), then devote numerous photos and stories on the fabulous glass building in Cherry Creek North, the sale of the Cherry Tower in Glendale; CDOT's new headquarters; the development for Shaver Ramsey Rugs; the sale of a \$5.9 million condo in downtown; the new Amich Olds dealership on



March 2018

## Glendale Cherry Creek Chronicle

13

### Donate A Book To DPL

Continued from page 3

plements to regular collection activities but must be carefully evaluated by our staff before being added to the collection."

But, Thurmes added, it can cost the library less to purchase a book rather than add a donated copy because of staff time required to evaluate it. "In truth, most (not all) of the donations we accept go to book sales for that reason," she wrote. Among the exceptions are "things that are unique, difficult to find, Pittsburgh-related, or otherwise special in some way."

So what's the DPL's policy on donated books that are rare or historic, especially volumes that have a Colorado connection? "When a rare or historic book is donated,

ed, the Friends Foundation consults with library staff (usually from the Western History and Genealogy Department or the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library) to see if the item would be a desired addition to the collection," Henning replied. If not, the books are sold.

Occasionally, such a historical, rare item slips through the cracks. That's apparently what happened with a journal donated to the rare books collection by Dennis Gallagher, who served in the state Legislature, the City Council and as city auditor, and a one-time member of the Library Commission.

The journal penned by a Denver woman, included a reminiscence about meeting President James Garfield, who had picked up her infant daughter, and other aspects of life in old Denver. Gallagher, who had helped sell books as a volunteer said he was shocked to see the journal up for auction. He was told "it must have been a mistake," recalled Gallagher, who later learned the journal had never been in the rare books collection. That prompted him to resign from the commission.

Perhaps it would have been better to give my Harley-Davidson book to a Catholic school? Gallagher said that many school libraries are getting rid of print books. "They all want to go to digital," he said.

Even the Regis College library began jettisoning books three decades ago if they hadn't been checked out in years. "I'd go through the trash to rescue the books," said Gallagher, who taught Latin and

Greek at Regis.

And while the DPL, like other libraries, is acquiring digital materials, these purchases aren't surpassing print, according to Henning.

Traditionalists like me worry if, in light of warp-speed progress in computer technology, future generations will be able to "read" information stored with today's technology.

The *Dead Sea Scrolls*, dating from the Third Century, BCE, through the First Century, CE, and survived into the 20th Century,

tury, were written on papyrus and parchment. Similarly, the reason we can read Greek and Roman classics is because early Irish Christian monks copied crumbling manuscripts that, in turn, survived into more recent times.

Will some 7th or 8th grader two centuries hence be unable to read *Pete Barnes' Harley and the Droids* because it will be on digital media too old to be read by state-of-the-art computers?

It's damn certain Denver kids today can't do that, either.

### Dishing It Out

#### Enjoy Colorado Spring Lamb At Monaco Inn April 1

Throughout the world the most popular Easter symbol is lamb. The reference to lamb in Christianity goes back to the book of Genesis. In the 7th century the Benedictine monks wrote a prayer for the blessing of lambs. A few hundred years later the pope adopted it and whole roasted lamb became the feature of the Pope's Easter Dinner, and has been ever since.

In the spirit of the old days here in the Cherry Creek Valley, Colorado spring lamb slowly roasted outside on rotisseries at the *Monaco Inn Restaurant* has become an all-the-rage Easter custom and ritual. Just as in Greece, where Easter is their biggest holiday, Valley residents have made feasting on spring lamb an annual tradition to celebrate the holiday.

On Easter Sunday, April 1, the popular eatery at 962 S. Monaco Parkway is again serving traditional rotisserie Colorado

**Print and Copy Centers**  
of Colorado

3489 S. Holly St. www.printandcopy.com  
Denver, CO 80222 303.759.5449

#### BUSINESS CARDS

What makes something a business card?  
Industry, Effectiveness, Results.  
The bottom line is this: People like business cards.

#### MOLCH COPIES

Color copies help readers retain information and make your message stand out in a crowd.  
High quality 280 lines per inch.

#### Choose Print

Build your brand and grow sales!

#### POSTCARDS

Sending direct mail postcards will let you quickly and effectively deliver your message to your best prospects, right to where they live and work. We also offer mailing services.

#### BROCHURES

Don't just rely on people searching for you in the digital world. Make a big connection by giving them something real. Hand them your new brochure!

**HILLTOP DENTAL GROUP**

5075 Leetsdale Drive  
Unit F, Denver, CO 80246  
303-377-4445





## February

Celebrate Black History Month throughout Denver all month long! Honor the achievements and contributions African-Americans have made to the country with lectures, dramatic performances

### **Feb. 1 – March 24**

#### **Landscape Expressions: Artistic Renderings by Vincent W. Lewis**

Reception on Feb. 10, 1-4 p.m.

@Blair Caldwell African American Research Library

Lewis uses his art as a means of transitioning viewers into thought-provoking reflection to find rest for the soul. In addition to being an accomplished artist, Lewis is a minister and gifted puppeteer.

### **Feb. 3**

#### **Juanita Gray Community Service Awards & Blacks in Colorado Hall of Fame Induction, 1:30 p.m.**

@Blair Caldwell African American Research Library

The Denver Public Library honors African-American men, women and youth who make outstanding contributions to the Denver metro area or who have accomplished a professional goal in their field.

#### **Whittier Neighborhood Walking Tour with Black American West Museum, 2 p.m.**

**@Ford-Warren Branch Library**

Discover the rich history of the neighborhood surrounding the Ford-Warren Branch Library.

### **Feb. 8**

#### **Sankofa Storytime, 5:30 p.m.**

**@Pauline Robinson Branch Library**

The word Sankofa comes from the Akan people of Ghana and means “to go back and get it.” One of the Adinkra symbols for Sankofa depicts a mythical bird flying forward with its head turned backward. Sankofa Storytime brings the African-American tradition of storytelling to life and is a collaboration of local artists, authors, community organizations and local librarians.

**Feb. 10**

**The Pillars of African-American Art Song: Compositions of Strength, Love and Justice, 7-8:30 p.m.**

@Blair Caldwell African American Research Library

Denver Art Song Project presents a performance of African-American art songs by soprano Stephanie Ann Ball and baritone Dr. Paul Griggs. The evening will feature some of history's most influential African-American composers and the texts of America's most prominent African-American wordsmiths.

**Feb. 21 & 26**

**Medicines of the African American Captive 2: The Tree Whisperers**

@Green Valley Ranch Branch Library, Feb. 21. 6 p.m.

@Blair Caldwell African American Research Library, Feb. 26, 6 p.m.

African-American slaves were forced to endure the harshest of conditions without many resources. How did they survive? Slave communities had people within them with knowledge of the medical and spiritual healing powers of plants. In part two, herbalist Monticue Connally focuses primarily on the medicinal connections between African captives and the trees around them.

**Feb. 25**

**R.A.D.A. ~ Read. Awareness. Dialogue. Action. ~ Book Discussion, 3 p.m.**

@Sam Gary Branch Library

Participants are encouraged to read the book "White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide" by Carol Anderson in advance.

**Feb. 28**

**Keeping it Real: Beyond Polite Conversation, 7:30 p.m.**

@Ross-Cherry Creek Branch Library

Join Dr. Gregory Diggs for a conversation about how we can move beyond superficial conversations and get down to the nitty-gritty of talking about race in America.



February 12, 2018

## “The Change Starts With Us”

How Denver Public Library is meeting the needs of a changing community

By [Miranda Doran-Myers](#)



*Viviana Casillas (left) and Yanira Duarte (right) from the Denver Public Library present “Equity-Driven Services and Programs: Exploring Alternative Information Services at the Library” at the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits on February 12.*

Societal shifts happen so often and so quickly that it can be difficult for public libraries to develop library programming that will meet the needs of their patrons in the future. Two staff members from the Denver Public Library (DPL), Viviana Casillas, a program administrator, and Yanira Duarte, the Summer of Learning program coordinator, shared how their library is responding to the needs of their changing community.

The session, titled “Equity-Driven Services and Programs: Exploring Alternative Information Services at the Library,” took place on Monday morning as part of the Symposium on the Future of Libraries at the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting & Exhibits in Denver. Even as the Midwinter Meeting winds down, leaving some librarians exhausted, Casillas and Duarte held the attention of their audience by energetically sharing the measurable change that their programs are creating in Denver.

Duarte and Casillas started their presentation by explaining the “Inward → Outward” method that DPL uses to respond to community needs. Their initiatives typically start with an inward perspective that is based on input from library staff members. Everyone is encouraged to make suggestions, from janitorial staff to upper level administrators. DPL uses these suggestions, along with community assessments and input from community partners, to create strategic initiatives for programming and services. Each project is also evaluated for outcomes, providing valuable feedback about the impact that the programs have on the community.

Duarte gave an example of what this process looks like in practice. From the inward perspective, DPL developed a Leadership Academy in order to grow future leadership within the library. One of the Leadership Academy projects led to an initiative called Community Conversations that turned the library focus outward. From these conversations, the library was able to connect community members with their legislators and civic leaders, with architects and contractors building in their neighborhoods, and to connect neighbors with each other. In doing this, DPL also gained some passionate community advocates for the library.

[Career Online High School](#) (COHS) has also become a part of DPL's response to evolving community needs. DPL staff identified low graduation rates in parts of Denver as a major problem in the community, and decided to change their library-centric approach of offering GED study materials and classes. DPL now allows community members of all ages a way to get their diplomas in their own time without taking the anxiety-inducing GED test or even showing up at the library (although computer access and assistance is always available if needed). Casilla noted that COHS is a non-judgmental way to go back to school and described the pride of the students and their families when they are offered scholarships and ultimately graduate with their high school diplomas.

The audience was eager to ask about and implement similar programs in their own libraries. The other projects presented were DPL's [Summer of Adventure](#), the development of a community resources department to assist the homeless population using the library, and [Plaza programming](#) that provides services to immigrants and refugees.

# THE DENVER POST

---

February 10, 2018

## Hadley Branch Library celebrates grand reopening Saturday

By **AMANDA TREJOS** | [atrejos@denverpost.com](mailto:atrejos@denverpost.com)

PUBLISHED: February 10, 2018 at 3:10 pm | UPDATED: February 12, 2018 at 6:52 pm

After months of anxious waiting, enthusiastic children, parents and seniors all gathered Saturday morning, despite harsh weather conditions, to celebrate the grand re-opening of the Hadley Branch Library in Denver.

The Hadley Branch Library, 1890 S. Grove St., is celebrating its remodeling after months of construction. The restoration was the last of the library system's 2007 Better Denver Bond projects, which included the renovation of 11 branch libraries and the addition of three new libraries.

Joining the opening ceremony was Mayor Michael Hancock, City Councilman Kevin Flynn and City Librarian Michelle Jeske. The crowd curiously wandered the library while kids happily played in the newly installed children's area.

"We will always need libraries to seek information collectively and individually," said Hancock. "Libraries matter."

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Hancock held a giant pair of scissors while children eagerly gathered around him wanting to help cut the ribbon. Next in line were Flynn and Jeske.



*Provided by Sherry Spitsnaugle, Denver Public Library*

*Mayor Michael Hancock cuts the ribbon at the library opening on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018.*

In 2007, Denver citizens approved the Better Denver Bond Program, whose goal was to improve city facilities such as streets, parks and libraries.

The Denver Public Library's bond-funded improvements included enhanced network infrastructure, electrical systems, and new furniture and interior finishes.

With that revenue coming to an end, last November Denver voters approved the 2017 Go Bond. This will include more than 460 capital infrastructure projects across Denver over the next 10 years, according to Denver Department of Finance.

The newest and most celebrated feature at the Hadley Branch is the ideaLab, featuring a soundproof studio where users can record music, podcasts and voiceovers. This space also offers arts and crafts, sewing, and photoshop access in computers.

"We want to give kids around Denver something they can be excited about," Nate Stone, ideaLab program administrator said. "We want to give people an entree to resources that they don't have at hand."

Laura Morales, of Denver, is most excited about the changes made in the Community Room. Now she can take her English communication classes without any noisy disruptions from children playing nearby.

The Community Room hosts Plaza programming, specifically designed to meet the needs of immigrants and refugees by offering second-language conversations skills and citizenship information. This used to be a single room with no separation between meetings and children's playing space. Now, there is a divider.

Morales' 8-year-old daughter Marina, is more interested in all the new mystery books she will read, "There are so many things to do here," she said.

---

**UPDATED:** *This story was updated at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 12, 2018, to correct the spelling of city librarian Michelle Jeske's name.*





[ THE DENVER MAGAZINE ]

Feb. 16, 2018

## New Exhibitions Celebrate Unity & Empowerment Through Art

More than 40 local artists and writers will honor the worldwide Women's Marches with three art exhibitions in Colorado.

BY REJENA CARMICHAEL

On January 21, 2017, millions of people around the world gathered for the first-ever Women's March—the largest coordinated rally in U.S. history. Inspired by this movement—and by its unofficial color—more than 40 Colorado artists are coming together for **Pink Progression**, a three-part exhibition that will showcase artwork that highlights the way social interactions are affected by gender.

“After the presidential election in 2017, I started a 100-day Facebook series, posting photos of incredible women throughout history,” says Anna Kaye, the local artist who began Pink Progression. “People seemed to have a strong response to this, and after the 100 days was up, I felt like there was more to be done.”

Kaye started reaching out to several of her artist friends, and the idea for the Pink Progression series quickly formed. The triage of exhibits, which will be on display at the Boulder Public Library, the Denver Public Library, and the Center for Visual Art, will feature everything from oil paintings and iron sculptures to quilts and ceramics.



The only requirement?

That artists incorporate the color pink, which has become a strong visual element during the Women's March, as a celebration of unity and empowerment.

Participating artists at each venue will vary slightly, and recurring artists will present unique artwork at each exhibit. Kaye has already created her pieces for the Boulder and Denver Public Library shows, and is still deciding on her piece for the display at the Center for Visual Art. "For one show, I created a colored pencil drawing with pink glitter," says Kaye, "which I will turn into an interactive exhibit by giving out packets of the glitter to visitors." For the second exhibit, Kaye made a watercolor canvas of a native rose from Colorado called "Rosa Woodsii."

There will also be collaborative drawings available for purchase. Twenty-two artists from the show have created mixed-media artwork together, which can be purchased for \$1,800. Two-hundred dollars will go toward framing, while the remaining \$1,600 will be donated to a nonprofit selected by the buyer from a list of the artists' preferred organizations.

In addition to the displayed art, Pink Progression will also host artist lectures and special features during each exhibit. For example, the event at the Center for Visual Art will feature a collection of postcards—similar to the protest posters created for the Women's Marches—that are submitted by local individuals and will be displayed at the exhibit's entrance. "I want to keep the design open," Kaye says.

“[I’m] asking people to include a wish for the future of women and human rights and a picture that represents that idea.” ([Find out more and learn how to craft your own postcard here.](#))

At the Denver Public Library event, the [Western History and Genealogy Department](#) will share stories of several women who participated in the Women’s March on Denver in 2017, highlighting some of the issues that [our local protest focused on](#), including equal pay and immigrant rights. The photos that will be on display are part of the library’s [Women’s March on Denver Collection](#).

Additionally, Pink Progression is putting together two books inspired by the postcards and writings Kaye has received so far. The first is called *Words: Resist and Persist*, a collection of poetry and comic art on women’s issues, put together by 13 local writers, which will be available for purchase with a portion donated to a selected nonprofit. The second is a book with images of all the postcards. “There are so many incredible artists in these exhibitions, each with unique views on gender roles,” says Kaye. “My goal is to create a platform for them to share their ideas.”

ADVERTISEMENT

# Longmont Times-Call

Longmont, CO

[www.timescall.com](http://www.timescall.com)

February 27, 2018

## Longmont, Boulder, other libraries offering free Lynda.com technical classes

*By Karen Antonacci*

*Staff Writer*



Library patrons in an area stretching from Loveland to Broomfield can now access classes on [Lynda.com](http://Lynda.com) for free using their library card number.

The Flatirons Library Consortium —

The Flatirons Library Consortium has just signed a contract with Lynda.com so that library patrons — including Longmont, Boulder, Louisville, Lafayette and Loveland — can take the classes for free. ([Lynda.com](http://Lynda.com) / Courtesy Image)

comprising Longmont, Boulder, Broomfield, Louisville, Lafayette and Loveland public libraries — has signed a contract with [Lynda.com](http://Lynda.com).

Library patrons need only to sign up for a profile on [Lynda.com](http://Lynda.com) using their library card information to access the free classes.

[Lynda.com](https://www.lynda.com), which was acquired by LinkedIn in 2015, offers online classes in technical skills — everything from animation email marketing to web design.

Pennie Burris, head of adult services at Longmont Public Library, said that the partnership should help library patrons improve their technical skills to either find a job or move up in a job they already have.

"Lynda mostly focuses on technology-based skills, like music or computer programs or project management ... It's not knitting and cooking and that kind of thing. It's more building tech skills and skills that people can use to get new jobs or advance in their careers," she said.

Burris gave the example of someone who may use Microsoft Excel in their work and want to learn some different features of the program.

#### Advertisement

"Say they don't have a lot of experience using the formulas in Excel, so they could get more familiar with how to do that and learn to do some more advanced things with the program," she said. "Then they can take (their certificate) back to work and say, 'I've gone through this course on Lynda and I'm ready to do more advanced work on this program.'"

Partnering with the Flatirons Library Consortium is the latest in [Lynda.com](https://www.lynda.com)'s push to offer classes through libraries. In Colorado, Denver Public Library, Pikes Peak Library District, Grand County Library District, Eagle Valley Library District and Poudre River Library District all already have partnerships in place.

*Karen Antonacci: 303-684-5226, [antonaccik@times-call.com](mailto:antonaccik@times-call.com) or [twitter.com/ktonacci](https://twitter.com/ktonacci)*

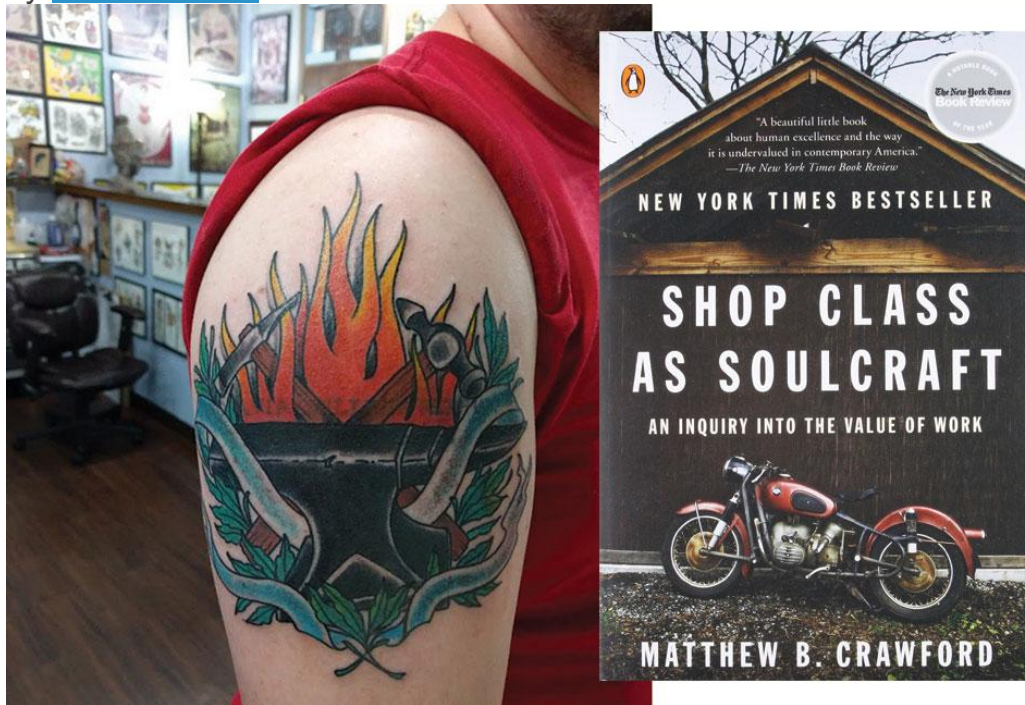


March 1, 2018

## Inked RA

Libraries recommend books based on patron tattoos

By [Phil Morehart](#)



*Librarians at Multnomah County (Oreg.) Library (MCL) recommended Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work by Matthew B. Crawford for the owner of an anvil-and-flames tattoo. Photo: Courtesy Multnomah County (Oreg.) Library*

Readers' advisory is incredibly personal. Finding books a patron may enjoy requires librarians to mine a plethora of factors: patron reading habits; tastes in literature, pop culture, and politics; family history; work schedule. Some libraries, however, have taken readers' advisory to even deeper levels by recommending books based on a patron's tattoos.

“Good readers’ advisory relies on creating a personal connection, and what’s more personal than a tattoo?” says Alison Kastner, reader services librarian at Multnomah County (Oreg.) Library (MCL).

MCL began a tattoo readers’ advisory program as an offshoot of a successful 2011 social media campaign, in which it asked Facebook users to tell the library things about themselves that could be used for book recommendations. The willingness of patrons to share personal stories online—and the enthusiasm with which they did so—led Kastner and library assistant Steve Roskoski to search for new ways to conduct specialized readers’ advisory on social media.

In summer 2016, the library launched its tattoo readers’ advisory campaign, soliciting images of tattoos and the stories behind them from Twitter and Facebook followers. The recommendation process was subjective but methodical. When it received a tattoo photo and story from a patron, a group of five staffers reviewed the submission, brainstormed possible book matches, and logged the results in a shared document. The recommendations were then posted on social media by a point person.

“It was a matter of looking at the tattoo, weighing its significance and what the requester has said about the design, and then using those themes to find something that seems right without spending an inordinate amount of time fretting over the answer,” says Kastner.

The submissions and recommended books ranged from a stylish witch-head tattoo, which the staff paired with *Young Woman in a Garden*, a collection of supernatural tales by Delia Sherman, to an iron anvil enveloped in flames, which staff paired with *Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work* by Matthew B. Crawford.

Some of the submissions were heartfelt. One patron submitted a photo of a tattoo of a butterfly with the phrase, “A Heart Never Forgotten,” which she said represents loved ones who have died. The staff recommended *My Grandfather’s Blessings: Stories of Strength, Refuge, and Belonging* by Rachel Naomi Remen.

Hana Zittel, a librarian at Denver Public Library (DPL), found a similar trend among the tattoo submissions when her library conducted a tattoo readers' advisory campaign in July 2017 after being inspired by MCL's program.

"We had an influx of ones that had someone reflecting on someone they lost in their life, so we were recommending materials based on working through grief, moving on, and connecting with that person," she says.

Like MCL, DPL conducted its tattoo readers' advisory exclusively on social media and used a team of librarians who reviewed the tattoos, made suggestions, and logged them into a shared file that could be accessed by librarians working at multiple branches. The imagery was important to the recommendation process, Zittel says, but the stories behind the tattoos had a greater impact.

"We can certainly go with just an image," she says. "But what we found to be helpful and meaningful to help create connections between us and the customers was hearing the stories."

Durango (Colo.) Public Library took an altogether different approach for a tattoo readers' advisory program it conducted in October 2016. Instead of using social media to gather photos and stories, the library invited patrons to come into the building and show staffers their tattoos to get recommendations in person. To help staffers do readers' advisory on the spot, the library created cheat sheets for books on love, music, mythology, relationships, and coming-of-age themed topics.

"We had about 20 people come in throughout the month," says Library Director Sandy Irwin. The program garnered notice, locally and across the country.

"We got a lot of national attention from this," Irwin says. "That was the strangest thing." After the Associated Press picked up a local newspaper article on the campaign, the library soon found itself featured in USA Today, and Irwin was invited to discuss the program on the *Jay Thomas Show* on Sirius XM radio.

Patrons and press also embraced MCL's and DPL's tattoo programs. More than 400 people submitted tattoos to MCL, with requests coming in from as far away as Brazil. The program was featured in local newspapers, Portland television news, and a segment on Minnesota Public Radio. DPL received more than 260 submissions and extensive



press, which proved taxing to DPL staff. The strain was worth it, according to DPL Senior Librarian Tara Bannon Williamson.

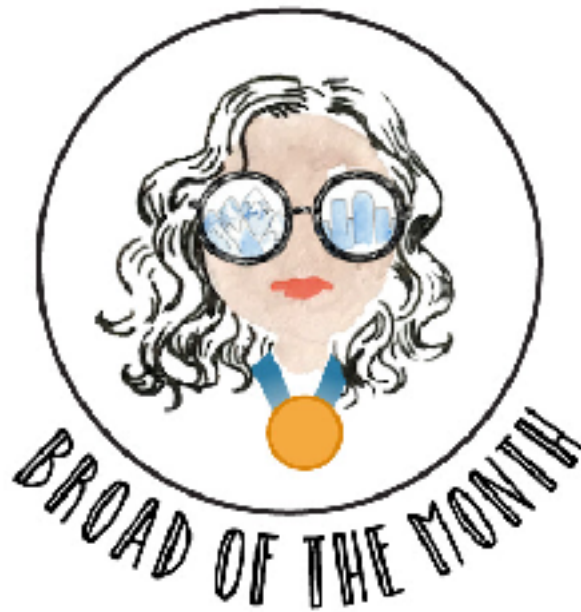
“The news came in to do a segment on the program, and then it went viral,” she says. “We started to receive submissions from around the world. We then committed to get them all done. We wouldn’t close the building with people still needing help. We did take breaks to sleep and eat, but that was about it.”

All three libraries have plans to conduct more tattoo readers’ advisory in the future. The programs were fun for both staffers and patrons, but they also served a higher purpose.

“Sometimes people with tattoos can feel excluded or maybe feel like they aren’t welcome,” says Williamson. “It was a nice way to reach other populations and let them know the library is cool. It’s not the same place you got kicked out of as a teenager.”



## Broad of the Month: Michelle Jeske



**Lisa Ingarfield | [@tritodefi](#)**

Libraries conjure moments of nostalgia for many of us.

As a child, my dad would regularly take me to my local public library. I got to pick out two or three books to check out every time. I remember those trips so clearly. I would get lost roaming through the stacks, partly reading book after book before I settled on the ones I wanted to take with me.

## FALLING INTO LIBRARY SCIENCES

After moving to Seattle for a public administration master's degree at the University of Washington, Michelle Jeske decided she'd made the wrong choice. In the days before the internet was readily available for choosing graduate degrees, there were printed catalogs. So, Jeske headed to the admissions office at the University of Washington to figure out what she wanted to do instead. She literally flipped through the catalog looking for alternate degree programs she could transfer into without having to leave UW. Jeske had fond memories of spending a significant amount of time in the library when writing her undergraduate thesis. She also identifies as an avid reader and lover of collecting and categorizing information. Leafing through the catalog that day, she landed on Library Sciences and decided to enroll. The decision all those years ago to shift gears and change professions is a decision Jeske has never regretted. And a good thing too, as now, Jeske runs Denver's own Public Library and is the city librarian. This month marks her three year anniversary in the role.



## **SHE BELIEVED SHE COULD, SO SHE DID**

Moving to Denver in 1999, Jeske, like many of us, fell in love with Colorado's sunshine and outdoor activities. She joined the public library in 2001, and has served in multiple roles including senior librarian and helping to establish the community technology center. In 2015, the Denver Public Library ran a national search for its new city

friends, colleagues, and most importantly herself, she decided to apply.

Jeske's decision to apply for the role is situated in the larger context of gender disparity in library leadership. In its 129 year history, the Denver Public Library has had 10 city librarians. Jeske and her predecessor are the only two women. The Library Sciences is a field dominated by women, and at the Denver Public Library 79% of the librarians are women, with 64% of all staff identifying as women. Despite these numbers, there are still few women in key executive leadership roles.

Men are routinely hired into leadership positions, despite the significant amount of qualified women in the field. Jeske is optimistic, however. She feels this culture is changing. For Jeske, being a woman leader in Denver specifically, has been a great experience. She has never felt unsupported as the city's librarian and this has enabled her to be successful in her role.

## **FOR THE LOVE OF THE LIBRARY**

The brand of most libraries is books. And while “we do love books” as Jeske says, libraries do so much more. She laughs as she says this. Jeske

services touch people's lives.

There were over four million in-person visitors to the Denver Public Library in 2017, with over 10 million online visits. Her heart is in public work and the library allows her to engage in meaningful initiatives that serve a wide variety of people and families. Jeske beams as she talks about the talented people working at Denver Public Library and the programs she oversees. It has one of highest employee engagement rates in the city of Denver and she believes this is because of every staff member's commitment to the library's mission.

The public library model is truly open and welcoming for everybody to freely access. The Denver Public Library hosts a variety of programs, many for kids and teens. Whether its a program about circuitry and robotics allowing kids to incorporate LED lights into a t-shirt, or enabling creative engagement opportunities in STEM subjects in the library's "maker spaces," the library tries to do it all. As Jeske points out, kids are in school about 20% of the time, and many do not have resources for additional fun and creative learning opportunities. The library works hard to provide its community with

reach almost 300,000. She wants to focus on getting kids ready to learn before they get to kindergarten and help solve the third grade reading challenge. No small feats, of course. But Jeske is deeply committed to the library's role in meeting Denver's changing needs.

In addition to the library's work with kids and teens, the library offers resources to local communities including english language, citizenship preparation, and access to immigration lawyers for immigrants and refugees in ten Denver library branches. Libraries continue to be places people trust, Jeske says. In today's climate, where many immigrants and refugees have an understandable fear of the government, broadly construed, the Denver Public Library works hard to build and maintain trust so immigrants and refugees have access to the resources and support they need.

## **THE FUTURE**

One of the questions Jeske is asked a lot, is what is the future of the brick and mortar library? Surely, with the advent of so many online modes of learning and ways to find information, do physical libraries have a future? Yes, Jeske says.

connect, and grow with others.

Research demonstrates millennials are invested in their public libraries and are more likely to use them than any previous generation. The future then, is looking bright for the Denver Public Library. It's clear how much pride Jeske has in her work and in the value of libraries in general. She is excited to continue to lead the Denver Public Library into the future and grow as the city librarian.

## **UPCOMING DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR BROADS OF THE GROWN UP OR MINI VARIETY**

### Girls Who DIY

A hands-on exploration of all things maker. Participants will work on projects involving everything STEAM: coding, robotics, web design, 3D printing, sewing, soldering, and more. Ages 12-18.

### Pink Progression

An exhibit of works by Colorado artists in commemoration of January 21, 2017 Women's March



on the women of Denver and their contributions to the city and the state.

### YouthBiz Presents: Startup - Think, Speak, and Act like an Entrepreneur Spring Break Mini-Camp

YouthBiz and the Denver Public Library have collaborated to bring an entrepreneurial focused program to the Library. Instructors will provide 10-hours of engaging curriculum and activities that will enable participants to learn, think, speak, and act like an entrepreneur. Students will learn entrepreneurial skills for 21st century learners including; critical thinking and reasoning, information literacy, collaboration, self-direction, and invention. On the final day of the camp participants will take part in a Business Pitch Competition. The winning team will receive a cash prize. Light refreshments provided. Registration required.



MORE

## WANT A WEEKLY DOSE OF THE BROADVIEW DENVER?

Sign up to receive news and updates.

SIGN UP

We respect your privacy.

ADVERTISING MEDIA KIT



