

Denver Public Library Commission Meeting

February 18, 2021

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85490156539>

Meeting Book - Library Commission Meeting

Agenda

1. Call to Order

2. Introductions

3. Approval of Commission Minutes from December 17, 2020.

Approval

- a. 2020-12-17 MinutesExport (2).pdf - Page 4
- b. 2021 Committee Assignments - Page 16
- c. Bookmarked Presentation - Page 17
- d. Value in Action Presentation - Page 30

4. Public Comment.

5. Report of the President and Members

- a. Introduce Savinay Chandrasekhar
- b. Resolution of Appreciation for Commissioner Vicki Hellmer
 - a. 5b Resolution of Appreciation for Vicki Hellmer.pdf - Page 41
- c. Other

Approve

6. Report of the Friends Foundation

Jeff Riley

7. Fourth Quarter Financial Report

Receive

Amber
Lindberg

- a. 7 2020 Q4 Finance Report _2021.02.04.pdf - Page 42

8. Charting the Course - Strategy Engagement

Kirsten
Decker

9. Report of the City Librarian

Receive

Michelle
Jeske

- a. 9 City Librarian Report (1).pdf - Page 48

10. Other Business

11. Adjournment

12. Appendices

- a. Commission Statistics Report - 2020 December - 2021 January.pdf - Page 61
- b. HR Commission Report Dashboard Q4.2020.pdf - Page 67
- c. Engage Brochure.pdf - Page 68

Agenda Item 3

Requested Action: Approve



Minutes for Meeting Book - Library Commission Meeting December 17, 2020

Commission Attendees (8)

Jehan Benton-Clark; Vicki Hellmer; Alice Kelly; Cathy Lucas; Carlos Martinez; Laurie Mathews; Michael Niyompong; Sonya Ulibarri

Staff & Guests: Ozy Aloziem, Kristen Andersen, Tara Bannon, Daniyom Bekele, Susan Bertsche, Matt Bolen, Danielle Brooks, Nicole Capage-Brown, Lisa Champion, Bec Czarnecki, Hillary Estner, Sonia Falcon, Olivia Gallegos, Matt Glover, Elisssa Hardy, Megan Hartline, Michelle Jeske, Megan Johnson, Annie Kemmerling, Elaine Langberg, Jenny LaPerriere, Jennifer Lay, Zeth Lietzau, Amber Lindberg, Gordon Links, Lisa Murillo, Erika Martinez, Christina McClelland, Joe Mills, Carla Respects Nothing, Seana O'Grady, Dodie Owens, Stephanie Pinales, Jeff Riley, Yvonne Sadeghzaeh, Jina Dunn, Asmeret Tesfay, Rachel Vagts, Nikki Van Thiel, Joan Vigil, Marshall Wallach, Bria Ward, Beth Warren, Stacey Watson, Paul Wehde, Leslie Williams

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m.

Introductions

Commissioners and staff present introduced themselves.

Approval of Commission Minutes

The minutes were approved with Ulibarri noting she needed to be added to the attendance list. Hellmer abstained as she was not in attendance.

Public Comment

N/A

Report of the President and Members

Appreciation of Staff

The first item is Commission appreciation of staff. President Martinez turned the floor over to Commissioners who wanted to address staff for their work in 2020.

Alice Kelly discussed that when she joined the Commission 7.5 years ago she didn't know much about the inner workings of the library. That led to Kelly being the liaison to staff council and she enjoyed getting to know the staff and learning about the issues they were working on. She had that role for two or three years and was impressed with how they supported each other and worked through problems. Kelly also noted that she reads everything that comes out about the library and is always amazed to learn about what the library is doing. She noted that the energy, creativity, and the way staff support one another and all they do to make the library the incredible institution it is is just fabulous! Staff are amazing and she is just thrilled to have known so many of them.

Vicki Hellmer thanked staff for their support and their notes while she was in the hospital.

Jehan Benton-Clark thanked everyone as a Commissioner and a mother. She has a now five year old, four when the pandemic started, and expressed her appreciation for the commitment and creativity DPL staff has had during this time. She's not sure she would have known what to do and the YouTube and phone service has helped her ability to navigate this and kept her young child stay engaged. She is not a Twitter user but found herself following the library's Twitter feed to figure out new and fun things to keep her engaged. She emphasized that the creativity of staff during the pandemic has been so wonderful and thanked everyone.

Cathy Lucas talked about commitment as doing your best and not abandoning ship during the worst crisis. She feels DPL has shown such commendable commitment. She is so proud to serve as a Commissioner. The commitment and creativity can be seen in our videos and social media posts and through interactions with her neighborhood branch. She thanked staff for inspiring her daily and for continuing to be an anchor institution in the community.

Sonya Ulibarri said on behalf of being a Commissioner as well as a community partner, she acknowledged the work it took in the hardest of years to continue to center on families, neighborhoods, young people, people of all ages in engagement and learning and connection. She cited the bookmobile coming out, book distribution, and all the other work it took in order for learning and exploration to still happen. Ulibarri noted it was something staff should all be very proud of. Ulibarri is very grateful for it in her neighborhood as well as across the city.

Laurie Mathews said she loves talking to people about the library because she knows she is just going to hear wonderful things. She is not going to get a litany of complaints; she is going to hear all the reasons they love the library. During the pandemic, as a user it has been amazing, the

transition to pick up services - she just goes to the parking lot and her books come out. She noted everyone smiles; it is fast and efficient. Whoever came up with it and the staff carrying it out have just done a wonderful job and there is no sense that anything is unusual. Mathews noted that she loves being able to schedule holds and thinks everyone has done a superb job during the pandemic and before and gave her thanks.

Michael Niyompong said he is incredibly grateful to be part of an organization that is so committed to serving the community. He is a fairly new Commissioner and was just starting to understand what normal is for the library when the pandemic happened. He saw DPL pivot overnight. Driving down Broadway and seeing outdoor services in front of Central is so heartwarming as is seeing how we continue to really engage with our unhoused neighbors. Yesterday, he saw Community Resource Manager, Elissa Hardy, in a meeting with the Department of Housing Stability really trying to figure out how might the library, and how might all of us, look at leveraging the 2B dollars to solve some of those challenges for our unhoused neighbors. Niyompong noted that he loves seeing DPL's EDI Manager, Ozy Aloziem, on this call and how he appreciates the EDI work DPL has been doing. He called out the Equity and Inclusion Symposium that took place last July and how wonderful that was. He gave kudos to the E-Team and all staff for the work they have been doing.

Carlos Martinez recalled early conversations with Jeske and the Commission about the pandemic and the impact it could have on our community; it was just so unpredictable. Navigating our personal lives and helping others during a time of crisis is not easy. It takes an emotional toll on us, our families, our community, and it creates such great disruption that it makes it hard to focus, provide direction and a sense of what life is about. As a trusted institution the Denver Public Library provides millions of touch points to hundreds of thousands of members of the community every year, from children to older adults. During a time of crisis the community seeks those touch points to feel connected and have a sense of place and normalcy, especially from a trusted relationship like one with the library. Martinez thanked each and every member of the Denver Public Library staff, volunteers, Friends Foundation staff and Board, and others who have worked tirelessly these last nine months to provide the community with books and materials to feed the mind, connection to feel a sense of belonging, activities to support learning and destress the soul, a virtual home to feel safe, and a sense of community that warms the heart. In closing, Martinez shared a quote from Marcel Proust, "Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom." He noted the library has made so many souls blossom over these last nine months and thanked everyone for the amazing work of the past year.

Resolution of Appreciation for Alice Kelly

The next item Martinez brought forward was a resolution of appreciation for outgoing Commissioner Alice Kelly. Martinez read the resolution which was approved unanimously. Kelly noted that it has been a wonderful journey with the library and that she has loved it. She enjoyed meeting staff and working with the other Commissioners. She expressed her heartfelt thanks again for all the library does for the community. Commissioner Mathews remembered meeting Kelly as a new Commissioner and the advice Kelly gave her. Kelly has toured every branch in the system and she agreed to meet Mathews on her last tour and it started Mathews on the same path to see all the branches. Kelly noted that she recommends that to everyone and that each branch has its own personality and you learn a lot about the communities where they reside. Martinez thanked Kelly again noting she will be missed and that she has taught him a lot and helped him understand the culture of the Commission when he came on and has appreciated her commitment.

Election of Officers

Benton-Clark presented the 2021 slate of officers on behalf of the nominating committee comprised of herself, Martinez and Mathews. The slate is as follows:

- Laurie Mathews, secretary
- Sonya Ulibarri, vice president
- Cathy Lucas, president

On behalf of the nominating committee Benton-Clark made a motion for the election of the slate of new officers as presented. Hellmer seconded and the slate was approved as presented.

Martinez offered congratulations to the new officers. The other members of the Commission thanked Martinez for his leadership.

2021 Commission Committee and Liaison Assignments

Benton-Clark went on to review 2021 Commission committee and liaison assignments.

Finance Committee: Cathy Lucas, Carlos Martinez

Nominating Committee: Laurie Mathews, Michael Niyompong, Carlos Martinez

Friends Liaison: Vicki Hellmer, Laurie Mathews as alternate

Awards Committee: There are three appointments but are asking the commitment to work together over 2021 to make it one person leading the awards committee.

- Juanita Gray: Holding open for new commissioner
- Latino Awards: Sonya Ulibarri

- Eleanor Gehres: Laurie Mathews

EDI Committee: To work with Michelle Jeske and Ozy Aloziem - Michael Niyompong and Jehan Benton-Clark

Branch naming: Cathy Lucas, Jehan Benton-Clark

Benton-Clark concluded that those are the assignments being recommended to the Commission. Martinez opened the floor to any discussion. Seeing none he thanked Commissioners for their active participation.

Report of the Friends Foundation

Martinez turned it over to Jeff Riley for the report of the Friends Foundation. Riley shared the Friends Foundation slate of officers for 2021. Amy Brimah will serve as chair, Laurie Troghe as vice chair, and Andy Bishop as treasurer for a second year, and Ron Tomassi as secretary. Those officers were approved at the last board meeting.

Riley noted that it has been an interesting year with challenges and is pleased to share that the Friends have achieved most of their financial goals for the year. The Friends received a large charitable remainder trust distribution from Elizabeth Ludlow-Ehrlich. The Friends Foundation was not aware that it would receive this gift and wish they could have thanked her. The Friends also received a \$1 million anonymous cash gift which brings the total for the capital campaign to \$5.6 million which is good progress. It is not where the Friends had planned to be but are pleased given the year and are continuing the campaign. Colorado Gives Day also happened. Last year there were 331 gifts and this year there were 509 gifts. The growth was more than 40% in number of gifts and generated more than \$90,000. This is up from \$63,000 from 2019. In conjunction with Bookmarked, all of this means that the Friends should be able to make a normal distribution to the library in 2021.

Nicole Capage-Brown reported out on Bookmarked (see attached presentation). 2020 would have been the 23rd annual Booklovers Ball but given the pandemic the Friends pivoted to put on Bookmarked, a virtual event. The Friends were pleased that they exceeded the gross revenue goal of \$250,000 by almost \$22,000. The net revenue goal was \$167,000 and achieved \$216,000. This is significantly up from 2019 largely due to the cost to raise a dollar is so much less for a virtual than in-person event. Bookmarked also was able to secure a presenting sponsor for the first time in a long time and Capage-Brown gave a huge thank you to GH Phipps for that sponsorship and noted that they have committed to next year as well. There was also explosive growth from 2019 to 2020 in individual donations. It went from nearly \$27,500 in 2019 to \$74,000 in 2020. Part of this is due

to a paddle raise that was done for the first time. There were 110 new donors to the library and the average gift amount went up as well. The Friends did a post event survey and it helped them see what people enjoyed the most. They were glad to see that people were very excited to hear and see about the library. The Friends are hoping to have an in person event in 2021 and then perhaps there will be a bit of a hybrid with some broadcast portions.

Commissioners thanked Capage-Brown for the presentation. Mathews noted that since there was no ticket cost this year it may have encouraged people to give more as typically some may feel like the ticket cost is their donation. Capage-Brown agreed but noted that a significant portion of Ball attendees are sponsor invitees and that having some programming at the in-person ball may help encourage those people to donate more as well.

Lucas noted that she loves this event and that it was so fun and celebratory. She looks forward to seeing how they infuse some of the elements into next year. Capage-Brown thanked her and thanked her for serving as an honorary chair.

Riley noted the reason they are having the success they are this year is because the library is so loved and has been for years. He saluted the library for being that steadfast community element. He also thanked Michelle for her leadership, message, and auctioneering skills. He also thanked Commissioners for all their support.

Report of the City Librarian

Commissioners were reminded that nominations people for the Juanita Gray Community Service awards close tomorrow at 5 p.m. The event will be held online on February 6 in the mid afternoon.

Jeske noted that she has been providing even more comprehensive written reports to make sure this time is documented. She will not go through everything in the report but wants to lift up a few things and then see if anyone has questions.

This is the 100th anniversary of the Park Hill branch library. The branch was opened after the last big pandemic in 1918. Because of that it opened to perhaps not much fanfare; we have not been able to find any information on a grand opening. In a different time we would have had parties to celebrate this occasion. There are two other anniversaries this year that we are not really able to celebrate, the 130th birthday of the whole library system and 25th anniversary of the Central Library.

Lindberg will be asking the Commission to approve the revised 2021 budget. City Council asked the Mayor to include additional money for digital equity work and we're getting \$150,000. This will purchase devices with data plans to disperse to people experiencing homelessness. It should provide about 250 people access for a year and had been a component of a federal grant we did not receive.

We are looking at new and interesting ways of supporting immigrants and refugees to access Chromebooks and hotspots. Also, with the new safe outdoor spaces, we will be starting technology access and Wi-Fi at those locations next week.

Blair-Caldwell traditionally hosts Kwanzaa celebrations and this year instead there is a great lineup of online events. It starts on December 26th with a celebration with Cleo Parker Robinson dance.

One thing that won't change much is Winter of Reading. It may be more popular than ever as everyone snuggles down and hopefully stays home and safe. It starts January 2 and will run for two months. The prizes and information will be available at curbside and at the bookmobile sites. People can use the paper brochure and there is a new online application as well.

We have now served more than 20,000 people with outreach this year and distributed more than 40,000 free books. We have also distributed nearly 8,000 waters in our community. DPL also opened a clothing bank/thrift store at the Central Library. There are items such as hygiene kits, hats, and socks that staff can distribute as needed. The Public Health Department's 'Wellness Winnie' has been at Central once a week and some branches as well. It has been a huge success with more than 100 people per day accessing the services.

Lastly, Jeske thanked Martinez, stating it has been an honor working with him for two years. She told Kelly she would miss her as well. She is also excited to work with the new officers and committee members and is appreciative of the Commissioners' tremendous support.

Mathews noted that she loves the 'by the numbers' section. It's so great in communicating the library's value. Lucas thanked Jeske for her leadership, calling her unflappable and looks forward to working more closely together.

2021 Commitments

This document is being used to plan and guide the library's work in 2021 in response to the new realities we're facing. Given the reduced budget for 2021 we need to prioritize more than ever. These commitments build off of the mission, vision, and values and outline how we are leading with

our values of stewardship and equity at the forefront. We know how much the community is struggling and that we will have vulnerable community members turning to us for resources in the coming year. This is an attempt to prioritize who will need us most in the coming years and help staff guide their planning for services and programs. This could mean slowing some things down and/or ceasing or suspending certain services. It could also mean standing up new aligned services that meet these commitments. We are in the process of socializing this information with staff. Once department budgets are finalized, managers will be working with their teams to determine what their 2021 plans look like in the context of available resources. We are in process with our larger strategic plan and the documents that come out of that will be additional guidance.

Approval of 2021 Budget

Amber Lindberg, Director of Finance and Facilities, noted that there is a new budget format this year. The first page of the report discusses the budget process of the City. As an independent agency of the City, the library does follow the process and timeline as outlined by the City Charter and the Budget Management Office (BMO). The City Charter also authorizes the Commission with oversight of the library budget which is why we are here to approve the 2021 budget.

The proposed budget looks different this year for several reasons. Most notably, the financial report formats have changed. Our previous reports did not include grant funds for private, federal, state and local grants that come through the City. Adding this information will provide a more complete picture of the finances of DPL as a whole. The new reports also include revenue for all funds to see where our resources are coming from and how that aligns with our spending plans. Additionally, resources in our grant funds and special trust funds are often restricted or designated for specific purposes.

The new format includes two columns for 2021 budget. One for the original budget and one for the revised budget. Previous reports only included the revised budget information.

The first proposed budget report on page 27 is a summary of all funds that the library manages. Revenue information is shown by source for each fund and expenditures are shown by function by operational divisions for each area of the library. The special trust fund is the only one with a fund balance at the end of the year.

Lindberg first focused on the proposed general fund budget for 2021. Resources for this fund all come from an annual distribution from the City. Advocating for these funds and resources is what we spend a majority of our budget season doing. There are three primary budget buckets in the general fund which are personnel, supplies and services, and capital. You will see these categories

in the revenue and expenditures sections of the general fund. Because general fund resources come from the City, the City must approve when we move budget between those three categories. However, we generally only do this when there is a strong need and we have received strong support from the City to do so.

The report displays expenditures by type for all divisions across the library system. Due to budget constraints from COVID-19, there is a reserve set aside in 2020 and in 2021 in addition to the three primary categories. The 2020 reserve is the funds the City restricted us from using and was essentially our budget reduction in 2020. DPL did receive a 2021 budget reduction and is also opting to create a small internal reserve of \$1.7 million in anticipation of possible additional budget reductions. This will hurt our services but the economy is not recovering in the way we hoped and we would like to be prepared. We will continue to work closely with BMO; we meet with them at least once a month. If we do not need the reserve we will reallocate that \$1.7 million mid-year.

Lindberg also pointed out while most lines in the report are being reduced due to overall budget cuts, Commissioners will see a few increases. We have been working closely with managers to identify what our operational needs are and align our values and essentially right size our budget to reflect our values and priorities internally.

The third budget report is for other library funds which includes the special trust fund (STF) as well as grants funds. Grant revenue that flows thorough the City is reflected in the grant revenue line and the other lines depict sources that flow through the STF and that includes grants that run through the Friends Foundation. DPL continues seeking grants from various sources and those fluctuate year to year. The STF revenue also varies year to year based on fundraising, the economy, including interest rates, and our internal operations.

The operational activity revenue reflects the revenue that is generated by the library through things such as print and copy sales and meeting room rental. With the buildings being closed this line has taken a hard hit and we anticipate that will take some time to recover.

The expenditures shown on page 29 are the planned expenditures of the STF by functional division. With less revenue coming in our expenditures will also slow in these areas. The new reports show how funds are also restricted by donors.

STF rolls over from year to year which differs from the general fund where any unspent funds return to the City at the end of the year. Grant funds remain in the funds until they are spent for their specific purpose.

We project the library will have just less than \$1.2 million dollars remaining in the STF fund balance at the end of 2021. This is important because we will likely continue to use this fund balance without new sustainable sources of revenue coming in. This isn't necessarily a bad thing because most of the revenues we get from this are for specific purposes and it's good that we are accomplishing those things. This fund is also used to supplement operations and pilot new programs so with limited unrestricted resources our capacity for using the fund in this way will also be limited.

In general, library management has the authority to move budget between the lines and modify the budget as new resources or priorities arise. If the budget changes by more than \$100,000 or more than 10% of the total budget we will bring changes to Commission for approval.

Lindberg asked if there were any questions. Martinez thanked Lindberg for her comprehensive and digestible report.

Niyompong asked for more information about the one time increase of \$500,000 for ADA remediation. The City as a whole underwent an ADA audit several years back and the U.S. Department of Justice provided us with a long list of things to correct. The City gave us that money to help correct those issues. It was unexpected but we are very pleased. We will also be addressing some ADA issues with the bond funds.

Ulibarri asked if there were concerns around the substantial Neighborhood Services reductions in the STF. Lindberg clarified that a lot of that is grant related. So no, there are not long term concerns. Some of those are grants we had for a long time and are coming to an end that we expected. In unrestricted, a lot of those are other small donations that accumulated over the years that we are working to spend down. For example, we moved money into Neighborhood Services to fund a reading room and so there are some natural ebbs and flows. We keep a close eye on sun setting grants and look for other grants if needed as well as try to have those things funded through general fund so that they are sustainable.

Upon motion by Benton-Clark and second by Lucas the revised 2021 budget was approved.

Update and Discussion on Values in Action

Kirsten Decker, manager of strategy and evaluation, gave a presentation on Charting the Course (see attached presentation). She started by reviewing a bit of the history. The journey started in 2016 and we are much closer to operationalizing it. The reason the process has been so long is because of the community engagement work and deep listening the library has done. DPL worked hard to engage staff, community, and Commission to understand where the library fits into the community. Decker also reviewed the values and the values in action (ViA):

- Stewardship: Honoring public trust
- Connection: Strengthening connection
- Curiosity: Fostering curiosity
- Equity: Challenging inequity
- Welcoming: Welcoming everyone

Decker believes that the high level of staff engagement will have a positive impact on the implementation of the strategic plan. 60+ staff members worked on the ViA teams and worked to do research, analyze data, and develop indicators and potential strategies for each ViA.

Decker and the Charting the Course team is working to engage the organization as a whole with recommended strategies and getting feedback. In order to do this, there is an eLearning, open houses, and a virtual exercise to help prioritize strategies.

In 2021, there is a first quarter goal to finish the strategic plan and bring it to the Commission for approval. Prior to this, Decker is also working with Aloziem to make sure equity is baked into every element of the plan and recommended strategies and will be utilizing the newly formed Equity Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council (EDIAC). There will also be work with the Commission as well as work sessions with the Executive Team and ViA Leads.

Once the plan is approved there is already planning in place to support implementation.

Martinez thanked Decker for all of the progress and looks forward to adopting and implementing the plan. Lucas acknowledged how difficult the work is and also appreciates the collaborative approach and is also looking forward to implementation.

Update on Reconsideration of Branch Names

Erika Martinez reminded the Commission that at the last meeting she walked them through how we would approach the reconsideration of branch names for Byers and Barnum. It was a fairly aggressive timeline and she appreciated the support of the Commission encouraging us to take the time needed to be as thoughtful as necessary.

With the Byers Branch Library, approximately 30 community leaders in that part of town were invited to a conversation to give them context and gather feedback around a possible change. Everyone who attended agreed it should be renamed and recommended that DPL reach out to the Native community to find out how they would like to be included and engaged. So over the last weeks Martinez has been having meetings to better understand how we can include them. She is working on creating a community committee to guide the process and being intentional about

having people from the Native community participate. She is also presenting to the City's American Indian Commission in January to talk about the process and invite people to participate and help us promote the opportunity. Commissioner Benton-Clark is helping lead this effort.

The library is not the only asset in the community named after Barnum. Councilwoman Jamie Torres has taken the lead in the community about the Barnum name and we have been included. The kickoff will be a virtual conversation with the community in the first quarter of 2021. We want the community to guide these processes. Commissioner Lucas is helping lead this effort.

Martinez thinks it will take six months to go through the community engagement process for Byers. When this happens we hope to also be able to celebrate the change in person. Ulibarri noted that she thinks the celebration aspect will be very important and that it might be okay to hold and wait until we can really do it as we emerge from the pandemic.

Other Business

NA

Executive Session for City Librarian Performance Review

President Martinez called the Commission into executive session to conduct the City Librarian annual performance review. The Commission came out of executive session and will transmit their decision regarding the performance of the City Librarian to HR.

Adjournment

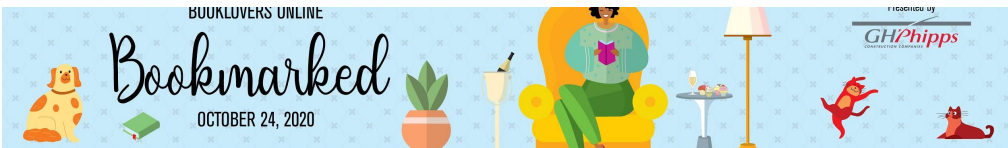
The meeting was called back into public session and with no further business to discuss was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Appendices

1. 2021 Officer Slate
2. 2021 Committee Assignments
3. Bookmarked Presentation
4. Values in Action Presentation

2021 Library Commission Standing Committees

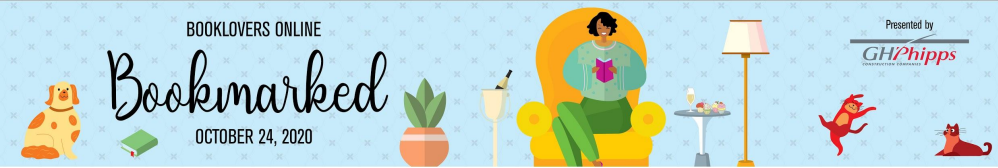
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laurie Mathews • WHG Manager or other staff person • CCE staff member 	The Selection Committee usually meets in early May. Meets as needed (usually once) to choose honoree and prepare for late summer event.	Eleanor Gehres Award
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Jeske (City Librarian) • Commission President • Commission Vice President • Commission Secretary 		Executive Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cathy Lucas • Carlos Martinez • Michelle Jeske (City Librarian) • Finance Director 	In general meets once in June.	Finance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laurie Mathews 	Meets approximately bi-monthly at Central Library. (Subject to change.) Dates and times TBA.	Friends Foundation Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tent: Savinay Chandrasekhar • Terry Nelson (Blair) • Erika Martinez (CCE Director) • Hannah Miles (CCE) • Ford-Warren or Blair-Caldwell Senior Librarian 	Committee meets several times per year to set a timeline, solicit and review applications, select awardees and plan event. Event held first week of February at Blair-Caldwell *2020 attend event and wrap-up meeting.	Juanita Gray Community Service Award
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonya Ulibarri • Erika Martinez (CCE Director) • Consuelo Cosio (CCE) • Nicanor Diaz (Gonzales Branch Manager) 	Starting in June, the committee meets twice to solicit and review applications, select awardees and plan event held at Gonzales in September.	Latino Awards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jehan Benton-Clark • Michael Niyompong • Ozy Aloziem • Michelle Jeske 	Commission support of DPL's EDI efforts	Commission EDI Coordination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cathy Lucas • Jehan Benton-Clark • Erika Martinez 	Working on the possibility of renaming The Barnum and Byers branches.	Branch Renaming



Booklovers Online: Bookmarked!

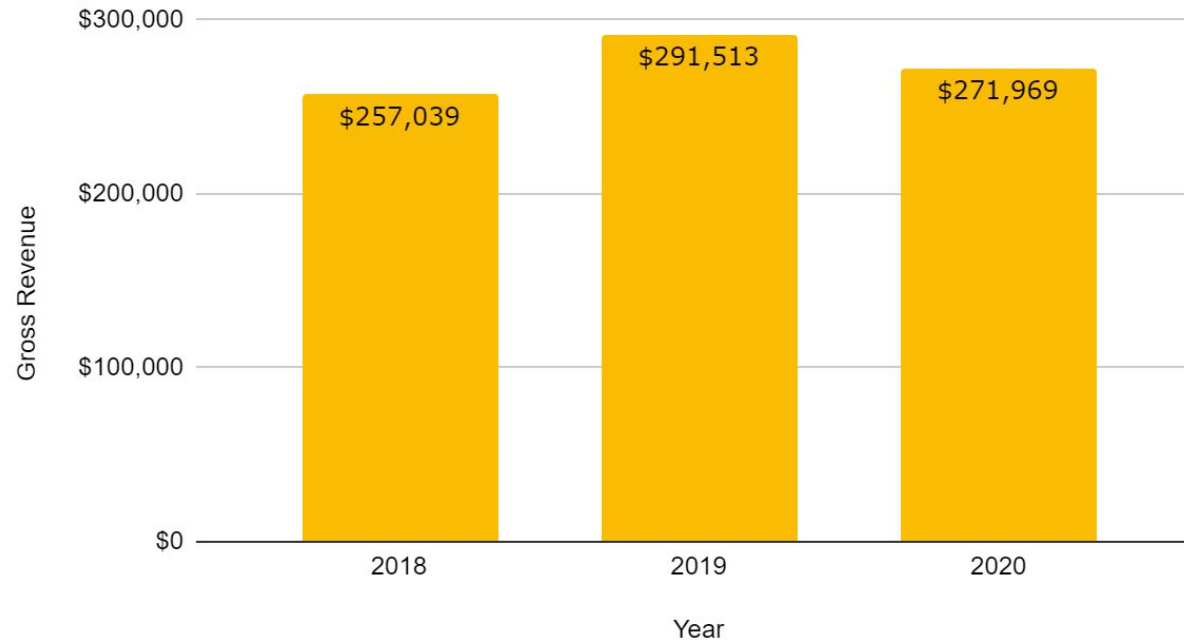
Results & Reflections

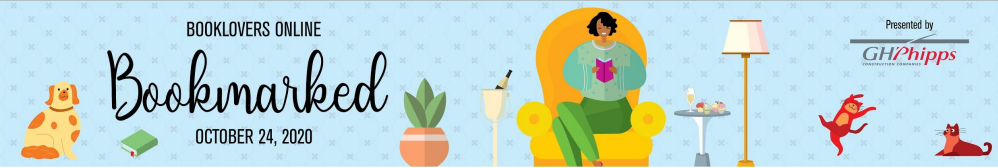




2020 Budgeted Gross Revenue Goal = \$250,000

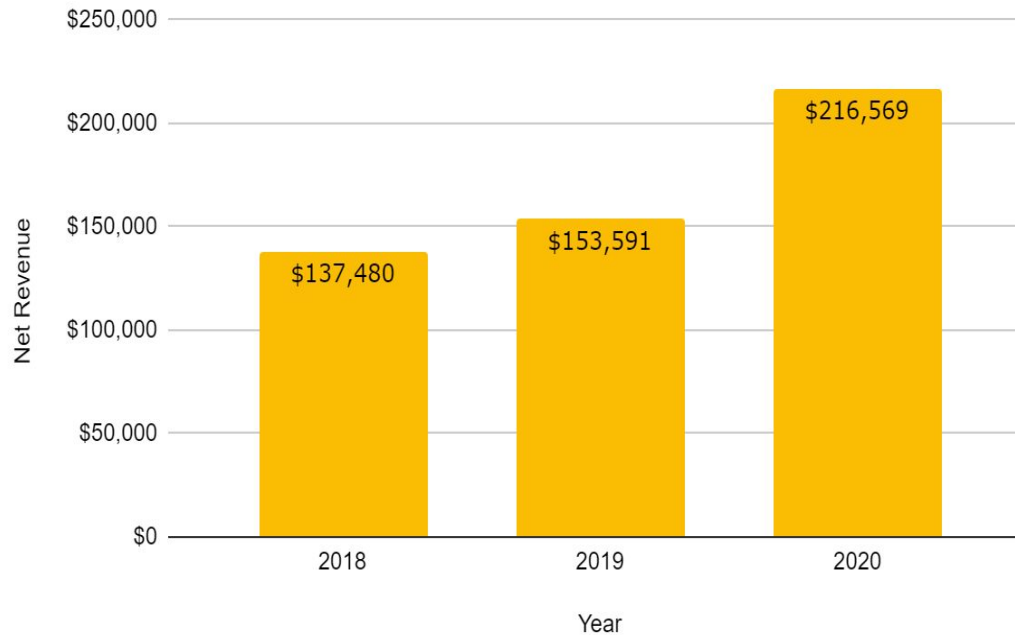
Gross Revenue





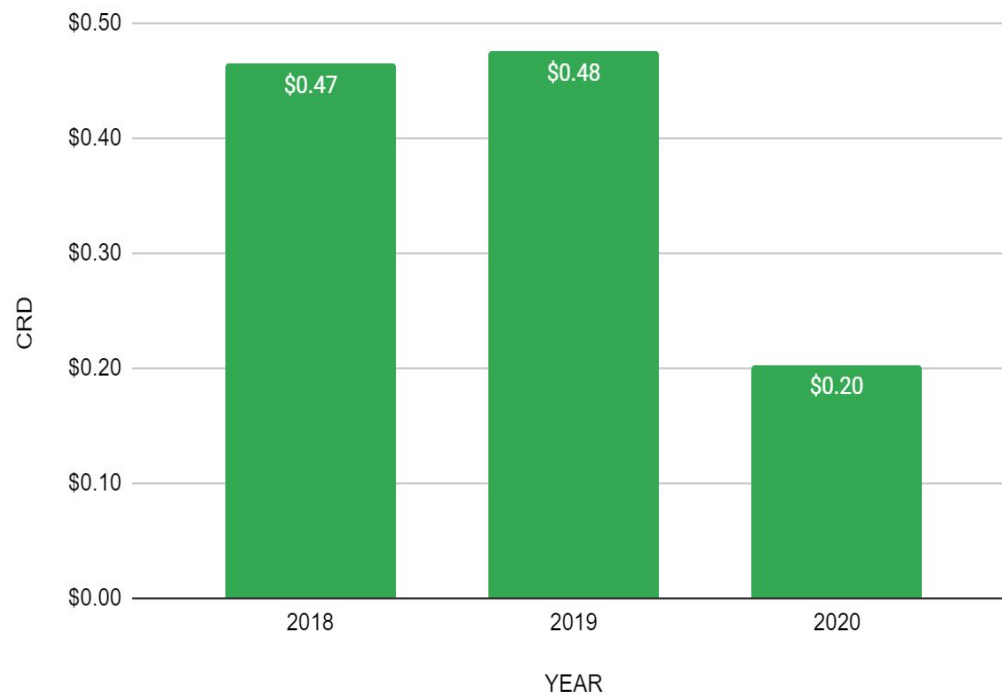
2020 Budgeted Net Revenue Goal = \$167,000

Net Revenue





Cost to Raise a Dollar





Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor....

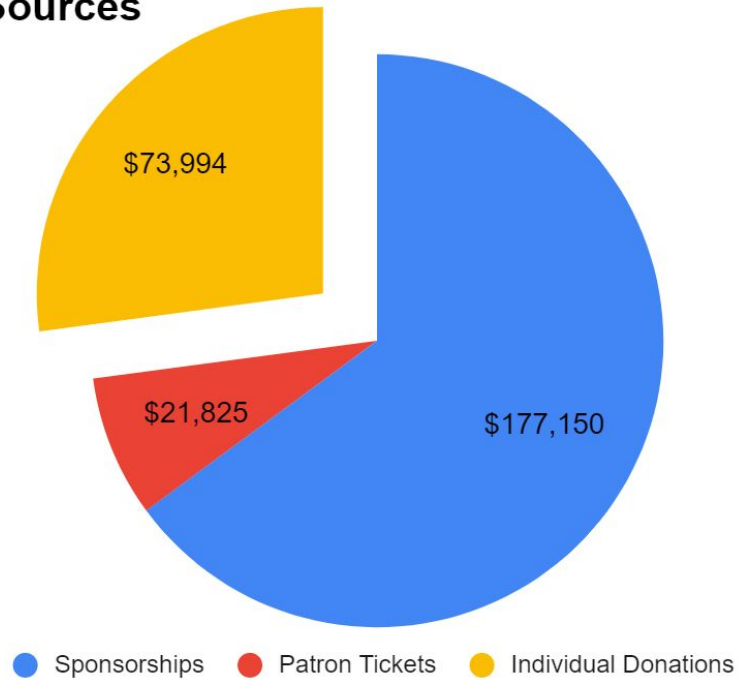


Bookmarked

OCTOBER 24, 2020

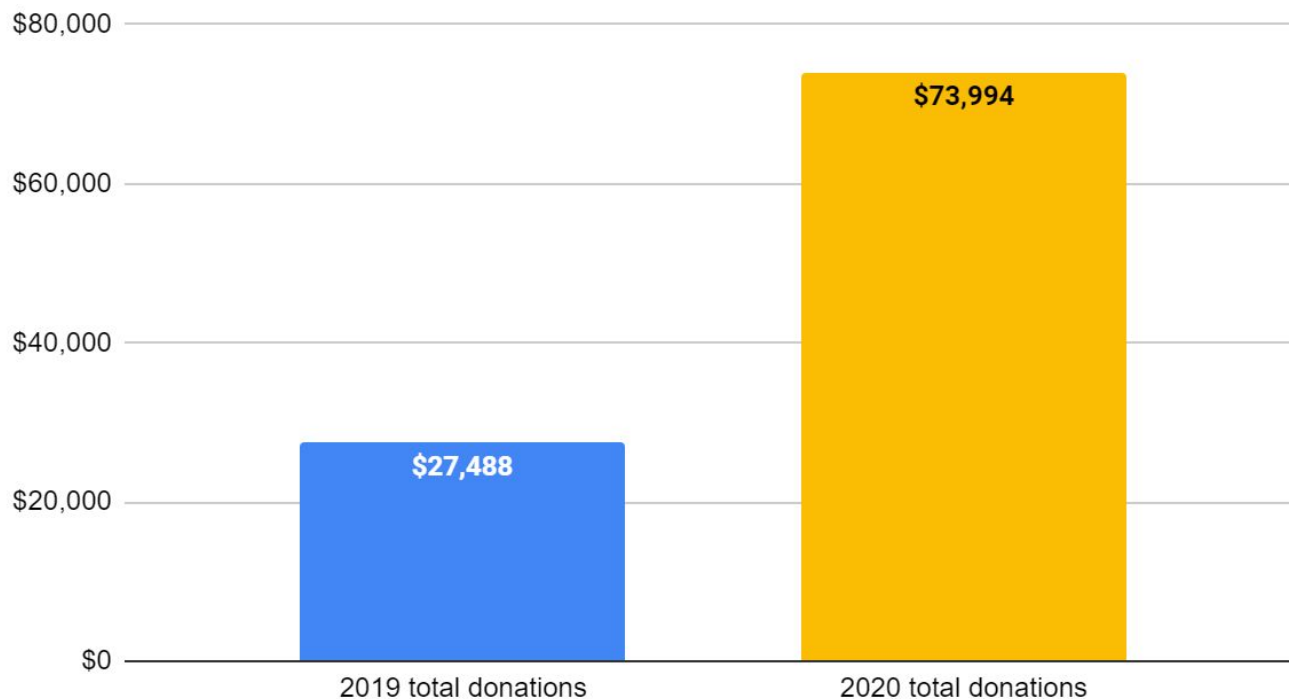


Revenue Sources





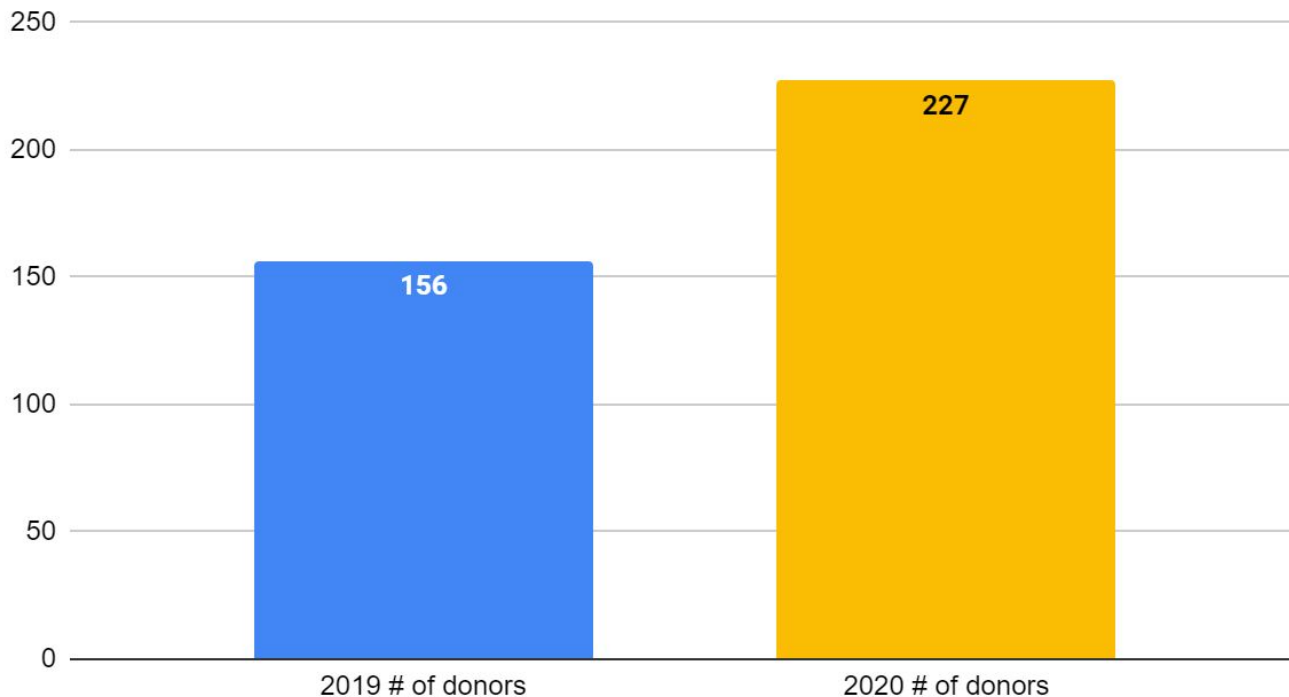
Total Individual Donations by Year





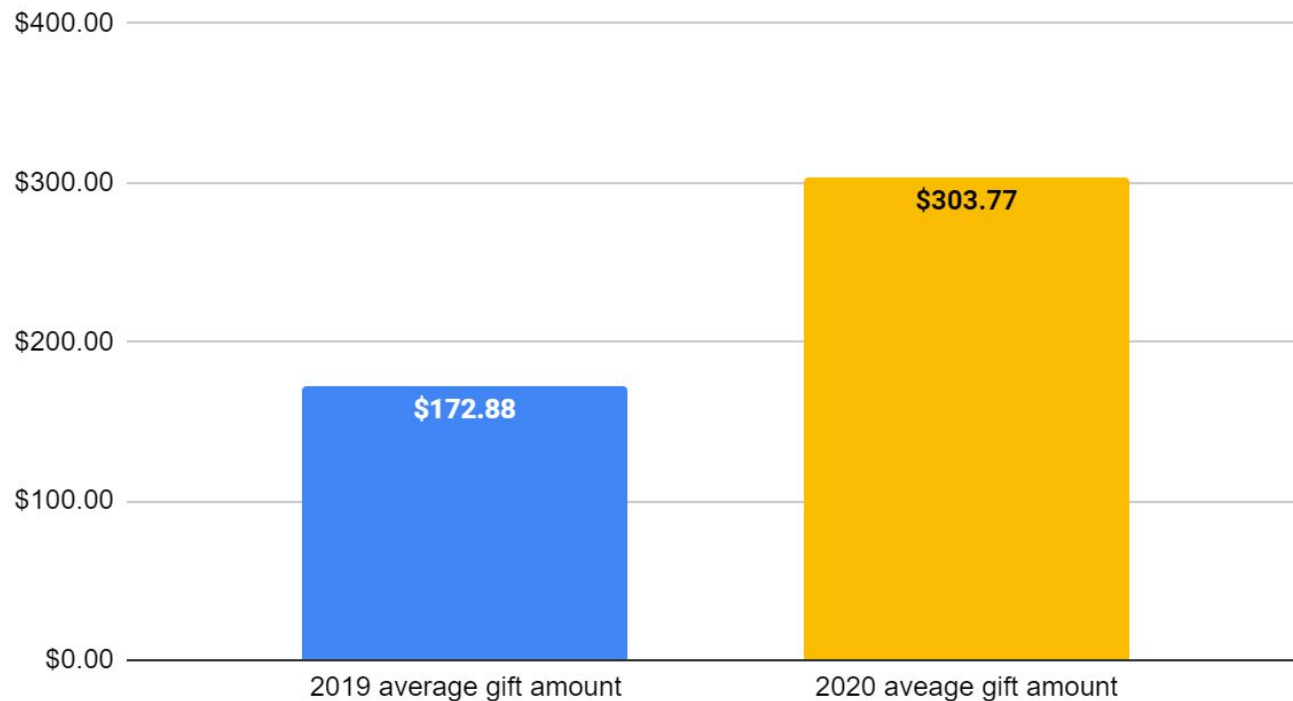
- 110 *New* Donors in 2020!

Number of Individual Donors by Year





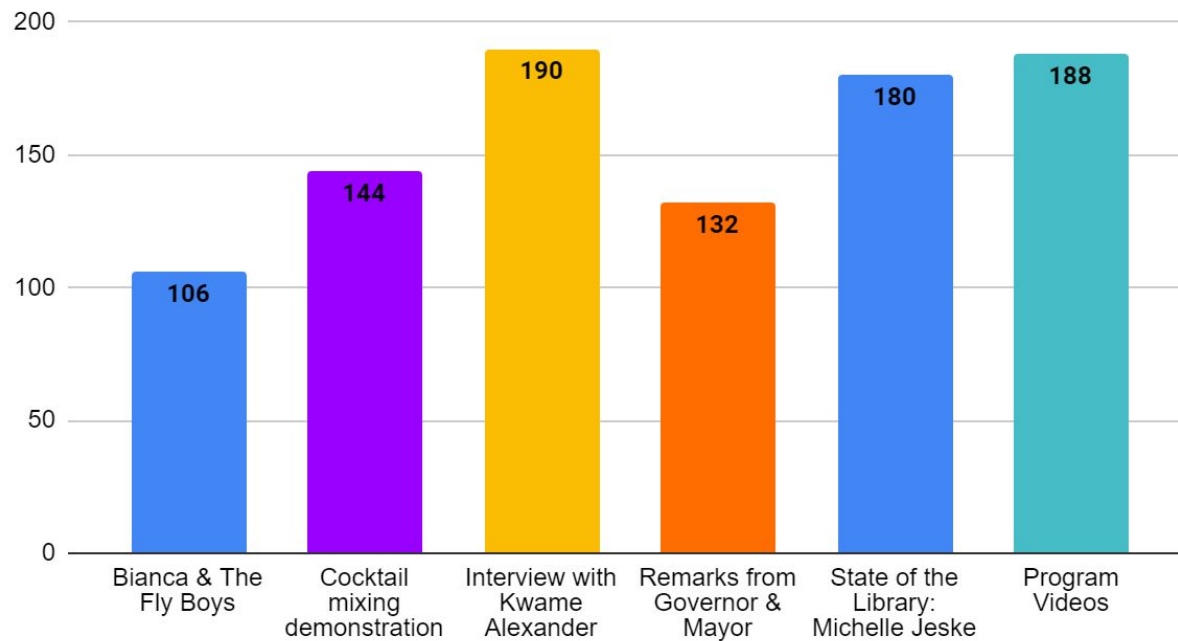
Average Gift Amount from Individuals by Year

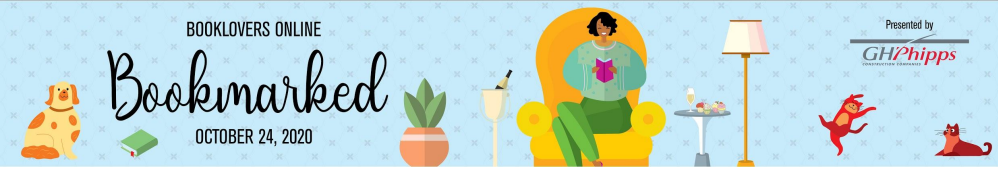




Please rank your favorite segment of
Booklovers Online?

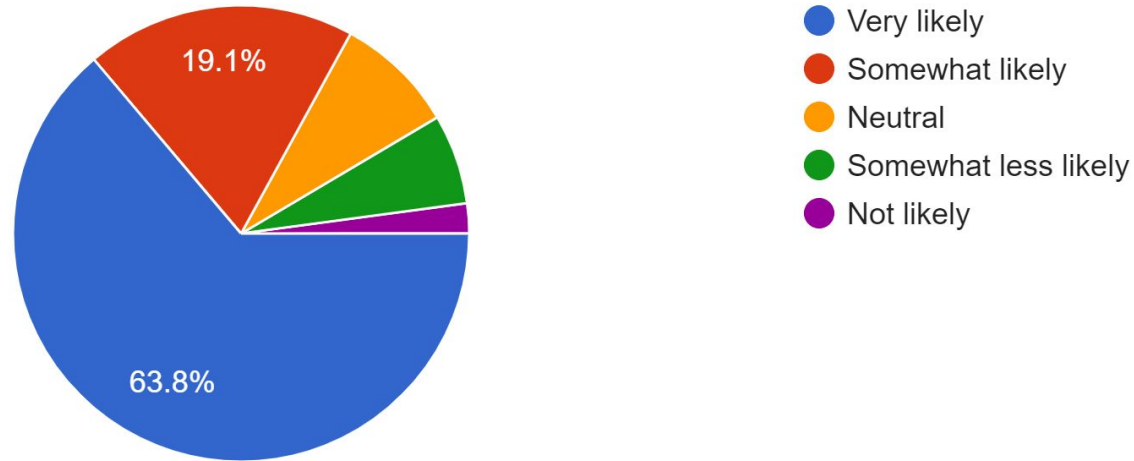
Weighted Ranking Score of Segments





Based on your experience this year how likely is it that you would want to participate in the Booklovers event next year?

47 responses





Guest Comments

“Such a great event! We love DPL!”

“Both Online Booklovers & the catered meal were wonderful! I look forward to online or in person next year!”

“It was a very engaging virtual event! I loved the videos from staff and customers! The library does so much great work!”

“It was a well-organized, fun event. We were excited to support the library we use regularly.”

“I'm not a huge fan of fundraiser events, so actually appreciated being able to participate from home!”



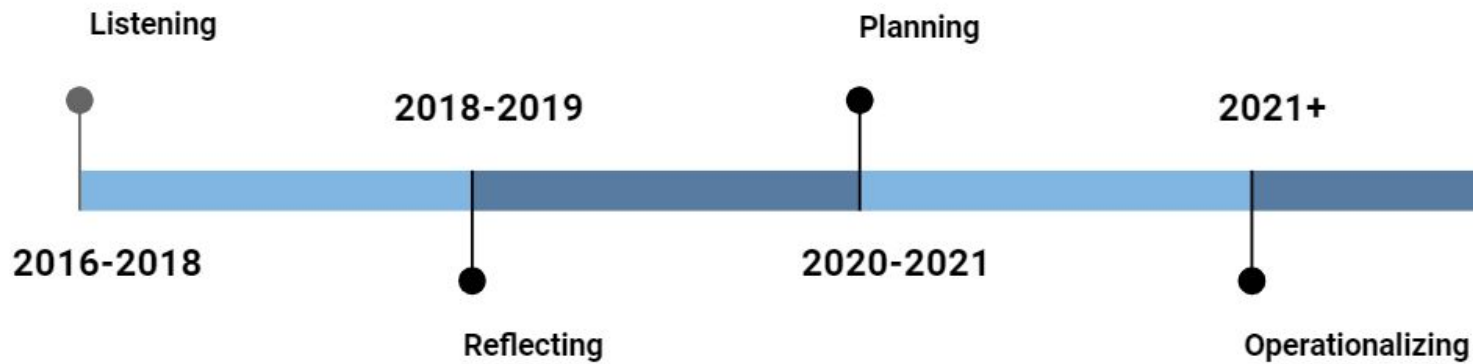
THANK YOU



CHARTING THE COURSE

Library Commission Update
12.18.2020

HISTORY



DPL's Strategic Journey

Listening

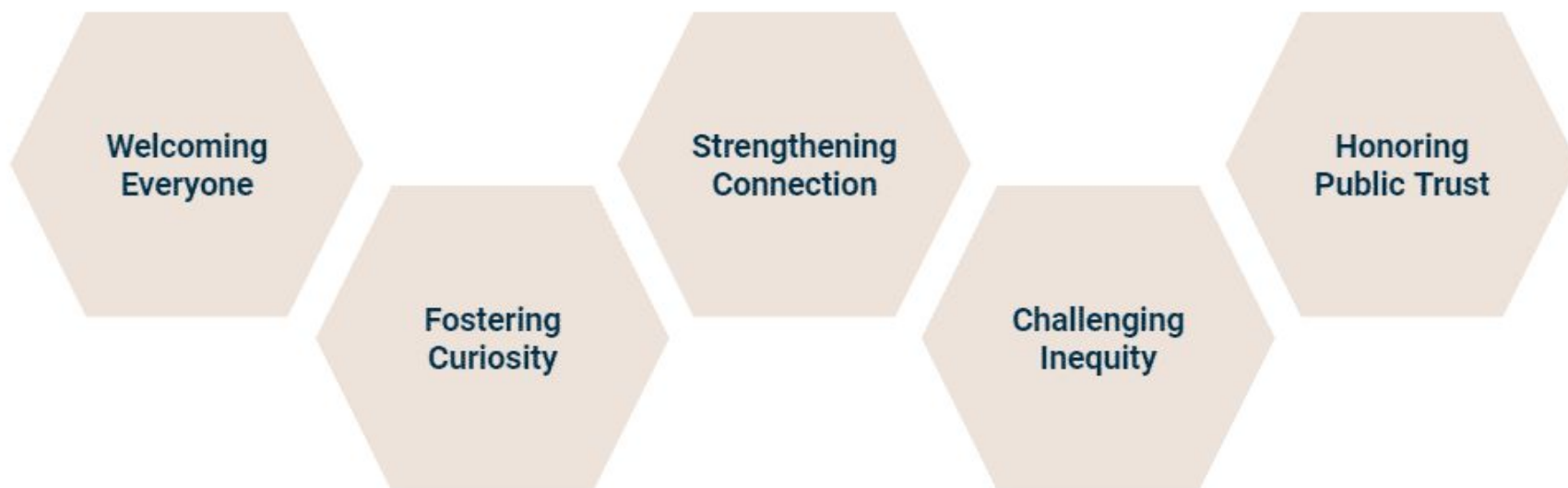
DPL hosted more than 60 Community Conversations across the City to better understand the needs and wants of Denver residents. These conversations laid the foundation of DPL's work to reimagine its vision, mission and values in the context of the changing needs of the Denver community.

Reflecting

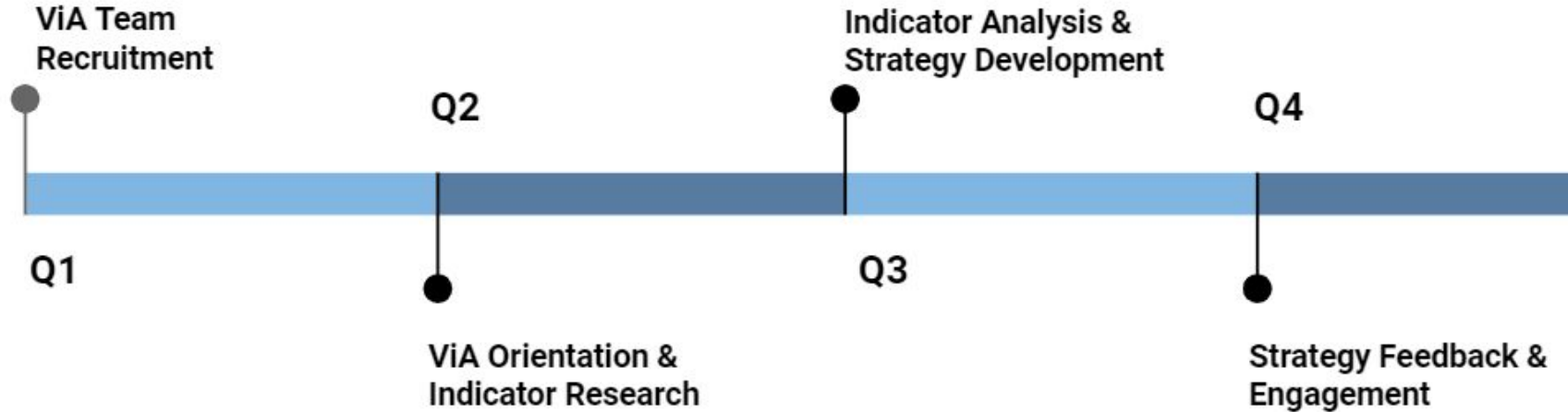
More than 350 staff members shared their opinions and expertise to co-create our Vision, Mission and Values through a series of roundtables, listening sessions, surveys and feedback forums. This set of guiding principles and aspirations were approved by the Library Commission in early 2019.

Values in Action

In fall 2019, DPL leadership added context to the Values - establishing Values in Action to help staff visualize the results we want to achieve:



2020



Value in Action Teams

Team Recruitment & Orientation

60+ staff from across the system raised their hands to support our organization in developing a deeper understanding of how the library can best serve the Denver community. The formation of these teams marked our commitment to a staff-driven strategic plan.

Teams & Two-Day Retreat

After a few months of closure, DPL determined the best way to move this important strategic work forward was to provide our ViA Team members dedicated time to dig into the history and promising practices of DPL's Indicators and focus on identifying recommended strategies for each Value in Action.

Engagement & Feedback

eLearning

A virtual learning opportunity to provide all-staff with a reminder of the process that has led DPL to this point in its journey, and introduce the next steps.

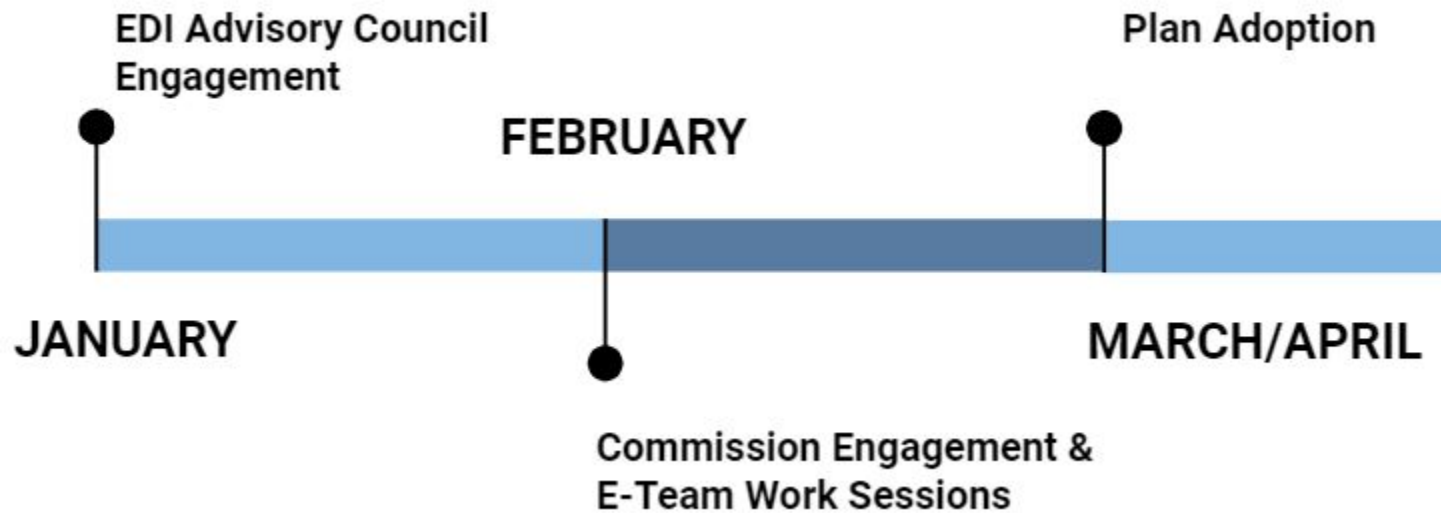
Open Houses

These sessions are designed for all staff to have an opportunity to interact with and provide insight on the ViA Teams' Recommended Strategies for our 2021-2023 Strategic Plan.

Prioritization

All staff are encouraged to complete a virtual exercise to share how they would prioritize the recommended strategies.

2021



Fine-Tuning the Plan

EDI Advisory Council

The newly formed EDI Advisory Council will have an orientation on DPL's strategic planning process and will then engage in a series of sessions to review and provide their expertise and insight regarding the Recommended Strategies across all Values in Action.

Library Commission

At an early 2021 meeting, the Commission will engage in a Strategy Session to provide their unique perspectives regarding feasibility, priority and alignment with DPL's Mission and Vision.

Executive Work Sessions

In early 2021, E-Team and ViA Leads will work hand-in-hand to create the 2021-2023 Strategic Plan.

Adoption & Implementation

Plan Adoption

Upon completion of E-Team Work Sessions, S&E will work with the Marketing and Communications Teams to create collateral materials. The plan will then be presented to the Library Commission for final approval.

Implementation

The plan will provide strategic guidance for staff as they create Action Plans for DPL programs and services. Through this process, teams will identify metrics that tell the story of their work and how day-to-day operations support our Values in Action, Indicators and Strategies.

denverlibrary.org



Agenda Item 5b

Requested Action: Approval

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR VICKI HELLMER

The Denver Public Library Commission wishes to thank and acknowledge Vicki Hellmer for her dedicated service.

Appointed by Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock in August 2018, Vicki helped guide policy for the library and the Commission, and helped to shape the overall direction of our organization.

Vicki is an ardent supporter of the library and worked diligently to understand how each location serves its community. She organized tours of the branches with her fellow Commissioners and Friends Foundation Board members and connected with staff while learning the ways each location is unique. During Vicki's time as a Commissioner, she helped DPL navigate the first months of the pandemic, participated in strategic planning, served on the Nominating Committee, and was an engaged liaison to the Friends Foundation, including serving on the Advocacy Committee.

Vicki was a tireless advocate and attended countless library events, lending her support and enthusiasm to all things DPL-related.

We are grateful and extend our thanks to Vicki Hellmer, for the enthusiasm and skill with which she has served the Library Commission and the community.

Unanimously approved, February 18, 2021.

Agenda Item 7

Requested Action: Receive Report

**Q4 2020 Financial Report**

This report includes unaudited financial statements for the Denver Public Library (DPL) year-to-date activity as of December 31, 2020. The purpose of these statements is to inform the Library Commission of DPL's financial activities and to demonstrate compliance with the 2020 Budget approved by the Library Commission.

Budgetary funds managed by the library include the General Fund, Special Trust Fund, and several grant funds. This report provides information on budget and actual activities for all DPL funds for the 2020 fiscal year. Library management has authority to make budgetary adjustments between lines in the General and Special Trust fund during the fiscal year to reflect operational changes. However, grantor approval is generally necessary prior to making budgetary adjustments between lines in grant funds.

The total amount of the General Fund budget remains unchanged throughout the fiscal year unless a formal budget amendment is adopted by City Council. Library management may adjust the total amount of the Special Trust Fund budget, though total changes of 10% or greater require approval by the Library Commission. Grant fund budgets may change during the course of the fiscal year as new grants are received.

As of the date of this report, financial records for the City and County of Denver, and therefore for the Denver Public Library, have not yet been closed. Closing of financial records may result in further adjustments to actual activity balances. Adjustments to financial records are expected to be completed on February 26, 2021.

One indicator of sound budget management is spending as close to our allocated General Fund budget as possible without overspending. All remaining General Fund budget is returned to the City on December 31, and excessive over- or under-spending of the total budget allocation may imply ineffective resource management.

COVID-19 forced the closure of our libraries beginning March 12, 2020. Social distancing requirements, increased physical safety protocols and providing services in a modified way resulted in a very different approach to budgetary spending in 2020. In-person services were halted while downloading collection materials, standing up virtual programming and telephone services, and focused community outreach intensified. DPL also took this as an opportunity to prepare our facilities for safe, staged reopening by procuring personal protective equipment for staff and developing more substantial cleaning protocols. As of the date of this report, buildings remain closed to in-person services though curbside services are in full swing and technology is offered outdoors at a dozen DPL locations.

2020 Financial Reports

The first financial report is a summary of the 2020 actual activity for all library funds including revenue sources and expenditures by operational division.

Denver Public Library					
Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance					
For the period ending December 31, 2020					
		General Fund	Special Trust Fund	Grant Funds	Total Library Funds
Revenue					
	Distribution from City and County of Denver	\$ 47,983,993	\$	\$	\$ 47,983,993
	Friends Foundation Transfers		930,772		930,772
	Other Revenue	1,723	235,723	293,188	530,634
	Endowment Distribution		250,000		250,000
	Operational Activity		196,437		196,437
	Total Revenue	47,985,716	1,612,932	293,188	49,891,836
Expenditures					
	Neighborhood Services	17,933,219	1,080,513	31,076	19,044,807
	Collection, Technology & Strategy	11,954,737	300,635	175,922	12,431,294
	Central Library	7,620,130	316,362		7,936,492
	Finance, Facilities & Security	5,224,268	36,550		5,260,818
	Administration	2,682,752	61,139		2,743,891
	Communication & Community Engagement	1,523,845	13,488	80,527	1,617,860
	Human Resources	1,045,043	8,499		1,053,542
	Total Expenditures	47,983,993	1,817,186	287,525	50,088,704
Change in Fund Balance			(204,253)	5,663	(196,867)
Fund Balance, Beginning			1,874,065	10,218	1,884,283
Fund Balance, Ending		\$	\$ 1,669,812	\$ 15,881	\$ 1,687,416

The next financial report displays the 2020 budget and actual activity for the General Fund only. Revenues and expenditures are shown by type for the library as a whole, and the 2020 Revised Budget is shown alongside the Original Budget for comparative purposes. Additional details are provided in the *Notes* section below.

Budget to Actual Variance - General Fund							
For the period ending December 31, 2020							
			2020 Budget		2020 Actual	\$ Remain	% Remain
			Original	Revised			
Revenue							
	Distribution from City and County of Denver						
	Personnel		\$ 42,817,617	\$ 39,257,326	\$ 38,404,521	\$ (852,805)	-2.2%
	Supplies and Services		10,119,425	9,543,907	9,065,284	(478,623)	-5.0%
	Capital			524,094	514,188	(9,906)	-1.9%
	Reserve			3,611,715		(3,611,715)	-100.0% 1
	Other				1,723	1,723	0%
	Total Revenue		52,937,042	52,937,042	47,985,716	(4,951,326)	-9.4%
Expenditures							
	Personnel						
	Salaries		29,843,059	27,033,810	27,222,625	(188,815)	-0.7% 2
	Benefits		12,974,558	12,223,516	11,181,896	1,041,620	8.5% 2
	Supplies and Services						
	Books and Education Materials		6,228,252	6,020,984	5,905,060	115,924	1.9% 3
	Maintenance Agreements		1,113,795	1,075,263	1,045,824	29,439	2.7%
	Repair, Maintenance and Construction		628,099	657,949	658,235	(286)	0.0%
	Professional Services		584,182	360,482	553,661	(193,179)	-53.6% 4
	Operational Supplies and Materials		229,330	349,127	132,843	216,284	61.9% 5
	Leases and Rentals		263,780	263,780	207,165	56,615	21.5% 5
	Utilities		231,812	231,812	185,078	46,734	20.2%
	Office Supplies and Furniture		342,744	231,102	191,682	39,420	17.1%
	Travel and Training		286,347	213,203	75,714	137,489	64.5% 5
	Administrative Expenses		149,280	77,276	62,635	14,641	18.9%
	Technology Supplies and Equipment		61,804	62,929	47,385	15,544	24.7%
	Capital			524,094	514,188	9,906	1.9%
	Reserve			3,611,715		3,611,715	100.0% 1
	Total Expenditures		\$ 52,937,042	\$ 52,937,042	\$ 47,983,993	\$ 4,953,049	9.4%

The final financial report contains the 2020 budget and actual activity for the Special Trust and grant funds. Original and Revised Budgetary information is provided and additional details are provided in the following *Notes* section.

Denver Public Library							
Budget to Actual Variance - Other Funds							
For the period ending December 31, 2020							
			2020 Budget				
			Original	Revised	2020 Actual	\$ Variance	% Variance
Revenue							
	Operational Activity		\$ 200,000	\$ 440,000	\$ 196,437	\$ (243,563)	-55.4% 6
	Endowment Distribution		250,000	250,000	250,000		0.0%
	DPL Friends Foundation Transfers		700,000	700,000	930,772	230,772	33.0% 7
	Grant Revenue		75,000	435,167	293,188	(141,979)	-32.6% 8
	Other Revenue		240,000	75,000	235,723	160,723	214.3% 9
	Total Revenue		1,465,000	1,900,167	1,906,120	5,953	0.3%
Expenditures							
Special Trust Fund							
	Restricted						
	Neighborhood Services		585,156	950,977	873,133	77,844	8.2%
	Central Library Administration		200,904	215,904	179,180	36,724	17.0%
	Collection, Technology & Strategy		36,900	36,776	36,776		0.0%
	Human Resources		8,544	8,544	100	8,444	98.8%
	Communication & Community Engagement		3,920	6,720	1,917	4,803	71.5%
	Unrestricted						
	Collection, Technology & Strategy		188,187	361,391	263,859	97,532	27.0%
	Neighborhood Services		260,323	258,135	207,380	50,755	19.7%
	Central Library		177,500	177,500	137,182	40,318	22.7%
	Human Resources		162,200	162,200	8,399	153,801	94.8%
	Communication & Community Engagement		117,004	105,285	11,571	93,714	89.0%
	Administration		67,000	67,000	35,998	31,002	46.3%
	Finance, Facilities & Security		72,385	95,389	36,550	58,839	61.7%
	Undesignated		380,000	26,303	25,141	1,162	4.4%
	Total		2,260,023	2,472,124	1,817,186	654,938	26.5% 10

Grant Funds							
	Institute for Museums and Library Services	259,532	259,532	80,527	179,005	69.0%	
	State Grant for Libraries	331,202	331,202	175,922	155,280	46.9%	
	Healthy Food for Denver's Kids	219,000	219,000	20,858	198,142	90.5%	
	Temple Hoyne Buell	40,218	40,218	10,218	30,000	74.6%	
	Total	849,952	849,952	287,525	562,427	195.6%	8
	Total Expenditures	\$ 3,109,975	\$ 3,322,076	\$ 2,104,710	\$ 1,217,366	36.6%	

Notes

As indicated above, the pandemic forced the library to customize our services in order to accommodate to evolving public health protocols during the year. This activity is seen in our financial statements as over or under spending in many lines but we consider 2020 to be an extraordinary year and not representative of normal operations for the library. Because of this anomaly, significant budget adjustments were not made this year because recovery remained uncertain. Additional details of importance are referenced on the above financial statements and explained in notes below.

General Fund

Activity related to 2020 will continue to be accrued and paid through the end of February. We expect nearly \$1 million of expense to be recorded during this process. This additional activity would leave less than 1% of our available budget (excluding Reserve) remaining at the end of the year.

1. The pandemic caused city-wide closures resulting in significant revenue loss in the City's General Fund. To bridge this budgetary gap, all City General Fund budgets were reduced in 2020. This reduction is depicted in the 2020 Revised Budget as a reserve of \$3,611,715 and also shows as Remaining dollars because this amount was set aside by the City but DPL was not actually able to spend these funds during the year.
2. Personnel budget reductions are shown primarily in the Salaries line rather than the Benefits line, though both lines are impacted by actual reductions in staffing resulting in variances between budget and actual. The final payroll of the year will be accrued back to 2020 and will produce approximately \$700,000 of additional personnel expense in 2020 putting us very near our budget.
3. Books and Education Materials represents physical and electronic collection materials. An additional \$40,000 is expected to be paid from this line applicable to 2020 purchases.
4. The Professional Services line includes much of our library program services as well as contracted services that were unable to take place during the year due to social distancing requirements and closures.
5. Sizable budget remains in several lines due to operational changes during the year. These include reduced office supply needs because less staff were in our buildings, copier lease costs were lower due to lack of use, and staff travel and trainings were cancelled or converted to virtual formats. Nearly \$300,000 of accruals and remaining invoices are expected to be expensed against the 2020 budget, which will put us very near our total annual revised budget.

Other Funds

Special Trust and grant funds provide more flexibility to DPL in that unspent balances can generally be rolled over to the next fiscal year. When both the General Fund and Special Trust Fund budget are available for use, DPL will spend the General Fund budget first to conserve the Special Trust Fund. Grant funds are intended for a specific purpose or time and therefore cannot be conserved or used to supplant general operations.

- 6.** Operational Activity revenue is derived from printer and copier fees, meeting room rental and other customer fees. The Revised Budget is aligned with a normal operating year, but due to building closures, Actual activity was just under half of expectations.
- 7.** Additional revenue sources were received through DPL and Friends Foundation advocacy bringing us over our budget by 33%. Funding includes support for STEM, children's play spaces and Plaza programming.
- 8.** Significant grantors this year include State Grant for Libraries (collection materials), Healthy Food for Denver Kids (snacks for Denver youth), Institute of Museum and Library Services (preserving Black western legacies), and the Buell Foundation (Read Aloud). Most of these grants are multi-year programs and all overlap more than one fiscal year. Due to timing differences between cash receipts and spending requirements, not all revenue for these grants is included in the Grant Revenue line for 2020.
- 9.** Other Revenue exceeded budget this year primarily because more trust revenue was received than anticipated. These revenue streams trickled in very slowly at the beginning of the year and funders initially communicated they may not be able to meet their initial commitments resulting in a reduction to the Original Budget, but funders were able to support at their original pledged amounts.
- 10.** Special Trust Fund budgets are often used to supplement operations or are used for specific programs or pilot projects. Planned use of much of this budget was derailed due to COVID-19. While many of these programs were unable to operate at normal capacity and pilot projects were put on hold, curtailed programs continued in a more focused effort to support Denver's priority populations including vulnerable youth, older adults, and immigrants and refugees.

Agenda Item 9

Requested Action: Receive Report

February 2021 City Librarian Report

[February Library Updates](#)

[COVID Response](#)

[Central Library](#)

[Collections, Technology and Strategy](#)

[Communications & Community Engagement](#)

[Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion](#)

[Finance & Facilities](#)

[Human resources](#)

[Neighborhood Services](#)

[Stories of Impact](#)

February Library Updates



Winter of Reading

Our seventh annual [Winter of Reading](#) kicked off on January 2 and lasts through February 28. Winter of Reading is designed to encourage adults in our community to connect with reading and learn something new about the library. Winter of Reading activities guides are available at any curbside pickup location. Upon completion of the activities - you can return your guide for a prize. Check out our upcoming programs for Winter of Reading on our [website](#).

Juanita Gray Community Service Awards

Denver Public Library honored four community members at the annual Juanita Gray Community Service Awards ceremony on February 6. The event, held virtually this year, is a signature part of the library's Black History Month celebration. You can view the [presentation online](#).

Annually, Denver Public Library along with the Library Commission honors African American men, women, and youth who have made outstanding contributions to the Denver Metro area through the [Juanita Gray Community Service Awards](#). Juanita Gray was a former library staff member and community advocate. The awards were established in 1988 to honor Gray's legacy, dedication, and advocacy of the African American community. Each year, the Juanita Gray Awards committee consisting of community and library staff members ask the community for their nominations and selects a winner.

The 2021 Juanita Gray Community Service Award recipients are: Terri Gentry, Jason McBride and Tay Anderson. The Youth Award recipient is Jayla Hemphill.

Thank you to Commissioner Sonya Ulibarri for her service on this committee.

Black History Month

The Denver Public Library is celebrating Black History Month throughout February with a slate of virtual programs and events for all ages. See below for a list of upcoming highlighted events.

[We Are Better Than This: A Discussion of Congressman Elijah Cummings' Political Memoir](#)

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 5 p.m.

Join us for an evening with Dr. Maya Rockey Moore Cummings, the Founder, President, and CEO of Global Policy Solutions and Congressman Cummings' widow, and co-author James Dale. Along with moderator Dr. Derrick Hudson, teaching Associate Professor of International Relations in the Division of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences at the Colorado School of Mines, will discuss Cummings' inspiring book, [We're Better Than This](#). Registration is required.

[Medicines of the Black American Captive with Community Herbalist Monticue Connally](#)

Monday, Feb. 22, 6 p.m.

Enslaved Africans survived in the harshest of conditions without the resources of their oppressors. How did they survive? Herbs! Enslaved communities had people within them who

had knowledge of the healing powers of plants. Come and learn about these plants, how slaves used them, and how you can use them today. Registration is required..

[R.A.D.A. Social Justice Book Discussion](#)

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6 p.m.

The R.A.D.A (Read. Awareness. Dialogue. Action.) program provides a safe and responsible space to discuss community issues and movements of the day with respect and compassion within a structured environment. Our Black History Month selection, *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*, by J. Drew Lanham, examines the connection between the unwelcome reception of BIPOC folks in outdoor spaces and the weaponization of race. Participants are encouraged to read the book in advance. Registration is required.

2017-2027 Facilities Master Plan

In 2017, as a reminder, and new for recently added Library Commissioners, Denver Public Library released a Library Commission-approved [Facilities Master Plan](#) outlining a variety of facility needs. The document laid out the renovation needs for the libraries not built new or renovated with 2007 Better Denver Bond funds. That includes ten branch libraries and the first phase of a major renovation of the Central Library. The voters of Denver approved a \$69.3 million bond package for this purpose. Unfortunately, it didn't provide any funding for new libraries.

In the facilities master plan, we identified Westwood, Globeville and River North as neighborhoods lacking adequate or any library service. Since then, we have been actively exploring partnerships and opportunities to develop library locations in these three neighborhoods, even during the pandemic. While Westwood currently has a small branch library, we need a larger facility to serve this community.

In all three cases, we do not have capital funds to invest in a new building so we have been seeking partners that align with our mission and vision and who can build or modify a facility that the City can invest in over time. This has made this much more challenging but has offered truly exciting opportunities for unique, creative, and cost effective collaborations.

RiNo ArtPark Agreement - New Library Coming

This summer or fall, we will open our 27th branch which will be part of [ArtPark Community Hub](#), managed and operated by the RiNo Art District. Through a collaboration with RiNo Art District, who is handling the funding and development of ArtPark, Denver Public Library will offer 7,000 square feet of public space for people of all ages including neighborhood residents, employees, business owners and creatives to connect. The flexible nature of the space will allow DPL to activate the branch in a variety of ways, in partnership with the community organizations, [Comal Heritage Food Incubator](#) and [RedLine Contemporary Art Center](#), co-located at this facility. Our service plan for this branch has been informed by public input we've collected through our outreach over the last several years, as well as the innovative partnerships we've formed with [RiNo Art District](#), the community partners involved and non-profits in the area. We also hope to host a second location of the [Denver Zine Library](#) at this site. No other public library in the country, to our knowledge, has engaged in an arts-focused community partnership like this. We are getting ready to engage the community in a process to name the branch. We will soon start working with Councilwoman Candi CdeBaca on what that will look like the next 5 months.

Even though we are operating on a smaller budget this year due to the pandemic, this partnership is allowing us the opportunity to afford an additional location. Due to our current funding and COVID challenges, we will roll out services at this location differently than planned and will hope to expand as budget and opportunities allow.

The City Council unanimously approved the agreement with the RiNo Art District earlier in February which generated some media and neighboring community attention. We remain as committed to finding the right location and partners in Globeville as we have been. We have worked diligently with former and current City officials (elected and appointed) and have meetings set up with District 9 Councilmember CdeBaca as well as community members to continue the quest for the perfect site and partners.

Elevate Denver Bond Renovation Update

Annie Kemmerling, director of Neighborhood Services, included brief updates in her section of this report on Blair-Caldwell, Byers and Smiley renovations. We will invite you to check Byers and Smiley out in person soon.

Discussions are underway with the City regarding a schedule for the next branch renovations. We will begin design procurement for Athmar Park, Pauline Robinson, Ross-Barnum, and Schlessman Family branch library renovations in 2021. That will leave Eugene Field, Ross-Broadway, and Ross-University Hills to come next.

Central Library

Construction is in full swing with public restroom work begun. Major construction on the rest of the project should begin in April which will make large parts of the building inaccessible. We hope to open part of the first floor for public service this summer. The Children's Library should be complete in early 2022.

Other than the public restrooms and elevators, up to this point, we've only had informed cost estimates. The preliminary Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) on the major interior and exterior bid packages came in overall with lower pricing than cost estimates. This is good news! Two examples of where cost estimates were higher than the GMP include the 13th Avenue pavers and column removal and part of the Schlessman Hall renovation. The lower than anticipated costs for these plus the lower than anticipated costs for other items in the base bid packages means we can now afford to do both of these items with funds in hand. We continue to look for cost savings and work with the Friends Foundation on fundraising. There are still opportunities to include additional alternates into this project.

Outdoor Playspace

We have been working with Commissioner Laurie Mathews, Councilman Clark and Denver Parks and Recreation to determine how a partnership between the two agencies could allow the envisioned outdoor playspace on the north lawn of the Central Library to come to fruition. Thanks to Laurie for helping us overcome some hurdles! This project is now outside the scope of the Central Library bond renovation but we are working together to plan a future project that will benefit from Parks funding while we work with the Friends Foundation on public and private fundraising opportunities.

COVID Response

As you are aware, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment moved Denver to [Level Yellow](#) on the State's COVID-19 dial on February 6. The move came with increased

capacity limits at many local businesses. The library has been discussing the implications of this sudden move with City and public health officials as we consider reopening plans. We have been prepared to move to Stage 4 of our Return to Buildings plan for quite some time. In the meantime, the following divisional reports will inspire you. The DPL staff continues to pivot and innovate to meet the emerging needs of the community.

Central Library

The Community Resources team (CRS) is supporting customers experiencing life challenges via street outreach services and connection to people spending time outside of and near our branches. We are collaborating with metro area agencies providing street outreach, HOST, syringe access programs, MHCD programs (STAR, etc.) and more. DPL was awarded a Caring 4 Denver grant. This grant will provide two grant funded positions to tie the work of Community Resources, Digital Inclusion, and Mobile Outreach together to provide tech support for mental health, substance misuse, and other wellness support via DPL vehicle, peer navigation, etc. We had intended to post these positions at the beginning of January, however this is still in process. We will get this program off the ground once the Administrator is hired. We continue our collaboration with DDPHE to provide additional resources to the community through [Wellness Winnie](#), and are working closely with the Safe Outdoor Space initiative by the Colorado Village Collaborative. Wellness Winnie will be moving their Tuesday station at Central to community outreach due to the construction fence around the property creating a barrier for connection, and it is difficult as outdoor services get cancelled due to weather.

Children's Library (CHL) redeployed a 40-hour librarian to help Mobile Services with outreach at DPS and other community sites. We continue to support outdoor services at the Central Library and are in the midst of packing for our temporary move during the renovation.

Western History and Genealogy (WHG) and the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library (BCL) are marking Black History Month with a number of events and exhibits.

Books & Borrowing (B&B) librarians and Community Technology Center (CTC) staff have joined forces, working together to provide robust Tech Access and Advisory Services for our downtown customers. Despite challenges presented by construction fencing and changing weather, they have created a welcoming spot for customers to connect with library collections and technology and to engage with library services including Winter of Reading.

Curbside holds pick up at Central has moved to its new location on West 13th Avenue, checking out more than 7,800 holds since the start of the year.

B&B Shelves are in the process of backshifting Central's massive adult fiction collection to provide space for the Young Adult collection to move upstairs and will soon, in collaboration with staff from other Central departments, begin moving other major collections in preparation for Central renovation.

The CTC offers monthly technology virtual programs, with topics including [The Cloud: Access Your Files Anywhere](#) (in both English and [Spanish](#)) and [Video Chat Basics](#). CTC staff continues to offer virtual [tech help appointments](#). The CTC team also continues to offer outdoor computing at Central. Colder weather means there are some days when we cannot offer service, but we are averaging 27 sessions per day when we are able to provide outdoor

services. We are close to implementing heaters to continue extending this service. CTC staff are also delivering outdoor computing service at several outreach sites, including shelter housing sites across the metro area and Safe Outdoor Spaces.

Reference Services continues to staff [AskUs chat reference](#) which provides 24/7 availability to customers. We finished 2020 averaging 1,620 chat sessions per month and 852 email/chat follow up tickets per month. Chat use was up 41% and email use was up 49% over 2019 monthly averages. January numbers are up again with chat at 1,656 and email at 1,196 now that WHG email is included in this total (starting January 2021). Switchboard staff mostly working from home have answered an average of 2,547 phone questions monthly during the closure. Since the library closure, the Student Services team has made 15 virtual classroom visits to provide instruction to 998 middle and high school students and educators. During the closure, mail reference, which largely serves the incarcerated, has averaged 181 letters answered/month, a 16.8% increase over our 2019 average. Our 4-week Reference Survey sample indicates that system-wide our 2020 overall questions are down by 61% from 2019, but the increases in chat, email, phone and mail use help offset this somewhat. For the last survey week, we began tracking questions from vulnerable populations, defined as questions about economic distress and social services needs. If this week were representative of the entire year, we answered an estimated 2,392 vulnerable questions system-wide outside the work of CRS. This is likely an undercount due to the time it takes for staff to fully adopt use of a new question category.

Collections, Technology and Strategy

On February 1, we launched a significant [circulating technology collection](#). We now have 300 chromebook plus hotspot packages available, 100 chromebooks to check out on their own (without a hotspot) and 107 hotspots to check out on their own. Anyone with a full-privilege library card in good standing can check these out for three months. We will also be circulating 33 chromebook/hotspot packages that will be managed by our Cultural Inclusivity department, and similarly circulated specifically to immigrants and refugees.

To supplement our on-site chromebook help, we have developed a process where customers can check out chromebooks for on-site (external) short-term use. This makes chromebook access available at all of our branches, regardless of whether the branch is offering more formalized outdoor technology help.

Strategy & Evaluation is focusing on continuing the push of the Strategic Planning process. In addition to the engagement at this month's Commission meeting, the library's Executive Team will be going through a series of workshops to further explore and refine the strategies developed by our Value in Action teams.

The IT team has been busy preparing for eventual reopening of our buildings, including implementing a new computer reservation software system that will help us provide better service and capture better data. They continue to assist staff with their virtual technology needs.

The Collection Services team is undergoing some staffing transitions, as we have hired a new Collection Development Senior Librarian, which also left us with a vacancy in the Cataloging Senior Librarian position. They are reorganizing the department, and continue the work of

purchasing and preparing our materials for customer checkout.

Communications & Community Engagement

The start of the year has been busy for the CCE team. Our Outreach team continues to develop partnerships with different organizations to offer mobile services. We have been focused on bringing mobile services to areas and organizations that need our services most. For example, we've expanded our visits to Denver Housing Authority sites to serve older adults and families. We've continued to provide service at several DPS lunch sites as well. As COVID restrictions loosen up, we will explore providing traditional service at our stops but until then we are focusing on giving away free books to customers of all ages.

In 2020, our Partnerships team confirmed \$1,430,038 in grants (20 total awards) which supported our work in several areas such as older adults, community resources, capital projects, and youth services among others. We kicked off the year confirming several partnerships with Children's Hospital, Museo de las Américas, Rocky Mountain Prep, Period Kits, St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, and Cottonwood Institute that are helping advance our work. We were also able to develop a DPL Partnership Guide and Toolkit to assist staff in developing, managing and tracking partnerships system-wide and a Benefits Guide (differentiating benefits offered to partners, sponsors and presenters).

Our team has been working on reimagining our community engagement work which includes some internal restructuring and getting back to hosting community conversations with populations that have been missing from our efforts.

Our Communications team has been supporting and leading efforts for several systemwide projects such as our Return to Buildings planning, Charting the Course, internal communications, renovations and continuing to work on COVID communications. The team has also supported several larger programming efforts such as the Battle of the Books.

The Marketing team efforts continue to revolve around the curbside needs of the organization. The team has updated a few internal processes and procedures that have resulted in better coordination across departments and a more efficient workflow for the team. Our Marketing Manager was instrumental in the coordination of the Juanita Gray Awards in February which included a virtual event with entertainment that celebrated the award nominees. The team continues to work on integrated marketing tactics to promote our services and programs. The team has developed a plan for our Engage Magazine which now includes stories, programming and service highlights. In addition, the Spanish version Conexiones will also be similar but a smaller version.

Our team has also been pulled into several special projects which include the renaming of the Byers and Barnum branches. The Byers Branch efforts are moving forward and we are currently recruiting community members for the community committee which will help inform the engagement process. The Barnum effort is being led by Councilwoman Jamie Torres and we are currently working with her office to host a virtual community conversation about the possibility of renaming the neighborhood. Both of these efforts have established DPL teams working on each effort. Representatives from our team are also working on communications and outreach efforts for our upcoming new branch in the RiNo neighborhood.

Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Manager continues to flesh out our organizational EDI strategy. For 2021, our strategic priorities are to : 1) *Transform DPL Culture Through an EDI Lens* by developing expected EDI competencies and by supporting the presence of EDI-related trainings and EDI performance goals. 2) *Strengthen Organizational Commitments to EDI* ensuring the viability and vitality of sustainable institutional EDI change by focusing on transparency and accountability in our EDI efforts. 3) *Build A More Inclusive Workplace* by focusing on challenges and opportunities related to climate & intergroup relations and by providing the conditions necessary for all DPL community members to engage in EDI work while feeling welcomed, supported, included, and valued by DPL and each other. The three strategic directions will be the core of our 2021 EDI action plan. Although this plan is still in the process of being developed, we have begun making progress in certain areas. For example, the EDI manager has been working with HR and the E-Team on setting EDI performance and developmental goals for the E-Team in alignment with strategic priorities 1 and 2.

January 19th marked the fifth annual National Day of Racial Healing - a day focused on community engagement around anti-racism and collective healing. DPL joined many other libraries across the country to engage in conversations, reflection and action towards racial healing. One component of our individual and collective commitment to and progress towards equity and anti-racism within the library and in alignment with strategic priority 3 is a new White Anti-Racist Accountability Group. This group provides an opportunity to do anti-racist learning and processing in a space that does not unintentionally harm our staff of color. Also in alignment with strategic priority 3, we will continue to offer monthly racial healing circles for staff of color as well as monthly racial healing circles for all staff. These racial healing circles provide opportunities for staff to engage with others in ways that enable self-reflection and nonthreatening acknowledgment of one's own previously unquestioned assumptions and biases. They also allow space for staff of color to connect and navigate their feelings of isolation while finding support & affirmation.

Our newly formed Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council (EDIAC) held its first meeting this month. The EDIAC works with the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Manager to advise the library on equity issues across the organization with a focus on institutional access and representation, organization climate and staff relations, and institutional transformation. The mandate of the EDI Advisory Council is to provide guidance on how to strengthen DPL's commitment to fostering an inclusive workplace and community environments, and equitable opportunities for all. Through the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Manager, the Council will advise the library on appropriate equity and accountability goals to which DPL should aspire in creating a diverse and inclusive organization and assess progress towards achieving those goals. The council consists of 23 members and includes diverse representation of professional roles and experiences that reflect the diversity of our staff and customers. The EDI Advisory Council is committing to deliver on the following equity, diversity and inclusion priorities during the 2021-22 year: 1) Support the Charting the Course strategic planning effort by creating a framework to support operationalizing strategic priorities, 2) Support creation of the Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Plan (EDIP) and 3) Strengthen supports for groups who experience marginalization at DPL.

Lastly, last year we applied for a second round of grant funding from the Institute of Museum

and Library Services to advance our racial equity work. We recently received word that our grant application advanced to the next round for this highly coveted award which is evidence of the need, the success of the first grant and the hard work done by staff to pull together a second application.

Finance & Facilities

The Facilities team has continued actively supporting Central and our branches over the winter. At the Central Library we have been working with stakeholders to enhance exterior services for customers including arranging for two porta-potties (one ADA accessible) on the east side available for all during open hours, finalizing propane storage and services for heaters that will help extend outdoor services during colder days, and representing DPL during construction of the new customer service window on 13th Avenue. A multi-year water quality study and parking lot update project is in full swing at University Hills, while elevator refurbishment is winding down at Woodbury. A new roof at Woodbury and Park Hill are also kicking off while we seek additional funding for the Cherry Creek roof and cooling system. Maintenance, delivery and custodial provided alternate support to Byers and Smiley during construction including reviewing designs, liaison with contractors and project managers, furniture moves and clean-up. We are looking forward to returning to our "normal" services as construction winds down and we get closer to reopening these two locations and move focus to renovation of Blair-Caldwell. We are also wrapping up several major projects including training on use of a newly purchased forklift and installation of touchless restroom fixtures at Central and branches. The touchless fixtures project was funded almost entirely with a Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) grant.

Within the department, we have been busy filling custodial vacancies to ensure clean spaces for our staff and to prepare for reopening. And Finance, Facilities, and Security staff participated in several division-focused Values in Action open houses to familiarize ourselves with DPL values and understand how they impact our daily work.

The Finance team has been working hard to close the 2020 financial records with the City while diving into budget work for 2021. This year's financial work has been complicated by the change in our accounting structure going from 60 department level accounts to 25. But, this change will allow our accounting to match our divisional organization structure and simplify reporting. Our accountant has been working with all of the DPL departments to ensure outstanding 2020 invoices are paid and marked for the City to accrue them back into the 2020 budget. This work will be completed by the end of February. Many year end reports are being completed and processed this month also; these reports are used for recording financial adjustments at the City-wide level, disclosing footnotes in the City comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR), and preparing for audits of City grants in the "single audit" process. The Budget team has met with all department budget managers and directors to begin work on 2021 Budget Management Plans which will be completed by February 19th. This work will help drive prioritized spending throughout the year in support of DPL's 2021 Commitments and Values in Action, and will also help identify unfunded needs.

Our Security team continues to adapt to an ever changing environment; specifically supporting our outward facing teams as they modify services to best serve our customers. We are currently very actively supporting our teams providing outside tech access and our recently installed customer service window on the south side of Central. We also continue to provide

routine mobile security services to our branches. Our security officers provide staples such as bottled water, energy bars, and information to help customers in need connect with service providers. Our dispatch center remains constant - 24/7/365 to help ensure both safety and security for all of our staff, customers, and vendors.

Human Resources

DPL's HR Team continues to adjust to the new, changing expectations related to budget and the pandemic, and also strives to maintain consistency across our services, lending a bit of normalcy to what can be a stressful, uncertain time for many.

Our Learning team works throughout the year to communicate expectations and guidance around performance initiatives, recognition and appreciation. This time of year we are focused on setting performance and development goals, and 2021 is no exception. We are reminding staff that the supervisor/employee one-on-one conversations are essential to the success of this process - and this has remained consistent year over year. These discussions between all supervisors and their employees early in the year are what help each of us see our tangible and direct impact. This exercise is not about simply checking boxes: we have these conversations in order to help one another stay connected to our mission and to each other. Ultimately, they are what we use to write our individual goals for the year that we enter into our online platform and discuss in our regular check-ins. In addition, our Learning team continues to build out resources for staff in support of goal setting including an organization-wide goal bank and for the third year, a *supervisor goal* will be entered for all people supervisors, managers and directors, reinforcing the importance of the people management, coaching and development aspect of their roles. However, in recognition that uncertainty remains for much of our staff right now, we are advising employees to set a reduced number of goals this year and have extended the deadline to enter goals into our online platform. Our HR department remains committed to a successful performance process and also will continue to be flexible and responsive as things change.

In addition, our Staff Engagement Team (or SE-Team), a multi-departmental staff team led by one of our Learning Program Specialists, recently shared an update on their Appreciation Strategy. This team helps to facilitate conversations on our intranet site and connects folks with the most appropriate resources to answer their questions. This valuable team continues to emphasize the importance of conversations and appreciation with their work engaging staff.

Our HR Operations team continues to provide services to our staff including employee relations, recruitment, staffing changes or moves, leave and payroll support and promoting wellness initiatives. We have also transitioned to assisting staff with the newly implemented Healthy Families and Workplaces Act with the expiration of the FFCRA (Families First Coronavirus Response Act) federal leave options. We will continue to support staff with our DPL Personal Pandemic leave and will be responsive to staff needs, including helping to facilitate conversations, as we start to open our buildings to the public this year.

Neighborhood Services

Branches

Branches have had great success with book bundles that are assembled and placed on carts outside of branches for customers to check out. Staff have been super creative with themes and a diversity of titles. They have also gotten creative with pulling out their collections to

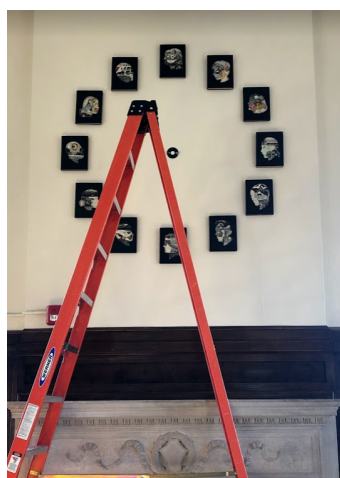
windowsills, carts and shelving units right inside the front doors so that customers can browse and point to what they want.

Branch staff have also evolved their service model related to access to chromebooks to more of an on-demand model. Customers can walk up to locations, connect with staff and use a chromebook anywhere on our property. This has been helpful with our unpredictable weather. Branch staff are supporting and running a plethora of programs, from older adult to family-based maker workshops to Little University to trivia to maker kits.

We have launched and are looking to grow our new [home delivery service](#). We currently have about 20 customers using the service and more staff that are able to provide service. We have done some targeted marketing and will include in messaging when contacting our older adult customers as part of the telephone reassurance program (see below).

Branch Renovations

Smiley began curbside service on February 2 and is awaiting some finishing touches on the renovation. Byers is slated to begin curbside service in February. We are awaiting inspection approvals. Public art is being installed highlighting community members (photo). Blair-Caldwell is in the middle of the design phase and preparing to return to the community group to share renderings.



Adult Programming

A highlight this past month was the successful Battle of the Books program that happened January 16. It was a great collaboration with many teams: Programming, Books and Borrowing, Communications and Community Engagement, BookBar, and the Friends Foundation. The panel included City Librarian Michelle, local author Adrian Miller, local author Manuel Ramos, activist and author Dr. Elizabeth Fajardo, and our own Erika Martinez, who jumped in to fill a spot on the panel last minute. Jared Polis did a wonderful video about the library, which we showed at the program. You can watch a recording of the battle at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjvboZ50erk&t=2s>

Cultural Inclusivity

Career Online High School

In 2020, [Career Online High School](#) had 230 inquiries; out of those 155 students enrolled in the prerequisite, and 54 enrolled in Part 1 of the scholarship process. 38 students navigated through the process and received their scholarship. Despite the challenges COVID19 presented, students were still working towards their high school diploma. A total of 40 students successfully completed their career certificates and core classes and reached graduation. 2020 saw more graduates than in any other year with 17 in just the last quarter of 2020. To date, we have 119 graduates which is a 41% completion rate, up 5% compared to 36% from 2019, as a result of program extension and consistent coaching.

Plaza Program

For our Plaza Program in the last quarter of 2020 we saw 298 immigrant and refugee participants for our virtual English conversations and helped about 25 participants with

homework help. We continue to work with our community to ensure that we are providing the services that they need during this time.

Translation Team

Our translation team has worked closely with CCE to ensure that our signs and messages are translated into Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic and Amharic.

Older Adult Services

We will be making telephone reassurance calls to thousands of older adults in the community this month -- reaching out to tell them that we care about them and to connect them with library and community resources. Our wonderful branch seniors and staff are what make this kind of massive effort possible, so a big shout out to them. We just finished an eight-part series on grief and loss that was wildly successful. Apparently, people need a safe space in their community to talk about and learn about these hard things, and it was a great privilege to be able to hold that space for them.

Youth Services

We continue to offer virtual programs for youth birth-18. You can check out some of the recorded programs on our [YouTube channel](#).

We are beginning to explore opportunities for outdoor programming this summer. We are excited to be hiring a Teen Services Coordinator and the interview process is underway. The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) grant project in partnership with Denver Public Health is wrapping up recruitment for new members at Hadley, Gonzales, and Green Valley Ranch branches. Teens who participate will collaborate on a project to support youth in their neighborhoods using the [Youth-Led Participatory Action Research](#) model, and will receive a \$250 stipend in the spring. Up to 36 teens will be part of the process.

The Early Learning installation developed by the Children's Museum of Denver has been installed at the Byers Branch Library! We are exploring options to build a second piece using remaining funds from the Constellation Philanthropy grant.



We continue to provide Healthy Snacks for Denver Kids at 10 of our locations.

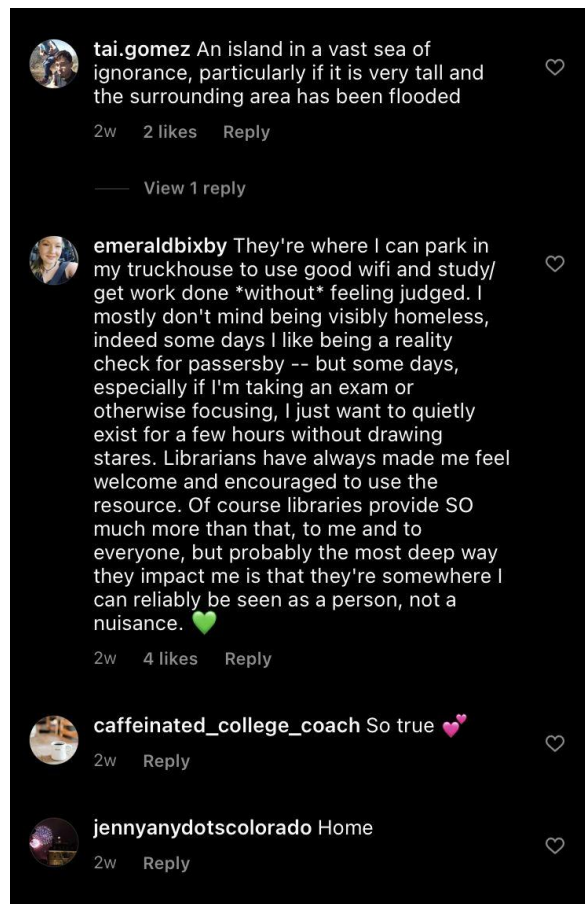
Stories of Impact

For a while now, we have been grabbing bundles of half horror, half children's movies for a customer. We were worried that we were running out of movies that she hadn't watched, so I approached her asking if she was familiar with our holds system. She is a single mother who has no phone or computer, but said that she would utilize it if she could. Our librarian went out

& told her that if she would write a list of movies that she could think of that she wanted, we would get them on hold for her. We figured that she would bring it the next time she came, but she was back within an hour with a list. Just a matter of paying attention, & asking a simple question helped to provide our customer with more of our services, & now she will be on our radar should we be able to provide her with more services! Truly a great reminder of all of the reasons that I love my job! - Via Stories of Impact Submission from Virginia Village

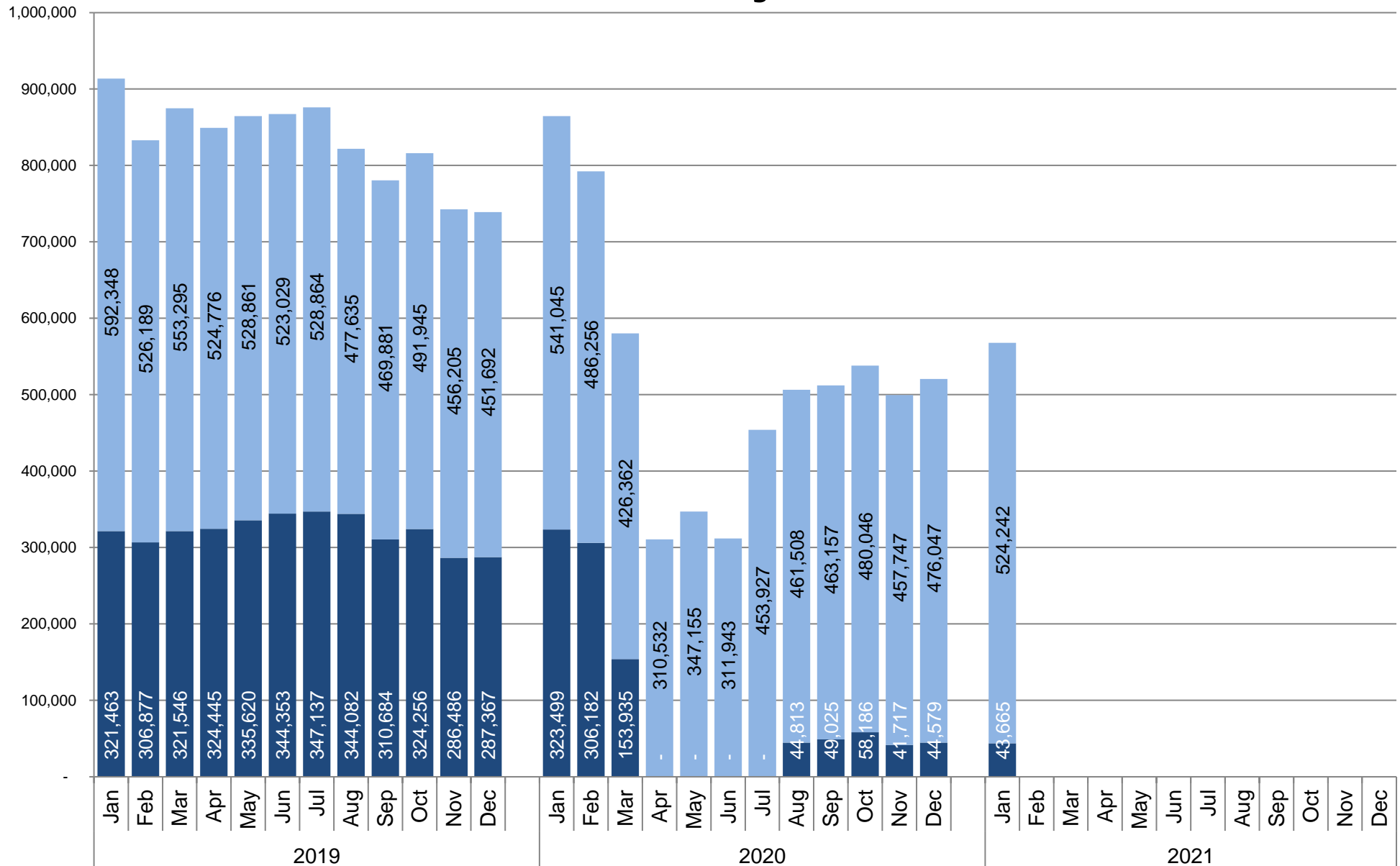
A customer just told me, "I don't know how I'd be getting through the pandemic without the library!" She said she's come to rely on it even more than she did before, and that all the access to ebooks and eaudiobooks, and the curbside pickup for physical ones, have kept her going. She said it's allowed her to still get everything she wants to read during this hard time, and that while she misses coming in and browsing, she's been so thrilled and so impressed with all we're doing to still provide so many services and to do it so safely. -Via Stories of Impact Submission from Valdez-Perry

Via Twitter where our social media team asked, "what does the library mean to you?":



Denver Public Library Total Visits By Month

■ Online
■ In Person



➔ All DPL locations closed on March 16, 2020 in response to COVID-19. Curbside services began July 7, 2020, except Smiley and Byers (closed for renovations).
➔ Smiley Branch Library resumed service February 1, 2021

Online visits - total website visits by session, from Google Analytics

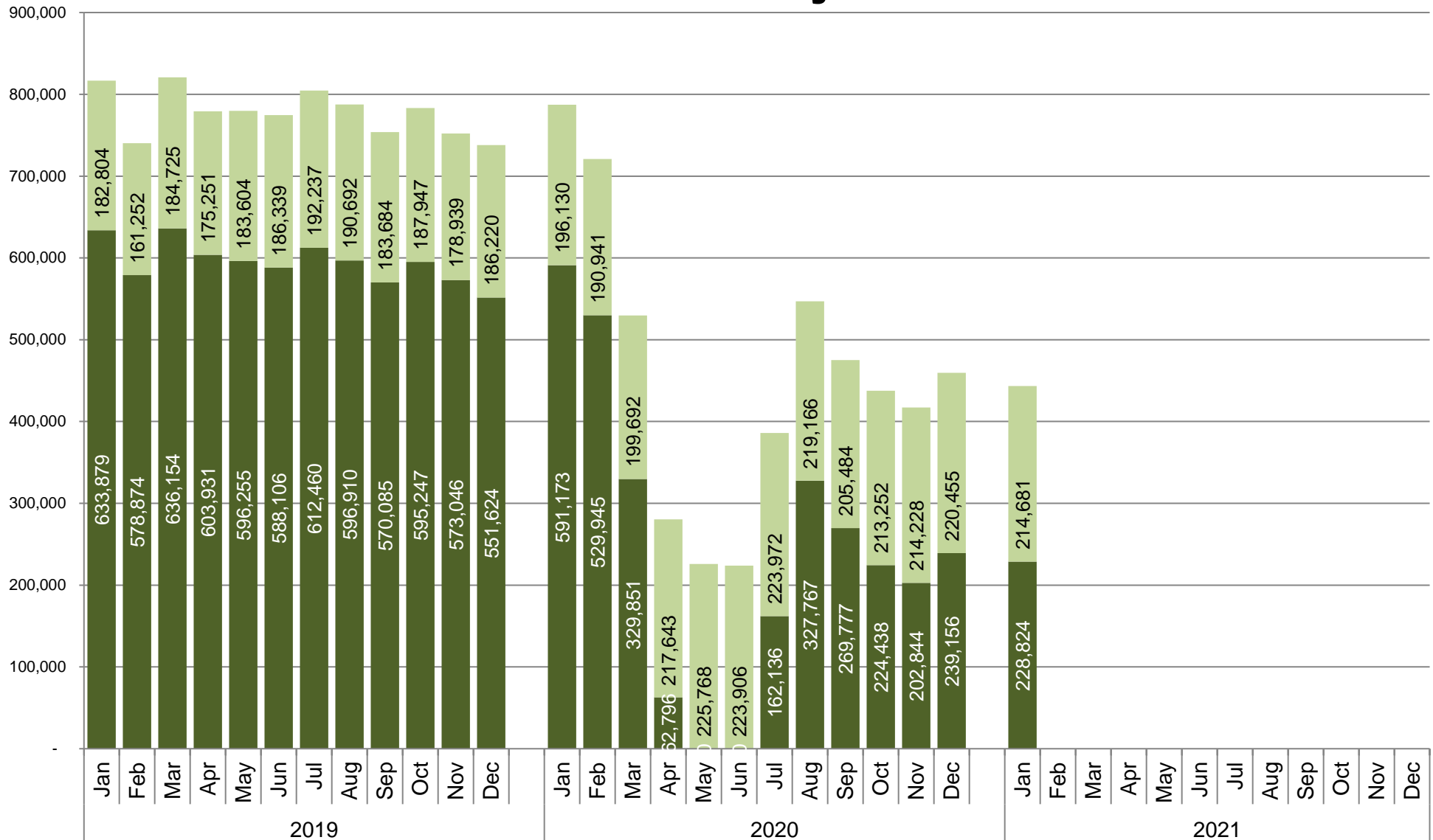
In Person visits - total door count from all locations, as collected by Trafsys doorcounter system.

Denver Public Library

Total Circulation By Month

Downloads

Materials



➔ All DPL locations closed on March 16, 2020 in response to COVID-19. Renewals of physical materials can still accumulate.

➔ Curbside Services commenced at all locations on July 7, 2020, except Smiley and Byers (closed for renovations).

➔ Smiley Branch Library resumed service February 1, 2021

➔ RB Digital (e-magazines) added a subscription feature that allows customers to opt-in to auto-checkout of new issues for favorite titles in November 2018.

➔ MacMillain publishers ebook embargo (limiting libraries to a single copy of any title for the first eight weeks after publication) took effect on November 1, 2019.

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

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

Denver Public Library

Monthly Circulation by Branch

January 2021

Location	Total Circulation	+/- Previous Month	2020/2019 Year/Year	YTD Y/Y
Athmar Park	2,266	➡ (107)	↓ (4,867)	-68.2%
Bear Valley	10,383	➡ (276)	↓ (16,698)	-61.7%
Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library	1,874	⬆ 81	↓ (7,251)	-79.5%
Byers	0	➡ 0	↓ (3,033)	-100.0%
Central Library	17,879	↓ (2,389)	↓ (64,886)	-78.4%
Decker	8,496	➡ (48)	↓ (6,509)	-43.4%
Eugene Field	11,547	↓ (1,165)	↓ (8,942)	-43.6%
Ford-Warren	6,413	↓ (1,098)	↓ (6,441)	-50.1%
Green Valley Ranch	5,820	➡ (264)	↓ (16,390)	-73.8%
Hadley	2,450	➡ (117)	↓ (6,789)	-73.5%
Hampden	11,054	➡ (88)	↓ (16,898)	-60.5%
Mobile Services (Bookmobiles)	1,479	➡ (170)	↓ (5,961)	-80.1%
Montbello	2,063	➡ (179)	↓ (5,231)	-71.7%
Park Hill	15,528	➡ (414)	↓ (15,152)	-49.4%
Pauline Robinson	2,044	⬆ 78	↓ (3,921)	-65.7%
Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales	5,698	➡ (166)	↓ (17,082)	-75.0%
Ross-Barnum	2,689	➡ (229)	↓ (5,642)	-67.7%
Ross-Broadway	8,791	↓ (730)	↓ (5,499)	-38.5%
Ross-Cherry Creek	13,334	➡ (335)	↓ (13,558)	-50.4%
Ross-University Hills	23,050	➡ (453)	↓ (25,129)	-52.2%
Sam Gary	24,628	↓ (1,322)	↓ (34,065)	-58.0%
Schlessman Family	22,337	➡ (237)	↓ (25,284)	-53.1%
Smiley	4	⬆ 2	↓ (18,895)	-100.0%
Valdez-Perry	873	➡ (36)	↓ (1,469)	-62.7%
Virginia Village	10,754	⬆ 326	↓ (18,600)	-63.4%
Westwood	983	➡ (171)	↓ (2,226)	-69.4%
Woodbury	16,383	↓ (801)	↓ (5,815)	-26.2%
Denverlibrary.org Downloadables	214,681	↓ (5,774)	⬆ 18,551	9.5%
Total	443,501	↓ (16,082)	↓ (343,682)	

➡ All locations closed beginning March 16 in response to COVID-19. Curbside Service commenced on July 7, 2020, except for Smiley and Byers branches which are closed for renovations. Smiley resumed services February 1, 2021.

Denver Public Library

Monthly Circulation by Branch

December 2020

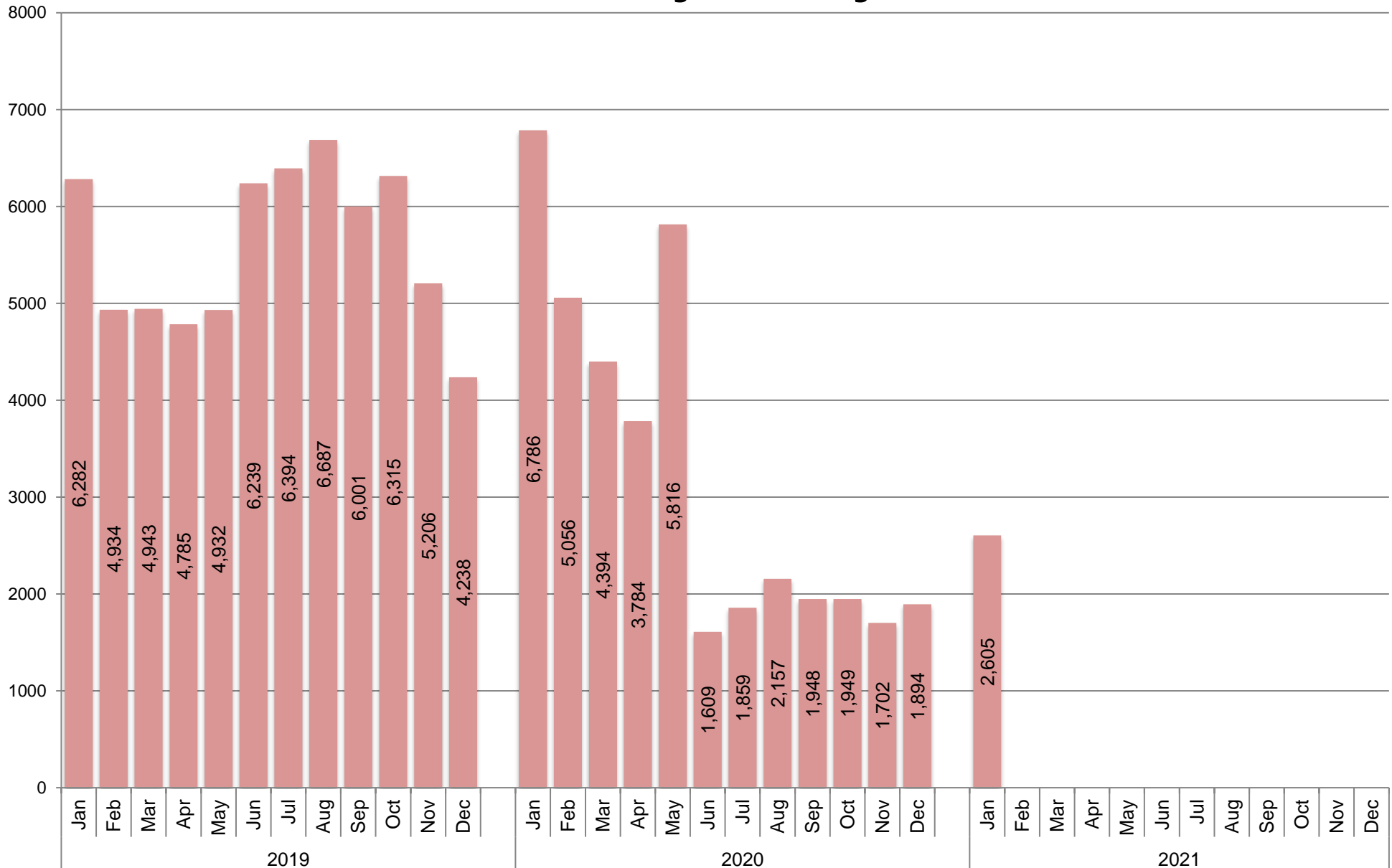
Location	Total Circulation	+/- Previous Month	2020/2019 Year/Year	YTD Y/Y
Athmar Park	2,373	↑ 416	↓ (4,632)	-63.1%
Bear Valley	10,659	↑ 1,874	↓ (15,971)	-61.7%
Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library	1,793	↑ 573	↓ (6,726)	-66.5%
Byers		→ (35)	↓ (3,120)	-73.6%
Central Library	20,268	↑ 2,961	↓ (57,117)	-64.0%
Decker	8,544	↑ 1,407	↓ (5,347)	-49.7%
Eugene Field	12,712	↑ 898	↓ (6,929)	-55.0%
Ford-Warren	7,511	↑ 1,650	↓ (4,198)	-54.3%
Green Valley Ranch	6,084	↑ 593	↓ (15,290)	-64.8%
Hadley	2,567	↑ 332	↓ (5,822)	-59.9%
Hampden	11,142	↑ 2,762	↓ (16,600)	-58.0%
Mobile Services (Bookmobiles)	1,649	→ (234)	↓ (4,602)	-50.8%
Montbello	2,242	↑ 409	↓ (4,718)	-66.0%
Park Hill	15,942	↑ 2,041	↓ (11,922)	-53.9%
Pauline Robinson	1,966	↑ 157	↓ (2,942)	-60.0%
Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales	5,864	↑ 1,036	↓ (15,608)	-60.4%
Ross-Barnum	2,918	↑ 343	↓ (4,837)	-58.2%
Ross-Broadway	9,521	↑ 1,916	↓ (3,430)	-49.3%
Ross-Cherry Creek	13,669	↑ 2,178	↓ (10,643)	-53.1%
Ross-University Hills	23,503	↑ 4,179	↓ (16,326)	-56.0%
Sam Gary	25,950	↑ 2,259	↓ (28,465)	-54.4%
Schlessman Family	22,574	↑ 3,177	↓ (22,512)	-55.4%
Smiley	2	→ (23)	↓ (17,806)	-75.2%
Valdez-Perry	909	↑ 200	↓ (1,825)	-64.8%
Virginia Village	10,428	↑ 2,755	↓ (19,956)	-63.0%
Westwood	1,154	↑ 373	↓ (1,996)	-64.7%
Woodbury	17,184	↑ 2,088	↓ (3,056)	-46.4%
Denverlibrary.org Downloadables	220,455	↑ 6,227	↑ 34,235	16.3%
Total	459,583	↑ 42,512	↓ (278,161)	

→ All locations closed beginning March 16 in response to COVID-19. Curbside Service commenced on July 7, 2020, except for Smiley and Byers branches which are closed for renovations.

Denver Public Library

Total New Library Cards By Month

■ New Cards



➔ All DPL locations closed on March 16, 2020 in response to COVID-19. Curbside services began July 7, 2020, except Smiley and Byers (closed for renovations).
➔ Smiley Branch Library resumed service February 1, 2021.

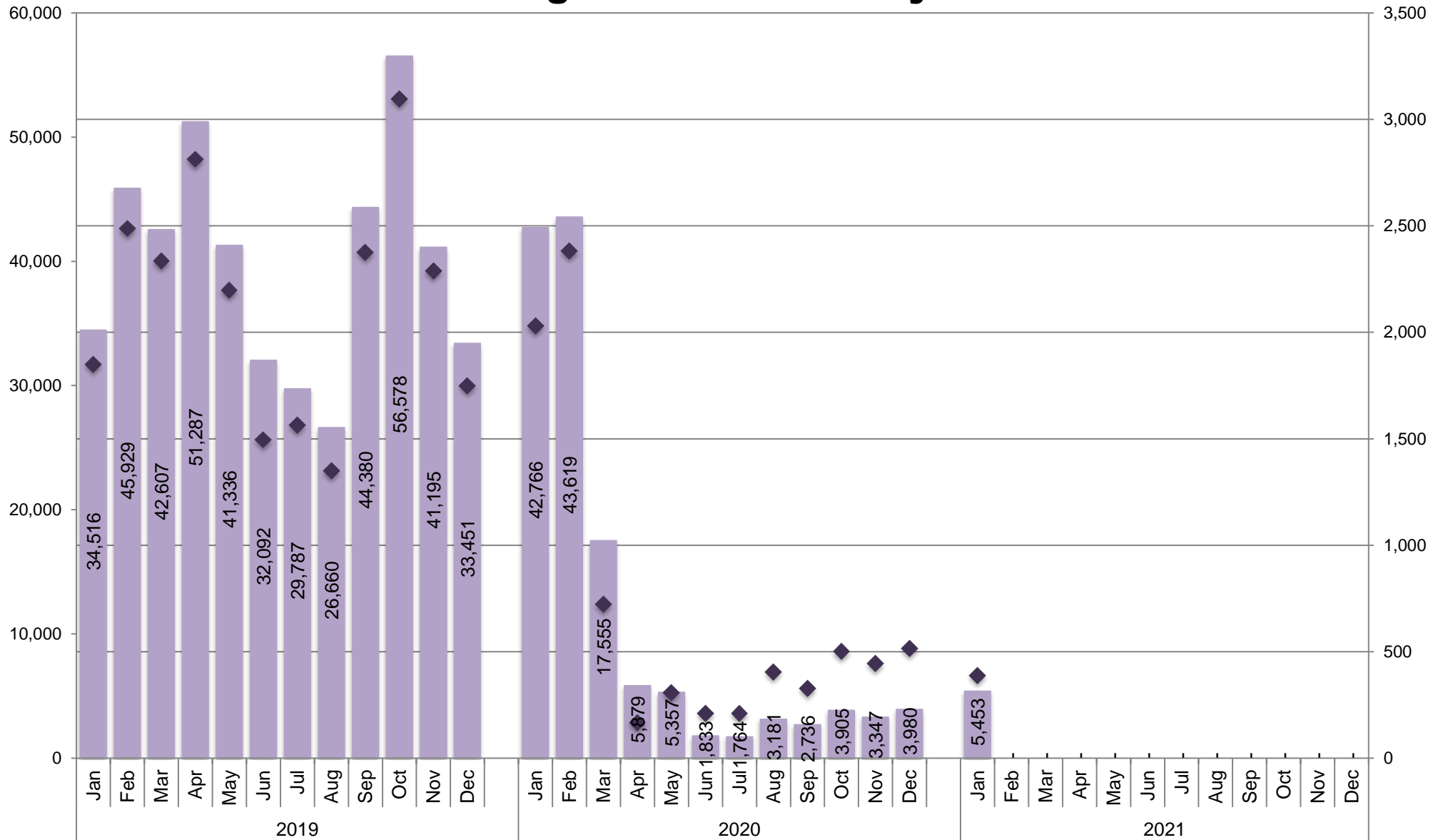
New Cards - total number of new library card registrations (including computer user only cards), from Polaris.

Denver Public Library

Total Program Attendance By Month

■ Attendance

◆ Sessions



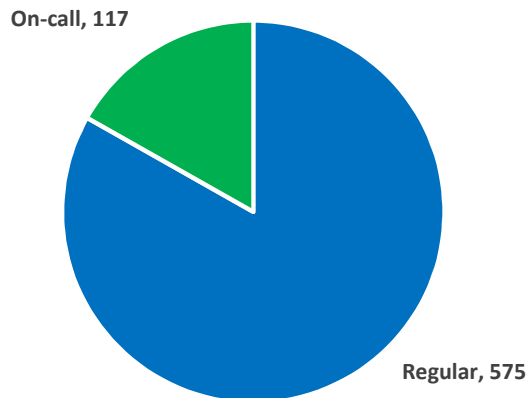
➔ All in-person programs were cancelled starting March 12, 2020 and all DPL locations closed on March 16, 2020 in response to COVID-19. Virtual programming was introduced starting March 27, 2020, with only live views counting for attendance totals. Fall 2020 Read Aloud sessions pending.

Attendance - total program attendance from all locations, as submitted to Events Management tracking application (includes programs, library events, storytimes, and tours).

Sessions - total number of program sessions offered (as defined in Attendance), as submitted to Events Management tracking application

Denver Public Library Human Resources Dashboard October - December, 2020

Employee Breakdown

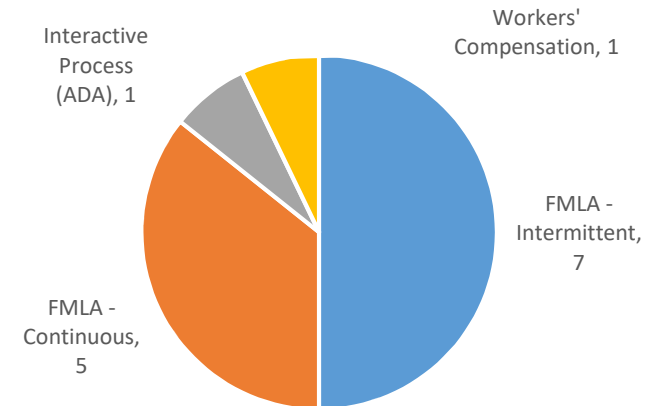


Learning & Development

Throughout 2020, members of HR Learning & Development team assisted and led the Staff Day Planning team to change our biannual Staff Day to a month-long virtual event. This event, Staff Appreciation month, took place in October, and focused on providing live and recorded sessions on the following topics:

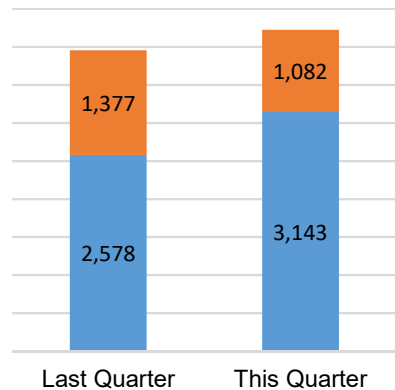
- Wellness and wellness resources.
- Staff awards and recognition.
- Connecting socially during COVID-19.

Open Leave Cases



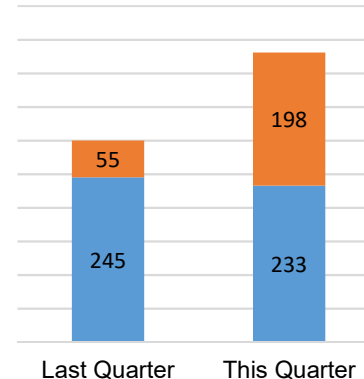
Recruiting	
Positions Posted	14
Submitted Applications	686
Movement	
New Hires	10
Internal Transfers	0
Promotions	0
Separations	
Total Separations	13
Resignations	13
Retirements	0
Dismissals	0
Turnover Rate	2%

Total Staff Learning Completions



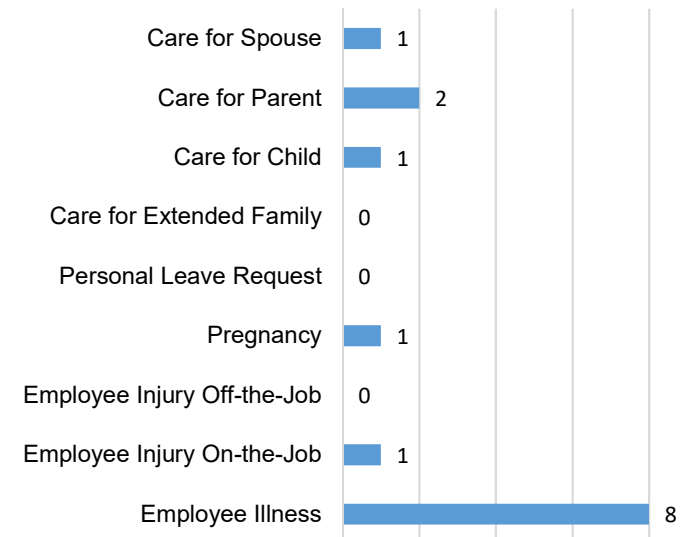
■ Elearning ■ Instructor Led Learning

Total Instructor Led Learning Sessions



■ External Instructors
■ Staff Instructors

Type of Leave Taken



Engage!

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

FEBRUARY 2021

In This Issue:

- Juanita Gray Community Service Award Winners
- Resilience: Debunking the Myth
- Engaging Families Virtually

Celebrating
**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

DENVERLIBRARY.ORG





Juanita Gray

Community Service Award Winners

The Juanita Gray award honors African American men, women and youth who make outstanding contributions to the Denver Metro area and who exemplify the ideals and spirit represented by Gray's commitment to the community.



Tay Anderson

Tay Anderson is a 2017 graduate of Manual High School. After high school he was an educator at University Park Elementary and North High School. Tay served in the Colorado State Legislature as a legislative aide. He was awarded the Murphy Roberts Award by the Colorado Democratic Party for his continuous service. He has dedicated his life to protect the rights of women, African Americans, Latinx, LGBTQIA, Indigenous, Muslim, and disabled persons. He participated in public demonstrations and dialogues with school district leaders, state leaders, and members of Congress. Tay's family includes educators that have 115 years of combined teaching experience. He gets his passion and perseverance from his mother and grandmother.



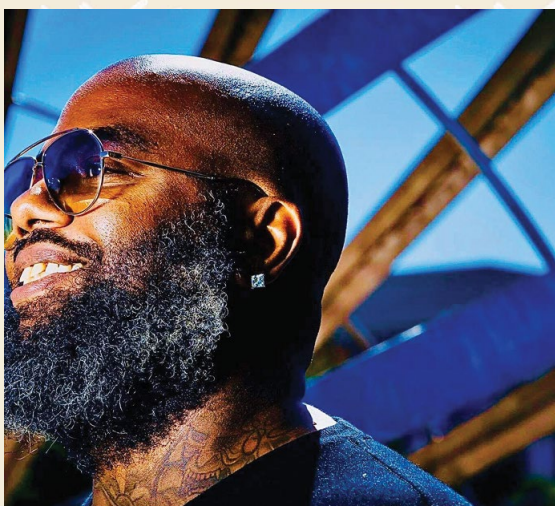
Terri Lynne Smith Gentry

Terri Gentry is a 3rd generation Denverite. She is married to Dwight Gentry and has four children and nine grandchildren. Terri attended Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design and has a Bachelor's Degree in African/African American Studies from Metropolitan State University and a Master's Degree in Humanities from CU Denver. Terri is an interior designer and owner of A Terrific Design; she is also a sales manager at Joy's Consigned Furnishings. She is a member of the Aurora chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Terri is a board member of the Black American West Museum and Heritage Center. She conducts museum and walking tours and gives presentations to schools, community groups, government agencies, and businesses.



Jayla Hemphill

Ms. Jayla Hemphill is a senior at Northfield High School. She currently maintains a GPA of 3.72 and has been a member of the National Honor Society since 2018. As a vocal community activist, she was a speaker at the DPS #BlackLivesMatter Rally and participated in the “Be the Change” event. Additionally, she delivered a speech at a gun control rally advocating for gun laws at the Colorado State Capitol. Ms. Hemphill is an active member of “Students Demand Action” and has been instrumental in the effort to recruit teachers of color for employment for her school. She is a change agent.



Jason McBride

Mr. Jason McBride is a champion for our youth. Born and raised in Park Hill, he has worked in the East Denver community since 2010. He creates an environment for youth that is both safe and fun. He hosts an annual school supply drive as well as gives out hot lunches. Mr. McBride hopes to show young people in our community there are options in education and expose them to different career choices. His work highlights four points to success:

1. Surround yourself with the right people.
2. Self-motivation.
3. Tell your family and friends you LOVE them.
4. Don't be afraid to achieve!



Other nominees:

Dr. Joyce Brooks, Sandy Douglas, Bishop Kevin Foreman, Elijah Huff, Ariel Lipscomb, Janice McDonald, Jonathan McMillan, LaDios Muhammad, Maedella Stiger, LaDawn Sullivan, Marcus Weaver, and Sondra Young.

George W. and Juanita Gray, Lee and Thelma Gash viewing the first Black History Month Exhibit at Ford-Warren Branch Library.

Image courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy.



RESILIENCE:

Debunking the Myth

By James A. Davis and Hadiya Evans

Carter G. Woodson is credited with founding Black History Week in 1926, which would become nationally recognized and expanded to a full month of celebration in 1976. Woodson purposely selected February to recognize the contributions of African Americans in honor of the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln, two individuals who he felt had greatly influenced the Black American population. Then why, 95 years later do we continue to recognize African Americans during the month of February?

The short of it is, February is the kick-off to a yearlong celebration of remembrance, perseverance, achievement, and the intersectionality of the African diaspora which includes the global struggle and triumph of all Black people of African ancestry. Much of American history has minimized the Black experience to the mental, physical, and spiritual pain and trauma inflicted on enslaved Africans. While this is part of their collective history, Black Americans are not the sum of their circumstances, but the embodiment of their ancestor's wildest dreams and desires.

Lonnie Bunch, the founding director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture said it best, "there is no more powerful force than a people steeped in their history. And there is no higher cause than honoring our struggle and ancestors by remembering."

Out of the proverbial ashes, Black people have risen and excelled not only in the arts and sciences but also in the creation of culture, traditions, and identities rooted in excellence and pride. This is the foundation for the popular hashtag #BlackExcellence, which serves to remind all that stereotypes, prejudice, and racism do not define a person or who they can potentially become.

The resilience of Black people through the many watershed moments of history are unmatched. As we celebrate Black History Month, we ask if you've considered the physical and mental toll placed on an individual, family, or community you may know. What does resilience look like in the face of opposition and a history of oppression? Taking into account the history of racism in America and specifically within the medical profession, let's consider recent events like for instance the pandemic; lauding on how resilient Black people are without acknowledging and repairing the harm caused will never get us to a place of healing and reconciliation.

It is not uncommon for one of the attributes attached to Blacks in America to be their resiliency as a people; a people who have struggled through a history of oppression and abuse under a system that has operated under the banner of white supremacy. Although resilience means to adapt to temporary circumstances or recover quickly,

this would imply that people are not to remain in this state permanently. However, for Black people resilience means to endure hardships in such a way that it has become normalized within the Black experience in America, normalized in such a way that once they spring back into action, they must now brace themselves for the next wave of hardships that are sure to come their way; a wave of hardships (not self-imposed contrary to some beliefs) but imposed by systemic and structural racism.

What we have experienced during this pandemic has highlighted an ongoing conversation that Black people have been having throughout history and that is; the harm that Blacks have suffered at the hands of physicians and those in medical science. The basic part of the human condition is: Our past can cause hurt and pain in such a way that it defines how we interact with the world and how the world interacts with us. Presently, COVID-19 has brought to the forefront the reality of health disparities. While hospitalizations due to COVID-19 have highlighted disparities in care offered to Black patients, vaccinations will bring to the forefront the history of unethical practices as seen in the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment which lasted for 40 years starting in 1932.



What does resilience look like in the face of opposition and a history of oppression? It looks like those who have paved the way for change, those who understood that Black lives matter and did not let racism and discrimination stop them from challenging the beliefs of racial inferiority, which is the root of white supremacy. In memory of our collective American history, let us pay tribute to those who have persevered to become pioneers in the medical profession.

Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler - first African-American woman to become a doctor of medicine in the United States.

Daniel Hale Williams - The first Black physician to perform open heart surgery

Charles Richard Drew - Developed a way to store blood plasma (blood banks)

Dr. Patricia E. Bath - Pioneer of laser cataract surgery

Black History Month and beyond is an open invitation to celebrate and honor the contributions of Black people and also consider the barriers broken in unchanging environments that have inspired past and present generations towards excellence. ■

Resources:

The Man Behind Black History Month: [history.com/news/the-man-behind-black-history-month](https://www.history.com/news/the-man-behind-black-history-month)

How We Fail Black Patients In Pain: [aamc.org/news-insights/how-we-fail-Black-patients-pain](https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/how-we-fail-Black-patients-pain)

The Myth of Innate Racial Differences Between White and Black People's Bodies: Lessons From the 1793 Yellow Fever Epidemic in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6727282/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6727282/)

'It Just Weighs On Your Psyche': Black Americans On Mental Health, Trauma, And Resilience: [statnews.com/2020/07/06/it-just-weighs-on-your-psyche-Black-americans-on-mental-health-trauma-and-resilience/](https://www.statnews.com/2020/07/06/it-just-weighs-on-your-psyche-Black-americans-on-mental-health-trauma-and-resilience/)

Rethinking Resilience Theory in African American Families: Fostering Positive Adaptations and Transformative Social Justice: [researchgate.net/publication/335000112_Rethinking_Resilience_Theory_in_African_American_Families_Fostering_Positive_Adaptations_and_Transformative_Social_Justice](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/335000112_Rethinking_Resilience_Theory_in_African_American_Families_Fostering_Positive_Adaptations_and_Transformative_Social_Justice)

Carter G Woodson: [asalh.org/about-us/our-history](https://www.asalh.org/about-us/our-history)

Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture: nmaahc.si.edu/blog-post/knowning-past-opens-door-future-continuing-importance-black-history-month

Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment: [history.com/news/the-infamous-40-year-tuskegee-study](https://www.history.com/news/the-infamous-40-year-tuskegee-study)

Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler: [cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov/physicians/biography_73.html](https://www.cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov/physicians/biography_73.html)

Daniel Hale Williams: [britannica.com/biography/Daniel-Hale-Williams](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Daniel-Hale-Williams)

Charles Richard Drew: [britannica.com/biography/Charles-Richard-Drew](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charles-Richard-Drew)

Dr. Patricia E. Bath: [cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov/physicians/biography_26.html](https://www.cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov/physicians/biography_26.html)



Engaging Families Virtually

by Alberto Pellicer, Program Coordinator,
Early Learning Department

In a very challenging year, when everybody had to adapt to keep on serving our community, Pedro Mendez and Vera Atilano rose to the occasion with the LENA Start Program. **LENA Start™** offers classes - in English and Spanish - for parents of children ages 3 and under. They employ LENA “talk pedometer” technology to measure how much parents are talking with their children, and how much children are responding.

Research has found that the amount of conversation children experience during the first few years of life is related to their brain **structure** and **function**, and their **IQ** in adolescence. LENA Start provides a series of efficient, engaging parent sessions where caregivers learn to use data about their home language environment from LENA technology,

along with simple strategies to increase interactive talk with their children. Talking with children supports healthy brain development during the critical early years when babies’ brains are building more than one million **neural connections** every second.

During 2019 and 2020 B.C. (before COVID) Mendez, in coordination with multiple members of the library’s Early Learning Department, brought the LENA Start Program to multiple library locations. Although the basic concept of the initiative is very simple, the actual logistics and commitment required by participants required a close collaboration and intentional community engagement.

The first cohorts in April 2019 took place in person and we partnered with local organizations, who supported

both participant recruitment and delivery of the sessions.

The program launched at the Montbello, Valdez-Perry, and Westwood Branch Libraries, welcoming families for 10 weeks. Branch staff welcomed parents and children, introducing the library and our programs and resources. Additionally, the teams came together to navigate how to provide childcare during LENA Start classes by engaging the community and recruiting volunteer caretakers who were also parents from the community.

As of February 2020 83 families had been equipped with the knowledge to understand the impact of conversing and interacting with their children with this program. Many of the families who were new to the library also started going to the library as part of their weekly routines.

And then... COVID hit...And the questions started...

How could a program based in community connection transfer to the virtual world? How do you create community in Zoom? Are families still interested in learning and attending a 10 week program without having childcare available? How is remote learning for older kids going to be affected?

Using well-established connections in the community, Mendez and Atilano found ways to serve families online. Parents saw the value of the program and despite logistical challenges, they took the experience to a new level.

Since there were no more actual in-person meetings, Mendez and families had to either arrange a meeting weekly or coordinate with branches to exchange materials. And this brought LENA to a position

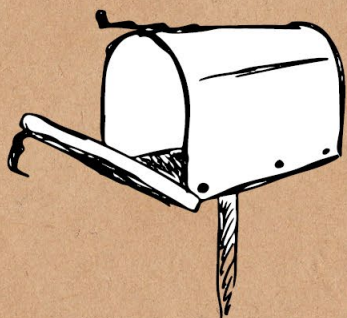
where families' needs, DPL resources and health regulation all had to align. Because families were at home with children, sessions were shortened to 30 minutes, and instead of all gathering to watch videos or read articles, materials were sent or shared ahead of time. This meant more time to talk and share experiences and ideas...and it was great!

Branches were again instrumental in the success of the program, as they worked to provide support to LENA families via curbside pickup. This collaboration and the flexibility of the virtual environment allowed LENA to expand from the three original branches to almost the entire city, since families participating were not restricted to just their neighborhood. This made it possible for families across the city to share their parenting experiences, which definitively enriched the program.

Families gathered, talked, explored science, used library resources, started attending virtual programs such as *Diversión en español* and Little University, and strengthened community relationships.

By the last session all families received celebratory ice cream. All of those involved in LENA brought the community a valuable service despite all the challenges. Throughout the journey, families were supported by library staff willing to help and innovate no matter what and they learned that Denver Public Library was an experience worth joining.

The next LENA cohort begins March 30 and is expected to be primarily virtual. Learn more and register at kids.denverlibrary.org/lena ■



Denver Public Library CORRESPONDENCE SOCIETY for Teens

The DPL Correspondence Society is a mail exchange program for teens. Part chain letter, part creative writing/art club, part show and tell, it's a fun and easy way to make stuff with people from all over the place. Here's how to participate:

1. Sign up at denverlibrary.org/dplcorrespondencesociety
2. We'll mail you a prompt to the address provided
3. Send it back in the stamped and addressed envelope.
4. Once we get your response, we'll mail you a new prompt!



Denver Public Library's Splendid Free Store and Warm Clothing Bank

by Community Resource Team

Late in 2020, the Denver Public Library's Splendid Free Store and Warm Clothing Bank opened at Central Library with little fanfare, and began to provide coats, socks, jackets, sweaters, belts and more for our customers in need. From our curbside service stations, we are also able to provide snacks and hygiene kits, emergency blankets, and winter survival guides. What we have in stock changes depending on donations received, but the quality and care are standard.

Additionally, we're really proud to offer a beautiful collection of hand knitted wool caps, lovingly made by a grandmotherly community member. Money can't buy this kind of soft and warm magic!

The Clothing Bank has been popular and as the word spreads, the number of our customers grows. The community's response has been positive and appreciative, knowing we are part of the community and that when one needs help, the library is the place to turn.

Needless to say, the pandemic has been particularly hard on our neighbors experiencing homelessness. The Library's Central location was a major part of people's survival strategy before the shutdown. In those days, folks looked to the library for shelter from the elements, clean bathrooms, hand washing facilities, human connection, learning and entertainment. The sudden and ongoing pandemic closure was an abrupt adjustment and many had nowhere else to turn.

As the pandemic has continued, the situation on the street has grown more difficult. Many community free meals have stopped or have less capacity, and hunger has become more commonplace. Water, taken for granted at one time, is a precious resource; electricity and wifi are often enough out-of-reach luxuries. Adding to this is the fact that trauma is not in short supply. Social issues all serve to perpetuate the crisis in our neighbors living on the streets.

In all of this turmoil, the Denver Public Library has strived to be community bedrock; to provide something constant, to be there, as we can, when we are needed. Knowing that we can only truly change what is before us, we do what we are able, with small gestures of goodwill and care and the hope that we helped lighten another's burden for a time. Sometimes, and more often during a Denver winter, this comes in the form of dry socks and expertly knitted caps.

As ever, this has been a team effort, with members from all Central Library departments contributing to the ongoing success of the Splendid Free Store and Warm Clothing Bank. Many thanks to all who have made this venture possible, and to those who continue to meet our customers with dignity and respect.

For further information, or to find out how you can help, please email the Community Resources Outreach team at together@denverlibrary.org ■

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Doc & Talk Series

Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.

Each week we'll discuss a new film selection available for streaming on Kanopy with your library card.

View the film at your leisure anytime before the online video discussion.

February titles have been selected in celebration of Black History Month.

Feb. 4: *Mavis! - Gospel Music Legend and Civil Rights Activist Mavis Staples*

Feb. 11: *The Order of Myths - Racism in Mardi Gras Celebrations*

Feb. 18: *Thunder Soul*

Feb. 25: *Jean-Michel Basquiat: The Radiant Child*

***We're Better Than This:* Congressman Cummings' Political Memoir**

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 5-6 p.m.

Join us for an evening with Dr. Maya Rockey Moore Cummings, the Founder, President, and CEO of Global Policy Solutions and Congressman Elijah Cummings' widow, along with co-author James Dale as they discuss Cummings' inspiring book, *We're Better Than This*. They will be joined by Dr. Derrick Hudson, teaching Associate Professor of International Relations at the Colorado School of Mines.

Medicines of the Black American Captive with Community Herbalist Monticue Connally

Monday, Feb. 22, 6-7p.m.

How did enslaved Africans survive in the harshest of conditions without the resources of their oppressors? Herbs! Enslaved communities had people within them that had knowledge of the healing powers of plants. Come and learn about these plants, how slaves used them, and how you can use them today.



R.A.D.A. Social Justice Book Discussion

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6-7:30 p.m.

The R.A.D.A (Read. Awareness. Dialogue. Action.) program provides a safe and responsible space to discuss community issues and movements of the day with respect and compassion within a structured environment. Our Black History Month selection, *The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*, by J. Drew Lanham, examines the connection between the unwelcome reception of BIPOC folks in outdoor spaces and the weaponization of race. Participants are encouraged to read the book in advance.

Virtual Social Justice Book Club (18+)

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 6-7:30 p.m.

Are you passionate about social justice and want to connect with like-minded individuals? Connect virtually over tea with like-minded individuals with a passion for social justice. This month we will be discussing *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes and *I Am Every Good Thing* by Derrick Barnes.

Other special selections in honor and celebration of Black History Month.

LitLine - Dial in to hear short stories, essays, and poetry 24/7 (720-865-2003)

Phone-A-Story - 24/7 stories, rhymes and songs for kids (720-865-8500)

Digital Collections - Browse historical photos online
history.denverlibrary.org/gallery/black-history-month

Cover photo, photos on this page and photo on page 12, courtesy Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy. Check out our digital collections at digital.denverlibrary.org

AUTHOR VISITS AND WRITING

Hard Times Writing Workshop with Lighthouse Writers Workshop

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 3-5 p.m.

Learn to put challenging life experiences into words as a seasoned instructor provides writing prompts and then positive feedback for those who choose to share. No experience required. For help registering, call 720-314-8013.

BOOK CLUBS

To find and register for book clubs, visit
denverlibrary.org/bookclubs

Virtual By the Book Club (18+)

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2-3 p.m.

Join us via Google Meet to discuss this month's book:
Apex Hides the Hurt by Colson Whitehead.

Yak, Snack and Read (18+)

Thursday, Feb. 25, 4-5 p.m.

Join us for a discussion of *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*, an American non-fiction book written by Colin Woodard.

YA Book Club for Adults (18+)

Saturday, Feb. 6, 12-1 p.m.

A social club for adults who enjoy YA fiction! Action-adventure, sci-fi, fantasy, romance - we read it all. Check out this month's pick, *These Violent Delights* by Chloe Gong, and join the virtual discussion at google.com/ffo-ajtr-icx

Short Story Happy Hour

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 5-6 p.m.

Bring a cocktail or just yourself and join us to read and discuss a short story. No preparation required!

The Probably Awesome Book Club

(Grades 6-12)

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 4-5 p.m.

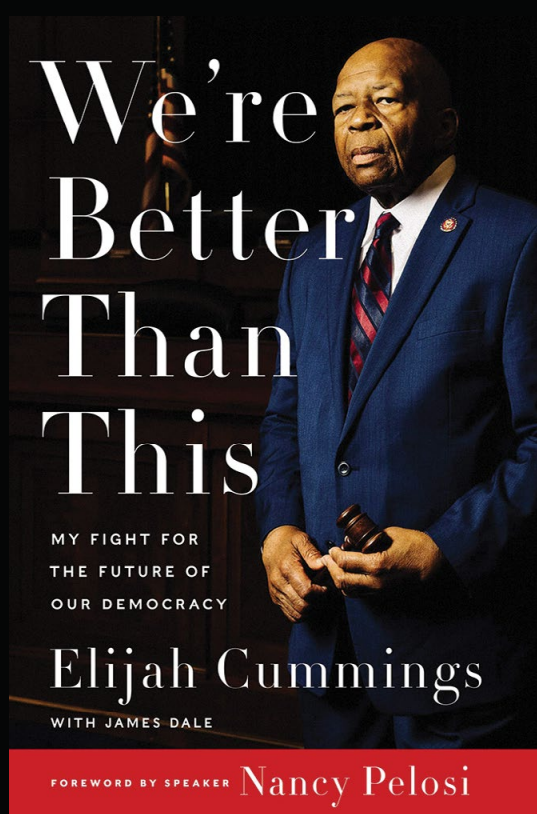
Whether you're reading books, manga, magazines, blogs, or cereal boxes, you can join us on the first Tuesday of the month for great recommendations as we talk about the best or even the worst thing you've been reading.

Kids' Virtual Book Clubs

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 4-5 p.m.: Ages 10-12

Thursday, Feb. 4, 4-5 p.m.: Ages 5-8

Share what you've been reading, and participate in fun games and activities. Space is limited so join early and bring your paper, markers and/or crayons.



A Political Memoir Discussion

Wednesday, February 17, 5 p.m.



Dr. Maya
Rockeymore Cummings



James Dale



Dr. Derrick Hudson

Register online now at
denverlibrary.org/we-are-better

L♥VE THE LIBRARY

Check out new pickup hours at multiple branches:

denverlibrary.org/curbside-holds

Support DPL Friends Foundation:

dplfriends.org

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and more:

denverlibrary.org/social

Kids Virtual Book Club (ages 8-10)

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 4-5 p.m.

We're reading *I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic, 1912* by Lauren Tarshis. Starting January 13, the first 15 children to request a book club kit will receive a free copy of the book to keep with fun activities at the Virginia Village Branch Library during curbside pickup hours.

Wreck This Book Club! (ages 8-12)

Wednesdays, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, 4-5 p.m.

View video tutorials on Denver Library's YouTube channel where we follow a prompt from *Wreck this Journal*. Then, join us via Google Meet where you can talk to other artists, ask questions, and show off your work!

Kids' Virtual Book Club (ages 6-9)

Wednesday, Feb. 10, 4-5 p.m.

We'll discuss an historical fiction account of the first seeing eye dog told from the dog's point of view from *Dog Diaries: Buddy* by Kate Klimo with special guest Puppy Raisers. Pick up your optional book club kit from the Park Hill Branch Library starting Friday, Jan. 22 while supplies last. Space is limited.

Kids' Virtual Book Club (ages 10-12)

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 4-5 p.m.

Join staff from the Green Valley Ranch Branch Library for a casual book discussion. Share what you've been reading, and get some recommendations from fellow kids. Siblings & pets are welcome – we will also be playing some games and other activities!

CHILDREN

Virtual Little University (birth-age 5)

Online registration required at
denverlibrary.org/littleuniversity

Thursdays, 3:30-4 p.m.

Feb. 4: Sense-a-tional Rocky

Feb. 11: Kids Yoga

Feb. 18: Camouflage & Coloration with
Nature's Educators

Feb. 25: Sing & Dance with Mr. Wil

Saturdays, 10:30-11 a.m.

Feb. 6: Kids Concert with Hunk-Ta-Bunk-Ta Music

Feb. 13: Inside an Airplane with Wings Over the Rockies

Feb. 20: Pigment Creation with Chelsea Gilmore

Feb. 27: Inside the Denver Botanic Gardens

Diversión en español (birth-age 5)

Online registration required at
denverlibrary.org/diversion

Every Tuesday, 3:30-4 p.m.

Feb. 2: Arte con La piñata de aprendizaje:
Tarjetas para San Valentín

Feb. 9: Canta con Chufo

Feb. 16: Movimiento y baile con Jenn

Feb 23: Animales en invierno con el Parque nacional
de las montañas rocosas

Dig Deeper

Special Collections &
Digital Archives

history.denverlibrary.org



FILM

Saturday Matinee: Walter Chaw and Natasha Lyonne Talk *The Seventh Seal*, 1957

Saturday, Feb. 6, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Join film critic Walter Chaw and actress Natasha Lyonne (*Orange Is the New Black*, *Russian Doll*, *But I'm a Cheerleader*) to talk about this film. *The Seventh Seal* is free to watch on the streaming service [Kanopy](#) which you can subscribe to using your library card.

Denver Cinema Club Presents *M* (1931) with John Anzalone

Sunday, Feb. 21, 1:30-3 p.m.

Film professor John Anzalone hosts this insightful discussion and scene analysis of *M*, a black-and-white classic thriller directed by Fritz Lang. English subtitles. Watch this award-winning film for free on [Kanopy](#) with your library card, then join us online for the discussion.

FOOD & WELLNESS

Healthy Cooking During COVID: Delicious Soups with Author Alan Roettinger

Monday, Feb. 22, 4-5 p.m.

Join us for the first in a series of cooking demonstrations focused on healthy foods. Author, food designer and blogger, Alan Roettinger, will show us easy plant-based soups that are simple to make and great for a cold day! Funded by the NextFifty Initiative.

Gratefulness Gathering

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 6-7 p.m.

Come together for a guided practice to explore different aspects of grateful living.

Live in Harmony Through the Ayurveda Way

Saturday, Feb. 27, 1-2 p.m.

Natural Grocers presents an introduction to help you discover your Ayurvedic body type (dosha). Knowing your dosha can help you maximize your health through individualizing your diet and lifestyle.

HISTORY

Active Minds: Pirates, Tales, and Legends

Thursday, Feb. 11, 1-2 p.m.

From the swashbuckling privateers of the Golden Age of Piracy to the modern-day pirates plying the waters off the coast of Africa, pirates are a captivating class of criminal and antihero. Sail with us on the seven seas as Active Minds discusses the history, personalities, and tales of the pirates. Sponsored by the Central Park Master Community Association.

Agricultural Strategies and Environmental Change in Ancient Anatolia

Saturday, Feb. 13, 1-2 p.m.

Explore recent work in Gordion of ancient Anatolia (modern Turkey), where complex agricultural strategies were employed to adapt to coincident environmental and social change on both local and regional scales.

Ghost Towns of the American West

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 5:30-7 p.m.

Explore a fascinating new collection of Old West legends with Ethan Knightchilde, creator of Best Documentary Award-winner, *Ghosts of the West: The End of the Bonanza Trail*, and author of *Ghosts of the West: Tales and Legends from the Bonanza Trail*.

Active Minds: Iraq

Thursday, Feb. 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

We will review the history of Iraq with an eye toward U.S. involvement that has resulted in an American military presence in the country since the 2003 invasion that toppled the government of Saddam Hussein. Sponsored by the Central Park Master Community Association.

MUSIC & MORE

Winter of Reading Trivia Walk

Monday, Jan 11-Sunday, Feb 28

Enjoy the brisk winter air and discover a new book. Walk around Cranmer Park's sundial and see if you can find all 10 featured books from Ross-Cherry Creek Branch. Bonus: answer the trivia question via the QR code or by calling us and be entered to win library swag!

Make It Move! Family Creative Learning Workshop

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 6-7 p.m.

Make an object in your house fly or act surprised! Join other families online and learn to make everyday objects come to life by taking a series of pictures and putting them together in a GIF using stop motion animation. No prior experience is necessary.

Don't Stand So Close To Me: Virtual Trivia With Your Library

Wednesdays, Feb. 3, 10, 17, & 24, 7-8 p.m.

All the fun you have come to expect from one of our trivia night events, but virtual. Play as a single or compete as a team.

Explore Scratch! Family Creative Learning Workshop

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 6-7 p.m.

Learn how to use pictures, sounds, and animations in Scratch, a beginner-friendly, block-based coding environment to tell a story! No prior experience with Scratch or coding is necessary.

Stickers, Slaps and Digital Arts: An Interactive Kids and Family Virtual Workshop

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 6-7 p.m.

Join artist Shawn Bowman and special guest, Wiser Owner, the lead designer at Pureblind Wraps and Graphics company, for a hands-on workshop that will explore hand drawn and digital stickers, cool tools and look at the history and influence of stickers in contemporary urban art.

Light Up Valentine Card Workshop

Saturday, Feb. 13, 2-3 p.m.

Celebrate Valentine's Day by crafting a unique light up card for a friend or loved one in this online follow-along session. To get an ideaLAB Take & Make Kit with the supplies for the project, stop by Hadley, Hampden, Montbello, Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, or Sam Gary branches during curbside hours starting Saturday January 30. Supplies are limited, first come first served.

Virtual D&D for Adults

Sunday, Feb. 14, 2-4 p.m.

Join us every month on the 2nd Sunday to play Dungeons & Dragons D&D and the 4th Sunday for a oneshot RPG. All experience levels are welcome; we will be using 5e rules.

International Mother Language Day: Music Sharing

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 6-7 p.m.

Celebrate International Mother Language Day by sharing a part of a song from your mother language or a language you feel connected to.

Tools for the Creative Life: Managing Your Money Now and Into the Future

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 12-1:30 p.m.

There are several ways creative entrepreneurs, contractors and small business owners can strategically start saving and planning for retirement. This webinar will provide practical tips and handouts to manage cash flow and budgeting now, and implement strategies to prepare for the future.

Virtual RPG for Adults

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2-3 p.m.

Do you want to play a roleplaying game that is more simple than Dungeons and Dragons? Join us on the fourth Sunday of the month for a new one-shot, one-page roleplaying game.

OLDER ADULTS

Email adelpo@denverlibrary.org if you need assistance or have questions about older adult programs and services. For more info, visit denverlibrary.org/olderadults

Art After Noon

Monday, Feb. 1, 1:30-3 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 8, 1:30-3 p.m. with Eric Dallimore

Monday, Feb. 22, 1:30-3 p.m.

Art After Noon brings professional artists from throughout Colorado into your own home through Zoom to teach art and provide engaging, unique experiences. All of the projects use materials readily available in your own home.

Mindfulness and Meditation

Mondays, Feb. 1, 8, & 22, 4-4:45 p.m.

Fridays, Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26, 10-10:45 a.m.

A regular meditation practice can help you cultivate kindness and inner peace - two things we desperately need in these stressful times. Join us for teaching on mindfulness themes followed by 30 minutes of practice.

Qi Gong Exploration and Practice

Tuesdays, Feb. 2 & 9, 10-10:45 a.m.

Qi Gong includes slow, dance-like movements to improve breathing, reduce stress, and gently move and stretch the body. It can be done standing or in a chair. Funded by the NextFifty Initiative.

Virtual Memory Cafe

Tuesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Virtual Memory Cafe is a fun place to socialize, relax, and engage with people experiencing memory loss and their families/caregivers. Each cafe has a unique focus to facilitate social connection for individuals with shared experiences. For more information, go to denverlibrary.org/memorycafe

Feb. 2: Something Sweet featuring the Denver Art Museum

Feb. 9: Valentine's Day featuring Jody Tafoya & Amy Sweetin

Feb. 16: Reconnect with Your Body featuring Art as Action

Mental Health and Wellness Series (Session 4): Living Well With Dementia

Thursday, Feb. 4, 2-3 p.m.

Join us for part one of a four-part series on mental health and wellness. This talk will be framed around ways people living with dementia, their loved ones, and their community all can contribute to living well with dementia.

Getting Started with eBooks

Wednesdays, Feb. 10 & 24, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Learn how to access library eBooks, audiobooks and video with your library card. Bring your own smartphone, tablet, or laptop, or explore the eBooks website using your personal computer.

Denver Reflective Storytelling Workshop

Friday, Feb. 12, 12-1:15 p.m.

StoryCenter, a non-profit that helps people find and tell stories from their lives, will offer a supportive, online space where we can gather together as a community to share our personal struggles and joys and moments of resilience. Funded by the NextFifty Initiative.

Write On! with Jana Clark: Recording Your Progress with Diaries, Journals & Letters

Saturday, Feb. 20, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Be led through a series of thinking and writing exercises designed to develop skills and inspire creativity. Discover yourself through words. Record your progress with diaries, journals and letters.

Virtual Kindness Club

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 4-4:30 p.m.

Let's embark on a kindness adventure together. We'll focus on ways to be kind through mindfulness and meditation. All ages welcome.

TECHNOLOGY

The Cloud: Access Your Files Anywhere

Monday, Feb. 1, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Join us for our community conversation where we'll cover how to access your files no matter where you are, and get answers to your cloud questions.



**Earn your limited edition
mug, notebook, or neck gaiter!**

denverlibrary.org/winterofreading

TEENS

Virtual D&D for teens Campaign: Trouble on the Highroad (ages 13+)

Mondays, Feb. 1, 8, 15, & 22, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Based in the Forgotten Realms setting, you'll play a group of heroes exploring the Northern Sword Coast trying to make a name for themselves. Come prepared with a fourth level character and be ready for adventure.

Virtual D&D Campaign for Teens: Everbrite Academy

Mondays, Feb. 1, 8, & 22, 5-7 p.m.

Join the growing forces of Everbrite Academy to defeat The Mourning and prevent anything like the centuries long war from happening ever again.

Virtual Write & Talk for Teens with Lighthouse Writers Workshop (ages 13-18)

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 4-6 p.m.

Join local author and Lighthouse Writers Workshop instructor, Whitney Gaines, to try a new genre or topic with plenty of time for freewriting and conversation.

Now accepting walk-ups
No appointment necessary
Go online or contact your
branch for hours



DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY LOCATIONS

Central Library | 720.865.1111
10 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy. 80204

Athmar Park | 720.865.0230
1055 S. Tejon St. 80223

Bear Valley | 720.865.0975
5171 W. Dartmouth Ave. 80236

Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library | 720.865.2401
2401 Welton St. 80205

Decker | 720.865.0220
1501 S. Logan St. 80210

Eugene Field | 720.865.0240
810 S. University Blvd. 80209

Ford-Warren | 720.865.0920
2825 High St. 80205

Green Valley Ranch | 720.865.0310
4856 N. Andes Ct. 80249

Hadley | 720.865.0170
1890 S. Grove St. 80219

Hampden | 720.865.0185
9755 E. Girard Ave. 80231

Montbello | 720.865.0200
12955 Albrook Dr. 80239

Park Hill | 720.865.0250
4705 Montview Blvd. 80207

Pauline Robinson | 720.865.0290
5575 E. 33rd Ave. 80207

Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales
720.865.2370
1498 Irving St. 80204

Ross-Barnum | 720.865.0145
3570 W. 1st Ave. 80219

Ross-Broadway | 720.865.0135
33 E. Bayaud Ave. 80209

Ross-Cherry Creek | 720.865.0120
305 Milwaukee St. 80206

Ross-University Hills | 720.865.0955
4310 E. Amherst Ave. 80222

Sam Gary | 720.865.0325
2961 Roslyn St. 80238

Schlessman Family | 720.865.0000
100 Poplar St. 80220

Smiley | 720.865.0260
4501 W. 46th Ave. 80212

Valdez-Perry | 720.865.0300
4690 Vine St. 80216

Virginia Village | 720.865.0940
1500 S. Dahlia St. 80222

Westwood | 720.865.0215
1000 S. Lowell Blvd. 80219

Woodbury | 720.865.0930
3265 Federal Blvd. 80211

Mobile Services
denverlibrary.org/bookmobile

We miss talking to you!

Have a burning question but not sure where to start?

We can help refer you to reliable sources of information for anything from history projects, to business plans, or for your personal knowledge.

Call us at 720-865-1111


Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

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*All virtual programs have automated voice to text captioning available.
If the program you are attending is hosted with Google Meet, visit support.google.com/meet for instructions. To request a sign language interpreter or live captions for a program hosted on Zoom or in person, contact SignLanguageServices@denvergov.org or 720-913-8487, with a three (3) business-day notice. For other public accommodation requests/concerns related to a disability, please contact DisabilityAccess@denvergov.org*



Communications and Community Engagement

Earned Media

Dec.10 - Feb 10, 2021

News:

[Denver Public Library launches correspondence society](#) - 9News (Special thanks to Ren Cannon, Teen Librarian Books & Borrowing, for interviewing with 9News)

[Denver City council approves controversial new library development in RiNo](#) - Colorado Politics

[A former police building in Five Points will be turned into a Denver Public Library branch](#) - Tweet, Denverite

[Denver Public Library celebrates Black History Month with virtual events, programs](#) - Life On Capitol Hill

[Denver Public Library celebrates Black History Month with virtual events, programs](#) - Colorado Community Media

[Doc & Talk: Mavis! Film Screening and Discussion by Denver Public Library](#) - 5280 Magazine

[A proposed city library in Five Points](#) - Denverite

[New library proposed for Denver's RiNo Art District pits haves vs. have nots](#) - The Denver Post

[New Library Proposed For Denver's RiNo Art District Pits Haves Vs. Have Nots](#) - USA News

[Guillermo Del Toro, Patton Oswalt lead DPL's 2021 Saturday Matinee series](#) - The Know, The Denver Post

[In the Company of Books \(Battle of the Books, scroll toward the end of the article\)](#) - 1000 Books Newsletter

[Join Denver Public Library for their Art After Noon](#) - Tweet, Think 360 Arts

[Winter of Reading offers adults a way to engage with Denver Public Library](#) - Life On Capitol Hill

[Que Pasa week of Jan. 6. \(WoR\)](#) - La Voz Bilingüe

[Natasha Lyonne, Guillermo Del Toro virtually visiting Denver Public Library's film series](#) - The Know, The Denver Post

[Denver Public Library Challenges Adults To Read. Receive Prizes For Doing So](#) - Mile High On The Cheap

[Ten Things to Do in Denver This Weekend](#) - Westword

[Building Social Capital for All](#) - Blog, Floodlight On Metro Denver

DPL mentions:

[Denver Gazette: Heed your constituents; vote down 'group living'](#) - The Gazette
[Studio Gang's design for Denver mixed-use building is inspired by Colorado's native aspen tree](#) - The Construction Specifier
[For First Time In 100+ Years, Denver Looks To Drastically Improve Civic Center Park](#) - CBS Denver
[Twelve Things to Do for Free in Denver This Week](#) - Westword
[20 Things To Do in Real Life and Virtually This Weekend in Denver](#) - 303Magazine
[Celebrating Black History Month in Colorado and beyond](#) - UCHealth Today
[Recommended activities for the coming weeks](#) - Brighton Standard Blade
[Eight Things to Do for Free in Denver This Week](#) - Westword
[Twelve Things to Do for Free in Denver This Week](#) - Westword
[Studio Gang will bring Populous, an aspen tree-inspired mixed](#) - The Architect's Newspaper
[Things to do around Denver and Colorado this weekend](#) - The Gazette
[Art Attack: Twelve Ways to Celebrate First Friday in Denver](#) - Westword
[Recommended activities for the coming weeks](#) - Colorado Community Media
[Saving Colorado Black History: Historians working to preserve places and stories \(Jameka Lewis-BCL\)](#) - Denver 7
[Police in Libraries: What the Cop-Free Library Movement Wants](#) - Teen Vogue
[How to Celebrate Black History Month 2021 in Denver](#) - Visit Denver
[12 Exciting Things to Do in Denver This Weekend February 5-7](#) - Our Community Now
[Black History Month Events Across Town](#) - Mile High On The Cheap
[Top Reads of 2020](#) - Blog, Meredith Sell
[Learning to Adult at the Library](#) - Blog, Medium.com
[Six Things to Do for Free in Denver This Week \(Black History Month - J. Gray Awards\)](#) - Westword
[Things to do in Denver this weekend without spreading the coronavirus, Jan. 29-31](#) - Denverite
[6 Free Things to Do Around Denver This February](#) - 5280 Magazine
[Libraries in my life](#) - Blog, Ruth Rosenfeld
[What's Working: What happened after the Colorado Dept. of Labor emailed 230,000 people](#) - The Colorado Sun
[You Can Book on Name Changes for Byers, Barnum Branch Libraries](#) - Westword
[How to celebrate Black History Month 2021 in Denver](#) - Visit Denver
[6 Books About Chores and Family Responsibilities](#) - Colorado Parent
[Things to do in Denver this weekend without spreading the coronavirus, Jan. 22-24](#) - Denverite
[How one block on Pearl Street represents Denver's stubborn homelessness crisis](#) - The Colorado Sun
[Local Hidden Gem: Wheelie the Bookmobile](#) - Macaroni Kid, Englewood

[Overdue fees eliminated at Garfield County Libraries](#) - The Sopris Sun
[For the first time in history, we have a female VP. Here's what women in Colorado had to say \(Terry Nelson - BCL\)](#) - 9 News
[Virtual Little University: Sing and Dance with Mr. Wil](#) - Colorado Parent
[Denver and Colorado Set New Fentanyl and Overdose Death Marks](#) - Westword
[Twelve Things to Do In and Around Denver \(and Online\) This Weekend](#) - Westword
[What's Working: How ID.me will help get the jobless paid, a Denver program offering employers \\$6,000 to hire](#) - The Colorado Sun
[Pandemic taking mental and physical toll on homeless veterans, but this group stepped in to help](#) - KXXV News Channel 25
[Things to do in Denver this weekend without spreading the coronavirus, Jan. 15-17 \(WoR & other virtual programs\)](#) - Denverite
[A Month In, Safe Outdoor Space Residents Happy to Live in Peace](#) - Westword

[Denver has given businesses and nonprofits \\$14 million in COVID-19 relief money](#) - Denverite
[What is a museum? Maybe not what you think.](#) - The Know, The Denver Post
[Libraries, ducks, deer, more NJ facts | Albright](#) - New Jersey.com
[Debbie's Deals: How to read more for free in Colorado](#) - Denver 7
[The Best Food and Drink Things to Do This Week](#) - Westword
[A Dozen Things to Do for Free in Denver This Week Jan. 11 \(WoR\)](#) - Westword
[The Best Food and Booze Happenings This Weekend Jan. 8 \(WoR\)](#) - Westword
[Ten Things to Do for Free In and Around Denver This Week Jan. 6 \(WoR\)](#) - Westword
[Things to do in Denver this weekend without spreading the coronavirus, Jan. 8-10](#) - Denverite
[The Mindful Path – Resilience](#) - Prime Time News
[This free, online Denver photo exhibit](#) - The Know, The Denver Post
[Things to do in Denver this weekend without spreading the coronavirus, Jan. 1-3](#) - Denverite
[12 Things I'm Taking from 2020](#) - Meredithsellswrites.com
[Garfield County Libraries Go Fine Free to Start the New Year](#) - Western Slope Now
["Northeast Denver Love & History" members are combing archives](#) - Denverite
[The Best Events on the Culinary Calendar This Week](#) - Westword
[How to Borrow Library eBooks for Free](#) - Blog, TCK Publishing
[The Piano Player, Walter Chaw & Allison Anders](#) - Tweet, Walter Chaw
[Before Move-In Day, I Spent the Night at Denver's Second Safe-Camping Site](#) - Westword
[Instant Relevance: Let's Prep Students for Now](#) - Blog, A MiddleWeb
[A New Hotel With a Rooftop Bar Is Coming to Civic Center Park](#) - 303Magazine
[Most Famous Colorado Places With COVID-19 Outbreaks](#) - Westword

[Denver's strong bond ratings lead to \\$60M in interest savings, officials report](#) - Colorado Politics

[Highlights & Accomplishments in 2020 Part 4](#) - Blog, Acquisitions & Appraisal Section of the Society of American Archivists

Photo/resource credits:

[Historic images from the "Borderlands of Southern Colorado"](#) - The Denver Post

[Diaries in the Old West](#) - Blog, Petticoats and Pistols

[Best Stops Using Light Rail/Transit](#) - DU Newsroom

[Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad](#) - Tweet, Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge

[Elvis Presley had a Dream Career Outside of Singing](#) - Showbiz CheatSheet